

Dear Ward Five Residents;

Please assist me in promoting my e-updates to others in Ward 5?

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.

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

- If you know of a Ward Group, Association, Church, Committee or School that would like me to advertise their association news or an event, please have them forward details to me (one month prior to their event).
- If there is a specific City or Ward issue that you would like me to include in a future e-Update, please send in your request.

**Please watch for and read my
Winter Newsletter which will be
delivered to you via Canada Post this week.**

News Release: The Mayor's BluePrint for Fiscal Stability and Economic Prosperity completed

The Mayor struck his 'Blue Ribbon' Fiscal Review Panel as a result of last year's debate on the new taxes he brought forward, namely the Land Transfer Tax and the Vehicle Registration Tax.

Their mandate would be:

“To provide the Mayor of Toronto with:

- 1. A high level, impartial and objective assessment of the City of Toronto's relative competitiveness, financial position, revenue opportunities and savings potential in the near to medium term.**
- 2. To make a series of comments and recommendations with a view towards helping enable the City to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, economic prosperity, livability and create opportunity for all.”**

The Panel was made up of:

Blake Hutcheson, Chair

Chairman and President
CB Richard Ellis Limited
Canada and Latin America

Rahul Bhardwaj

President & CEO
Toronto Community Foundation

Lorna R. Marsden, CM, PhD

President emerita
York University

Paul Massara

President

Genesis Capital Corporation
Jim Stanford
Economist
Canadian Auto Workers
Larry Tanenbaum
Chairman & CEO
Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Limited

The Panel did a thorough, although high level, review of the City's operations and finances. Virtually all of the areas for improvement, savings, additional revenues, and efficiency which they have identified have been discussed, debated, and pursued by myself and various members of Council since amalgamation. They found nothing new!

The problem has been, and I believe continues to be, a lack of political will by a majority of Councillors and the Mayor to vigorously pursue these items.

Some key examples of their recommendations:

- look out for small expenditures and find savings wherever you can
- outsourcing and procurement should be reviewed to find savings
- set annual fiscal targets for cost savings
- overhaul the merit pay system for senior staff
- constrain wage increases which are above the Ontario average and inflation rate
- improve the budgeting process and strengthen the City's centralised control over the spending of Agencies, Boards, and Commissions
- sell off City Real Estate to reduce debt levels, and increase the assessment base

Some of their other recommendations however I do not agree with such as:

- additional taxes and user fees (such as road tolls)
- additional powers for the Mayor and extra pay for members of his Executive Committee

With the passage of the new City of Toronto Act the Mayor already enjoys significantly greater powers than before, and more power than any other Mayor in Ontario. He exercises great control over the City Council Agenda, appoints members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs, the Budget Committee, and has made his 2006 Campaign platform the guiding document of priorities for the Civil service and Council. Further powers will not lead to better results, but simply to less debate on Public Policy and fewer checks and balances through City Council.

I have been pursuing a number of the issues which the Panel has identified such as; selling City real estate, outsourcing, constraining merit pay and wage increases, setting targets for reducing, freezing budgets, reducing borrowing, and finding various smaller budget items to cut.

The Mayor has indicated that he supports the Panel's recommendation. To date he has been active in pushing the sale of city Real Estate, and looking into the issue of Merit Pay for senior staff.

To read the entire report, please access the following link. Your comments are always welcome.

http://www.toronto.ca/mayor_miller/pdf/blueprint_report_20080217.pdf

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>

COMMUNITY COUNCIL DECISIONS – NEED INFORMATION?

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

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 NEWS

Capital Improvements to Brentwood Library

A renovation and expansion of the Brentwood Library is part of the Toronto Public Library's 5 year capital budget. The design process will get underway later this year followed by construction in 2009.

As part of this project, there will be a public consultation.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Barbara Tinsley, Library Service Manager at Brentwood Library, email btinsley@torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Extending Mechanical Leaf Collection and Tree Collection – Staff to Report

The Planning Works and Infrastructure is recommending an extended Spring and Fall leaf collection and tree collection program but changing to bi-weekly for this extended period. The committee recommendations are on the City Council agenda next week (March 3 / 4th).

Installation of Noise Barrier Approved – St. Elizabeth’s Catholic School

The Ministry of Transportation plans to install a noise barrier at St. Elizabeth Catholic School. The proposed noise barrier will overlap the existing noise barrier located to the northwest corner of the school grounds. The new barrier will run south along the Ministry right-of-way adjacent to the school property. The barrier will then continue for approximately 70m along the right-of way between the school property and the Cloverdale Road exit ramp.

