



Call: (416) 392-1375 E-mail: councillor_lee@toronto.ca

March 2015

Dear Neighbour,

The first 100 days in office in the new term of City Council have been a busy time. I have been elected Chair of the Audit Committee and Scarborough Community Council and Vice-Chair of the Civic Appointments Committee by my colleagues. City Council also passed the 2015 budget, which commits to public transit improvements in Scarborough through the construction of the Scarborough Subway and SmartTrack.

My focus in the next 2 years, while I am Chair of Scarborough Community Council, will be to champion Scarborough. We, who live in Scarborough, should take pride in that. I have taken the Rotarian's Scarborough Renewal Initiative to heart. I am working with the Chinese Philanthropic Community to raise money for the Scarborough Hospital, which provides an array of excellent medical care to our diverse population on a limited budget. I will also work with other organizations and individuals, in this effort.

We need to support our hospitals so staff can continue to provide first-rate medical care. I am helping with a Hospital fund raising gala to be held on May 8, 2015 at Casa Deluz Banquet Hall in Woodside Square. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, contact Ping Tan at ping.tan@gmail.com.

I will be hosting my Community Environment Day on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at Nashdene Yard (70 Nashdene Rd.) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. My Movie Night in the Park will take place on Friday, June 19, 2015 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., location to be determined. I hope to see you and your family at these community events.

I am also looking to rebrand and expand our Scarborough Canada Day celebrations. I am currently working with the other Scarborough Councillors and city staff on this idea, which is still in the early planning stages.

I am also on the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, the Employee and Labour Relations Committee and Toronto Police Services Board. We are in the middle of selecting a new Police Chief and dealing with other issues on all the committees and boards.

On the Civic Appointment Committee, we are reading resumes, interviewing and selecting candidates to appoint to various City ABCCs. These appointees help the City

set policies and directions to run the various services the city is providing to the residents and visitors.

These needed services, keeping the infrastructure sound and operational, improving current and building new infrastructure come at the cost. All these require an investment from all of us. Like yourself, I may not use all these services, but I am willing to contribute my share to ensure we live in an affordable and liveable city.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (416) 392-1375 or councillor_lee@toronto.ca.

Sincerely,

Chin Lee

**Toronto City Councillor
Ward 41 - Scarborough Rouge River**

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Councillor Lee's Environment Day

Saturday, April 4, 2015 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Nashdene Yard (70 Nashdene Rd.)

Reuse, recycle and safely dispose. Do your part to create a cleaner, greener and more livable Toronto. Bring used or unwanted household items to the Community Environment Day event.

2015 City of Toronto Budget

Council passed the 2015 Budget on March 11, 2015. City Council was able to find \$110 million in operation efficiencies without cutting services. The City's Operating and Capital Budgets for 2015 includes a 2.75% residential property tax increase. The city's proposed rate supported budget was also passed in March. A breakdown of the property tax impact is:

	Residential	Non-Residential
Base Budget	1.25%	0.42%
New Facilities	0.41%	0.14%
Service Enhancements – \$143M	0.59%	0.2%
2015 Budget	2.25%	0.75%
Scarborough Subway	0.5%	0.17%
Total Property Tax Impact	2.75%	0.92%

In addition, a 2005 Tax Shift Policy adds another 0.44% to residential property tax rate to re-balance the property tax impact on non-residential properties which was causing job

losses (estimated at 300,000 at one point) to the 905 area. And a CVA impact of .01%, bringing the total rate increase, on an average house, to 3.2%. There is also the impact on individual properties which was the result of the implementation of the 2013-2016 phase-in of 2012 CVA from MPAC.

Overall, the average house in Toronto will see an increase of \$83.19 on their annual property taxes.

Toronto's Operating Budget for 2015 is \$11.4 billion and makes key investments to improve services. City Council has approved a \$90 million investment in public transit to get Toronto moving. This initiative will improve subway, streetcar and bus service across the TTC network and includes expanding the Express Bus and Blue Night Networks.

The budget also takes measures to help reduce poverty in the city through the Poverty Reduction Strategic Initiatives. This includes providing more beds in Toronto's shelters, improved services for the homeless during extreme weather and programs to connect residents with jobs so they can get back on their feet. The City is also making investments in its emergency response services to meet a projected increase in demand for emergency services and to speed up response times.

The City of Toronto is opening a number of new facilities this year. The money for constructing these buildings was earmarked in the capital budget while the cost for running them and their associated programs is planned for in the city's operating budget. The new facilities are:

- 2 new library branches – including one at the Scarborough Civic Centre.**
- 2 new community centres and the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre in Scarborough.**
- 1 new child care centre.**
- The Leslie Barns streetcar maintenance and storage facility.**

The City's 10-year (2015-2024) Capital Budget and Plan proposes investing \$31.7 billion in maintaining existing municipal infrastructure in a state of good repair. Here are a few key details:

- 60 replacement and new subway cars (average lifespan is 30 years) at a cost of \$162 million and 810 new 40-foot buses costing \$600.2 million to enhance service and deal with ridership growth.**
- Replace the existing streetcar fleet with new low-floor vehicles (30 year life).**
- Speed up the implementation of planned bicycle lanes.**
- \$111,000 to analyze and report on ways to manage traffic congestion.**
- \$443.2 million more to repair the Gardiner Expressway quicker.**
- \$625.7 million to maintain and enhance our parks and recreation spaces.**
- Construct new or expand existing community centres (13 in total).**
- Build new fire and paramedic stations at a cost of \$31 million.**

For more information on the budget, visit www.toronto.ca/budget2015.

