

Toronto City Councillor

**Chin Lee**

**WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT**



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**Issue: February 2017 Special Edition**

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**DEAR NEIGHBOUR:**

The 2017 Budget was approved after a long special Council Meeting last week. Please find in this e-news some highlights from this year's budget.

The Scarborough Subway expansion will be tabled at the upcoming Executive Committee and the March City Council. In light of this, Mayor John Tory will be dropping by Woodside Square Mall this **Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, from 3pm to 4pm** to chat with residents about this expansion and overall transit on – more details in this Enews.

My office will be organizing a few spring/summer events and we're calling upon our wonderful youth champions who can lend their time to better the community while earning volunteering hours. Please follow my website (<https://chinlee41.wordpress.com/>) and other social media outlets (<https://twitter.com/CncllrChinLee> | <https://www.facebook.com/councillorchinlee>) to keep apprised of the event details. If you or a friend would like to become a volunteer, please email my office at [councillor\\_lee@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_lee@toronto.ca).

I'm excited to announce a new series in honor of this special year, **Canada 150** which is a section featuring an individual, a historic place, or a local event starting with this issue, with an emphasis on Ward 41 and Scarborough. To this effort, I also welcome ideas and submissions from you, Scarboroughites to nominate stories, individuals and events that may be of significance to celebration Canada's and Scarborough's history.

**Chin Lee**  
Your Ward Councillor

*Featured this month:*

- **Introducing – Canada 150 Local Series**
- **Transit Discussion – Mall Walk with Mayor John Tory**
- **Get Ready to Register for Spring/Summer Recreation Programs**
- **Open Door Program Guidelines & Rental Housing Application Released**
- **Rear of 25 Lockie Donation accepted by TDSB**
- **City of Toronto Seeking Feedback on Provision of Multilingual Information**
- **2017 Budget**
- **Income Tax Clinics**
- **New Human Services Online Tools**
- **Events**

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## INTRODUCING – CANADA 150 LOCAL SERIES

(As February is Black History Month, the first article is about the first Black Canadian to stand for elected Federal office)

William Andrew (Bill) White, III, OC (1915 – 1981), was a Canadian musician, song leader, and humanitarian and social justice activist. He was the first Black Canadian to run for federal office in Canada during the 1948 election for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation under Tommy Douglas in the Toronto electoral district of Spadina, although he was not elected.

On December 18, 1970, Mr. White was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada and invested into the Order in 1971, for "services to the community and his contribution to better relations and understanding between people of different racial background" (<https://tinyurl.com/gvpcewl>). In 1976, Mr. White earned the honour of Scarborough Citizen of the Year. To celebrate Scarborough's bicentennial year, he was named posthumously as one of the city's top 200 citizens in 200 years.

Mr. White's family has been long-time Scarborough residents, with their old residence on Murray Ave. His daughter Sheila White also resides in this community and has been an active member of the CDF community.

William White's lasting legacy continues to impact our community and it is my pleasure to feature his bio in the first issue of our Canada 150 Local Series."

If you have stories, historical artifacts, heritage homes and individuals that you think would be suitable for this series, please email my office at [councillor\\_lee@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_lee@toronto.ca) with "E-news Canada 150 Series" in the subject line along with details. Your content may be featured in our upcoming e-Newsletter!

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## TRANSIT DISCUSSION – MALL WALK WITH MAYOR JOHN TORY

On Saturday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 3pm – 4pm**, Mayor John Tory will be stopping by Woodside Square Mall (1521 Sandhurst Cr., Scarb) to chat with residents about transit, and in particular the extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway line to Scarborough Town Centre.

We hope you can join us this Saturday and share your opinion on the subway extension. For more information, please contact my office.

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## GET READY TO REGISTER FOR SPRING/SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

The City of Toronto offers recreation programs for all ages, skill levels and interests and registration for spring/summer 2017 begins in two weeks. In Scarborough, the registration date is **Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017** starting at 7am. For in-person registrations in Scarborough, please visit Centennial Recreation Centre, 1967 Ellesmere Rd., M1H 2W5, from 7am to 12noon.

For more information on registration, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/hy9cr45>.

**Welcome Policy Yearly Credit** | The Welcome Policy credit can be used to register for City recreation programs. People receiving social assistance (Ontario Works) and living in Toronto are pre-approved to receive this credit and should speak to their caseworker. For more information, please visit <http://www.toronto.ca/wp>.

**Older Adult Discounts** | Older adults (60 plus years) who register for adult recreation programs receive a 50% discount off the regular price of those programs.

