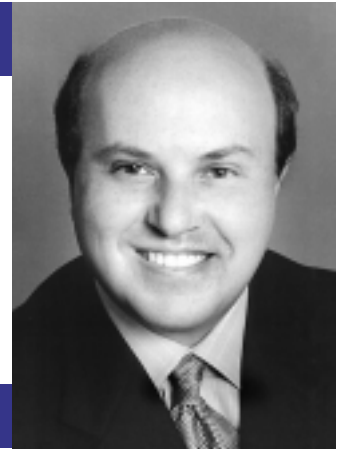




# Peter Milczyn



Dear Residents,

As I prepare my winter newsletter, Council is dealing with the challenges of balancing the 2005 Budget, while maintaining service levels and minimizing the impact on property taxes. As a member of the Budget Advisory Committee, I have been working with each department and their respective budgets, have listened to deputations from concerned residents and community groups and have read many emails and letters from Ward and City residents, with varying opinions and suggestions regarding the budget. Unfortunately, the result of Provincial downloading of housing, social services along with ambulance services and insufficient funding for transit, continue to put a grave strain on municipal finances.

At the municipal level, 44 Councillors and the Mayor each have the ability to impact budget deliberations. This makes priority setting and redirection of resources a process of compromise whereby real change is difficult to achieve.

We are approaching the mid-point in this Council term and a lot has been accomplished since the election in November 2003. You will find a summary of Council highlights on page three of this newsletter including our adoption of the winter plan to address homelessness, the new structure for City administration and the Clean and Beautiful City initiative. Beyond the immediate concern of the 2005 Budget, there remain many ward and city projects that I would like to see finalized or approved in the coming year. You will also find these items detailed in this newsletter.

I encourage you to visit my new website at [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com). I have recently made additions to the information and links on my site. In the future I will post all ward notices so that you can be better informed of all activities, developments, community meetings or City construction projects occurring in Ward 5.

I trust that you will find the information contained in this newsletter useful.

Sincerely,

## IN THIS UPDATE

- ▶ Ward Initiatives
- ▶ Royal York Road Reconstruction
- ▶ Roof-Top Patio By-law
- ▶ Traffic Calming
- ▶ 311 Service for Toronto
- ▶ Council Highlights
- ▶ Dundas Avenues Study
- ▶ Community Information

## COMING SOON

Watch for my Spring update

### Budget Overview

- ▶ What happens to your tax dollar?
- ▶ Federal budget impacts
- ▶ Provincial downloading implications

### Development in Ward 5

- ▶ West District Study
- ▶ Westwood Theatre Lands
- ▶ Six-Point Interchange
- ▶ Kipling-Islington Bus Study
- ▶ Etobicoke City Centre
- ▶ 700 Evans Avenue
- ▶ - Appealed to OMB
- ▶ 985 The Queensway
- ▶ - Settled at OMB
- ▶ And more..

## BEAUTIFUL CITY ROUNDTABLE

SWEEP IT... DESIGN IT... GROW IT... BUILD IT... CELEBRATE IT

In December 2004 Council approved an action plan to enhance current efforts to make Toronto a clean and beautiful city. The roundtable is composed of up to 15 members including the Mayor and four other members of Council. The 15 members are representative of the tourism and hospitality sectors, resident associations, community and youth groups, the architectural sector, landscape architects, the development community, business improvement areas and business owners.



The five-point action plan organizes an evolving list of about 50 public and private initiatives into five key actions. 'Sweep It' refers to action such as litter removal and By-law enforcement. 'Design It' involves improving the quality of architecture and design. 'Grow It' refers to those efforts involving parks, gardens, ravines and trees. 'Build It' refers to the construction phase of development projects and lastly 'Celebrate It' alludes to the recognition of the achievements of the community, private and public sectors in the beautifying of Toronto.

As a member of the City's Roundtable, I invite your comments and input on this initiative along with your observations and suggestions with respect to what should be done in Etobicoke-Lakeshore. The next meeting of the Roundtable is currently scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2005. I am interested in starting a similar roundtable for Ward 5. If you, your business, association or community group are interested in participating, please email me with your ideas.

[councillor\\_milczyn@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca)

## City Scrolls and Congratulatory Letters

If you are celebrating an anniversary, birthday or special occasion, please contact my office and I will arrange for a City scroll or letter of congratulation to be mailed to your home.

Please provide at least two weeks notice.

