

March 25 2008 Ward e-Update

Dear Ward Five Residents;

Please take the time to read this entire e-update. Your assistance in promoting my e-updates is also appreciated, as this is not only cost efficient way to communicate regularly, but it reduces paper waste, and is a quick way for me to stay in touch on many Ward and City issues.

I encourage you to forward this email to your neighbours/friends and ask them in return to email me requesting to be added to the distribution list.

ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (EYCC)

NEXT MEETING OF EYCC

Tuesday, April 8th, 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>

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

CURRENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS & REPORTS

Agendas and Staff Reports are circulated to my office the week prior to the meeting. Once received, I am happy to forward any Staff Reports or provide additional information on agenda items. If you wish to be kept informed on particular developments or City applications, please make sure you register with the Clerks office indicating your interest in a specific item, application or issue. They will then advise you of when reports on that Item are being included on a Community Council agenda.

To obtain more information, to register to be a deputant, or to submit a written deputation for an Agenda item, please contact the Etobicoke York Community Council:

Ms. Glenda Jagai, Committee Administrator
City Clerk's Office, 399 The West Mall, Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2
416-394-8101
etcc@toronto.ca

ETOBICOKE INFORMATION, NEWS
&
NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS

Mark these dates on your calendar!

**CALL MY OFFICE IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION
ON ANY OF THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS**

*******TTC HOSTED PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
KIPLING / ISLINGTON STATION REDEVELOPMENT

This meeting has been CANCELLED – I will advise when rescheduled

March 29, 2008 1:00 p.m.
Islington United Church
25 Burnhamthorpe

KINGSWAY LAMBTON UNITED CHURCH - 11TH ANNUAL ART SHOW AND SALE

April 5, 2008 10 am to 4 pm
Kingsway Lambton Church,
85 The Kingsway
Call 416-234-8224

There will also be a draw prize of the original Oil on canvas titled "Haliburton Sky [30 X 24]

TORONTO WALKING STRATEGY FORUM

April 7, 2008 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sherway Gardens
Community Booth in the Sears Court

The City of Toronto is hosting public open houses to present the highlights of the Toronto Walking Strategy - a plan to make Toronto a great walk able city.

Based on months of discussion with the public, external organizations and relevant City divisions and agencies, the Toronto Walking Strategy will include visionary policy, infrastructure and programming to create a rich culture of walking in Toronto.

Walking is the sign of a healthy, safe and vibrant community. Improvements to the walking environment can have significant benefits to a community, including: safe mobility for people of all ages, abilities and economic means; an improvement in air quality and reduced transportation emissions; healthier lifestyles and recreation opportunities; enhanced social interaction, as well as improved integration with other sustainable modes of transportation.

To learn more about walking in Toronto, visit the City's website at www.toronto.ca/walking

call 416-392-0193 or e-mail pedplan@toronto.ca

ETOBICOKE SERVICES FOR SENIORS FUNDRAISING EVENT

Join Etobicoke Services for Seniors at the performance of Disney's Beauty and the Beast and help support seniors.

April 11, 2008

11:00 am Buffet Lunch

12:30 pm Show

Stage West Theatre Restaurant

5400 Dixie Road

Price: \$65.00 per person (includes reserved show seating, buffet lunch with tea/coffee and all taxes and gratuities)

For Info and Tickets: Call 416-243-0127
or visit Etobicoke Services for Seniors at 1447 Royal York Road

2800 BLOOR STREET WEST APPLICATION – URBAN DESIGN CHARETTE FOR NEW SENIORS RESIDENCE **(advance registration required – contact my office asap)**

April 12, 2008

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Etobicoke Civic Centre

What is a Design Charette?

*It is an interactive urban design workshop with City Planning, Urban Design Staff, the Developers, and local residents participating. In smaller groups, each detail of the development proposal, and all local concerns surrounding the footprint/height/design/scale of the application are presented, reviewed and openly discussed. We encourage your feedback (with a goal of obtaining **your** ideas for design improvements). Collective ideas and recommendations to the built form, urban design, landscaping etc., are then discussed by the entire group, and proposed to City Planning Staff and Applicant.*

DEDICATION OF NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN AT 3879 BLOOR STREET WEST

April 19, 2008

10:00 am

3879 Bloor Street West

In memory of the seven Etobicoke residents who lost their lives in the tragic gas explosion at this location on April 24, 2003, we are hosting a dedication to the Memorial Garden that has been included on this location's new townhouse property.

