



# Peter Milczyn

Winter 2008 Edition



Dear Neighbour,

I am happy to provide you with my winter 2008 printed newsletter. Inside you will find information on a number of important City and Etobicoke issues, upcoming events and projects that I am dealing with at City Hall. Many of you may be currently **subscribing to my e-Updates** which are provided regularly via email. I find this to be the most direct, effective, and cost efficient means of communicating with you. If you have not signed up yet please do so by emailing me with your request to be added! For those of you that prefer printed material, or don't have internet, I am happy to provide you with a printed copy of the updates in the mail.

In the coming weeks City Council will be dealing with the **2008 Operating Budget**. The draft budget has been proposed at \$8.2 billion. This includes revenues from:

- 41% / \$3.3B Property Taxes
- 2% / \$0.2B New Land Transfer and Vehicle Registration taxes
- 15% / \$1.2B from User Fees
- 14% / \$1.2B in Other Revenues
- 24% / \$2.0B funds from the Federal and Provincial governments
- 4% / \$0.3B from City Reserve Funds

While the Mayor has claimed this is a "Balanced" budget, it is in reality no different than all the previous budgets at the City. The Operating Budget will be balanced by massive draining of reserves, one-time Provincial commitments, and increases in a wide range of fees. The message is different but the facts are the same. Toronto Police/Fire/EMS and TTC continue to be the two most costly services to provide at 32% of the total budget. The cost of providing Provincial programmes, such as Social Assistance, and Disability Payments is estimated to be 31% of the Budget.

As in previous years, the coming year will present ongoing challenges with the City's finances. The Mayor and Budget Committee are proposing a property tax increase of 3.75% residential and 1.25% commercial this year. These will be among the lowest property tax increases in the GTA. They are also proposing \$73 million in cost efficiencies and cuts. However they are steadfastly refusing to trim expenses and curtail spending in some of the easiest areas to adjust, such as reducing the Councillor's office budgets, merit/performance bonuses for senior staff, and freezing the City's Grants budget at last years level – all of which I support and have proposed to the Mayor.

In this newsletter you will read about the extensive work that is being done in the Etobicoke City Centre to revitalise over twenty acres of vacant underutilized City lands; to create new parks; to develop a YMCA recreation centre; and to establish a walkable, pedestrian friendly neighbourhood. Included in this is over \$50 million in Provincial funding to improve public transit facilities at Kipling and Islington TTC stations.

My 2008 goals in Ward 5 include; formation of a Business Improvement Area on The Queensway, plans for new and enhanced parks & recreational facilities, completion of needed road & infrastructure projects, and encouraging community participation & vigilance over ongoing development pressures in the Ward.

Please contact me with any questions you have on these or any other City issues. Your comments on this newsletter, or ideas for future articles are always appreciated.

Yours truly,



Peter in the Etobicoke Santa Clause Parade

Volume 1 • Issue 5

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Frequently Used Numbers & Weblinks

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## RECENT TORONTO COUNCIL DECISIONS

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 29 AND 30, 2008

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

In January, Council endorsed the Mayor's Agenda for Prosperity which is a framework for major strategic policies impacting economic competitiveness and growth in Toronto. This city-building agenda was prepared by the Economic Competitiveness Advisory Committee, which is comprised of business, labour and academic leaders, and members of Council. The Mayor convened this Committee in June 2006. City Council has directed staff, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, to prepare an implementation plan and budget for priority actions, and to report back as soon as possible on next steps.

#### The Lobbyist Registry

As of February 11th, the office of the Lobbyist Registrar, Marilyn Abraham was formally established. It is governed by Municipal Code Chapter 140.

