

The Ward 43 Report

February 2007
Issue 3

Dear Ward 43 Residents:

Winter is hitting us hard. Our balmy December has turned to Jack Frost – it's safe to say the kids will have fun in the snow during March break. Due to a number of reported tobogganing accidents you may want to have your child wear a helmet while on the hills.

If you would like to take the kids skating outdoors – the Scarborough Civic Centre does have an outdoor rink which is open to all residents free of charge. You will find it conveniently located behind the Scarborough Town Civic at 150 Borough Drive (McCowan & Ellesmere)

Other items to enjoy during March Break include a trip to the ROM, AGO, Science Centre, the Toronto Archives or the Scarborough Historical Museum at 1007 Brimley Road. To see a complete list of activities visit <http://www.toronto.ca/culture/camps.htm>.

Due to the winter storm which hit our City on March 1, the City will be providing a special collection of tree limbs and branches on Monday, March 5. The City's regular yard waste collection begins the week of April 10.

Enjoy and play safe.
Councillor Paul Ainslie
Ward 43 – Scarborough East

----- What's Inside -----

1. Scarborough East Calendar
2. Seven Oaks
3. Curran Hall
4. Coronation and West Hill
5. Cedar Ridge
6. Guildwood
7. Volunteers Corner
8. Community
9. Car Seats
10. Scarborough Arts Council
11. Neighbourhood Watch
12. Compost and Environment Day
13. Quote du Mois
14. eNews Policy and Contact Information

----- 1. Scarborough East Community Calendar -----

- February 1 – Budget Briefing
- February 2 – Tour of Ward with Park Staff
- February 5 – City Council Meeting
- February 6 – City Council Meeting
- February 6 - Coronation-West Hill Community Assoc. Exec. Meeting
- February 6 - Tam Heather Curling & Tennis Club Exec. Meeting
- February 7 - City Council Meeting
- February 8 - Budget Briefing
- February 8 - Community Policing Liaison Committee
- February 9 - Budget Committee / Budget Briefing
- February 12 – Guild Renaissance Group Executive Meeting
- February 12 - Coronation-West Hill Community Assoc. Exec. Meeting
- February 13 – Scarborough Community Council
- February 13 - Guildwood Village Community Assoc. Exec. Meeting
- February 14 – Budget Briefing
- February 14 – Budget Hearing
- February 15 – General Government Committee
- February 16 – Rouge Park Alliance
- February 16 – Budget Committee
- February 16 – Kids and Cops Skate Day
- February 19 – Budget Committee
- February 19 – Budget Briefing

February 20 – Budget Briefing
February 21 – Tour of Store Front
February 22 – Meeting with Community Seniors
February 23 – Toronto Region Conservation Authority Meeting
February 23 – Budget Committee
February 24 – Career Fair at Centennial College
February 26 – City Summit
February 26 – Striking Committee
February 26 – Library Board Meeting
February 27 – City Summit
February 27 - Tam Heather Curling & Tennis Club Exec. Meeting
February 28 – Budget Briefing

Details for any of the events listed in this section can be found below.

If you are still looking for more information, please give my office a call at 416 392 4008 or send an email to Peter Sinclair at psinclair@toronto.ca

2. Seven Oaks

Staff continues to work with the Executive of the Tam Heather Curling and Tennis Club regarding the replacement of the Bubble on the grounds. Staff has met with the executive to view options for the project.

3070 Ellesmere Road Negotiations are continuing between City Staff and the developer on how the developer may be able to contribute to the Mornelle Court community in the form of a nearby tangible asset, as they are asking for an increase in density above and beyond what the property is currently zoned for. Usually if this is allowed under Section 37 of the Ontario Planning Act, a donation is made to enhance the local community, usually in the form of a playground or other recreational equipment.

Lakeview Development

City Staff have formally written to Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Ontario Hydro requesting the use of the lands for a pedestrian walkway from the Lakeview subdivision to Morningside Ave. This process is a lengthy one which we will continue to carry through. The first step is to be granted permission from MTO and Ontario Hydro to pave the path on their property. Several factors have to be reviewed including liability issues and safety access.

