



January 9, 2009 Ward e-Update

Etobicoke-Lakeshore e-Newsletter

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WARD 5 NEWS & EVENTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING REGARDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EAST MALL TENNIS COURTS

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Place: Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall
Council Chambers
Time: 7:00 p.m.

The 2009 Parks Capital Budget has allocated funding to rebuild the tennis courts in the East Mall Park. Staff has proposed augmenting the tennis courts by adding a basketball court.

Prior to these plans being finalized, I would like to hear from you. Plan to attend this meeting to see the conceptual designs, speak to Parks and Recreation Staff, and openly discuss your ideas for improving the park with me.

Your input is appreciated!

NEW TORONTO SIGN BY-LAW PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Place: Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall
Main Boardroom
Time: 7:00 pm
For more info: Please call 416-392-2000 or e-mail signbylawproject@toronto.ca

At a recent Special Meeting of the Planning and Growth Management Committee, there was a motion by one of the Committee members to include City of Toronto residents in the consultation process of creating a harmonized sign by-law.

For additional information on the Sign By-law project, please visit the website:
www.toronto.ca/signbylawproject

NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING: FOR RESIDENTS IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY ROYAL YORK ROAD, MONTGOMERY ROAD, BLOOR STREET AND VALLIANT ROAD

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2009
Place: Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, 86 Montgomery Road
Gymnasium
Time: 7:00 p.m.

My office recently heard from a few residents in the area bounded by Royal York Road, Montgomery Road, Bloor Street and Valliant Road regarding various concerns relating to traffic volumes, speed, pedestrian safety, sidewalks, lighting etc. These neighbours asked that I host an informal Q & A Forum, allowing all residents an opportunity to ask their questions of City Transportation Staff, 22 Division and myself.

I have held similar meetings in other neighbourhoods; which have proven to be informative and productive.

Attending with me will be: Mr. Dominic Gulli, Manager, Traffic Operations, Etobicoke York District; Mark Hargot, Supervisor, Traffic Operations, Etobicoke York District; and a representative from the Toronto Police, 22 Division. Any data available on recent Traffic Studies in this area of Ward 5 will be made available at this meeting.

I hope to see you in the 29th, to work with you on possible solutions to neighbourhood concerns, and to provide an arena for you to have your questions answered.

KINGSWAY THEATRE RE-OPENS

The Kingsway Theatre is now open. The renovation is nearly complete with a new lobby and continuing upgrades in the auditorium. The Kingsway will soon become, once again, a vital part of Toronto's west end. Keep watching the marquee the Kingsway neon will glow again.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.whiptv.ca/pages/kingsway.php> or e-mail Rui Pereira, kingsway@whip.ca or call 416-548-8868.

ETOBICOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

NEXT MEETING OF EYCC (ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Tuesday, January 13th, 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/2009/agendas/ev.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

CITY COUNCIL NEWS & TORONTO EVENTS

WINTERLICIOUS 2009 RETURNS WITH TWO POPULAR PROGRAMS FOR FOOD LOVERS TO SAVOUR

Beginning January 30, the Winterlicious prix fixe promotion expands to 150 restaurants, offering more choice for foodies at Toronto's finest restaurants. New for 2009, a pilot initiative intended to encourage greater creativity in menu offerings is made available through a higher price category (\$30 lunch, \$45 dinner). The Winterlicious Culinary Events also offer 12 mouth-watering culinary adventures featuring some of Toronto's diverse cuisine and notable chefs.

The hugely popular prix-fixe restaurant promotion presented by American Express and a highlight of the WinterCity experience, Winterlicious returns with participating restaurants offering three-course prix-fixe menus at \$15, \$20 or \$30 for lunch and \$25, \$35 or \$45 for dinner. American Express Card members can go to the Front Of The Line to book early reservations on January 13 and 14. Winterlicious reservations will be available to the general public starting January 15. New restaurants to the city-wide line-up include Scarborough favourites Joey Bravos and Joe Maggianos, Asian restaurants Bangkok Garden and Circle Thai, Mildreds Temple Kitchen, Athelier Thuet and popular Distillery District hot spots Pure Spirits and Archeo.