The purpose of the registry is to enhance public confidence in the Municipal process. I fully support the implementation of the registry. 'Lobbyists' are classified into three groups:

- Consultant Lobbyists are paid to lobby on behalf of their clients whether those clients are for-profit or not-for-profit entities
- In-house Lobbyists are employed by a business or a professional, business, industry, trade or labour not-for-profit association to lobby on behalf of their employer
- Voluntary Lobbyists volunteer to lobby for a business or not-for-profit organization as outlined above

Members of Council and local boards, and senior staff who leave the City will be prohibited from lobbying public office holders for 12 months after their departure or after they cease to be employed as a senior public officer holder. For more information on the Registry please see the following weblink or contact my office: <http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying/index.htm>

#### 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. The pilot is dependent on making an arrangement at no cost to the City. A staff report is expected in the Spring.

#### Streamlining the City's Bicycle Lane Approval Process

A new approval process for bicycle lanes in the city has been adopted. In an effort to streamline the bicycle lane reporting process, all bicycle lane matters will now be routed directly to Council after being heard at the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. Deputations are welcome at the Committee level. I will inform residents when bike lanes are being proposed on their Ward 5 streets. Simplifying the approval process is an important step in accelerating the implementation of the Bike Plan, which was approved by City Council in 2001.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19 AND 20, 2007

#### 2008 Toronto Water Budgets and Rate Increase Approved

Council adopted the 2008 Toronto Water budgets. This includes a **9.36 per cent** residential water rate increase effective January 1, 2008. Large volume water-users will benefit from a 13 per cent decrease in their water rates if they implement efficiency measures. Toronto Water revenues are generated from user fees charged for water consumption and sewage treatment, with no reliance on the property tax base to provide services.

#### No Alcohol Tax for Toronto

After further consultations with Toronto-based liquor, wine and beer retailers about a potential alcohol tax on store sales to non-licensed consumers, Council voted not to pursue the implementation of the tax based on tax avoidance implications, complications due to uniform pricing issues and applicability of GST on an alcohol tax, and the cost and effort associated with the administration of the tax.

#### Stricter Safety Requirements for Swimming Pools

Council amended the City's fence bylaw making it mandatory to enclose swimming pools on all four sides; previously fences were only required around three sides of the pool with the residential building serving as the fourth side. The new provisions apply to new pool enclosures only. As per the bylaw's safety objectives, fences must allow reasonable visibility of the pool area from inside the building, and self-closing gates must meet strict safety standards and be locked at all times when the pool area is not in use.

#### Mandatory Downspout Disconnection Program

Council voted to end the voluntary Downspout Disconnection Program and introduced a

new mandatory program. Since its inception in 1998, the voluntary program had low voluntary participation. It would have taken the City more than 20 years to achieve its target disconnection rate. Downspout disconnection minimizes the burden on the City's sewer system and treatment facilities, reduces basement flooding, and contributes to improved water quality for Toronto's lake and beaches. Council approved the financial assistance to low-income property owners.

#### Zerofootprint Carbon Calculator

City Council approved an interactive web-based carbon calculator that will improve awareness of the impact of individuals' actions on the environment, and help address climate change by allowing residents to calculate and share their ecological footprint with others. Zerofootprint, a Toronto-based not-for-profit firm that specializes in the development of dynamic Internet-based carbon calculators, will provide its carbon calculator to Toronto residents at no cost to the City or residents. [http://www.zerofootprintkids.com/kids\\_home.aspx](http://www.zerofootprintkids.com/kids_home.aspx)

#### Revised Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy

Council amended the Commercial Dog Walker Permit Policy to require that commercial dog walkers display a 'commercial dog walker permit' when walking from four to a maximum of six dogs in a City park, green space or waterfront area (rather than two, as adopted by City Council at its meeting of July 16-19, 2007). Council approved a permit fee of \$200 for each commercial dog walker.

#### Design Guidelines for "Greening" Parking Lots

City Council approved draft design guidelines for "greening" surface parking lots for further consultation with stakeholders. "Greening" Toronto's parking lots involves planting trees, providing good quality soil and generous landscaped areas, enhancing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, managing storm water run-off, reducing the urban heat island effect, and using sustainable materials and technologies.

#### Leave of Absence to Run for Provincial or Federal Office

City Council voted in favour of requesting the Province to amend the City of Toronto Act to require Members of Council, running for Provincial or Federal office, to take a leave of absence without pay during the writ period.

