

December 2013

Volume 13 Issue 50

<http://www.paulainslie.com/>

Dear Friends,

The City of Toronto's 2014 operating and capital budget review process has begun. I encourage everyone to visit the City Budget site and make your comments known to me on issues or concerns which you would like to have addressed. There is also a section in this eNews letter the proposed budget.

I will be hosting a budget consultation meeting on Thursday January 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at West Hill CI located at 350 Morningside Avenue. This will also allow Ward 43 residents to have an opportunity to speak to me and City Staff directly on items in the budget. I encourage you to attend and look forward to seeing you.

After all of the public consultations have taken place the City's budget will be presented to the Executive Committee on January 22, 2014 and proceed to City Council on January 29 and 30, 2014.

A report which deals with an expansion of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport will be heard at the next Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday December 5, 2013. The staff report which is on the agenda is recommending any expansion plans be put on hold until at least March 2015 to complete further study. This agenda item may be viewed at <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/decisionBodyProfile.do?function=doPrepare&meetingId=6823#Meeting-2013.EX36>, item no. EX36.7 - Request to Amend the Tripartite Agreement for Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Ward All).

I have started to hear from many constituents who have expressed both opposition and support for the expansion request. Some residents have advised me they are content with the accessibility of the airport for their business and personal travel, while others do not want to see any further expansion because they are concerned about noise and fuel pollution. For myself, in particular I feel there has been a lack of official City of Toronto consultation for our area, and eastern part of the City which includes the flight path to the Island Airport. The only public meetings which have taken place have all been near the central waterfront. I have brought this concern to the Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly to address during the Executive Committee meeting. I would like you to continue to email or call my office with your position and questions as I will bring them to the December 5, 2013 Executive Committee meeting.

I am very happy to share the news about the Social Services Benefits Card which I had approved by City council last year which replaced paper welfare cheques for a number of people with a reloadable debit card is saving an estimated \$6.2 million annually and growing for City of Toronto taxpayers. It will be expanded to include other division for further savings. The card is a success for everyone by cutting red tape and service fees. The Social Services Benefit Card was named the recipient for the Excellence in Public Service Delivery Award handed out in October of this year by GTEC, Canada's Government Technology Event. <http://www.gtec.ca/awards/congratulations-to-the-2013-distinction-awards-medalists/>

Last month City Council supported my further recommendations to have the card produce further tax savings by expanding it for a Drug Benefit Card, Shelter Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) and Toronto Public Health. The Card is the first of its kind in Canada a success for administrative efficiencies and cost savings. It was estimated these further implementations would save taxpayers another \$700,000 annually.

Please contact me with any municipal issues by email at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca. Our phone 416-392-4008.

Sincerely,
Paul Ainslie,
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 43, Scarborough East

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1. Calendar

- December 2, 2013 – Budget Advisory Committee
- December 2, 2013 – Toronto Public Library Board Employee and Labour Relations Committee
- December 3, 2013 – Budget Advisory Committee
- December 3, 2013 – Councillor Ainslie Town Hall Curran Hall Community Centre
- December 4, 2013 – Councillor Ainslie hosting Partnership meeting with Ward 43 Community Groups
- December 4, 2013 – Scarborough Tree Lighting Ceremony at Scarborough Civic Centre Square – Ice skating available
- December 5, 2013 – Toronto Public Library Board Budget Committee Meeting
- December 6, 2013 - Councillor Ainslie Weekly Highrise Mobile Office: 4110 Lawrence Avenue East
- December 7, 2013 – Candy Cane Hunt at Guild Park and Gardens 1pm – 3pm
- December 9, 2013 - Toronto Public Library Board Meeting
- December 10, 2013 – Guildwood Village Community Association Meeting
- December 11, 2013 - KGO Safety meeting/ Christmas potluck
- December 12, 2013 – 43 Division Community Police Liaison Committee Meeting
- December 12, 2013 - Don Watershed Regeneration Council Meeting
- December 13, 2013 - Councillor Ainslie Weekly Highrise Mobile Office: 3847 Lawrence Avenue East
- December 16, 2013 – Toronto City Council
- December 17, 2013 – Toronto City Council
- December 20, 2013 – Livingston Lodge Cookie Baking Contest
- December 25, 2013 – Merry Christmas to All
- December 30, 2013 - 4000/4100 Residents Association Meeting
- January 1, 2013 – Happy New Year to All
- January 11, 2103 – Councillor Ainslie Annual New Year's Levee at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre 225 Confederation Drive

Community Events

- December 3, 2013 – Councillor Ainslie Town Hall Curran Hall Community Centre: 277 Orton Park Drive 7 p.m.
The Toronto Police will be present to speak on community safety
- December 4, 2013 – Scarborough Tree Lighting Ceremony at Scarborough Civic Centre Square 150 Borough Road
Ice skating available
- December 7, 2013 – Candy Cane Hunt at Guild Park and Gardens: 201 Guildwood Parkway 1pm – 3pm
- December 20, 2013 – Livingston Lodge Cookie Baking Contest: 65 Livingston Ave. 11 am
- January 11, 2103 – Councillor Ainslie Annual New Year's Levee at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre

