

Toronto City Councillor

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WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT



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August 2015 Issue

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Weekend Update from Toronto Hydro

Equipment failure following the week-long heat wave and stormy weather has caused scattered outages throughout the evening of Sunday, August 2nd. Crews have been working hard to restore power. Toronto Hydro advises residents to treat traffic lights as four way stops during power outages and report damaged wires to 416-542-8000.

From the first Pan AM torch bearer to last medal won, how did we do?

Now that the Pan American caldron has been extinguished and the athletes have gone home, Toronto is ramping up for the 2015 Parapan Am Games beginning August 7 – 15. Before the hysteria returns let's take a moment to reflect upon our Pan Am athletes, coaches, organisers as well as the venues and associated logistics involved in the events' execution. There is no question that our Canadian Pan Am athletes have made us all proud, 217 medals comprised of 78 gold, 69 silver and 70 bronze - but was it all worth it?

Let us know what you are thinking by contacting us at councillor_lee@toronto.ca and share what you liked and you did not like. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing the results of this ward-wide survey.

Calling all High School Community Volunteer Champions!!

I know it is unfair to some that we bring this up during the dogdays of summer, but September will be here before you know it and we are looking at terrific opportunities to engage our youth in community-centric activities while cultivating teambuilding and leadership skills. If you are interested, please contact us at councillor_lee@toronto.ca with your name, phone number and the name of the high school that you are attending. We are presently planning a **neighbourhood clean-up challenge** in late September, where communities will compete for bragging rights, a group picture in our eNews, and more. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to get involved in your community. Sign up today!!

Getting a new moniker – what's your say?

What image does the label "**Scarberian**" conjure up for you? Are you standing on frozen tundra awaiting the next husky express? Do you feel isolated, overlooked, and undesirable? Whether chilling scenes from Hollywood blockbusters or historical events resonate with you, I'm sure you can agree that the stigma and negative connotation associated with this nickname are not welcomed nor appreciated by many of us.

There have been rumblings of a new moniker receiving great embrace, whether it be in response to recent good-news stories showcasing the diverse and authentic culinary renderings available here in Scarborough, or a nod of recognition toward the multicultural fabric comprised of art, music, and dance. Is it the rich history of our founding nations combined with analogues of immigrant journeys that now light up our neighbourhoods and echo enthusiastically in our communities?

Scarborough is donning a fresh coat of paint, and it is truly unique as it is wonderful. Whatever the reason that reverberates with you, many are warming up to a new title "**Scarbrite**" – as we **let our light shine bright** for all to see. We want to hear from you. Please contact our office at councillor_lee@toronto.ca and let us know what you think.

Changing of the Guards at 42 Division

Councillor Lee asks that you join him in welcoming our new police champions to 42 Division: Superintendent Kim Yeandle and Staff Sergeant Andrew Ecklund have replaced the recently retired Superintendent Tom Fitzgerald and the recently transferred Staff Sergeant David Rydzik to our ward.

Councillor Lee has met with both officers and is pleased to comment on how well-versed they are on current issues and concerns voiced by many of our constituents. As they embrace their respective roles as community partners, providing us strong leadership in keeping our neighbourhoods safe, they call upon us for our assistance and to get involved.

We emphasize the word "**partnership**" because this is our community too! Let's help each other by being the eyes and ears for our officers, by reporting anything that may look suspicious or out of the ordinary. Remember, **911 is for Emergency incidents only**. All other calls are classified as **non-**

emergency and you are encouraged to call (416) 808-2222. For general inquiries you can call the division directly at **(416) 808-4200.**

For more information on helpful hints and crime prevention tips and services to protect your family, home and neighbourhood check out their website at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/d42/> and join us in becoming Ward 41 Community Champions. Let's do our part in keeping Scarborough a great place to live, work and play.

Finally, a sincere and profound "Thank you" goes out to both Tom and Dave for their great work and sense of community that they tirelessly cultivated in our ward. We wish them the best of luck and good health as they embrace new chapters in their respective lives.