## WEST DISTRICT DESIGN INITIATIVE & SIX POINTS INTERCHANGE REDESIGN

### CITY COUNCIL DECISIONS – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The West District Design Initiative (WDDI), which includes the vacant lands at the former Westwood Theatre, the Kipling/Islington TTC stations, Six Points Interchange and the Etobicoke Civic Centre, has been an extensive study ongoing for a number of years. Following numerous meetings, design charrettes and studies, the ‘vision’ was on the agenda of Planning and Growth Management Committee and Toronto City Council in November 2007. The Staff Recommendations were supported and approved unanimously by all Etobicoke Councillors, the Mayor and Toronto City Council.

There were two separate reports before Committee and Council in November. One titled ‘Six Points Interchange Reconfiguration Class Environmental Assessment Study’, and another for the ‘West District Study: Results of the West District Design Initiative’. For each of the reports, I moved a series of amendments. I carefully worded these amendments to ensure that a number of Ward concerns, expressed to me, would not be lost within the process as we move forward to implementing this vision for Etobicoke.

### My additional recommendations for the Six Points Interchange Report were as follows:

*Upon approval of the Environmental Study Report under the Environmental Assessment Act staff undertake the following actions;*

1. *The General Manager, Transportation Services initiate a traffic monitoring study in 2008 within the affected areas to understand in detail the current traffic volumes, speeds, and patterns; to identify existing issues; and provide base data for further monitoring of traffic issues during construction and after reconfiguration of the Six Points Interchange*
2. *The General Manager, Transportation Services develop a Traffic Management Plan to reduce traffic incursion in to the surrounding residential areas during construction and after reconfiguration of the Six Points Interchange*
3. *The detailed design of the road network to continue to allow for the current range of access for private vehicles at the Viking Lane and Kipling Avenue intersection*

4. *The detailed design of the road network to identify opportunities to incorporate landscaped medians on new sections of Bloor Street, Dundas Street, and Kipling Avenue*

5. *The detailed design of the road network to incorporate a unique or area-specific series of design details for sidewalks, boulevards, and street lighting*



*Current aerial view*



*Mixed-use Centre Option Site Plan*

### My amendments to the West District Design Initiative Report were:

*That staff be directed to undertake the following actions:*

1. *Work with the YMCA of Greater Toronto to accommodate their intent to develop a large scale recreational facility on the Westwood Theatre Site*
2. *Work with interested community partners on accommodating performing arts facilities on the Bloor/Islington or the Westwood Theatre lands*
3. *The Executive Director, Parks Forestry & Recreation, report to the May 2008 meeting of P & GM Committee on a plan for Parks/ Open Space and Recreational facilities on the Westwood Theatre lands*
4. *The Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning and the Chief Corporate Officer report back to the May 2008 P & GM Committee on developing a framework to*

*achieve ecologically sustainable development on the three City owned sites referenced in the WDDI*

5. *The Chief Corporate Officer work with Enwave on developing a strategy for reducing the carbon footprint of development on the three City owned sites referenced in the WDDI. Specifically report back to the May 2008 meeting of P&GM Committee on implementing a Pilot Project for Geothermal Source Heating and Cooling on the Westwood Theatre Lands for the first phase of development on the site*

### WHAT DO THESE REPORTS MEAN?

In simplified terms, at the November meeting of Council, approval was given to proceed with the Environmental Assessment Study to reconfigure the Six Points Interchange. This gives City Staff the authority to move forward on developing detailed designs and implementation plans for the reconfiguration of the interchange.

Council also adopted a conceptual vision for the three sites within this Initiative (Bloor/ Islington TTC lands, Westwood Theatre Lands, and the Etobicoke Civic Centre). Council approval gives staff the authority to continue to work towards the redevelopment of these sites and the eventual sale or lease of lands.

My amendments give further direction to Staff on a number of important details that need additional and continuing work. These amendments also give clear direction on some of the priorities that the City wants to pursue at these locations. **Namely, I fully support a YMCA Community Recreation Centre, new greenspace/parkland, an Arts facility, and environmentally sustainable development.** I have also asked that detailed and ongoing analysis of current and future traffic in the area is a priority in order to address local concerns – and be proactive rather than reactive on this issue.

### WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?

Funding of these projects beyond the current Planning work will require future Council approvals. Most costs will eventually be funded through the redevelopment and sale/ lease of the lands. The value of the available City’s lands in the area will be in the range of \$100 million, once the road network is reconfigured and additional land is freed up and more developable. The current value of the land is in the range of \$60 million.

As development deals are secured the

proceeds from those transactions will fund the bulk of the work to be done here on the road infrastructure. Parks will be funded in part through Development charges on new development.

More than half of the projected costs to build the new road network will have to be expended regardless in order to service the City lands, make a number of improvements, and make them available for revitalization. The cost of the work will be paid from the sale and redevelopment of the City owned land; not from taxes or debt.

The return on the City's investment will be substantial. Another factor to keep in mind is that the City's land holdings here currently generate no property taxes. This places more of a burden on the rest of us. Eventually the City may realize annual property taxes revenues of \$10-12 million.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- The City will now undertake detailed planning on the roads network, parklands, and environmental sustainability issues on these sites.
- The City will also undertake formal negotiations with the YMCA to secure a neighbourhood facility on the Westwood site.
- The City will work to bring some portions of the Bloor/Islington and Westwood sites to the market for sale or lease for redevelopment. Priority will be given to proposals that will generate employment uses (i.e. offices, retail, grocery stores, etc.) rather than residential uses. Although in likelihood there will be mixed-use proposals coming forward.
- Construction will begin on new Kipling Subway Station entrances and bus facilities. This \$50 million project will take approximately two years to complete. It is funded by the Province and Mississauga Transit. It will result in the relocation of Mississauga busses to Kipling from Islington, new pedestrian entrances at Kipling station, and other improvements to both subway stations.

I expect that the YMCA deal will be formalized by the end of 2008. There might be one or more other developments approved or pending by the end of 2008. A detailed Parks Plan will be nearing completion by the end of 2008. Detailed design on the road network and phasing will be under way by the end of 2008. The YMCA is expected to be funded wholly by the YMCA, with the exception of close to \$1 million collected for Daycare

facilities from developers in the area which will likely be dedicated by the City to YMCA for the provision of Daycare facilities. After forty years of City ownership (and twenty years of planning) the time to finally revitalize the Westwood Theatre lands and surrounding area has come. The addition of new parks, community recreation facilities, and other civic uses is also long overdue. The City, taxpayers, and residents cannot afford to see these lands continue to lay fallow. Throughout the multi-year consultation process on these projects, there has been consistent support for the overall concepts of the vision. The majority of comments received from the Ward indicate there is support for the reconfiguration of the Six Points Interchange as well as redevelopment of the Westwood lands.

There is much more to this vision that just 'changing' Six Points. Six Points Interchange is part of a broader plan to revitalize the entire area and to add to amenities for the neighbourhoods that surround it, and greatly improve the streetscape for businesses, pedestrians, cyclists in the area.

Some residents asked why a traffic circle was not the preferred option for Six Points. The traffic circle concept was actually the first alternative which the consultants were asked to study. It was ultimately not recommended due to several factors. Firstly, the amount of land required would be significant and reduce available land for development or parkland. The resulting 'green' space on the interior of the circle would likely be problematic from an operational/maintenance standpoint. I feel that the resulting greenspace would be better served as part of a community park. Finally, the ability for pedestrians to safely cross streets would be compromised with a circle design. One of the goals of this initiative is to improve the situation for pedestrians. The eventual need for a number of other signalised intersections to provide a safe environment for pedestrian accessibility, would negate some of the benefit that a traffic circle might have.

**There will be additional public consultation throughout the design and development process. Please make sure you sign up for my e-Updates.**

### NEW GARBAGE BINS

At the June 20, 2007 City Council meeting last year, Council approved a new plan to achieve a 70% diversion goal. A key feature of the new plan includes new Blue Bins and Garbage Bins, which will replace current blue/grey

boxes and garbage bags/cans.