Events Across the City

Holiday spirit at Toronto Historic Sites

If you are looking for holiday gifts, crafts, music or treats, you can create a Christmas wreath at Colborne Lodge, bake over the open hearth at Mackenzie House and Scarborough Museum, and sing carols at Montgomery's Inn. Pre-registration is required. [Details](#)

Fort York and Spadina Museum

Fort York will celebrate the winter season with Frost Fair, a vintage Christmas market, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 7 and 8. On December 8, Spadina Museum will present a live 1930s radio drama as part of Swell Sundays: Christmas in the Golden Age of Radio. [Details](#)

Casa Loma at Christmas

The public is invited to celebrate the holiday season in the festively decorated setting of Casa Loma, with its eight-metre-tall Christmas tree. Throughout December, guests can enjoy a wide range of programs/activities, including a visit with Santa. [Details](#)

New Year's Eve family event at the zoo

Tickets are available for the annual New Year's Eve family countdown event at the Toronto Zoo on December 31. This outdoor event, featuring entertainment, starts at 5 p.m. and the countdown is at 8 p.m. [Details and tickets](#)

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2. 2014 Proposed Budget Process

Budget consultation meeting on Thursday January 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at West Hill CI located at 350 Morningside Avenue for Ward 43 residents

I encourage you to send me your comments.

The City of Toronto released the 2014 staff recommended Tax Supported Operating Budget and 10 Year Capital Budget and Plan. The Budget remains balanced and focuses on strengthening the City's fiscal health, while continuing to invest in Toronto's future.

The 2014 Staff Recommended Operating Budget is \$9.6 billion and was balanced without using the prior year's surplus, and despite the loss of \$43 million in provincial funding for shelter, support and housing. At the same time, the proposed 2014-2023 Capital Budget and Plan is \$18.6 billion, of which about 60% is allocated to maintaining and investing in the City's aging infrastructure.

The proposed operating budget recommends a 1.3% total average tax increase over 2013 after assessment growth. This includes 0.9% to maintain the existing base budget for 2014, which is well below inflation as well as 0.4% for new and enhanced services.

This translates to a residential property tax increase of 2% or about \$51 per household. With Council's policy on reducing the tax burden on businesses, the recommended increase for non-residential properties will be 0.67%. These increases reflect the impacts of the 2014 operating budget.

In addition, Council approved a special tax levy of 0.5% for residential property tax and 0.17% for non-residential properties to support construction of the Scarborough subway. This results in a total 2014 residential property tax increase of 2.5% and non-residential increase of 0.84%.

2014 Operating Budget

The 2014 Staff Recommended Operating Budget continues to focus on providing programs and services that respond to the needs of Toronto's diverse communities, as well as investing in key areas such as transit, shelter and housing, city planning, emergency services and public spaces. Highlights include:

- \$639 million for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, which provides 1.4 million bed nights of emergency shelter a year and funding for over 94,000 units of social housing
- \$41 million for City Planning to ensure that Toronto is well planned with efficient, accessible and integrated services and transportation systems
- \$1.7 billion in public safety to improve emergency response, including increasing the number of fire prevention officers, hiring more front line paramedics and restarting the hiring process for new police officers
- \$410 million for Parks, Forestry and Recreation, which provides more than 1 million hours of recreation programs for people of all ages and abilities. This amount will also fund 109,000 welcome policy registrations and memberships
- \$1.7 billion for the operation of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), which provides more than half a billion public transit rides annually
- new support for the arts to support creativity and cultural development in Toronto
- \$184 million for Toronto Public Library, which sees 19.3 million visits a year.

2014-2023 Capital Budget and Plan

The proposed 2014-2023 Capital Budget and Plan maximizes the use of the recently approved development charges in order to replace debt to help pay for the cost of infrastructure required to provide municipal services to new development such as roads, transit, water and sewer infrastructure, community centres and fire and police facilities.

Other highlights of the staff recommended 10 Year Capital Budget and Plan include:

- \$492 million over the next 10 years to address the state-of-good-repair backlog in Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Investment in new recreation facilities in priority centres, such as the Regent Park Community Centre and the York Community Centre
- \$28.6 million toward building the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Aquatic Centre in Scarborough
- \$535 million over the next 10 years to repair and maintain the Gardiner Expressway.
- \$6.3 billion over the next 10 years for the TTC to address ridership growth, as well as repair infrastructure and replace aging subway and streetcars
- Investment in new capital resources to address the state-of-good-repair for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) to improve housing for its 164,000 residents
- \$12.9 million for the Fort York Visitors Centre and \$6.9 million for the Toronto Centre for the Arts
- \$30 million for the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) to address critical erosion control and damage from the July 8, 2013 storm
- Completion of the construction of two new libraries that will open in 2014, and the continuing the revitalization of the Toronto Reference Library.

The launch of the 2014 Staff Recommended Operating Budget and 10 Year Capital Budget and Plan is the first step in the City's budget review process. Residents can follow the development of the budget as it is reviewed, debated and approved by the Budget Committee, Executive Committee and finally by City Council on January 29 and 30, 2014. To learn more about the City's Budget, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2014>.

