

June 26 2008 Ward e-Update



Councillor PETER MILCZYN Ward 5

Dear Residents;

I hope you enjoy this Canada Day long weekend.

If you are opening this on your **BLACKBERRY**, the layout may be difficult to read. If so, just forward this to your PC and open again from that location.

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

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WARD 5 NEWS AND EVENTS

www.petermilczyn.com IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION
YOUR IDEAS ARE WELCOME!

During the summer by website will be updated, with new information and pages to be available as of Labour Day. I have many ideas for the new site, to make it user friendly, informative and thorough. But, **I am asking you to email me and give me your ideas of what you would like to see on my website.**

MY QUESTIONS FOR YOU?

What City and/or Local information is most important to you?

What Ward 5 information would you like to access via my website?

Would you like more information on Development Applications in Ward 5?

Would you like to follow City Council and Committee Agendas/Decisions?

Would a calendar of Community Events and Meetings be beneficial?

Would an interactive map detailing the Community Services Available to you (Parks, Community Centre, Library locations) be helpful?

Would you like to see other interactive maps?

What links or other services would you like to access via my website (Federal, Provincial, Schools)?

Would you like the website to have a Ward photo gallery?

Your ideas and feedback are important to me. I look forward to hearing from you.

STRONG MAYORS POWER PUBLIC FORUMS

On June 18th I hosted, along with Councillors Nunziata, Palacio, Jenkins, Ashton, Del Grande and Thompson, the second in a series of public forums across Toronto to give **you** a chance to talk to local Councillors about the Mayor's pending request of the Premier to be granted additional powers. I have received hundreds of emails and the key questions that have been posed to me are:

What powers does the Mayor currently have?

What additional powers are he requesting of the Premier?

How would the increase in powers change decision making at City Hall?

THE CITY OF TORONTO ACT 2006

The City of Toronto Act 2006 currently gives the Mayor of Toronto certain powers that Mayor's in the past did not have, nor do other Mayors in Ontario have all of these powers.

The City of Toronto Act was created by the Province after public consultation and City Council endorsed the Act and specifically the additional powers that the Mayor of Toronto currently enjoys.

ADDITIONAL POWERS BEING REQUESTED ARE:

The ability to convene Executive Committee meetings in private (meetings out of sight of the public & media are considered 'in camera'. These proposed meetings would also exclude the majority of elected Councillors).
The ability to fire the Chief Administrative Officer.

There were approximately 115 people at the June 18th public meeting, with virtually all attending stating that they did not want the Mayor granted any increased powers. Most attending or emailing me clearly stated (to me and my colleagues) that IF there were to be increased powers granted, it should be granted as part of the next election NOT mid-term. To date the Mayor has not attended any of these sessions, but will be invited to future ones. Of all the emails received in my office to date on this subject over 82% are opposed to increasing Mayoralty powers. Others either expressed no position on the issue, welcomed increased powers immediately, or expressed their support of increased powers beginning with the next term of Council.

The next public meeting will be on **July 28th at 7p.m. at the North York Civic Centre**, hosted by Councillor Cliff Jenkins. Following that meeting, that I believe there will be one in York, hosted by Councillor Nunziata, then followed by one downtown.

YOUTH BICYCLING SKILLS AND LEARN-TO-RACE CLINIC

When: Every Wednesday from May 7 to July 23 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

If weather looks bad check www.midweekclub.ca for special notices.

You need not attend all sessions; come as often as you can.

Where: Ski Hill area of Centennial Park, Etobicoke (Toronto).

Who is this program for: Youth aged 9 to 14, boys and girls. All levels of physical fitness.

Teaches: Bicycling skills, safety, bike maintenance, and bike racing skills via grass and gravel-road racing. This program is built upon Midweek's successful adult learn-to-race program plus programs run by other Canadian cycling organizations.

Type of bike: Any type of bike. It can be a bmx, mountain, coaster, road, cyclo-cross or hybrid.

Mandatory equipment: CSA approved helmet is mandatory and a good pair of running shoes.

Recommended equipment: It is recommended participants have cycling gloves, a rain jacket, a bike multi-tool and tire-levers. The gloves are to protect their hands when they fall and the bike tools and tire levers are for the maintenance side of the clinic.

