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December 2012
Volume 12 Issue 44

Dear Residents,

I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season with joy and prosperity in the upcoming New Year. I look forward to seeing you at my annual New Year's Levee on Saturday January 5, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre located at 225 Confederation Drive.

I hope you had a chance to read my Community Newsletter sent out last month containing an update on Ward 43 initiatives, City Hall updates, dates to save and a snap shot of Scarborough events.

On Monday December 3, I hosted a Town Hall Meeting featuring Dave Meslin's 4th Wall Exhibit, a series of ideas to move government forward by making it more accessible to residents, methods to increase dialogue between City Hall and the people of Toronto were presented. The meeting was well attended with many interesting questions raised. Residents were receptive to the concepts allowing me to take away a sense that I should continue to move forward in my initiatives to work with Mr. Meslin to drive a number of the concepts through City Council. Nineteen of the 4th Wall measures are currently before the Government Management Committee and Executive Committee. To view information on the items and to view the exhibit visit <http://thefourthwall.ca/>.

As the casino debate continues in our City, you will have an opportunity to join the conversation by attending one of the scheduled public consultation, the Scarborough consultation will take place on January 17 at the Civic Centre, with a number of other dates across the City. After the consultations take place the information collected will be analysed for the purposes of preparing a report to be presented at the March 2013 Executive Committee for consideration. Your views are needed, this is your City and I need to hear from you on this issue. I have received a number of calls from residents some expressing their approval of a casino and some voicing their disapproval.

The Casino discussion is important. The City's growth will continue we need to decide if that growth is to include a casino or not. Please continue to send me your emails, attend a consultation and visit the website to download information at www.toronto.ca/casinoconsultation.

The online consultation form will be available in January 2013. You may register to receive the form and information on the casino issue and many other City issues at <http://www.toronto.ca/e-updates/>. I will also be sending the online form to you when it becomes available.

It is important for residents to get involved.

Sincerely,
Paul Ainslie

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1. Calendar

- Dec. 1, 2012 – True Patriot Love Dinner to honour members of the Canadian military and their families
- Dec. 2, 2012 – Brentwood Branch Public Library Re-opening
- Dec. 5, 2012 – Executive Committee
- Dec. 6, 2012 – Scarborough Community Council with evening session
- Dec. 6, 2012 – Guild Renaissance Group Meeting
- Dec. 6, 2012 – Coronation Community Association Annual General Meeting
- Dec. 8, 2012 – Meetings with Community Groups
- Dec. 8, 2012 – Community Meeting Morningside Park Re-Development Master Plan
- Dec. 11, 2012 – Remembrance Day Ceremony Kingston Road Cenotaph at Danforth Rd.
- Dec. 11, 2012 – Remembrance Day Ceremony Royal Canadian Legion Branch 258 - 45 Lawson Road
- Dec. 12, 2012 – Highland Creek Treatment Neighbourhood Liaison Committee
- Dec. 13, 2012 – Rouge Valley Centenary Hospital meeting
- Dec. 13, 2012 – Toronto Public Library Board Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- Dec. 13, 2012 – Community Police Liaison Committee Town Hall Meeting with Guest speaker Chief Bill Blair
- Dec. 13, 2012 – Guildwood Community Association Meeting
- Dec. 14, 2012 – Kingston Galloway Orton Park Safety Meeting
- Dec. 14, 2012 – University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Evening of Special Celebration
- Dec. 15, 2012 – Government Management Committee
- Dec. 16, 2012 – Striking Committee
- Dec. 16, 2012 – 43 Division CPLC Family Skate Day
- Dec. 17, 2012 – Cavalcade of Lights
- Dec. 19, 2012 – Executive Committee Special 2013 Rate-Supported Budget
- Dec. 20, 2012 – Toronto Zoo Human Resources Committee
- Dec. 20, 2012 – Public Community Meeting Pan Am Aquatic Centre Facility
- Dec. 21, 2012 – Neighbourhood Action Partnership Meeting
- Dec. 22, 2012 - Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo meeting
- Dec. 27, 2012 – Toronto City Council
- Dec. 27, 2012 – Local Planning Board meeting KGO
- Dec. 29, 2012 – Toronto Public Library Board Meeting
- Dec. 30, 2012 – Toronto Region Conservation Area

Events in our Community:

January 5: Annual New Year's Levee on Saturday January 5, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre located at 225 Confederation Drive.