The more recent announcement that the "user pay" amount for the extra-large bin has now increased 21% over what was originally proposed to Council, is more proof of the folly of this proposal.

I voted against the Mayor's proposal when it was originally introduced in 2007.

The multi-unit buildings on average recycle only 13% of their waste. Ground related homes recycle 42 % of their waste. But homeowners will be charged disproportionately more for the larger bins than residents in multi-unit buildings for their waste generation. Part of the trade-off for this was supposed to be that garbage collection would be taken off of the tax bill. Now of course this is not happening either.



The new larger bins may cause numerous problems for homeowners; let alone the huge costs involved in providing new bins. I am sure that many of you will consider how difficult it will be to drag your new "mega-bin" to the curb in the winter, especially when it is full. Another real concern surrounds the potential of increased 'illegal dumping' (which would occur when larger households choose smaller bins to avoid 'user fees'). This will necessitate the hiring of more staff to enforce the new "waste" system, and in turn even more costs. Lastly, larger bins with dimensions of 33.7" x 28.7" are very likely to become a storage problem for many homeowners. Many councillors who supported this scheme at the beginning are now demanding customised solutions for their wards.

The solution should be to continue to allow residents to use a variety of options for putting out recycling materials, instituting a bag limit, provide larger families with some ability to increase their allowable waste limit, and impose penalties on multi-unit buildings which do not meet pre-set targets for increasing waste diversion. Such a system could have been instituted with minimal additional costs and little additional disruption in people's lives.

This new garbage bin program is currently being rolled out in the east end of Toronto, gradually moving west, with Etobicoke – Ward 5 scheduled for June.

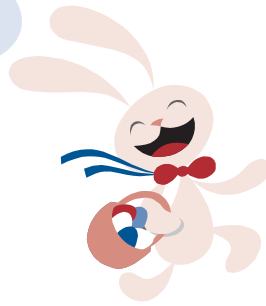
## ETOBICOKE & CITY OF TORONTO EVENTS

**JOIN THE KINGSWAY BIA FOR EASTER IN THE KINGSWAY !**

**Saturday  
March 22, 2008**

**Lots and lots of rabbits roaming in the Kingsway**

**Come and meet one of the rabbits along Bloor Street (between Royal York Road and Prince Edward Drive) ....and receive free chocolates!**



## COMMUNITY MEETINGS COMING UP! Save the date on your calendar

- March 18, 2008** The Queensway Road Reconstruction OPEN HOUSE Bishop Allen Academy – Cafeteria 721 Royal York Road (please call me for further details)
- March 26, 2008** Islington and Norseman (SW Corner) Public Open house is being hosted by Developer to present and discuss their plans for the potential development of this site. Legion Hall, 110 Jutland Road, 5:00 p.m.
- March 29, 2008** TTC Public Consultation for Kipling / Islington Station Redevelopment, Islington United Church 25 Burnhamthorpe Rd. 1:00 p.m. (please call my office for details)
- April 12, 2008** Design Charette with Developers/Planning Staff and Residents re: Seniors Residence Proposal for 2800 Bloor Street West. 9:00 a.m. - Noon (The Charette is in planning stages, please call my office if you are interested in participating)
- April 19, 2008** Dedication of New Memorial Garden at 3879 Bloor Street West. In memory of the seven Etobicoke residents who lost their lives in the gas explosion at this location on April 24, 2003 (please call me for additional details)
- April 19, 2008** Etobicoke Community Clean-Up Day – numerous events are being planned (If interested in participating, please call my office).  
  
