

November 2007

Ward 43 Report

Issue 11

Dear Ward 43 Resident:

On October 22 I voted against the Land transfer Tax and the Vehicle Registration Tax. Unfortunately the votes were not in my favour as both new proposed taxes passed. Land registration Tax was supported by 26 Members, the Vehicle Registration Tax by 25 Members.

This new formula will see home purchasers paying in addition to their Provincial property tax a new Toronto land tax: Property with the value of \$250,000 would incur land tax of \$2,225, a property of \$400,000 value, a land tax of \$3,725. In essence the tax is 1% of the property assessment.

The vehicle registration will also have a significant effect on my constituency. The \$60.00 tax is in addition to your yearly license registration. This will increase your license registration to approximately \$75.00 (provincial) + \$60.00 (Toronto) = \$125.00 per year.

During the course of the tax debate I was approached and was contacted by interest groups which asked me to support both taxes so that the new monies would fund the arts, libraries or programming. All of these items are important to the City and have been supported for many years and will continue to be. A vote against both taxes was not a vote against the arts. I voted no because I felt the taxes were not fairly distributed and weighed on a small group when we all pay and need City services.

On October 29 and November 5 I held community Town Hall meetings where residents thanked me for voting against both taxes. Many brought up possible revenue boosters such as road tolls and bicycle licenses. I encourage community input. Please don't hesitate to send me your comments.

Paul

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1. November East Community Calendar

- November 1 – Public Library Operating Review
- November 1 – Business Excellence Awards
- November 2 – Toronto Reference Library 30th anniversary
- November 3 – Auxiliary Police Toy Drive Kick Off 41,42,43 Police Division
- November 4 – Remembrance Day Ceremony Scarborough Civic Centre
- November 5 - Visit to Grade 5 Civic Class Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S.
- November 5 – Town Hall Meeting Curran Hall Community Centre
- November 6 – Fire Services Operating Budget Review
- November 6 – Toronto Zoo 2008 Operating Budget Review
- November 6 – Coronation Community Association Executive Meeting
- November 7 – Toronto Public Library Board Meeting
- November 7 – Community Speaks Scarborough East Storefront
- November 8 – Government Management Standing Committee
- November 8 – Livingston Lodge resident's 105 birthday Celebration
- November 8 – Monarch Project Totem Pole Dedication Ceremony Morningside Park

November 8 - Community Policing Liaison Committee – 43 Division

November 10 – St. Thomas Moore Church Catholic Women’s Group Annual Bazaar

November 10 – St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church Christmas Bazaar

November 10 – St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church Christmas Bazaar

November 10 – Guildwood Presbyterian Church Christmas Bazaar

November 11 – Remembrance Day Ceremony – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258

November 12 – Toronto Public Library Board Meeting

November 12 – Guild Renaissance Group Meeting

November 13 – Capital Budget Hearings – Toronto City Hall

November 13 – Guildwood Village Community Association Meeting

November 13 – Scarborough Preservation Panel Meeting

November 14 – Budget Committee Review Capital Budget

November 14 – Neighbourhood Watch Meeting Lakeview Community

November 15 – Neighbourhood Action Partnership Committee Meeting

November 15 – Operating Budget Review Meeting

November 16 - Operating Budget Review Meeting

November 18 - Santa Clause Parade

November 19 - Toronto City Council

November 19 - Curran Hall Community Association AGM

November 20 - Toronto City Council

November 21 - Capital Budget Meeting

November 21 - Visit Seven Oaks Nursing Home

November 22 - Operating Budget Review Meeting

November 23 - Rouge Valley Park Alliance Meeting

November 23 - Willow Park Jr. Public Grade 5 Class visiting City Hall

November 23 - Operating Budget Meetings

November 27 - Scarborough Community Council

November 27 - Tam Heather Board Meeting

November 28 - Guild Advisory Committee

November 30 - Operating Budget Review

November 30 - Toronto Region Conservation Authority

2. Seven Oaks

Town Hall Meeting

On October 30 I held my second Town Hall meeting in the community of Seven Oaks. The meeting was well attended. Constable Grey and Constable Campbell addressed all of the policing issues which residents found to be very useful. Residents spoke on City taxes, foot patrols at Centenary Plaza and moving the TTC Stop on Morningside, the creation of a neighbourhood watch and "no dumping signs" in the community. Thank you to all the residents who attended.

Seven Oaks Home for the Aged

Staff have been directed to award a tender for a new parking lot at the Seven Oaks Home for the Aged in accordance with the specifications as required by Homes for the Aged Act.

Local Road Resurfacing – Military Trail

Engineering services is initiating the design to resurface Military Trail and would like community input. Project Engineer Shams Khan, P. Eng. advises the work will include cold recycling of the asphalt pavement, repair of the curb and gutter and sidewalks as required on Military Trail from Highcastle Road to the bridge of the East Highland Creek, approximately 300 m.