2008 20-MINUTE TORONTO MAKEOVER

Friday, April 21, 2008

2:00 pm

Go online to www.toronto.ca/litter

or call 416-392-7899

Get ready; the count down to combat litter is on. The 2008 20-Minute Toronto Makeover is scheduled for **Friday, April 18 at 2 p.m.**

Once again, Mayor David Miller is asking all Torontonians to do their part and help clean up the city. Whether you're at work, school or at home, the 20-Minute Toronto Makeover is looking for individuals and groups to help lend a hand and clean up litter. Together with help from other GTA municipalities, the City of Toronto expects this year's Makeover to be the biggest clean-up ever.

Registration & Collection

The City encourages groups and organizations to register between late March and April 11.

To register: Go to www.toronto.ca/litter or call 416-392-7899

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING - 1 VALHALLA INN ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Bloorlea Middle School
4050 Bloor Street West
Gymnasium
7-9 p.m.

Site

The site is located in the northwest area bounded by Valhalla Inn Road, Gibbs Road, The East Mall and Highway No. 427. The site is 2.3 hectares in area. The property is currently occupied by the Valhalla Inn hotel.

Proposal

The development proposal has been reduced from its original submission. The buildings will now have podiums/bases ranging from 2 to 6 storeys. The application is for three residential apartment condominium buildings having 930 dwelling units. The building heights proposed are: one 22-storey building (northeast area of the site), one 25-storey building (northwest area of the site) and one 29-storey building (southwest area of the site).

Planning Staff's Final Report on this application has not been submitted yet, however I anticipate that it will be included on the Community Council agenda of June 10, 2008. If you require additional information, please contact my office.

STEPHEN DRIVE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION – PHASE 1

The Queensway to Berry Road

Expected Start-up Date: March 31, 2008

Expected Completion Date: June 2008

Construction work for the Reconstruction of Stephen Drive – Phase 1 from The Queensway to Berry Road is set to recommence Monday, March 31, 2008 after the winter disruption. Underground work will start with the installation of water services from The Queensway and working northerly.

Every effort will be made to reduce the inconveniences that are inevitable with any construction project.

Construction Details (unchanged from last year's notice)

The existing watermain will be replaced and water services upgraded from the street to your front property line if required. New storm sewer will be built and new street catchbasins constructed; new sanitary sewer will be built with new services from the street to your front property line. The roadway will be reconstructed including excavation of the old roadway, construction of new curb and gutter and subdrains, construction of new sidewalks where required, new roadway construction, asphalt paving and restoration of driveways and boulevards. Sidewalks will be rerouted in certain locations to better avoid existing trees and provide better pedestrian visibility. The new roadway width will be 10.2 metres and will accommodate one vehicle lane and one bicycle lane in each direction.

Work Hours

Work will run from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday with occasional work at night and on Saturdays. On occasion, the work day may extend to 7:00 p.m.

Other Considerations

Last year, OZA Inspections Limited on behalf of Gazzola Paving Ltd. visited your property to carry out a pre-construction condition survey. This survey was on a voluntary basis; however, it is important in determining if damage was caused during construction. In case damage occurs during construction due to construction activities, please contact Gazzola Paving Ltd. directly at 416-675-7007 as well as advise the undersigned.

During construction, traffic delays will occur and driveway access will be disrupted from time to time. Stephen Drive will be reduced to one lane controlled by flagmen during construction work. Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained. Access for TTC buses and school buses will be interrupted during a planned southbound closure of Stephen Drive. (Please see separate notice) At times, access to your driveway(s) will be temporarily restricted to allow construction to take place. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and trust that you will be patient during this process.