3. Seven Oaks

Development Application at 85 Keeler Blvd – Brooks Road Public School Site

I was never happy with the public school board's decision to close this school and sell the property. With any developers contacting my office I have always been crystal clear, I will never support townhouses on the site. In the past six months I have told this to four different potential builders. An application has been received from a developer to build on the former Brooks Road Public School Site. Their proposal is a mixture of single-family homes, and semi-detached homes. A public consultation meeting will take place on Tuesday January 21, 2014, 7:00 pm at Pope John Paul II located at 685 Military Trail. I encourage all residents to attend.

Military Trail Pedestrian Sidewalk

I have requested City staff to begin work to explore the construction of a sidewalk along Military Trail from Highcastle Road to Ellesmere Road. There are many local residents using the roadway as a pedestrian connection, in particular students. I will be working with staff to determine how we can address this community need to ensure that residents have a safer walking access route to Ellesmere Road. If you would like to comment on this project please contact my office at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca or 416-392-4007.

Splash Pad for Seven Oaks Park

As reported in my Fall newsletter, a splash pad will be installed in Seven Oaks Park this summer. The work will commence in the Spring as soon as the weather allows. I have encouraged staff to have a targeted completion date for July so that the area children may enjoy the new feature to its fullest.

Brooks Road Park

Earlier this year I had a Friends of Brooks Road Park supported at the Parks and Environment Committee to encourage residents to take part in their community park to look for enhancements, plantings or other initiatives to make the park better. I will be meeting with all the Friends of Parks Groups in Ward 43 in early December to discuss the new fundraising tools available to raise funds for park enhancements. If you would like more information please contact my office.

Bonspiel Parkette

Residents can enjoy the new park sign in Bonspiel Parkette which was placed installed this November. The park is a lovely area with a playground structure and grassed area for any pick up sports game. Enjoy and respect your community parks.

Military Trail traffic Concerns

I have received inquires from residents regarding increased motor vehicle traffic on Military Trail as a result of Military Trail Public School as well as the adjacent Blessed Pope John Paul II high school. I have brought these concerns to Traffic Operations requesting that a review take place for the area to enhance safety for both pedestrians and motor vehicles including sightlines for northbound traffic on Morningside Ave turning left bound on to Military Trail to determine if the sightlines are appropriate.

Date Received at City: October 3, 2013

Inquirer: Councillor Paul Ainslie, Ward 43 - Scarborough East

Location: Military Trail and Morningside Avenue

Issue: School Zone Safety Review

Investigation No: D13-5689781

The reference number is 2325160.

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4. Curran Hall Community

website: <http://www.curranhall.ca/>

Community Meeting

I will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday December 3, 2013 7:00 pm at Curran Hall C.C. Please attend and bring any issues you would like to discuss. These forums are opportunities for us to meet in a casual manner to discuss local and city wide issues important to you. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Outdoor Skating at Morningside Park and Botany Hill Park

Outdoor skating will be available again this year for residents at both Morningside Park and Botany Hill Park. This amenity is a great positive for the community residents will be able to use the rinks safely and at their convenience. The Botany Hill Park rinks are supported by the City's Parks and Forestry Division and maintained by the Community Association Members. The Morningside Park rink is also supported by the City's Parks and Forestry Division and Centennial College with students maintaining the rink. Morningside Park is also a great area for cross country skiing. Enjoy.

Curran Hall Events

Your local Community Association is planning events for you to participate in at Curran Hall Community Centre: 277 Orton Park Blvd. Support your community by attending:

December 7 10:00 am – Annual Craft, Bake Sale & Tea – join the fun

December 7 9:00 am – Help build the Community Ice Rink at the Centre

December 8 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Annual Children's Christmas Party – you will need to pre-register your child.

January 20 : Audio-Visual presentation about birds please visit the Association website for times and information at www.curranhall.ca

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5. Coronation and West Hill Community

Website: <http://www.coronationca.com/>

Community Town Hall Meeting

I hosted a community Town Hall at Eastview P.S. on November 5. Toronto Police attended to speak to residents who were concerned with community safety.

City Transportation Investigations

The Transportation Division has received and are addressing the following request for investigation. If you have any questions on the status of the investigations please contact my office with the information provided for the location.

Date Received at City: November 15, 2013

Inquirer: Councillor Paul Ainslie, Ward 43 - Scarborough East

Location: Poplar Road and Kingston Road

Issue: Pedestrian Issues/Timing/Delays

Investigation No: D13-5759030

Bus Shelters in the Community

The Community has received a number of new bus shelters this year with additional sites being surveyed for additional installations.

1. Kingston Road and Payzac - being surveyed
2. Kingston Road and Galloway - New Shelter installed July 13, 2013
3. Kingston Road and East of Galloway - New Shelter installed July 13, 2013
4. Kingston Road and Overture - New shelter installed July 17, 2013
5. Kingston Road and Celeste - New Shelter installed July 18, 2013

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6. Cedar Ridge Community & Cornell Community

Cedar Ridge Trail

A meeting took place on October 22, 2013 to discuss the 1.4 km of trail through Cedar Ridge Park. The trail provides a great opportunity for residents to enjoy Toronto Parks in a natural setting. The meeting focused on improvements

Trail needs improvement to:

- Improve safety
- Upgrade the sustainability of the trail
- Protect the natural environment
- Create an opportunity for interpretation and education
- Overall enhancement of the user experience

This is part of an ongoing trail management <http://www.toronto.ca/parks/engagement/trails/>, in partnership with the TRCA. Six trail counters have been installed adjacent to (and in) the trails in Cedar Ridge Park and Lower Highland Creek Park to determine user volumes along the trail between Cedar Ridge Creative Centre and the paved path in Lower Highland Creek Park (commonly referred to as Morningside Park).

