

The Ward 43 Report

January 2007

Issue 2

Dear Ward 43 Residents,

Happy Winter and New Year to All!

As I'm writing this we are experiencing our first real snowstorm of the year something which is going to keep a lot of children happy, and many an adult gritting their teeth as they set out to shovel their driveway!

My January calendar proved itself to be a very busy month and February is shaping up to be much the same; for both local meetings, as well as City Hall commitments. I have included an update on what's taking place in our community, as well as a review of what I'm tackling at City Hall. We are in the midst of budget deliberations, with the first budget dealing with the City Water Department. From there we will be digging in to the capital and operating portions of our budget...more about that further in my Report.

One of the things I discovered early on in assisting Councillor Soknacki with his eNews is a disclaimer is always important so here goes: "As always I begin my publication with a disclaimer. Each issue of the newsletter is sent to all of those that have contacted my office by email, or have given us their mailing address. Email addresses will be kept strictly confidential and not released to anyone outside of my office. I am trying to be very careful in restricting this newsletter to those who actually are interested in the information. If you are not interested in receiving our newsletter, please reply with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line."

... And next here's the advertisement: Feel free to contact me on any matter of municipal concern. I welcome your comments and the opportunity to be of service. You may telephone me at 416 396 7222, send a fax at 416 392 4006, email at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca or visit my website at www.paulainslie.com

What's Inside

1. Scarborough East Calendar
2. Seven Oaks
3. Curran Hall
4. Coronation and West Hill
5. Cedar Ridge
6. Guildwood
7. Scarborough Civic Centre Event
8. The Internet
9. Quote du Mois
10. eNews Policy and Contact Information

1. Scarborough East Community Calendar

January 3 Toronto Atmospheric Fund

January 3 Budget Briefing

January 5 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

January 7 Scarborough Community Council Levee

January 8 Guild Renaissance Group Executive Meeting

January 8 Budget Committee

January 9 Guildwood Village Community Assoc. Exec. Meeting

January 9 Coronation-West Hill Community Assoc. Exec. Meeting

January 9 Budget Committee

January 10 Budget Committee

January 11 43 Division Police- Community Police Liaison Committee

January 11 Budget Committee

January 15 Executive Committee Topic: Scarborough's Profile

January 15 Curran Hall Community Association Exec. Meeting

January 16 Scarborough Community Council

January 16 Tam Heather Curling & Tennis Club Exec. Meeting

January 18 Ward 43 Parks & Recreation Tour with City Staff

January 19 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Meeting

January 22 Budget Committee Transportation Budget Review

January 23 Cedarbrae Library Renovations- Public Consultation

January 25 Standing Committee on General Government

January 26 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

January 28 43 Division Police Safety Day

January 29 Budget Committee

January 30 Budget Committee

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 at peter_sinclair@toronto.ca

2. Seven Oaks

A number different items are on the go in Seven Oaks.

Last week I attended my first Executive meeting of the Tam Heather Curling and Tennis Club. This facility is a tremendous asset to the community and they are always looking for new members. It is located on the north side of Military Trail, just west of Morningside Avenue. Most people will recognize it in the winter by the large "bubble" they use to cover their tennis courts. One of the bigger items on the agenda was centred on this cover. It is in dire need of replacement as it has outlived its lifespan as suggested by the manufacturer, and then some. It has had an interesting life. It was originally built for a sports and recreation centre in England, and then found its way here to the Tam Heather Club where it has been well used over the years.

Military Trail + Morningside Advanced Green Light

On the northwest corner of Ellesmere and Morningside, you will find a vacant lot with the address of 3070 Ellesmere Road. When I worked for Councillor Soknacki we often referred to the structure which had stood on this site as the "building on stilts". This unique design was the result of the garbage infill located on the site.

A developer who has bought the site is proposing to build a 24 storey condominium tower on the corner. In the process they will be removing all of the original garbage which was dumped there as fill by the old City of Scarborough.

Staff in different City Departments are working with the developer on a number of issues including structural design of the condominium, traffic congestion, waste removal, soil remediation, and how the developer can contribute to the Mornelle Court community in the form of a nearby tangible asset, because 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.

On the southwest corner of Morningside Avenue and Highway 401 is the new Lakeview Subdivision. While all of the homes have been occupied for just over a year, there are a number of outstanding issues which need to be dealt with. In the Fall the developer had started their final work on the landscaping, which has included grass and trees on the boulevards. The biggest obstacle is dealing with a storm water management pond and adjacent pathway. While the pond has been completely closed in, it does not drain properly. The City will be working with the developer to deal with this as quickly as possible.

