

January, 2009

Issue 20

Dear Ward 43 Residents,

Happy New Year. I would like to wish you and your family a prosperous and healthy 2009!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at my annual New Years' Levee on January 10. If you did not have an opportunity to join us please do make some time to visit the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre. They have art exhibits showing year round, as well as beautiful grounds to take a walk around.

This year's annual Auxiliary Police Christmas Toy Drive hosted by the Auxiliaries from 41, 42, and 43 Divisions was a huge success. Not only did the children of Scarborough benefit but proceeds were also shared with the children of St. James Town. Upon hearing that there was a shortage of toys for the St. James Town children, our Scarborough team without hesitation extended their hand. A bus load of toys was delivered to the needy children in the neighbourhood days before Christmas I was very proud to be part of this annual program and congratulate all of you who donated and volunteered your time to distribute toys. A special thank you to all the officers who made this possible, specifically those who service our community from Toronto Police 43 Division; your volunteerism is truly a blessing. For further information please go to the following link:

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=3941&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

With the economic uncertainty being faced world wide and with keeping on page with the City of Toronto's budget, I will be supporting the motion for a cost of living freeze for myself and my colleagues at City Council this month. Understanding that we all share a personal responsibility to bare some of the weight to benefit the City's resident's at large. The 2009 capital budget was approved at the December 10, 2008 Council meeting and may be viewed at: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2009/index.htm> .

This months report is abundant with information on current events in Ward 43. I do welcome your comments please do continue to send them.

Paul Ainslie
Councillor, City of Toronto Ward 43 Scarborough East

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1. Scarborough East Community Calendar

- January 1st – Toronto City Hall New Year's Day Levee
January 3rd – Third Annual International Bowl
January 4th – Scarborough Community Council Levee
January 6th – Tam Heather Board Meeting
January 8th - Neighbourhood Action Partnership Committee meeting
January 8th - Community Policing Liaison Committee Meeting
January 9th - Aboriginal Day
January 9th – Toronto Region Conservation Authority
January 9th - Rouge Park Alliance
January 9th - Budget Committee operating budget review

January 10th - Councillor Ainslie's New Year's Levee 2009
January 12th - Community Development and Recreation Committee
January 12th – Guild Renaissance Group Meeting
January 13th – Scarborough Community Council
January 13th – Centenary Hospital Birthing Unit Grand Opening
January 13th - Town Hall with Residents of 10/20 Guildwood Pkwy.
January 13th – Guildwood Village Community Association Meeting
January 14th - Meeting for Meadowcliffe Drive Erosion Control Project
January 15th – Neighbourhood Action Partnership Meeting
January 15th – Community Associations Presidents meeting
January 19th – Toronto Public Library Board Meeting
January 20th – Toronto Hydro Community Meeting on Proposed Anemometer
January 21st - Centenary Hospital Fundraising Committee Meeting
January 22nd – Toronto Zoo Board Meeting
January 22nd – East Scarborough Storefront Meeting Amazing Place Walking Tour Committee
January 27th – Toronto City Council
January 27th - Tam Heather Board Meeting
January 28th – Toronto City Council
January 29th – Toronto Police Services 15th Annual Black History Month Kick-Off Celebration
January 30th – Toronto Region Conservation Authority Meeting

2. Seven Oaks

Congratulations to the Rouge Valley Health Centre on the official opening of the Centenary site's new Birthing & Pre-Natal Care Centre. Scarborough East is very fortunate to have such a facility in our community. The Birthing Centre is beautiful and will serve our community well. I enjoyed celebrating with the hospital and meeting all the wonderful people who have dedicated themselves to serving us through the Rouge Valley Health Centre.

Residents of the Lakeview Community have since 2004 requested that two items be installed to better their neighbourhood. One item was the installation of signalized traffic light at Morningside Avenue and Tams Road which was approved for installation in November 2008. The other item was the installation of a walkway from Cindy Nicholas Drive to Morningside Ave. The previous Councillor had begun the process to have the walkway issue addressed and I have been working with staff to proceed to have it installed. The cost of the project is not the only pressing issue; approvals from the Ministry of Transportation and Toronto Hydro are also needed.

