

December, 2008 Issue19

Dear Ward 43 Residents,

Merry Christmas, Happy Eid Al Adha, Happy Hanukkah & Happy Kwanza, to you and all your loved ones as you share this special time of year. With our rich variety of ethnicity we truly live in a wonderful country where we can all partake in each others customs and traditions.

The New Year will bring a committee shuffle to City Council. I will have the pleasure of two new responsibilities as your City Councillor. I have been appointed as a member of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, and also the Toronto Zoo Board. I will continue to serve on the Scarborough Community Council, Budget Committee, Striking Committee, the Guild Renaissance Group, Rouge Valley Park Alliance, the Toronto Public Library Board, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and also the Youth Strategy Panel.

Giant Tiger will be joining our business community in Ward 43. It has been confirmed that the department store will move into the location which Food Land previously occupied at 3750 Lawrence Avenue East. The scheduled date for opening is April 2009.

As winter approaches, I thought I'd give a quick review of snow clearing policies. In Scarborough, all residential sidewalks will be cleared when the snow has stopped and the accumulation has reached eight centimetres (three inches). This service can take up to 72 hours after the snow has stopped so please be mindful of your neighbours and do clear the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of your home. The City will attend only when the snow fall has stopped. Also please be careful to not park on the street during a snowfall as this will only delay street clearing on your community road making your commute more dangerous. With the City's snow clearing and resident's participation we should all be able to have a safe winter.

The City's first priority during a major snowfall is to keep the main roads safe and clear for emergency and TTC vehicles. It is a necessity that residents not park or stop on these routes during or following a snowstorm.

Once the main roads are clear, city crews will then move onto side streets. Ploughing on side streets will usually be completed within 15-20 hours *after* the snow stops falling. An additional 24 hours is often required to plough difficult areas where snow has not been completely cleared. Last year my office received many complaints of the snow not being cleared thoroughly on some roads as parked cars impeded the city ploughs from performing their work. There were also areas which needed additional attention as the amount of snow fall caused compressed snow on our side streets which became very hard and difficult to remove. Please be alert to the weather and do not park on the street if the snow will need clearing.

Snow plough information can be obtained at 338-SNOW to find out how snow ploughing operations are progressing. Last years snow fall reached over 207 centimetres breaking records. As the snow has already begun we can only be patient, safe and enjoy all the white stuff.

Paul Ainslie
Councillor, City of Toronto Ward 43 Scarborough East

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1. Scarborough East Community Calendar

December 1 – Toronto City Council Meeting

December 2 – Toronto City Council Meeting

December 2 – Coronation Community Association meeting

December 3 – Toronto City Council Meeting

December 4 – Guild Alive with Culture 2009 Meeting

December 4 – Sara Williamson Exhibit at the Scarborough Civic Centre Rotunda

December 6 – Toronto Star Santa Box Delivery

December 7 – Christmas Bazaar St. Boniface Parish, 21 Markana Dr. 9 am – 12 noon

December 8 – Toronto Public Library Board Naming Committee Meeting

December 8 – Hill Street Water Main Replacement Public Meeting Scarborough Village Recreation Center 7 pm

December 9 – Toronto Budget Committee Operating Budget Meeting

December 9 – Scarborough Civic Centre Tree Lighting Ceremony Rotunda 7:15 pm

December 9 – Guildwood Village Community Association Meeting

December 9 – Scarborough Preservation Board Meeting

December 10 – Toronto City Council Meeting - 2009 Capital Budget

December 11 – Maplewood High School Christmas Luncheon 120 Galloway Road 11:15 am

December 11 – 43 Division Community Police Liaison Committee

December 13 – Toronto Auxiliary Police Toy Drive Delivery Day

December 14 – Hat Frenzy! 'Decorate Your Own Hat Party 269 Ellesmere Road "Creative Yarns"

December 15 – East Scarborough Storefront Amazing Place Meeting

December 15 – Toronto Public Library Board Meeting

December 15 – Curran Hall Community Association Meeting

December 31 – Scarborough Civic Centre New Years Eve Celebration

2. Seven Oaks

My office's has asked for more traffic enforcement Police Officers to deal with traffic issues at elementary schools within the community during the drop off and pick up periods when parents are collecting their children from school. Officers from 43 Division have made themselves, available to the community schools and will patrolling to ensure safety is made paramount for all children. It is a busy time when attending your children's school. Some schools have student crossing guards whose safety needs to be protected, some schools practice safety measures by placing cones to discourage anyone from parking too close to where the children are crossing.

Please be mindful of the safety of everyone around you and support your children's by respecting the schools traffic safety rules.

Knowing that snow will be in future forecasts it is important to note to be careful when traveling on Military Trail at Ellesmere where the road dips down. Pedestrians, cyclists and deer are known to travel the area and we want to ensure that motorists share the road with them. Snow also can act as camouflage for dumping in the ravine areas which surround the Seven Oaks community. If you witness any dumping please call my office to report it.

3. Curran Hall

Congratulations to Brian MacFarlane in his re-election as President of the Curran Hall Community Association. I was delighted to attend the Annual General Meeting on Monday November 17, and look forward in continuing to work with Mr. MacFarlane and the Association to make the community a great place to live.

A Park Safety Audit was conducted in Botany Hill Park on Wednesday November 12, 2008. City staff, Constable Bill Campbell of 43 Division, myself, President Brian MacFarlane and residents conducted a walkabout of the area. Overall the park is in good order with a few issues needing attention. It was suggested that locks be placed on the garbage gates, extra lighting be installed in the parking lot along with increased police patrol, some graffiti was noted on the community centre wood deck, as well as the trimming of some trees and plants. Parks Staff were also asked to review outdoor lighting for the entire park, in particular older lighting along the south walkway adjacent to the building. Park audits are very worthwhile as it brings different City divisions together to hear first hand from residents about any issues in the park so they can be quickly remedied.

