

April 2015

Volume 15 Issue 58

Ainslie

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Dear Friends,

Spring is bringing many enhancements to Ward 43. There will be a new splash pad, street furniture, road resurfacing and constructions projects. I hope you take the time to enjoy them as I strive to have our tax dollars spent in your community for their best value.

The largest project will be the redevelopment of the Guild Inn. With the lease agreement/operations agreement now signed, plans for the banquet hall/restaurant are becoming a reality. You may read the details in [Section 7](#) of this report along with the links to the Guild Inn redevelopment and the Guild Inn and Gardens Master Plan.

City Council has been active with many reports coming forward, I have put forward a number of items that affect Ward 43 and the City as a whole. A recent list may be found in [Section 2](#) of this report.

Driveway widths in Scarborough are effecting a number of residents across Scarborough, the zoning bylaw is not serving our residents well. Residents are finding themselves in a situation when they try to repave their current driveway, to be told by the City that their current driveway has been illegally widened. In most cases the residence have a one car garage door opening on a large lot and are surprised when asked to reduce their driveway to the size of the garage door; not taking into consideration the size of their private lot. Other jurisdictions in the City have measures to protect their residents. I am trying to have the same courtesy extended to Scarborough Residents. To have your opinion heard on this matter send in your comments to the Planning and Growth Committee pgmc@toronto.ca and copy my office as well – I need your voice to push this matter forward. View the item: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PG1.6>

Sincerely,
Paul

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1. Calendar

Community Events and Meetings

Clean up Events – It's Spring

8th Annual Kingston Galloway Road Orton Park Clean Up Day

Saturday April 18, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Giffen-Mack 4115 Lawrence Ave. East/ [Link to Flyer](#)
Free BBQ

Community Barbeques, Councillor Ainslie Hosts

Grey Abbey Park Ribbon Cutting and BBQ

Thursday May 22, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m.
180 Greyabbey Trail

7 Oaks Community Park BBQ

Thursday June 18 @ 5:30 p.m.
372 Military Trail

Guild Alive with Culture Arts Festival

Saturday July 25 @ 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday July 26 @ 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

201 Guildwood Pkwy

Our Art festival draws over 3000 visitors to the community and has become well known in the art community as the show to be at.

Cornell Park BBQ

Thursday August 27, 2015 @ 5:30 p.m.

61 Holmfirth Terrace

Mornelle Park BBQ

Saturday August 29, 2015 @ 12 noon

110 Mornelle Court

Environment Day, Councillor Ainslie Hosts

Saturday, Sept 12, 2015 at Morningside Work Yard 875 Morningside Ave

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2. City Hall – Moving the City Forward into the 21st Century

2015.PW2.9 - Portia Street Storm Sewer Connection

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee referred the item to the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B for consideration and report back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PW2.9>

2015.SC3.5 - Appointment of a Member of Council to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Don Watershed Regeneration Council.

City Council appoint Councillor Paul Ainslie to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Don Watershed Regeneration Council for a term until December 31, 2016, and until a successor is appointed.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.SC3.5>

2015.ST2.1 - Appointment to fill a Council Member Vacancy on the Toronto Hydro Corporation Board of Directors

City Council appoint Councillor Paul Ainslie to the Toronto Hydro Corporation Board of Directors for a term of office until December 31, 2016 and until a successor is appointed.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.ST2.1>

2015.PG1.6 - Driveway Widening Policies for Large Lots in Scarborough

The Planning and Growth Management Committee referred the item to the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning with the request to prepare an information report no later than the April 13, 2015 meeting of the Planning and Growth Committee on the matters raised in item 2015.PG1.6 - Driveway Widening Policies for Lots in Scarborough. The report should include a description of how the existing provisions differ.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PG1.6>

2015.HL2.5 - Public Pools: Scarborough By-law 23204

The Board of Health referred the item to the Medical Officer of Health with the request to report back to the Board of Health.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.HL2.5>

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3. Seven Oaks Community

Trees to be planted in Seven Oaks Community

Urban Forestry will be planting trees in several parks within Ward 43 this year to increase the urban forest canopy. Increasing the diversity of tree species in the City of Toronto will help compensate for tree loss due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

View proposed planting plans: [Link to pdf](#)

Bus shelters on Neilson

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the bus shelter upgrades on Nielson Road. Currently four temporary shelters have been installed at the stops along Neilson Road. New permanent shelters will be installed with the upcoming construction season when the weather allows for the concrete pads to be poured.

All the shelters will be the new City of Toronto approved design being installed across the City. If you should require additional information please contact my constituency office directly at 416-396-7222.

