



# PETER MILCZYN

COUNCILLOR, ETOBICOKE - LAKESHORE WARD 5



## GETTING THINGS DONE IN ETOBICOKE - LAKESHORE

Dear Neighbours,

As this year draws to a close I would like to share with you my thoughts on the year that was and look forward to what might be expected in the year ahead.

2008 was certainly a very challenging year for the City and residents. The City's financial challenges have only been partly addressed, but at the heavy price of two new taxes as well as various new fees. The Province of Ontario has finally agreed to a new timetable to take back much of the downloading from municipalities, by agreeing to shift \$1.5 billion in costs. However this will take close to ten years to fully implement; Toronto's share will be close to 25%. While the Mayor claimed the City's Budget was balanced for the first time (by law the City must always balance the budget) it was the same as in every previous year; still heavily reliant on drawing upon dwindling reserves.

The Mayor's Target 70 Waste Reduction programme has been rolled out City-wide. While the goal is laudable, the implementation has been poor, the costs staggering, and now the Mayor has admitted the goal will not be achieved.

We continue to see the role of the Ontario Municipal Board usurping the ability of local government and communities to determine how development will occur in our neighbourhoods.

In the year ahead the City will have to address the challenges of the worldwide economic downturn. I hope that steps will be taken to control costs, and ensure that residents and businesses are not adversely financially impacted by municipal decisions. At the same time it is likely that with Federal and Provincial assistance, massive new Transit and Infrastructure projects will move ahead to bolster the economy. At this time however, I remain very concerned about the impact of City policies on the overall economic climate in Toronto.

I expect that in 2009 our community will continue to see the positive results of many infrastructure projects throughout the ward; parks, roads, public transit, and other public investments. The ongoing challenges posed by development activity will continue, even if construction itself slows.

Some of my priorities for 2009 are to work on reform of the Ontario Municipal Board, curbing the Mayor's powers, containing expenses, and investing in infrastructure improvements for Etobicoke and Toronto.

I look forward to working with all Ward 5 residents on these and other challenges, both big and small. I especially want to applaud the many community volunteers who work selflessly every day to make our community a better place.

I extend to all of you and your families, on behalf of my Staff and family, my Best Wishes for the Holiday Season, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy & Healthy New Year.



**Launch of  
My New Ward  
Website**

**Log on to: [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com)**

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## GETTING THINGS DONE IN ETOBICOKE - LAKESHORE

## **FAIRFIELD SENIORS CENTRE - CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS**

Fairfield Seniors Centre, 80 Lothian Avenue finished all programming at the end of June to begin a \$850,000.00 capital improvement project which includes roof replacement, new roof top air conditioners, window and door replacement, mechanical and electrical upgrades, fire protection upgrades, accessibility upgrades, new flooring and some interior finishes. Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs during that time will be relocated to nearby facilities in order to continue to serve the seniors of Etobicoke. Through to the Spring 2009 re-opening, programs will be offered at Ourland Community Centre (Islington and Evans), Tapestry Village Gate West and Islington Seniors Centre.

## **WARD 5 GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS**

I would like to extend my congratulations to 2 Wilmar Road who were the first place winners of the Traditional Residential Garden Contest. Also congratulations to the Iron Workers, 909 Kipling Avenue who placed third in the Commercial category.

## **STATUS UPDATE - RETIREMENT RESIDENCE, 2800 BLOOR STREET WEST**

Earlier this year Planning Staff's Preliminary Report went to Community Council on this proposal. The Report recommended community consultation. In March, a community meeting, to review the scope of the application, was hosted by Planning Staff and the Applicant at the Etobicoke Civic Centre.

It was suggested at the meeting that a 'charette' with the local community would be a good direction for this project. A charette is organized to bring together applicants, residents and stakeholders and allow open dialogue on how to improve a project, and work together on a plan that is in keeping with the surrounding neighbourhood. Local residents and ratepayers groups were invited to participate in this charette. At the morning workshop in April, about 20 residents, planners, architects, urban design staff, the applicants, and myself worked together to detail a list of concerns and suggest changes for the applicant's consideration.

