

Mark Grimes

City Councillor
Etobicoke-Lakeshore

WARD 6 UPDATE

Dear Neighbour:

It has been another productive year so far, and I've been busy handling the many issues and projects that come through my office on a daily basis. I believe that these local issues need a personal touch. That's why I use a hands-on approach to planning and problem solving.

As I have throughout my first term as your Ward 6 Councillor, I continue to work towards revitalizing our neighbourhoods and improving the health and prosperity of our community. This newsletter provides you with updates on that work and discusses other projects and events such as:

- Environment Day
- Lakeshore Lions Arena
- Mimico Vision Project 20/20
- Skateboard Park Update

At the last session of Council in July, a debate and vote was held to decide whether City Councillors deserve a pay raise. Although the item passed on a 23-22 decision, I **voted against a pay increase. I feel it is the responsibility of a City to effectively manage and balance their budgets before considering a pay raise.** We need to consider the impact a raise will have on property and business taxes next year. We cannot afford to keep raising taxes without first ensuring basic city services are provided.

My job is to find solutions to issues that affect our daily lives; and also to plan for the improvement of Etobicoke-Lakeshore for the future of our children. As we move ahead with our current projects, I look forward to working with you on new initiatives in your neighbourhood. Please call or email me any time with suggestions on ways to improve our community.

It is a pleasure to serve the residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Sincerely,



Councillor Grimes presenting a congratulatory scroll to local hero, Kim Lumsdon. At the time, Kim was the oldest person to have conquered swimming across Lake Ontario.

HERE'S HOW TO REACH ME...

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COMMUNITY TRAFFIC MEETINGS

I recently held four Community Traffic Meetings, the purpose of which was to address local traffic concerns for the neighbourhoods of Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch and Alderwood. A similar meeting held in the Humber Bay Shores community was very productive.

The traffic expert who attended these meetings with me was the Manager of Transportation Services—Traffic Operations. He made a presentation on the various traffic issues and traffic study requests that had been submitted to his office. He also went into detail describing what criteria a request must meet in order to be implemented.

Throughout these meetings, a list was kept of all traffic concerns brought forward by residents. Our Traffic Operations department is currently working through them.

The Community Traffic Meetings were well received and they have already led to positive change. The concerns heard from the community, in some cases, have resulted in the

implementation of traffic calming measures in our neighbourhoods.

I encourage you to contact my office

to follow up on any suggestions you made or would like to make. Please also feel free to contact me with any further traffic concerns in your area.



Councillor Grimes at the unveiling of the Platsis Parkette with the "Man of the Hour," Mr. Domenic Platsis and the President of the Mimico-By-The-Lake BIA, Mr. David Pritchard. "Mr. Platsis has been working for the community for many years and it was my pleasure to have this parkette dedicated in his honour," said Councillor Grimes. Platsis Parkette is located at the foot of Mimico Avenue, near Storefront Humber.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN WARD 6

Safety in our neighborhoods has always been one of my top priorities. Here are some updates I would like to share with you.

I am very pleased to announce that our **new Storefront Police Station** located on Lakeshore Boulevard West has been fully operational since mid-March. The response from the community has been great, and the police find it to be an effective facility from which to work.

A storefront police station is a unique concept and it is one in which I take particular pride. This station allows police to put into practice their commitment to community policing. They operate street patrols—on bike, foot and in cars—from this hub. The people in our community now benefit from better access to police services because the officers are closer to where we live and work.

The station is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week and is located at 2986 Lakeshore Boulevard West, between Eighth and Ninth Streets.

In my last newsletter, I informed you that the Environmental Assessment at the new Police College on Birmingham Street was underway and an architect was being finalized. It is my pleasure to announce that these projects have been completed and a groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for the beginning of October. This \$57 million facility is now a few steps closer to completion. Having a Police College in our community, is indeed a one-of-a-kind opportunity. **The presence of such a facility will increase the number of police officers traveling through our neighborhood by an anticipated 250-300 on a daily basis.**

In addition, the Professional Standards Investigative Unit recently moved into the newly renovated facility at 791 Islington Avenue (formerly 21 Division), which is supported by 30 detectives and 10 civilian staff.

A Police Community Bulletin is sent out monthly from 22 Division. The newsletter provides updates on many community safety and crime related issues in our neighbourhoods. You can sign up for this free newsletter through the Toronto Police website at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/d22/> or visit my website at www.markgrimes.ca where you can download a copy.



Humber College students with Councillor Grimes at the Graffiti Blitz.