Stop Signs on Keeler Boulevard and vicinity were approved at the Scarborough Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday January 13, 2009. Transportation Services staff had reviewed the entire area and also recommended the installation of stop signs at eleven other intersections in the immediate area of Keeler Boulevard. Staff recommended these stop signs be installed to clearly define the right-of-way,

to promote a safe environment for neighbourhood children, and to regulate traffic flow. These new stop signs will be installed during the next 4-6 weeks

3. Curran Hall

City Staff have removed the damaged snow fence at the tennis Courts. Staff are also addressing the issue of illegal dumping of household waste into the Curran Hall community centers waste container at the rear of the parking lot. The bin had been moved away from the building to be out of the sight line but is being abused by some who are using it to dispose of waste. Staff will also be removing the graffiti on the bin enclosure.

It has come to our attention that residents are accessing the Curran Hall Ravine Park at the north westside of the creek east of Scarborough Golf Club Road. This access is not a City path and thus not maintained. A snow fence is installed by the City at this point to lower the impact of snow drift only.

The development of Tiffany Park Homes, is still a work in progress and is unfortunately taking longer than I or the community would have liked. Staff have been working diligently on this file with continuous contact with the developer. If you would like further information on this file please contact Frank Stirpe, Community Planning who has the lead on this file at 416-396-7658 or fstirpe@toronto.ca.

Brimorton Drive and Orton Park will be converted from a PXO to traffic control signals as part of a larger City program. These new signals will help to create gaps in the traffic and also reduce the speeding which occurs along Orton Park Road. It should also make it easier for traffic to enter and exit Botany Hill Road. The installation is expected in late 2009 or early 2010.

4. Coronation and West Hill

Bell Mobility has made application to the Ministry of Industry to build a telecommunication tower on the CNR property located on the south side of the Guildwood GO Station, 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. Bell Mobility will be sending a notice to residents when the meeting date has been confirmed.

5. Cedar Ridge

My community barbeque, last years was a huge success with over 800 residents taking part. As I am always looking for community input with events I would love to have members of the community make this year's barbeque an even better success. Any area youth who participate can use their volunteer

time towards their 40 hour volunteer school board requirement.

During last years snow fall some streets in the Cedar Ridge Community were unfortunately missed specifically on Wilsteven Drive. When this was brought to my attention, the issue was dealt with. If you experience a lack of service please bring it to my attention as soon as possible so that it may be addressed. Email me at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca or call my constituency office at 416-396-7222.

6. Guildwood Village

January 20, 2009 marks the date for the next meeting hosted by Toronto Hydro. During the last meeting, I demanded publicly there needed to be one held purely for local residents to make their concerns known, or simply to ask questions. I fully understand there are residents for, against, and simply would like to better understand what this project means to our community. I would like to thank all the residents who have contacted my office with their inquiries and will continue to keep firm with my decision to not support the location choice of Toronto Hydro.

Letters of invitation to attend the January 20, 2009 meeting were sent from my office to Mayor David Miller, Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources, and the Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment. I believe it is important to have them listen firsthand to residents who will be directly affected by wind turbine farms proposed adjacent to residential bedroom communities.

I have expressed to Toronto Hydro that their method of inviting the community to register to attend was not to my satisfaction. I had suggested to them that residents show identification at the venue to allow community members to speak.

Toronto Hydro chose to have residents pre-register to attend the January 20th meeting. The registration deadline has been extended to January 19, 2009 if you have not yet received you notice to attend the meeting contact Joyce Mclean, Director, Strategic Issues at Toronto Hydro Corporation (416)542-3047 or email jmclean@torontohydro.com .