Traffic regulations and No Parking Signs installed

The new traffic and parking regulations were passed last term and have now been installed in our community. These changes address many issues residents were facing with an increase in traffic and parking specifically on Bonspiel near the super mail boxes. Report any illegally parked cars at 416-808-4300 – Parking authority has been advised and are patrolling the community for illegally parked cars.

SC33.14 Turning Regulations - Tams Road at Morningside Avenue.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.SC33.14>

NO RIGHT TURN (7am - 9am, Mon - Fri) Southbound Morningside Ave at Tams Rd
NO STRAIGHT THROUGH (7am - 9am, Mon – Fri) From private road to Tams Rd

NO LEFT TURN (7am - 9am, Mon - Fri) Northbound Morningside Ave at Tams Rd

85 Keeler Road Development

This development application was heard and approved at Scarborough Community Council this past January. A notice was distributed to the area residents to ensure they were provided an opportunity to speak at the meeting or submit comments. If you have any questions on this application please contact my office at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca and 416-396-7222. 2015.SC4.21 - 85 Keeler Boulevard - Zoning Amendment and Subdivision Applications - Final Report
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.SC4.21>

Pedestrian Timing / Vehicle Delays: Morningside Avenue at Tams Road / Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre Driveway LINK

Transportation Services has completed a request and will be making adjustments to pedestrian timings. Traffic Operations staff are requesting an additional one second of east/west Flashing Don't Walk (FDW) time and three seconds of additional north/south FDW time be installed.

These changes are required as a result of the recent intersection improvements related to the Pan Am Centre which slightly increased the pedestrian crossing distances at the intersection.

Pedestrian Crossing Protection: Military Trail between Bonspiel Drive and Cindy Nicholas Drive

Transportation Services has completed a review as per my request and have concluded that the installation of a pedestrian crossover (PXO) is not justified at Military Trail between Bonspiel Drive and Cindy Nicholas Drive at this time. I had made the request to address residents concerns about students crossing at this location.

Staff concluded the current pedestrian crosswalk 169 metres west of Morningside Avenue serves both Military Trail Public School and Blessed Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, located on the south side of Military Trail.

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4. Curran Hall Community

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

Heather Heights Park

Last fall residents brought to my attention a need for a path through Heather Heights Park to Orton Park in order to safely gain access to public transportation. I have met with staff and have had the project added to the budget to accommodate the building of a path as well as the enhancing the park with playground equipment for the community children. A community meeting will take place at Heather Heights Park on Thursday May 28, 2015, 7:00 p.m., where City Staff will be available to address your questions and update the community on this project.

Botany Hill Park

The dog park located in Botany Hill Park is well used. It is imperative that all use the park within the parameters of the dog park policy. All must adhere to the rules to ensure that all are safe and enjoy the space. While in the park, no person shall: (1) Indulge in riotous, boisterous, violent, threatening, or illegal conduct or use profane or abusive language; (2) Cast, throw or in any way propel any object in a manner that may or does endanger or cause injury or damage to a person or property; (3) Create a nuisance by loitering, spying, accosting, frightening, annoying or otherwise disturbing other persons;. The dog park is for all to enjoy please respect your neighbours.

Female Swimming Available

Cedarbrae C.I. Pool will be offering a new female-only leisure swim on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. from March 30 to May 25, 2015. When participating in gender specific swims, only people of the same gender are permitted to access the pool deck, spectator gallery or viewing areas. Female Leisure Swims are for females of all ages. Children must have a caregiver in the water at all times.

CURRAN HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

PLEASE VIEW THE FOLLOWING LINK TO DISCOVER WHAT CURRAN HALL HAS TO OFFER YOU DURING THE FOLLOWING MONTHS.

[LINK](#)

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5. Coronation and West Hill Community

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

Lawrence Avenue East Major Road Resurfacing (East of Highland Creek Bridge to Kingston Road) **Start Date: April 13, 2015 Expected Completion Date: July 19, 2015** [Link to Notice](#)

The work to complete the resurfacing of the pavement, replacing deteriorated curb and gutter and sidewalks on Lawrence Avenue from east of Highland Creek Bridge to west of Kingston Road intersection will continue this Spring.

TTC bus services will not be interrupted on Lawrence Avenue; however delays shall be expected and will continue for the duration of the project. Construction will require temporary closure of private driveways. Where the property has two entrances, one entrance will be kept open at all times. Further notice will be given prior to the temporary closure.