A flyer was sent out to all the homes in the Curran Hall Community to participate in a contest to name the new street within the Tiffany Park Homes Development. I would like to thank all the

residents who took the time to submit an entry. Over 200 entries were received with the winning name being "Curran Hall Crescent". One ballot was chosen from the Curran Hall Crescent submissions. Congratulations to Mrs. Velma Whittle of Thornbeck Drive who will be receiving four passes to the Toronto Zoo.

During the summer months Curran Hall residents contributed to the beautification of Scarborough East with their well kept and colourful gardens. I sent out congratulatory scrolls to all of the households which were nominated. I'm also happy to announce I will once again be holding my annual Christmas Lights contest. Please send in nominations for your neighbours who have taken the time to decorate their home for the Holiday Season, and helped beautify the neighbourhood.

4. Coronation and West Hill

East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club Expansion: Located at 100 Galloway Road the club has been part of the make up of the community for over 50 years. As the building capacity to provide sufficient services to the community, the club is proceeding on a building expansion. As the current club was built in the early 1980's it has characteristics of a square brick building with no natural light and few windows. The proposed addition will allow natural light to create a healthy atmosphere, including a walking course to encourage area seniors to utilize the club during inclement weather. If you would like further information on the proposed expansion plans please contact my office.

On September 24, six mural panels were proudly unveiled at the East Scarborough Storefront located at 4040 Lawrence Ave East. The exterior murals are part of a "Graffiti Transformation" City initiative designed to prevent and discourage graffiti. Six youth from various groups in the community had the opportunity to work with an artist this past summer to design and paint their own panel for the Storefront building.

Bell Mobility has made application to the Ministry of Industry to build a telecommunication tower on the CNR property located near Galloway Road. The City of Toronto does not have any legislative authority over the placement of these towers but does mandate that a community meeting take place for community residents. (They are looking at the City to replace the earlier proposed one at the Guildwood Presbyterian Church.)

Our voices have been heard by the City of Toronto in our request to have Lawrence Avenue East resurfaced. The City's Transportation Division had originally proposed to build a 24 km bike route along Lawrence Avenue from Victoria Park Avenue to Rouge River with no intention of resurfacing Lawrence Avenue East. In advocating for the community I advised that Lawrence Avenue in its present state did not constitute a safe biking environment. I support bike lanes and the benefits that come with them environmentally and for personal health, but the City needs to act responsibly in areas where the bike lanes are placed. Lawrence Avenue East from Kingston Rd to the Highland Creek bridge is in desperate need of repaving but was only earmarked to be done in 2015. Our unified voice to have the Transportation Division include the resurfacing of the arterial road was successful.

The Toronto Public Library bookmobile has been servicing our community for over a year. I requested the service for Kingston Road and Galloway Road giving residents, the opportunity to borrow materials from the Toronto Public Library as there is not a branch in the community's reach.

The Bookmobile stops in front of the Eastview Public School located at 20 Waldock Street every other Thursday, from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm on December 18, 2008.
2009 schedule January 15, 29, February 12, 26 March 12, April 9, 23, May 7, 21, June 4, 18 July 2, 16, 26 August 13, 27 September 10, 24 October 8, 22 November 5, 19 December 3, & 31.

Back in the spring the community asked management at the Morningside Crossing Plaza to install a community board for the purposes of posting local information. Morningside Crossing accepted the request and they have installed the message board. The board is located in the parking lot near Starbucks. Please do visit the board to read community news.

5. Cedar Ridge

I have been listening to many residents who have asked me to install a cricket pitch in your local park behind Cornell Junior Public School. Currently Parks Department staff are gathering information to determine if this can be done. A volleyball court was installed in the park this past Fall after many area youth were found to be playing the sport in the park. Our Parks Division involved the school Principal in discussions to install the court. The school was pleased and supported its installation.

The Cedarbrae District Library is undergoing a major renovation. The 42 year old Scarborough library will be redesigned to address the community's needs and bring it up to date with new technologies. The library will be enhanced with complete barrier-free access to all areas of the building. New reading lounges for adults, teens and children will be built along with new quiet study rooms. The branch will also have an expanded Learning Centre featuring 15 new computers increasing the total number of computers throughout the building to 64. To address our growing diverse community a unique space for multilingual and local history collections will also included in the newly restored branch. All of the work it is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2010.

6. Guildwood Village

On the morning of November 24th my staff along with Parks staff and Gisela Bach a Guildwood resident toured Grey Abbey Park and the surrounding area. The tour was successful in our staff witnessing many acts of dumping, invasive plant material as well as some areas which are in need of clearing and planting to deal with the evasive plants.

With the high number of Ash trees in the Guild area, many residents have been asking what can be done to protect the tree canopy in the area. I have met with Forestry department staff who assured

me there have not been any identified cases in the area, and also informed me the Ash Borer is dormant during the winter months. I will be holding a community wide information meeting on March 11, 2009 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI @ 7:00 p.m. It was decided that Parks staff, will take this opportunity to address the community on EAB and invasive plants.

I was not happy at all with the manner in which the community meeting organized by Toronto Hydro on November 24th was run, or organized. In particular Hydro's inability to deal with the almost 10 busloads of environmental groups brought into the meeting.

At the meeting, I waited in line for two hours to reach the microphone wherein, David O'Brien, President and CEO Toronto Hydro Corporation committed to hosting an additional community meeting to allow Guildwood residents an opportunity to voice their concerns about the proposed installation of a wind anemometer 2-4 kilometres from the bottom of Markham Road. This meeting will take place in January. I have told Toronto Hydro the meeting notices are to be sent to my constituents via Canada Post. I have also asked that provisions be put in place at the meeting to ensure area residents have their questions and concerns addressed before anyone else in the audience.

