

August 22 2008 Ward e-Update

Councillor

PETER MILCZYN

Ward 5

Dear Residents;

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PLEASE HAVE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY EMAIL ME AND HAVE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES INCLUDED ON THIS DISTRIBUTION LIST

WHAT'S IN THIS *e*-UPDATE

WARD 5 NEWS & EVENTS

UPDATE on summer changes to Commercial Laneway Garbage Collection in Ward 5
UPDATE on TDSB proposal to fence off a section of LKS Public Park
Public Open Houses for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project
Islington Seniors Centre – Garage Sale
Dorothy Ley Hospice – 2008 Town Hall and Information Night
Greening your Business – FREE Seminar for Businesses
Community Consultation Meeting – 1144 Islington Avenue (townhouse development proposal)
Annual Terry Fox Fun
Islington Seniors Centre – Annual Walkathon
Norseman Junior Middle School – Fall Fair
Dalesford Road Permit Parking Poll Results

ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING OF EYCC (Etobicoke York Community Council)

COUNCIL NEWS & TORONTO EVENTS

Toronto water bills are now online
Personal Vehicle Tax
Culture Build Investment Program supports cultural facilities
TTC Commission Meeting Highlights - July 10, 2008
Council Highlights of the City Council meeting of July 15, 16 and 17, 2008
Next City Council Meeting

WARD 5 NEWS & EVENTS

UPDATE - Commercial Laneway Garbage Collection

On July 1, 2008 Solid Waste Collections staff implemented a change to the day of collection and method of Commercial collection (from laneway to curbside, and from daytime to nighttime collection). This effected some commercial sections on Bloor, Dundas and The Queensway. This change was implemented by Staff to harmonize the collection methods that are currently in place across the City. In other areas of Toronto, laneway collection has been eliminated as an option for various reasons (laneways are too narrow for trucks, not well lit, safety reasons etc.).

I felt that not only was this change NOT necessary in Ward 5 – as our laneways are different from those across the City – but also the communications provided by City Department Staff of this change to the businesses (and tenants above) was sub-standard.

In July, I introduced a Notice of Motion at Toronto City Council requesting staff to **revert back to the previous collection method (LANEWAY)** in Ward 5 - as there was not a problem with it in the first place, and it was the preferred collection location of the businesses on Bloor, Dundas and the Queensway.

This summer I arranged a series of meetings with the General Manager and Director of Solid Waste Management for the City to review this further. We also met with the BIA's in the area to discuss collection methods with them and with local businesses.

I am pleased to advise that **collection will REVERT BACK TO LANEWAY COLLECTION** (in the business areas where the laneways are in fact accessible and wide enough).

We (Collections Staff, my office and the BIA's) are currently working together on a comprehensive and effective communications strategy, and anticipate having the laneway collection running by mid-September. If you have questions about this please call my office.

UPDATE – Toronto School Board proposal to fence off a section of Lambton Kingsway Park

Earlier this year, Parks and Recreation were approached by the Toronto District School Board with their request for approval to fence off a section of Lambton Kingsway Park (off Marquis) and use it for additional playground space for the students of LKS.

This summer, both my office and area residents were made aware of the proposal. At that time, I hosted an onsite meeting with area residents so that the TDSB and Parks could show them the plans/proposal, and allow Parks and Recreation & the Toronto District School Board to get their feedback and comments.

At that meeting some concerns relating to the ongoing maintenance of this newly fenced off section were raised (i.e. – who would do litter collection and mowing etc.), along with concerns about public access to this area (i.e. – how would the general public access the park and would access be allowed during school hours when kids were playing in this area?). The Toronto District School board decided at the meeting to review their proposal and answer these and other questions raised. I anticipate that they will come back with another proposal in the future that may involve their utilizing some of the City owed park adjacent to Lambton Kingsway School for school purposes.

In the meantime, I am working with some residents, who contacted me, and the School Trustee (Mr. Bruce Davis), and am hosting a meeting with them to look at options to improve the current condition of the playground at LKS School. As the school playground is a TDSB owned property; any maintenance or improvements would be allotted via their budget not the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Capital Budget.

I will keep residents updated on any other proposals or meetings relating to this City Park.

Public Open House for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project

The TTC have organized Open Houses across Toronto to allow residents to view their proposal for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Project and we welcome your participation.

Date: Monday, August 25
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd.