Work Hours

Work will typically take place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday, with work after hours and on

General Contractor: Company/Contractor: Furfari Paving Ltd.
Contact Person: Joey Furfari Phone: 416-717-7809 Contract No.: 14SC-10RD

For more information: Project website www.toronto.ca/constructioninfo
Contact: Shams Khan, Senior Engineer skhan5@toronto.ca 416-396-7152
24 Hours: General Inquiries 311
TTY 416-338-0889

Galloway Park – 90 Galloway Road and Woodlot - Replanting plan – [Galloway Park](#)

City staff have advised that there are a significant number of dead ash trees in the woodlot portion of Galloway Park (90 Galloway Road). Staff will remove the trees once the ground is frozen with the site being replanted in 2105 to mitigate the removals and enhance the woodlot.

In addition to the wooded area adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club at Galloway Park identified above, there is a City-owned woodlot south of the rail-line where dead ash trees will be removed and re-planted as well. The removals are only for completely dead ash trees at these sites. City staff hand-delivered a notification letter and EAB brochure to 23 residences in close proximity to the woodlot and spoke with a number of the residents directly. The residents understood the matter and were wholly positive to the proposed work and re-planting plans.

Toronto Hydro

Underground Construction Project 185 Galloway (E14236 / E14237)

Toronto Hydro has received approval to rebuild the aging underground electrical system at 185 Galloway townhouse community. The rebuild includes the replacement of the existing electrical cables and transformers in the complex.

The civil portion of this project is expected to be completed by **late May 2015**; the electrical rebuild is tentatively scheduled for **late 2016**. During the electrical phase, planned power interruptions may be necessary to switch from the old to the new electrical system. Toronto Hydro will provide you with advance notice prior to any planned outages.

Toronto Hydro crews and contractors will take extra care and precautions around your property. Please note that Toronto Hydro may require access to areas around your townhouse unit to install an underground duct from the property line to the meter base location at your home. The portion of the driveway, sidewalk and other areas affected by our work will be restored upon completion of the project as season, weather and schedules permit.

Please exercise caution around construction areas. For further information on **Project 185 Galloway** and the PowerUp initiative, please reference the contact information below.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Toronto Hydro PowerUp office at 416-542-3366 or capitalprojects@torontohydro.com.

Adams Drive – Lowering to a 40 km/h speed limit

Transportation Services has completed a review. Based upon our review, Adams Drive meets the criteria for a reduction in speed limit from 50 km/h to a posted 40 km/h speed limit.

The conclusions are based on a 40 km/h Speed Limit Warrant study which involved a review of the Pedestrian Environment category and the Road and Traffic Environment category. The results of the study indicate that the technical warrants for the installation of a 40 km/h speed limit are met along Adams Drive. Specifically, the Pedestrian Environment category was met based on the road pavement width, the absence of sidewalks along Adams Drive and also the proximity of a paved walkway, which is used to access Galloway Road Public School.

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6. Cedar Ridge Community & Cornell Community

Cedar Ridge Creative Centre
225 Confederation Drive
(two streets south of Lawrence Ave. E, off of Scarborough Golf Club Rd.)
To register or for information: 416-396-4026 or crcc@toronto.ca

Susan Street & Lawrence Ave East Pedestrian Crossing Inquiry

Transportation Services has completed a review in response to a citizen's enquiry for a new pedestrian crossover at Susan Street and Lawrence Avenue East. District on Pedestrian Refuge Island Review at Lawrence Avenue East and Susan Street

A review of the Toronto Police Service collision records for the previous three-year, five-month period from January 1, 2011 to date (approximately May 1, 2014), indicates there have been no reported collisions involving pedestrians at the subject intersection

Ash Tree Removals Due to EAB in Cedar Ridge Park [Map Link](#)

Urban Forestry will be removing 79 ash trees located in Cedar Ridge Park. All 79 trees are dead or in an advanced state of decline due to Emerald Ash Borer and are potentially hazardous.

Numerous trees marked for removal are located adjacent to private residences backing onto the park from Confederation Drive and Karen Ann Crescent. A notice was hand-delivered to affected residences to notify them of the upcoming tree work. Additionally, there are trees marked for removal in the wooded area along the trail leading down to and along West Highland Creek.

Removals will begin on April 1, 2015, and will continue until complete. Signs informing the community of the removals have also been erected. Information on why the work is being done, the expected start and end dates and contact information is included on the signage. For more information, please contact Kristjan Vitols, Supervisor, Urban Forest Renewal at kvitols@toronto.ca or 416-338-5910.

Request to Install an All-Way Stop Control at Holmfirth Terrace at Vanwart Drive

Transportation Services has completed a review. It was concluded the existing traffic controls at the subject intersection are currently providing a safe environment for both pedestrians and motorists. As such, transportation services is unable to recommend the installation of an All-Way Stop Control at Holmfirth Terrace at Vanwart Drive, at this time.