On Christmas morning the Studio Building which is situated directly to the left of the Guild Inn main entrance was burnt to the ground. Fortunately no one was hurt in the fire. Currently undergoing a thorough investigation, a report will be publicly released when finalized. I have been in discussions with City Staff and have advised them that I would like to have the Studio Building rebuilt, as I had been planning on using the property for community use. Since my election to office I have always maintained to keep the Guild Inn property at the top of my list of priorities. The roof on the Studio was replaced in 2008. Work had commenced in December to have asbestos installation and mold cleared out. The purpose of this work was to have the bathrooms in working order for public use and for programming. With the unfortunate set back of the fire, it opens an opportunity to build a stronger building to serve

the community's need for public space. The fire in no way has impeded on the Centennial College proposal; which is currently being negotiated.

I would like to thank all the residents who reside at 10 & 20 Guildwood Pkwy for inviting me to host my January Town Hall meeting at their condominium complex. It was well attended and lively, the meeting served to be a good one. Residents were updated on the Guild Inn Proposal, the Toronto Hydro proposal to build an anemometer, as well as other community updates. I would also like to thank City staff from the Solid Waste Division for attending to address issues surrounding the new green bin program for condominiums, as well as other waste inquiries.

Residents also requested to have a left turn light signal installed on Kingston Road and Guildwood Pkwy (westerly flowing traffic). Residents believed that this was a necessary installation and would deter accidents. Staff, has been advised of the request and will report back to me on this possibility. A request to have trees planted on Kingston Road from Guildwood Parkway to Livingston Road was also made. I have already spoken to staff to have this fulfilled in the 2009 calendar year.

A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday March 10, 2009 in Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI @ 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Southern Ontario. Forestry staff will be on hand to present and answer your questions. There will also be a discussion by our parks staff on the issue of invasive plants within our community, and how they are to be addressed.

Scheduling for workshop events are also in progress to take place in Greyabbey Park to instruct interested residents on how to recognize, weed out and dispose of any invasive species of plants. There will also be an opportunity to join a volunteer community network to attend to the parks which surround Guildwood. Details for the workshops will be distributed at the March 10 meeting.

Presently City of Toronto staff have identified approximately 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 very 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> (

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/agrplae.shtml%20>)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 .

Stop Signs on Catalina Drive and Prince Philip Boulevard and vicinity were approved at the Scarborough Community Council Meeting held on Tuesday January 13, 2009 . Transportation Services staff reviewed the installation of stop signs at six three-way intersections in immediate area of Catalina Drive and Prince Philip Boulevard . Staff recommended stop signs be installed at these intersections to clearly define the right-of-way, to promote a safe environment for pedestrians, children in particular and to regulate traffic flow. These stop signs will be installed during the next 4-6 week period.

7. The 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

Jan. 20th 6:15 p.m. Toronto Hydro Anemometer meeting Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI
Feb. 13th 12 noon 43 Police Division Family Skate Day at Heron Park Community Centre
Mar. 8th Spring/Summer Recreation Program Registration
Mar. 10th 7:00 p.m. Emerald Ash Borer Community Meeting Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI
May 9th 11: a.m.2:00 p.m. 43 Division Picnic & Open House
May 23rd & 24th Doors Open Toronto, Various Sites including Cedar Ridge Creative Centre
May 30th Councillor Ainslie's Compost Day

June 14th 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. Celebration of the Arts, Cedar Ridge CC,
June 16th Councillor Ainslie's Annual Cornell Park Barbeque
June 18th Councillor Ainslie's Annual Seven Oaks Park Barbeque
Aug 15th – 16th – Councillor Ainslie's sponsored Guild Alive with Culture Festival
Sept 13th Fall/Winter Recreation Program Registration
Nov. 25th – Dec. 8th 43 Division Toy Drive, 1 to 4 pm

Scarborough Civic Centre Events

Start Time: 2:00 – 4:00pm

ADMISSION IS FREE!!!