The Winterlicious Culinary Event Series features one-of-a-kind ticketed gastronomic experiences hosted by some of Toronto's finest restaurants and venues. Guests can pair beer with food, create their own culinary masterpiece, dine in the dark, combine food with fashion, and more. Winterlicious culinary experiences are individually priced and tickets are on sale now.

Winterlicious is part of Toronto's WinterCity Festival presented by RBC. A celebration of culture, creativity and cuisine, WinterCity is 3 festivals in 1: the WOW! Series at Nathan Phillips Square, the Warm Up Series at Toronto's cultural and tourist attractions, and the ever-popular restaurant promotion, Winterlicious presented by American Express. For more information on a three streams of WinterCity programming, the public can call Access Toronto at 416-338-0338 or visit www.toronto.ca/special_events.

TTC ANNOUNCES SERVICE UPGRADES TO TRANSIT ROUTES

On November 28, 2008 the Toronto Transit Commission introduced its largest-ever service increases. The changes are part of the TTC's Ridership Growth Strategy and include the introduction of new all-day, every-day services on most TTC bus routes and more frequent service in peak periods on busy routes. A full list of all the new and improved TTC services can be found on the TTC website at: <http://www.ttc.ca>

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BLUE BIN

Starting December 9th, residents can add **plastic grocery and retail bags** and **foam polystyrene packaging** to their recycling.

Plastic grocery and retail bags without drawstrings, metal detailing or hard plastic handles are accepted (please remove receipts). Place all plastic bags in one grocery or retail bag and tie handles together. The following bags are not included: dry cleaning, milk (outer and inner), produce, bread, sandwich and plastic food wrap.

Foam polystyrene packaging includes foam protective packaging, foam meat trays, foam takeout food containers, foam plates, foam egg cartons and foam coffee cups. All food residues must be removed. Packing chips (e.g., "peanuts") are not accepted in the Blue Bin.

Information is also posted on: www.toronto.ca/recycle

TORONTO FIRE SERVICES – CAREER INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Toronto City Hall, Committee Room 2
100 Queen Street West

Thursday, February 5, 2009 (Women Only Session)

Toronto City Hall, Committee Room 2
100 Queen Street West

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chambers
150 Borough Drive

Information Hotline: 416-392-3473

Check for updates at: www.toronto.ca/fire/recruitment

PAID COMMUTER PARKING AT TTC GOES INTO EFFECT APRIL 1, 2009

At its August 27 Commission meeting, the Toronto Transit Commission approved the implementation of a system-wide cash only pricing strategy for its commuter parking lots. As a result, Metropass holders, including subscribers to the TTC's Metropass Discount Plan (MDP) and Volume Incentive Plan (VIP), will no longer be able to park for free at TTC commuter parking lots.

This new policy is effective April 1, 2009.

There are approximately 14,000 parking spaces at 30 TTC commuter parking lots across the city. The TTC loses about \$4 million annually, attributed to the fact that 80 percent of all parking spaces are occupied by Metropass users. Parking fees will be announced early next year, with payment options of either cash or credit card. However, free parking will still be available after 3 p.m., and all day on weekends and holidays.