January 17: Casino public consultation, Scarborough Civic Centre 150 Boroughs Road 7:00 p.m.

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2. Seven Oaks

Traffic Study for Oakmeadows Blvd and Highcastle Road: I received several calls regarding vehicles speeding along Oakmeadow Boulevard and High Castle Road, specifically near Highcastle Public School. This is a concern. The

police were advised and have added these locations to their station detail to attend to on a daily basis in order to ticket any offenders.

Transportation staff, were also requested to investigate the situation. Based on their review, they concluded that "traffic calming" measures, were not justified at this time as the minimum volume of vehicles on the roads was not met, nor did 85% of the vehicles speed at an excess of 10 km/h (but less than 15 km/h) over the posted speed limit, which is 40 km/h, to qualify for traffic calming. With this being said some are speeding on the local streets near the elementary school and not abiding by the traffic rules; in place for our children's safety. It is important that we all watch are surroundings and slow down on our local roads specifically near our schools. Police will continue to monitor the situation.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the review, please call Allan Burrows, Supervisor, Traffic Operations, at 416-396-7147. [Report](#)

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3. Curran Hall Community

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

Morningside Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement: A consultant has been hired to prepare the design to replace the pedestrian bridge located along the pedestrian path at the south end of Morningside Park. Weather permitting work on site is expected to start in July 2013, and to be completed by September 2013. The scope of work includes, replacement of existing pedestrian bridge including new foundations. [Map link](#)

Curran Hall Community Programs: There are many programs being offered at the Curran Hall Community Centre from Dance, Storytelling, Family Dance, Indoor play and other events. For more information on how to register please call 416-396-5156. [Click here page 1](#), [page 2](#)

Having an Event: The Curran Hall Community Centre can be rented for meetings or parties. The hall accommodates up to 80 people, and is available at various times during the week, as well as Saturday or Sunday evenings. There is ample parking behind the building. For more information call us at 416-396-5156

Community Hours / Community Youth Group: Do your children need community hours towards their high school 40 hour volunteer requirement? Have them be part of the V.O.I.C.E. magazine, go on trips, plan events, and more. Get community hours and have them mean something! One goal, one movement, one voice. Every Tuesday!!

To register or for more information, contact Josette Holness at 416-396-4181 jholnes@toronto.ca

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4. Coronation and West Hill Community

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

The Coronation and West Hill Community celebrated the season with their annual Children's Santa event. Thank you for your volunteerism in your community.

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5. Cedar Ridge Community & Cornell Community

Cornell Ball Court Scheduled for completion in Summer 2013:

Design drawings are underway. Construction will commence this spring as soon as the environment is no longer frozen or too saturated. The project could take up to 6 weeks to complete, with a completion target date of mid-July.

The Court will be 18.29 m x 36.58 m enclosed with a chain link fence with an asphalt surface, with goal posts. This new amenity will serve the youth in the community well as it will allow them to safely play ball hockey in a fenced in area.

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6. Guildwood Village

Guildwood Village Community Association website: www.guildwood.on.ca
The Guild Renaissance Group (GRG): <http://guildrenaissancgroup.com/>

Toronto Animal Services It has come to my attention that there have been a few incidences where wild animals have been injured and under distress. Wildlife provides 24 hour emergency response to calls for stray animals and wildlife that are injured, in distress, or are jeopardizing the safety of the public. If you have an immediate public safety concern, an operator is available 24 hours per day at 416-338-PAWS (7297). www.toronto.ca/animalservices

Emerald Ash Borer Tree Removal of Street and Park infected Trees.