The Solid Waste Collection Division of the City requests that all waste and recyclable materials be at curb side no later than 7:00 a.m. on pickup day. Please use garbage bags during the construction period as waste and recyclable materials may be moved by the Contractor to central pickup points while construction is underway. Garbage cans may get lost during this process. Please mark your waste receptacle as well as blue boxes and green bins for easy homeowner identification.

We ask you to bring any concerns you may have regarding access and deliveries to your home to the City's attention right away so that co-ordination with the Contractor can take place. Supervision of the project will be carried out by the Technical Services Division of the City of Toronto. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Eric Leon, Project Engineer at 416-394-8442 or the site inspector during construction. You may obtain emergency service (24 hours each day) by calling 416-392-5555.

Need more information?

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Eric Leon, Senior Project Engineer	416-394-8442
24 hours	Public Consultation Office Comment Line	416-397-7777
Email	<u>works_consultation@toronto.ca</u>	

TEMPORARY BUS DIVERSION ON KINSDALE BOULEVARD

Beginning Monday, March 31, 2008 - 66A PRINCE EDWARD BUS ROUTE

The City of Toronto - Transportation Services will soon resume roadway reconstruction and upgrades to the underground water services on Stephen Drive between Berry Road and The Queensway requiring a closure of Stephen Drive. As a result, **beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 31**, TTC buses on the 66A Prince Edward route (Humber Loop branch) will be re-routed around the road closure. *see below*.

Note: Buses on the 66D Prince Edward route (Lake Shore branch) are not affected by this closure and are maintaining regular routing.

City staff advises that bus service can resume regular routing on Stephen Drive as soon as the road allowance is suitable for bus operation.

Construction inquiries can be made by contacting City of Toronto - Transportation Services at **(416) 392-8285**.

TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES:

66A PRINCE EDWARD buses will be diverted both ways via:

- **Berry Road:** between Prince Edward Drive and Kinsdale Boulevard.
- **Kinsdale Boulevard:** between Berry Road and Park Lawn Road.
- **Park Lawn Road:** between Kinsdale Boulevard and The Queensway.
- **The Queensway:** between Park Lawn Road and the Humber loop.

TTC route and scheduling information is available by calling the TTC Information Line at **(416) 393-INFO**. We regret any inconvenience that may be caused as a result of this necessary diversion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KINGSWAY BIA

The "Top 100 Ontario Festivals" for the period April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009 were unveiled recently at Festivals & Events Ontario's annual conference during the prestigious President's Gala in London, Ontario.

For the 4th year in a row, The Taste of the Kingsway Festival has been honored with the distinction of being one of Ontario's top 100 Festivals/Events.

CALLING ALL NORSEMEN/SUNNYLEA MOMS IN ETOBICOKE!

Leigh Mitchell of the Norseman/Royal York area would like to build a stronger "mom" community.

There are lots of great possible "mom" destinations in our area (and possible discounts for these things should we join together): Coffee Shops (Kingsway/Bloor Street and Islington Street- Artizanos), Spinning Studio/ Running Room (on Bloor/Montgomery), Premier gym (on Islington), Royal York Early Years Drop In (Royal York/Thompson), Bliss Yoga Studio, "Book Mark" Book store, (Bloor/Royal York) plus the "free" parks for walks and playing if it ever gets warm again!

Let's create an online community where we can share our concerns regarding issues important to Norsman/Sunnylea Moms, for example: Daycare, Schools, Community Programs opportunities etc as well as create opportunities to get together in person with our children and maybe even out on our own!

For more information and to join our group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=21971080726>

(you will need to make yourself a facebook account if you want to join).

REHABILITATION OF THE QUEENSWAY

The website for The Rehabilitation of The Queensway Project is now live. Please take the time to link to the following weblinks:

<http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects.htm>

http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/queensway_rehab-mimico/index.htm

DALESFORD ROAD - PERMIT PARKING SURVEY RESULTS

Further to resident's request for a change in the parking bylaw for this street, official polling was completed recently for permit parking on Dalesford Road. Unfortunately Transportation Services has advised me that pursuant to Chapter 925 of the Municipal Code, since a majority of the ballots received were not in favour, permit parking cannot be approved. They have closed this file. I am not able to take this further at this time, but a new study and polling can be done in two years.