JANUARY 2009

4 JIMMY AMARO BAND (SCARBOROUGH NEW YEARS LEVEE – 12:30PM)
11 GOOD TIMES ORCHESTRA
18 METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND
25 PEGGY MAHON QUARTET

FEBRUARY 2009

- 1 CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
- 8 SYNCONA
- 15 ULSTERACCORDION BAND
- 22 BRIAN ROSE LITTLE BIG BAND

MARCH 2009

- 1 DCAT CHORUS
- 8 CASABLANCAORCHESTRA
- 15 EDDIE GRAF ORCHESTRA
- 22 MIKE DANTON BAND
- 29 MICHELE LAWRENCE QUARTET

APRIL 2009

- 5 NORTH TORONTOCOMMUNITY BAND
- 12 NO CONCERT- EASTER
- 19 UPTOWN SWING BAND
- 26 SCARBOROUGHMUSIC LOVERS ORCHESTRA

9. Morningside Park Citizen Advisory Group

I have decided to begin a Morningside Park Citizen Advisory Group. Morningside Park is a gem in our community. In the past couple of years sculptor Dorsey James has been working with youth from the Malvern community to create a hiking trail identified by totem poles which they have carved by hand from old hydro poles. Last summer a state of the art splash pad and playground was installed in the park. In the winter months many residents cross country ski in the park. Many deer and birds species can be seen in the park. It is worth a visit.

I think there is a lot of potential for other activities to also take place. I am inviting local residents to contact my office at 416-392-4007 to sign up and join an advisory member.

10. City of Toronto Council Highlights- December

At a special meeting held December 10, Council approved a five-year, \$11-billion Capital Plan that includes a 2009 Capital Budget of \$1.6 billion investing in neighbourhoods and creating or protecting tens of thousands of jobs. The City also introduced its first-ever 10-year Capital Plan and Forecast, which outlines capital projects the City will undertake to develop, maintain and improve City assets such as transit, roads, bridges, community centers and libraries. The City's 10-year Capital Plan and Forecast of

\$25.9 billion is expected to create or protect approximately 300,000 jobs over the next 10 years. More details: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2009>

Policies to reduce packaging and waste

Council approved policies designed to reduce retail in-store packaging and to ensure that packaging materials are recyclable in the City's Blue Bin recycling program. Effective June 1, 2009, retailers will be required to charge a minimum of five cents for each single-use plastic retail shopping bag taken by a customer. Bags must be compatible with the City's recycling program by June 1, 2010. Council also voted to ban the sale of bottled water at the City's civic centres immediately and to impose a general ban (by 2011) on plastic take-out food containers that are not compatible with Toronto's blue bin program.

GO Transit to invest in Union Station revitalization

Council adopted motions to sell and lease various portions of Union Station to GO Transit. The sale is to include existing office space in the west wing as well as new concourses that the City plans to build. With partial ownership and as a significant user of Union Station, GO Transit will contribute to the City's revitalization efforts, including the proposed construction of a northwest underground PATH system aligned with York Street.

Management of Union Station

Council authorized City officials to assume hands-on management of Union Station from Toronto Terminals Railway Company next spring. Among its initiatives, the City intends to upgrade security as well as engage with Enwave to provide deep lake water cooling for Union Station.

Lobbyist Registry

Council approved the exemption of not-for-profit community services from registering with the City's Lobbyist Registry. Under the Municipal Code, not-for-profit organizations are generally exempt from registration but were required to register when applying for City grants, awards or other financial benefits and wanting to lobby about their application. Much of the information that the Lobbyist Registry collects is already made available through the grants funding process, which is public. More information: <http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying>

Committee appointments

Council approved the appointment of Council members to City committees, agencies and advisory bodies for the second half of the current four-year term of Council. The appointments take effect January 1, 2009. Details are available on the City's website via the November 14 Committee Report to City Council/Striking Committee: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2008/agendas/st.htm>

Bid to host 2015 Pan American Games

Council endorsed the City of Toronto's role as host city and participant in a bid to host the 2015 Pan American/Para Pan Games in Toronto and in surrounding communities. Council authorized the city manager to negotiate a Bid City Agreement on behalf of the City of Toronto with the federal and provincial governments, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Bid Corporation to define roles and

responsibilities. A more detailed report in 2009 will present a venue strategy and financial implications.