GRAFFITI BLITZ WITH HUMBER COLLEGE POLICE FOUNDATION STUDENTS

Graffiti is an eyesore and a problem in some of our neighbourhoods. The solution is to clean up graffiti as soon as possible. I try to identify and resolve graffiti problems quickly by regularly driving through the community and logging all locations, both public and private, that have graffiti. The list is then submitted to the appropriate City personnel who investigate and eradicate.

In my ongoing efforts to stay on top of this situation, I sponsored a graffiti blitz, through money raised from my Annual Mardi Gras. Our local 22 Division Community Police Liaison Officer and students from the Humber College Police Foundations Program blitzed Lake Shore Boulevard West on April 1st, identifying and removing graffiti on street furniture and lamp-posts.

On behalf of the community, I want to thank the students and 22 Division for their work towards making our streets more appealing.

Please help the community by reporting the location of graffiti as soon as you see it. If it's on City property, please call 416.338.9999; if it's on private property, please call 416.394.2535.



Councillor Grimes, a Board Member for The Argos Foundation—Stop the Violence, speaking at the start of the Stop the Violence Walk which took place on June 18th. The walk was held to create awareness of the gun violence taking place in the City of Toronto.

LAKESHORE LIONS FOUR-PAD ARENA COMPLEX

In late 2003, the Lakeshore Lions Club approached me about the possibility of replacing the aging single-pad arena in Don Russell Memorial Park with a new state-of-the-art four-pad complex. This complex would serve to address the lack of adequate sports facilities in the Etobicoke-Lakeshore area, and would prove to be a valuable asset to the community by providing a venue for local sports organizations, such as the Faustina Hockey Club and the Etobicoke Dolphins Girls Hockey League. In addition, the new arena complex would be the practice facility for the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Marlies, and would also play host to the Hockey Hall of Fame, Hockey Canada, the Toronto District School Board and various other community groups.

I am now pleased to report that after extensive negotiations between the TDSB, the City of Toronto and the Lakeshore Lions Club, the project has reached its final stages. Financial arrangements for the arena were approved unanimously at the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on September 18th and will be going through final approval at the September 2006 meeting of City Council.

The \$29 million recreation complex will be built on the vacant lot at 400 Kipling Avenue, locally known as the Gilbey site. In addition to the three NHL regulation ice surfaces, we will also have an Olympic sized surface—only the second one to be built in Toronto. There will also be 18,000 square feet for a hockey resource and development centre, as well as a restaurant, an arcade, a pro shop and community meeting rooms. The complex has been designed to be energy efficient, and will be a landmark attraction in Etobicoke-Lakeshore. This is the first arena complex to be built in the City of Toronto since 1981.

I am looking forward to the opening of this brand new four-pad arena and as part of my ongoing commitment to youth and sport promotion, I am happy to be able to deliver, through my role as City Councillor, a facility of this magnitude. I would like to thank the Lions Club, City of Toronto staff, the TDSB and our local Trustee Bruce Davis, for their continued cooperation in helping to get this project to where it is today.



Proposed Lakeshore Lions Centre - Kipling Avenue perspective.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY WITH CADBURY ADAMS

As part of my ongoing efforts to revitalize Etobicoke-Lakeshore, my office and I teamed up with Cadbury Adams Canada to clean up more than twelve kilometers of waterfront parks this spring.

On June 12th, over 250 people from the Cadbury Adams sales team volunteered their time to remove trash along the shores of Lake Ontario, as well as Mimico and Etobicoke Creeks. They also supported local charitable organizations through a variety of initiatives including painting The Gatehouse and visiting with seniors at Lakeshore Lodge.

After four hours in the field, their efforts yielded:

- 109 bags of garbage
- 6 tires
- 3 shopping carts
- 1 tiled wall
- Graffiti removed from walls, benches, signs and playgrounds

On behalf of the residents of Ward 6, I would like to thank Cadbury Adams for being a dedicated and enlightened corporate citizen. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Ms. Melodie Barnett, Manager for Internal Communications and Community at Cadbury Schweppes, for coordinating the logistics of the day.

I have always advocated a focused effort to revitalize the Lakeshore and this Clean-Up Day initiative is a continuation of that work.



Councillor Grimes at Colonel Samuel Smith Park with one of the Cadbury Adams teams that participated in the Clean-up Day.

AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN NEW TORONTO

I am pleased to inform you that New Toronto is the recipient of a pilot project to revitalize the brownfields in the area. The project, the first of its kind in Ontario, is known as the *Industrial and Office Investment Grant Program*.