The pedestrian walkway from the subdivision to Morningside Ave has a number of issues surrounding it which need to be rectified. Currently it is a partially gravel covered, and the residents would like to see it paved. Unfortunately, it was not part of the site plan, so it will fall on the City to pave. I will have to find money from within the City budget to do so, and also secure approval from Ontario Hydro and MTO to pave the path because it is on their property.

3. Curran Hall

Seymour Saitowitz of Tiffany Park Homes (<http://www.tiffanyparkhomes.com/home.htm>) attended the Curran Hall Community Association Annual General meeting on November 17 to answer questions about the Orton park/Brimorton infill project. They have finalized all of the details on the project with plans to build 43 freehold townhomes. Some of the larger ones will be close to 3,000 square feet in size and will be on the market for close to \$340,000.

The developer applied to the City of Toronto and received a demolition permit on December 15, 2006. There are no deadlines for use of the permit, but my office will be closely monitoring the site along with members of the Curran Hall Community Association Executive.

The developer will be submitting a construction management plan prior to registration of the subdivision. The construction management plan will outline how dust and mud on and off-site will be controlled, (this will also have to include keeping Orton Park and Brimorton clean, at their expense) control of storm run-off, removal of debris and any other issues related to negating the impact of construction on the nearby community. Please contact my office if you have any concerns regarding building at this site.

4. Coronation and West Hill

A very unpleasant manner in which to start off the New Year for any municipal politician is to lose a hearing at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). This is exactly what took place with a piece of vacant property which the City had declared surplus and sold at the west end of French Ave. between Kitchener and Poplar Roads.

This parcel was sold by the City with the intention of having the property developed for two homes. The developer who purchased it, came into the City's Planning Department with the desire to construct town homes on the property, he was sent away to try again. He returned with a plan for two single family residential homes at each end. After being rejected by our Planning Department, he sought approval at the Committee of Adjustment, which was denied. He appealed their decision to the OMB, which overturned it, in the developers favour, even though it was not supported by the area residents, the community association, City staff, Myself or Councillor Soknacki.

I will be sending out a letter to area residents elaborating on the OMB's decision, as well as why City Legal staff much to my dismay where not able to satisfactorily find a means to appeal the OMB decision. The Coronation and West Hill Community Association has decided to go forward with an appeal on their own. I find it extremely frustrating that a provincially mandated body can over turn the desires and needs of a local community. I have sent a letter to the Chair of the Ontario Municipal Board, Attorney General Michael Bryant, and also our M.P.P., Mary Anne Chambers. My office will also be circulating a petition asking for changes in municipal legislation and submitting it to Mary Anne's office.

On the south side of Lawrence Ave, just east of Galloway Road, there is a proposal for a building to be constructed at 4097 Lawrence Avenue East. Councillor Soknacki held one public meeting to have the developer outline his plans for the site which call a four storey thirty unit residential apartment building. As the result of the community meeting and staff review, the developer agreed to rework the concept. City staff have reviewed that second set of plans and still find them lacking, their recent letter to the developer summarizes their position: "The revised submission ... has not adequately addressed matters raised to date in the Preliminary Staff Report, comments from technical circulations and input from the community consultation meeting. Issues unresolved ... include access and parking, garbage storage, and overall fit and compatibility. It will be necessary to address these 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.

At 4177 Lawrence Avenue East, the developer is in the final stages of completing the site. In late October the developer appeared before the Committee of Adjustment to request the creation of parking spaces abutting their property line and some technical variances. Residents on adjacent Marlina Drive pointed out that some of these new parking spaces could intrude on their privacy. Also they preferred a solid fence to discourage parking on Marlina for the new subdivision. The developer and Committee of Adjustment agreed with their position. As a condition for the variances, the developer agreed to install a 1.8m (6 ft) high solid fence along the portion of the property line in question. When I drove through the site last week, the fence had been properly installed

During Scarborough Community Council last week, the name for the subdivision was approved. Richard Schofield of the Scarborough Preservation Panel recommended the name "Florist Lane" for the interior road of the subdivision. Mr. Schofield pointed out that a florist business carried on business at the site previously. This name was acceptable to the City's agencies, the developer, and there was no objection at the Coronation community association. As a result, this name will be submitted to the City surveyor for official use.