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## **OPEN DOOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES & RENTAL HOUSING APPLICATION RELEASED**

The first call for Affordable Rental Housing Applications under the Open Door Program was released with the guidelines available at [www.toronto.ca/affordablehousing](http://www.toronto.ca/affordablehousing).

Private and non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate in the program by submitting a complete Open Door Application package no later than **12noon on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. City Council approval of successful applications will occur in early October 2017.

The first information session for the Call for Applications will be held on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at City Hall, Committee Room #2, from 9am to 11am.

**Sign up for the Open Door Registry** | By signing up, you will be the first to be notified when affordable rental and ownership housing RFPs/Calls for Applications are available, learn about affordable housing development opportunities on public land across Toronto, and learn about other Open Door projects which are creating affordable housing. To sign up, contact the AHO Administrative Assistance at (416)397-4169 or [opendoor@toronto.ca](mailto:opendoor@toronto.ca).

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## **REAR OF 25 LOCKIE DONATION ACCEPTED BY TDSB**

More than six years ago, the property at 25 Lockie Ave (the lot is 300 feet deep) was put on the market and I visited the open house and mentioned to the realtor that Agincourt Public School (next door) should buy it so they can expand, and I spoke to the then School Trustee, but was informed that the Board had no money to buy the property. When the property was put on the market again, the realtor remembered, and directed the eventual buyer to speak to me about donating the back portion to the school. He saw the benefit for the school and the surrounding community, I helped the owner get in touch with TDSB and had to stay on top of the file to make the donation happen. After six years of perseverance, the school board finally approved the acceptance of the 'in-kind' donation. Wonderful news for the Agincourt community! I thank the property owner and the realtor for this benefit to the community.

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## **CITY OF TORONTO SEEKING FEEDBACK ON PROVISION OF MULTILINGUAL INFORMATION**

As part of the Multilingual Services Policy to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Toronto's diverse communities, the City of Toronto is requesting input from residents and other members of the public through an online survey that will help determine how and when the City makes information available in languages other than English. Toronto's Multilingual Services Policy (<http://bit.ly/2l1dt99>) includes criteria for translating information into other languages to make sure information reaches residents, keeps them informed and engaged, and that City resources for translation and interpretation are used effectively.

The survey is available online at <http://www.toronto.ca/languagesurvey> until March 10<sup>th</sup> and is offered in several languages.

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## 2017 BUDGET

After a marathon meeting past midnight last Wednesday, the 2017 Budget was approved by Council.

Here are some highlights:

- Council approved a 2017 tax-supported operating budget of \$10.5 billion and a 10-year capital budget and plan of \$26.5 billion.
- 2017 operating budget:
  - Maintains current programs & services,
  - Provides funding for \$43 million in new and enhanced services, including investment in poverty reduction, childcare and community wellness, safe transportation, environmental sustainability and city building,
  - \$37 million provided to Toronto Community Housing to address operational needs and to finance the completion of Regent Park Phase 3 Revitalization.
- 2017 – 2026 tax supported capital budget & plan:
  - Majority of funding allocated to transit and transportation infrastructure (\$20 billion or 74%),
  - \$5.8 billion in new investments to fund critical unmet needs including:
    - Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Funding Projects (\$709 million),
    - F.G. Gardiner Expressway rehabilitation Plan B (\$863 million debt),
    - Smart Track (\$3.8 billion),
    - Flood Protection for the Portlands (\$1.2 billion), and
    - Reducing the state-of-good repair backlog at Toronto Public Library (\$21 million).
- New revenue options approved by Council to help fund the operating budget, including harmonization of the Municipal Land Transfer Tax (MLTT) with the province's rates, a proposed hotel tax, changes to the commercial tax ratio and a phased elimination of the vacancy rebate. The MLTT First-Time Home Buyers rebate also saw an increase from \$3,725 to \$4,475.
- Overall, the 2017 budget tax increase after assessment growth is 1.39%, with
  - A 2% increase for residential properties,
  - A 1% increase for commercial properties,
  - A 0.67% increase for industrial properties
  - No increase for multi-residential or rental apartment building as per new provincial legislation.
- Residents will pay an additional 0.5% for the City Building Fund which supports important infrastructure projects such as transit and housing. Much of the new capital projects are unfunded, and this fund will be used for these projects.
- To enhance Toronto's business climate & reassessment impact, there will be an additional increase of 0.7% for residential properties, resulting in 3.29% of the municipal tax portion
- Changes approved by council to the solid waste single family bin rates and rebates that will continue to transition the program to a sustainable utility and help to further incent to residents to maximize waste diversion efforts for recycling and organic composting. As a result of a 2% rate increase approved by Council in December 2016 and a rebate reduction for medium, large and extra-large bins approved by the recent Council meeting, a small bin will cost \$22.66 per year (↑\$4.90), a medium bin will cost \$139.32 per year (↑\$23.94), a large bin will cost \$339.21 per year (↑\$44.07), and an extra-large bin will cost \$477.44 per year (↑\$66.21).