Starting Dec 8, 2012, the City's Urban Forestry Operations began to remove dead or dying trees in as a result of emerald ash borer infestation.

Urban Forestry has a number of ash trees spread throughout Ward 43, numerous service requests for **City** ash tree removal in Ward 43 have been received. As we implement this tree removal program, we may find additional trees that are not on the inventory that require removal and will be added to the work plan. Due to the level of infestation, some areas may require more work than others.

Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in two of our Guildwood Parks: The Guild Inn Park and Guildwood Village Park. These trees will be part of the removal program commencing on December 8, 2012.

In an effort to preserve some ash trees and slow the rate of tree loss, Urban Forestry staff is presently surveying City-wide to identify suitable candidates for pesticide injection, and we have injected several trees, in that area on streets and in Guildwood Village Park. Selected trees will be injected during the months of June to August and should provide two years of protection from beetle attack.

Following tree removal, Urban Forestry staff will schedule replacement tree planting, where space permits. Please note, due to the amount of time associated with tree stump removal and planning for replacement planting, there will be a delay between these activities. Typically tree replacement will occur within the year following tree removal. Questions received from your constituents relating to the status of these activities should be directed to 311.

Additional information concerning emerald ash borer in Toronto is available on the City's website at; www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm . Please contact me if you have further questions regarding the planned tree cutting.

For questions related to the pesticide injection program, contact Urban Forestry Natural Resource Management Supervisor, **Kristjan Vitols**, 416-392-0432 or kvitols@toronto.ca.

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7. The Residents Rising Community Association

Even though renters don't receive a property tax bill from the City, they do pay property taxes through their rent. In fact, the property tax rate paid by multi-residential apartment buildings is normally higher than the rate paid by homeowners. 136,000 tenant households across Toronto began to receive notices telling them that they are eligible for a rent reduction. This rent reduction is a direct result of our administration's fiscal discipline and focus on keeping Toronto taxes low.

Almost 30% of tenants in Toronto will receive a rent reduction because property taxes on their buildings have been lowered by more than 2.49%. We are committed to making Toronto a more affordable place to live, work and invest. So, our 2013 Budget will keep multi-residential rental property tax increases as low as possible. This is great news for renters, because low taxes on rental properties helps keep rents low in Toronto.

Each year the City sends out notices to landlords and tenants of rental residential properties where the property taxes have decreased by more than 2.49%. Tenants are permitted to reduce their rents after December 31, 2012 as a result of this decrease, and the notices explain how to calculate the rent reduction amount.

Notices to landlords of 4,817 properties were mailed out on September 10, 2012. Notices to their tenants (135,130 units) will be sent out by December 15, 2012.

The Landlord and Tenant Board has a telephone information line (416-645-8080) for inquiries about the rules for calculating rent reductions, exemptions, application to the Board for a rent reduction when the tax decrease is 2.49% or less, application for varying the amount of rent reductions, and application for above-guideline rent increases. Information is also available on their website, <http://www.ltb.gov.on.ca>.

Residents may call 311 who will respond to inquiries on the notice. Multilingual assistance is available through this service.

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8. Mornelle Court Resident's Action Coalition

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

www.mornellecourt.webs.com

Mornellecourtcoalition@yahoo.ca

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

Mornelle Court Mobile Good Food Market

The **Mobile Good Food Market** truck will be at Mornelle Court every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 and will be on site throughout the winter.

After School Program and Walk to School Program

The Mornelle Coalition continues to offer support to their community through the after school program held at Military School Public School as well as the safe walk program for children attending Military Trail Public School.

Both programs have been a great success enticing other TCHC communities to implement these programs into their neighbourhood as well. The Mornelle community has done a fantastic job volunteering their time and energy to ensure that these programs thrive.