NEW SIDEWALKS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING SIDEWALKS INSTALLED ON YOUR STREET?

I have received calls recently from residents asking about new sidewalk installations on streets or sections of local roads currently without sidewalks.

The City policy in place states that new sidewalks will be reviewed (and installed if feasible) on one side of a road, when that road is scheduled for reconstruction.

To have NEW sidewalks installed prior to reconstruction, residents of that street should submit a signed petition to my office or Transportation Services, requesting sidewalks (my office can assist you with a petition template). I will support new installations where requested by the residents of that street (and where feasible).

When I receive a petition, I forward it to Staff for their review and determination if the sidewalks are feasible (staff review the sidewalk(s) request, the available road allowance to install them, trees that could be negatively impacted by the installation, the location of current hydro poles or other obstructions in the way, etc., and report back as to the feasibility). If Staff's report is positive, budget allocation and installation can then be scheduled.

Once a petition is received and forwarded to Staff for their review, it unfortunately takes a little over a year to study and have budget dollars allocated for the installation. Staff receive hundreds of requests each year. The capital budget for 2008 is approved in December 2007 (and the budget for 2008 installations has been fully allocated already). New requests would be studied and funds allocated for installation in 2009 and onwards.

CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Staff and I have been reviewing the petition received over a year ago for sidewalks on **Kingsway Crescent** (between Bannon and Queen Anne Road). Staff have already studied it, reported back to me, and identified a few obstacles and concerns regarding trees, road allowances and hydro poles. I am however, meeting with Staff again next week to review their findings to see if this installation requested by the residents of that section of Kingsway Crescent can be approved and installed.

Sidewalks on **Velma Drive** (on the Eastside to connect existing sidewalks near to Norseman JMS) were requested via a petition last year. They have been approved and scheduled for installation this Spring/Summer.

*****RESIDENT INPUT REQUESTED*****

A resident of The Kingsway has contacted Transportation Services and my office requesting sidewalks on **The Kingsway (from Kingsgrove to PED)**. A petition has not been submitted from this resident - they do not reside in the subject section.

I am interested in hearing from those living on The Kingsway as to their concurrence/agreement or opposition to this sidewalk installation. Please email me at councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca with your thoughts on this installation asap. I will keep the residents informed. Staff would formally poll residents on The Kingsway will be done if this is reviewed further.

'SNOW MOUNTAIN' AT THE WESTWOOD THEATRE SITE

The Westwood Snow dumping site has been in use for over twenty years and is a City approved snow dumping site. My office has received a number of calls inquiring what will happen when the snow on this melts.

The site has drainage ditches on the east and south sides that exist to Catch basins on the south side of the property. Of course, in the unlikely event that a rapid and considerable increase in temperature occurs that may cause accelerated melting, staff will monitor the accumulation of surface water and ensure it is confined to the site and directed local receiving sewers.

NELLY FURTADO TO PERFORM AT TORONTO'S EARTH HOUR EVENT!

Canada's own Nelly Furtado, multi-platinum Grammy and Juno Award-winner, will perform a free concert at Nathan Phillips Square **on March 29 to celebrate Earth Hour**. Witness hundreds of buildings - including City Hall - in the downtown core turn off their lights.

Learn more at <http://www.toronto.ca/teo/earth-hour.htm>

CARPOOL ZONE HELPS YOU DRIVE LESS AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

The City's Smart Commute program offers a free Carpool Zone website with resources to help you make the switch from driving alone to taking transit, cycling, walking or carpooling.

Check out Smart Commute at <http://insideto.toronto.ca/smart-commute/index.htm>

WORKING WITH NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

Toronto Public Health, Social Services, Toronto Public Library and Parks, Forestry & Recreation are hosting free information sessions for agencies assisting newcomers on April 1 and April 3.

Details: www.toronto.ca/health

RECYCLING OF BATTERIES

Please be advised that IKEA. Takes batteries AND light bulbs for recycling.

IKEA has it at their front entrance, right near customer service.