416-392-4040



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## ROYAL YORK ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Royal York Road, between the Mimico Creek Bridge and Ashley Road, has been assessed by the City's Works and Emergency Services Department as being in poor condition with ongoing deterioration. This capital works initiative includes; removal of the asphalt road surface, repairs to underlying road structure, new asphalt overlay, repairs to the existing curb and sidewalks and grass boulevard restoration. In conjunction with the roadwork, certain sections of storm and sanitary sewers will also be replaced and a new watermain installed from Mimico Creek to Ashley Road. Storm water management will be implemented where soil conditions permit. The entire cost of the project has been budgeted at approximately \$8million.

I support the safeguarding of healthy trees and the planting of new trees on boulevards where conditions allow. Approximately eight existing trees north of Bloor have been identified in extremely poor health and/or pose a safety hazard and therefore will be slated for removal. I will arrange for new trees to be planted in their place.

The new road will provide residents with a net increase in the 'greening' of Royal York Road, as paved shoulders will be replaced with grass boulevards. Please take into consideration that any repair or reconstruction to Royal York Road, now or in the future, will involve the removal of the existing paved shoulders. Forestry Consultants have stated that there may be root systems under the shoulders and pavement and therefore some 'weaker trees' might be at risk during the construction phase.

Taking this report into consideration, I will request that any trees identified as 'weak' be safeguarded during construction. I will also be working to implement a long-term "Tree Management Plan" for the street. The detailed arborists' assessment we now have, will allow for proper care of existing trees well into the future. I also agree with the sentiments of area residents regarding the benefits the tree canopy provides to the community.

The current total width of Royal York Road is comprised of two driving lanes, paved shoulders and ditches. This combination has created an environment that allows for vehicles to pass on the right by accessing the paved shoulder and ditch area. Currently the paved surface of the roadway reaches in excess of 10 metres in certain locations. The new two-lane road will result in less total paved surface due to the elimination of the current paved shoulders.

I have received many emails, letters and calls from residents comparing dedicated, painted bike lanes to a bike friendly road. Toronto City Council approved, within the Toronto Bike Plan, that Royal York Road be designated a bike friendly route. Reconstruction design must take this council directive into consideration. Once all residential and area association comments are taken into consideration, I believe that the approved lane width must be able to safely accommodate a transit bus alongside a cyclist. I clearly stated at the community meeting on February 16, 2005 that I would support a width that protects existing healthy trees. The current practice of passing on the right occurs with a

combined driving and shoulder width ranging from 4.95m to 5.50m. The new combined width for one lane of traffic and a cyclist must be less than that. I plan to support this width while ensuring that the mature, healthy trees north of Bloor are protected during the construction phase.

The proposed sidewalks, which measure a citywide standard of 1.5m, are designed to allow for pedestrians, baby strollers, and wheelchairs to use the sidewalk and pass each other. It also allows for mechanical snow clearing blades to remove snow without damaging grass boulevards on either side.

The width of the road is just one element of the road design to be considered. I would also like to see a narrowing of the multi-lane roadway under Dundas Street, a solution to address traffic problems around Royal York subway station and the installation of traffic signals at Kingsgrove and Glenroy. I will continue to work on each of these improvements.

The final design plans will be presented at a community open house on Tuesday, March 29, 2005. I welcome your ongoing comments and encourage you to attend the open house to view the final design cross-sections and receive information on the various construction phases. Updated information on this Ward 5 project is provided via the link on my website [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com)

## ROOF-TOP PATIO INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW

In May 2004, City Council adopted an Interim Control By-law prohibiting the establishment of new commercial outdoor roof-top patios in the study area (both sides of Bloor Street West between Prince Edward Drive and Montgomery Road and Thompson Avenue) for one year in order to allow Urban Development Services to review their impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

I hosted community consultation meetings with the immediate neighbourhood last October and November. I then advertised and hosted a third meeting on January 26, 2005 at the Etobicoke Civic Centre. All residents and businesses in Ward 5 were invited to attend and review the proposed By-law criteria.

At this meeting I suggested that the new By-law be extended to include all commercial areas of Ward 5.