Construction is projected to start in April 2008. Please contact Project engineer Shams Khan, P. Eng with any questions or suggestions for the project at 416-396-7392. Please respond before November 23, 2007.

Rouge Valley Hospital- Centenary Site

At my last Town Hall meeting on November 5 it was brought to my attention that the developer at this project has placed the air conditioner units on the roof line which aesthetically are not pleasing. I have asked Planning Staff to see if trees can be planted to camouflage the units seen from across the street.

Gates of Scarborough Community Update

Staff have been speaking with the developer regarding the paving of the roads in the community. My office spoke to Mr. Winston Joseph, the Developers Project Manager on Tuesday November 6, 2007 and strongly advised them the City and the residents are not being well served. The developer said the paving is expected to be done in this construction season as they had reported a few months ago.

I'm also happy to note progress in two other areas. City staff have confirmed that the drain at Bonspiel Park was to be completed by weeks end which will allow for the parkette to be completed. As well proper City of Toronto street signs will be installed by the end of November by our City Staff. The delay in installing them arose from the fact that street signs in the city have now been updated with a new look. The Gates of Scarborough Community will be the first to receive the new signs.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Lakeview Community which includes the new part of Cindy Nicholas Drive, Lampman Drive and Pickthall Terrace will be hosting a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on November 14, 2007 at Military Trail Public School at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbours and speak to officers regarding the program.

3. Curran Hall

Community Association AGM

Anyone interested in participating in the community may attend the Curran Hall Community Association AGM to elect representatives for your area or volunteer yourself. This is a great way to bring any community issues to my attention while at the same time plan events for the community's enjoyment. - Monday November 19, 7:00 pm at the Curran Hall Community Centre.

Stop Light Request

A request has been forwarded to Transportation staff to install a traffic light at Brimorton Drive and Orton Park Road. Staff will conduct a study and report back to community council with their recommendation.

Tiffany Park Homes - Orton Park and Brimorton Drive Town homes

As the only infill development in the community I as well as many residents are eager to have this project move forward. Staff has advised that there are only a few items to have approval from the City to allow the developer to continue with completing the road and begin digging foundations. As you are aware we have to ensure that all the proper procedures and approvals are in place to protect the purchasers or any issues down the road.

If you would like further information on this project you may contact John Lyon, City Planning Department at 416-396-7018 directly or feel free to call my Executive Assistant Antonette DiNovo at 416-392-4007

4. Coronation and West Hill

Traffic Control Signals - Kingston Road at Overture Road/Payzac Avenue

City Council has given the approval to install traffic control signals at the intersection of Kingston Road and Overture Road/Payzac Avenue. The study was completed and approved after reviewing the accident and pedestrian history at this intersection.

Daffodils on Kingston Road

Many thanks to Patti Fox and Lori Metcalf for organizing the planting of hundreds of tulips and daffodils throughout the community, the bulbs were planted by a team of students and tireless community volunteers. Coronation West Hill will be much more cheerful as the sea of blooms covers the community this spring. A big thank you to all who participated in the planting.

Trees have planted at the north-west corner of Lawrence and Morningside Road along the City boulevard at the rear of No Frills as was stipulated as part of the renovations at the site.

Car lots along Kingston Road

On Wednesday November 14, 2007, I along with staff from right of way management and parking enforcement met on Kingston Road to observe issues with illegal parking on the City boulevard along the strip. It was acknowledged that parking enforcement has issued a number of infractions to many of the car lots for parking vehicles on city property. I have directed staff to act vigilantly to ensure that the City by-laws are observed by all the businesses along Kingston Road.

5. Cedar Ridge

All-Way Stop Control on Susan Street at Samson Crescent/Windover Drive

City Council has approved the installation of an All-Way Stop Control at the intersection of Susan Street and Samson Crescent/Windover Drive.

City Council also approved the installation of minor street stop signs at five uncontrolled three-way intersections in the immediate area: Angora Street and Summerbridge Road, Mayhill Crescent and

Shoredale Drive, Shoreland Crescent and Kirker Avenue, Stonemans Court and Karen Ann Crescent, and Samson Crescent, eastbound, and Degrey Court.

Town Hall Meeting Tuesday November 5, 2007

Thank you to all who attended my Town Hall meeting on November 5. Although a cold and rainy night residents did make their way out to the meeting where I addressed many tax based questions, inquires about garbage collection, including the new blue box, questions on Cedarbrae District Library, the Downspout program, construction debris exemptions and tap water issues. Officers Grey and Campbell from the 43 Police Division Neighbourhood Liaison Department addressed concerns about neighbourhood safety and grow-ops. Residents were pleased to hear that our Ward had experienced a very quiet summer and fall.

Officer Grey offered very good tips on community involvement and encouraged residents to call the Division if there are any issues from speeders to suspicious persons on your street. To report any issue to 43 Division please call the 43 Division Community Response Line @ 416-808-4308 and leave your complaint on the automated voicemail which will be directed to the appropriate Constable.

