

OFF-LEASH AREAS

In 2007 the City implemented its People, Dogs and Parks Strategy, which includes a policy regarding how off-leash areas can be established and operated.

We all recognize how important designated off-leash areas are to pet owners in the neighbourhood. I recently held a community meeting along with staff from Parks to discuss the process for creating off-leash areas.

I am pleased to announce that two leash-free parks have been approved. The first, located at the R.L. Clark Water Filtration Plant, adjacent to Colonel Sam Smith Park, will open in January. The second is at Humber Bay Park West, and will open in the Spring.

Additional applications for off-leash areas can be submitted at any time. For information about the policy and how to submit an application please visit www.toronto.ca/parks/dogs.

FAST FACT: There are approximately 250,000 dogs in the City of Toronto.



At the O'Connor House Plaque unveiling Fall 2009, Paul O'Connor (far right) of the Alderwood Historical Society has been working hard for years to have the plaque installed at the former location of the O'Connor House on Connorvale Avenue.

SHOPPING LOCALLY

This year **Shop the Shore** was hosted across our community. Thanks to the hard work of community volunteers from OurLakeshore and the local Business Improvement Associations, residents and visitors had the opportunity to sample the many diverse flavours and styles of our neighbourhood shops and eateries.

At the heart of Etobicoke-Lakeshore's vibrant, walkable network of villages, are our main streets, lined with local businesses. These village shops help to build strong neighbourhoods by contributing to local causes, linking neighbours and offering a diverse range of products and services to meet local needs.

Our Business Improvement Associations are responsible for the beautification of our streets with trees, flower boxes, street lighting and more.

Hop off the streetcar on the Lake Shore, bike the Martin Goodman Trail, drive across Brown's Line, or take a stroll from the GO Train along Royal York Road. Whatever your choice for travel, you can take the opportunity to visit our local shops, restaurants and arts attractions.

When shopping locally, you help to create local jobs, invest in neighbourhood improvement and promote community development. Each day our commercial districts are growing and expanding with new stores, services and eateries. I look forward to seeing you in the neighbourhood.

AMOS WAITES PARK PUBLIC SQUARE



Photography courtesy of Mr. David Pritchard

I am very excited to announce the much anticipated cultural square in Amos Waites Park is complete!

Construction took place throughout the summer and early fall on the public square. It is designed to mimic the look and feel of waves. The small stage will house special events and provide a shaded area for performers. The Mimico Residents' Association, Mimico-by-the-Lake Business Improvement Area and Lakeshore Arts are working with me to provide great programming for the new square.

I appreciate all of the input the community has provided on the design for this space. The fences were down in time for this year's Mimico Tree Lighting. This plaza will be a celebration of our local talent. I believe it will showcase Mimico and become a destination for people from across the City.

I look forward to many exciting events and shows to be held at the festival plaza, and I hope to see you there!

FAST FACT: Amos Waites was the Town of Mimico's longest serving mayor.



Councillor Grimes signs up for a new Green Bin at the Community Environment Day.

NEW BUSINESSES

As part of my commitment to revitalization, I regularly give tours to business owners, investors and media representatives. As a result, we can now welcome numerous new and exciting businesses to our area. Please join me in supporting these new employers and retailers, as their success will help attract further investment.

This past year **Pizza Pizza** chose Ward 6 as home to its new corporate headquarters, and the well-known **Famous People Players** moved into the neighbourhood as well. New businesses bring more local jobs to the community, and create further opportunities for other local businesses in the service industry.

I would like to extend a welcome to these new corporations, and hope that you will join me in showing local companies that Ward 6 is a great place to do business!

For more information about our local shops and restaurants visit the Lakeshore Joint BIA website at www.lakeshore.ca or pick up a copy of the Lakeshore Business Directory when you are shopping in the community.

FAST FACT: Ward 6 is also home to the Assembly Hall. This century-old building is a multi-purpose community centre featuring a beautiful performance hall, community meeting rooms and gallery space.



Councillor Grimes along with Laura Latham, Executive Director of Franklin Horner Community Centre, meet with community members at FHCC Senior's Brunch.

HBS TREE PLANTING

In one of the newest and fastest growing communities in Ward 6, I work very closely with the Humber Bay Shores Condominium Association (HBSCA) on a number of projects designed to enhance the area.

Earlier this year a local resident donated funds to the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation for additional trees to be planted in Humber Bay Shores Parks. To ensure the best placement of the trees, Humber Bay Shores Beautification Committee, City staff and myself met numerous times to jointly determine the most appropriate planting location.

I am happy to report that the trees were planted in September of this year. I look forward to continuing to work with the Humber Bay Shores community on many more improvement projects.

FAST FACT: Toronto's tree canopy is estimated to be 17.5-20%. To maintain a healthy urban forest, a canopy of 30-40% is recommended.

TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS



It is imperative that we continue to grow and improve our transit infrastructure to keep people moving efficiently while reducing negative impacts on the environment.

Waterfront West Light Rapid Transit

Transit City is a large scale transportation initiative adopted by City Council. It includes Light Rapid Transit (LRT) along major corridors of the City. Lake Shore Boulevard West, between Browns Line and Park Lawn Road has been chosen as a potential site for an LRT line. Currently the streetcar line along Lake Shore Boulevard West, does require improvement and upgrading.

Following a poorly attended series of Open Houses hosted by the TTC last December, I insisted the TTC hold a second series, to ensure that as many community members as possible were given the opportunity to attend, view the options, and provide their feedback and suggestions.

Concerns arose from both the residential and business community about the potential effects on the neighbourhoods across the Ward. I have heard you loud and clear, and agree that before we make changes to our major thoroughfare and main street, we must consider all of the available alternatives and determine, as a community, which option best meets the needs of all road users.

I support improvements to the transit system in Ward 6, if it benefits the community as a whole. Currently this project lacks the funding to move forward, and the timing and scope of this project will be dependent on financing becoming available. For more information on the proposed transit plans visit www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/parklawn_longbranch/index.htm.

Humber Loop Relocation

The current Humber TTC streetcar loop will be moving west to Park Lawn Road, just south of Lake Shore Boulevard West. The new loop will provide safer and more convenient access to the 510 and 511 Queen streetcars, as well as greater accessibility. Currently, the TTC is in the process of finalizing the design and I will continue to push for funding for this relocation in the City budget.

Lake Shore Express Bus

The new Express Route TTC bus which will take residents straight downtown began its trial run on October 19, 2009. I urged the TTC to implement this service for our expanding community.

This is a premium-fare express service, so it requires an additional cash fare, token or an express sticker added to a Metropass. Five eastbound "145 Downtown Express" trips operate in the morning peak period. Three will start at Kipling Avenue, pick up along the Lake Shore and continue downtown. The last two start at Park Lawn Road. Three westbound "145A Humber Bay Express/To Park Lawn" trips and three "145 Humber Bay Express/To Kipling" trips will operate in the afternoon peak period. For more detailed route information, please call the TTC at 416-393-4636.

This is a trial service. To become permanent, it must be used. I encourage everyone travelling downtown to take advantage of this premium service.