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9. Council Highlights

Council Highlights

City Council meeting of November 27, 28 and 29, 2012

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

Recreation service plan

Council approved a Recreation Service Plan that will guide the City of Toronto's delivery of recreation programs and services over the next five years. The plan aims to increase overall participation in recreation, decrease financial barriers and improve access. The plan outlines the role of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation division in providing recreation within the broader context of Toronto's recreation services sector. Staff will now prepare a detailed implementation plan that takes into account direction provided at the Council meeting.

Plastic bags in Toronto

In light of legal considerations, Council chose not to consider the bylaw to implement a plastic bag ban for January 1, 2013. Council directed staff to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee next spring on options for measures that could be taken to reduce the use and disposal of plastic bags.

Mid-term appointments to committees

Council approved mid-term councillor appointments to the Executive Committee, standing and special committees, agencies and advisory bodies for the period from January 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014, and until successors are appointed.

Water and wastewater budget and rates

Council approved water and wastewater rates for 2013, increasing the flat rate by nine per cent. The City of Toronto's water and wastewater operations are fully funded through the combined water and wastewater rate.

Solid waste management budget for 2013

Council approved the Solid Waste Management budget for 2013, with no increase in volume-based user fees, with the exception of an increase of \$2.84 to the small-bin fee. Council decided to suspend the collection of solid waste user fees in 2013 for charitable and non-profit organizations previously eligible for exemption.

Toronto Parking Authority budget

In adopting the Toronto Parking Authority's 2013 budget, Council asked the authority to look into replacing standard tube lighting with LED lighting and to prepare a plan for achieving the greening guidelines for surface parking lots. The guidelines involve taking actions to address matters such as stormwater management to pedestrian safety at parking lots.

Moving the Toronto Zoo's elephants

Council reaffirmed its 2011 decision to transfer the Toronto Zoo's three elephants to the Performing Animals Welfare Society (PAWS) sanctuary in California on or before December 31, 2012, or as soon as possible. The cost of the move is to be paid by PAWS. Council agreed that the due diligence process is complete and that the Toronto Zoo should proceed with making the elephants available for the move.

Etobicoke-Lakeshore employment area

Council agreed to ask provincial authorities to identify the employment lands at the Ontario Food Terminal site and vicinity, including the Mr. Christie's Bakery site at 2140 Lake Shore Boulevard West, as a provincially significant employment area. A November announcement indicated the Christie facility will close next year.

Public service bylaw for Toronto

Council authorized the City Manager to recommend the detailed content of a public service bylaw for City of Toronto divisions and agencies. It will set out roles, responsibilities and authorities for the City Manager and City agencies, and provide for the disclosure of wrongdoing. The bylaw will support the principles of transparency, integrity and accountability in the management of the municipality's human resources.

Future of Toronto's civic theatres

Council requested an audit of the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts for 2006-2011, including its business plans, as part of the City's review of the future of the Sony Centre. Executive Committee had earlier referred a motion back to staff for further input on alternative strategic plans to keep the centre in the City's hands. Council recognized the other two civic theatres - St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and the Toronto Centre for the Arts - as community cultural assets, and directed each of them to produce a five-year business plan and long-term strategic plan.

Environment and energy functions, tower renewal

As part of a business item on the City's environment and energy functions, Council adopted recommendations that include reorganizing to improve effectiveness and efficiency while maintaining current services/programs. The Toronto Environment Office and the Energy and Strategic Initiatives section of the Facilities Management Division will be integrated into a new Environment and Energy Office reporting to the Chief Corporate Officer. The Tower Renewal Office will join the Social Development, Finance and Administration division to facilitate collaboration with the Community Revitalization program.

Toronto's tree canopy

Council approved a revised Urban Forestry Service Plan, conditional on funding availability, that will extend by seven years (to 2023) the time frame to fully implement the strategy. The change is necessary because of the cost of combating the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Management of EAB will cost the City an estimated \$74.5 million over nine years. Council reaffirmed that the City will continue planting the same number of trees annually as indicated in the original Urban Forestry Service Plan for Toronto.