The counters use small, infrared scopes mounted on trees, or wooden mounts that are pointed towards the trail. We are also using counters that are directly embedded in the trail. The counters detect and count the infrared signature associated with warm, moving objects. The counters do not take photographs or record video, they only record the number of trips taken on the trail.

The Cedar Ridge Trail Concept Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013 and followed by a Detailed Design/Build process in 2014.

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7 Guildwood Village

Guildwood Village Community Association website: www.guildwood.on.ca

The Guild Renaissance Group (GRG): <http://guildrenaissancegroup.com/>

Friends of Elizabeth Simcoe Park- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsof.ElizabethSimcoePark/>

Friends of Guild Park & Gardens- <http://www.guildpark.ca/>

Guildwood Parkway: Deer Crossing Warning Signs_ from Chancery to Navarre

Further to a request from a citizen, Deer Crossing warning signs will be installed along Guildwood as it has been determined the travel patterns of the deer warrants the posting of signs. Research of the collision data from the Toronto Police Services collision data did not reveal any recent animal collisions along Guildwood Parkway between Chancery Lane and Navarre Crescent.

Emerald Ash Boer in the Community

A meeting will take place in the early 2014 to review the plans to remove ash trees from Guildwood Park & South Marine Park in the Guild community during the winter months. Details of the meeting time and location will be posted and a flyer sent to households when the details are confirmed.

Emerald Ash Borer has had a devastating effect in Toronto and particularly in the Guild community. Many ash trees have died in the past year and tree removals are ongoing on streets and in parks. South Marine Park was identified as a priority site for the creation of a management plan in 2012 to remove potential hazard trees, plan for tree planting to replace the dead ash and to manage invasive plant species that will spread when the ash canopy is gone.

The forest management plan for South Marine Park has been completed with the help of a Registered Professional Forestry Consultant. The plan recommends strategies for tree removal that minimize site disturbance. Some of the wood from tree removal operations will be salvaged for lumber and fuel wood where possible.

A second contract has recently been awarded to initiate tree marking and to oversight of tree removal operations during the 2014 winter period. A certified tree marker will use blue paint to mark trees for removal in the next few weeks.

Prior to the initiation of tree removal, a public meeting will be scheduled for early 2014 to review plans and park/trail closures that may be required during removal operations. Please call 311 for any inquiries about these plans.

Additional information may be found on the City of Toronto web site at www.toronto.ca/trees

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8. Mornelle Court Resident's Action Coalition & Tenants Associations in Ward 43

Mornelle Court Residents Action Coalition...Working together to make a change... Be the Change you want to See...

www.mornellecourt.webs.com

Mornellecourtcoalition@yahoo.ca

[mornellecourt@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/mornellecourt)

Walk to school Program and After School Homework Club

The two programs are being very well attended and do have room for new participants. Volunteers are always needed especially for the walk to school program. Volunteer for your neighbours by helping them ensure their children arrive at school safely. To volunteer please email Mornellecourtcoalition@yahoo.ca.

Close the Housing Gap campaign rallies on Parliament Hill

The Close the Housing Gap campaign rallied on Parliament Hill today, with supporters calling on the federal government to put people first by contributing its fair share of the funding for social housing capital repairs.

More than 100 social housing tenants, stakeholders and politicians from Toronto and Ottawa rallied on Parliament Hill, urging Ottawa to "close the housing gap" across Ontario. They also called on the federal government to make new, long-term funding available for social and affordable housing.

Toronto City Council last week adopted an unprecedented 10-year financing plan for Toronto Community Housing. The plan will provide \$864 million (or one-third) toward the \$2.6 billion in new capital repairs Toronto Community Housing faces over the next decade. At the same time, Council called on the federal and provincial governments to each contribute their fair share of \$864 million.

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9. Council Highlights

Council Highlights

Toronto City Council meeting of November 13, 14, 15 and 18, and special meetings of November 15 and 18, 2013

Council Highlights is an informal summary of decisions made by Toronto City Council. The City Clerk provides the formal documentation at <http://www.toronto.ca/council>.

Investing in Toronto Community Housing

Council adopted reports on steps to transform Toronto Community Housing (TCH) into a landlord of excellence. The City will provide \$864 million in capital funding for TCH repairs over the next 10 years, and is asking the federal and provincial governments to contribute \$864 million each toward TCH repair costs over that period. Council also endorsed a Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution urging the federal government to take measures to address Canada's affordable housing crunch.

Preparedness for emergency response

As a followup to the July 8 storm and flooding in Toronto, Council approved several actions involving the City's preparedness for emergency response. The actions include improved co-ordination among 311 Toronto, Toronto Hydro, Hydro One and Toronto Water that would assist 311 Toronto in responding to residents' questions during major emergencies. Council also asked for a review of the City's rescue capabilities.

Protection from second-hand smoke

Council approved restrictions on smoking at sports fields, beaches, public squares and within nine metres of the entrances of public buildings in Toronto. About 60 Ontario municipalities have enacted bylaws that make outdoor areas such as workplace entrances, restaurant patios and public squares smoke-free.