For more information, visit www.ttc.ca

COLD WEATHER PET SAFETY TIPS FROM THE ETOBICOKE HUMANE SOCIETY

Severe cold can cause serious illness and death in pets, especially in freezing rain and fast-changing temperatures. Canadian law requires that pets receive proper shelter and care throughout the year. Violating these laws can lead to prosecution, fines, a jail sentence and/or prohibition from having a pet. **The Etobicoke Humane Society offers the following winter safety tips for pet guardians:**

- ❃ **Keep pets warm.** Never leave pets outside for an extended period of time. Cats and short-haired dogs and puppies are especially vulnerable. Cats should be indoors at all times, but especially in the winter. Dogs should be protected from frostbite and hypothermia: 1) take them outside only for short periods of time; 2) never shave your dog to the skin during cold weather; 3) always ensure your dog is completely dry before taking him outside; 4) consider a dog sweater or coat for puppies and short-haired dogs.
- ❃ **Puppies are more vulnerable to cold weather.** If you are housetraining a puppy during cold weather 1) use a jacket or sweater to protect him when you take him outside; 2) Give him a treat each time he “goes” then immediately take him back inside; 3) If he doesn’t “go” within a couple of minutes, take him inside under supervision, or crate him and try again a bit later.
- ❃ **Avoid vehicle hazards.** Never leave your cat or dog alone in a vehicle during cold weather. Vehicles hold cold temperatures like a refrigerator, and can cause your pet to freeze to death.
- ❃ **Watch for cats under vehicle hoods and underneath vehicles.** Cats often seek warmth in such places, and can be killed when the engine starts or the car moves. Always sound the horn and check under the hood and under the car.
- ❃ **Dangers of Antifreeze and Brake Fluids.** Such products usually contain ethylene glycol, which can be deadly to animals, even in small amounts. Store such products safely out of the reach of pets. Watch for spills and clean them up carefully, disposing of rags, etc. as hazardous waste. When walking your pet outside, always watch for related spills.
- ❃ **Protect Outdoor Dogs:** Humane Societies always recommend that dogs be kept indoors, especially during extreme weather; but if you have an “outdoor dog”, please heed the following: outdoor dogs must have **1) adequate shelter and 2) a constant supply of fresh water.** Check the water regularly to ensure it’s not frozen. Use tip-resistant plastic or ceramic bowls for food and water. (Metal bowls can cause your dog’s tongue to stick to the bowl in very cold weather). You can also buy heated and/or insulated bowls. *Shelter:* Dogs that live outside require “a draft-free, dry doghouse built of weatherproof materials, with the door facing away from prevailing winds. The doghouse should be elevated and insulated, with a door flap and bedding of straw or wood shavings”. (*For tips on the perfect dog house, visit: http://www.ontariospca.ca/docs/Ideal_Doghouse.pdf)*
- ❃ **Extra Calories:** Pets outside in cold weather may need extra calories to keep warm, depending on the pet and housing conditions. Consult with your veterinarian about your pet’s winter diet.
- ❃ **Clean and Protect Those Paws:** 1) After your pet has been outside, use a damp cloth to clean your pet's paws and underside. (Salt and other chemicals for melting snow, and ice on roads and walkways can irritate and burn your pet's paws - and if ingested, can cause

injury or illness). 2) Remove ice balls by putting your pet's feet in warm - not hot - water before drying them with a towel; 3) Consider using "booties" to protect your pet's paws.

- ❃ **Don't let your dog off leash on ice or snow**, especially during a snowstorm, as dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost.
- ❃ **Stay away from lakes:** Thin ice on lakes is a hazard for pets, too.
- ❃ **Keep pets away from snow-mobile trails.** Pets, too, are often injured in these locations.
- ❃ **Watch for Ice:** Pets, like people, can slip and be injured on ice; especially older animals with arthritis.
- ❃ **Ensure your pet always has a warm place to sleep....** away from drafts and off the floor.