For more info: Please call Stephanie Rice, Project Manager, **416-393-2198** or stephanie.rice@ttc.ca

For more information about the project, visit the project website:
http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/eglinton_crosstown_lrt/index.htm

Councillor Milczyn's Annual Environment Day

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Location: 2 Civic Centre Court (behind the Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall)

For more info: Please contact my office at **416-392-4040** or www.toronto.ca/environment_days

Islington Seniors Centre – Garage Sale

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2008
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Location: Islington Seniors' Centre, 4968 Dundas St. W at Burnhamthorpe.

For Info: Please call **416-231-3431**

Sale items include clothes, books, house wares and more.

Dorothy Lev Hospice – 2008 Town Hall and Community Information Night

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Ursaki Auditorium, Norman Appleton Building, 160 Sherway Drive (Trillium Health Centre)

For Info: Please call **416-626-0116** or www.dlhospice.org

Attend and learn more about their Strategic Direction, Model of Care, Service and Program Information, Volunteer Opportunities, Capital Campaign Update and Palliative Care Centre Construction Update.

Greening Your Business – FREE Seminar



Greening Your Business: What is a sustainable business, how do you take the next steps, and what options are available to you? We will discuss the framework for conducting your business in an environmentally friendly manner while still maintaining your bottom line.

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, Meeting Room #1

Guest Speakers:
Andrew Nobrega and Jim Lord

Ecovert - Sustainability Consultants www.ecovert.ca

Chantal Brundage

Green T-Biz - A division of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement areas

www.greentbiz.org

Kirk Johnson

Ontario Power Authority - The OPA is responsible for the Ontario electrical system

www.powerauthority.on.ca

Seating is limited to 40 persons. For more information please contact **Glenn Walker, Economic Development** at **416-394-8952**

Community Consultation Meeting – Development Proposal at 1144 Islington Avenue (NW corner of Islington and Bering).

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 110 Jutland Road, Banquet Hall, Royal Canadian Legion 210

For Info: Please contact **Wendy Johncox, Senior Planner**, at **416-394-8227**

Site

The site is located at the northwest corner of Islington and Bering Avenues and was previously occupied by a garden centre.

Proposal

The applicant has submitted a rezoning application for a proposed development of **eleven 3-storey townhouse units facing onto both streets**. Parking will be accessed from a driveway leading to rear garages and surface visitor parking.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the community to have input on this project, view the plans and ask questions.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can still make your views known by sending a **fax (416) 394-6063**, or by writing to Gregg Lintern, Director, Community Planning, Etobicoke York District, City Planning Division, 2 Civic Centre Crt Floor 3 Toronto On, M9C 5A3.

Stonegate Community Garage Sale

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 noon, (BBQ from 10:30 a.m. -12 noon)

Location: Stonegate Plaza Parking Lot, 150 Berry Rd

Tables: Available for rent \$20

For more Information or to rent a table please call Jill @ **416-231-7070, ext. 282**.

Help support the Stonegate Action Group! All proceeds from the table rentals go toward community revitalization projects.

Annual Terry Fox Fun

Date: Sunday, September 14, 2008

Location: West Deane Park

Please visit the website at www.terryfoxrun.org

Islington Seniors Centre – Annual Walkathon

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: West Deane Park

For more Info: Please call **416-231-3431**

Pledges would be gratefully accepted and donations over \$5.00 receive a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.

Norseman Junior Middle School – Fall Fair

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Norseman Junior Middle School, 105 Norseman Street

For more Info: Please call **416-394-7880**

Dalesford Road - Permit Parking Poll Results

On July 9, 2008 residents on Dalesford Road between Milton Street and Wesley Street were sent ballots to determine if Permit Parking is desired and therefore should be bylawed/implemented on this street.

I have been advised by Transportation Services that the majority of the responses received were **opposed** to permit parking. Another City poll cannot be conducted until August 7, 2010. (2 years from the closing date of the poll).

ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

NEXT MEETING OF EYCC (Etobicoke York Community Council)

Tuesday, September 9th, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall

Council Chambers

To view the entire Community Council Agenda or minutes from previous meetings, please refer to the following City of Toronto website link: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2007/agendas/ey.htm>

NOTE – at the time of sending this update, the September Community Council Agenda was not public, and therefore I have not had the opportunity to review and list all Ward 5 items being voted upon. It likely will be posted and made public immediately after the Labour Day weekend. If you have questions about the Agenda, please refer to the above link or call my office for assistance.

PREVIOUS COMMUNITY COUNCIL DECISIONS

For more information on your Etobicoke York Community Council, the area profile, agendas or reports etc., please refer to the following weblink as I believe you will find it useful and informative:

http://www.toronto.ca/committees/council_profiles/torontowest.htm

CITY COUNCIL NEWS & TORONTO EVENTS

Toronto Water Bills available online!