Casa Loma

Council voted to enter into a 20-year agreement with a company controlled by Liberty Entertainment Group for the improvement and operation of the main house and grounds of Casa Loma. Council directed that the net proceeds from the lease go into a fund for the restoration and state of good repair of the Casa Loma complex.

Continuing Toronto's bike-share program

Council authorized the termination of the current agreement between BIXI Toronto Inc. and the City, and authorized the transfer of BIXI Toronto assets to the Toronto Parking Authority for the purpose of continuing the bike-share program. The parking authority will take responsibility for operating the bike-share program on behalf of the City. In addition, Council approved motions that address bike-sharing stations as part of the City's planning approval process and support the expansion of bicycle sharing across the city.

Study of a Bloor-Dupont bikeway

Council directed Transportation Services to undertake a Bloor Street-Dupont Street bikeway environmental assessment study in 2014. Combining the two corridors for the environmental assessment was recommended because changes to one of the two parallel streets will affect the other. A Dupont Street assessment was already scheduled to begin in 2014.

Pilot project for affordable housing in Bayside

Council gave its approval in principle for capital funding for the construction of an affordable rental pilot project consisting of about 70 affordable rental homes in a Bayside condominium development. Bayside is one of the first new neighbourhoods to be developed in the East Bayfront area. The secondary and precinct plans call for 20 per cent of the residential units to be affordable rental housing.

City services benefit card

Council authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the introduction of a drug benefit card as the next phase of the City Services Benefit Card that the Toronto Employment and Social Services division provides to its Ontario Works clients. A permanent, plastic drug benefit eligibility card will replace the paper card that is now issued monthly. Pharmacists will be able to check clients' eligibility online. Council also wants staff to look into other possible uses of the benefit card for City services, including services provided by Shelter, Support and Housing Administration and Toronto Public Health.

After-school recreation care

Council approved a 16-site expansion of the After-School Recreation and Care (ARC) program. The ARC model was established in 2005 to address the child care and recreational needs of children six to 12 years of age who live in vulnerable communities. Council's decision was informed by a report from Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Children's Services addressing options for a phased-in expansion of ARC beyond Toronto's designated priority neighbourhoods.

Funding of water/wastewater infrastructure

Council directed staff to study, consult and report on ways to generate additional revenue to pay for the City's infrastructure requirements for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Among the options are water rate increases, a separate stormwater charge on the water bill, and debenture financing for major projects.

Managing biosolids - Highland Creek plant

Council approved the preparation of a Schedule B Class Environmental Assessment examining alternatives for managing biosolids generated at the Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and provided direction on public consultation. Biosolids are a nutrient-rich organic product formed from stabilized municipal sludge in the wastewater treatment process.

Consolidation of parking meter bylaws

Council approved the consolidation of parking meter bylaws and codes of the seven former (pre-amalgamation) municipalities as part of the continuing process of consolidating Toronto's bylaws and municipal codes dealing with traffic and parking. Consolidation will streamline administration and enforcement, and help to clarify the regulations for the public.

Firefighter training and recruitment

Council directed Toronto Fire Services management to update and finalize a Fire Master Plan that addresses firefighter training and recruitment issues. The issues are identified in a recent audit of the division's administration of recruitment

and training. Among Council's specific directives, for example, is a review of the program for training recruits - with the goal of identifying operational efficiencies that can yield cost savings while supporting Fire Services' diversity goals.

Gaming site at Woodbine Racetrack

Council authorized City officials to enter into a municipal contribution agreement with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) for the City's receipt of a share of the gaming revenue generated at the OLG gaming site at Woodbine Racetrack. Council's approval of the new agreement was needed in order to preserve revenue sharing for the existing slots. It does not alter Council's position against the expansion of the Woodbine gaming site, nor does it affect the ban on live table games at Woodbine.

Support for agriculture in Toronto

Council approved a Toronto Agricultural Program consisting of a steering committee, a working group and a work plan in support of urban agriculture. In recent years, communities across Toronto have expressed interest in the production, sale and consumption of locally-grown food. A 2012 study showed that agricultural activity within Toronto could supply 10 per cent of the city's commercial demand for fresh vegetables.

Response to devastation in the Philippines

Council endorsed a motion to support the efforts of the federal and provincial governments in providing financial and other emergency and rebuilding support to the Philippines as it struggles to recover from Typhoon Haiyan on November 8. The motion adopted also calls on the City of Toronto to consider any formal request to provide technical assistance to the devastated city of Tacloban.

Arena board governance

Council adopted the recommendations of the City Ombudsman's report entitled Skating on Thin Ice: An Investigation into Governance at an Arena Board. Among the recommendations is a request that the City Manager examine governance models and service delivery mechanisms for arena boards and present the findings for Council's consideration.

Protecting the Great Lakes

Council supported a motion expressing opposition to an Ontario Power Generation (OPG) proposal to dispose of radioactive waste in a deep geologic repository in Lake Huron. OPG wants to dispose of lower and intermediate level nuclear waste from its Bruce, Pickering and Darlington facilities in limestone rock below Lake Huron. The location is about a kilometre offshore from Kincardine. Many communities in Ontario, Michigan and Ohio have passed resolutions opposing the plan because of concerns about possible future contamination of the Great Lakes water supply.