Toronto Police are conducting an On-line Traffic Safety Survey

The Toronto Police Service is currently conducting a comprehensive review of how the Service addresses the issue of Traffic Safety. The review is multi-faceted and is reviewing issues such as:

- The method by which the Service strategically plans enforcement activity
- The development of our infrastructure systems to better address traffic-related issues i.e. court, the accounting of provincial offences notices and geo-coding.
- The organizational culture regarding traffic enforcement.

These are a few examples of the issues being reviewed.

The survey will appear on the Toronto Police Service’s external web site and will be accessible to the public for their review and completion.

The Toronto Police Service website can be accessed at: <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/>

NOTE: The traffic survey can be accessed by clicking on the **stop sign icon** on the web page.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS

Mark these dates on your calendar!

CALL MY OFFICE IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION

Islington Seniors Art Show

All are invited to come and see the magnificent art works that have been created by Seniors at the Islington Centre. .

Date: Opening Reception on **Sat. Feb. 23 from 2-5 p.m.**,
and ongoing Gallery open from Feb 25 to Mar 19/08
Time: Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 12 - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: The Assembly Hall, located at 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive
For Info: 416-231-3431

Reminder Community Consultation 2800 Bloor Street Proposal

Date: Wednesday, March 5th, 2008
Location: Etobicoke Civic Centre
399 The West Mall, Main Boardroom
7 p.m.

This community meeting is being hosted by the Planning Department, as per the Planning Act requirements. The Developer will be in attendance, with their architect, to show the community their plans for a seniors residence at this location. I will also be at the meeting to hear your views and comments on this proposal. **Please note: a few residents have called me to ask if the public parkette on the easterly corner of this site at The Kingsway and Bloor is being sold or developed. The simple answer is NO. The parkette will remain, along with additional planned landscaping and improvements to the parkette.**

Opportunity to see the new Blue Bin Display prior to ordering

Date: March 10th to March 28th
Locations: Etobicoke Civic Centre
399 The West Mall, Main Lobby

Fairfield Seniors Centre
Lothian Avenue

On March 11, 2008 the City home owners (single-family and small multi-unit residential buildings receiving curbside collection) will start receiving the brochures and Blue Bin order cards on March 11, 2008 and that the Blue Bin order deadline is Friday, March 28, 2008. I encourage you to view the Blue Bins at one of the above locations prior to placing your order to ensure that you have ordered the correct size for your home.

TTC Hosted Public Consultation for Kipling / Islington Station Redevelopment

Islington United Church 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
March 29, 2008
1:00 p.m. (please call my office for additional details)

Urban Design Charette with Developers/Planning Staff and Residents re: Seniors Residence Proposal for 2800 Bloor Street West

April 12, 2008 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Etobicoke Civic Centre
(The agenda for the Charette, to review this projects' urban design and get feedback, comments and input from the community, is in planning stages. Please call my office if you are interested in signing up as a participant in this interactive charette)

Dedication of New Memorial Garden at 3879 Bloor Street West.

April 19, 2008 (time and details of ceremony to be announced)

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.

Public Open House – Rehabilitation of The Queensway

The Queensway: Rehabilitation of the roadway and boulevard from Mimico Creek to Islington Avenue, including sidewalk repair, new sustainable tree planting locations (2) and under-drainage, boulevard streetscaping, catchbasin and catchbasin lead repair, concrete roadbase repair and asphalt grinding and paving. There is no watermain or sewer work under this contract.

Date: Tuesday, **March 18, 2008**
Time: **7:00 to 9:00 pm**
Location: Bishop Allan Academy on Royal York Road in the cafeteria.

Easter in the Kingsway BIA

Lots and lots of rabbits roaming in the Kingsway on Saturday, March 22nd. Come and meet one of the rabbits and receive free chocolates.

Date: Saturday, **March 22, 2008**
Time: All day
Location: Bloor Street between Prince Edward Drive and Montgomery Road

Community Open House (hosted by developers) **Residential/Commercial proposal for SW Corner of Islington/Norseman**

Date: **March 25th and 26th, 2008**
Time: 5:00 – 9:00 pm
Location: Legion Hall, Jutland Road

Kingsway Lambton United Church - 11th annual Art Show and Sale

Date: Saturday, **April 5, 2008**
Time: 10 am to 4 pm
Location: Kingsway Lambton Church, 85 The Kingsway
For Info: Call 416-234-8224

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

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.

Date: Sunday, **April 11, 2008**
Time: 11:00 am Buffet Lunch
12:30 pm Show
Location: 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

Royal York Road United Church - Launches Inter-Faith Dialogue Series

Toronto is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic, so Royal York Road United Church in Etobicoke is offering its second inter-faith series to continue to build the relationships with other faith communities that it began last year. The series will offer people the chance to learn, and talk, about the featured topics.