Toronto street food pilot project

Council approved setting up a one-year pilot project with eligible street food vendors to expand their menu selections to include healthier food choices. In addition, Toronto Public Health received Council's authorization to conduct a three-year "Toronto a la Cart" pilot project, starting with as many as 15 new street food vendors chosen for 2009. They will provide ethnically diverse foods to be sold from carts purchased from the City's contracted manufacturer for the project. This is a project which I did not support. I felt the monetary and operational restrictions imposed on it, would not be of benefit, but a hindrance.

Extension of outdoor ice rink season

Council agreed to extend the ice skating season at 14 of the City's 49 outdoor artificial ice rinks by two weeks beyond the standard 12-week season - remaining open until mid March if weather permits. The 14 artificial ice rinks selected to remain open into March are located across the entire city. Online information about artificial outdoor ice rinks:

http://www.toronto.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/skating/outdoor_ice_rinks.htm

Eco-Roof incentive program

Council approved terms of reference for an Eco-Roof Incentive Program encouraging the installation of green and cool roofs. The City will provide incentive funding to eligible industrial, commercial and institutional property owners. The goal is to make Toronto's building stock more sustainable and better adapted to climate change. Green roofs support vegetation and cool roofs reflect the sun's thermal energy. This new program, an initiative of the City's action plan on climate change, clean air and sustainable energy, builds on the Green Roof Strategy and supports the Toronto Green Standard.

11. Toronto Waterfront Wind Watch

A group of citizens in Guildwood have raised major concerns about using the Bluffs area a historic and environmentally-sensitive area – as a site for a major industrial windpower development. Their concerns, which include economic, environmental and aesthetic issues, have remained unanswered by Toronto Hydro and other officials. For more information about this grassroots group, visit www.savethetorontobluffs.com

12. 43 DIVISION MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES FOR YOUNG PERSONS

43 Division Community Alert Constable Peter Rampat of 43 division has started a martial arts class for young persons in 43 division.

The location is Cedarbrae High school at Lawrence Ave. East and Markham Rd. The first class was held on Tuesday, 06th January 2009 and several students from various high schools enrolled. Future classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7-9PM in the dance studio in the school.

These classes are free and are open to all grade 9 to 12 students that are presently attending high school in Scarborough. For further information please contact Officer Peter Rampat at 416-451-5278.

13. Energy Conservation Tips for Winter Heating

You can save as much as 3% of the energy your furnace uses by lowering your thermostat by 1 degree. Install a programmable thermostat. It will turn the heat up before you wake, turn it down when you leave home and back up when you return - automatically. Recommended thermostat settings for a comfortable environment are 21°C (70°F) when at home, 18°C (65°F) when you're sleeping, and 15°C (59°F) when you're away from your home for an extended period of time. Ensure that the hole in the wall behind the thermostat is insulated to prevent any drafts. Every few months, remove the thermostat cover and dust it gently with a soft brush.

Fireplaces

When not in use, close your fireplace damper and cover the opening to prevent drafts and heat loss. Grates made of C-shaped metal tubes help draw cool air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room. When your fireplace is operating, turn down your main thermostat. If your gas fireplace has a thermostat, keep it at the lowest setting you can. Be sure to install glass doors and an insert in your wood-burning fireplace - otherwise, it can draw heat out of your home.

Electrical Heating & Space Heaters

Place electrical heaters far away from water sources. Be certain that your heater is placed on a level, hard and non-flammable surface, not on rugs or carpets. Never dry clothes by draping them over the heater. If you must use an extension cord, for safety reasons use a heavy-duty cord, so it doesn't overheat. Always try to plug into a ground fault circuit interrupter, which prevents electric shock by shutting the heater off if electrical leakage develops. Check the temperature of the grille face to ensure it doesn't become too hot to touch. Programmable thermostats are now available for space heating at most hardware stores. Install one today to manage your electricity use and costs.

Visit www.torontohydro.com/tips

14. Toronto Fire Services

Learn More about Careers with Toronto Fire Services. Come listen and ask questions of the recruiters as they focus on the application process and career preparation for Probationary Firefighter, Call Taker/Dispatcher and Fire Prevention Inspector.