Forum Developments worked over the summer with their architects on revisions. After the Applicant met with Planning



and Technical Staff to review their suggested changes, a follow-up meeting with the charette working group was held on November 24th. The applicant has expressed desire to reduce the height of the building (pending decisions on the rental replacement policy of the City), increase the setbacks, reduce the size of the penthouse floor and add some terracing. I will host a large community meeting in the new year. That meeting will be advertised by a neighbourhood flyer to the surrounding area, and promoted in my monthly e-updates. Please contact my office or go to my website [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com) to register to receive my e-mail ward updates.

## **STATUS UPDATE - 21 OLD MILL ROAD CONDOMINIUM**

A 10-storey condominium was approved by Council at their March 2008 meeting. After community meetings and Community Council debate, City Council debated the agenda item for three hours. The vote was 26-12 in support of the application. The land that will comprise this development proposal is the current upper parking lot of the Old Mill Inn and Spa. This lot has always been in private ownership as part of the Old Mill property. There is no land being acquired from the City for this development. The condo is currently estimated to have approximately 84 units (or less if they are built larger units).

I have had a few calls with questions about a 'land exchange'. What that refers to is the lower parking lot (not the site in question) which the former City of York transferred to the former City of Etobicoke in the early 1980's. It was then exchanged with the Old Mill for other valley lands. At the time, the Old Mill wanted to build a multi-storied above grade deck parking structure. The additional parking they acquired as part of that deal negated the need to build a parking structure.

When privately owned land is zoned 'Greenspace', or 'Open Space', the City cannot use this designation to sterilize the land from redevelopment. If the land is in fact developable (meaning it is not

flood plain, hazard land, or otherwise constrained for habitation or by some Provincial or Federal Authority) then, to stop development, the City, or other Public Authority must declare the overriding public interest involved and purchase the property, either by negotiation or expropriation. Otherwise proper and orderly private development applications must be permitted. The City has no intention to purchase this parking lot.

The application was thoroughly reviewed by Culture, Heritage, Urban Design, the TRCA and Planning staff to ensure no impacts on the flood plain, valley lands, habitat, and ecology. The Final Staff Report recommended approval. The TRCA's assessment is that the project will result in a net ecological benefit since the Old Mill will be required to pay for the ecological restoration of close to three acres of off-site valley land, the planting of 1,000 trees on and off site, removal of invasive and non-native species on and off site to improve the terrestrial habitat. There are significant Section 37 community benefits which will include trail and park improvements to the abutting parks, a new continuous sidewalk down Old Mill Road all the way to the bridge, and funds for heritage interpretation projects near the site.

I have requested, that prior to Site Plan Approval, an additional community meeting be held to discuss details of the Site Plan as well as the off site sidewalk improvements, park improvements, and Conservation Authority directed valley improvements. I anticipate it to be in late February or March.

It will be advertised. After that, Site Plan Approval will go to Etobicoke-York Community Council and Council. Your deputations are welcome at Community Council.

## **1040 ISLINGTON AVENUE (AT NORSEMAN) - RESIDENTIAL**

On November 17, 2008 the City received an application for an Official Plan Amendment and Re-Zoning for this close to 13.5 acre property. The proposal submitted asks for permission to demolish the existing buildings and construct:

Residential - 1410 condo units, including 1833 underground parking spots. 7 buildings ranging in height from 8 stories closest to Islington Avenue, to 12 stories

at the west end of the site are proposed. Office – 9 storey office building at the south-west corner of Islington & Norseman Commercial/Industrial – 70,000 sf, 2 storey building at the far west property line of the site. The existing Official Plan policy for the site allows for mixed use development. The Zoning is Industrial/Commercial. This proposal will be subject to a community consultation process which I hope to begin in January 2009. The Notice for all meetings will be widely circulated.

I find the proposal to be excessive for this site. At this point there is no indication of any measures to accommodate community needs, or impacts in this proposal.