The conclusions were based on an All-Way Stop Control Warrant study conducted on Thursday, October 23, 2014, using that day's traffic volumes recorded during the morning and afternoon peak hour, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The results of our studies indicate that the technical warrants for the installation of an all-way stop control have not been satisfied.

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7. Guildwood Village

Guild Inn Update: Links: [Guild Inn Re-Development](#) - [Parks Master Plan](#)

The Guild Inn redevelopment is further along with a lease agreement/operations agreement now signed. Plans for the banquet hall/restaurant (former Guild Inn) are becoming a reality. Over the last 10 years our community has held a great number of community meetings and consultations on what you would like to see at the property, it is good to see all our efforts will now be realized with the revitalization of the main building along with the work which will occur with the Cultural Precinct and Master Park Plan. All of the City divisions including the TRCA and community groups are working together to ensure the entire Guild Park and Gardens will incorporate the community's vision.

The Park will remain open to the public during the demolition/construction. The following months will bring activity to the grounds with the first step being the demolition of the wings currently attached to the original Bickford building along with maintenance buildings to begin this April 2015, with the completion of the site plan agreement. The internal remediation and internal reclamation work has been completed by the City. The site plan agreement is a process followed by all projects across the City. During the time that construction will be occurring, the site will have hoarding to protect the public and indicate the limits of work on the construction site.

Safe access routes for the public to utilize the Guild Park and Gardens will be readily marked giving the public access to continue enjoying the park. Once the access routes are finalized signage will be posted. Events will also continue at the park.

Dynamic Hospitality & Entertainment Group was awarded a contract in mid-2013 for the design, build, finance and operation of a new restaurant/banquet hall/complementary facilities for the Guild Inn. The interior of the Guild Inn will be adaptively reused to accommodate the restaurant and some banquet hall related areas such as an interpretive display area to showcase the history of the Guild with the exterior being restored to its 1932 appearance. The banquet hall is to be added on the west side of the building; the gazebo/ceremonial space to be located on the east side of the building.

City Planning staff, in consultation with various City Division and agencies (both internal and external) will ensure the development is compatible with the surrounding. Features such as building design, site access and servicing, waste storage, parking, walkways, loading and landscaping will be finalized in a manner that will ultimately enhance the environment and historical features of the property.

Trees to be planted in Guildwood Community

Urban Forestry will be planting trees in several parks within Ward 43 this year to increase the urban forest canopy. Increasing the diversity of tree species in the City of Toronto will help compensate for tree loss due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

View proposed planting plans: [Poplar Road Park](#) - [Guildwood Village Park](#)

45 Livingston Road Swimming Pool

Residents at 45 Livingston Road brought to my attention an issue they were experiencing that affected all of Scarborough.

Scarborough in 1991 introduced a by-law for swimming pools in rental high rises, providing for stricter rules than those being administered throughout the Province. After careful examination I requested that the Board of Health Committee repeal the Scarborough By-law 23204 asking that Scarborough follow the same rules administered across the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario: Ontario Regulation 565/90(Public Pools) giving residential rental building a choice to either have a lifeguard on duty when a swimming pool is open or post notices stating that the pool is unsupervised and it to be used at one's own risk.

The current bylaw makes it mandatory for only rental residential buildings in Scarborough with any residents under the age of 16 have a lifeguard on duty during pool hours. This has caused pool closures or decreased hours as the cost is not manageable. The matter is being heard at the Board of Health at their April meeting.

Guildwood Pkwy Rowatson Traffic Study - [link to study](#)

Transportation staff have completed a review and conclude that the installation of traffic control signals or a pedestrian crossover is not justified at the subject intersection at this time.

The conclusions are based on a Traffic Control Signal Warrant study and a Pedestrian Crossover Warrant study using traffic volumes recorded over the peak eight hours of a typical weekday. The results of our studies indicate that the technical warrants for the installation of traffic control signals or a pedestrian crossover are not met. In addition, it is not feasible to install a pedestrian crossover near the intersection of Guildwood Parkway at Rowatson Road because of the road design of Guildwood Parkway. Guildwood Parkway is a four lane minor arterial road with a grass centre median separating two eastbound lanes from two westbound lanes.

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8. High Rise Community

Councillor Ainslie Mobile Office Schedule

March 13th, 2015 3-4p.m. 4110 L.A.E.
April 17th, 2015 3-4 p.m. 4175 L.A.E.
May 22nd, 2015 3-4 p.m. 110 Mornelle Court
June 05th, 2015 3-4 p.m. 90 Mornelle Court
July 10th, 2015 3-4p.m. 4301 Kingston Road
August 14th, 2015 3-4 p.m. 4100 L.A.E.