Bonspiel / Tams Development

Residents of this new community will be happy to learn that the top layer of asphalt is expected to be placed in summer of 2007. Subsequently, the roads will be placed on maintenance for one year. At the end of the maintenance period the developer will be required to rectify any deficiencies and submit inspection records, as built drawings, grading certificates, etc. to satisfy his obligations under the subdivision agreement. Staff will then forward the assumption forms to Legal Services and they will also ensure sign off from other divisions is obtained before preparing a brief report to Council recommending assumption of municipal services.

Although this subdivision is not yet assumed, it is already receiving City Services including snow ploughing.

The street signs in place at this time are temporary street signs which were installed by the developer. One street sign for Bonspiel Drive is damaged and the developer has been requested to replace it. As required under the subdivision agreement, the developer provided funds for installation of permanent signs. Transportation Services Staff have advised that installation of permanent signs is pending Council approval of a new street sign standard. Transportation Services staff are currently working on obtaining such approval.

The small park on Bonspiel will have a playground area with a play structure that will have 2 slides, stairs, climber, a play panel, 2 tot swings and 2 belt swings. A looped pathway will lead from the public sidewalk on Bonspiel to the playground. There will be 2 benches located near the playground area. The park will also have an open lawn area, as well as numerous trees, some to provide shade around the play area, some to buffer adjacent residences, and others planted on the slope between Tam Heather and the new park.

The construction of the park will begin in the spring of this year. It was scheduled for the fall of 2006, but the rainy weather last fall put the contractor behind on other jobs and he was not able to schedule the construction of this park. The construction of the park is funded from Development charges and is the responsibility of the developer to provide the park to the City in a completed condition.

Mark your calendars for March 18, 07. The 1st Centenary Scouts and the Seven Oaks Community will be visiting homes for a recycling bottle drive. The Scouts will be in the community from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm collecting deposit type bottles from your front porch.

3. Curran Hall

Tiffany Park Homes – Brimorton and Orton Park. Our office has received calls regarding graffiti and trespassing on the property. Joan Bannister of my office has spoken with plaza owner regarding the condition of the signs (above Dennis & Daniels). A demolition permit was granted to the developer in December 2006, and the proponent would like to tear down the plaza and commence building the town homes immediately following the demolition. The developer is currently waiting for final site plan approval from the City.

The police have also been advised of the activity and have visited the property.

4. Coronation and West Hill

French Avenue development: I along with the City planning department will be keeping a close eye on the developments for the property at French Avenue, to ensure that all the proper provisions are followed during the construction of the homes. My office has received requests for planning to investigate that no drainage issues develop as a result of the homes during or after their construction.

Further to the OMB mandate, I will be pursuing the Provincial Government to re-evaluate the purpose of the OMB. In order for the body to act only as an Ombudsman to review situations where the City's decision was in fact violating the Planning Act rather than the onus being placed on the Provincial body.

The 4097 Lawrence Avenue East developer agreed to rework the concept for the proposal of a four storey thirty unit residential apartment building; a new proposal has not yet been submitted to City staff. As relayed in my last report staff stated to the developer "that it will be necessary to address outstanding issues before any further processing of this application can occur." The fit and compatibility issues deal with the developer not adequately explaining what type of housing the units will be for, as well as the fact there is a large day care in operation next door to this site.

Habitat for Humanity located at 4200 Kingston Road, on the north side of Kingston Rd, just east of Celeste Dr. will be seeking volunteers to help with the building of 19 homes on this site. Those interested in volunteering or finding out more about the project are welcome to visit the Habitat for Humanity website at <http://www.torontohabitat.on.ca/web/ShowBuild.aspx?BuildID=65>. Or call for details (416) 755-7353 ex. 238.

The plans for 4274 Kingston Road located at Kingston Road and Galloway for 14 townhouses on Kingston Road, 19 townhouses on Galloway and 20 townhouses on a private road may be ready for presentation to the Scarborough Community Council for it's March agenda. This infill townhouse project is part of the 2003 Avenue Study and does meet the required usage. City Staff have been working with the developer on urban planning spacing and enough room for tree planting and parking spaces are some of the questions still to be resolved.