6. Guildwood

Portia Street Development

The model home is almost complete for viewing. Once completed the new and extended Portia Road development will add value to the community. The approved site plan includes a tree lined street with lamp style street lights. If you have any questions regarding this project please contact my office at 416-392-4008

Guild Inn

The Guild Advisory Committee continues to hold meetings and is progressing in assisting the City in developing a vision for the Guild Inn property. Both our Parks and Economic Development Divisions are speaking to organizations which have shown an interest in the property.

Halloween night proved to be a quiet night as I asked for and received increased security for the area. Graffiti on the outside statues continues to be a concern. City staff are addressing incidences and are also completing some remedial work on columns at the Greek Amphitheatre which require maintenance due to cracking from weather conditions.

Wanting to keep ahead of things I have already instructed our recreation staff to plan for events on the Guild Park grounds. Last summer four concerts were shown on the grounds without sufficient marketing notice to attract a large audience. I want to ensure that for the 2008 season all the events are well attended.

Removable Room

On September 27 artists Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse graced the Guild property with their removable room artistry. Images and sounds are captured during the day and then presented to an audience on site. The effect is worth a visit and was enjoyed by a number of people. The Guild property is said to be a favorite of Laura and Ian and I hope to have them back again. Presented by the Scarborough Arts Council.

Telecommunications Tower Notification from Bell Mobility

Bell Canada has sent out notices to area residents regarding the proposal to erect a telecommunications tower at 140 Guildwood Parkway. The Tower in the shape of a flag pole also proposes a HVAC shed. I circulated a letter to the homes which surround the property with a list of questions which were presented to my office. To make your voice heard please contact Bell Mobility and Industry Canada as outlined in the chart below. I have also written to both Hon. John McKay our Federal representative and Bell Mobility requesting that a public meeting take place.

Contact: Joe Doria District Engineer Industry Canada Tel: (905)713-2671 **Email: doria.joe@ic.gc.ca**
Internet: <http://spectrum.ic.gc.ca>

Contact The applicant (from Bell Mobility) is Piero Greco, 905-282-3622.

Contact MP Hon. MP John McKay 416-283-1226

Q. Why was the Councillor not informed?

A. The application was never circulated to the local Councillor or any City Department. All development applications which are processed by the City are circulated to the local Councillor including Site Plan Applications. In the case of 140 Guildwood Pkwy, the Site Plan Application was submitted to the City Planning Division but subsequently closed and the fee refunded to Bell because the City does not have jurisdiction over telecommunication towers and Site Plan approval is therefore not required.

Q. What authority does the City of Toronto have in dealing with Industry Canada? What are the zoning by-laws?

A. Under the Radio Communications Act, Industry Canada has the final authority to approve the location of the telecommunication towers and antennae. Therefore, municipal zoning by-laws do not have to be considered.

Industry Canada's Client Procedure Circular (CPC) established the process to be followed by proponents regarding telecommunication installations. Applicants must follow a standard consultation process as set out in the CPC.

A court decision was issued on March 2, 2007, which determined that telecommunication installations are not subject to site plan control as they are a Federal undertaking.

Telus appealed the City of Toronto By-law which directed the planning department to go through a site plan approval for any telecommunication towers in the City. Telus won the appeal.

Q. Does Bell Mobility have a lease in place with Guildwood Presbyterian Church?

A. 20 year lease in place between Bell Canada and Guildwood Presbyterian Church.:

Q. Who is financially gaining on building of the tower?

A. Guildwood Presbyterian Church – lease information is confidential

Q. Could the City lease "flagpole" tower to Bell?

A. The flag pole is not the City's to lease it belongs to Bell Canada who has entered into a lease with the Church.

Q. Is a building permit required for the HVAC shelter?

A. Permit will be required if the shed is over 100 square feet. If the shed remains the size as outlined on the plan, a permit will be required.

Q. Is a public meeting not needed when this type of structure is being proposed?

A. With the new regulations which are to be in place on January 1, 2008 a public consultation meeting will be obligatory. **I have requested that one takes place.**

Q. Why did Bell Canada choose this location?

A. This was not their first choice. It was the third choice. 140 Guildwood Parkway had the required reception and the property owner agreed to a lease

Q. Why the Guild Community?

A. Locations are sought out when there is a combination of 1. Random technician looks for hot spots for low reception. 2. Response from Bell customer complaints of poor reception on there mobiles / text messages/blackberry/palm users.

Q. Industry Canada Notification Process

A. Telecommunication companies are to notify the community via written notification after a location has been

secured. Community input is then gathered by the applicant. There is no meeting required at this time but the

community can request that one take place. In January 2008 new rules will apply wherein the City will have to be

notified and public meetings will have to take place. **I have asked Industry Canada if the new procedure can apply to this application as it is to be built in May 2008**

Q. What is Industry Canada's role?

A. Issues spectrum licenses to telecommunications providers.

Q. Can another telecommunication carrier also install a tower for their service needs at this proposed site at another time?