Pay as you go: \$64 base fee plus \$5/week (tax receipt supplied). Fees include special kid's membership into Midweek Cycling Club and an O.C.A. Citizen Permit (insurance).

Registration: At any session. Parent or guardian is required to attend first session.

STONEGATE FARMERS' MARKET OPENING DAY

Tuesday, June 24th, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

The grand opening of the weekly Stonegate Farmers' Market will take place on Tuesday, June 24th, 2008!

This year the market has a new location at 194 Park Lawn Road, in the parking lot of the St. James' Humber Bay Anglican Church. Showcasing fresh produce direct from the farmers (organic and conventional) with local craftspeople and entertainers, the market will operate weekly on Tuesday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please call the Stonegate Community Health Centre at **416.231.7070**.

MEDIAN PLANTING on ROYAL YORK ROAD at Glenroy Avenue and Government Road

As part of the City's Clean and Beautiful City initiative, I was able to secure some funds last year to be used for Ward 5 projects that were underway. As a project that was initiated last year, the centre median that was installed on Royal York at Glenroy Ave has now been planted.

Filter fabric was used under the mulch to deter weed growth. The plant material is very tolerant of hot / dry environments. Some of these plants will flower throughout the summer. It should fill in quite well with little to no maintenance over the next several years.

Staff will complete planting of a second centre median in the same manner on Royal York just south of Dundas at Government Road in the late summer of 2008.

I plan to continue to have similar projects done throughout the Ward as funds become available.

SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION AT VELMA DRIVE

Anticipated Start Date: June 2008
Anticipated Completion Date: September 2008

City of Toronto has undertaken the design of sidewalk construction at Velma Drive (North East side) from No. 14 Velma Drive to No. 30 Velma Drive.

Need more information?

Monday to Friday
Nasir Qureshi, Project Engineer
Telephone 416-394-8512
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

24 hours Road Info Line 416-599-9090
(Automated Road Restriction Updates for the whole City)

NOTICE OF FILM PERMIT ISSUED

Please be advised that **Soft Citizen Films** will be filming a portion of a **TV commercial** at **The Kingsway btw Kingsgrove Blvd & Usher Rd.** The location manager for this production is **Marc Green**; the contact telephone number is **416.450.3899**

The scene involves:

ROAD CLOSURE of The Kingsway to facilitate exterior filming of scenes involving 7 +/- houses along street with talent & animals (dogs) under wrangler supervision. Exact Road Closure dates/times TBD

Filming will take place on:

July 8-10
Rain Dates: July 11 & 12

Production vehicles will be parked on:
Craik Rd, S/side btw Strath & the Kingsway
Mellor Rd, S/side btw Strath & the Kingsway
Kingsgrove Blvd, S/side btw Strath & the Kingsway

The production company will be notifying all affected residents / businesses in advance of filming.

NEW GARBAGE BINS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN WARD 5

The following outreach events have been scheduled in the Ward to answer your questions regarding the Mayor's new Garbage and Recycling Bin program being implemented this year.

Tues June 24th, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
Stonegate Farmer's Market
194 Park Lawn Rd
4 - 7 pm

Sat June 28th
Shopper's Drug Mart
125 The Queensway
10 - 2 pm

July 3rd - 5th
Kipling Queensway Mall
1255 The Queensway
Thurs and Fri 9:30 am - 9 pm
Sat 9:30 am - 6 pm

Sat July 19th
Wedge Wood Park - Outdoor pool area
17 Swan Ave
12 - 4 pm

Sat July 19th
Rotary Park - Outdoor pool area
25 Eleventh Street
12 - 4 pm

July 13th - 19th
Sherway Gardens
25 The West Mall
Sun 11 - 5 pm
Mon - Fri 10 - 9
Sat 9:30 - 6 pm

In addition, we will be at the Etobicoke Civic Centre on the following days and times:

June 25th - July 24th
Etobicoke Civic Centre
399 The West Mall
Tues - Thurs 10 - 2 pm

These events will be posted on our website - <http://www.toronto.ca/target70/index.htm>
and a weekly ad in the Etobicoke Guardian will list the events for the week.