The project will promote the redevelopment and remediation of vacant industrial land. However, with the new development scenarios that these incentive programs bring, I want to make sure that we address the issue of air quality in the affected regions.

Unfortunately, because it is not a requirement under Ministry of Environment standards and Committee of Adjustment process for industry, an environmental assessment of air quality has not been conducted in the area.

Therefore, in order to continue to promote healthy living in a healthy environment, I moved a motion requesting staff conduct a Cumulative Environmental Assessment of Air Quality. The study would cover all of Ward 6 and include an assessment of all of possible sources:

- Trans-boundary (areas nearby)
- Local industrial smokestack
- Local industrial fugitive (hidden sources)
- Local mobile sources (road vehicles, trains etc)
- Local area sources

The completed report will be a valuable tool that allows me to continue to promote improvement and development of the area, without compromising my commitment to maintaining a healthy environment.

Currently, the City is in the process of pursuing funding for the study through the City's budget process. When the study is completed and the results are released, I will notify residents of the results.

The quality of air is directly related to the issue of current property zoning. The present zoning in New Toronto allows for heavy industrial use adjacent to residential properties. I have addressed this issue with City staff and asked for a zoning review for Ward 6 to come back to Council.

MARK HOST'S ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT DAY

On July 15th 2006, I held my Annual Ward 6 Environment Day and Community BBQ at Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Over one thousand residents attended.

The purpose of the event is to promote the diversion of household waste from landfill sites. Yearly, residents bring unwanted items so that the City can reuse, recycle or dispose of them safely. For example, this year, **residents dropped off computers, electronics, and hazardous household waste like ink-jet and laser printer cartridges. In addition, non-perishable foods and re-usable items such as books, medical equipment (eyeglasses, wheelchairs and walking aids) and sporting goods were welcomed.** All items are then donated to charities and non-profit organizations and re-distributed throughout the city.

Residents also took advantage of the popular paint exchange program, by donating unwanted cans of paint which were then available to anyone. (Paint is not disposable in landfill sites). Another popular giveaway was the leaf compost pile, perfect for beautifying lawns or gardens.

In addition to the Environment Day, my Community BBQ, sponsored by Enbridge Gas Distribution, was a great success. I would also like to thank the No Frills locations—located at Lake Shore Boulevard West at Brown's Line and the other on Royal York Road at Mimico Avenue—for donating food and beverages to the BBQ.



The Newport Beach Pond Opening being enjoyed by Councillor Grimes and Jim Lord, President of the Humber Bay Shores Condominium Association.

RELOCATION OF TORONTO REDI-MIX CONCRETE BATCHING FACILITY TO 200 HORNER AVENUE

I am pleased to announce that Redi-mix will move its site from 207 New Toronto Street to 200 Horner Avenue. After a lengthy process consisting of more than 85 meetings over 21 months, I facilitated an agreement between the City of Toronto and Toronto Redi-Mix, to move their cement batching operations to a non residential area.

After the initial site plan was received in November 2004, I responded to area residents' concerns about the location of this type of operation. I immediately took the initiative to contact City staff in Facilities and Real Estate to explore the possibility of a land-exchange agreement.

After holding several public meetings, my proposal to exchange the land was endorsed by Toronto Redi-Mix, City staff and the community. **I am pleased to announce that the proposal passed through City Council in July 2006. The new location at 200 Horner Avenue is more ideally located in an industrial area further away from residential neighbourhoods, north of the CNR train tracks.**

It is very important to work with all groups involved with any development project. I believe successful communities can find ways for business and residential interests to co-exist in harmony. This is a win-win situation for all parties involved—the business owner, the City and most importantly our local community.

OMB-REFORM COMMITTEE

I have been working with a group of fellow Toronto City Councillors interested in reforming the role of the *Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)*. Under the current framework the OMB, an unelected board, is allowed to overrule decisions made by City Council concerning the City's official plan and local planning matters.

As Alderwood residents learned first-hand during the Sherway Development at 700 Evans Avenue, decisions made at the community level are sometimes overturned when a proposed project comes before the OMB.

I vigorously supported residents when it became clear that a proposal to build four condominium towers in Alderwood exceeded density expectations. I won the initial battles by persuading Community Council and City Council to defeat the motion to proceed with the development. However, when the applicant appealed the City's decision to the OMB, the Board approved the application and, as a result, the project is proceeding.

Public participation is of utmost importance because it is the community that will be affected by the decisions made at the Ontario Municipal Board. In order to promote this, we proposed the creation of a 'Citizen Liaison Function' to help members of the public navigate the OMB process.