Canada Day 2016 – get on board now!

Canada Day in Scarborough this past July 1st was indeed picture perfect. Where were you on that fine, sunny day? Many of you were enjoying festivities in Thomson Memorial Park, the Chinese Cultural Centre, Milliken Park or elsewhere with family and friends. Want to share a photo and brief caption on how you spent Canada's 148th birthday? Please send your pictures and quick synopsis on what Canada Day means to you to councillor_lee@toronto.ca or tweet using the hashtag [#ScarboroCanadaDay15](https://twitter.com/ScarboroCanadaDay15) for a chance to be featured on our website <https://chinlee41.wordpress.com/>.

As well, we are looking towards next year's festivities and growing the experience to reflect a more diverse and culturally rich Scarborough - **and we need your input.** The Scarborough Civic Centre and adjoining Albert Campbell Square are being considered as venues, where international flavours, sights and sounds can come together in a caravan-like setting with food, art and music from the many peoples that now call Scarborough home. Help us celebrate!!

Around the City:

The Local Dish – help create Toronto's largest collection of local food recipes

The Local Dish, a new City of Toronto initiative, invites residents to share their favourite local food recipes and help to build Toronto's largest collection of recipes online. This collection is hosted on Pinterest, a social media platform that makes it easy to share recipes and photos.

The goal is to encourage residents to choose locally grown food more often and to educate people about the abundance of fresh and delicious food right here in our backyard. The Local Dish endeavours to also highlight the additional benefits of choosing indigenous food, including support for local jobs and farmers and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with food travel.

Each month, The Local Dish will select an "**all-star**" **veggie or fruit** – one that is abundantly available in Ontario at that time – and invite residents to share their favourite recipes that feature the particular ingredient in a prominent way. Residents who submit their recipes will be eligible for monthly prizes. The all-star ingredient for the month of July was zucchini. **August is all about peaches** and some of Toronto's top restaurants are enlisting their chefs in taking on the challenge.

Are your creative juices flowing? Please visit www.livegreentoronto.ca to find out how you can get involved in helping to build Toronto's largest local food recipe collection.

The Nuts and Bolts of fixing TCHC

When first elected, Mayor Tory appointed the Task Force on Toronto Community Housing (TCH) to investigate and address the challenges faced by Toronto's social housing provider. On July 15, 2015, the Task Force released its much anticipated interim report detailing issues facing North America's second largest housing provider and suggesting possible solutions.

While the final report is not due until December 2015, below is a summary of areas that are covered by the interim report:

- Securing capital repair funding.
- Increasing safety and security.
- Improving building conditions.
- Providing jobs and opportunities for residents.
- More effective TCHC staff and contractor training.
- Creating a Resident Charter and tenant engagement.
- Hiring a Chief Operating Officer.

We encourage you to read the full report by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/qa29xvj>.

A Better Way to Light the Way

Toronto Hydro is launching 5 pilot projects in the city in regards to LED lighting. LED light bulbs have greater energy efficiency and longer lifespans than street lamps that are currently in use.

One of the pilot projects will take place in Ward 41 and we are pleased to inform that Goldhawk Trail will have 52 LED lights installed as part of this initiative.

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) will consider a report on the LED light bulb pilot project at its September meeting. The report will discuss program costs, savings and expected rollout dates. Please let us know at councillor_lee@toronto.ca what you think.

Project Pitfield to Improve Power System

Toronto Hydro's rebuild of the overhead electrical system in the Pitfield community will ensure that our Ward has a safe and reliable power supply system for the foreseeable future. The work started in late July continuing into April 2016 will include replacing and installing new hydro poles, electrical cables and upgrading transformers.

The project is bounded by Sheppard Ave. E. (North), Brimley Rd. (East), Midland Ave. (West) and Highway 401 (South). For more information, call the **powerUp line** at (416) 542-3366 or click on <http://www.poweruptoronto.ca/safety-tips>.