Receive and pay your water bill online!

Sign up now! - http://www.toronto.ca/water_bill/epost.htm

Personal Vehicle Tax

The City of Toronto's Personal Vehicle Tax (PVT), approved by City Council in October 2007. The PVT comes into effect on September 1, 2008. The tax will be \$60 for a passenger vehicle or light commercial vehicles registered for personal use and \$30 for a motorcycle or moped.

Personal vehicle registrants with a Toronto address will pay the PVT at the time of plate validation renewal, regardless of how and where they renew via the internet, mail, service kiosks, or over the counter. Registrants with a licence plate validation renewal date on or after September 1, 2008 renewing their plate before September 1 will be charged the unpaid PVT the next time they renew their plate validation.

If you would like more information, please contact the City's Tax Customer Service Call Centre at **416-338-4829**, or visit the website at www.toronto.ca/taxes.

TTC Commission Meeting Highlights - July 10, 2008

Green Purchasing at the TTC

The Commission approved a Green Procurement Policy for the Toronto Transit Commission as part of the continued effort to implement its Environmental Plan, which was introduced in 2007. The new policy means that, in addition to standard quality, performance and price considerations, the TTC will take into full consideration the environmental footprint of the product or service that is being purchased without sacrificing safety standards.

Service Changes Ready for Test Drive

The Commission approved the introduction of the following service changes for a trial run starting in November: **7 Bathurst** - revised service at Wilson Avenue and St. Clair West Station; **63 Ossington** - extension to Liberty Village; **316 Ossington** - revised routing at King Street; **66 Prince Edward** - extension to Humber Bay Shores; **71 Runnymede** - revised routing at Industry Street and Black Creek Drive; and **96 Wilson** new service on Torbarrie Road. A **39 Finch East** extension to Valley Centre Drive was also approved to start in early 2009 when road construction is complete.

TTC Awards Accessible Taxi Service Contracts

The Commission requested the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief General Manager to review the procurement process and staff recommendation to award a five-year contract to three vendors. Following a detailed and in-depth review, the TTC announced on July 15 that it had approved the award of contracts to three accessible taxi services - Royal Taxi Inc., Scarborough City Cab and Associated Toronto Taxi-Cab Co-Operative Ltd. - to supplement current Wheel-Trans service for customers with disabilities. The new service contracts are scheduled to begin on Jan. 1, 2009.

Culture Build Investment Program supports cultural facilities

The City of Toronto's Culture Office is now accepting applications for the 2008 Culture Build Investment Program. The program provides matching funding to Toronto's small and medium-sized cultural facilities to make essential infrastructure repairs.

Funding is available for major repairs, renovations or improvements to buildings that will bring the facilities into a state of good repair. Priority will be given to applications from not-for-profit organizations that lease or own small to medium-sized performing arts facilities (i.e. 500 seats or less) and are faced with emergency repairs or health and safety repair projects.

Applicants to the Culture Build Investment Program must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- (a) incorporated as a not-for-profit organization;
- (b) located in the City of Toronto;
- (c) have been in existence for a minimum of three years; and
- (d) own the facility or have at least five years remaining on their current lease at the time of applying for the program.

The program does not support the following:

- (a) regular building maintenance costs;
- (b) feasibility studies;
- (c) cost of purchasing or building a facility; and
- (d) City-owned facilities.

The grants program has a positive impact on Toronto's creative and economic sectors by ensuring that our smaller cultural facilities are revitalized, and also by supporting and enhancing the lives of the creative individuals who are at the heart of Toronto's cultural experience.

Deadline for submissions is **September 12 at 4:30 p.m.** For further information or to request an application, contact Lori Martin at **416-392-5225**.

Council Highlights of the City Council meeting of July 15, 16 and 17, 2008

Environmental Assessment to Study the removal of Gardiner, east of Jarvis approved

To help revitalize Toronto's waterfront, City Council approved an \$11 million environmental assessment to study the removal the Gardiner Expressway east of Jarvis Street. The environmental assessment will support the City's plans to retain adjacent employment lands for knowledge-based industries. A steering committee of City and Waterfront Toronto officials will be created to oversee the assessment. The City will consider public and private partnerships as options to finance the proposed dismantling of the east Gardiner. During this assessment period the City will conduct minimal but necessary maintenance on the Gardiner east of Jarvis to ensure it continues to be safe. The removal of the east Gardiner was proposed by the Waterfront Toronto Board of Directors on June 12, 2008. Funding once targeted for the Front Street extension will now be re-allocated to support other waterfront initiatives in the public realm.