For more information, please visit <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2017>.

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## **INCOME TAX CLINICS**

The Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Ontario has partnered with two community agencies in Ward 41 to provide free electronic income tax preparation (EFILE) services to qualified low-income residents. They will be holding a number of sessions in March 2017. For schedule, locations and eligibility requirements, please visit the following links:

**Centre for Immigrant & Community Services (CICS):**

<http://www.cicscanada.com/events/3380>;

**Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association:**

[http://www.carefirstseniors.com/user\\_uploaded/tax\\_clinic\\_flyer\\_20170310\\_e filing.pdf](http://www.carefirstseniors.com/user_uploaded/tax_clinic_flyer_20170310_e filing.pdf). (Updated link)

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## **NEW HUMAN SERVICES ONLINE TOOLS**

Two new tools have been newly announced to provide easier access to information on benefits, subsidies and services offered through Toronto Children's Services, Toronto Employment and Social Services, and Shelter Support and Housing Administration. These tools are:

- [www.toronto.ca/humanservices/finder](http://www.toronto.ca/humanservices/finder) – a finder tool where a personalized list of subsidies, benefits and services can be generated through answering a few simple questions;
- [www.toronto.ca/humanservices](http://www.toronto.ca/humanservices) – a human services website where information from across the three Divisions is available in one place, organized by topic.

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## EVENTS:

### Toronto Light Fest

**Date:** January 27<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** The Distillery District

**Details:** A brand new winter festival at the historical Distillery District. This pedestrian-only neighbourhood will be transformed by light installations by both local and international artists. Free admission. For more information, visit <http://www.torontolightfest.com/>.

### Next Steps on the Scarborough Subway Extension

**Date:** Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Location:** Scarborough Civic Centre, Council Chamber, 150 Borough Dr., Scarb

**Details:** The City's Executive Committee will be considering a report that details the recommended alignment for the Scarborough Subway on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be available to answer questions about the March 2017 report to Council at this meeting.

### Mall Walk with Mayor John Tory

**Date:** Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Time:** 3pm – 4pm

**Location:** Woodside Square Mall, 1521 Sandhurst Cr., Scarb

**Details:** Join us for a mall walk with Mayor Tory to discuss transit and the subway expansion to Scarborough Town Centre.

### Transit Townhall

**Date:** Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Time:** 1:30pm

**Location:** Malvern Community Recreation Centre, 30 Sewells Rd., Scarb

### Celebrate Toronto

**Date:** March 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Nathan Phillips Square

**Details:** *Celebrate Toronto* is a 2-day festival honouring Toronto's 183<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary and will include vendors, shopping, food trucks, a Warming Lounge, a Birthday Card station, a 8' tall CN Tower ice sculpture, as well as a DJ skate party during the evening of Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please visit <http://celebratetoronto.ca> for more details or search #celebratetoronto on social media.

### Park People's Heart of the City Conference Livestream

**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2017

**Time:** 11:40am – 6:50pm

**Details:** Be inspired by leaders who are shaping the future of city parks across North America. Highlights from the livestream will include: Keynote speakers Adrian Benepe (The Trust for Public Land & Former Commissioners of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation) and Jay Pitter (Author, placemaker and seniors stakeholder engagement professional). There will be a panel discussion on realizing the social benefits of city parks and how philanthropy can transform parks and public spaces. This livestream is available in both French and English. Please register at <http://parkpeople.ca/livestream>.

### *Metrolinx Community Meeting*

**Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2017

**Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**Location:** Knox Presbyterian Church, 4156 Sheppard Ave E., Scarb

### *Scarborough Seedy Saturday & Green Fair*

**Date:** Saturday, April 1, 2017

**Time:** 11am – 4pm

**Location:** Blessed Cardinal Newman High School, 100 Brimely Rd South (South of Kingston Rd), Scarb.

**Details:** Annual heirloom seed exchange/sale, gardening and environmental event with a special focus on Bio/Diversity and Saving our Bees this year. For more information, contact [scarboroseedysaturday@gmail.com](mailto:scarboroseedysaturday@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/SSSGFair>.

### *Councillor Lee's 2017 Community Environment Day*

**Date:** Saturday, June 3, 2017

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

**Location:** Nashdene Yard, 70 Nashdene Rd, Scarb.

**Details:** Join Councillor Lee at the annual Community Environment Day where you can pick up free compost to start/renew your spring garden, drop off hazardous household wastes such as used batteries and ink toners, and engage with City departments on various services offered.

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