I am not in support of an outright ban, but rather support criteria that limit size and proximity to residential zones, and develop standards around noise control. The following criteria were discussed at the January community meeting:

- Commercial outdoor patios should be located 40m (131 ft) away from a residential zone and only allowed on the front half of the applicants' roof-top
- A 1.8m (6 ft) acoustical wall would be required around the perimeter of the patio. Screening adjacent to the street may be of a shorter height

- Hours of operation would be restricted to 11p.m. closing
- The patio area shall be 20 % of the floor area devoted to patron use within the restaurant
- Live bands, amplified music, entertainment or dancing would be prohibited
- Lighting must be reflected away from adjoining properties and streets

Staff will report their final recommendations for a new By-law to Community Council in March, as new regulations have to be in place prior to the Interim Control By-law being lifted on May 18, 2005. If you wish additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## TRAFFIC CALMING ON YOUR STREET

In 2002 Toronto City Council adopted a harmonized policy for traffic calming. The implementation of traffic calming on ward streets is a lengthy process involving community consultation, traffic reports (speed, volume and accident history), polling of the residents on the subject street and ultimately must be approved by Community Council and Toronto City Council. The process is initiated when residents of a street contact my office or Transportation Services and submit a petition requesting further review of their street for traffic calming. Prior to implementing or recommending a measure for a street, I feel it is beneficial for residents and staff to clearly identify a measurable concern (i.e. excessive speeding, volume, traffic infiltration).

In order to update the residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore on traffic calming, the following list outlines those streets which either have already been studied or are currently under or awaiting traffic operation's review.

Streets that have been studied in the last two years:

- Birchview Boulevard
- Dayton Avenue
- Green Lanes
- Meadowvale Drive, west of Islington Avenue
- Kingscourt Drive\*
- Kingsmill Road\*
- Kings Lynn Road\*
- Wendover Road\*
- Grenview Boulevard North between Bloor Street West and The Kingsway\*
- Jackson Avenue\*
- Willingdon Boulevard\*
- Varley Lane\*
- King Georges Boulevard\*
- Tremayne Avenue\*
- Kingsgrove Boulevard between Royal York Road and The Kingsway\*
- Usher Avenue\*

\* Included in 'The Kingsway' Neighbourhood Traffic Assessment

Streets that are currently in the community meeting, study or polling stage:

- Edgemore Drive
- Glenroy Avenue
- Meadowvale Drive between Royal York Road and Prince Edward Drive
- The Kingsway between Bloor Street West and Government Road
- Fernalroy Boulevard

Requests that have been received but studies are not yet completed:

- Glenaden Avenue East
- Riverwood Parkway
- Kingsway Crescent

If you would like to receive further information on traffic calming on these streets or others in Ward 5, please contact my office.



## 3-1-1

## YOUR ONE CALL TO CITY HALL



In November 2004 the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced their approval of the use of 3-1-1 by Canadian municipalities for non-emergency City services. 3-1-1 will be the most readily identifiable public face of a significant change in the approach and attitude of providing more effective municipal government services.

I believe that Council should continually search out and pursue initiatives that simplify public access to municipal services, combined with ensuring increased productivity, measurability and accountability. This new telephone service model is based upon putting the citizen, resident, businessperson or visitor to Toronto first. Their convenience is paramount. Not the governments' convenience. Providing immediate, accurate and clear information for the majority of your City enquiries and access to a tracking system with precise information, as to the timeline for action on your service requests, are among the many benefits of 3-1-1. Each of your enquiries ranging from the reporting of a pothole, broken street light or tree trimming request to information on City facilities, permits and fees would be available

24-7 from a call centre service representative via ONE clear, recognizable telephone number.

The 3-1-1 system has been in place in major US cities such as New York, Baltimore and Chicago for several years now. Calgary will likely be the first Canadian city to launch 3-1-1. Gatineau, Quebec may well be the second, and Mississauga is working on implementation of this initiative as well.

I am confident that this service would enable management, Council and the public to track the performance, productivity and efficiency of City employees. In addition to the long-term dollar savings, Council will be able to achieve significant improvements in productivity among our existing staff, thereby providing better and timelier service to the public. Each 'touch' or contact by a municipal employee carries a cost to you, the taxpayer. Currently, with the hit and miss nature of contacting the City by phone, and without a robust knowledge base for City employees to access wide-ranging information, telephone calls take longer, transfers to alternate staff are very common and few opportunities for self-service on

the internet exist. This makes the cost of serving the public higher and reduces our efficiency and productivity.

At the December meeting of City Council, Council decided to refer this item to a staff-council working group for further review. The issues that the working group will be reviewing include; projected costs, anticipated increased efficiencies, current City call center systems and productivity, and an in-depth comparative study of other installed 3-1-1 systems. The working group will report back to Council this Spring.