A. This has never been done. The usual practice is for any other carrier to use the same tower as a source

7. Blue Bin Roll out

Delivery of the new blue bins is scheduled to start on December 1st, 2007.

In early November, Solid Waste Management Services mailed a newsletter explaining the new program and a blue bin order form to all single-family residents in our ward.

Delivery of blue bins in Scarborough will commence on December 1st and continue into the new year.

For all the information on the new blue bin please open the attachment: <http://www.toronto.ca/target70/>

8. Downspout Program

The City's downspout disconnection program is scheduled to end on Tuesday November 20, 2007. If you would like to have this service done free of charge please call 416-392-1807 or email ddp@toronto.ca

The City will arrange to disconnect your downspouts free of charge. Disconnecting your downspout reduces the overflow in our sewer system, helping alleviate pollution to our rivers and lake. When it rains in Toronto, a lot of rain falls on the roof of your house where it flows to the eavestrough, then down the downspout and directly into the sewer system. During heavy rainfall, millions of litres of rainwater mixes with sewage in the sewer system - overloading it and causing the mixture to flow, untreated, into our rivers and Lake Ontario. The overloading of this system causes flooded basements, contaminated lake water and beaches unsafe for swimming.

What the City will do:

- Cut the downspouts where they enter the ground.
- Install a plug where it has been cut off.
- Add an extension and splash pad, or a rain barrel (if necessary) to ensure water is not draining near your home's foundation.

9. 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 the 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 it in my monthly report.

Habitat for Humanity

website at <http://www.torontohabitat.on.ca/web/ShowBuild.aspx?BuildID=65> or call for details at their Canadian Head Office at (416) 755-7353 ex. 238.

10. Ward 43

Neighbourhood Watch

Contact Lesley Chitra - Crime Prevention Coordinator for Toronto East. If you are interested in being a Street Captain or if you would like to learn more about the Neighbourhood Watch Program contact Lesley 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 to their neighbours. Most information is circulated via email to help reduce the amount of volunteer time required.

The Toronto Police Traffic Services

Child Seat Safety: This free service is offered on an appointment only basis. Please contact 416-808-4366 to book your appointment.

11. Community Meetings and Events

November 14, 2007 7:00 pm - Neighbourhood Watch Community Meeting Military Trial Public School

December 8, 2007 1:00pm – 4:00pm - Guildwood Candy Cane Hunt and food bank drive - Guild Inn Property

December 15, 2007 begins at 7:00 am - Annual Toronto Auxiliary Police Toy Drive distribution

Saturday January 5, 2008 2:00 pm - 4:00pm -Councillor Ainslie's 2nd Annual New Year's Levee at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre

12. Auxiliary Police Toy Drive

The Toronto Auxiliary Police, in conjunction with the Toronto Police Service, are hosting the 14th annual Auxiliary Toy Drive. Again this year, 41, 42 and 43 Divisions are involved in this worthwhile event.

The purpose of the Auxiliary Toy Drive is to provide a new toy to every child in a shelter.

These toys will be delivered by Santa and his many Auxiliary Police helpers on Saturday, December 15, 2007. Please drop off unwrapped toys at the division closest to you.

13. Guildwood Parkway Construction Erosion Program

TRCA has distributed a newsletter to surrounding homes in the Guild community which are affected by the Bluffs Erosion Program. A copy of the newsletter can be found on my website: www.paulainslie.com

The Guildwood Parkway Erosion Control Project—Phase II Fall 2007

What is the Guildwood Parkway Erosion Control Project—Phase II ?

On December 17th, 2004, following a 30-day public review period, project approval was granted under the Environmental Assessment Act on January 16th, 2005. All regulatory approvals required for construction, including authorization pursuant to Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*, *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and the Ministry of Natural Resources have been obtained.

Your New Shoreline-The approved design is a shoreline treatment consisting of smooth armourstone headlands with a rubble core at the westerly and easterly project limits, with an offshore breakwater made of randomly-placed armourstone with a rubble core in between the headlands.

A sandy beach will remain between the two headlands, with a small amount of gravel along the backshore for stability. In an effort to improve fish habitat, shoals will be constructed next to the headlands and offshore breakwater. These shoals sit on the lake floor and rise to a level just under the surface of the water providing for habitat creation.

Access to the site is provided along an existing construction road off Guildwood Parkway near the Guild Inn which runs down the bluffs and over to the existing revetment extending to below 467 Guildwood Parkway. A temporary access road constructed of rubble from local demolition sites will be built from the end of the existing revetment east along the beach to facilitate construction of the headlands and breakwater. Once these shoreline features are constructed, the access road will be removed and the beach will be fully restored.

For more information on the Guildwood Parkway Erosion Control Project – Phase II, please contact: **Jim Berry, C.E.T., Manager, Environmental Engineering Projects** Phone: **416-392-9721** • Email: jberry@trca.on.ca **Joe Delle Fave, C.E.T., Supervisor, Construction Projects** Phone: **416-392-9724** Email: jdellefave@trca.on.ca
Toronto and Region Conservation 1 Eastville Avenue, Scarborough, ON M1M 2N5

When Will Construction Start?