Capital Projects Update for Ward 43 (Scarborough East)

Development/Address Project Description Status

Lawrence/Orton (3939 Lawrence Avenue East) Replace underground garage COMPLETED
Lawrence/Galloway (4100 and 4110 Lawrence East) Basketball court upgrades COMPLETED

2014 Participatory Budget

Development/Address Project Description Status

Mornelle/Morningside (90 Mornelle Court) Exercise equipment to be ordered January 2015

2014 State of Good Repair

Development/Address Project Description Status

Kingston/Galloway (4301-4331 Kingston Road) State of Good Repair Program Construction scheduled from November 2014 to February 2015; participation rate is now 309 out of 489 units; participation rate higher than anticipated. The estimated interior budget has increased to \$1.3M

2014 Planned Capital Projects

Development/Address Project Description Status

Lawrence/Orton (3939 Lawrence Avenue East) Brick repairs COMPLETED

Kingston/Galloway (4301-4331 Kingston Road) Water main replacement To be completed by year-end

Kingston/Galloway (4301-4331 Kingston Road) Parking garage upgrades COMPLETED

Cedarbrae Manor (65 Greencrest Circuit) Laundry room renovations Design completed, procurement to take place January/February 2015, with work to be completed by end of May 2015

Mornelle/Ellesmere (110 Mornelle Court) Hallway flooring replacement COMPLETED

Mornelle/Ellesmere (110 Mornelle Court) Window replacement Currently preparing bid documents.

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9. Council Highlights

February 10 - 11 Council meeting

SmartTrack work plan

Council approved funding to study the accelerated SmartTrack work plan outlined in a report that was prepared on the public transit proposal earlier this year. In addition, Council adopted a series of related recommendations addressing matters such as finances, design, number of stations, frequency of service, plans for electrification and public outreach. The SmartTrack plan for Toronto, which builds upon the provincial Regional Express Rail initiative, will require approval from both Toronto City Council and the Province of Ontario. The line is to operate on provincially owned GO Transit rail corridors.

Managing traffic disruptions

Council approved measures to mitigate traffic disruptions and other inconveniences posed by City-led construction projects. Working through the night seven days a week on expressway and major roadway projects is one such measure. Council authorized staff to seek assistance from the Ontario government in addressing difficulties/delays involving utility companies' roles in City construction projects. In addition, Council approved a recommendation to create a public awareness program to help inform residents how they can learn about the location and timing of construction, and about options to minimize how they are affected by the work.

Speeding on residential streets

Council supported a motion to explore the feasibility and a mechanism to double the fine for speeding on residential streets and in school zones, and around playgrounds and daycare centres. According to the motion, increased traffic on Toronto's arterial roads has resulted in more drivers using residential streets in an effort to bypass congested routes, and speeding on residential streets has become common.

Suicide prevention in Toronto

Council requested the Toronto Transit Commission, in future TTC budget submissions, to consider the installation of platform-edge doors on new, extended and retrofitted subway lines to improve passenger safety and prevent suicides. A Toronto Public Health report on suicide says there is strong evidence that restricting access to common means of suicide such as subway tracks helps to prevent suicides. Council also requested the preparation of a report for changes to Toronto's paramedic, fire and police training programs, placing emphasis on supporting suicide prevention among first responders and addressing issues of mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Advisory bodies for Council's current term

Council approved establishing the following six Council Advisory Bodies for the 2014 to 2018 term: Aboriginal Affairs Committee; City-School Boards Advisory Committee; Film, Television and Commercial Production Industry Committee (Film Board); Tenant Issues Committee; Toronto French Language Advisory Committee; and Toronto Music Industry Advisory Council. Two additional advisory bodies – the Disability Issues Committee and the Toronto Heritage Preservation Board – were re-instituted automatically for the term as required by legislation.

Immunization at day nurseries

Councillors unanimously supported a motion asking the Medical Officer of Health to report, as part of the 2015 budget process, on potential enhancements to Toronto's current public health programs to ensure that children in day nurseries are adequately immunized.

Child care in Toronto

Council discussed the implications of potential school closures on child care in Toronto – an issue raised by the Toronto District School Board's recent announcement about schools with low student enrolment – and directed City staff to prepare a report on the issue for next month. Child care was also the subject of a motion that Council approved endorsing a recent, major child-care conference's advocacy of a national child-care system in Canada.

