

Toronto City Councillor

**Chin Lee**

**WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT**



**Call: (416) 392-1375    E-mail: [councillor\\_lee@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_lee@toronto.ca)**

**May 2015**

Dear Neighbour,

My 2015 Spring Newsletter is being printed, and should be in your mailbox this coming week. Unfortunately not everyone is signed up for my electronic news, and the cost and labour-intensive effort to produce the newsletter needs to continue to take up my staff's time. I encourage my constituents to sign up for my e-News, so they can receive more timely updates.

Please find below, the following items:

- ❖ City reviewing rooming houses
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- ❖ Tour Toronto with Heritage Toronto
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- ❖ Events

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at [\(416\) 392-1375](tel:4163921375) or [councillor\\_lee@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_lee@toronto.ca).

Sincerely,

**Chin Lee**

Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 41 – Scarborough Rouge River

## City reviewing rooming houses

Every year we welcome approximately 80,000 people to the GTA. Welcoming this many people to the Toronto family each and every year has led to a housing shortage because we're running out of room to build more homes. Simply put, we're facing a housing crisis. We can see the effects this has in our communities in the form of non-conforming rooming houses. Some people view rooming houses as a scourge that has nefariously infiltrated our neighbourhoods while others see it as a form of affordable housing that is catering to an unmet demand.

In my 2 completed terms on City Council, it has been my experience that City Council will ask for a review and a report on this issue, to be brought forward to the new Council. So in August 2014, Executive Committee again requested such a review. So, the City of Toronto is currently reviewing rooming houses. The public consultation sessions had been scheduled in wards that had been identified as having a high number of these houses.

Ward 41 was not on that list, but I requested an extra session be held in Ward 41, as I have heard many people who have concerns about them. I had mention them in my previous e-news mailings. The **Ward 41 consultation session is May 7, 2015 at Francis Libermann Catholic High School in the Cafeteria. It runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** To express your opinion on rooming houses, attend the session or fill out an online survey: [http://cityoftoronto.fluidsurveys.com/s/rooming\\_house\\_survey/](http://cityoftoronto.fluidsurveys.com/s/rooming_house_survey/).

## Catch the Mobile Dental Bus for free dental services

The mobile dental bus won't take you for a ride because they provide free dental services to those who meet their eligibility requirements. Low income permanent residents, live-in caregivers and refugees are eligible for free check-ups, examinations, x-rays, fillings, some root canal treatments and extractions. Folks who currently receive Ontario Works and ODSP are also eligible for free treatment. The best part of the mobile dental bus is that you don't have to go to them but they come to you. And they're coming to our community! Here's how you can catch the bus:

**Mobile Dental Bus  
May 12, 2015 at 9 a.m.  
3300 Midland Ave., Unit 238 (Finch/Midland)  
Scarborough, ON**

Call (416) 979-8299 ext. 237 to pre-register. You can't catch the bus without pre-registering. Learn more at <http://tinyurl.com/my26o9e>.

## **Tour Toronto with Heritage Toronto**

Toronto has a lot to offer. It's a city that is rich in music, sports, history, heritage and culture. Heritage Toronto wants to show you the city's hidden gems via walking, bike or bus tours. Don't like large crowds? Sign up for a walking boutique tour, which offers a more intimate experience and a smaller group size. Ready to explore? Start by surfing to [www.heritagetoronto.org](http://www.heritagetoronto.org) for more information.

## **Brimley Road House Explosion**

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, a house on Brimley Road was demolished by a serious explosion. The explosion also damaged neighbouring properties. Toronto Fire called me to inform me of the explosion and confirmed that 1 person died in the explosion. I visited the site and witness the chaos that ensued. Emergency Services, led by the Ontario Fire Marshall, with various support personnel, had the situation under control. Enbridge was called to stem the gas leak and a TTC bus was brought to the site to house evacuees, There were many on-lookers who came by to see what was going on. The city did sent inspectors to some near-by houses to ensure structural integrity of these houses. Others will have to report any damage to their own insurance companies. Brimley Road was closed for almost a week to secure the site for investigation, and to be made safe again.

Some houses have been deemed un-safe until repairs are made, which can be many months. The owners have asked for disaster relief, and I am checking into this for them. For private service providers (Bell, Rogers, Enbridge, etc.), the homeowners should contact those companies to seek relief.

## **Need HELP? The City is here to lend a hand**

Furnace busted? Need to replace your windows? No, not your computer's operating system but the windows in your home. If you need HELP, the City of Toronto can lend a hand through the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP). Qualified homeowners of detached, semi-detached and row houses can apply for a low interest loan from the City, which can be used to make energy efficiency improvements to your home. You can purchase a new high efficiency furnace, replace your windows, upgrade your insulation or install solar panels to name just a few examples. You pay the loans back over a period of time via your property tax bill. To learn more or apply for HELP, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pcyahjq>.

## **The invisible hand that keeps Toronto running**

From the moment you turn on the tap in the morning until you turn out the lights at the end of the day, the men and women working for the city (and they belong to CUPE) play an important and often invisible role in ensuring that we all enjoy services, we all take for granted. They work hard to provide us with an excellent quality of life and great city living. They include paramedics that make life saving calls, solid waste personnel that

keep our neighbourhoods clean, workers that keep the water flowing and librarians who provide great service. CUPE members work for the people of Toronto and keep our city functioning. Included in this invisible hand are my office staff, who answer your calls and e-mails. Please treat them with respect.