Waste Management Staff will be on site to answer any questions you may have regarding the bin program and waste diversion in general.

ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

NEXT MEETING OF EYCC (Etobicoke York Community Council)

Tuesday, July 7th, 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>

WARD 5 - KEY ITEMS THIS MONTH

Please refer to link above to read entire Staff Reports or call my office for additional information

- EY18.8** **South Kingsway and The Queensway Interchange – Transit, Cycling, Pedestrian and Urban Design Enhancements**
- EY 18.13** **Bering Avenue Parking Regulations Amendments**
- EY18.14** **Jopling Avenue North and Mattice Avenue – Speed Limit Amendments**
- EY18.15** **The Kingsway Neighbourhood: Traffic Assessment Final Report – MOE Part II Order Request Resolution**
- EY18.30** **Outdoor Cafe Encroachment Request – 3004 Bloor Street West**
- EY18.31** **Outdoor Cafe Encroachment Request – 3373 Bloor Street West**
- EY 18.32** **Natural Garden Exemption Request – 275/277 Park Lawn Road**
- EY18.37** **1144 Islington Avenue – Zoning Amendment Application – Preliminary Report to recommend community consultation occur**

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 OF TORONTO & CITY COUNCIL NEWS

2008 FINAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE IN THE MAIL

All City of Toronto 2008 final property tax bills have now been mailed.

Payment due dates for the regular instalment plan and the withdrawal dates for the 6-Instalment Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Plan are **July 2, August 1, and September 2**.

For the 2-Instalment Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Plan, the withdrawal date is July 2.

For the 11-Instalment Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Plan, the withdrawal date is on the 15th of every month or the nearest business day thereafter from July to December.

There are several ways to pay a property tax bill:

At most financial institutions (there may be a charge for this service). If paying tax bills through an automatic teller machine (ATM), customers should pay before the due date and retain their receipt.

Via telephone or internet banking, if this service is provided by a customer's financial institution.

By mail to: Treasurer, City of Toronto, P.O. Box 5000, Toronto, ON, M2N 5V1

In person at the enquiry/cashier counters at all civic centres and City Hall:

- Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
- East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave.
- **Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall**
- North York Civic Center, 5100 Yonge St.
- Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Dr.
- York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. W.

Regular hours at all civic centres and City Hall are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Extended hours are from Friday, June 27 to Wednesday, July 2, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Customer service information phone line:

For property tax inquiries, call 416-338-4829. TTY users call 416-392-0719.

Regular hours: Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Extended hours are offered until Wednesday, July 2, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Property Tax information is also available on the City's website at www.toronto.ca/taxes/property_tax.

TORONTO TO GET FULL SERVICE FROM NEW 3-1-1 TECHNOLOGY

The City's Government Management Committee received a report last month highlighting the negotiations and the signing of a 3-1-1 technology contract with BearingPoint Inc. The contract calls for the implementation of a new 3-1-1 contact centre for the City of Toronto, along with a five-year maintenance support option. The City has now entered into the implementation phase with BearingPoint Inc. and will publicly launch the contact centre in **June 2009**.

WHAT IS 311?

When launched, the 3-1-1 contact centre will answer callers' questions, with a goal to answer those questions in that first contact, at least 70 per cent of the time. Callers will also be able to make requests for service with Toronto Water, Transportation, and Solid Waste divisions with one phone call, and receive a tracking number for follow-up. The second phase of the Toronto 3-1-1 service, scheduled for early 2010, will see an integrated self-service system on the City's website and will expand the service request capability of 3-1-1 to include Urban Forestry, as well as Municipal Licensing and Standards.

Torontonians will be able to speak to a 3-1-1 operator who can connect them with the help they need, and follow up until their issue is resolved. This contract will provide us with the right technology to ensure we can deliver a 3-1-1 service that is among the best in North America.

Originally scheduled to launch in 2008, the project launch date has been extended 11 months to ensure the City received the best possible price for the right 3-1-1 service technology.

The City of Toronto's 3-1-1 system will be unique, in that it will be the largest in North America to launch with end-to-end service integration. The system being built for Toronto will link many different work order systems so they work effectively together to deliver improved service delivery to the residents and businesses in Toronto.