CAREER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Wednesday January 28, 7:00 PM
Toronto City Hall, Committee Room #2
100 Queen Street West

Thursday February 5, 7:00 PM
Women only session
Toronto City Hall, Committee Room #2
100 Queen Street West

Tuesday February 17, 7:00 PM
Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chambers
150 Borough Drive

Check for updates:

www.toronto.ca/fire/recruitment Information Hotline 416-392-FIRE (3473)

All Information Sessions are approximately 2 hours in length and begin promptly at the scheduled time. Families are welcome to attend Toronto Fire Services is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from women, people with disabilities, Aboriginal peoples and racial minorities.

15. Policing Career

Practice session for women, Saturday, January 31, 2009, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Humber College, 3199 Lakeshore Boulevard West

On Saturday, January 31, 2009, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., the Toronto Police Service will be hosting a practice session for the Constable Selection Process. The event is for women interested in a career in law enforcement with the Toronto Police Service.

This session will be held at Humber College, 3199 Lakeshore Boulevard West, and will be conducted by members of the TPS Recruiting Unit. The practice session will include the PREP portion of the Selection Process.

Those interested in attending the session are asked to contact the Recruiting Unit at 416-808-JOIN (5646). Registration is required, as space is limited. Gym attire is required. For more information about recruiting, please visit <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/careers/>

16. Call for Entry - Art Needs: Scarborough Arts Council Annual Juried Art Exhibition

For the Scarborough Arts Council Annual Juried Art Exhibition 2009, SAC is asking artists to explore the theme of “ Art needs .” Does art need a new perspective? Off-beat colour combinations? Smaller or larger work? More abstraction or realism? Use your unique perspective as an artist and encourage viewers to consider a new way of thinking about art. Artists working in all media are invited to submit their work for Art Needs. The juror for Art Needs is Alexander Irving.

Awards for Art Needs include the Frank Faubert Memorial Award for Art - the City of Toronto Purchase Award and the D. L. Stevenson Ltd. Award for Art.

Please submit up to three images of work, a detailed image list, artist statement, CV, and self addressed stamped envelope to the Scarborough Arts Council.

Successful entries will be exhibited in the Hin-Shiu Hung Art Gallery at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto from March 19 – April 2, 2009. The entry fee is \$35, or \$30 for SAC members. All fees are non-refundable. For more information, contact Tim Whalley, Executive Director, at ed@scarborougharts.com , or call 416-698-7322.

Full application forms are available at www.scarborougharts.com

Deadline: February 6, 2009 .

Alexander Irving received a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1987 and his Master of Fine Art from York University in 2000. He has been exhibiting his work since 1986 and currently works out of Toronto, where he is represented by Diaz Contemporary. Irving has taught at the Ontario College of Art and Design and, at present, holds the post of Lecturer at the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus.

17. Police Traffic Services Winter Driving Tips

Slow Down: driving slower allows more time for reaction, reduces stopping distances,

Look: well beyond where you are and use mirrors to be aware of your surroundings,

Identify: possible hazards well in advance of reaching them,

Drive: within the limits of the environment, your ability and the equipment you have,

Evaluate: the need for driving, changing environmental conditions and road conditions.

In the event of a collision, where there are no injuries, you should:

* Remove your vehicles from the road if it is safe to do so

- * Exchange information with the other involved drivers (names, drivers license number, address, phone number, insurance and vehicle information)
- * Gather witness information, if there are any
- * Attend a Collision Reporting Centre with your vehicle, your license, insurance and ownership
- * Collision Reporting Centres are located at:
 - o 113 Toryork Drive (Weston Road and Finch Avenue area) 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.
 - o 39 Howden Road (Lawrence Avenue East and Birchmount Road area) 24 hours
 - o 855 Oxford Street (Islington Avenue and Evans Avenue area) 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

If there are any injuries, suspected criminal activity (impaired driving, stolen vehicle), or a refusal on any involved persons cooperation, call police immediately.