Registration for spring/summer recreation programs started

The City of Toronto offers fun and affordable recreation programs for all ages, skill levels and interests. Registration for spring and summer recreation programs, including summer camps, has started.

Residents of all ages can take advantage of the vast selection of programs the City of Toronto offers. Programs are geared to enhance the health, quality of life and well-being of all Toronto residents. Many programs fill up quickly, so be sure to register early.

How to register – easy as 1, 2, 3

Step 1: Get family and client numbers

To sign up for recreation programs, Toronto residents will need a family number and client numbers for each member of the family. Before registration day, call 416-338-4386 or speak with staff at a City community centre to get these numbers.

Step 2: Choose programs

To find out about and choose programs, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/torontofun> or look in the FUN Guide program listings found at City Hall, civic centres, community centres and libraries. Residents are encouraged to have a few program choices for each person in case the preferred program is full.

Step 3: Register

Registration starts at 7 a.m. Many programs fill up quickly. The majority of registrations are processed on the first day for each district, and approximately 70 per cent of the total daily registrations are processed within the first hour. Be sure to have all information and payment options ready.

There are four ways to register:

- **Online: On the web at <http://efun.toronto.ca>. Registering online is the quickest and easiest way to sign up for programs.**
- **By phone: Touch Tone Registration (TTR) at 416-338-0000.**
- **Operator assisted: Call 416-338-4386 to register through a customer service representative.**
- **In person: Register in person at select locations. For a list of these locations, visit <http://www.toronto.ca/parks/registration>, call 311 or speak to staff at a City community centre.**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs are popular and many have waiting lists. If you are unable to attend the program you registered for, contact your local community centre or call 416-338-4386 so the spot can be offered to someone else.

Many community centres offer free recreation programs, including leisure swimming, skating, drop-in programs and more for children, youth and older adults. Older adults (60+ years) who register for adult programs receive a 50 per cent discount. More information about free and low-cost program options is available at <http://bit.ly/1At00bq>.

Toronto Water overwhelmed with "no water" calls

Prolonged, extreme cold temperatures had an impact on water service pipes, private drinking water pipes in many older homes and buildings, as well as water meters and the City of Toronto's watermains, causing delays in response times to service calls. The City received an unprecedented volume of calls from residents and businesses without water.

Pipes froze due to the extreme cold temperatures, causing the frost line to penetrate deeper into the ground. The longer the cold spell, the deeper the frost line penetrates. Also in older homes, insufficient insulation around water (supply and drain) pipes can result in those pipes freezing.

Over 2900 "no water" calls were received since Feb 14, with more than 1,200 of these calls made within the first three days. In the majority of these cases, investigations have found that the pipes within the dwelling are frozen.

Under the Water Supply Bylaw, customers are responsible for ensuring that their water meter does not freeze. Freezing can be prevented by wrapping the meter with insulation or by keeping the area where it is located above freezing temperatures. If, during investigation, the water meter is found to be frozen, the City will install a replacement meter, which will be charged to the customer on their next utility bill.

In addition to responding to no water and meter calls, Toronto Water crews continue to respond to watermain breaks. Since January 1, Toronto Water has responded to more than 450 breaks. My office received a report of a watermain break around Cleadon Rd. area. My staff contacted 311 and Toronto Water repaired the break.

Luckily for our area, most of the houses are newer so are sufficiently insulated. But if yours is an older house, ensure there is sufficient heat to areas around your water pipes and water meter. For information on frozen pipes, please visit my website: <http://wp.me/p4a2TS-sk>.

Stouffville rail corridor construction in Ward 41

*In last month's e-newsletter, I informed you that **construction is scheduled to occur along the Stouffville GO Train line this spring. Metrolinx is building a second set of tracks on a 5 km stretch of rail line in Ward 41 this year and will start construction on the remainder of the 17 km project in 2016.***

I have contacted the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx to ask a number of questions about this project. My concern centres around coordination between different levels of government and agencies relating to this project. My office and the City of Toronto were not contacted before this announcement was made but the City recently approved \$2.4 million in studies relating to SmartTrack. It is imperative that the efforts of Metrolinx, Toronto and Markham/York Region be coordinated in order to successfully implement GO rail service expansion and SmartTrack.

SmartTrack has many more stations than the current GO Train service. It may be premature for Metrolinx to approve contracts for the Stouffville GO line when the

SmartTrack studies have not been completed yet. There are still many engineering and technical challenges that need to be resolved.

I asked for clarification to determine if all intersections that intersect with the Stouffville GO line will be grade separated. Currently, the Environmental Study for the Stouffville rail corridor expansion project states that there is a possibility that Steeles Ave. E. will be grade separated from Stouffville GO. This information is important to manage traffic along the east-west streets that intersect with the line.