Food services at City Hall

Council dealt with two agenda items pertaining to food services at Toronto City Hall. In the context of the revitalization of Nathan Phillips Square, Council directed staff to undertake a selection process to find a business to build, finance and operate a restaurant under lease on the west side of Nathan Phillips Square. Addressing an existing restaurant/cafeteria operation inside City Hall, Council authorized an agreement between the City and the Café on the Square that will enable the café to continue operating at City Hall if the terms of the new agreement are met.

Improving the City's Heritage Preservation

Council approved a motion intended to provide greater protection of heritage buildings. The proposal calls for the Chief Planner to implement an inventory classification that addresses all properties across Toronto, whether or not evaluated for formal heritage protection, to prevent demolition without adequate consideration as to whether they should be preserved. The motion also proposes a project that will advance work on a comprehensive inventory of heritage properties.

Historic Yonge Street

Council voted in support of a motion to enact a bylaw for a specified part of downtown Yonge Street for one year to protect buildings while the City completes a heritage conservation district study of the area. Council also voted to ask the provincial government to authorize the City to control demolitions of commercial and institutional properties under the Planning Act as the City can for residential properties.

Revitalization of distressed retail districts

A motion asking for an examination of policies and programs that could be established to promote economic revitalization in very distressed retail areas of the city received Council's support. The motion notes that some areas that are economically distressed are unsuited for the City's Business Improvement Areas (BIA) program.

Bike lanes dedicated to cycling advocate

Council supported a motion to ceremonially dedicate the Sherbourne Street separated bike lanes in honour of Alan Heisey. Heisey played a key role in the conception and implementation of the bike network and has made other

civic contributions – including chairing the Toronto Police Services Board and the Toronto Parking Authority, and serving as a member of the Toronto Transit Commission.

Unauthorized business signs

Council supported recommendations aimed at addressing the proliferation of business signs that are displayed in some areas of Toronto without municipal permits. Staff have found that many business owners are not aware of the need for a sign permit, and that most business owners are willing to comply or remove the sign in question once they are aware of the City's requirements. The City's approach will involve better communication with business owners in combination with concerted enforcement.

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10. Your Tax Bill

City of Toronto has issued interim property tax bills

The City of Toronto has sent property owners their 2015 interim property tax bill – the first of two regular tax bills that will be mailed this year. The 2015 final tax bill will be mailed in May.

Payment due dates for the interim tax bills under the regular three-instalment plan are March 2, April 1 and May 1.

There are several ways to pay a property tax bill, including:

- At banks or financial institutions that offer internet banking, telephone banking, automatic teller or in person. If paying tax bills by automatic teller, telephone or internet banking, customers should pay early to ensure payment reaches the City's office on time.
- By cheque using the business reply envelope included with the interim tax bill.
- In person at the inquiry and cashier counters at Toronto City Hall or any civic centre from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Extended hours of 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be offered from February 26 to March 2.

Locations of inquiry and cashier counters:

- Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
- East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave.
- Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall
- North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St.
- Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Dr.
- York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. W.

More information on property tax bills is available at http://www.toronto.ca/taxes/property_tax. Residents can also call 416-338-4829 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. TTY users can call 416-392-0719 for assistance. Extended phone service hours, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., are available until March 2.

Pre-authorized payments

The City offers a Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Program (PTP) that allows residents to pay their taxes in two, six or 11 pre-authorized, automatic instalments. Residents can enroll in this program at any time if their taxes are in good standing. Applications for the PTP program are available at <http://www.toronto.ca/taxes/ptp>. The completed application, including a void cheque, can be delivered to any civic centre or mailed to Box 2500, Terminal A, Toronto, ON M5W1H2.

The withdrawal dates for Pre-Authorized payment plans for the interim billing are:

- Two-instalment plan on March 2.
- Six-instalment PTP plan on March 2, April 1 and May 1, 2015.
- Eleven-instalment PTP plan is on the 15th of every month (or the next business day thereafter) from February to June.

Property owners who have recently purchased a new property and who pay their property taxes through the pre-authorized tax payment program or through their banking or financial institution are asked to ensure they change their account information with the City or with their financial institution to avoid incurring fees resulting from misdirected payments.

Residents can sign up today at epost.ca to receive their final property tax bills through epost™, the digital mailbox from Canada Post that makes it easy to receive, manage and store bills online. epost™ is a trademark of Canada Post Corporation.

Assessment appeals

In 2012, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) sent every property owner in Ontario a Property Assessment Notice with an updated assessed value of their property. If property owners disagree with the assessed value or if the property classification is incorrect, they can file a Request for Reconsideration or an appeal for the 2015 to 2016 taxation years. For the 2015 taxation year, the deadline to initiate a Request for Reconsideration with MPAC or to file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board is March 31, 2015. Visit mpac.ca for more information.