I have confirmed with the Ministry of Natural Resources that all comments are still being accepted and area residents can continue to contact: Mark Patterson, Ministry of Natural Resources 50 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, ON phone: 905-713-736 fax: 905-713-7361.

It should also be noted that the authority to provide Toronto Hydro with the approvals to install a wind testing anemometer lies with the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources. I have provided a list of Provincial representatives for your information.

Scarborough--Guildwood Member of Provincial Parliament:

Hon Margaret R. Best, Ministry of Health Promotion

18th Floor, 777 Bay St. Toronto ON M7A 1S5, tel: 416-326-8500 Fax: 416-326-8520

mbest.mpp@liberal.ola.org,

Constituency Office 109 - 4117 Lawrence Ave. E. Toronto ON M1E 2S2 tel: 416-281-2787 Fax: 416-281-2360 mbest.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Hon Donna H. Cansfield, Ministry of Natural Resources

6630 - 99 Wellesley St W, 6th Flr, Whitney Block Toronto ON M7A 1W3 tel: 416-314-2301 fax: 416-325-5316

Hon George Smitherman, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Hearst Block, 4th Flr, 900 Bay St Toronto ON M7A 2E1 tel: 416-327-6758 fax: 416-327-6754

7. Residents Rising Community Association

The Residents Rising Community Association is an organization for residents, mainly in the tenant community of Lawrence and Kingston Road from Scarborough Golf Club to Manse Road. The RRCA has increased its membership to 450 residents living in this neighbourhood.

The new office of the RRCA is located at 4117 Lawrence Avenue East and is a partnership with the East Scarborough Storefront ANC and UTSC. Residents are welcome to drop by starting in January 2009 to connect with other residents and find out how to get involved in community improvement projects.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their skills and interests into the community through planning projects like the festival market, the community garden, arts and entertainment and special events. For more information, call 416-847-4144.

Launched in January 2008 the RRCA is designed to help residents living in apartment buildings speak with a strong collective voice to government, schools and city services. There is no membership fee to join the association.

8. Community Meetings and Events

December 4th, 2008 – Sara Williamson Exhibit at the Scarborough Civic Centre Rotunda 5pm the exhibit will be on display for a 4 week period.

Dec 7th, 2008 – Precious Gems Project @ Cedar Ridge Creative Centre 1 p.m. - 4 p.m, raises funds to send children from the local Kingston Galloway community to art camp at Cedar Ridge.

Dec. 8th, 2008 – Hill Crescent Water main replacement meeting

Dec. 9th, 2008: 7:15pm - 9:30pm Scarborough Civic Centre Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 31st, 2008: 7:00pm - 12:30pm Scarborough Civic Centre New Years Eve Celebration

January 4th, 2009 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm Scarborough Councillors New Year's Levee Celebration followed by a Sunday Concert at 2:00pm.

Saturday January 10th, 2009 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - My Annual New Year's Levee Cedar Ridge Creative Centre located at 225 Confederation Drive.

Jan. 13th, 2009 - Town Hall meeting with Residents of 10/20 Guildwood Pkwy 7p.m.

March 11th, 2009 7:00 p.m. – Emerald Ash Borer Community Meeting Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI

9. Around the Community

Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Scarborough Civic Centre: Kick off the holiday season with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Tuesday, December 9, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The celebrations include: free outdoor ice skating (weather permitting); free indoor live music provided by the Cedarbrook Public School Choir, Dr. Norman Bethune Senior Jazz Band, R&B musical artist Jacqueline John; free hot chocolate and cookies; arts and crafts; and free pictures with Santa Claus.

The Scarborough Civic Centre is located at 150 Borough Dr. (McCowan and Ellesmere Roads). For more information, call 416-396-7766.

Skating at Albert Campbell Square: Opened on November 29th 2008 and will continue until March 2009. The rink will be open from 6 pm to 10 pm Monday - Friday, 10 am to 10 pm Saturday – Sunday and is free of charge.

Holiday Lights Celebration: Each year I congratulate residents who beautify our community with festive lights. Many of the celebrated homes are submitted to my office by residents who appreciate their neighbours display. I look forward to your participation in thanking your neighbours. Please send your submissions to councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4008

Precious Gems: This Sunday from 1 to 4 pm Cedar Ridge is hosting a festive art auction in support of the Precious Gems Project (Precious Gems raises funds to send talented local children without the means to specialty art camps).

There will be lots of activities including a professional storyteller telling festive tales at 2:00 pm. Precious Gems who have been sponsored in previous years will be decorating Gingerbread, and of course there will be lots of treats such as warm apple cider and cookies.

Local artists have donated paintings, jewellery, photographs, pottery, knitting, cartoons and much more to support the cause. 100% of the proceeds go to Precious Gems. There are bid and buy now options and items start as low as \$20. Payment is by cash or cheque only.

So for those of you with empty walls and shelves, or those looking to buy socially conscious Christmas gifts, this is a great opportunity to acquire art at very reasonable prices!

Admission & parking are free. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested.

10. City of Toronto Council Highlights

City Council meeting of October 29 and 30, 2008

Improving Toronto's Economic Competitiveness

Council approved the creation of two new City corporations to strengthen Toronto's position in the global marketplace and enhance its economic competitiveness. Build Toronto will use the available land owned by the City and its Agencies, Boards and Commissions to attract targeted industries, stimulate the creation of desirable employment and regenerate neighbourhoods. Invest Toronto will engage the private sector in marketing and promotion activities to increase business investment and create desirable jobs in Toronto. The new corporations will replace the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) and support the objectives of both the Blueprint for Fiscal Stability and Economic Prosperity (February 2008) and the Agenda for Prosperity (January 2008), which recommend that the City establish a new structure and strategy for maximizing the City's real estate holdings and highlight the need for a focused approach to the City's marketing efforts.