Delivery of rubble used to construct the temporary access road began on October 29th, 2007. Work is anticipated to continue until approximately mid January 2008, when the City of Toronto will utilize the

temporary access road to repair the outfall at the foot of Morningside Avenue. Work will recommence upon completion of the outfall repairs, expected mid February 2008 and will continue until March 31, 2008.

No in-water work can take place between April 1 – June 30 annually due to fisheries timing windows set by Ministry of Natural Resources. All work, including the removal of the access road and restoration of the beach is to be completed by March 31, 2009.

For information on the City of Toronto repair work to the Morningside outfall, please contact Kumar Sivakumaran at (416)392-9642.

Hours of work for the Guildwood Parkway Erosion Control Project – Phase II are Monday to Friday, 7:30 am – 5:00 pm. During construction, public access to the Guild Inn construction road and shoreline will be restricted but will be permitted on weekends and holidays.

14. Graffiti information

Motion to Prohibit Sale of Spray Paint to Persons under the Age of 18

On June 29, 2007 I motioned the Licensing and Standards Committee to Prohibit the sale of spray paint to persons under the age of 18. Staff are preparing a report to bring back to the committee on the City's capacity to ban the possession of graffiti paraphernalia and the City's capacity to more effectively enforce the by-laws requiring utility companies to repair utility boxes on private property and to require repairs to be made within 3 days of the offence being committed.

Graffiti is an act of vandalism, defined as writing, drawing, or symbolism applied to any surface without the consent of the property owners, authorized agent or designate.

REMOVAL

City's road allowance, medians, boulevards, culverts (the cement embankment along a creek)
(R.O.W. Management - Transportation Services): **338-9999**

On Private Property (by a third party)

Refer to the district MLS office. (Section 629-27C of the Municipal Code).

Note: If the property owner does not comply within the specified time, the City will remove the **graffiti** and the cost will be added to the tax roll and collected in the same manner as property taxes.

In City Parks

Call my office with the park, location and item that has been vandalized

On City Trees

Report to Forestry: 338-TREE (8733)

On City Bridges

Refer to Transportation Services - 338-9999 #1 (followed by the option for the appropriate district)

On Rail Bridges

Refer to CNR: 1-888-888-5909 or CPR: 1-888-333-6370

On Hydro Poles or Transformer Boxes

Report to Toronto Hydro: 416-542-8000

On Bus Shelters:

CBS Outdoor Pride Line: 1-800- 387-1333

On Mailboxes

Report to Canada Post: 1-800-267-1177

Toronto Catholic District School Board

Report to Ronald Hearn 416-222-8282

Toronto Public District School Board

Contact the school directly or alternately call my office with the school and location description of graffiti

Toronto Police 43 Division

Report to 416-808-2222

15. Tips on How to detect a Grow - Op

During my November 5 Town Hall meeting Constable Campbell listed items for residents to look for when a grow-op is suspected:

1. Front of the home is unkept
2. All the windows in the home are covered (usually white covering)
3. Moisture on the windows (as lamps are very hot and mould will form)
4. Many visitors to the home who enter and leave from separate doors
5. No frost or snow on the roof tops
6. Hydro usage spikes

16. Participate in the City's 2008 Capital Budget process

The City of Toronto is now considering the 2008 Capital Budget and 2009 to 2012 Capital Plan. This five-year plan determines the capital projects the City will undertake to maintain and improve City assets, including roads, bridges, transit, community centres and libraries.

There are several ways to have your opinion considered:

1. Make a public presentation to the Budget Committee at its Capital Budget Hearing:**Capital Budget Hearing - November 13**

Budget Committee

Time: 9:30 am

Location: City Hall, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 1

Please contact the Budget Committee at 416-392-7340 by noon on November 12 if you intend to make a public presentation. There will be a five-minute presentation time limit.

2. Submit a written presentation to:

Budget Committee

City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
10th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

E-mail: buc@toronto.ca

3. Send me a letter or e-mail me at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca City Council will review and consider approval of the final Capital Budget at the Council meeting on December 6.

For more information about the City Budget and the 2008 budget process, visit www.toronto.ca.

17. Morningside Park Totem Pole

On Thursday November 8, 2007 as part of the Monarch Project a second totem pole was installed in Morningside Park. I am thankful to Mr. Dorsey in his effort to beautify our park with his art while at the same time working with 30 youth from the Malvern community on the magnificent 15 foot sculpture this past summer.

The Scarborough Arts Council with the Highland Creek Community Partnership Stewardship continue to make this project possible. The totem pole made from a recycled Hydro pole is carved from top to bottom and is really something that everyone should come out to visit. The first totem pole was placed in 2004 with the formation of the Monarch Project which aims to involve community youth to experience art and environmental initiatives to improve the community.