Etobicoke Humane Society
1500 Royal York Road, Suite E
Toronto, ON M9P 3B6
416-249-6100; www.etobicokehumanesociety.com Registered Charity #131167629RR0001

TORONTO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 1-3 AND 10, 2008

CAPITAL BUDGET MEETING DECEMBER 10

Council approves multi-year capital plans and 2009 capital budget

At a special meeting held December 10, Council approved a five-year, \$11-billion Capital Plan that includes a 2009 Capital Budget of \$1.6 billion investing in neighbourhoods and creating or protecting tens of thousands of jobs. The City also introduced its first-ever 10-year Capital Plan and Forecast, which outlines capital projects the City will undertake to develop, maintain and improve City assets such as transit, roads, bridges, community centers and libraries. The City's 10-year Capital Plan and Forecast of \$25.9 billion is expected to create or protect approximately 300,000 jobs over the next 10 years. More details: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2009/>

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 1 TO 3

Policies to reduce packaging and waste

Council approved policies designed to reduce retail in-store packaging and to ensure that packaging materials are recyclable in the City's Blue Bin recycling program. Effective June 1, 2009, retailers will be required to charge a minimum of five cents for each single-use plastic retail shopping bag taken by a customer. Bags must be compatible with the City's recycling program by June 1, 2010. Council also voted to ban the sale of bottled water at the City's civic centres immediately and to impose a general ban (by 2011) on plastic take-out food containers that are not compatible with Toronto's blue bin program.

GO Transit to invest in Union Station revitalization

Council adopted motions to sell and lease various portions of Union Station to GO Transit. The sale is to include existing office space in the west wing as well as new concourses that the City plans to build. With partial ownership and as a significant user of Union Station, GO Transit will contribute to the City's revitalization efforts, including the proposed construction of a northwest underground PATH system aligned with York Street.

Management of Union Station

Council authorized City officials to assume hands-on management of Union Station from Toronto Terminals Railway Company next spring. Among its initiatives, the City intends to upgrade security as well as engage with Enwave to provide deep lake water cooling for Union Station.

Lobbyist Registry

Council approved the exemption of not-for-profit community services from registering with the City's Lobbyist Registry. Under the Municipal Code, not-for-profit organizations are generally exempt from registration but were required to register when applying for City grants, awards or other financial benefits and wanting to lobby about their application. Much of the information that the Lobbyist Registry collects is already made available through the grants funding process, which is public. More information: <http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying/>

Committee appointments

Council approved the appointment of Council members to City committees, agencies and advisory bodies for the second half of the current four-year term of Council. The appointments take effect January 1, 2009. Details are available on the City's website via the November 14 Committee Report to City Council/Striking Committee: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2008/agendas/st.htm>

Bid to host 2015 Pan American Games

Council endorsed the City of Toronto's role as host city and participant in a bid to host the 2015 Pan American/ParaPan Games in Toronto and in surrounding communities. Council authorized the city manager to negotiate a Bid City Agreement on behalf of the City of Toronto with the federal and provincial governments, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Bid Corporation to define roles and responsibilities. A more detailed report in 2009 will present a venue strategy and financial implications.

Toronto street food pilot project

Council approved setting up a one-year pilot project with eligible street food vendors to expand their menu selections to include healthier food choices. In addition, Toronto Public Health received Council's authorization to conduct a three-year "Toronto a la Cart" pilot project, starting with as many as 15 new street food vendors chosen for 2009. They will provide ethnically diverse foods to be sold from carts purchased from the City's contracted manufacturer for the project.

Extension of outdoor ice rink season

Council agreed to extend the ice skating season at 14 of the City's 49 outdoor artificial ice rinks by two weeks beyond the standard 12-week season - remaining open until mid March if weather permits. The 14 artificial ice rinks selected to remain open into March are located across the entire city. Online information about artificial outdoor ice rinks:

http://www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/skating/outdoor_ice_rinks.htm

Eco-Roof incentive program

Council approved terms of reference for an Eco-Roof Incentive Program encouraging the installation of green and cool roofs. The City will provide incentive funding to eligible industrial, commercial and institutional property owners. The goal is to make Toronto's building stock more sustainable and better adapted to climate change. Green roofs support vegetation and cool roofs reflect the sun's thermal energy. This new program, an initiative of the City's action plan on climate change, clean air and sustainable energy, builds on the Green Roof Strategy and supports the Toronto Green Standard.

NEXT TORONTO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Toronto City Council
January 27th and 28th, 2009
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/2009/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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