Combating gypsy moth problem

Urban Forestry staff received Council's authorization to implement an integrated pest management program to control the European gypsy moth in an effort to mitigate the damage the insect does to the urban forest. The moth's population has reached outbreak levels in some areas of Toronto, particularly in Wards 2, 3, 4, 5 and 27.

Holiday shopping

Council considered a report on holiday shopping in Toronto and voted in favour of receiving the report for information.

Privately owned public spaces in Toronto

Council agreed to ask for a report that identifies all privately owned public spaces in Toronto, and to work on a plan to ensure that these public spaces have visible signs indicating the space is open to the public. Many parks, plazas, open spaces, squares and walkways created as part of developments are open to the public but many are not well used - often because people are not aware that they can use them.

O'Connor Drive Avenue Study

A draft Official Plan Amendment to guide development in the area covered by the O'Connor Drive Avenue Study received Council's endorsement. Council also adopted a secondary report. Urban design guidelines for public realm improvements will be used in assessing development proposals and ensuring that future developments fit harmoniously into the O'Connor Drive urban corridor.

Uranium processing facility

Council asked the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to further review the General Electric-Hitachi plant's operations at 1025 Lansdowne Ave. In addition, Council asked the Medical Officer of Health to monitor the facility with respect to uranium-use levels and air and soil test results, and to report that information to the community on a regular basis, including via Public Health's website.

Appointment of Toronto Poet Laureate

Council appointed George Elliott Clarke as Toronto Poet Laureate for a three-year term. Clarke, a writer and professor, in his role as poet laureate will advocate for poetry and the arts in Toronto. He is the fourth poet laureate since the honorary position was established in 2001.

Commemoration of the Nanking Massacre

Council agreed to issue a proclamation marking the 75th anniversary of the Nanking Massacre this month. The Nanking Massacre occurred in China in December 1937.

Support for Nobel Peace Prize nomination

Council endorsed the nomination of Malala Yousafzai for a Nobel Peace Prize and will communicate the City of Toronto's support to the Nobel Committee. The young resident of Pakistan was shot by Taliban militants in October in an attempt on her life because of her advocacy work supporting the right for girls to attend school.

Toronto Argonauts, 2012 Grey Cup champions

Council members supported a motion to congratulate Toronto Argonauts players, coaches and management, specifically naming Argonauts president Chris Rudge and coach Scott Milanovich, as winners of the 100th Grey Cup game. The Argonauts - the oldest professional sports team in North America still using its original name - won the Canadian Football League championship and received the Grey Cup in Toronto on November 25.

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Council Highlights, a summary of selected decisions made by Toronto City Council, is produced by Strategic Communications.

Formal documentation of Councils decisions: <http://www.toronto.ca/council>

Questions about Council meetings and decisions: clerk@toronto.ca or 416-392-8016

Information about distribution of this summary: stratcom@toronto.ca

The Council Highlights summary is also made available as a podcast shortly after the email distribution of Council Highlights: <http://www.toronto.ca/podcasts/>

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10. Toronto Public Health Newsletter

The annual public flu clinics provide free flu shots to those people six months and older. The vaccine will be offered in clinics across various locations in Toronto until Jan.10, 2013. Everyone is at risk of getting the flu. Those at highest risk for getting very sick from the virus are all children five years and younger, people over 65, those living in a long term care facility, and individuals with existing chronic health conditions. Get the full flu vaccination clinic [schedule](#), more [information](#) or call 416-338-7600.

Scarborough Civic Centre located at 150 Borough Drive Wednesday January 9: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
To view the entire electronic Newsletter visit: http://www.toronto.ca/health/tphebulletin/nov_2012.htm

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11. "Wishes for the Holidays" Winter Hamper program.

As in years past, Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities is offering our "Wishes for the Holidays" Winter Hamper program.

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC) has served over 1,000 households twice a month at the food bank. This year, they are pleased to be open and accepting new clients on our regularly scheduled days (Wednesdays & Fridays) throughout the holiday season. It has been recognized how important it is to have this service available to the community, particularly during the winter months. The food bank will offer our regular provision of food with some extra holiday treats! It will be closed December 24, 2012-January 2, 2013 but starting in January, the food bank will be open three days per week!