### **WESTWOOD THEATRE LANDS – SIX POINTS INTERCHANGE**

The Environmental Assessment of the Six Points Interchange reconfiguration was approved last year. At the same time Toronto City Council approved the overall conceptual plan for the development of Westwood. The land in question is zoned mixed use. The City has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province for the sale of a portion of the Westwood Theatre site (the eastern part closest to the Police Station).

The Province would like to build a Provincial Courthouse to serve the western end of the city. The Province will acquire approx. 4 acres of the 16 acre site. As part of this agreement the Province is undertaking, at its expense, the preliminary detailed design work for the precise alignment of the road network and services. This approach is in keeping with the City's plan that the entire development of the infrastructure of the area will be self financing from the proceeds of the land sale.

The YMCA is proceeding with their plans, and is participating in this process to determine the precise dimensions of the parcel that they will buy from the City. This phase of the work should be completed early in 2009. The "Y" has indicated that they will want to have a development partner for their project. The "Y" is looking for a fairly small site, about 1.5 acres. To date they have indicated a preference for being in the south-west corner of the property, closest to new subway station entrance.

I continue to pursue grocery chains in hopes of securing their interest in locating to these lands. Future community meetings will occur.



### **ISLINGTON & KIPLING SUBWAY STATIONS**

TTC are finalizing the designs for the construction of the new entrances and TTC bus facilities in the north-east corner of the Islington site. Construction will begin early this year and culminate in demolition of the current bus terminal in late 2010 or early 2011. The City will be placing the portions of the property fronting on Bloor Street on the open market this Fall.

TTC will soon begin construction of a new pedestrian subway entrance on the east side of Kipling under the Kipling bridge. GO Transit are finalizing designs for the new Kipling Inter-regional Terminal which will facilitate the shift of Mississauga Transit away from Islington station to Kipling station. The project should be finished in late 2010. Several new pedestrian entrances will be built and most bus traffic will be shifted to Dundas Street.

One of the purposes of the new Mississauga Transit bus terminal is to shift most Mississauga buses down to Dundas Street. This will reduce their distance/time travelled as well as improve conditions for residents on Burnhamthorpe and Bloor Street. The Province of Ontario is planning to add bus only HOV lanes (High Occupancy Vehicle) on Highway 427 to help speed Mississauga, GO, and TTC buses on that corridor, entering and exiting at Dundas Street.

By 2010/2011, when the Kipling Terminal is completed, Mississauga buses will be redirected. The City is certainly encouraging MT to go to Kipling Station and/or use Dundas only.

### **DUNDAS STREET WEST/HIGHWAY 427 PLANNING FRAMEWORK STUDY**

This Study was recommended by City Council after two large land owners applied for Official Plan and Zoning Code Amendments to introduce significant amounts of residential and employment uses to the area. The transit initiatives in the vicinity are also under review and the extension of the Bloor-Danforth Subway line to the East Mall is under consideration. The Planning Framework Study will examine the area along both sides of Dundas Street West between Shorncliffe Drive and Highway 427.

The City Planning Division is co-ordinating the study and have retained Brook McIlroy Inc. as the lead consultant. The purpose of the study is to identify a vision for the future development of the area, as well as an implementation program to achieve the vision. A Working Group of 10 to 15 people composed of local residents, business and property owners and myself, was organized to advise the consultants and Staff of issues and opportunities within the area and provide their feedback.

[http://www.toronto.ca/planning/dundas\\_427.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/planning/dundas_427.htm)

### **PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL FISCAL & SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW "How to undo Downloading"**

The much anticipated review of the impacts of Provincial downloading onto municipalities was released in October 2008. The City of Toronto, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and other large Ontario Municipalities were the key stakeholders in the consultation and negotiations on how to do undo the damage that downloading has caused on Ontario towns, cities, and property taxpayers. The Review acknowledged that the fiscal health of the City of Toronto is poorer than that of most other large municipalities and regions, due to the increased costs of social assistance, public transit, policing, and social housing faced by the City.