As Chair of Council's e-City Committee and a member of the staff-council working group, I firmly believe in this project. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to share regarding the current levels of service received from various departments, City response times and follow-up received on your enquiries, please forward them to me.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tree protection by-law**

September 28, 29 and 30, 2004

Council approved a by-law to help preserve Toronto's urban forest by requiring a City permit for cutting down any mature trees on private property. Effective immediately, all property owners require a permit in order to remove trees with trunk diameters greater than 30cm. The objective is aimed at protecting mature trees on private property, where about half of Toronto's green cover is found. The new by-law extends a tree by-law that has been in effect for the pre-amalgamation City of Toronto since 1995.

- **St. Clair Avenue upgrade**

September 28, 29 and 30, 2004

Council ended a long debate by voting to approve a project that will establish dedicated streetcar lanes along St. Clair Avenue West between Yonge and Keele Streets. The City expanded the project to include "streetscaping" and new lighting to make the street attractive for residents, shoppers and businesses along St. Clair. In the long-term a similar project for The Queensway is also being contemplated.

- **Newspaper vending boxes**

October 2004

Council adopted a Publication Box Strategy to deal with the proliferation of newspaper vending boxes on city sidewalks. The issue of clutter on sidewalks is a focus of the Clean and Beautiful City Initiative. Council decided that no permits will be issued for new dispensing boxes (with certain exceptions) during the next two years as work proceeds on a

detailed City strategy and by-law to regulate the design and placement of publication boxes.

- **New structure for City administration**

November 30 and December 1 and 2, 2004

Council approved a new organizational structure to take effect on April 15, 2005. The restructuring is designed to ensure that the City's administration is more accountable, responsive and flexible. The current Commissioner-led departmental structure will no longer be in place as of April. The current Chief Administrative Officer position will be re-titled City Manager. The new City Manager's function will be augmented and strengthened by two Deputy City Manager positions and one Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer position. There will be a net reduction in management and more direct accountability to Council.

- **Strategy to assist homeless people**

February 1, 2005

Council approved a strategy to provide street outreach services that will help homeless people find and keep permanent housing. Council agreed to hire more outreach workers and to create 1,000 new units of affordable housing annually. This strategy also establishes a protocol for Nathan Phillips Square. Once outreach work has run its full course, and only when viable housing, shelter and support options are available, the City will have the right to evict individuals from the square. Toronto is also asking the provincial and federal governments to live up to their responsibilities in addressing Toronto's housing crisis.

- **Toronto and AMO**

February 1, 2005

Council decided to not to renew the City's membership in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for 2005. AMO signed a protocol with the Province that compromises Toronto's efforts to talk directly with the provincial and federal governments in order to negotiate a "New Deal" for Toronto. A new deal will result in a better alignment of the City's resources and responsibilities. When provincial and federal governments develop policies, programs and budgets that impact our communities, Toronto should have a 'seat' at the table.

- **Public transit serving York University**

February 1, 2005

Council approved recommendations for the construction of transit from the Downsview Subway Station to York University as an interim improvement in advance of a subway extension in that area. The plan calls for express buses to operate in bus-only lanes on Allen Road and Dufferin Street, on a new bus-only roadway in the hydro corridor north of Finch Avenue, and on a new bus-only roadway on the York University lands west of Keele Street. Council reaffirmed that the extension of the Spadina-University subway north to Steeles Avenue is the City's top priority for subway expansion.

For additional information on these and other Council decisions, please refer to my website at [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com) or email me at [councillor\\_milczyn@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca)

## COMMUNITY POLICY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CPLC)

The CPLC is a community group comprised of ratepayers associations, residents, 22 Division police and the Councillors representing 22 Division. Meetings are held on a monthly basis to discuss resident and community concerns.

The CPLC will be hosting a community event in May to celebrate Police Week. There is also a Townhall meeting planned for the fall on the subject of the Youth Act and sentencing. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss longer sentences for crimes involving youth, drugs and prostitution. Please watch your local newspaper for details on these two important events. If you have any concerns that you would like brought forward at a future meeting, I welcome your input and encourage you to forward them to my office.





## TORONTO FUN GUIDE

Available for spring/summer 2005

Distribution of the spring/summer 2005 edition of Toronto Fun, Parks and Recreation's seasonal guide to programs and activities, begins today and continues through the first week of March.

The Fun Guide is mailed automatically to people who are listed in the Parks and Recreation database and who have been given a "family number". New residents, or people who don't have a family number, should call **416-338-4FUN (4386)** and be put on the mailing list.