I also asked for clarification on the hours of operation of expanded GO Train service, frequency of service and what the plans for electrification are. Furthermore, I inquired into the proposed noise barriers for the Agincourt community. I will update the community via my e-newsletter or newsletter once I receive a response to these inquiries.

Bad parking hinders City's snow clearing efforts

On some tree-lined streets, rows of cars are parked on the road, turning them into car-lined streets. Parking on the road for more than 3 hours at a time is not permitted in Scarborough. And on certain streets, overnight parking is not permitted. Boulevard (or apron) parking is also not allowed.

On-street parking hinders the City of Toronto's ability to properly clear Scarborough residential streets of snow and ice and can also impede windrow clearing. Whenever a winter storm is forecast, it is advisable to move your car to your garage or driveway. This will make the job of clearing our streets easier and will prevent your car from being boxed in by snow windrows created by the City's snow ploughs.

City staff has been requested to report on making it illegal to park on the street when a snow clearing advisory has been issued for a snow clearing operation in that area. This item was approved for a report by Scarborough Community Council.

Games for kids: fun ways to learn the 3Rs

It's important that children learn about the 3Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle. Solid Waste Management Services has created a series of games to engage kids to teach them about conservation and protecting the environment. Please find attached an image file of a blue bin word search. Your children will have fun finding all of the blue bin items in the word search.

Waste Wizard

Don't know what to do with an item you want to dispose of? Visit, the City of Toronto's Waste Wizard. Type in the item and click search to get an answer.

<http://app.toronto.ca/wes/winfo/search.do>

Fire investigations

There was a recent fire in the Ward, and residents around the burnt house are concerned for their own safety. A fence has been erected around the demolished house for safety reasons. Fortunately, not many fires occur in Toronto and even less in our Ward.

Due to residents' concerns, I (and my staff) made some inquiries into the cause of that fire, and my discovery, in summary, was that the investigation is in the hands of the Ontario Fire Marshal. It is still under investigation, and they do not have to share their findings. Also their very preliminary assessment is that there is no criminal investigation needed and there was no deaths.

Our city's fire investigators do not have the investigative role or the skills to perform the investigation. The governance of this area is under Ontario's Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. Under this Act, the collective bargaining contract (Part IX) also forms part of that governance. Our inspectors are trained for fire prevention and risk assessment. And our fire fighters are trained to fight fires and other emergencies.

I also spoke to our Fire Fighters' Association new President, Frank Pamagnano, and Toronto Fire Chief, Jim Sales, and was informed that Toronto has only just recently began taking on that investigative role for more routine fires as Ontario Fire Marshal will only investigate major fires or emergencies. Experienced staff will be hired who will then train and mentor others.

EVENTS (for even more events, see www.toronto.ca/events)

Scarborough Sunday Concert Series

Most Sundays | 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre (150 Borough Dr.)

Schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/ljx9mdm>

Admission is free. No reserved seating.

Family Days @AGO

January 4 – May 31, 2015

Art Gallery of Ontario

The Art Gallery of Ontario has fun activities for families every Sunday until May 31, 2015.

Visions of Mughal India: The Collection of Howard Hodgkin

February 21, 2015 – June 21, 2015

The Aga Khan Museum (77 Wynford Dr.)

This art exhibit features paintings from renowned painter Howard Hodgkin.

UTSC International Health Film Festival

March 3 – March 26, 2015 (Tuesdays and Thursdays only) | 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

University of Toronto Scarborough, Social Sciences Building (1265 Military Trail)

More information: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ccds/international-health-film-series-and-expo>.

UTSC is launching a new festival that focuses on health, illness and society. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, over the course of seven nights in March, the inaugural

University of Toronto Scarborough International Health Film Festival will explore health-related topics through film. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Family Baking Workshops

March 7 – March 28, 2015

Black Creek Pioneer Village

Learn to cook like the pioneers by using recipes and utensils from the 19th century.

Green Living Show

March 27 – 29, 2015

Direct Energy Centre (100 Princes' Blvd.)

The Green Living Show features 450 exhibits of environmentally friendly products, services and technological advances. Your ticket is valid to visit the show all weekend and March TTC Metropass holders get free admission to the event.

Scarborough Seedy Saturday and Green Fair

Saturday, March 28, 2015 | 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Blessed Cardinal Newman Catholic High School (100 Brimley Rd. South)

Learn to live a more sustainable lifestyle and trade seeds with other seed savers. Drop-in on workshops on how to grow food in a small space and composting.

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Harbourfront Centre Spring Fling Festival

April 18 – 20, 2015 | 12 p.m. (noon) – 5 p.m.

Harbourfront Centre (235 Queens Quay West)

Celebrate the arrival of spring with three family-friendly, fun-filled days of music, dance and hands-on activities at Harbourfront Centre.

Hot Docs Film Festival

April 23 – May 3, 2015

Bloor Hot Docs Cinema (506 Bloor St. W.)

The Hot Docs International Film Festival features documentaries from around the world.

Visit <http://www.hotdocs.ca/> for more information.