5. Cedar Ridge

During my drive through Cedar Ridge I noted graffiti on the Canada Post Mail boxes and some walls in the area this was reported to staff and to Canada Post.

It was also brought to my attention that the wall on Holmfirth Terrace across the street from Cornell Public school, is crumbling and also has graffiti written on it. This has also been reported to staff who are now addressing the issue.

6. Guildwood

Portia Street Infill

Scarborough Community Council on February 13, 2006 recommended that Portia Street infill project draft plan of subdivision be approved giving permission to the developer to begin construction on the site.

The new homes will be in proportion to the homes being built on the current empty lot as the same developer will be constructing all the homes which will range from 1700 square feet to 3000 square feet; aesthetically the homes will all flow together. If you have any questions regarding this project please contact my office.

Guildwood Station Rehabilitation - Update

This project includes the construction of a new stairway and elevator for the south platform for access to Tracks 2 and 3 in the existing "walk through" tunnel as well as an elevator for the north platform for access to Track 1.

Customer Impact:

To access the south platform passengers need to temporarily use the new tunnel at the west end of the platform. Access to the north platform is not affected.

Construction Schedule:

By the end of February 2007 all stairs will open to the platforms and by the end of April the new elevators will be operational. This project is delayed due to unforeseen shoring issues surrounding the elevator.

Thank you for your patience as we endeavor to improve the Guildwood GO Station.

For more information please visit <http://enews-gotransit.com/unsubscribe.aspx>

Neighbourhood Watch

A group of residents within Guildwood have taken up the task of revitalizing the Neighbourhood Watch Program in the area. More information regarding Neighbourhood Watch can be found in the Community Section below.

Voices of the Guild: A Storytelling Festival

The Guild Renaissance Group will be hosting "The Guild - Alive with Culture - Voices of the Guild: A Storytelling Festival"

Sunday, August 12, 2007 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Guild Inn Gardens, 201 Guildwood Parkway, Scarborough. The Guild Renaissance Group will present Voices of the Guild: A Storytelling Festival, featuring storytelling concerts by performers of all ages in the beautiful Guild Inn Gardens on Sunday, August 12. Four concert sites throughout the park will host stories for young and old, with stages for oral history, family, youth, and a main stage featuring guest artists, including members of Scarborough's own Bluffers Tales.

The event will include heritage tours of the grounds, a showcase of community arts exhibits, and demonstrations, displays and sales by artists and crafters. The heritage of The Guild will be highlighted along with displays by Scarborough's artists and community arts groups.

Voices of the Guild is part of The Guild - Alive with Culture, which is the continuing effort to revitalize the Gardens of the Guild through arts and cultural activities.

The Guild has its own stories to tell. Stones of the Guild is a walking tour of the gardens that will introduce visitors to the sculptures and architectural artifacts placed throughout the grounds. Tours will be ongoing throughout the day.

The Guild Renaissance Group (GRG) is a not-for-profit community organization that has worked for ten years to revive the Guild of All Arts, the dream of visionaries Rosa and Spencer Clark of a cultural centre that encourages excellence in the arts, in an environment that embraces all cultural pursuits. The GRG is a group of community volunteers who share this dream and works with the support of members, sponsors and volunteers to ensure that The Guild continues to be a lively space for the arts in Scarborough through community dialogue, partnerships, and events like Alive with Culture.

A call for interest will be announced shortly directed to: storytellers, artists and community groups to participate in Voices of the Guild - keep your eye on the GRG webpage at www.scarborougharts.com/groups/renaissance, or email grg@scarborougharts.com, or call 416-410-2162 to be put on their email communications list.

7. Volunteers Corner

Seven Oaks Home for the Aged is Recruiting Volunteers!

If you have some time and love to work with Seniors please volunteer your time at the Seven Oaks Home for the Aged. There are Day time, evening and weekend opportunities available. Some areas of volunteer service include, meal time assistance, Bingo, gift shop, worship Services, rehab programs and friendly visiting. The Seven Oaks volunteer group contributes approximately 12,000 hours of service each year. Experience is not needed. For more information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Tyrone Bernardo at 416-392-3515 or tbernar@toronto.ca

If your organization is seeking volunteers please do advise me so I can include in my monthly report.