The Fun Guide is also available for pick-up from the Etobicoke Civic Centre, community centres and branches of the Toronto Public Library as of March 4.

Residents can view the Fun guide at [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)

### STONEGATE COMMUNITY AND BELL MANOR PARK

The Stonegate Community Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This annual festival, which is held at the Stonegate Plaza on Berry Road, promises once again to be a day filled with entertainment, food and fun for both young and old.

The Stonegate Action Group meetings, which my office participates in, have been working hard to raise funds to upgrade the playground equipment in Bell Manor Park. This park has been accepted in the City of Toronto's program and will match all money raised this year up to \$10,000. The Stonegate Action Group has set a goal of raising \$80,000 this year for the playground. For information on this committee and their initiatives, please contact my office.

### HELP PRESERVE TORONTO'S URBAN FOREST



The trees along our streets and in our backyards are an essential part of Toronto's urban forest. Since approximately 80% of the land in Toronto is privately owned, homeowners play a vital role in ensuring the healthy regeneration of our urban forest. There are two programs that can help homeowners interested in planting trees.

City of Toronto, Urban Forestry Services, offers a free street tree planting program. If you are interested in having a tree planted in front of your home please call **416-338-TREE**.

LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) is a non-profit organization that encourages tree planting in residential neighbourhoods. Through a subsidized **Backyard Tree Planting Project**, LEAF staff can help homeowners get the right tree in the right place. They also provide extensive resources on tree care to help participants nurture their trees to maturity. For details on the program, visit [www.leaftoronto.org](http://www.leaftoronto.org) or call **416-413-9244**.

### ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

The City is creating a single zoning By-law and would like your input. Currently the City has 41 existing zoning By-laws inherited from the former municipalities. Work has begun to create one By-law. The proposed By-law is being developed section by section and the City is encouraging you to comment on the work throughout the process.

The first section developed by the team is definitions. Traditionally definitions make up the first section of every By-law and they are the basis for understanding the zoning rules. If you have interest in participating, commenting or perhaps just reviewing the process as it evolves, I encourage you to visit the following City website: [www.toronto.ca/zoning/index](http://www.toronto.ca/zoning/index) or call my office.

The Project team is drafting the zoning By-law in sections and as each section is drafted it will be posted on the City's website for public comment.

### ISLINGTON SENIORS CENTRE Happy 50th Anniversary



The Islington Seniors Centre is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of 'Serving Seniors in the Community'. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Islington Seniors Centre, I have ensured that one of my staff liaise with the Islington Seniors Centre and assist with organizing their events. Some of the events that are planned this year to celebrate this 50th Anniversary include their Valentines Day luncheon, Euchre Parties and AGM, scheduled for September 14, 2005.

The centre offers a variety of programs, services and special events and is located at 4968 Dundas Street West. For more information please call **416-231-3431**.

### DUNDAS AVENUES STUDY

The City of Toronto has a new Official Plan to guide the City toward a healthy and successful future. As part of this new Plan, City staff are undertaking a study that will examine how to make Dundas Street West between Royal York Road and the Humber River a more attractive place to live, shop and do business. A team headed by the consulting firm of du Toit Allsopp Hillier is carrying out the study.

through the local study that will involve residents, businesses and other stakeholders for each Avenue. This will result in changes to local zoning rules to better control development.

The Avenues are important corridors along major streets where re-urbanization and intensification can create new housing and jobs while improving the pedestrian environment, the look of the street, shopping opportunities and transit service for area residents. A framework for change will be tailored to the situation of each Avenue

On January 16, 2005 I hosted a community information night regarding the Dundas Avenues Study, to provide information, obtain feedback and gauge local interest in those wishing to be a part of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The LAC has now been created and will be meeting in early March. The LAC will assist in developing area planning policies and new zoning for the area. Please contact my office if you wish further information or updates on the recommendations of the LAC.



The theme of this year's March Break Camp, located at 234 Bay Street, will be the **'50 Costumes / 50 Designers'** exhibit direct from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences in Hollywood, California.

The week-long program includes:  
Introduction to Museums and Design,  
Set Design, Costume Design  
and Prop Design.

Age groups: 7 to 17

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Week one: March 14 to March 18

Week two: March 21 to March 24

for registration information contact  
**416-216-2138**

[www.dx.org](http://www.dx.org) • [education@dx.org](mailto:education@dx.org)



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