We also spoke against the proposed Bill 51; the legislation that the Ontario government says will reform the land use planning system. Our group believes that the Bill—*Planning and Conservation Land Stature Law Amendment Act (2005)*—is inadequate in delivering the reforms that have been previously requested. For instance, the proposed Bill weakens the voice of Ratepayers Associations. It also still gives the province the authority to intervene on an application that might be of interest to them.

I have met with several members of provincial parliament, including the *Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*, to discuss our concerns and OMB reform.

There are a number of measures we should pursue at both the municipal level and at the provincial level. Locally, we should work to improve the planning process by ensuring our community voice is heard. With the province, we should pursue objectives with respect to OMB reform in order to make it more accessible, fair, efficient and accountable.

SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE

Since the beginning of my term, I have consistently advocated on behalf of young people. One of the election promises I made was to build a skateboard park so that youth can enjoy this sport in a safe environment. As mentioned in my recent newsletters, I acquired half a million dollars through the budget process at City Hall, to build this park in Ward 6.

In leading the way for this unique facility's development, **I have taken steps to ensure an open discussion with all stakeholders and residents and I have provided regular updates to the community-at-large.** However, some community groups and concerned residents have asked for additional consultation on the project. To accommodate their concerns, I formulated a consultation committee to address location issues and other concerns surrounding the construction of the skateboard recreation centre.

The consultation committee included a cross-section of Ward 6 residents and community groups. Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker (Ward 38—Scarborough Centre) agreed to assist in the formation and functioning of the committee. Councillor De Baeremaeker brings a wealth of experience in community and environmental issues. He is a member of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and was a key part of grass roots organizations to save the Rouge Valley and Oak Ridges Moraine.

I believe in transparency with all development projects and this proposal is no exception. Further Public Consultation Meetings have taken place and Councillor De Baeremaeker has submitted his report to my office for review.

Now that the report has been written and the views of local community groups, residents and skateboarders have been heard, **the current proposed location in Colonel Samuel Smith Park will no longer be considered as a potential site** for the skateboard park. **I will work to further consult with the community and city staff to find a more appropriate location for the skateboard facility,** while trying to maintain the funding for the skateboard park during the budget process. I would like to thank Councillor De Baeremaeker for his valuable input.



MIMICO-BY-THE-LAKE PROJECT 20/20— A PERFECT VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A group of concerned residents met with me in fall of 2005 to discuss the state of the waterfront, conditions of rental housing and the make-up of the business district in Mimico. The group, called the *Mimico Planning Action Council (MPAC)*, wanted to formulate ideas and prepare a blueprint advising on steps that should be taken to tackle various issues and enable the residents and businesses to move forward on a plan to revitalize the community.

Subsequent to several meetings and brainstorming sessions, we have come up with a potential model to be implemented in the Mimico area to further enhance the standard of living in our community.

On April 28, 2006, I organized a half-day visioning conference with developers, property owners, key city personnel, resident association executives, BIA executives, and a special guest, world-renowned architect Jack Diamond. The purpose of the conference was to seek input on how to start the process of re-creating Mimico-by-the-Lake.

A document entitled '*Mimico-by-the-Lake: Project 20/20 A Perfect Vision of our Community*' follows below. It lists the various steps that we have identified as challenges and next steps;

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Opportunities

- Create a village atmosphere with a vibrant character
- Develop access to the waterfront
- Establish water views and lake view corridors
- Expand parkland and further the extension of the waterfront park system, trail/environment and facilities improvements
- Design harmonious rental and ownership housing
- Refresh and revitalize Main Street Retail
- Engage the community in consultation and design process

Foreseeable Challenges

- Achieving City Policies on enhancement of Rental Housing
- Balanced Housing Stock
- Attracting new businesses on our main street
- Cost and Funding for the project

Implementing Mechanisms

- Community Consultations
- Political Leadership
- Subscribing to City initiated programs e.g., economic development, affordable housing, TRCA, Beautiful City
- Assistance of Consultants to initiate relevant studies e.g., Avenues Study
- Formulation of Developer-Community Partnerships

I look forward to leading this initiative with the Mimico Planning Action Council and I am hopeful various community groups will offer their endorsement for this project.



Councillor Grimes with CFRB Radio Personality Spider Jones and a busker enjoying themselves during the 3rd Annual Mardi Gras. This 3-day event was organized on the Lakeshore Grounds from August 11-13th 2006. The park was transformed into a miniature New Orleans with mesmerizing aromas from the various food vendors and scintillating music from several bands playing on centre stage. The event was graced by perfect sunny summer weather. This year's festivities were another resounding success with thousands of people attending the music festival.