Habitat for Humanity has broken ground at their newest project in Scarborough located at 4200 Kingston Road, on the north side of Kingston Rd, just east of Celeste Dr. This project was made possible by having the land for these 19 homes donated by the previous property owner. Things were made much easier for Habitat as the utilized the site plan and all the architectural drawings which had already been completed for this project. 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.

At 4274 Kingston Road located at Kingston Road and Galloway the plans call for 14 townhouses on Kingston Road, 19 townhouses on Galloway and 20 townhouses on a private road. Planning staff and the proponent are in discussions on a revised plan that will address the City's concerns and still provide the proponent with a viable development. Infill townhouse spacing and enough room for tree planting and parking spaces are some of the questions still to be resolved.

The water tower which on Lawrence Avenue east of Galloway Road is scheduled to be demolished by August of this year. City Staff have been given the go ahead to hire a consultant and start the structural design and specifications required for the demolition of the water tower. The demolition contractor will be hired and on site this summer.

The developments at Morningside Mall are beginning to take shape. The structure is scheduled for demolition to take place in the late summer or early fall of this year. The project should be completed by the summer of 2008. Some of the amenities on the site will be: CIBC, TD bank, Cadet Cleaners, Pizza Hut, and Shoppers' Drug Mart.

5. Cedar Ridge

Cedarbrae Library first opened its doors to the public on December 1, 1966. The architect was Irving Grosman. It was an immediate success in the community and by 1983, there was a need to renovate and expand the branch. This resulted in the addition of the Florence Cruikshank Community Room. The project architects were Moffat Kinoshita Architects.

Twenty four years later, this much loved and well used library needs some work to keep it in good repair, enable it to function well as a modern library and meet the needs of the community that it serves.

The project will span three to four years commencing this year with public consultation which started with the meeting held at the Library on January 23, focus groups for further community input, budget approval by Council in March and design development. Construction will start sometime in 2008. Construction for a project of this magnitude generally takes a minimum of a year from the time the branch closes until it re-opens again. Once the design concept has been developed, there will be an opportunity to see what is proposed and provide further comments.

All aspects of the existing facility will be reviewed to determine the most effective and efficient ways to address the various needs identified. The project will address structural and state of good repair issues, making the branch more energy efficient and also fully accessible. We want to ensure that Cedarbrae branch will be better able to deliver library services in this community. The renovation is intended to:

- Completely redesign the interior space and enhance street presence with a new entrance
- Provide complete barrier free accessibility to all areas of the building, including the front entrance, all collections and lounge areas, meeting rooms, staff areas and public washrooms
- Provide a large auditorium for programs and meetings
- Enhance study spaces, reading lounges for adults, teens and children
- Provide improved areas for collections with separate and unique spaces for multilingual collections, the Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage collection and the large local history collection
- New children's discovery centre to support reading readiness in children ages 0 to 5
- Creation of a specially designed teen area
- Upgrade mechanical and electrical systems
- Increase energy efficiency

The construction budget for this project is approximately \$4.76 million. Also, for any person or group that is interested, there will be opportunities for contributions to the Toronto Public Library Foundation which can be designated to enhance the project or branch collections.

Once the design process is complete, more details about the project schedule and plans for alternate service while Cedarbrae branch is closed will be available.

Comment forms and details about the upcoming focus groups are available at Cedarbrae Branch, 545 Markham Road, (416) 396-8850, or at www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

6. Guildwood

In terms of the Guild Inn Revitalization the plans look very positive. It is my understanding from City staff in our Economic Development Department an Operator for the Guild Inn has indeed been secured!!

Until all of the paperwork has been finalized the company/individual can not be publicly named. I expect that next months Ward Report will have a detailed update.

Staff is very positive that all of the loose ends should be tied up very soon; once this is done I will be notifying the community.

The developer of the Portia Street infill project (<http://www.intracorp.ca/index.html>) has obtained his demolition permit from the City and taken down the four homes on the north side of Portia Street. The developer kept his word and used part of a large pile of dirt at the end of the street behind homes on Tivoli Court to backfill the holes left in the ground where the four houses had stood. This pile has been rather irksome to residents on Tivoli who had seen their rear views blocked.

At the next meeting of Scarborough Community Council there will an item to approve the application to build the eight new homes for the extension of Portia Avenue, the zoning and conditions for this section was approved by Council in February 2002 in

conjunction with the land use study and OPA. Several meetings were held with residents, the community association staff and the Councillor. 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; esthetically the homes will all flow together. If you have any questions regarding this project please contact my office.