8. Community

The Storefront has a New Home
4040 Lawrence Avenue East
416-208-9889 hours of operation: Mon – Fri 10 am – 7 pm

- Settlement services in 12 languages
- Health services (blood pressure checks, vaccines & more)
- Legal advise lawyer
- Safety tips and police information
- Employment services
- Senior fitness
- Computer use & computer training
- Homework clubs
- Mental health supports
- Youth services and groups

9. Car Seat Clinics

No. 43 Division
4331 Lawrence Avenue East – 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Attendance is by appointment only. Please contact PC Susan Mundy at 416-808-4366 or by email, susan.mundy@torontopolice.on.ca to make a reservation for any of our upcoming clinics.
Saturday: March 17th, April 14th and 28th, May 5th and 26th, June 9th and 23rd

10. Scarborough Arts Council Events / Art Naturally

Recently the Board of Directors, in conjunction with Scarborough Arts Council Staff, reviewed the evolving and diverse needs of the community. Consequently, new programs will be supported therefore the Board decided it would not be presenting Art Naturally for August 2007.

I was disappointed to learn of the decision and have received calls from concerned residents and a few exhibitors. The Scarborough Arts Council is at arms length of the City and through its' Board makes the decisions on which programs and festivals to sponsor. The news was presented to me at the same time it was made public to all residents. I have spoken with the Scarborough Arts Council, and it was expressed that the SAC conducted extensive research in the community over the last year to assess for programming. The survey indicated that there was a need for more programming in under-serviced areas and to more diverse group. To this end they are using the resources of Art Naturally to partner with additional organizations, creating more accessible programming for all members of the community.

Some of the new programming includes:

July 14, 2007 - This year they will launch an enhanced version of Art in the Park. Similar in format to last year's Art in the Park event, this one-day arts festival on the Harrison Estate grounds behind the SAC office will now be a juried event open to both member and non-member artists working in all media.

The community will be invited to connect directly with 40 artists to discuss ideas and practices and to purchase work. Artists will be given space on the SAC website to display an image and information about their practice. Opening this show to non-member artists will help to bring new artists and their communities to SAC. Jurying this exhibition will ensure the quality of the work presented. *Location:* parkland behind SAC, 1859 Kingston Road, Scarborough. *Admission:* free

Removable Room: Laura Kavanaugh & Ian Brise

September 2007 - The *Removable Room* project will be installed on the grounds of the Guild Inn for three days. Throughout this unique project, Laura and Ian will generate temporary multi-media installations created from sounds and images collected from various locations on and around the exhibition site.

During performances the audience is invited to take part, view techniques for mixing and ask questions. Laura and Ian will also offer interactive workshops, working with community participants to collect sounds and images and explore the possibilities for mixing.

As Ian and Laura have strong reputations within the arts community, this project would introduce a new demographic to the Guild grounds and the work of the SAC. *Location:* The Guild Inn, 205 Guildwood Parkway

Framing Workshop with Rick Vincil
Saturday April 7, 1-3 pm
Location: On the Edge of Art, Scarborough
Workshop fee: \$25/\$20 for SAC members

Register at: programs@scarborougharts.com or call the SAC at 416-698-7322

Space is limited, so please register early

Rick Vincil is a Toronto photographer who shows regularly both nationally and internationally. He is represented in Toronto by Marcia Rafelman Fine Arts. He runs a framing studio and has been in the framing industry for 25 years.

Scarborough Writer's Association - Newest volume on sale!

The Scarborough Writers' Association has a fantastic collection of prize-winning stories by local youth on sale at The Bluffs Gallery. Drop by The Bluffs to check it out.

Dara Aram at Cedar Ridge

Human Rights from Anfal to Now is presented by Dara Aram, a Toronto-based artist, who was born in Kurdistan, at the Cedar Ridge Gallery from February 25 to March 10.