At its meeting of September 2007, Toronto City Council adopted the recommendations in the Government Management Committee report on the 3-1-1 Technology Solution Request for Proposal, Best and Final Offer results. Council also amended the recommendations and directed City staff to report back to the Government Management Committee on potential savings after negotiations with the preferred proponent were complete.

Contract negotiations with BearingPoint Inc. began in October 2007 and a formal agreement was completed on March 31, 2008. During these negotiations, City staff were able to successfully negotiate a contract with BearingPoint for an amount 1.8% less than the original contract value approved by Council. Staff also negotiated for an additional software module to be included in the contract as part of the overall package, which represents a value of approximately 2.7% of the overall contract if the City were to purchase it separately.

The total approved 3-1-1 capital budget is \$35 million, which represents all costs to plan, develop and ready the service for launch.

BUS ROUTES TURN WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY

The TTC is pleased to introduce more accessible bus routes in Ward 5. Starting on Sunday, June 22, the following bus routes will become wheelchair and scooter friendly: **15 Evans, 37 Islington, 110 Islington South, 311 Islington, 73 Royal York, 112 West Mall.**

With these additions, more than 70 per cent of TTC bus routes (120 of 167 routes) will be accessible.

The new routes will be served by low-floor, kneeling buses equipped with a flip-ramp. These buses can be identified by blue lights on either side of the front destination sign, and the blue international wheelchair symbol displayed above the front right bumper next to the entrance door.

All fully accessible buses include two wheelchair/scooter positions. The TTC now has more than 1,300 accessible buses in its fleet - and more are on the way!

TTC customers can call 416 393-INFO (4636) [TTY 416 481-2523] or visit www.ttc.ca for more service information and for a complete accessible route listing.

HERITAGE TORONTO LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

On behalf of staff at Heritage Toronto, we invite you and staff to visit our new website: www.heritagetoronto.org. The website, we hope, will be a helpful resource in your work, in relation to all things historic in Toronto.

Our signature website feature is a heritage exploration map, which includes all of our plaques, walks, archaeological sites and museums in the City, which is searchable by neighbourhood, address and intersection. Other key features are noted below.

We hope you and staff will take the time to visit the site. We welcome any suggestions for content and feedback is appreciated.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS **CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 26 AND 27, 2008**

Unanimous approval for incentives to attract industry to Toronto

City Council unanimously approved its first-ever city-wide financial incentives program to stimulate growth in key value-added economic sectors, including manufacturing, bio-medical, environmental, information technology, creative industries and tourism. The new investment will produce new jobs, and eventually increased City revenue through property taxes. All properties and projects affected by the program will continue to pay base taxes, but will receive grants of up to 60 per cent of the tax increase resulting from new investment. It is anticipated that by delaying receipt of approximately \$6 million in taxes over 10 years, the program will result in: \$904 million in new capital investment, 11,000 new jobs and \$43 million in new tax revenue. The new

incentives program addresses priorities identified by City initiatives including the Enhancing Toronto's Business Climate report, and the Agenda for Prosperity.

Council approves enhanced programming to get panhandlers off the street

Enhanced housing and support services to get panhandlers off the street were approved by Council. Building on the successful Streets to Homes program, the enhanced services will take a housing first approach, getting panhandlers into housing while providing support services that will help them remain permanently housed. The program will extend beyond panhandlers to others living on the street. Additional community workers will be hired and will be visible on the streets providing counseling, referrals, case management and assistance in finding and keeping permanent housing. A central phone number will be established so that anyone across the city can trigger a response for those who need help. Additional mental health, addiction and employment supports are also being established. The enhanced service is supported by the business community, and will cost about \$2.6 million in 2008.

Youth employment opportunities approved through graffiti clean up project

Council approved \$340,000 in funding to provide youth employment opportunities to clean graffiti and beautify neighbourhoods through the Graffiti Transformation Investment Program. The funding will be provided to community-based organizations which will employ youth to remove and resurface areas with graffiti.