Earlier this month the pole went missing but fortunately it was found by two Toronto Residents on the park grounds.

The largest park in ward 43 and one of the most interesting parks in the City of Toronto it covers over 416 acres and is visited by numerous scout groups, families, and sports organizations. Morningside Park is the perfect location for the Monarch Totem Pole Project and I am proud that it is in my ward.

The park is located off of Morningside Avenue just south of Ellesmere Road to view the Monarch Project park your vehicle in P3.

18 Life's Little Goodies: Let Me Sleep On It

The expression, "let me sleep on it," can be more than just a delay tactic from a disinterested person. History is replete with examples of how sleeping on it, or more accurately, how creative dreams have solved problems and inspired art.

- The plot and characters of author Robert Louis Stevenson's most famous novel, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde*, came from a dream.
- Elias Howe completed his invention of the lock-stitch sewing machine after he dreamed of the solution to a problem that had long eluded him.
- The famous 18th century composer Giuseppe Tartini could only complete one of his masterpieces after remembering a musical sequence from a dream.

- The 19th century chemist Friedrich August Kekule von Stradonitz (who went by August Kekule) had a dream that led him to discover the molecular arrangement of the benzene molecule.
- A dream by D.B.Parkinson is credited with the invention of the M9 Electrical Analog computer, a forerunner to modern anti-aircraft guidance systems.
- Otto Lewi won the Nobel Prize in physiology for an experiment that he first dreamed up during a sojourn into the land of Nod.
- The opening stanzas of Tristan and Isolde were dreamt by Richard Wagner before pen met paper.
- Samuel Coleridge composed Kubla Khan in its entirety in his sleep. Upon awaking, he simply wrote what he remembered of his dream.
- Writer Charles Dickens gained the inspiration for many of his plots and characters from his dreams.
- Inventor Thomas Edison came up with some of his best inventions from his dreams.

It's a fact that many famous scientists, artists, writers, musicians and inventors have acknowledged that their dreams have been a source of ideas, creativity, solutions, and inspiration to them.

If you sleep 8 hours a night on average, and live to be 72 years old, you will have spent 24 years asleep. Dreams are proof that the mind does not sleep, at least not the whole time we understand ourselves to be asleep, so why not put our sleeping minds to use to help find solutions to problems and to find ideas and inspiration?

Research has shown that we can have some input into what we dream about. Study a problem you have before you go to sleep. When you go to sleep, ask your subconscious mind to reveal the answer, idea or inspiration you need to you in your dreams.

Some research suggests that if a person isn't good at visualization when they're awake they'll have a harder time remembering their dreams. In that case tell yourself you will remember your dreams when you wake up, that helps some people. It's also possible it will simply take some time for your dreaming mind to work out the answer you seek.

We may already have the answer hidden within, or it may take connecting to the higher self. If that all sounds like a lot of new age gobbledygook, let me assure you, there has been quite a lot of legitimate research into dreams and the psyche in the last several decades. In fact, researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz have concluded that dreams are a form of thinking.

If you think back, you may remember times when you've found a solution or inspiration from your dreams. Some of these very Life's Little Goodies articles were inspired by a dream. So if the words aren't flowing for me, I say to myself, let me sleep on it.

19. Cavalcade of Lights 2007

I will be looking for festive lights in our community. If you would like to nominate a home in your neighbourhood please call Peter Sinclair of my office at 416-392-4008 and I'll be sure to send them a congratulatory scroll.

The 41st annual Cavalcade of Lights presented by Scotiabank kicks-off on Saturday, November 24 at 7 p.m. with an opening celebration featuring the official tree lighting, fireworks, live musical performances by Nikki Yanofsky & the Imani Gospel Singers and a Holiday Concert starring Jully Black, Sarah Slean, Murray McLauchlan, Kim Stockwood, and Louise Pitre. DJ Boogie will spin dance favourites for skaters on the Nathan Phillips Square ice rink until 10 p.m.

The fireworks, free concerts and skating parties continue Saturday nights in December at 7 p.m.:

December 1 – Tomi Swick with opening act Suzie McNeil and DJ Alvaro C

December 8 – Jully Black with opening act Hayley Sales and DJ Tricky Moreira

December 15 – The Golden Dogs with opening act In-Flight Safety, with DJs Ted Dancin', Rollin' Cash, and Nick & Pierre

Beyond Nathan Phillips Square, the Cavalcade of Lights Festival goes city-wide, illuminating 19 neighbourhoods and tourist attractions, including: Albion-Islington, Bloorcourt Village, Bloorcourt Village, Bloor West Village, Bloor-Yorkville, Chinatown, Church-Wellesley, Downtown Yonge, GreekTown on the Danforth, Junction Gardens, Korea Town, Little Italy, Queens Quay Harbourfront, Rosedale Main Street, St. Clair Gardens, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood, Yonge Lawrence Village, CN Tower and Toronto Eaton Centre. Many of these will feature first lighting celebrations and a free LED-light exchange offered by Toronto Hydro. Residents can visit www.torontohydro.com/sled for complete details.