## **mediate393**

Have you heard about this public service? mediate393 is a family information and mediation service provider. They provide free and subsidized family mediation whether or not you are in court. Their mediation services are free for anyone who is in Toronto's family courts and either free or highly subsidized family law mediation is available to anyone who resides in the GTA. This often results in fees of \$15 an hour or less. For more information on this service, which is fully funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, visit <http://mediate393.ca/>.

## **Sprucing up our parks**

The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is sprucing up our parks by planting more trees this summer. Here's what you need to know:

- 15 trees will be planted in Donalda Park adding to the fabric of the urban forest.
- The East Highland Creek Trail in the Brimley Rd. and McNicoll Ave. area will welcome 47 new trees providing shade and comfort to residents.
- PF&R will plant 63 of our leafy friends – trees – in Port Royal Park.

## **Building bridges**

Our bridges allow us to cross railway yards, rivers and valleys. The Markham Road Bridge, which is located just north of Nugget Ave. on Markham Rd., is in need of some remediation work. The repairs will restore the bridge's structural integrity and prolong its service life. Construction started on May 1 and is expected to be completed by November 27, 2015. To learn more about this project go to [www.toronto.ca/improvements](http://www.toronto.ca/improvements).

## **Robert K. Brown Scholarship**

The Robert K. Brown Scholarship supports those who have made a commitment to the betterment of the community at large. The scholarship is open to residents of the GTA who are between 16 and 29 and of African or Caribbean heritage. Applicants must have acceptance for or be attending a post-secondary institution and demonstrate their commitment to the social services field either through paid or volunteer experience or current field of study.

A complete application package must be submitted, which includes a 500 to 800 word essay (brief biography and explanation of the applicant's inclination towards the social services field), signed declaration allowing the committee to verify the information

provided, school transcripts, verification of outstanding achievements, 2 letters of reference from non-relatives, letter of acceptance from college or university or proof of current attendance and any other documents which may support the application.

**The deadline is Monday, June 1, 2015 and the scholarship is valued at \$1500.  
Mail the application package to:**

**Tropicana Community Services  
Attention: Scholarship Committee  
1385 Huntingwood Drive  
Scarborough, ON M1S 3J1**

## **Agincourt Collegiate Institute turns 100 years young**

In the heart of every community there is a beacon of enlightenment, a wealth of knowledge and an opportunity for greater learning. This weekend, Agincourt Collegiate Institute officially celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of developing community, national and international leaders. The Scarborough Mirror has an interesting article in this week's paper that touches upon the early days of the school and its impact on the community. <http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/5593127-agincourt-collegiate-shows-its-pride-at-100th-anniversary-celebrations/>

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with fellow alumni and to encourage the students who are currently embracing their academic and career hopes. We would like to hear from alumni who still reside in our community. What is your Agincourt C.I. story? How has this school, its teachers and fellow students shaped your life? Share your story with us.

For a list of events marking this 100<sup>th</sup> year milestone this weekend, April 30 to May 3. For details, please click on the attached pdf.

## **Our students are awesome – thank you for being Scarborough champions!**

Councillor Lee wishes to acknowledge the Cleanup ambassadors from Albert Campbell and Agincourt Collegiate Institutes for rising to the challenge to not only clean up the Finch Hydro Corridor, but to "represent" the quality of youth who call Scarborough home. On the morning of Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>, the green space flanking the intersection of McCowan and McNicoll experienced a much needed spring cleaning. Student volunteerism and community engagement are alive and well in our neighbourhoods. Bravo and thank you for making us proud!



## Events

### Agincourt Chess Club

Sundays – L'Amoreaux Community Centre, 2000 McNicoll Ave. – 12 noon to 6 p.m.  
Joining the club is free and play is non-competitive. Chess lessons are not provided.  
For more information call Alex at (416) 493-0019.

### Agincourt Collegiate Institute Celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Official opening ceremony – Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7 PM  
See attached PDF for details

### Agincourt Lawn Bowling

May to September – Agincourt Clubhouse and Greens (Heather Rd. and Brimley Rd.)  
The Agincourt Lawn Bowling league is looking for players. For more information go to [www.agincourtbc.com](http://www.agincourtbc.com) or call Ron Sellen at (416) 686-0219.

### GTA Project Community BBQ (Enbridge Gas line Project)

Saturday, May 2, 2015 – Bridlewood Mall Parking Lot – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Annual Job and Career Fair

Monday, May 4, 2015 – Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Rooming House Consultations**

Thursday, May 7, 2015 – Francis Libermann Catholic High School (Cafeteria) – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Scarborough Hospital Fundraiser Dinner** (by Chinese Philanthropic Council)

May 8, 2015 – Casa Deluz Banquet Hall (Woodside Square) – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**2015 Scarborough Health Fair** (by the Scarborough Chinese Outreach Committee and the Scarborough Hospital)

May 23, 2015 – time tbd, L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute, 2501 Bridletown Circle  
[www.scarboroughcoc.com/Health\\_Fair.html](http://www.scarboroughcoc.com/Health_Fair.html)

**42 Division Open House and Community Rummage Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2015 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
242 Milner Ave.

**Mobile Dental Bus**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 – 3330 Midland Ave., Unit 238 (Midland/Finch) – 9 a.m.

**Doors Open Toronto**

May 24 to 25, 2015 – [www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca)

**Scarborough Hospital Fundraiser – Taste of Scarborough** (by Women Philanthropic Council)

June 12, 2015 – details at [www.tasteofscarborough.ca](http://www.tasteofscarborough.ca)

**Councillor Lee's Movie Night**

Friday, June 19, 2015

8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

St. Marguerite Bourgeois Catholic School  
75 Alexmuir Blvd.

**Scarborough Museum Summer Camps**

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