



Tower of rust may soon be dust

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One of Scarborough's most unloved and unwanted landmarks will soon disappear – one piece at a time.

Just over two years ago, we reported on a water tower on the north side of Lawrence Ave. E., near Galloway Rd., that has loomed for about 50 years over neighbours who regard it as an eye-offending blight on the local landscape.

It hasn't been connected to the city's water supply since the 1970s, but getting rid of such a hulking hunk of steel is no easy task, so it was left to rust. Over the years, the light blue paint has been largely overtaken by rust, a sore point with area residents, many of whom emailed and called us about it.

At the time, a city engineer said they intended to get rid of it, but it could take a couple of years. We checked with the city about it since then but there was no plan or time frame in place.

But Paul Ainslie, city councillor for the area (Ward 43, Scarborough East) yesterday said a consulting engineer has been hired to come up with a plan to dismantle the tower and contract a second firm to carry out the job.

In some cases, a decommissioned water tower is toppled with a small explosive, said Ainslie, but that approach was ruled out because it's too close to buildings.

Work on the dismantling process is to start this summer and be completed before the end of August, he added.

UPDATE: In a story a couple of weeks ago about a need for official city street signs in the Morningside Heights subdivision, we mentioned that a reader had also complained about an absence of signs on Flagman St., in a recently built development east of Main St. and north of Upper Gerrard St., near the Ted Reeve arena.

A city official called to say Flagman now has a sign, and that two other streets – William Hancox Blvd. and Belleville St. – were also in need of signs that have now been put up.

183 DAYS ... That's how long it's been since our story about a transit shelter at the corner of Eglinton Ave. W. and Tarlton Rd., which went missing 18 months earlier.

A concrete pad for a new one was poured long ago, but no replacement shelter was built. A city official said she'd check it out. Lawrence Crawford emailed yesterday to say that he, his wife, and a lot of other thoroughly chilled TTC riders are still waiting.

What's broken in your neighbourhood? Wherever you are in Greater Toronto, we want to know. To email us, go to www.thestar.com/thefixer and click on the submit a problem link. Or call us at 416-869-4823.

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