OLDER ADULTS NEEDED FOR STUDY ABOUT WINTER

Researchers at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute are studying how winter effects older adults' outdoor activities. You may be interested in participating in this study.

Who? Older Adults (60 years of age or older), living in the GTA
What? One 20 minute face to face interview; one 20 minute outdoor short trip
When? In March and April, at a time convenient to you
Where? In a private room at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, or at your residence

\$20 will be provided to each participant on completion of the study.

For more information, please phone the iDAPT Technology R&D Team at TRI, and ask for Yue Li. Call [416-849-4340 x214](tel:416-849-4340) or email idapt@torontorehab.on.ca

VILLAGE OF ISLINGTON BIA - CALL FOR ARTISTS, ARTISANS AND VENDORS

'Paint the Street!'
Mural Launch and Community Festival
Saturday, June 7, noon to 5 PM
Dundas St W, Kipling to Montgomery's Inn (at Islington)

Spread the word: To launch the 2008 mural season, The Village of Islington will host its 2nd annual "Paint the Street!" festival Saturday June 7, noon to 5 PM, and is offering artists, artisans and vendors an exceptional opportunity to be part of this exciting event at little or no cost.

"Paint the Street!" is a community building initiative designed to showcase Islington's amazing murals which celebrate our community's shared history, its defining moments, rhythm of life, changing workforce, how we looked and what we did for fun through the years.

The festival is a way of connecting contemporary residents with the area's roots and bringing together the diverse segments of our village using art as a common language. Highlights include food, entertainment, children's activities, a classic car show, and artists-in-action, turning Dundas St W, Kipling to Islington, into an outdoor gallery.

Space / Fees: Space is free to artists and artisans willing to create mini-masterpieces on site during this event. For those who prefer to simply display and sell their work, a flat fee of \$40 for each 8' x 10' space is required.

Exhibition Guidelines: All participating artists and vendors must pre-register and are responsible for bringing their own chairs, tables, display equipment, hanging supplies, etc. Displays requiring construction are not allowed. All display systems must be secured with weights or water ballasts.

Apply Now: This is a unique opportunity to gain exposure to the affluent, residential market north of Dundas and also to the 10,000 or so residents moving into the new, upscale, town homes and condominiums in the Islington area. But space is limited, so don't miss out. Register early.

For more information, please contact:

Lola Macanowicz or Christine Idzik of
Lewis, Macanowicz Associates, The Co-operators
416. 234-2777 or Lola_Macanowicz@cooperators.ca

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 15

BUILDING TORONTO: ARCHITECTS AND ARCHIVES - LECTURE SERIES

The City of Toronto Archives and The Friends of the Archives of Ontario will present a series of lectures on architectural topics, entitled Building Toronto: Architects and Archives.

Hosted by Christopher Hume, the Toronto Stars Urban Issues Columnist and Architecture Critic, the speakers will share their views on modern and historical building design, public spaces and the importance of preserving architectural records in archives.

The third of the series of lectures will be held at the City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Rd.:

Saturday, April 5, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Andrew Waldron: Researching the Recent Past: Modern Architecture and the Archival Record

Admission is free, but space is limited and tickets are required. For tickets, please contact Paul Sharkey at psharke@toronto.ca or 416-392-0558. For more information about the lectures, view the flyer at www.toronto.ca/archives.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CAREER AND JOB FAIR

DATE: Friday, April 4th, 2008

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: **The Etobicoke Civic Centre**
399 The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 2Y2
(Southeast corner of Burnhamthorpe & West Mall)

COST: No Cost to Individuals Seeking Employment

PARKING: FREE **Limited** Parking Available at the Civic Centre

BUS #: Bus #50 West to West Mall (from Islington Subway)

WHAT TO BRING: Plenty of Resumes (no photocopying service available)
An electronic copy of resume for on-line application kiosk
Pen & Paper, Portfolio (if you have one)

DRESS CODE: Dress for Success – interviews may happen on the spot!

Exhibitors at the Career & Job Fair ...