18. Winterlicious 2009 returns with two popular programs for food lovers to savour

Beginning this January 30, the Winterlicious price fix promotion expands to 150 restaurants. It is offering more choice for foodies at Toronto's finest restaurants. New for 2009, a pilot initiative intended to encourage greater creativity in menu offerings is made available through a higher price category (\$30 lunch, \$45 dinner). The Winterlicious Culinary Events also offer 12 mouth-watering culinary adventures featuring some of Toronto's diverse cuisine and notable chefs.

The hugely popular prix-fixe restaurant promotion presented by American Express and a highlight of the WinterCity experience, Winterlicious returns with participating restaurants offering three-course prix-fixe menus at \$15, \$20 or \$30 for lunch and \$25, \$35 or \$45 for dinner. American Express Card members can go to the Front Of The Line to book early reservations on January 13 and 14. Winterlicious reservations will be available to the general public starting January 15. New restaurants to the city-wide lineup include Scarborough favourites Joey Bravos and Joe Maggianos, Asian restaurants Bangkok Garden and Circle Thai, Mildred's Temple Kitchen, Athelier Thuet and popular Distillery District hot spots Pure Spirits and Archeo.

The Winterlicious Culinary Event Series features one-of-a-kind ticketed gastronomic experiences hosted by some of Toronto's finest restaurants and venues. Guests can pair beer with food, create their own culinary masterpiece, dine in the dark, combine food with fashion and more. Winterlicious culinary experiences are individually priced and tickets are on sale now. Full event descriptions are available at www.toronto.ca/special_events.

Winterlicious is part of Toronto's Winter City Festival presented by RBC. A celebration of culture, creativity and cuisine, Winter City is 3 festivals in 1: the WOW! Series at Nathan Phillips Square, the Warm Up Series at Toronto's cultural and tourist attractions, and the ever-popular restaurant promotion, Winterlicious presented by American Express. For more information on a three streams of

Winter City programming, the public can call Access Toronto at 416-338-0338 or visit www.toronto.ca/special_events .

19. Extreme cold weather services now in effect

The City of Toronto has activated additional support services to help get homeless people in from the cold by calling an extreme cold weather alert. The alert is in effect until further notice.

While City services for homeless people are focused on permanent housing, when severe winter weather is forecast, the priority becomes one of immediate safety.

Year-round, the City funds extensive services for people who are homeless, including emergency shelters, drop-in centres, Streets to Homes assistance to find and keep permanent housing, housing help and 24 hour street outreach services throughout the city. Throughout the winter, more services are available.

During an Extreme Cold Weather Alert, street outreach workers continue to urge the homeless to go inside and provide transportation to shelters for overnight respite. In addition to ongoing outreach, during an alert:

- * Street outreach is increased, focusing solely on warning clients of danger and transporting them to warm places
- * TTC tokens are available at a number of drop in centres so people have transportation to shelters
- * More than 100 agencies are advised of the impending extreme weather and reminded of the danger this poses to vulnerable clients
- * 160 additional shelter spaces are added
- * Shelters relax service restrictions.

An alert is called when Environment Canada:

- * predicts a temperature of -15 degrees Celsius or lower, without wind chill,
- * issues a wind chill warning for outdoor activity for people in the Toronto area, and/or
- * predicts extreme weather conditions, such as a blizzard, ice storm or sudden drops in temperature.

How to get an emergency shelter bed:

- * Adults and youth requiring a shelter bed should call 1-877-338-3398 (free from a pay phone), 24 hours.
- * Families needing emergency shelter should call Central Family Intake 416-397-5637, 24 hours.

For more information, visit www.toronto.ca/housing .

20. Programming for Toronto's 2009 Winter City Festival

Toronto's award-winning Winter City Festival presented by RBC returns, offering a city-wide celebration of culture, creativity and cuisine from January 30 to February 12. This year's programming includes the North American premiere of two unique and compelling open-air performances by Dutch group Close Act. Well-known internationally for combining theatre, dance acrobatics and music to create large-scale street theatre spectacles, Close Act returns to Toronto after captivating audiences in 2005 with their show, Malaya. For 2009, the company presents the under-water love story Pi-leau, which will dazzle audiences over two festival weekends starting January 30 at 7 p.m.