Woodbine Live Project

Council adopted a community improvement plan that will provide local employment opportunities as its latest step in support of the Woodbine Live project. The project will transform Woodbine Racetrack (in northwestern Toronto) into an attraction that will include a venue for live entertainment as well as a hotel and retail operations supplementing the horse racing operation. Later phases of the project include further mixed use development that may include office buildings and up to 2,500 units of residential housing.

Local Food in City Childcare Centres

Council approved a policy and implementation plan that will increase the amount of locally grown food used in childcare centres. The Local Food Procurement Policy will be phased in by the Children's Services Division in 2009 in order to learn more about the practical implications of increasing the proportion of local food used in City food operations. That experience will help the City work out details for expanding the strategy into other operations in the future to further help reduce harmful truck gas emissions that are generated by importing food from outside Ontario.

City to Increase its Court Capacity for 2009

Council authorized the leasing of an additional 17,000 square feet at 481 University Ave. for Court Services to build four new courtrooms for use in early 2009, addressing the problem of a backlog of court hearings and related loss of potential revenues from fines. The new courtrooms will allow an estimated 125,000 additional trials to be conducted annually for parking ticket disputes, minor traffic offences and other provincial offences charges.

Labour Disruptions to Public Transit

Council decided to communicate its support to the Province of Ontario for declaring the Toronto Transit Commission's Wheel-Trans Service an essential service and for legislation mandating a minimum of 48 hours notice before any TTC strike can legally take place. Among other related steps taken by Council is a request for the TTC and its staff to negotiate a wider strike protocol that protects and delivers all Wheel-Trans Service in the event of a strike, job action or a lockout.

Green Fleets

Council directed staff to review the City's vehicle idling bylaw to eliminate any unnecessary exclusions that are currently offered for City and TTC vehicles. In addition, Council wants to consider the feasibility of installing a flashing light or buzzer in non-emergency City and TTC vehicles that will alert the driver when the vehicle is idling longer than it should. Those requests

were made as Council endorsed Green Fleet plans for Toronto Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services, the Toronto Police Service and the TTC aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Cleaner Parks on Long Weekends

In support of strengthening Toronto as a tourism destination, Council approved an operational change to adjust work schedules for Parks crews to provide litter pickup and garbage collection in downtown parks and other high-volume tourist parks during the five long weekends from May to October. The intention is to make sure the parks are clean and inviting. Until now, the parks clean-up service was provided the day after a holiday

11. Toronto Public Library Bookmobile

The Toronto Public Library bookmobile has been servicing our community for over a year. I requested the service for Kingston Road and Galloway Road giving residents, the opportunity to borrow materials from the Toronto Public Library as there is not a branch in the community's reach.

The Bookmobile stops at 20 Waldock Street every other Thursday, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm:
2008 dates: December 4 & 18. 2009 schedule

January 15, 29	July 2, 16
February 12, 26	August 13, 27
March 12, 26	September 10, 24
April 9, 23	October 8, 22
May 7, 21	November 5, 19
June 4, 18	December 3, 31

Bookmobile staff will be happy to serve you to: Check out materials, return materials or place holds for books, DVDs, magazines, audio books, and CDs for all ages. Register for a library card, and pick up a copy of *“What’s New on the Bookmobile”*. Bookmobile contact number 416-395-5560

12. Annual Toronto Auxiliary Police 15th Annual Christmas Toy Drive

SCARBOROUGH 41, 42 AND 43 Divisions

The 15th annual Auxiliary Toy Drive has commenced once again. This event supports over 2000 children and youth in the Scarborough area.

The Auxiliary Officers are seeking the charitable and generous support once again this year from the community, local business and students from the area schools.

Your efforts and that of our Auxiliary officers will support the spirit of the season and help give a child in need a Christmas this year. Donations are being accepted until December 13th. Please drop off you toy to one of the participating Police Divisions.

13. Shine a Light on Impaired Driving Spot-check

The R.I.D.E. program is operated all year with a special emphasis during the holiday season.

The employees of Energizer Canada, Inc. and the Toronto Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving will be on hand, as volunteers distribute Energizer flashlights to the public.

Plan ahead, be responsible and don't drink and drive. Through our combined vigilance, we hope to ensure that this is a safe and happy holiday season for all.

The Toronto Police Service is dedicated to the elimination of impaired driving on our roadways.

For more information on Holiday R.I.D.E., contact Constable Lee Bishop at 416-808-1954 or Sergeant Tim Burrows at 416-808-1920 or 416-452-6294

14. Safety Tips for Winter Driving, Traffic Services

Last year, the City of Toronto experienced a record snowfall. Although we don't know what this winter season has in store for us, motorists need to ensure their vehicle is ready for the winter months.

Winter commuting can be a challenge for all road users. Heavy snowfall produces a climate of unpredictability.

Having the necessary items ensures safe driving and enables you to get back on the road quicker if you get stranded temporarily.

Below are some safety tips to help you prepare for winter driving:

- the most important part of your vehicle is the tires. Winter tires are the preferred choice. Ensure they have enough tread depth to displace the snow. Ensure they are properly inflated to the correct tire pressure,
- ensure you have a working spare tire, tire jack, and lug wrench in your vehicle, as well as a small shovel, sand or non-clumping kitty litter, to help you dig out in the event you get stuck,
- ensure you have spare change to make a call, or phone card, or a fully charged cell phone in

case of any roadside emergency,

- ensure your vehicle is equipped with a first-aid kit, ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight, blanket, spare gloves, windshield wiper fluid, water, food, fuel, fire extinguisher, map and candles,

Make sure that you clean all the snow from your vehicle. Make sure you can see and be seen. Ensure your headlights, tail lights and licence plates are clear. Visibility is an important factor.