The Dirt on Waste

What do I do with my grass clippings after I mow the lawn? Can I put that into the green bin? Is plastic blue bin material? Will the city pick up my old sofa from the curb? Do you have questions on what to do with your waste? **The Waste Wizard** can provide you with the answers you're looking for. Whenever you have a question, you can ask the Waste Wizard. Just go to <http://app.toronto.ca/wes/winfo/search.do>. If you can't access Internet, call my office at (416) 392-1375. We'll find the answer and let you know.

On a recent Ward tour, I noticed some households were putting grass clippings in bags by the curb for collection. I decided to consult the Waste Wizard and it suggests that residents leave the grass clippings on your lawn. The City of Toronto no longer picks up grass clippings as part of its curbside collection program. Grass clippings are a form of organic waste and act as fertilizer for your lawn as they decay.

For a list of what goes into the blue or green bins, please visit the following websites:

- <http://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/58/101000038858.html>
- <http://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/81/101000051381.html>

TTC Off-Peak Service Improvements Announced!

Mayor Tory and TTC Chair Councillor Colle recently announced service improvements to off-peak services for 33 bus and streetcar routes that will be implemented this fall. In addition to improvements to 61 routes announced in summer, these improvements largely reverse off-peak service cuts that were made in February 2012. Bus routes that serve our ward announced in this round of improvements are:

- **39 Finch East**
- **42 Cummer**
- **53 Steeles East**
- **199 Finch Rocket**

Visit https://ttc.ca/News/2015/July/0727_bus_wait.jsp for a complete list of bus routes that are included in this round of service improvement.

This is a follow up to service improvements announced in May:

http://www.ttc.ca/News/2015/May/5_24_015_NR_service_improvements.jsp

More details on the TTC staff report:

[http://www.ttc.ca/About the TTC/Commission reports and information/Commission meetings/2015/May 27/Reports/More Off Peak Service Expansion of All Day Every Day Network.pdf](http://www.ttc.ca/About%20the%20TTC/Commission%20reports%20and%20information/Commission%20meetings/2015/May%2027/Reports/More%20Off%20Peak%20Service%20Expansion%20of%20All%20Day%20Every%20Day%20Network.pdf)

Upcoming:

Starting on September 6th, **169 Huntingwood** will have expanded service to include evenings and on weekends. The route will run all day, every day, from 6 AM until 1 AM (beginning 9 AM on Sundays) with this change, with buses operating every 30 minutes. This is a substantial improvement over the existing limited service.

Event Listing

Scarborough Museum Summer Camps

June 29 to September 4, 2015 (weekly) – Scarborough Museum (Thomson Park) – Registration and information: www.toronto.ca/torontofun.

Draft Cycling Map Public Meeting

August 5, 2015

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon)

Scarborough Civic Centre Lobby

150 Borough Dr.

ParaPan Am Games

August 7 to 15, 2015

www.toronto2015.org

PANAMANIA

August 7 to 12, 2015

<http://www.toronto2015.org/panamania>

The 5th Annual StArt YPA Festival

August 11 – 15, 2015

Scarborough Village Theatre and Scarborough Village R.C. (3600 Kingston Rd)

<http://www.startypa.org/>

Canadian National Exhibition

August 21 – September 7, 2015

Exhibition Grounds

210 Princes' Blvd.

Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest

August 22 – 23, 2015

Albert Campbell Square,

150 Borough Drive

<http://scarboroughafrocaribfest.com/>

TORONTO MELA 2015! A South Asian Summer Festival

August 22, 2015

Malvern Recreation Centre, 30 Sewells Road, Scarborough, ON M1B 3G5

<http://www.cassa.on.ca/wp2015/event/toronto-mela-2015/>

Buskerfest

August 27 – 30, 2015

<http://torontobuskerfest.com/>

Artfest at the Distillery

September 4 – 7, 2015

Distillery District

<http://www.artfestontario.com/toronto/>