TRCA Tree Planting and Clean-Up in Tom Riley Park 10:00 a.m. (call office for more details)

## 2008 PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL PROJECTS

Earlington Avenue (Government to Dundas)	Road Reconstruction & Sanitary Sewer Replacement
Old Mill Road (Humber River to Bloor)	Road Resurfacing
The Queensway (Mimico Creek to Royal York Road)	Road Resurfacing
The Queensway (Royal York Road to Islington)	Road Resurfacing
Thorndale Avenue (Thorndale Cres. to Earlington)	Road Reconstruction
Thorndale Avenue (Earlington to Kingsway Cres.)	Sanitary Sewer Replacement
Thorndale Avenue (Kingsway Cres. to Thorndale Cres.)	Watermain Replacement
Velma Drive (14-30 Velma)	Sidewalk Construction
Six Points Road (Kipling to Islington)	Watermain Replacement
Islington Avenue (Nordin to Norseman)	Watermain Replacement
Edgcroft Road (Islington to Bentley)	Watermain Replacement
Jutland Avenue (Kipling to Islington)	Watermain Replacement
Oakfield Drive (Royal York Road to Mimico sewer)	Sewer Replacement

## 2009 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Islington Avenue (Bloor Street West to CPR tracks)	Watermain Replacement
The West Mall (The Queensway to Westside Drive)	Road Reconstruction
The West Mall (Westside Drive to Paxman Road)	Road Reconstruction
Advance Road (Kipling to Shawbridge)	Watermain Replacement
Bering Road (Kipling to Judge Road)	Watermain Replacement
Bering Road (Islington to Shawbridge)	Watermain Replacement
Hill Heights Road (Park Lawn to Crown Hill Pl)	Watermain Replacement
North Queen Street (Vansco Road to East Mall)	Road Reconstruction
Park Lawn Road (The Queensway to CNR tracks)	Road Reconstruction

## EARTH HOUR 2008 COUNTDOWN!

### Participate and switch off

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.

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

Be one of the millions in the dark!

To sign up and for more information on Earth Hour 2008, please visit: [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

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

## BRENTWOOD LIBRARY - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS APPROVED

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.



# CONTACT INFORMATION



## FREQUENTLY NEEDED CITY HALL NUMBERS

ACCESS Toronto - City Directory and Information

416.338.0338

M-F 8:30 am - 4:40 pm

416.338.snow (7669)

SNOW hotline



TTC Information 416.393.3030

Police - 22 Division 416.808.2200

Garbage & Recycling 416.338.2010

Property Standards 416.394.2535

Street Light Outages 416.542.3195

Parking Enforcement 416.808.1600

Private Tree Bylaw 416.392.0972

Road Information 416.599.9090

## COMMUNITY WEBSITES

City of Toronto  
Laurel Broten, M.P.P.  
Michael Ignatieff, M.P.  
Village of Islington BIA  
Kingsway BIA  
Thompson Orchard Community Association  
Kingsway Park Ratepayers Incorporated  
KRAPP (Kingsway Residents Against Poor Planning)



[www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)  
[www.laurelbroten.onmpp.ca](http://www.laurelbroten.onmpp.ca)  
[www.michaelignatieffmp.ca](http://www.michaelignatieffmp.ca)  
[www.villageofislington.com](http://www.villageofislington.com)  
[www.the kingswaytoronto.ca](http://www.the kingswaytoronto.ca)  
[www.toca.ca](http://www.toca.ca)  
[www.kingswayparkratepayers.com](http://www.kingswayparkratepayers.com)  
[www.kingswayresidents.com](http://www.kingswayresidents.com)



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[councillor\\_milczyn@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca)  
just say 'add me to your e-updates'!

Please include name and address  
All personal information is kept confidential

### LOCAL ENHANCEMENT & APPRECIATION OF FORESTS



LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) is a local non-profit group dedicated to improving Toronto's urban forest. LEAF offers subsidized native tree plantings in the backyards of Toronto homes. By planting native trees and shrubs, we improve our air quality, reduce our household energy consumption, and create much-needed urban wildlife habitat. Cost to homeowners ranges from \$95 to \$170 per tree, and includes an on-site consultation and planting service. Trees are 5-10 feet when planted. Native shrubs are also available for delivery. Call (416) 413-9244 or visit [www.leafontario.org](http://www.leafontario.org) for information on how you can get native trees and shrubs for your yard.

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**Getting things done in Etobicoke - Lakeshore**