Steering, acceleration, and braking should be done slower and smoother. It could mean the difference between stopping properly and skidding into an intersection.

Take your time and remain focused on the task at hand and your commute will be a safe one.

15. Volunteer Opportunity

The East Scarborough Storefront has volunteer opportunities for people with diverse experiences to make up a Steering Committee. Ideal applicants will:

- ✓ Understand and appreciate what the Storefront is trying to do
- ✓ Care about the East Scarborough Community
- ✓ Be able to commit to a monthly meeting (third Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) for one year
- ✓ Be connected with one or more local groups (Cultural, religious, business, social)
- ✓ Be interested in the ideas and structure behind community programs
- ✓ Take a problem solving approach to decision making

Interested applicants should provide a brief letter explaining their interest in the Steering Committee (and a resume if you have one) addressed to the Storefront Nominations Committee. Applications can be left at the Storefront in care of the Co-ordinator of Volunteers, or mailed to: East Scarborough Storefront Nominations Committee 4040 Lawrence Av E, Scarborough, M1E 2R2

16. The New Art of Suburbia: Panel Discussion & Pod Cast

In December, Scarborough Arts Council and Centennial College will be co-presenting a panel discussion and live-to-pod cast taping, 'The New Art of Suburbia'. Speakers from a variety of backgrounds will address changes in Toronto's suburbs and discuss how to better understand and support the arts and culture in suburban communities. The event will include an open forum as part of the taping.

Information on the series can be found at: <http://www.centennialcollege.ca/thecentre/suburbia>

Once seen as quiet bedroom communities far from the noise of the urban core, Toronto's inner suburbs have become centres of activity - culturally vibrant, diverse and ever changing.

The New Art of Suburbia, a two-evening panel discussion and forum recorded for pod cast, will address these changes and implications for the arts and culture. Dealing with changes in the development and urban fabric of Toronto, speakers from a variety of backgrounds will tackle pressing questions: What is the nature and role of creative communities in the suburbs? How can we better understand and support arts and cultural activities in suburban communities?

Session 2: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 7 p.m.

Scarborough Room #1
School of Hospitality, Tourism & Culture
Centennial College
940 Progress Avenue

Panel: Catherine Hernandez, Author of Scarborough Stories and Rafael Gomez, Director, ThinkTankToronto

Cost: FREE

17. City Council Takes Action to Reduce Packaging

On December 2nd, 2008 Toronto City Council took action to reduce retail in-store packaging and to ultimately ensure that the materials used are recyclable in the City's Blue Bin recycling program. The policies primarily focus on reducing the volume of plastic retail shopping bags, plastic take-out food packaging and plastic water bottles.

Policies approved by Council include a requirement that, by June 1, 2009, retailers charge five cents for each single-use plastic retail shopping bag taken by a customer or provide a free alternative. In addition, all shopping bags must be compatible with the City's recycling system by June 1, 2010. Council also voted to ban the sale of bottled water at City Civic Centres and to ban plastic take-out food containers that are not compatible with the City's Blue Bin Program by February 28, 2011.

Following the hierarchy of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), these policies emphasize source reduction, a key component of Toronto's overall goal to achieve 70 per cent waste diversion. Less material requiring disposal will extend the life of Toronto's volume-based landfill. It is estimated that implementing these new measures will eventually divert more than 10,000 tonnes of waste.

Starting in June, 2009, and continuing over the next two years, retailers will be required to implement a range of options to enable customers to make positive environmental choices and reduce their use of single-use container packaging by taking advantage of convenient reusable alternatives (more information on specific policies can be found in the attached backgrounder).

What does this mean?

As of June 1, 2009, what are retailers required to do regarding plastic bags?

Starting June 1, 2009, retailers must charge five cents for each single-use plastic retail shopping bag used by a customer or provide a free alternative. Signs must be posted to let customers know about the charge and it must be recorded on the receipt.

These retailers are also required, when requested, to fill reusable bags the customer provides in lieu of plastic shopping bags to carry out their purchases. By June 1, 2010, retailers must also ensure that they offer only bags accepted in the City's recycling program (no biodegradable plastic bags, bags with metal grommets or other non-plastic components).

Definitions:

"Plastic retail shopping bag" - made of plastic film, designed to carry customer purchases from a store.

"Reusable bag" - a bag that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse that is made of cloth or other machine washable fabric or other durable material suitable for reuse.

"Biodegradable plastic bag" - a bag which is composed of, in whole or part, biodegradable plastic, Oxo-biodegradable plastics, Plastarch material, polylactide or any other plastic resin composite that is intended to degrade at a faster rate than non-biodegradable plastic film.

What are the policies regarding plastic take-out food containers?

The policies require that the City request foodservice retailer representatives, foodservice trade associations and/or other foodservice stakeholders who currently use plastic take-out food containers, to develop, by December 31, 2010, a reusable and/or refillable take-out food container, or take-out food service protocol, which will allow customers to choose a reusable packaging option.

If no reusable and/or refillable take-out food container or take-out food protocol is available by January 1, 2011, staff are asked to report back to City Council on the use of bans or financial tools regarding plastic takeout food containers.

In addition, City staff are directed to work with industry stakeholders to achieve the goal of having 50 per cent of plastic takeout food containers compatible with Toronto's recycling program by December 31, 2009. By February 28, 2011, the sale or distribution of plastic take-out food containers that are not compatible with the City's Blue Bin recycling program will be banned.