Recent events at the City

Council adopted a motion requesting that Mayor Ford respond and apologize with respect to matters specified in the motion, that he co-operate with Toronto police in their related investigation, and that he take a temporary leave of absence to address his personal issues. Council also voted to ask the City's Integrity Commissioner to report back to Council on these matters with regard to the Code of Conduct for Members of Council.

Special meetings of Council on November 15 and 18, 2013

Delegation of powers/responsibilities

Over the course of three special meetings held on November 15 and 18, Council made a number of decisions that affect the non-statutory powers of the Mayor and delegate some responsibilities to the Deputy Mayor. Council also re-assumed other non-statutory powers. Details are provided in a City of Toronto news release dated November 18, available at <http://wx.toronto.ca/inter/it/newsrel.nsf>.

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Building permit submissions by email

Beginning today, Toronto Building will accept email submissions for building permit applications. This new option for making a service request is part of the division's electronic service delivery program to enhance accessibility to Building services. A list of Toronto Building services available through the email channel, along with submission requirements, is available on the [Toronto Building web page](#).

Residential FASTRACK expanded

Residential FASTRACK is an enhanced Building Permit service for certain types of projects in existing houses containing one or two dwelling units. Eligible applications are typically reviewed within five business days. Toronto Building has made additions to the kinds of projects eligible for this service. [Details](#)

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10. Outdoor rinks open

The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) is opening 14 rinks , including at Nathan Phillips Square and the new, covered rink and skating path at Greenwood Park. Residents and visitors can lace up and enjoy one of Canada's great winter activities.

Toronto's skating programs offered by PFR include:

- hockey skills/power skate
- learn-to-skate for adults and children
- scheduled public skates and shinny, including adult, all-ages, caregiver and child, child, women, and more.

PFR's outdoor rinks provide a great opportunity for residents to lace up for a skate at their own pace, or they can join in a game of shinny. Check out <http://www.toronto.ca/parks/skating> for a list of locations, opening times and skate times.

Please be safe. All children under the age of six must wear a CSA-approved hockey helmet on the ice. Helmets are also mandatory for people of all ages participating in supervised shinny hockey and learn-to-skate programs.

The City's outdoor rinks are compressor cooled, which makes it possible for them to operate in a range of weather conditions. Weather and resources are the two main factors that decide when and how long the outdoor rinks can stay open.

Generally, PFR needs three consecutive days of temperatures that are below five degrees Celsius to make and maintain the ice. Without weather that's cold enough, the compressors can't keep the ice frozen throughout the day creating dangerous conditions such as exposed concrete.

Closures during the skating season are sometimes necessary due to unseasonably warm temperatures or following a heavy snowfall. The rinks are cared for by staff teams that circulate through the city every day. To check on ice availability after a major weather event, please call 311.

The 14 will stay open until after the March Break. The City's other outdoor rinks will open on November 30 and remain open until February 23. Albert Campbell Square's rink will open later than the others this year because of mechanical work there.

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11. Cedar Ridge Studio Gallery – Come discover

Program Registration for Fall 2013/Winter 2014

Cedar Ridge Creative Centre offers arts classes and workshops for the fall and winter session. Ten-week courses are offered in: Drawing & Painting, Watercolours, Weaving, Pottery, Sculpture, Sewing and more. Classes are available for children in fine arts, craft and pottery. For a full listing of programs, visit www.toronto.ca/culture/cedar_ridge.htm or call 416-396.4-26.

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12. Our Blue Bin Program – A Progress Report

25-year-old Blue Bin Program sets sights on new heights

Twenty-five years ago, Toronto residents were introduced to something that would change their relationship with garbage forever: the City's first curbside recycling container, the Blue Bin.

Between the fall of 1988 and the spring of 1989, the six former municipalities introduced curbside collection to increase recycling and reduce the amount of garbage being sent to landfill. Today, 96 per cent of Toronto's 455,000 single-family homes participate in the Blue Bin Program. With the addition of the Green Bin organics collection program and new materials being regularly added to the list of recyclables, many houses now put out less garbage than ever before.

The future success of the City's waste management programs now lies with the 55 per cent of residents who live in high-rise buildings. The Solid Waste Management Services Division has projected that the diversion rate for 2013 will be 67 per cent in single-family homes but only 27 per cent in apartments and condos, for an average combined rate of 53 per cent. Toronto's ultimate goal is 70 per cent waste diversion.

The City provides recycling service to approximately 4,500 multi-residential buildings. With more than 43,000 individual units under construction as of the end of 2012, more and more Toronto residents will be living in multi-residential dwellings.

To help improve participation in apartments and condos, Solid Waste Management has recently launched a new education campaign to communicate to residents about the importance of proper sorting, disposal and diversion. The campaign - displayed on the exterior of streetcars, buses, on subway posters, in newspapers and online - features the tag line "Get with the (recycling symbol) program." The campaign reminds residents that more than half of what should be recycled in apartments and condos is ending up in landfill.

More information about the City's waste reduction programs, and the campaign advertisements, are available at <http://www.toronto.ca/recycle>.

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13. Toronto paramedics and Toronto FC launch CPR awareness video

Nine lives have been saved in 2013 because of bystanders who were willing to help someone suffering a cardiac arrest with the support of the Toronto Emergency Medical Services Safe City public access automated external defibrillator (AED) program.