A 14-day festival of big city fun, Winter City offers 3 festivals in 1: the WOW! Series at Nathan Phillips Square, the Warm Up Series at Toronto's cultural and tourist attractions, and the ever-popular restaurant promotion, Winterlicious presented by American Express.

WOW! Series on Nathan Phillips Square :

With free entertainment each festival weekend featuring outdoor spectacle shows, live music concerts and performing arts on Nathan Phillips Square and in City Hall, the 2009 WOW! Series offers something for everyone.

The free concert series on Saturday nights will feature Thunderheist and Shad - two of Canada's heaviest urban music hitters on Saturday, January 31 at 8 p.m., and Canadian crowd favourite, The Stills, on Saturday, February 7 at 8 p.m..

The RBC Winter City Lodge will feature Friday night comedy shows, Saturday night DJ dance parties, and Saturday and Sunday afternoon entertainment for kids. Tim Hortons Ice Breakers (themed skating parties on the Nathan Phillips Square ice rink), cultural dance performances, Olympic athletes, and a spectacular fireworks finale, round out two packed weekends of free programming.

Warm Up Series at Toronto attractions:

Offering special activities, performances and discounts at some of Toronto's leading cultural and tourist attractions, the Warm Up Series offers new and unique programming this year, including theatre, art classes, DJ lessons, and a series of fun, smart workshops for kids.

For more information about the three streams of Winter City programming, call Access Toronto at 416-338-0338 or visit www.toronto.ca/special_events .

21. Guildwood Farmers Market

I am excited to announce that starting this June (Thursdays) the same operator which runs the Birchcliff Farmers' market are also interested in operating one on the front grounds of the Guild Inn.

I have met with the organizers who were thrilled to be invited into the community. To visit the current operating market please visit: www.MARKETSBYTHEBLUFFS.COM

All the food and items sold are organic and Ontario made. They would like to run the market on Thursday afternoon from the third week in June to early October each year. This is an exciting addition to our community.

The grass roots market has live music, good fresh local food, organic fresh picked farmed produce, teas, soaps & candles, dips, sauces, homegrown art, face painting and other special events. The BirchCliff Farmers' Market is dedicated to creating community sustainability by bridging Ontario farming with local communities.

22. Toronto Zoo news and special events

Jan 31st & Sun Feb 1st City of Toronto's Winter City- Zoo Animal Fun & Games Skating Party with the Toronto Zoo

Feb 7th & Feb 8th Love BUGS at the Zoo. Do you love bugs as much as we do?

Feb 16th Ontario Family Day - What better place than the Toronto Zoo to enjoy this special day?

Zoo Hours: 9:30am to 4:30pm, until March 2009. Last admissions one hour before closing.
The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except Dec. 25th).

ADMISSIONS

General Admission (13-64 incl): \$20

Seniors (65+): \$14

Children (4-12): \$12

Children (3 and under): FREE

Parking: FREE until March 1st

Events and admission prices subject to change without notice.

For general information, call (416) 392-5929 www.torontozoo.com (<http://www.torontozoo.com/>)

Need More Info? Contact Katie Gray, at (416) 392-5941 or visit torontozoo.com.

23. Quote du Mois

“Bad weather always looks worse through a window” Tom Lehrer

24. Websites for Community Use

Here’s a few websites to explore if you’re thinking of ideas for winter activities....enjoy!:

<http://www.toronto4kids.com/content/view/537/>

http://www.savvymom.ca/index.php/newsletter/embrace_the_elements/

<http://www.ontournet.com/pages/gtlinks4.html>

<http://torontoseeker.com/item-4185249.htm>

<http://www.squidoo.com/snowday>

<http://www.examiner.com/x-1161-Salt-Lake-Parenting-Examiner~topic63389-fun-stuff>

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