The Ontario Government introduced a phase-in program where increases in assessed value are phased in over four years (2013-2016). Assessment decreases are applied immediately.

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11. Free summer Camp Outer Harbour Sailing Federation's 2015 Water Sport Camp

The Outer Harbour Sailing Federation's 2015 Water Sport Camp is offering a daily camp with the capacity of 40 spots over 8 weeks at no charge to children in the City of Toronto.

The free programming is accessed through community centres and agencies who send us groups of 20 kids per week for sailing, rowing and windsurfing in July and August. Our program makes it possible for children to get out safely on Lake Ontario and experience amazing water sports.

This is a unique full day program where kids choose a single sport or combine sailing with rowing, windsurfing, or soccer in two half day combinations. Volunteers from our 8 Federation not-for-profit clubs organize the camp and provide full and part time summer jobs to 7 qualified instructors in the Port Lands. Last summer 382 lessons were given teaching children to row, sail and windsurf off the north shore of Lake Ontario. Of these lessons 147 were provided free.

Free programming is available to families through our partner community centres, and agencies such as the Cabbagetown Youth Centre, Native Child Family Services, Pathways, and West Scarborough Community Centre.

For further information: <http://paulainslie.com/files/2015/2015WaterSportsCampFunGuide.pdf>

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12. Scarborough Players: Knob Hill Community Players

There has been a new, creative bubble percolating in Scarborough: the Knob Hill Community Players. This year, the group is performing the hit musical, "**Godspell**" April 17-25.

Knob Hill Community Players is drawn mainly from the Scarborough community. We comprise a diverse group of retirees, students, single parents and others who have a love of musical theatre in common. We perform out of Knob Hill United Church, which is wheelchair accessible.

We would appreciate it if you could share information about our upcoming production in your next communication to constituents. A poster is attached in two formats.

[Link to Website and PDF.](#)

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13. Pan Am 2015 Information Session for Residents on what they can expect during the games

Pan Am information session for Scarborough residents and businesses. The information session will provide residents and local businesses with the opportunity to learn more about how the Scarborough community may be affected by the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.

Scarborough Pan Am Information Session

Date: Tuesday, April 7

Time: Business session: 3 to 5 p.m. Resident session: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, 875 Morningside Ave.

We'd appreciate it if you could assist us in promoting this opportunity to residents and local businesses. Attached you'll find a document with wording that can be used for posting on your website, emails or letters.

Strategic Communications will be sending out tweets regarding the information session from the @TorontoComms account and would appreciate if you could retweet us.

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14. Immunization information online

If you are looking for up-to-date information about the measles mumps rubella (MMR) vaccine or have other questions about immunization, the [immunization](#) section of Toronto Public Health's website is a useful resource. Information is also available on the [Health Professionals](#) portal. It is now easier for parents with children in a Toronto school to report their child's or youth's recent vaccination through the [Student Immunization Reporting System](#).

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15. Toronto's historic sites

Montgomery's Inn will host its monthly tavern night on Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. On Saturday, Todmorden Mills will present an Easter egg painting workshop. On Sunday, Colborne Lodge will hold its annual High Park Easter egg hunt while Gibson House Museum hosts a tea and a tour featuring the new First World War exhibit. [More details](#)

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16. Contest for Toronto students

The City and RBC are inviting Toronto students and their teachers to enter a contest called Make a Splash in celebration of World Water Day. One elementary school and one high school associated with the winning entries will each receive \$5,000 to green their schools, courtesy of RBC. Entries will be accepted until May 22. [Details](#)

In celebration of World Water Day, the City of Toronto and RBC are launching the Make a Splash, Blue Water Contest for Toronto students. The contest invites elementary and secondary school students to share a story, memory or wish about Toronto's waterways and say why it's important to keep the waterways clean and healthy.

Two winners will be selected, one from an elementary school and one from a secondary school. The schools will each receive \$5,000 for a project to green the school, courtesy of RBC. In addition, the winning high school will be visited by an Olympic athlete, and the winning elementary school entry will be featured in a Kidoons Network Show. All top entries will be featured in a public display at various City and RBC locations.

The contest invites all types of entries, including stories, videos, dance, photography, poems and dioramas. Winners will be selected by a panel of City and RBC representatives and local artists.

Entries will be accepted from March 23 to May 22 at 5 p.m.

