

Toronto City Councillor

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WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT



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November 2015 Issue

Get into the holiday spirit!

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SAFETY:

Changing clocks and batteries in smoke and CO detectors

Autumn is a time of change. The leaves are changing colours from gorgeous green to brilliant hues of red, yellow and orange before they finally fall from the trees. This is also the time of year when we "fall back" and gain one hour of sleep this Sunday morning (2 AM). As well, Toronto Fire Services advise us to replace the batteries in our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors each time we adjust our clocks. Time to buy some batteries and keep our families and homes safe.

SLOW DOWN sign interest picking up speed

In our last eNews we mentioned that have 500 **SLOW DOWN** signs available for our residents. Since then we have been to several community meetings and have witness

a growing interest in partnering with the Police and the Councillor's office in keeping our streets safe from speeders. Imagine entering into our communities and seeing a sea of yellow SLOW DOWN signs... your first reaction would be to press on the break while looking at your speedometer. **THAT IS EXACTLY THE EFFECT WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR – speed awareness.** We must all do our part to keep our children and families safe, especially around our school zones. If you are interested in joining the movement, please email us at councillor_lee@toronto.ca for more details.

Invitation Theft – are you a potential victim?

Councillor Lee wishes to share his own experience with his constituents as it may have happened to you also. He left my cars unlocked one night, and they were both ransacked in the middle of the night.

Thieves are striking it rich in our neighbourhoods by preying on absent-minded or careless homeowners who forget to lock their cars. Innocently enough, an unlocked car is like an invitation to help yourself to the "all you can take" buffet of your car's contents. These prowlers are looking for easy targets and will definitely take anything of value left in your unlocked car. Prevention is better than sorrow – lock your car doors.

Follow these easy steps and be proactive in guarding your property and vehicle. Before nightfall, take a moment each day and check that your car is locked and that any valuable items are placed out of sight. As well, ensure that all your house doors and windows are anchored shut. If you can, install a motion light detector at all entrances.

These easy steps will provide an additional layer of defence in ensuring your property safety. For even more information, visit www.torontopolice.on.ca.

Halloween Safety Tips:

Halloween is lots of fun for kids, mostly because it involves getting dressed up and eating candy. There's more to Halloween than trick-or-treating and the Toronto Police Service would like to remind everyone of the need for safety this Halloween.

Some things you may not think of include costume safety, candy cautions, trick-or-treat best practices and driver safety. Below are some of the things about which the Toronto Police Service would like to remind everyone.

- 1) Put strips of reflective tape on the front and back of the costumes to make them more visible to drivers.
- 2) Your child's costume shouldn't drag on the ground, making it too easy to trip over. Shoes should be well-fitting and sturdy.
- 3) Don't allow children to carry sharp objects. Swords, knives, and any other accessories should be made of soft, flexible material.
- 4) If your child wears a mask, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough

so that he or she can see.

- 5) Ensure treat bags are light-colored for easy visibility. Decorate them with reflective tape (you can find it in dollar, hardware, bicycle, or sporting goods stores).
- 6) No child should go trick-or-treating alone. Always accompany your younger children; older children can go in groups.
- 7) Allow children to go trick-or-treating early but avoid the evening rush hour. It's harder for motorists to see clearly in the dark than when there is still daylight.
- 8) Give children specific neighbourhood boundaries for trick-or-treating. Set a firm curfew for your children.
- 9) Remind children to walk on sidewalks and be cautious when crossing streets.
- 10) Tell children to only go to homes and neighbors they know and only to houses with lights on.
- 11) Tell children to turn down all invitations to enter homes. Period.
- 12) Tell children to avoid even normally friendly neighborhood dogs, who can be startled by kids they know who are dressed in unfamiliar costumes.
- 13) Drivers: remember children may be preoccupied with trick-or-treating and may not be paying attention to the rules of the road. Keep vehicle speeds at or below the posted limits, and scan the road for children attempting to cross streets mid-block.

Help the Toronto Police Service make this Halloween a safe and happy Halloween.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Catch up on keeping catch basins clear of debris

Catch basins are an integral part of Toronto's storm water management system. In our area, these grates along the side of the road carry rain water and melting snow and ice away from our homes and directly into local rivers and streams, thus reducing the risk of flooding to our properties. This is why it is important that we all do our part to keep catch basins clear of debris.

