



# PETER MILCZYN

CITY COUNCILLOR

ETOBICOKE - LAKESHORE WARD 5

## Q-NEWS

### A QUEENSWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD UPDATE

#### CRACKDOWN ON THE QUEENSWAY

In my ongoing efforts to fight against the operation of body rub parlours and holistic establishments on The Queensway, I recently accompanied City of Toronto By-law Enforcement Officers on a planned blitz in south Etobicoke. Their investigation focused on The Queensway, but we also visited businesses on Dundas Street and Browns Line in Ward 6 to the south. Our City's By-law Officers engage in these inspections on a daily basis, and I join them occasionally, to share local concerns directly with them and observe their actions.

This is part of a continuous effort to stamp out illegal or law-breaking businesses in the area. On this recent blitz, charges were laid against two Body Rub Parlours and two Holistic/Massage operations. Over ten charges in total were laid, primarily focused on after-hour operations, but also for unlicensed attendants, obstruction, and other lesser charges.

In the past I have managed to close several of these places on The Queensway. The increasing enforcement of the last few years is designed to make it clear to the operators that they are under intense scrutiny. Ultimately if enough charges can be laid against particular premises, a prohibition order might be secured against the property. While the Police undertake criminal investigations on some of these places, the bulk of the enforcement activity falls to City By-law enforcement.

Over three hundred charges have been laid in the west end of Toronto on these types of busi-

nesses this year. The Queensway has approximately twelve of the estimated close to four hundred such commercial operations in Toronto. There are also many more in private residences in Toronto, and hundreds more in the rest of the GTA. I do not want these businesses on our Ward 5 streets. Recently Justices of the Peace have begun to accept the pleadings of City Prosecutors for stiffer penalties to be handed out to these places.

When new businesses require some municipal approval and are subject to my scrutiny as local Councillor, I routinely oppose the opening of any new sex-related businesses. Please see the article in this Q-News about the City's recent fight at the Ontario Municipal Board against a new sex shoppe on The Queensway.

I have also filed complaints with Revenue Canada to have these "cash only" businesses investigated. More recently I have been contacting the actual property owners to warn them of their own liability, and the impact of their leasing choices on the community. Sadly most prefer to simply collect a rent check rather than consider the results of renting space to a shady business. In some instances they are local residents and their actions only serve to depress rents further.

New residential developments with the influx of young families, along with good quality businesses are leading the many noticeable improvements being made to The Queensway. Pushing aside the seamy businesses is a priority I am committed to, in the continued vision to make The Queensway a vibrant Etobicoke neighbourhood.

**Help our Environment  
Save Paper  
Save Tax Dollars  
&  
Stay Connected!  
Register NOW**



**News & Events  
Public Meetings  
Development Notices  
Community Events**

**and more!**

**at**

**[petermilczyn.com](http://petermilczyn.com)**

**[councillor\\_milczyn@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca)**

**416.392.4040**



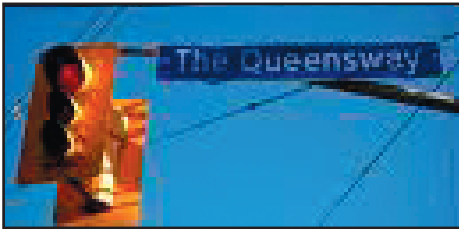
#### CHANGING THE LOOK OF THE QUEENSWAY

In the last seven years, you may have noticed many changes to the look along The Queensway. After the City's Avenues Study between Mimico Creek and Kipling was completed in 2003, we have seen Cineplex, Sobeys and the new Canadian Tire open; the Loggia Condominium and One Sherway Gardens built; and various traffic improvements, and road reconstruction completed. The neighbourhood is taking on a different look as a new generation moves in to these residential develop-



# QUEENSWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

ments. accordingly, the demand for restaurants, stores and services will increase. In response to this demand, we will soon be seeing a new Max's Market and Medical Dental Centre on the Queensway to better serve us all.



The Remington IQ Condominiums at 1061 The Queensway have been approved and you will be seeing their presentation centre opening soon. This LEED Registered Condominium on the Queensway features sustainable Geothermal heating and cooling – the first of its type in Toronto!

If you have questions about new development in your neighbourhood, or if you have a new business on the Queensway which you wish me to promote in my e-News, please contact me with the details.

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS (BIA)

The establishment of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) on The Queensway would be an ideal way to inject capital into the streetscape, upgrade light standards, add murals and signage to identify destinations and add to its' vibrancy. I have been involved with the business community along the Queensway to promote and encourage involvement for sometime now. A Queensway BIA would mark the third BIA in Ward 5 – in addition to Village of Islington and The Kingsway. Many of my discussions with interested business owners have revolved around the process and merits of forming and contributing to the BIA cost sharing capital program with the City of Toronto. While a business association formed a

number of years ago, there was not enough interest from those businesses to formalize a BIA and commit to the cost sharing program with the City.

In late 2007, I was again asked by an interested group of business owners to assist them in establishing a BIA. I then conducted a survey of local businesses to gauge interest. The study showed that the businesses were interested in seeing the Queensway revitalized and we were one step closer to forming a BIA. I worked closely with these businesses and staff from Economic Development at the City to establish BIA boundaries, and to move this initiative forward. Unfortunately those spearheading the committee, due to unforeseen circumstances (retirement - business relocation - time) were not able to continue and they chose to put it on hold.

Myself and Economic Development are still interested in forming this BIA.

**If you own a business on The Queensway or know of a business owner who would like to work closely with the City on this joint-venture, please call me.**

### What is a BIA and how do you get started?

A BIA is an association of commercial/industrial property owners and tenants within a specified district who join together, with official approval of the City, in a self-help program aimed at stimulating business. **The decision to start a BIA can only be made by people who own or lease commercial property in the area. Starting a new BIA involves a three-step process:**

**Step 1 - Establish a Steering Committee**

**Step 2 - Determine Community Interest**

### Step 3 - Holding a Public Meeting and initiate a formal BIA request

In preparation of having a new BIA on The Queensway, I worked with the engineers when the road reconstruction along The Queensway was being designed, to ensure that tree pits and underground services were roughed in.

### OUR FIGHT AT THE OMB (Ontario Municipal Board)

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 an application was before the Committee of Adjustment to request a variance approval for an Adult Entertainment establishment at 1100 The Queensway. The store, "Aren't We Naughty", was to sell adult novelties. No such 'use' is currently permitted, and therefore requires minor variance approval.

The Zoning By-law passed for the Queensway Avenues Study specifically prohibits 'adult' businesses. I feel that the concentration of such businesses on one street has a negative effect on the community.

I wrote to the Committee requesting their refusal of this variance request. In this case, I brought the City, local residents, and property owners together to wage a united front against that establishment. Their application was denied at Committee; but that decision was subsequently appealed to the OMB.

In March of this year, I tabled a motion at City Council requesting that the City Solicitor attend this OMB Hearing, defend the decision of the Committee of Adjustment and fight for the refusal of this application. That motion at Council passed unanimously. The OMB Hearing began in June and will resume on August 17<sup>th</sup> for a two-day hearing. I plan to update you on the decision of the OMB on this local matter. If you have questions, please call me.