Bus tours of some of these unique neighbourhood lighting displays are offered Friday and Saturday nights from Nathan Phillips Square at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and are approximately 90 minutes in length. Residents and visitors can call 416-868-0400 or visit www.torontotours.com/cavalcade.pdf for more information.

Tourism hotel packages with the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel and the Metropolitan Hotel allow visitors to experience the magic of Toronto during the holiday season.

For more information about all Cavalcade of Lights events and other events produced by Toronto Special Events, call Access Toronto at 416-338-0338 or visit www.toronto.ca/special_events.

20. City of Toronto is making a difference at Christmas

For over 50 years, staff from the City of Toronto have worked to ensure that as many low-income families as possible receive gifts during the holiday season. In 2006 alone, over 114,000 children under the age of 13 received gifts, thanks in part to Toronto Social Services' Christmas Bureau.

Acting as a central coordinating body, the Christmas Bureau helps to connect donors with Toronto families and individuals in need, many of whom are on social assistance. Staff work directly with a wide variety of organizations, ranging from community agencies to major corporations, including the Toronto Star, 1050 CHUM, the Fire Fighters Association and the provincial government to help coordinate donations, make referrals, share information, monitor for duplication and provides reassurance to donors that their contributions are making it into the hands of the people who need it most.

The City's 2006 Christmas Bureau coordinated the distribution of gifts and donations to 108,598 children, under the age of 13 from low income families in Toronto. An additional 6,042 children received toys in the three days before Christmas through the "Last Minute Emergency Referral Program" which was jointly established by partners to assist families not previously registered with an agency.

In 2006, the Christmas Bureau helped:

- (1) 79,308 children who received assistance through the CHUM/City Christmas Wish;
- (2) 25,598 children who received Toronto Star Gift Boxes; and
- (3) 9,283 children who received toys from the Toronto Firefighters Association.

The Christmas Bureau also helped to distribute over \$250,000 in Hudson Bay Company (HBC) gift certificates and grocery store gift certificates, donated by CHUM/City Christmas Wish. HBC gift certificates

valued at \$25 each were distributed to 4,043 children aged 13 to 18, and 4,562 families of four or more receiving support from Ontario Works (OW) were given grocery store gift certificates.

"One of the great strengths of Torontonians is their willingness to help others," said Mayor David Miller. "Residents can demonstrate this by participating in the many toy and fundraising initiatives across the city. The success and longevity of the City's Christmas Bureau is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when people across Toronto come together."

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Christmas Bureau is bracing for another tough year, with many families in need of help. The Christmas Bureau will once again, be looking to programs like CHUM Christmas Wish, The Toronto Star's Santa Claus Fund, the Toronto Firefighters and numerous community agencies to help meet the demands. But all of these agencies are relying on the generosity of Torontonians to ensure that no child is forgotten during the 2007 holiday season. As campaigns for 2007 begin, people can help by donating new, unwrapped toys, or by making a donation.

21. Council Highlights City Council meeting of October 22 and 23, 2007

Council approves new land transfer and vehicle ownership taxes

Council approved the new land transfer and vehicle ownership taxes, which will net the City \$300 million in revenue annually. The taxes will net approximately \$175 million in 2008 with their implementation to start part way through the calendar year. This revenue will be used to ensure the City has a balanced budget in 2008, but over the long term will be invested in programs and services that make this a liveable city. The new taxes were made possible by new powers given to the City by the provincial government through the City of Toronto Act, 2006. The land transfer tax will take effect on Feb. 1, 2008, and the vehicle ownership tax in the fall. The land transfer tax will work as follows: one-half of one per cent on the first \$55,000 in property values; one per cent on the next \$345,000 in property values; two per cent of the value residential units exceeding \$400,000 for residential transactions, and; one and a half per cent on the remaining value of up to \$40 million and one per cent above that on commercial properties. A rebate of up to \$3,725 will apply to first-time purchasers of homes. This means a full rebate for first time buyers of homes valued at \$400,000 or less. The personal vehicle ownership tax is set at \$60 for cars and \$30 for motorcycles, annually.

Tax relief approved to enhance Toronto's business climate

Council approved taxation relief for residual commercial class businesses to be phased in from 2008 through to 2015 to remain competitive with other Greater Toronto Area municipalities. There are two assessment bands for businesses impacted, depending on the type of commercial property; businesses in band one will see their tax rate step down annually drop from 3.41 (times the residential rate) in 2008 to 2.5 in 2015, and in band two commercial properties will be reduced from 3.55 in 2008 to 3 times in 2015. Council also asked the provincial government to accelerate reductions in its business education rate announced in the 2007 provincial budget, and for the power to change the way properties (such as office buildings) are taxed while under construction, through to the point of occupancy.