Now that autumn is upon us, the leaves are changing colour from **green** to magnificent shades of **red**, **yellow** and **orange**. As we all know, this brilliant display of colour is temporary because the leaves eventually fall from the trees to the ground. This creates a problem because the leaves can block the catch basins that are so important to preventing flooding in our communities. But you can help reduce this problem!

Please take the time to clear catch basins in front of your property from debris such as fallen leaves. Also clear your window wells and possible catch basins on your property

as well if you have a catch basin on your property. City waste management crews will collect leaves on garbage collection days until December. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/qbp3yta>.

In the winter months, the city's snow clearing efforts result in snow covering catch basins after very heavy snowfall. Clearing catch basins of snow and ice is also important during the colder months to prevent flooding in the spring when melting occurs. Chin demonstrates how to mitigate this problem in this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDodeFzrZtY>.

Get your rakes and leaf blowers ready

Some of you may have seen and laughed at the commercial where unsuspecting adult pedestrians encounter their first fallen coloured leaf. Yes, that time of year will soon be upon us. Are you ready? It's time to take inventory – rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, yard collection bags, many helping hands...whatever your list, here are some tips that the City of Toronto has provided for your information:

http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/solid_waste_management_services/composting_yard_waste_and_lawns/files/pdf/yardwaste_tips.pdf

For a copy of your area's collection schedule please refer to this link of **District 4** and click on **Wednesday 1 or 2** as indicated in the legend on the left side of the page:

http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/solid_waste_management_services/shared_content/files/calendars/d4.pdf

AROUND THE CITY:

Share your holiday treat recipes and bite into some new ones

In the spirit of the holiday season, I am inviting you to share your holiday recipes with my office. I will publish them on my website allowing you to bite into new recipes that were shared by our neighbours in the community.

You can send your recipes to councillor_lee@toronto.ca. Recipe submissions will be found on my website <http://chinlee41.wordpress.com> closer to the holiday season. As a note of caution, please keep an eye out for any potential allergens in the recipes if you and/or a loved one has any food allergies or sensitivities.

Show us your Ho-Ho holiday decorations

With the mercury dipping below zero in the coming weeks and snow on its way by the end of the year, it is almost time to get ready for the festive holiday season. We're interested in celebrating the festive season in our neighbourhoods and seeing your holiday decorations. Send your photos to councillor_lee@toronto.ca for a chance to be featured on our website and be eligible for a prize.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Metrolinx Public Information Session – November 3, 2015

URGENT - Metrolinx is hosting a public information session, where they will be updating our residents on track work scheduled for the Stouffville GO line, which runs through our ward. This session will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Monsignor Fraser College, 2900 Midland Ave. (on Midland Ave., just south of Finch Avenue East).

Unfortunately, Metrolinx did not consider that Council Meeting ending at 8 PM that evening, therefore I will be represented by staff at this meeting.

EVENT LISTING:

Road Safety Event

Saturday, October 31, 2015

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Centennial College (941 Progress Ave.)

Metrolinx Public Information Session

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Monsignor Fraser College (2900 Midland Ave.)

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 6 – 15, 2015

Ricoh Coliseum (45 Manitoba Dr.)

for more information, go to <http://www.royalfair.org/>

United Way Corporate CN Tower Climb

Sunday, November 8, 2015

8 a.m.

Councillor climbs 1776 steps of CN Tower to raise funds for United Way.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Sunday, November 8, 2015

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre, Rotunda (150 Borough Dr.)

TTC Customer Town Hall

Thursday, November 12, 2015

Toronto City Hall (100 Queen St. West)

Marketplace: Main Floor Rotunda

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Town Hall: Council Chambers

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

for more information, visit www.ttc.ca

Santa Clause Parade

November 15, 2015

for more information, visit <http://www.thesantaclausparade.ca/>

Cavalcade of Lights

November 28, 2015

7 p.m.

Nathan Phillips Square (100 Queen St. W.)

Toronto Christmas Market

November 20 – December 20, 2015

The Distillery District (55 Mill St.)

For more information, go to <http://torontochristmasmarket.com/>

Scarborough Civic Centre - Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Wednesday, December 2

7:00pm-9:00 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre Rotunda

150 Borough Drive