Council directs funds from Toronto Hydro Telecom sale to Toronto Community Housing

City Council approved that a \$75 million dividend from the sale of Toronto Hydro Telecom will go to the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) to help address the backlog of repairs required to the City's public housing units. Council will also use its investment to encourage the provincial and federal governments to make a substantial investment to help repair TCHC buildings. Currently, TCHC sites have a repair backlog with a value estimated at \$300 - 350 million. These buildings were downloaded by the province onto the City with an existing, substantial repair backlog. Included in the telecom sale is the City acquisition of four strands of fibre optic cable to use for information technology needs, and a \$5 million fund for future City information technology initiatives that improve telecommunications infrastructure and accessibility.

New Expense Policy for City Councillors

Council approved a new Councillor Expense Policy which is available at:
http://www.toronto.ca/city_council/pdf/councillor-expense-policy.pdf.

Woodbine Live transformation project incentives approved

City Council approved an incentive package to help secure the Woodbine Live project for Toronto. The project is a major development planned for North Etobicoke near Woodbine race track that will include the construction of a new entertainment facility, hotel, and retail complexes. The \$1 billion project is expected to create 9,000 new jobs once the site is open, in addition to the boost to construction employment to build the facilities. Woodbine Live is near three priority neighbourhoods and the project will use a local hiring program to help meet its staffing needs. Woodbine Live is considered a transformative project under the City's Agenda for Prosperity with its potential to transform North Etobicoke. Through the incentives program Woodbine Live will pay reduced property taxes for up to 20 years, but even with that reduction, the City will net \$171 million in new property tax revenue from this new tourist attraction.

Shade audits to be conducted for City playgrounds and splash pads

The City will launch a pilot project to help the public guard against harmful UV rays. An audit will be conducted at select locations documenting the amount of shade available to protect people at City playgrounds, splash pads and wading pools. The audits will help determine the shade needed at sites, and how that shade may be provided for existing and new play sites. A preliminary assessment in 2008 indicated most facilities need improvements to the shade provided.

Award to be named in honour of Dr. Sheela Basrur

Council approved the creation of a new award, the Dr. Sheela Basrur Occupational Health and Safety Award, to be given out annually to the Division that has best contributed to staff safety and health programming through joint management-staff efforts. Dr. Basrur, the City's former Medical Officer of Health, passed away earlier this year.

Transit City - street access could extend from The Ex to Dufferin Street

Council approved an environmental assessment amendment that would allow expanded service along the Western Waterfront LRT. It would allow streetcars to travel along Fleet Street to the Canadian National Exhibition grounds and continue on to Dufferin Street. The streetcars could travel along the existing GO Transit rail corridor from the CNE to Dufferin, and on to Roncesvalles Avenue.

Transit City - Construction on Sheppard East LRT to start in 2009

City Council approved the recommendations of the environmental assessment, paving the way for construction of this first Transit City light rail line to start next year. Detailed design work on the light rail line will now begin. Council also requested that the TTC planning minimize the amount of land along Sheppard that must be expropriated for this project. The final environment assessment study report will be made available for a 30-day public review period.

Toronto Bike Plan - series of new bike lanes approved

A total of 4.4 kilometres of new bike lanes were approved for Royal York Road, Simcoe Street, Stanley Avenue and Birchmount Road. The City intends to add 50 kilometres of new bike lanes for 2008. The overall goal is to build 1,000 kilometres of bikeways in the City.

City expands planning to address severe weather through Climate Change

As an extension of Toronto's Climate Change Action Plan, the City and its agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs) will review the impact of climate change, especially severe weather, and develop plans to mitigate the impacts on City operations and infrastructure. Climate change involves a change in long-standing weather patterns, which impacts infrastructure such as buildings, roadways, sewers, as well as humans through such change as heat waves. City divisions and ABCs are expected to report back on issues and impacts for the 2009 budget process. The City will also consider the creation of an Extreme Weather Reserve fund.

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Toronto City Council **September 24th and 25th, 2008**
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Council Chamber

For more information Council agendas, please refer to the following City website link:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2007/agendas/cc.htm>

If you wish to make a submission to Toronto City Council, please review the following instructions and comments from the City Clerks office.

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Please direct any questions to:

City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 100 Queen St. West


Toronto ON M5H 2N2

or call 416-392-7032

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Sincerely,



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