That is why Toronto FC players Gale Agbossoumonde, Quillan Roberts and Ryan Richter joined forces with paramedics Kai Pong Wong and Nicole Beaulieu to create a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) awareness video for CPR Awareness month.

The Toronto EMS Safe City program has been in operation since 1999, when the City of Toronto agreed that it should move toward becoming a Cardiac Safe City by placing automated external defibrillators in public places. The program has grown, with Toronto EMS now overseeing about 1,400 defibrillators in public places, including all TTC and Toronto Police Service stations, all City of Toronto community centres and several public schools.

More information about the Safe City program is available at <http://torontoemssafecity.com/>. The CPR video is available on Youtube via the Toronto EMS website at <http://www.youtube.com/user/TorontoEMSinfoCast>.

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14. Heritage Preservation Services – New Blog

City Planning's Heritage Preservation Services has launched a new blog to help Torontonians learn more about the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) studies and plans happening throughout the city. The blog is called **Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto** and can be found at <http://hcdtoronto.wordpress.com>.

On the blog readers can find detailed background information, study area boundary maps, read community consultation

presentations and use feedback forms on each HCD study/plan. The blog also has historic photo galleries and a page dedicated to answering frequently asked questions.

We believe the blog will add to our efficiency and transparency by providing all of the frequently requested material in one place.

More information is available in the City's Media Release here:

<http://wx.toronto.ca/inter/it/newsrel.nsf/7017df2f20edbe2885256619004e428e/e3d2032fb008feb985257c1300595131?OpenDocument>

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15. Crisis Response Program

The City of Toronto Community Crisis Response Program would like to formally invite you to Learn about Programs and Services Available to Those Impacted by Violent and Traumatic Incidents.

The workshops will be taking place on December 12 and 13, 2013 at the North York Civic Centre

Workshops will include:

- Victim Services Toronto
- The Community Crisis Response Program
- FOCUS Rexdale
- Witness Assistance Relocation Program
- Victim Witness Assistance Program
- Gang Members Behind Bars
- Toronto Police - Victim Witness Liaison Officers
- Criminal Injury Compensation Board
- Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims
- Victim Quick Response Program
- Vulnerable Victims and Family Fund
- City of Toronto, Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) funded funeral Programs and Services for High-Risk Young People.

No registration fee required - Space is limited – Bring Your Own Lunch

Submit your registration form to ccrp@toronto.ca by **December 6, 2013** or Submit by fax to 416-392-4976 | for more information email ccrp@toronto.ca

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16. Students, Get ready for Summer Work Opportunities

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUMMER COMPANY

What is Summer Company?

- *Summer Company* is a program funded by the Government of Ontario that gives students the opportunity to set up, own, and operate their own summer business. You have the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship; to learn great employment skills and the potential to earn and learn more than you would be working at any other summer job. With Summer Company, you create your own job!

You are eligible to apply to *Summer Company* if you are:

- Between 15 and 29 years of age as of April 30, 2014

- Currently a student and returning to school in the fall
- Proposing to create a new business that you will operate independently from family and relatives
- Prepared to work at least 35 hours per week for a minimum of eight weeks
- Not working for more than 12 hours per week at another job
- A Canadian citizen or landed immigrant residing in Ontario
- A new applicant – you can't be a previous recipient of a *Summer Company* award

The Selection Process

- Applying to Summer Company is a competitive process. Applications will be considered on a first-come basis only until Friday, May 23rd, 2014 or earlier if the program fills up

What happens if I am approved?

- Successful applicants receive up to \$1,500 to help with start-up costs and up to an additional \$1500 in the fall after successfully completing the program. These monies are NOT a loan – they are a grant
- You will receive hands-on training and support from business leaders in your community throughout the summer
- You will learn to make important decisions on your own, you will grow and you will have fun
- You will make your family, your friends, your community – and most importantly, YOURSELF very proud

Where Do I Get More Information?

- www.ontario.ca/summercompany provides extensive information as well as the required on-line application
- Call or email Mohammed Bozai at the YMCA Scarborough Employment and Newcomer Centre (416) 609-0218* 220 or email Mohammed.bozai@ymcagta.org

Where Do I Get Help?

- Starting and operating a business is serious business and we are here to help you through it. We will help you get started with your on-line application, writing your Business Plan and preparing your budget. We will introduce you to successful business people in your community who will give you advice, support, and mentorship as your business moves along. Running your own business and making your own decisions and being your own boss may be the most rewarding thing you ever do. We want to help you make that dream come true.

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17. Rouge Valley Health Systems(RVHS) and The Scarborough Hospital (TSH)

Doctors support merger of Rouge Valley Health System and The Scarborough Hospital

Joint News Release of the Chiefs of Staff and Medical Advisory Committees of RVHS and TSH and the Presidents of the RVHS Medical Staff Society and the TSH Medical Staff Association

(November 25, 2013) – The physicians' organizations representing doctors at Rouge Valley Health System and The Scarborough Hospital fully support a merger of the two hospital corporations.

The Medical Advisory Committees and the Leaders of the physician staff associations at both hospital corporations fully endorse the motions approved by the two hospital Boards of Directors at their meetings on November 12.