Definitions:

"Plastic Take-out Food Container" - a container made of plastic resin (including, but not limited to polystyrene, PET, polypropylene, HDPE, LDPE or any combination) in which food is packaged for customer purchase, on-site and on customer demand, for the purpose of being consumed on or off the premises.

What is the policy regarding plastic water bottles?

Toronto will ban the sale of bottled water at City Civic Centres immediately or following the expiry of any existing contracts related to the purchase or sale of bottled water. Various City divisions are also asked to work together to develop and implement a program by December 31, 2011 that bans the sale and distribution of bottled water at all remaining City facilities, improves accessibility to tap water at all City facilities and takes into account existing contracts related to bottled water at City facilities and unique public health and safety related situations.

What do the policies say regarding hot drink cups?

City staff are directed to meet with industry stakeholders on possible alternatives to existing hot drink cups and report back to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee in April, 2009.

Why is it important to reduce in-store packaging?

The approved policies follow the hierarchy of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), putting the emphasis on reduction first, and are designed to:

- o minimize the volume of waste generated that requires landfill disposal;
- o benefit the environment by conserving natural resources;
- o reduce climate-change impact;
- o reduce litter;
- o respond to the public's request that we address waste packaging and assist them to reduce their volume-based Solid Waste Management Fee; and
- o maintain consumer health and safety.

How does in-store packaging reduction help Toronto achieve 70% diversion by 2010?

By focusing on reducing packaging waste, there will be considerably less material sent to landfill and less litter. Overall there will be less to collect, sort, process, haul and manage through the system. The energy and cost to recycle material will also be avoided. Both recycling and disposal require the use of energy and transportation, produce greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution.

What types of in-store packaging are addressed?

The report identifies several types of packaging for source reduction including hot drink cups, plastic retail shopping bags and single-use plastic food packaging. There are a variety of viable reusable alternatives for such single-use items such as hot drink cups and shopping bags. All three types of packaging are generated at the point-of-purchase within Toronto's boundaries and are therefore suitable to be municipally regulated.

What do the policies ask of residents?

The policies offer residents, as consumers, incentives to make positive environmental choices and the ability to reduce their use of single-use container packaging. The proposed policies offer customers convenient reusable alternatives. On the occasion that they have to use retailer-

supplied, single-use containers, the containers must eventually be compatible with Toronto's recycling program.

Will the packaging reduction policies hurt Toronto's businesses?

The City's policies are designed to have a low administrative and financial impact on retailers and are intended to continue to keep Toronto businesses competitive with others outside our boundaries. Our intention is not to increase the baseline price of products. The policies are consistent with the goals of the Target 70 Plan to offer residents information and tools to make environmentally responsible choices, consider customer convenience, maintain Waste Diversion Ontario funding and maximize the efficiencies of collection and processing of recyclables.

Why are biodegradable bags not accepted in the City's recycling program?

Biodegradable plastic bags look the same as other types of traditional plastic bags, but they are made out of different material than the plastic bags we take for recycling. Biodegradable plastic bags would contaminate our sorting, processing and the material we supply to our end markets. Products made out of recycled plastic bags, such as benches, chairs, tables, would be structurally weakened if they contained biodegradable content that is designed to break down over time.

Why reduce the use of plastic retail shopping bags when the City plans to add them to its recycling program?

In the hierarchy of the 3Rs, reducing is always preferable to reusing or recycling. While recycling is better for the environment than landfill disposal, it still requires the use of energy and transportation along with the accompanying environmental and financial costs. Simply reducing the amount of waste we manage by reducing the number of plastic bags, reduces our overall environmental impact.

Are any other types of in-store packaging addressed?

The report recommends that staff be permitted to suggest additional in-store packaging materials that can be considered for similar packaging reduction policies.

How much could these policies divert from landfill?

According to audit data supplied by industry associations and our own City data, plastic bags, hot drink cups and polystyrene packaging take up valuable landfill space, upwards of approximately 44,000 cubic metres of landfill capacity a year. Plastic bags and take-out food containers do not degrade in landfill. While the paper part of most hot drink cups will break down in landfill over time, this degradation contributes to methane gas production.

Does the policy address packaging produced by manufacturers or distributors?

Yes, it recommends that the In-Store Packaging Working Group reconvene as a Packaging Reduction Working Group by expanding its membership to include factory packaging representatives. This Group would develop a range of options for the City to reduce this type of

packaging, including a program where customers could remove factory packaging at the point-of-purchase and leave it behind at the retail location and report back on their findings.

Do the policies recommend reduction management tools such as bans, taxes or deposit-return programs?

Staff explored the concept of banning all of the targeted materials but concluded it was too onerous, inconvenient and impractical for both retailers and residents. Single-use packaging should still be available provided it is compatible with the City's recycling programs.

It would appear that currently the City of Toronto Act does not allow the City impose a sales tax on any of the three targeted in-store packaging types. Deposit-return programs are typically run at a provincial level due to the complexities of managing and administering the system. A deposit-return system at the City level would be vulnerable to border issues, difficult to administer, be open to fraud and put a burden on retailers. More details on all of these options are available in the original report.

How will the City enforce these policies with Toronto retailers?

Solid Waste Management staff will work with appropriate staff from Municipal Licensing and Standards, Legal Services, Toronto Public Health and any other appropriate divisions, to develop wording for a by-law on enforcement protocol and recommended fines for violation, in the range of \$100 - \$400 per offence.

18. Chief Blair launches New Interactive Homicide Squad Web Page

Chief William Blair launched a new, interactive [Homicide Squad](#) web page. It will enable the community, and family and friends of murder victims, to assist with homicide investigations through "Submit-A-Tip," at the bottom of each case profile page.