◆ Toronto Hydro	◆ CANPAR
◆ BELL Mobility	◆ Humber College Institute of Technology
◆ Torontojobs.ca	◆ UPS

◆ TD Bank Financial Group	◆ PROTRANS Personnel Services Inc.
◆ Home Depot	◆ Danier Leather
◆ Holiday Inn (Toronto Yorkdale)	◆ RYERSON Bridging Programs
◆ TSE Canada	◆ Stock Transportation Ltd.
◆ Sobeys Inc.	◆ Canada's Wonderland
◆ Thornbrook Home Care Inc.	◆ Lick's Homeburgers & Ice Cream
◆ Toronto Business Development Centre	◆ Investors Group
◆ XTL Group of Companies	◆ Bruce R. Duncan & Associates
◆ Paragon Security	◆ WMI – Winners, HomeSense
◆ CN Tower	◆ RCMP
◆ Richtree Market Restaurants Inc.	◆ Compass Group Canada
◆ Extreme Fitness	◆ SIR Corp-Jack Astor's Canyon Creek
◆ The Delta Chelsea Hotel	◆ Loblaw
◆ Pivotal Solutions	◆ PharmaMedica Research Inc.

CITY OF TORONTO COUNCIL NEWS

NEXT TORONTO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Toronto City Council **March 3rd and 4th, 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 the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2 or call 416-392-7032.

COUNCIL DECISIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the City Council meeting of March 3, 4 and 5, 2008

Leaf and yard waste collection and Christmas tree pick-up extended

Council voted to extend the current leaf and yard waste, as well as Christmas tree collection schedules starting in September 2008. Given that religious holiday celebrations now extend into the second and third weeks of January, and that changing climate conditions have altered seasonal weather patterns, the extended spring and fall leaf and yard waste collection, and extended Christmas tree collection will provide better service to residents. Under the new schedule, bi-weekly collection of leaf and yard waste will occur from March 16 through to December 31, and Christmas tree pick-up will take place bi-weekly from January 5 to 23. Currently, the City provides single-family residences with curb side collection of leaf and yard waste beginning the first full week of April and continuing through until the first week of December, on an alternating weekly/bi-weekly schedule. Christmas trees are currently collected from

single-family residences weekly during the first two weeks of January.

City supports climate change goals by greening its vehicle fleet

Council unanimously approved the Green Fleet Plan 2008-2011, which will see the City purchase more environmentally friendly vehicles. These vehicles will help the City Fleet meet or surpass its emission reduction targets adopted by Council: it will reduce locally produced smog emissions by 20 per cent by 2012, and meet Kyoto greenhouse gas reduction targets. The City Fleet will add a minimum: 80 vehicles in 2008, 100 vehicles in 2009, 140 vehicles in 2010 and 200 vehicles in 2011. The City will test electric and hydrogen powered vehicles. Also, the City's street sweepers will be replaced with dustless models that will trap the swept particles, preventing them from becoming airborne. The Fleet Services Division will work with other City divisions to reduce the overall number of vehicles used and kilometres travelled, and to use vehicles more efficiently.

Retail holiday shopping locations and hours remain unchanged

A report outlining new options for holiday shopping was received for information only by Council, which means the status quo remains. Most stores in the City must continue to close on New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Chapter 510 of the Municipal Code lists 15 categories of exempt store types that are permitted to remain open. In addition, stores in the Eaton Centre, Distillery District, Queen's Quay Terminal, Downtown Yonge BIA and the Bloor Yorkville BIA are permitted to remain open on certain designated holidays.

City endorses plan to build a creative city

Council adopted the Creative City Planning Framework, a plan to increase economic competitiveness and long-term prosperity by adopting a Cultural Planning model and developing "Creative Toronto." Cultural Planning seeks to leverage the connections between place, culture and the economy. "Creative Toronto," one of the four pillars outlined in the Agenda for Prosperity: a Prospectus for a Great City, states that Toronto can compete in sectors that add value, increase productivity and grow the economy through research, development and the commercialization of ideas. The Creative City Planning Framework was developed in conjunction with The Agenda for Prosperity and supports its priority actions. City Council adopted the Agenda for Prosperity at its January 2008 meeting. The report will be used to guide major strategic policies having an impact on Toronto's economic competitiveness and growth.

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 last name.