Dr. Naresh Mohan, Chief of Medical Staff at RVHS, said, "We know that a merged corporation of the four hospital sites that comprise Rouge Valley Health System and The Scarborough Hospital will attract more specialists, provide more services in the long run and provide more access to those services in the Scarborough and west Durham communities."

Dr. Tom Chan, Chief of Medical Staff at TSH, said, "The time is now to plan and act together for a better health care system for the communities served by our hospitals. A merger of The Scarborough Hospital and Rouge Valley Health System will make the best use of scarce medical resources, providing a seamless, high quality spectrum of health care to meet the needs of our residents both now and into the future."

The leaders of the medical staff associations, Dr. Henry Huang at RVHS and Dr. Robert Ting at TSH, who represent the physicians at their respective hospitals, also announced their support of the merger recommendations made by the hospital Boards. (The Medical Staff Society at RVHS and the Medical Staff Association at TSH represent their physician members and are entirely independent of the two hospital corporations.)

Dr. Ting said, "This merger is also a tremendous opportunity for us to address our aging facilities as one, unified organization. As it stands, it will cost about \$1 billion over the next two decades just to maintain our facilities at a satisfactory level; and, we will need an additional \$500 million to address other capital project upgrades, such as the 1957 operating rooms at the General site. In west Durham, the Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering site only has the capacity to look after thirty percent of their population, and the Birchmount site ranks in the lowest 10th percentile in the province in terms of hospital facility condition. Both Scarborough and west Durham clearly need facility investments from the province comparable to other communities. The merger proposal submitted to the Central East LHIN highlights the benefits of facility renewal for our patients, communities and taxpayers."

Dr. Huang agreed saying, "Physicians can speak with one voice on this question: Are we better as one hospital corporation? Yes, we are. The benefits are long-term, but we must plan and act on our future today. In only a few years, a merged hospital corporation will make patient transition from one department, and one hospital site, to another rather easy – eliminating the obstacles that our separate corporations have. One health record could exist within one system, offering a full set of hospital services at four sites with four emergency departments."

The four physician leaders agree that a merged hospital corporation will provide better services and allow for a sustainable high-quality hospital system for Scarborough and west Durham.

The hospital Board motions recommending a merger now go to the Central East Local Health Integration Network Board of Directors for consideration at their November 27th meeting.

Any recommendation to proceed with a merger must be approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

For more information, contact:

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chiefofstaff@tsh.to <<mailto:chiefofstaff@tsh.to>>

Dr. Tom Chan
Medical Chief of Staff
The Scarborough Hospital
416-438, 2911, ext. 8101

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18. Quote of the Month

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." -- John F. Kennedy

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19. Websites for Community Use

enterprisetoronto@toronto.ca
Enterprise Toronto

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/recordsmanagement/crimereporting.php> -Citizens Online Crime Reporting

<http://www.toronto.ca/golf> -Toronto's golf courses

<http://www.torontohydro.com/peaksaver> - **peaksaver PLUS**

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/thebadge/> **Toronto Police newsletter "The Badge"**

<http://www.scarboroughsoftballassociation.com> - Scarborough Softball – Scarborough Dragons

<http://www.thestorefront.org/contact.php> - East Scarborough Storefront

www.facebook.com/TheTorontoZoo - Toronto Zoo's first official Facebook page

www.toronto.ca/eventcalendar - City of Toronto Events Calendar

www.toronto.ca/wbey/subscribe.htm. - We've been expecting you

<http://onthedon.createsend2.com/t/r/l/tlwukt/bhdtdkrth/e/> - TRCA – The Don

<http://www.toronto.ca/seniors/index.htm> -City of Toronto Seniors

http://www.seniors.gov.on.ca/en/seniorsguide/emergency_4.php -Province of Ontario Seniors

<http://www.dementiatoronto.org/0303.asp> - Toronto Dementia Network

http://aging.utoronto.ca/sites/aging.utoronto.ca/files/Section6_Eng%5B1%5D.pdf - Service Directory for Seniors

www.toronto.ca/transportation/snow - City of Toronto Winter Operations - Snow

www.toronto.ca - City of Toronto

www.toronto.ca/city-update - What is happening in our City

<http://wx.toronto.ca/festevents.nsf/> - City of Toronto Festival Page

www.seetorontonow.com/ - Tourism Toronto – Official website

www.222tips.com - Crime Stoppers

www.ourkgocommunity.com - Kingston Galloway Community Network

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca - Toronto Public Library

www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca - Toronto Botanical Gardens

www.toronto4kids.com - Great ideas for what the kids can do in Toronto

www.ago.net/gallery-school - Ontario Art Gallery

www.starfall.com - Star fall – great to get the little ones reading

www.coronationca.com - Coronation & West Hill Community Association

www.curranhall.ca/ - Curran Hall Community Association

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

www.mornellecourt.webs.com - Mornelle Court Coalition

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20. E-News Policy and Contact Information

eNews is a monthly news communication from Paul Ainslie. 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 your comments on any municipal matter and the opportunity to be of service. Please contact me by email at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca, phone me at [416 396 7222](tel:4163967222), or send a fax to [416 392 4006](tel:4163924006). Alternately you can visit my Constituency Assistant on the second floor of the Scarborough Civic Centre located at 150 Borough Drive (Ellesmere & McCowan)

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