The plan calls for the shift of an additional \$1.5 billion in costs from municipalities back to the Province by 2018. This will be in addition to \$2.2 billion of costs already shifted back to the Province since 2003. Toronto's share of these funds should be in the range of 25%. Specific programmes that will be funded by the Province are:

- Ontario Disability Support Program & Ontario Drug Benefit Program by 2011
- Ontario Works benefits costs will begin to be shifted in 2010 over a period of nine years
- Ontario Works Administration costs will be shared on a 50/50 basis beginning in 2009
- Court Security costs for Provincial Courthouses will be uploaded beginning in 2012 over a period of seven years

The issue of Infrastructure funding and operating funds for public transit has still not been fully resolved. There is mutual recognition that the Province must provide more support in both areas, but that municipalities cannot expect the historic funding arrangements from the 1980's and before.

### **3-1-1 TECHNOLOGY FOR TORONTO – PUBLIC LAUNCH IN JUNE '09**

Originally scheduled to launch in 2008, the project launch date has been extended 11 months to ensure the City received the best possible price for the right 3-1-1 service technology. The City has now entered into the implementation phase with BearingPoint Inc. The contract calls for a new 3-1-1 contact call centre for the City of Toronto, along with a five-year maintenance support option. The call centre and 3-1-1 Department offices will be located in the refurbished council chamber of Metro Hall, 55 John Street.

Callers will be able to make requests for service with Toronto Water, Transportation, and Solid Waste divisions with one phone call to **3-1-1**. When a service request is initiated, residents will receive a tracking number for follow-up. The system being built for Toronto will link many different work order systems so they work effectively together to deliver improved service delivery to the residents and businesses in Toronto.

### **NEW APPOINTMENTS at TORONTO CITY HALL**

**JOE PENNACETTI** APPOINTED NEW CITY MANAGER

**FIONA CREAN** APPOINTED

TORONTO'S FIRST OMBUDSPERSON

**LINDA L. GEHRKE** APPOINTED

TORONTO'S NEW LOBBYIST

REGISTRAR

### **PACKAGING REDUCTION**

This month City Council approved a number of initiatives to try and reduce the amount of waste in our City. Two key items approved were:

- A five (5) cent per plastic bag fee; to be collected and kept by retailers
- A ban on the sale of bottled water at City facilities; although all other bottled/canned products are still permitted.



The City's efforts to ban and/or impose fees on coffee cups and take-out food containers were deferred pending further consultation with industry on the development of new materials.

While the goals to reduce packaging are laudable, I feel the Mayor and Council are overreaching their authority to implement these measures. The City does not have the legal authority to require charges for bags or containers, but they pressed forward.

The City Council debate was a free-for-all of environmental faddism, with various Councillors proposing motions based on their own views of what is good for the environment, without any scientific analysis. While I do support increased awareness for the environment, and the protection of it, I did not support these otherwise worthy measures because they are so poorly thought out and not legal.

The Mayor's drive to be in the vanguard of environmental protection is leading to poor decision making. The original plastic bag proposal to offer discounts to the consumer for not using plastic bags, was dropped by the Mayor after entreaties by the Loblaws companies to implement (as a Bylaw) what their own new store policy will be. This bylaw allows retailers to keep the profits from the City's bag fee.

### **COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW BY-LAW**

This new Environmental Reporting Bylaw, approved by Council this month, will require some 7000 businesses, not currently required to report their use of hazardous chemicals, to report their use to the City of Toronto. All the information collected will be posted to a public web-

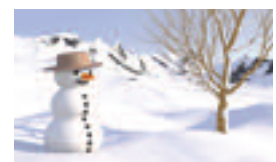
based database. Some businesses will begin reporting in 2011 and the balance will be required to report by the end of 2013. Larger companies already report to Federal authorities if they use in excess of 10,000 kilograms of a select group of 25 toxic substances. Under this Bylaw businesses which use in excess of 100 kilograms of these substances will report to the City of Toronto. To avoid duplication of efforts businesses will use existing Federal reporting mechanisms to submit the information. I did support this new measure to ensure that our communities will have access to information about pollutants in our neighbourhoods. Businesses will be charged no fees for reporting under this By-law. I moved several amendments to allay some of the concerns that businesses raised about aggressive enforcement, and the intent to implement future taxes on business, but these were rejected by the Mayor and Council.