This year's "Here's Our Neighbour" Lenten series is a sequel to last year's successful "Who's Our Neighbour?" series, where up to 85 Royal York Road members visited other faiths' places of worship. This year, members of those Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim communities will visit Royal York Road to continue their dialogue about various spiritual practices and scriptural interpretations. There will also be three other sessions, offering an introduction, a session on Buddhism and devotional practices, and a wrap-up.

Members of the local community are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in attending should contact Royal York Road United Church, 851 Royal York Road, at 416-231-9401 to register. Most events are free. Tickets for the March 3 kosher dinner are available for \$15.

NOTE NEW DATE Mon., Mar. 3, 6-9:30 p.m. – Judaism – Scriptures:** There will be a kosher dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a church tour. At about 7:30 p.m., we'll discuss how our faith traditions interpret scripture. A rabbi from Congregation Darchei Noam and The Rev. Dr. Alan Davies from Royal York Road, who is Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, will each speak about Exodus 17:1-7 (the Exodus story and concept of God's chosen people) and Isaiah 9:2b-7 (the coming of the Messiah). Dinner provided. Cost: \$15. Tickets are available by calling the church office after Feb. 10.

Wed., March 5, 7-9:15 p.m. – Hinduism – Jesus & God: Professor V. Kumar Murty from the University of Toronto and Vedanta Society of Toronto and The Rev. Dr. Iain Nicol from Royal York Road, who is Professor Emeritus, Knox College, University of Toronto, will discuss how Jesus relates to our understanding of God.

Wed., March 12, 7-9:15 p.m. – Islam – Social Justice: An Imam from the Bosnian Islamic Association or Birmingham Street Mosque and Nora Sanders from Royal York Road, who is General Secretary, General Council, for The United Church of Canada, will discuss our traditions' scriptural basis for our understanding of social justice and service to the broader community.

Sunday, March 16, 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. – Wrap-up session: We'll discuss what we learned from the series, and how we might continue the dialogue. Lunch provided.

For more information, please contact Noelle Boughton, 416-620-0027.

CITY OF TORONTO NEWS & EVENTS

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

City Council meeting of January 29 and 30, 2008

Agenda for Prosperity - a strong, vibrant and internationally competitive Toronto

Council endorsed the Agenda for Prosperity - A Prospectus for a Great City as the framework for major strategic policies impacting economic competitiveness and growth. The city-building agenda was prepared by the Mayors Economic Competitiveness Advisory Committee, which is comprised of business, labour and academic leaders, and members of Council. City Council also directed staff, in

consultation with the Advisory Committee, to prepare an implementation plan and budget for priority actions, recommend targets for the success measures identified for the four pillars of the Prosperity Agenda, and to report back as soon as possible on next steps, and annually thereafter on the status of the reports implementation. The Mayor convened the Advisory Committee in June 2006 to provide advice on ways to improve the quality of life in Toronto, put creativity at the heart of the economic development strategy and create greater opportunity for all through enhanced economic competitiveness and growth, the creation of high quality jobs, retaining and attracting investment, and fostering a culture of partnership to sustain a vibrant economy.

Street Food Pilot for Toronto

Council approved a Toronto Street Food Pilot for the summer of 2008 to introduce the sale of safe, healthy, nutritious and ethnically-diverse foods at selected locations. Staff were instructed to seek expressions of interest from potential cart manufacturers and to explore the use of partnership opportunities to provide funding for the 15-cart pilot. The pilot is dependent on making an arrangement at no cost to the City. A staff report is expected in the spring. Council also approved a motion authorizing staff to take the necessary steps to secure the name Toronto a la Carte as the official name of the proposed street food program.

Protecting Toronto's trees

Council adopted amendments to the City's tree bylaws to better protect both City-owned trees and trees on private property. Under the approved new fee structure, a construction-related permit application to request the removal of a private tree will cost \$300 per tree (with no maximum), instead of \$200. The non-construction-related permit application fee to remove a private tree is still \$100 per tree, but the previous maximum fee of \$300 has been removed. Residents who wish to apply to remove a healthy City-owned tree are now required to pay \$300 per tree (with no maximum). Previously, there were no fees associated with requests to remove healthy City-owned trees. The amendments will strengthen the bylaws and improve inspection of potential infractions. The city-wide Private Tree Bylaw has been in effect since September 30, 2004 and regulates trees on private property that have a diameter of 30 cm or greater measured at 1.4 metres off the ground. The City's Street Tree Bylaw protects all trees located on public streets, lanes and highways. The minimum fine for illegally injuring or removing a privately- or publicly-owned tree is \$500 per tree up to a maximum fine of \$100,000, as determined by the courts.