More information about the Make a Splash contest is available at <http://www.livegreentoronto.ca>

The RBC Blue Water Project is a historic, wide-ranging, 10-year global commitment to help protect the world's most precious natural resource: fresh water. Since 2007, RBC has pledged nearly \$41 million to more than 700 charitable organizations worldwide that protect water, with an additional \$8.8 million pledged to universities for water programs. The RBC Blue Water Project is focused on supporting initiatives that help protect water in towns, cities and urbanized areas. For further information, visit www.rbc.com/bluewater.

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17. Female Swim

After several months of discussion with City Staff, I have been able to incorporate a female swim program for our community at Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute Pool 550 Markham Road (Markham Road and Eastpark Boulevard) 416-396-4006.

Cedarbrae C.I. Pool will be offering a new female-only leisure swim on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. from March 30 to May 25, 2015.

When participating in gender specific swims, only people of the same gender are permitted to access the pool deck, spectator gallery or viewing areas. Female Leisure Swims are for females of all ages. Children must have a caregiver in the water at all times.

Please note: the pool will be CLOSED on Monday, April 6th and Monday, May 18th.

[Flyer English](#)
[Flyer Gurjarati](#)

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18. Nominations for Equity and Human Rights Awards

Each year, the City of Toronto's Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Division administers the five Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards:

- Aboriginal Affairs Award
- Access Award for Disability Issues
- Constance E. Hamilton Award on the Status of Women
- Pride Award for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual and Two Spirited Issues

- William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations

These awards recognize the ongoing work of volunteers and community groups in eliminating the barriers to full civic participation.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 11, 2015.

In an effort to raise the profile of these awards, and as an opportunity for you to showcase the positive work that is being done in your local community, I encourage you to include the attached newsletter/website article in any upcoming communications with your constituents. As well, I am attaching a PDF format nomination flyer, which can be printed and distributed by you and your staff.

For more information, and to obtain nomination forms www.toronto.ca/civicawards

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19. Maple Leaf Forever

A new Council Chamber lectern and City Council gavel were both presented to the City this February, made of wood from the Maple Leaf Forever tree.

The Council Chamber lectern was refurbished by Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services, with the City of Toronto logo carved by the Ontario Wood Carvers Association. The City Council gavel was made by the Woodturners Guild of Ontario. Four additional gavels have also been made for the City's Community Councils.

The tree is believed to have been the inspiration for Alexander Muir's song, The Maple Leaf Forever. Since the tree fell during a summer storm in 2013, the City engaged in activities with local designers and woodcrafts people to preserve the tree's legacy. City staff were able to salvage 48 logs of various sizes from the tree. This resulted in approximately 3,175 kilograms (7,000 pounds) of green wood that could be utilized for current and future projects. Many of the items produced from the tree will be on display in museums and historical societies across Canada.

Additionally, one of the projects, led by Colin Cripps of Blue Rodeo, involves the crafting of an electric and an acoustic guitar for Toronto-based musicians.

More information about the Maple Leaf Forever tree projects is available at <http://www.yourleaf.org/maple-leaf-forever>.

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20. Pre/Postnatal program Available

A Pre/Postnatal program will be starting in our community on April 2nd, [Flyer](#)

Scarborough East Ontario Early Years Centre
10 week program every Thursday evening
Starting April 2nd until June 4th 5pm—7pm

The Pre/Postnatal Nutrition Program aims to: improve the health of mothers and infants, reduce the incidence of unhealthy birth weights, and promote and support breastfeeding by strengthening community supports for pregnant women.

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21. Who Do I Call 211 or 311?

City of Toronto and Ontario 211 helpline asking residents to make the right call

211 is answered live, 24 hours a day, every day of the year including holidays. Residents are encouraged to call 211 for services such as food banks if they are hungry, mental health support if they are in crisis, or for the non-emergency police number if they need the police but it is not an emergency. More information is available at <http://211ontario.ca>.

- Call 311 for information about municipal services such as garbage collection, graffiti or litter and snow removal.
- Call 211 for information about community, social and health services if you don't know where to turn with a problem.
- Call 911 for threats or harm to a person or property that require police, fire or paramedic services.

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22. Quote of the Month

"Believe you can and you're halfway there" Theodore Roosevelt

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23. Websites for Community Use

<http://kidsspace.torontopubliclibrary.ca/programsandeventsadu.html>
Toronto Pubic Library Kids Space and Programming

www.toronto.ca/frozenpipes
frozen pipes

www.toronto.ca/water
Toronto Water home page

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

<http://onthedon.createsend2.com/t/r/l/tlwukt/bhdtkrth/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 - 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 Action Coalition (Mornelle CAN)

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24. 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 you 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, or send a fax to 416-392-4006. 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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