Over the last 16 years they have helped over 16,400 individuals and families by providing Winter Hampers. This program is funded through generous donations from individuals and community groups. Households that have accessed our food bank between January - October 1st, 2012, that live in our catchment area, and have demonstrated financial need are eligible for a Winter Hamper.

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities continues to need your help to support the 1,000 individuals and families who will need a Winter Hamper. To find out more about how you can help, please contact them directly at **416-847-4141 or 416 847 4142.**

Volunteers are needed to help us sort donations and pack Winter Hampers!

Thank you for your continued support and look forward to making this holiday season special for our community.

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12. New online resource for Toronto's middle childhood programs

The City of Toronto's website has a new online locator to help parents and guardians of children from 6 to 12 years of age find before-school and after-school programs in Toronto. This new resource marks the first phase of the City of Toronto's Middle Childhood Strategy.

The locator can be found at http://www.toronto.ca/children/middlechildhood_map.htm.

The locator is designed to search for locations for licensed school-age child care programs, full-day kindergarten before and after school programs, and after school recreation care (ARC) programs. The locator will continually be expanded to search for more categories.

"According to the latest census, there are almost 180,000 children aged 6 to 12 in Toronto," said Councillor Jaye Robinson (Ward 25 Don Valley West), Chair of the Community Development and Recreation Committee. "Parents and caregivers with children in this age group can now rely on an easy-to-use online locator to find programs in their area that suit their needs."

The City of Toronto's Middle Childhood Strategy aims to achieve five goals:

- develop a comprehensive and integrated system of services for children 6 to 12
- improve the planning and coordination of local programs
- increase the quality of programs
- raise public awareness of the availability of programs for this age group, and
- support research and share information.

Further initiatives as part of the Middle Childhood Strategy addressing the quality and consistency of programs for children in their middle childhood years will be introduced in 2013.

Information about the strategy:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-50756.pdf>

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13. 2013 Budget Information

The 2013 Budget has been officially launched. Residents and businesses are being invited to participate in the budget process. You may also add the twitter address to your account to follow the process, [#TOBudget](#). For more information, visit: <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2013>

The 2013 budget recommends that Council increase residential property taxes by 1.95% and that we maintain current service standards. We have ended the unsustainable and unaffordable practice of using one-time, prior-year surplus funds to balance Toronto's operating budget. We are still drawing about \$45 million from dedicated reserve funds to pay for some of our program expenses.

Our good fiscal practices since 2010 have been recognized by a number of bond-rating agencies. In October, DBRS confirmed Toronto's credit rating at AA, Stable. We earned the agency's continued confidence because of the permanent solutions we found to close the budget gap. However, DBRS has commented that Toronto still runs a deficit when all capital and operating budgets are considered together and more work needs to be done to keep spending under control.

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14. Holiday Season Events and Camps

Holiday season at Toronto's museums: The festive ambience of the City's historic homes and museums is a great setting for learning about holiday traditions. At Fort York, for example, visitors can sample baking from the 1826 officers' kitchen and children can join the cooks to make gingerbread cookies. Details: www.toronto.ca/holidays

Day camps during the holidays: For parents seeking places where their children can spend some enriching, fun time during the holidays, Scarborough Museum will offer day camps December 27 and 28 and January 2 to 4, and Colborne Lodge will present morning camps from January 2 to 4. Details: www.toronto.ca/camps

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15. Animal Adoption: Toronto Animal Services presents the 12 Strays of Christmas

The City of Toronto's Animal Services is heighten awareness for adoptable animals available in its shelters. These strays, and many others, are all currently available for adoption at one of Toronto's four shelters located across the city, as well as at adoption partner locations.

The 12 Strays of Christmas features three animals from each of the four shelters located in Toronto. You can view the 12 strays (and all the other animals up for adoption) at <http://www.toronto.ca/animalservices>. Consider bringing one of these wonderful animals into your life-long, loving home.