This new web page will let the community visit cold case homicide investigations, unsolved and current homicide investigations, as well as "Most Wanted" and "Rewards" links.

Each victim's profile will consist of a brief synopsis of the investigation, any video or security camera images, news conference video, YouTube video appeals and, in some cases, Facebook entries from family and friends. Users will be able to roam the page, clicking on images to enlarge photographs, watch video, or "Submit-A-Tip."

The information in an online tip is sent directly to the Homicide Squad, which will review every submission. This feature will allow the public to provide police with information from the privacy of their own home, from anywhere in the world, at any time. Anyone providing information can become eligible to received a reward of up to \$50,000.

The "Rewards" link will explain how to claim a reward of up to \$50,000 in exchange for

information leading an arrest and conviction. A new poster will feature investigations that are eligible for rewards. Videos featuring the lead investigator will be available thorough this link.

This new, interactive web page is unprecedented for major North American police services.

For more information, please contact Detective Sergeant Reg Pitts at 416-808-7397 or Detective Greg Groves at 416-808-7384.

19. Emerald Ash Borer

Presently in the City of Toronto staff, have identified about 30,000 ash street and park trees representing approximately 6% of the known forest inventory in the City. There are many thousands more ash trees in parks and natural areas and on private property. The likely disappearance of ash trees from the landscape due to EAB is a tragedy that Urban Forestry takes seriously and we've implemented a series of measures.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has devastated ash trees in southwestern Ontario and parts of the United States since its discovery in Detroit, Michigan in 2002. The EAB is an introduced insect pest from Asia that attacks and kills all species of ash trees.

Recognizing if your tree is infected is difficult, there are symptoms you may look for such as shoots (suckers), cracking bark, D-shaped holes and thinning crowns only become evident after two or more years of infestation. One or more of these symptoms may appear even without the presence of EAB. If you believe your tree may be infected please visit the City website at www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm and follow the link to contact to visit the CFIA website <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/agrplae.shtml> or contact them directly at 1-866-463-6017.

Staff have advised that with regards to tree injections, Urban Forestry instituted a small experimental program of injections for some City-owned ash trees at a time when the extent of the known infestation in Toronto was contained within a single area. Subsequent to that initial detection of EAB in North York and the tree injections, two other locations within the City were found to have infested trees. Within the past 6 months, EAB has been found in the Regions of Peel, Halton and York, the Montregie Region of Quebec, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie and Huron County in southwestern Ontario in addition to the existing known infestations in Windsor, Essex, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, Lambton, London, Middlesex and Norfolk. These new detections have confirmed that EAB is now widespread in Ontario and beyond. The probability is high that additional areas in Ontario will be found to be infested in the near future.

The reality of the situation is that EAB is firmly established in Ontario and eradication of this pest is not possible. This is already the position of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that is responsible for the regulation of invasive pests in Canada. As a result, injection of ash trees on a broad scale is not a feasible option to deal with this invasive pest. As you noted, injections are expensive and would need to be repeated every 2 years at a minimum. Urban Forestry does not

have the authority or the resources necessary to institute a comprehensive program of tree injections on private property.

Urban Forestry will continue to pro-actively monitor City-owned ash trees across Toronto. We are concentrating our efforts in areas surrounding known locations of EAB infestation and areas where there are high populations of ash trees. We are monitoring for evidence of EAB, overall tree condition and identification of existing open locations for expedited tree planting.

For further information on EAB please contact Kristjan Vitols Supervisor, Tree Nursery & Natural Resource Management Forest & Natural Environment Management Urban Forestry Branch City of Toronto 416-392-0432 or kvitols@toronto.ca.

A meeting will be held to update the community on this matter on March 11th 2009 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI - 7:00 p.m. There will also be a discussion on evasive plants found in Guildwood Village.

20. Christmas Flower Shows at Allan Gardens and Centennial Park Conservatories

The annual Christmas Flower Shows at Allan Gardens and Centennial Park Conservatories from December 7 to 30.

Both conservatories will showcase many of the newest varieties of poinsettias, all lending a Victorian flavour for the holiday season. The conservatories will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit both Conservatories by Candlelight December 15 to 23 and December 26 to 30 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The City of Toronto will host an opening event each location that will feature Victorian Carolers, hot cider and cookies, children's activities, horse and carriage rides and a visit from Father Christmas. The grand opening of the Allan Gardens Conservatory Christmas Flower Show is on December 7 from noon to 5 p.m. The grand opening of the Centennial Park Conservatory Christmas Flower Show is on December 14, noon to 7 p.m.

Allan Gardens Conservatory is located at Carlton Street between Jarvis and Sherbourne Streets. Centennial Park Conservatory is situated at 151 Elmcrest Rd. Admission is free.

21. Annual Blitz on Misuse of Accessible Parking Permits

The Toronto Police Service Parking Enforcement Disabled Liaison Section will be conducting an enforcement blitz on the illegal use of Accessible Parking Permits.

This campaign will help to ensure that accessible parking is available for those who need it during this busy holiday shopping time. The blitz will run from Monday, December 1, 2008 to Sunday,

December 31, 2008. Officers will conduct inspections of drivers using disabled parking spaces.

General Information on Accessible Parking Permit usage: - Motorists and permit holders are reminded that Accessible Parking Permits are issued only to the named individual with the disability, and that permit privileges are not transferable. - The permit may only be used if the vehicle is being utilized to pick up, drop off or transport the person named on the permit. - Accessible Parking Permits are not to be altered or defaced in any way and must be clearly displayed. Copies are not valid. - Persons using legal permits in the absence of the named permit holder, or persons using copied, altered or fraudulently obtained permits, may be charged under the Highway Traffic Act and/or City of Toronto Parking Bylaw.