The exhibition demonstrates the concern about global atrocities and explores the human devastation of the genocidal Anfal campaign in Kurdistan by the former Iraqi regime spanning from 1980 to 1988.

In addition to art installations, there will be several presentations including Kurdish music performed by Farzad and a speech by Guest speaker, Dr. Hassanpour, a professor from the

Applications for Exhibition at Agincourt Library

The SAC is now accepting applications for exhibitions for their gallery space at Agincourt Library. To be considered for an exhibition, please send your CV, artist statement and 4-6 images via e-mail to Nina Leo at programs@scarborougharts.com or by mail to 1859 Kingston Road, Scarborough ON, M1N 1T3.

SAC members consignment at The Bluffs Gallery

For the month of March, The Bluffs Gallery is turning itself over to SAC artists for consignment sales! If you would like to sell your work in the gallery, please contact Nina Leo at programs@scarborougharts.com

The Bluffs Gallery is located at 1859 Kingston Road, just east of Birchmount Road, in the Harrison Estate Park, overlooking the Scarborough Bluffs and Lake Ontario. Free parking is available. By TTC, take the #12 bus from Victoria Park Subway Station.

11. Neighbourhood Watch

This program was started in the 1980's and continues to grow and transform to meet the changing needs of community members. In partnership with the Toronto Police Services, we are able to offer the program to communities around the GTA.

There have been a few improvements to the program in recent years: It is centrally coordinated through a non-profit agency known as the Crime Prevention Association of Toronto (Formerly Crime Concern) CPAT receives regular reports regarding break and enters and street crimes. This information is then passed onto residents involved in the Neighbourhood Watch Program via email. It includes a description of the event, suspect(s) involved and vehicles. Crime alerts, bulletins and prevention information are often sent to residents via email including a quarterly newsletter with helpful tips on crime prevention. Educational Programming is offered to members on topics such as home security, personal safety, street proofing your kids etc.

We encourage you to get connected and contact Lesley Chitra – Crime Prevention Coordinator for Toronto East if you are interested being a Street Captain or if you would like to learn more about the Neighbourhood Watch Program at lesley@cpatoronto.org or 416-225-1102. Essentially street captains are to act as a liaison between the community, the police and Neighbourhood Watch. They are responsible for canvassing their street to sign up neighbours. As crime alerts and safety notices are posted, Street Captains are to pass the information unto their neighbours. Most information is circulated via email to help reduce the amount of volunteer time required.

Audubon International Bird Nestbox Network

The Nestbox Network is free and open to Audubon International program members and non-members alike. One may maintain just one nest box or a whole nest box trail, your results are valuable! Need more Information, please visit <http://guildwood.blogspot.com/>.

Canada's Food Guide

Be sure to visit the Government of Canada's updated food guide to healthy eating. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index_e.html

12 Compost and Environment Day

Please join me and my staff to collect your compost at the beginning of the planting season.

Compost Day

Saturday May 26, 2007
Wilfrid Laurier CI.
145 Guildwood Pkwy.
&
Tam Heather Curling and Tennis Club
730 Military Trail

Both locations at 2:00 pm

Please attend the locations at 2:00pm as the soil will not be permitted to be taken until that specific time.

Environment Day

Saturday September 15, 2007
Morningside Yard
891 Morningside Avenue (south of Highway 401)
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

13. Quote du Mois

"It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

14. eNews Policy and Contact Information

eNews is a periodic news communication from Paul Ainslie. If you are interested in subscribing, please email me at paulainslie@paulainslie.com.

Each issue of the newsletter is sent only to those who have provided us with their email address for the purpose of corresponding on municipal matters. Email addresses will be kept confidential. If you wish to discontinue receiving our newsletter, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

I welcome you comments on any municipal matter and the opportunity to be of service. My regularly updated website is located at www.paulainslie.com contains information on local organizations, news and events at City Hall. You can also communicate by email at councilor_ainslie@toronto.ca, phone me at 416 396 7222, or send a fax to 416 392 4006. Alternately you can visit Joan Bannister, my Constituency Assistant on the second floor of the Scarborough Civic Centre located at 150 Borough Drive (Ellesmere & McCowan)