The adoption event runs from Wednesday, December 12 through Sunday, December 23. During that time, all bunny adoptions are just \$10 plus tax, and all cat adoptions are just \$25 (a saving of almost \$60) plus tax and a licence, if applicable. Toronto residents are required to purchase a licence for all cats and dogs in Toronto. Licences for sterilized cats are \$15, with a lower fee (\$7.50) for senior citizens buying a cat licence; for sterilized dogs, licences are \$25, with a reduced fee (\$12.50) for seniors buying a dog licence.

All cats and dogs up for adoption are vaccinated, micro-chipped, spayed or neutered, vet checked and de-wormed.

There is a wide variety of animals available for adoption into life-long loving homes at each of Toronto's shelters, including cats, dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, bunnies, and birds.

For anyone unable to adopt a pet but who wants to contribute to an improved life for these animals, a donation can be made on the website or in person at any one of our four animal shelters.

Torontonians may also drop off a holiday gift for the animals to any of the shelters. These pets are always in need of blankets and towels (new or used), cat treats, dog cookies, leashes, collars and halti-leads, toys, hot water bottles, can openers and even Canadian Tire money.

Pets are available for adoption at these locations:

Toronto Animal Services Shelters

(Open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

- West Region - 146 The East Mall (Highway 427 and Dundas Street West)
- North Region - 1300 Sheppard Ave. W. (Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue West)
- East Region - 821 Progress Ave. (Highway 401 and Markham Road)
- South Region - 140 Princes' Blvd. (Exhibition Place, Horse Palace)

Adoption Partners

Toronto Animal Services partners with a number of retailers in Toronto to adopt out pets. A link to a list of all adoption partners is available at http://www.toronto.ca/animal_services/pet_adoption.htm.

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16. TIFF Kids Contest – Youth Program

JUMP CUTS ACCEPTING ENTRIES NOW!

The 16th annual TIFF Kids International Film Festival takes place from April 9-21, 2013. TIFF Kids is now accepting submissions for the Jump Cuts Young Filmmakers Showcase, which presents short films created for young people by young people (grades 4-8).

Find out more and submission details <http://listmanager.lists.tiff.net/t/884750/3062015/4567/0/>

If you are between the ages of 8 and 13 and love movies, send us a film review and you could earn a spot on our Young People's Jury at the 16th annual TIFF Kids International Film Festival. TIFF Kids takes place from April 9-21, 2013.

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than **5pm on Friday, March 1, 2013**. Entries received after this time will not be considered

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17. EcoSpark – River Study for Youth

EcoSpark works with communities and schools, providing them with the knowledge and tools to monitor their environment and take action for positive environmental change. This Fall, River Studies were conducted with great success. 22 schools, 35 classes, and 850 students participated making a difference in their communities by assessing their local water quality.

There is also a warm-weather River Study season which starts in April, and runs through June. To register visit our [website](#) or email Holly, to register.

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18. 2013 capital construction information

The City of Toronto has updated its website that shows planned capital construction work that is occurring in your neighbourhood in 2013.

The mapping tool, called **T.O. INview** (short for **IN**frastructure **viewer**), allows users to learn about projects that the City, utilities, and other agencies including Metrolinx and the TTC, plan to construct this year. New for 2013, the site features information from Economic Development and Culture and Parks, Forestry and Recreation and cycling infrastructure from the Transportation Services division.

The site can be accessed by clicking on www.toronto.ca/inview.

In addition to providing details about the nature of individual projects, the system will be used to improve coordination of projects, with the goal of more efficient capital expenditures and reduced inconvenience to the public.

The new site will show planned capital work, but not emergency or short term work. To find this information, click on www.toronto.ca/torontostreets -- the city's road restrictions website. It's a great place to find out about short term construction work and special events that affect our roads so that you can make travel plans in the city

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19. Getting Ready for the Winter Weather – How to access information

Winter is also high season for watermain breaks, cold weather and rapid swings between periods of thaw and freezing put pipes under stress. Crews are ready to respond to minor and severe breaks 24/7.