Creation of the City's first ever Ombudsperson approved

The new position of Ombudsperson was approved by Council. This new position is required under the City of Toronto Act, 2006, and is an accountability position. The Ombudsperson will report to Council, and will be an objective investigator of the people's grievances and complaints; an option of last resort for people who feel they have been treated unfairly or an unresolved complaint about services or programs. The Ombudspersons services will be free and readily accessible to the public. Councils approval signaled the start of the hiring process. The Mayor and four Councillors will conduct interviews and identify the preferred candidate who must be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote by Council. A direct reporting relationship with Council will ensure the Ombudsperson remains independent and impartial. An initial office budget of \$200,000 was approved, but once fully operational an annual budget of approximately \$1 million is expected.

Community service hub to be developed in Crescent Town

Plans to turn the vacant St. Bernadette Catholic School into a community service hub took a step forward when Council authorized City staff to begin negotiations to secure use of the site. The City, United Way of Greater Toronto and community agencies have been working towards turning the site into a hub where a satellite community health centre and other services will be offered to this community, one of the city's 13 priority neighbourhoods. The City expects to lease the site at no cost from the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The need for a health centre was identified by the United Way and Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and they have allocated \$2.2 million for capital costs for the site to make building alterations as required, and an additional \$225,000 for operating costs.

Pedestrian scrambles will take to Toronto streets

Initiatives promoting walking, cycling and improvements to public transit were approved by Council as it adopted a series of short-term proposals for sustainable transportation initiatives. These initiatives are expected to encourage people to use cars or vehicles less, and choose more environment-friendly modes of transportation. Successful outcomes will support the City's climate change action plan and public health goals, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and their harm to the public. Among the items adopted: pedestrian scrambles at four major intersections (Bloor and Bay Sts., Bloor and Yonge Sts., Yonge and Dundas Sts. and Bay and Dundas Sts.) where vehicular traffic in all directions stop so pedestrians can cross in any direction they please; more temporary pedestrian zones where streets or areas are free of cars, promoting walking; study the possibility of an east-west bike lane along Bloor St. and Danforth Ave. from Royal York Rd. to Victoria Park Ave., with potential implementation in 2009; and actions on the transit front, such as changing the traffic signals at intersections to allow streetcars to travel faster along their routes, which will improve service and encourage more people to take transit.

Yonge-Dundas Square new home to Citytv

Council approved a land sale that will allow Rogers Communications to purchase the former (Olympic) Torch Project site at 259 Victoria St. Rogers plans to move Citytv to the site from its current Queen St. W location.

22. Quote du Mois

"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?" [Robert Kennedy](#)

23. Websites for Community Use

What follows below is a list of community groups and resources from here in Scarborough. Of course we would be remiss if we didn't include websites from myself and MP John McKay (we couldn't find MPP Mary-Ann Chambers' homepage).

www.paulainslie.com - A new customer survey and lots of community information

www.johnmckaymp.on.ca - From John McKay, Member of Parliament

www.west-hill.com - A tribute to the West Hill area

www.tamheathervenerables.com - Men's Curling 55 and older

www.guildwood.on.ca - The Guildwood Village Community Association

www.scarboroughhistorical.ca - Scarborough Historical Society

www.westrouge.org - The West Rouge Community Association

www.freenet.hamilton.on.ca/Information/sports/leisure/bgco/toronto.htm -East Scarborough Boys'& Girls' Club

www.spo.ca - Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra

www.mirror-guardian.com - The Scarborough Mirror

www.scar.utoronto.ca - University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus

www.westhill.ntsweb.com - West Hill Public School

www.tcdsb.org/schools/popejohnpaulii.html - Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School

www.scarbcccac.org - Scarborough Community Care Access Centre

www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/index.htm - The Toronto Transit Commission

www.gostransit.com - GO Transit

www.torontopolice.on.ca/d43 - 43 Division- Toronto Police Services

www.scarborougharts.com/groups/renaissance/index.htm - The Guild Renaissance Group

www.torontocaer.com - The Toronto East Community Awareness & Emergency Response

www.scarboroughsoftball.ca/SevenOaks.htm - The Seven Oaks Softball League

www.rougevalley.ca - The Rouge Valley Health Care System (Centenary Hospital)

www.bluffsmonitor.com - Bluffs Monitor

24. Recipe of the Month

Most Decadent Hot Chocolate

1 cup milk
1 cup half and half
8 teaspoons sugar
1 ounce semisweet chocolate, finely chopped
1 ounce unsweetened chocolate, finely chopped
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

In a small heavy saucepan over medium heat mix together the milk, half-and-half, sugar, chocolates, and

brown sugar. Heat until the chocolate melts and the sugar dissolves. Do not bring to a boil, but make sure the mixture gets steaming hot. Reduce the heat and keep the chocolate hot. Place half of the mixture in a blender and mix until frothy. Return to the pan, add the vanilla, and pour into glasses. Serve immediately.

Calories - irrelevant

25. ENews Policy and Contact Information

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