Decreasing the risk of rabies transmission

Council approved a motion asking staff to report back on strategies to decrease or eliminate the risk of rabies transmission when dogs and cats are sold to the public, including the requirement that all dogs and cats to be licensed and fully immunized against rabies at the point of sale.

Council also approved a request to ask the provincial government to regulate the sale of dogs and cats to ensure that anyone who may come into contact with these animals is protected against the risk of rabies transmission

Streamlining the City's bicycle lane approval process

City Council adopted a new approval process for bicycle lanes in the city. In an effort to streamline the bicycle lane approval and reporting process, all bicycle lane matters will now be routed to Council through the City's Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. Rather than have bicycle lane matters considered by one of the City's four Community Councils, and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee if the proposed bicycle lane crosses more than one Community Council area, the new method streamlines the approval process by ensuring all bicycle lane matters are routed through one committee. Simplifying the bicycle lane approval process is an important step in accelerating the implementation of the Bike Plan, which was approved by City Council in 2001.

Increasing the City's share of slot machine revenue from Woodbine Racetrack

Council directed the Mayor and staff to negotiate a larger percentage of the slot machine revenue the City receives from Woodbine Racetrack, which is owned by the Woodbine Entertainment Group but operated by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG). The objective is to increase the City's share to 10 per cent - the amount currently awarded to non-government stakeholders. Under the current Racetrack Municipality Contribution Agreement with the OLG, the City receives 5 per cent of the gross gaming

revenue on the first 450 slot machines and 2 per cent on the balance in excess of 450 machines. If the discussion to amend the existing agreement fails, staff will report back on the feasibility of negotiating a separate deal for new slots machines, and on the possibility of implementing a cap on the number of slot machines permitted in any establishment in the city. Council also voted in favour of a policy whereby any expansion of gaming in Toronto would be contingent on the City receiving a minimum share of 10 per cent of the gross gaming revenue.

New City Council meeting times

Council voted to conclude their meetings one hour earlier and to cancel their 30-minute dinner break. As per the approved new meeting times, City Council will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Council also approved a motion for the provision of refreshments when council extends the meeting session past 8 p.m.

Report A Pothole!

The public can assist by reporting potholes.

Call the pothole hotline at **416-599-9090**; push the pound key (#) then 164 to leave a message about the location of the pothole. You are also welcome to contact my office.

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

Thursday, March 6, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Stephen Otto and Michael McClelland: The Importance of Archives

Thursday, March 20, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dave Meslin and Pleasance Crawford: The Spaces Between Buildings

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.

Sign up and switch off for Earth Hour!

On March 29, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., millions of people in cities across the world will turn off their lights for Earth Hour – a global lights out event to show support for action on climate change.

Toronto is the lead Earth Hour city in Canada, working in partnership with World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Toronto Star and Virgin Mobile to make it a success. Our goal is to have one million participants across Toronto—individuals and businesses alike.

By turning your lights off for Earth Hour, you can help shine a light on the urgent need for action on climate change. And in the darkness, people around the world will 'see' the difference we can make when we all work together.

It's easy to participate. Just sign up and turn off your lights from 8 – 9 p.m. wherever you are. And help spread the word!

Be one of the millions in the dark! To sign up and for more information, please visit: www.earthhour.org.

More ways to make a difference

Each year, the City's Green Toronto Awards recognize and celebrate the organizations, companies and individuals leading the way to a cleaner, greener Toronto. Who's the greenest of them all? You tell us! You can nominate an individual, group or organization for one of 10 environmental awards of excellence. Nominations close February 29. For more information and to apply online, please visit www.toronto.ca/greentorontoawards

For more information about the City's initiatives for a cleaner, greener Toronto, please visit: www.toronto.ca/environment

City of Toronto to launch BizPaL: the online service to help grow business

On Friday, February 29th the City launched BizPaL which provides access to information about business permit and licence requirements from all orders of government in Canada.

The service is expected to become the primary provider of permit and licensing information to businesses in Toronto. BizPaL refers entrepreneurs to the appropriate program delivery agents and provides links to relevant information across programs and jurisdictions. It also links to related forms and on-line applications. BizPaL can be viewed at www.toronto.ca/bizpal.

City of Toronto Fire Services Now Hiring

Toronto Fire Services will be accepting applications for the position of Probationary Firefighter from March 1, 2008 until March 7, 2008 inclusive. Details can be found on our website at www.toronto.ca/fire/recruitment

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 written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.