As soon as the snow begins, Transportation Services sends out its salt trucks to the expressways and the main roads. After that, the salt trucks move to the local roads. If the City receives 2.5 centimetres of snow, the plows are sent to the expressways. When the snow reaches five centimetres, the plows go to the main roads and plowing continues for the duration of the storm.

When the snow stops and if the snow accumulation reaches eight centimetres, plows will be sent to the local roads.

The City will clear snow from sidewalks on local roads where it is mechanically possible to do so after eight centimetres (five centimetres in January and February) of snow has fallen. In the central core of the city, property owners are required to clear their sidewalks of snow 12 hours after a storm has taken place.

More information about sidewalk snow clearing in Toronto, including a map of where the service takes place, is available at <http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/snow/sidewalks.htm>.

The City of Toronto's levels of service for snow clearing meet those set by the Province of Ontario for municipalities and road authorities. These levels of service were adopted by Toronto City Council in 2009.

Help the City's efforts: Do not push snow back onto the road after clearing snow from your sidewalks and driveways, avoiding parking on city streets to help the plows do their work, and taking public transit whenever possible. The public is also reminded to clear snow from around hydrants after a snowfall.

In 2012/13, the City will again concentrate on an improved level of service for sidewalk snow clearing. That includes increasing service on main streets with high pedestrian volumes and frequent transit stops, streamlining the service so that it follows closely behind roadway plowing, and enhancing service to prevent ice build-up on sidewalks in prolonged cold periods.

Transportation Services continues to reduce salt use as part of its Salt Management Plan. The City of Toronto has improved its fleet of salt spreading trucks, provided better training for staff who operate salt trucks, as well as improving salt storage and handling techniques.

Residents who have questions about snow clearing efforts or watermain breaks in their area can call the City at 311. Anyone who spots a watermain break is also encouraged to call 311.

Besides snow and cold weather, there are numerous causes of watermain breaks and the City of Toronto is taking steps to address the ongoing problem, currently spending \$86 million to improve the watermain distribution system.

Toronto Water is dealing with aging infrastructure and through the capital infrastructure renewal program, approximately 50 to 60 kilometres of watermain pipes are being replaced annually. In addition, three rehabilitation programs continue: cathodic protection of watermain pipes, cleaning and cement mortar lining, and structural lining.

Response crews are available 24/7 to locate, assess and repair watermain breaks in order to restore service as quickly as possible.

More information about watermain breaks can be viewed in a brief video at http://www.toronto.ca/water/basement_flooding_video.htm.

More details about the City of Toronto's overall winter operations are available at <http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/>.

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20. Quote of the Month

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success" Henry Ford

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21. Websites for Community Use

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.toronto.ca
City of Toronto

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

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

www.seetorontonow.com/
Tourism Toronto – Official website

www.222tips.com
Crime Stoppers

www.ourkgocommunity.com
Kingston Galloway Community Network

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca
Toronto Public Library

www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca
Toronto Botanical Gardens

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

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

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

www.coronationca.com
Coronation & West Hill Community Association

www.curranhall.ca/
Curran Hall Community Association

www.guildwood.on.ca
Guildwood Village Community Association

www.mornellecourt.webs.com
Mornelle Court Coalition

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22. E-News Policy and Contact Information

eNews is a monthly news communication from Paul Ainslie. Each issue of the newsletter is sent only to those who have provided us with their email address for the purpose of corresponding on municipal matters. Email addresses will be kept confidential. If you wish to discontinue receiving our newsletter, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line. I welcome your comments on any municipal matter and the opportunity to be of service. Please contact me by email at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca, phone me at [416 396 7222](tel:4163967222), or send a fax to [416 392 4006](tel:4163924006). Alternately you can visit my Constituency Assistant on the second floor of the Scarborough Civic Centre located at 150 Borough Drive(Ellesmere & McCowan)

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