For further information, please contact Patrol Supervisor Tracey Gillam at 416-808-6643

22. Enforcement Campaign on Apartment Buildings

Municipal Licensing Services Division has built a 15-member team which will audit and where appropriate, issue orders against 176 buildings in its first year.

If you have any issues municipal standards issues in your building please do contact my office at 416-396-7222 or contact the MLS Division directly at 416 396 7228 or visit their website at <http://www.toronto.ca/apartmentstandards/home.htm>.

The audit will focus on common areas within buildings, parking garages, balconies, the exterior grounds, building electrical, hot water and heating systems. Building residents will be advised as to the team's presence at their building and will be able to bring forward any concerns that have gone unaddressed by landlords about apartment units to the ML&S mobile command unit, or the district ML&S office.

23. Family Day Joins List of Designated Holidays On Which Toronto Stores Must Close

City Council passed a Notice of Motion that amends Municipal Chapter 510 and Bylaw 153-95 to add Family Day to the definition of "holiday," and add Family Day to the holidays on which stores must close - unless they are located in areas with Tourist Area Exemption. Family Day is held annually on the third Monday of February. In 2009 Family Day falls on Monday, February 16.

Tourist Area Exemption areas in Toronto include: Queen's Quay Terminal; Toronto Eaton Centre and the Hudson's Bay Company store at Yonge and Queen Streets; Downtown Yonge Street Business Improvement Area; Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area; and the Distillery Historic District.

In addition to Family Day, other designated holidays on which Toronto stores are required to close include New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Stores are required to close on Family Day throughout the remainder of the Province of Ontario by the Retail Business Holidays Act (R.S.O. 1990, c.R.30).

For more information, check www.toronto.ca/business_resources/holiday_shopping.htm.

24. New additions to the Blue Bin

Toronto's Blue Bin Program has expanded to include plastic shopping bags and foam polystyrene packaging. As of December 9, these items will be collected in the Blue Bin.

Each household in Toronto generates an average of 457 plastic bags per year. Residents can reduce the quantity of bags going to landfill by using reusable bags when shopping. The City is encouraging people to reuse grocery and retail plastic bags in other ways, but if they have too many, they can now put them in their Blue Bins for recycling.

Receipts must be removed from plastic grocery and retail bags. Bags must be put in one plastic grocery or retail bag with the handles tied together. Plastic bags with drawstrings, metal detailing or hard plastic handles will not be accepted. The following bags are also not included: dry cleaning, milk (outer and inner), produce, bread, sandwich and plastic food wrap.

Biodegradable or compostable plastic bags are not accepted in the City's recycling program. While they look the same as other types of traditional plastic bags, they are made out of different material. Biodegradable plastic bags contaminate the material supplied to companies that produce goods from recycled material. Products made from recycled plastic bags, such as shelving, benches, chairs and tables, would be structurally weakened if they contained biodegradable content that is designed to break down over time.

Foam polystyrene that can now be recycled includes foam protective packaging, foam meat trays, foam takeout food containers, foam plates, foam egg cartons and foam coffee cups. All food residue must be removed. Packing chips (e.g. "peanuts") are not accepted in the Blue Bin Program.

More details about the Blue Bin Program are available at www.toronto.ca/recycle.

25. Quote du Mois

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can" George Bernard Shaw

26. Websites for Community Use

www.paulainslie.com
www.johnmckaymp.on.ca - From John McKay, Member of Parliament
www.ontla.on.ca - Minister Margaret Best M.P.P.
www.west-hill.com - A tribute to the West Hill area
www.tamheathervenerables.com -Men's Curling 55 and older
www.guildwood.on.ca - The Guildwood Village Community Association
www.scarboroughhistorical.ca - Scarborough Historical Society
www.westrouge.org - The West Rouge Community Association
www.freenet.hamilton.on.ca/Information/sports/leisure/bgco/toronto.htm -East
www.esbgc.org Scarborough Boys' & Girls' Club
www.spo.ca - Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra
www.mirror-guardian.com - The Scarborough Mirror
www.scar.utoronto.ca - University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus
www.westhill.ntsweb.com - West Hill Public School
www.tcdsb.org/schools/popejohnpaulii.html - Pope John Paul II Catholic Secondary School
www.scarbcccac.org - Scarborough Community Care Access Centre
www.city.toronto.on.ca/ttc/index.htm - The Toronto Transit Commission
www.gostransit.com - GO Transit
www.torontopolice.on.ca/d43 - 43 Division- Toronto Police Services
www.scarborougharts.com/groups/renaissance/index.htm - The Guild Renaissance Group
www.torontocaer.com - The Toronto East Community Awareness & Emergency Response
www.scarboroughsoftball.ca/SevenOaks.htm - The Seven Oaks Softball League
www.rougevalley.ca - The Rouge Valley Health Care System (Centenary Hospital)
www.bluffsmonitor.com - Bluffs Monitor
www.ontariotenants.ca - Ontario Tenants Rights
www.centennialcra.com - Centennial Community and Recreation Association

27. ENews Policy and Contact Information

eNews is a monthly news communication from Paul Ainslie. If you are interested in subscribing, please email me at paulainslie@paulainslie.com. Each issue of the newsletter is sent only to those who have provided us with their email address for the purpose of corresponding on municipal matters. Email addresses will be kept confidential. If you wish to discontinue receiving our newsletter, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line. I welcome your comments on any municipal matter and the opportunity to be of service. My regularly updated website is located at www.paulainslie.com and contains information on local

organizations, news and events at City Hall. You can also communicate 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 Joan Bannister, my Constituency Assistant on the second floor of the Scarborough Civic Centre located at 150 Borough Drive (Ellesmere & McCowan)