### **SNOW REMOVAL? WHAT TO EXPECT THIS WINTER**

Toronto's first priority during a major snowfall is to keep the main roads safe and clear for emergency and TTC vehicles. These would be the major and minor arterial roads. You can do your part by not parking or stopping on these routes during or following a snowstorm.

**Once these roads are cleared, crews begin to plough local roads.** Ploughing on side streets will usually be completed within 15-20 hours **after** the snow stops falling. An additional 24 hours is often required to plough difficult areas where snow has not been completely cleared. Sidewalks on main roads, bus stops and transit shelters will generally be ploughed within 48 hours after a snowstorm.

When shovelling snow from your driveway or sidewalk, please don't push the snow back onto the road. It's against the law, hampers snow clearing efforts and is very dangerous for motorists. Remember, you can get current snow ploughing information at **416-338-SNOW**. This telephone line will be available during snow ploughing operations.





# WINTER ACTIVITIES



## TORONTO IN THE WINTER... *What's happening in Etobicoke and Downtown?*

**CAVALCADE OF LIGHTS** - The holiday season kicked off on November 29 with the opening of the Cavalcade of Lights at Nathan Phillips Square. This festival continues every Saturday night until December 20. Other seasonal events include the lighting of the official Menorah, Christmas tree, a star-studded holiday concert and spectacular fireworks. Each Saturday night enjoy a free outdoor concert and fireworks production and skate on Nathan Phillips Square's famous ice rink to music by popular Toronto DJ's.

All Ages! All Free! Nathan Phillips Square is wheelchair and scooter accessible.



In Etobicoke-Lakeshore Ward 5, we have our own local Cavalcade of Lights neighbourhood display. Please take the time to go to the **Kingsway BIA** area (Bloor Street West, between Prince Edward Drive and Montgomery Road). This vibrant district of Ward 5 boasts over 200 shops and services.

In addition to the Kingsway BIA lighting display, the **Village of Islington BIA** celebrated its 5th Annual Community Tree Lighting on December 5th (on Dundas Street at Burnhamthorpe Road). Please take the time to visit this wonderful area of Ward 5 as well.

**WINTERCITY FESTIVAL AND WINTERLICIOUS** - A 14-day celebration of culture, creativity and cuisine, heats up the Square, city restaurants and attractions throughout the city from January 30 to February 12. The award-winning WinterCity Festival returns for its 6th year. The WinterCity Festival wouldn't be complete without Toronto's favourite winter gastronomic celebration, Winterlicious.

For more information, [www.toronto.ca/special\\_events](http://www.toronto.ca/special_events) or call my office.



**SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING** - Have you visited Centennial Ski and Snowboard Centre located at 256 Centennial Park Road (one block west of the corner Renforth Drive and Rathburn Road)? Centennial Park features day and night skiing, with a T-bar and Magic Carpet. Snowboard and downhill ski rentals, snow school, hi-tech snowmaking and a snack bar complete your experience for the whole family! They are open Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.- 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, please call: **Snow school 416-394-8753** or for snow conditions and information call **416-338-6754**.

### **PUBLIC SKATING IN TORONTO**

The City of Toronto provides outdoor skating opportunities, through its Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, at 49 artificial ice rinks across the city. While a few of the City's outdoor artificial ice rinks open early, most operate on a 12-week schedule, from December 6, 2008 to March 1, 2009. For information on the public rinks in Ward 5 or a rink near you, please call or email my office.

This season, weather permitting, 14 City rinks will offer an extended program, until March 15, 2009. For outdoor artificial ice rink locations and operating dates call, **416-338-RINK (7465)** or visit [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks). Some of the rinks with extended programs in the Etobicoke area: West Mall @ Burnhamthorpe, Rennie Park Rink and Sir Adam Beck rink.

Skating opportunities for the 2009 March Break, which falls in the latter half of March this year, are available at indoor arenas across the city. For more information about March Break programming, and instructional skating programs offered by Parks, Forestry and Recreation, pick-up a Toronto FUN Guide at your local community centre or visit [www.toronto.ca/parks/torontofun/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/parks/torontofun/index.htm).