Council endorses action to improve tourism for Toronto

Council endorsed actions from the report Making Toronto the Best It Can Be, which has recommendations from industry leaders, City staff and Member of Council to enhance Toronto's ability to serve as a premier tourist destination and reap the economic benefits. The City participated in the Toronto's Premier Ranked Tourism Destination project which identifies 93 action items. These include attracting new 'blockbuster exhibits,' renewing and creating tourist magnets like a revitalized waterfront, telling the story of Toronto's history in a more captivating way, and for people involved in the tourism industry to elevate the level of service offered to tourists. City Divisions will meet to explore avenues to improve services to support growth in the tourism sector.

New visions for Old City Hall

The City will look to capitalize on the historic appeal of Old City Hall in future years, with staff directed to identify potential new uses for the site once its lease as a Provincial court house ends in 2016.

NEWS RELEASE JUNE 24, 2008

LINDA L. GEHRKE APPOINTED TORONTO'S NEW LOBBYIST REGISTRAR

Today, City Council appointed Linda L. Gehrke as the City's new Lobbyist Registrar, effective August 1, 2008. The Registrar leads and manages the City's lobbyist control framework, including the lobbyist registry. Ms. Gehrke will help to ensure Council's decision-making process is transparent, open and accountable to the public, and lobbying activities are carried out ethically and with the highest standards.

Ms. Gehrke, a lawyer, has a very broad background in administrative law and dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration and significant experience with tribunals. She began her career with and has always maintained a significant interest in the community and public service.

Ms. Gehrke takes over the position from Marilyn Abraham, the City's first Lobbyist Registrar, who launched the registry and developed and enforced a Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

The Lobbyist Registrar, an independent officer reporting to City Council, is one component of the City's accountability framework required under the City of Toronto Act. The others are the Auditor General, the Integrity Commissioner and the Ombudsperson.

NEWS RELEASE - JUNE 24, 2008

GERI SANSON APPOINTED TORONTO'S NEW INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

Today, City Council appointed Geri Sanson as the City's new Integrity Commissioner, effective September 1, 2008. The Integrity Commissioner provides advice, complaint resolution and education to Council members and

appointees of most of the City's agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs) on the application of the City's Code of Conduct and other by-laws, policies and legislation governing ethical behavior.

Ms. Sanson, a lawyer, practises in the areas of human rights, labour, employment and administrative law. She is a trained arbitrator and mediator and has acted as a third party neutral in conducting complex investigations, broad based workplace facilitations, mediations and adjudications for various government agencies, non-profit organizations, unions and the private sector.

Ms. Sanson has acted as counsel or co-counsel on several significant cases before a variety of administrative tribunals, and on judicial review applications in the Divisional Court, appeals to the Court of Appeal and to the Supreme Court of Canada.

She has served as an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall and has taught Public Law in the Bar Admissions program. Prior to opening her own practice, Ms. Sanson served as counsel to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Sanson takes over the position from David Mullan, Toronto's first Integrity Commissioner and the first municipal Integrity Commissioner in Canada.

The Integrity Commissioner, an independent officer reporting to City Council, is one component of the City's accountability framework required under the City of Toronto Act. The others are the Auditor General, the Ombudsperson and the Lobbyist Registrar.

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Toronto City Council July 15th and July 16th, 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.

The City Clerk's Office may receive individual correspondence or other information containing personal information on an agenda item for a meeting agenda. It is our policy not to publish personal information on the Internet. If you wish to review or obtain a copy of any individual correspondence pertaining to an item on a meeting agenda, please contact the City Clerk's Office.

Notice to People Writing to City Council:

The City of Toronto collects any personal information in your correspondence to Toronto City Council or its committees under the City of Toronto Act 2006 and the City of Toronto Municipal Code.

The City of Toronto collects any personal information in your communication to Toronto City Council or its committees under the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the City of Toronto Municipal Code.

The City collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). Individuals who submit letters and other information should be aware that any personal information in their communication will become part of the public record. The City will make it available to the public, unless the individual expressly requests the City to remove the personal information.

Please direct any questions to:

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


Toronto ON M5H 2N2

or call 416-392-7032

If you do not wish to receive my e-Updates, please email me back and request that your name be removed from this distribution list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Ming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent underline for the name "Ming".

 Please consider the environment before printing this email note.
Avant d'imprimer, pensez à l'environnement!