Gisela Bach who co-ordinates successful shoreline cleanups each year along the Scarborough Bluffs is taking to heart the task of halting the dumping of shopping carts across the City. She even has her own blog, Toronto's Abused Shopping Carts (<http://abandonedshoppingcarts.blogspot.com>). She is seeking a City of Toronto by law holding store owners responsible for their own shopping carts. She says she would settle for a sign reminding shoppers taking the carts off of store property is in fact a theft, and you can be charged criminally for it.

On her blog you can find a series of pictures of shopping carts embedded in the sand of the shoreline, or tossed in to ravines. She is inviting residents to send her more evidence of shopping cart abuses.

Gisela has the full support of my office in her endeavours. Recently during my drive through the ward with two members of my staff, we couldn't believe the number of shopping carts which we saw littering dead-end streets, alley ways, and near dumpsters.

7. Sunday Serenades At the Scarborough Civic Centre

The popular Sunday Serenade Series has returned to the Scarborough Civic Centre, located at 150 Borough Drive. The concerts are slated to run from 2 to 4pm on Sunday afternoons beginning on January 7 and running until April 29.

The great thing about the concerts besides the great music is there is no admission price! Which also means there is no reserved seating, so arrive early for a front row seat. The concerts are run by the City's Parks & Recreation Department

For more information on who is playing each week (and there is a wide variety of bands) please call 416-338-3295.

On Friday February 16th, 2007, please join the **First Annual Kids N' Cops Family Skate** day! This **free** family event will be held at the **Heron Park Arena, 292 Manse Rd.**, (Lawrence & Manse) **from 11:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

The **Kids N' Cops Family Skate Day**, continues to support 43 Divisions CPLC's mandate by encouraging positive police partnerships with communities located within the division. It will bring the children and adults from local neighbourhoods together, to enjoy an afternoon of fun with officers from 43 Division and their special guests. There will be **free** hot chocolate and treats and we hope to be able to provide skates for children who do not have any.

Local residents, schools, churches and businesses have been asked to help collect gently used and new skates to give to participating children. Skates will be collected from January 5th – February 9th which will be distributed at Heron Park Arena on February 16th.

If you would like more information about these events, please contact Constable Sue Mundy at 416-808-4366 or Bridget Carter, CPLC Volunteer at 416-431-5034.

Lifesaving Society Swim To Survive Program

The City of Toronto and its two school boards are joining forces to bring life-saving water safety programs to grade school students.

The Lifesaving Society Swim to Survive Initiative is a three part crash course on drowning prevention was piloted last year to 600 Toronto area students and went off without a hitch.

This year approximately 600 Grade 3, 4, and 5 students got their feet wet in the pilot year, learning how to survive a deep water fall, how to tread water for a minute, and how to swim for a distance of 50 metres. The students are taught by certified City of Toronto and school board instructors. To graduate students must successfully complete three 45 minute instructional sessions.

After the pilot project was completed it was evaluated, a series of recommendations were implemented, and it has been introduced on a wider scale to City schools. It will be funded on a year by year basis and will be done at no cost to the students.

The program was first suggested last year by one of my City Councillor Colleagues, Janet Davis and the City of Toronto Aquatic and Pool Strategy Working Group. A survey by the Canadian Institute for Health Information released in July 2005 found drowning deaths were the second leading cause of accidental fatalities among children under the age of five. 76% of kids involved in drowning deaths were playing or walking near water when a fall occurred.

In Ward 43 the TCDSB schools involved are: St. Martin de Porres and St. Edmund Campion. The TDSB schools are: Eastview JPS, Guildwood JPS, and St. Margaret's JPS>

8. The Internet

Teenagers, twentysomethings, and geeks were probably the first to use Web-based social networking sites such as Myspace, Youtube, and Facebook. One of the fastest growing uses of the Internet for social networking though is mothers.

So I've done some digging and here are my sites for this month:

www.mommyclub.ca - Offers discussion groups, private messaging to other moms, public and private blogs, as well as a host of other useful tools.

www.babyzone.com - A Toronto based networking site

www.momjunction.com - An American networking site.

www.caresquare.com - its aim is to help parents find and hire nannies, babysitters, and other caregivers.

www.clubmom.com - Launched by Meredith Vieira (Former host of ABC's *The View*). It offers mom's reward points they can redeem for discounts on merchandise from the sites advertisers. Last year it launched a related stand alone site called CafeMom designed to offer access to blogs and private messaging.

9. Quote du Mois

To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.
Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)

10. 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)

Sincerely,

Paul Ainslie, City Councillor

Ward 43