Weather permitting, the skating rink at Nathan Phillips Square is usually open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Skate rentals and indoor change rooms are available to visitors. The three solid arches that stretch over the ice rink are officially named the "Freedom Arches" to signify the belief that "only in freedom can the Human Spirit soar".



**Rink Hotline: 416-338-RINK (7465)**. Please note that all children under age 6 need a CSA approved helmet before going on the ice.

**NEW YEARS EVE IN NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE** – Cap the season off in style with an open-air concert featuring some of Canada's hottest musical talent. A grand finale for an amazing month of holiday celebrations. If you can't make it down in person, watch the live broadcast beginning at 10:30 pm on Citytv and CP24.

### **Citytv's New Year's Eve Bash**

Wednesday, December 31, 2008, 10:30 pm - midnight  
Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West.



# CONTACT INFORMATION



## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS & WEBSITES

### City of Toronto Website

**ACCESS Toronto** - City Directory & Information phone line

**SNOW** Information Hotline

TTC Information 416.393.3030

Police – 22 Division 416.808.2200

Garbage & Recycling 416.338.2010

Property Standards 416.394.2535

**www.toronto.ca**

**416.338.0338**

**416.338.snow (7669)**

Street Light Outages 416.542.3195

Parking Enforcement 416.808.1600

Private Tree Bylaw 416.338.8733

Road Information 416.599.9090

## RESIDENTS GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Islington Residents Ratepayers Association (IRRA)

Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc. (KPRI)

Kingsway Residents Against Poor Planning (KRAPP)

West Kingsway Ratepayers Association (WKRA)

Thompson Orchard Community Association (TOCA)

The Kingsway BIA

Village of Islington BIA

Stonegate Community Health Centre

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Terry Reardon, Board Secretary @ 416.231.6803

marycampbell@sympatico.ca or kpri@kpri.ca

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thewkra@yahoo.com or 416.239.9668

bkinahan@aol.com or 416.239.3231

kingswaybia@thekingswaytoronto.ca or 416.239.8243

finda35@sympatico.ca or Linda Pedersen 416.767.7985

info@stonegatechc.org

\*\* For information on these groups, please call my office or go to the 'weblinks' section of my new website \*\*

## YOUR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Peter Milczyn, Ward 5

Laurel Broten, M.P.P.

Michael Ignatieff, M.P.

Bruce Davis, TDSB Trustee

Ann Andrachuk, TCDSB Trustee



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## COUNCIL & NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS Dates to Mark on your Calendar !

### Etobicoke York Community Council

Etobicoke York Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall, Council Chambers

✓ Tuesday, January 13, 2009 9:30 a.m., ✓ Monday, February 9, 2009 9:30 a.m.

### Toronto City Council, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Council Chambers

✓ Tuesday & Wednesday, January 27 and 28, 2009

✓ Monday & Tuesday, February 23 and 24, 2009

**East Mall Park Tennis Courts** – Community meeting to discuss capital improvements available in 2009 to refurbish the tennis courts. Location to be determined.

✓ Tuesday, January 20, 2009 7:00 p.m.

### Public Hearing on Operating Budget, Toronto City Hall, Council Chambers

✓ Wednesday, February 18, 2009 9:30 a.m.

### Community Meetings being planned for early 2009

✓ Etobicoke-Lakeshore Town Hall Forum on OMB reform. Will be co-hosted and organized with Laurel Broten, M.P.P.

✓ Brentwood North/Lynggrove/Montgomery Road – Neighbourhood meeting on community and traffic safety being organized for January

✓ 21 Old Mill Road Condominium – Community meeting with Planning & Heritage Staff, and the TRCA to discuss condominium site plan details

✓ 2800 Bloor Street West Retirement Residence – Community meeting with Planning Staff and Applicant to present revised drawings

For more information on any of these meetings, or to advise me that you would like to be notified of meeting dates and locations, please sign up for my e-updates on my website [www.petermilczyn.com](http://www.petermilczyn.com) or call my office 416-392-4040.

