

Mark Grimes

City Councillor Etobicoke-Lakeshore

WARD 6 UPDATE

Dear Friend:

This is my first newsletter since being elected as your City Councillor. Since taking office at City Hall on December 1, 2003, I have been busy looking after the interests of our community. My job is to listen to and serve you. If you have suggestions or concerns, please contact me, you will find that my door is always open. I am committed to improving the quality of everyday life in Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Communication is essential to working together, and this Newsletter is one means of letting you know what's going on in our community. It also gives me a chance to show you how I've been working towards achieving the goals that I spoke of during the election campaign.

I have a vision for our community that I believe most of you share—Revitalization.

- Make the area truly safe
- Create a vibrant and prosperous community
- Maintain and assist current businesses
- Actively attract new businesses and create new jobs
- Provide more green space
- Provide better access to services
- Create a sense of community pride
- Eliminate odours from the Humber Sewage Treatment Plant

As you read through the Newsletter you will see that the potential for revitalization in Etobicoke-Lakeshore is already being realized.

This is truly an exciting time to live and work here. With your help I look forward to overcoming the challenges that face us. Together, we will witness the rebirth of the community into the jewel on the Lake we know it can be.



"Since being elected to Toronto City Council, Mark Grimes has worked hard, and has proven himself to be a cooperative and diligent Councillor. He has demonstrated a clear commitment to keeping his campaign promises, and I look forward to working with him through many more productive Council Sessions."

**Mayor David Miller
City of Toronto**

HERE'S HOW TO REACH ME...

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Please visit my website:

www.markgrimes.ca



RECYCLING, LITTER AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

Invite the residents of Etobicoke-Lakeshore to play a role in eliminating litter. Next time you see a "litter hot spot" such as an overflowing bin or basket or an unusually dirty street or sidewalk, please call 39-CLEAN (392-5326).

39-CLEAN is a special call-in line that's fast, convenient and easy to use. It allows you to alert City of Toronto staff to send a clean-up crew to address the problem.

Should you have any questions, concerns or complaints about regular residential or commercial collections, please call the Collections Customer Service Line at 416-338-2010. The customer service representatives will be able to answer all questions you may have related to waste pick-up, including information about your specific collection schedule. Please note: the trucks that collect waste, are specially designed to accommodate for the various types of pick-up (recycling, yard waste, organic and household). They have a split-load compartment loaded from either the rear or side.

on the wrong date or the dumping of residential waste on City property can result in a fine. Waste left on our streets adds to the litter problem. I am committed to making Ward 6 a clean community that will make us all proud.



"Let's all do our part!"

(Photo by Ian Kelso, Etobicoke Guardian)

Placing waste or recycling materials

WALK THE WALK WITH ME

"I made a commitment during the Campaign to clean up the Lakeshore and I meant that literally. Soon after taking office, I had City Officials take a walk with me to see exactly what you and I see every day—litter everywhere and overflowing trashcans. My solution is simple but effective: we now have more garbage cans in crucial areas, being picked up more often, and a full-time bag and broom sweeper. In order to make the Lakeshore a safe and prosperous area, we must first start by keeping it clean. Let's all do our part!"

NEW SHORELINE PARK FOR MIMICO

After months of planning and negotiations, we're set to transform almost one kilometre of our shoreline into a really wonderful linear park. For years the area along the water, from Humber Bay Park West to Norris Crescent Parkette, has been a dumping ground for concrete rubble and construction materials. Now, thanks to \$6.5 million from the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, we're ready to proceed with this wonderful plan.

The City and the Toronto Region Conservation Association (TRCA) will undertake the work once we have the final go ahead from the Federal and Provincial governments.

The new park includes:

- A unique cantilevered boardwalk that provides pedestrian access out over the water
- Wetland habitat between the boardwalk and shoreline
- Sheltered bay area and beach dunes at Amos Waites Park
- Better recreation and water-play facilities at Amos Waites
- Cobble beaches at Norris Crescent Parkette

Part of the process will include acquiring the rights of access to the shoreline, where private ownership currently restricts it. The overall design of the new park will create a natural habitat that protects the shoreline and provides better public access to the lake.

The Mimico Waterfront Linear Park promises to revitalize the area and will improve its looks, reputation and economy.

CREATING A SAFER MIMICO SHORELINE

"I expect that once the Park is opened, some of the social problems currently evident in the Amos Waites area will disappear. With a steady traffic of people walking, bicycling and roller-blading, plus improved access for Police vehicles, it will quickly become a safer place."

ETOBICOKE SERVICES FOR SENIORS

I am delighted to welcome Etoobicoke Services for Seniors (ESS) into our Ward. ESS has just applied to the City to move their flagship operations into the former Alderwood Library site near Horner and Browns Line.

ESS has for over twenty years 'supported seniors in their desire to remain in their own homes and community'. Serving more than 800 seniors, the non-profit organization has grown into a comprehensive agency with a staff of 55 people and 450 volunteers.

ESS Services are wide-ranging:

- adult day program
- bathing program
- caregiver support
- caring centre that provides respite to caregivers
- escorted transportation
- seniors lunch program
- supportive housing in crisis situations
- telephone reassurance, information, and other services

On request, case managers will meet with senior clients and their families or caregivers to assess the level of need and determine a service program that's needed. They have two wheelchair accessible busses and they can provide additional rides to medical appointments, shopping trips, social activities and programs. The community transportation services are available to seniors who are not able to use public transit, require an escort, and do not have family or friends, who are available to provide transportation.

If you require more information, please call ESS at (416) 243-0127 or visit their web site at www.ess.web.ca. Their business hours are: Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to make a donation they will issue tax receipts for donations over \$10.00.

HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT GETS TREATMENT

The foul odour that sometimes comes from the Humber Treatment Plant is a well-known issue to area residents. Sewage treatment plants are obviously necessary, but we should have the means to control the negative effects on people who live and work in the vicinity.

Although it's unrealistic to expect a quick fix for this long-standing problem, I am committed to pursuing all avenues to find a solution as soon as possible:

- In February of this year, I met with MP Dennis Mills during his greenspace recommendations for the Toronto waterfront. I spoke to him at length on various Ward 6 waterfront needs, including the situation at the sewage plant. Although I did not receive a commitment of funding from Mr. Mills, I did receive an assurance that the Federal government would be interested in supporting the upcoming Odour Assessment Study and the remedial work it recommends.
- We have recently finalized a contract with the consultants who will assist City staff with the odour assessment. This study should determine exactly where the odours are coming from within the plant and recommend solutions to reduce them.
- Plant staff are conducting a health and safety orientation as well as collecting and reviewing data, both current and historical. They have recently completed a comprehensive survey and inventory of facilities, prepared the plant air schematics and developed the odour-sampling plan.
- This sets the stage for three rounds of odour sampling that will take place over the next six months. The first sampling will begin at the end of June. A similar study completed recently for Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant resulted in the design of odour-control systems.



"Although it's unrealistic to expect a quick fix for this long-standing problem, I am committed to pursuing all avenues to find a solution..."

GOOD NEWS FOR HUMBER BAY SHORES PARK

The shoreline area below Palace Pier Court is ready for a mini face-lift. The upgrade recognizes that this spot is a natural gathering point for pedestrians who pause to take in the spectacular view. The design also calls for natural barriers to act as a deterrent to geese, who also seem to enjoy the area! As the result of an Open House held on May 26, 2004, the preferred landscape and habitat improvements will include:

- Sweeping cobble beaches extending into the backshore area
- Grasses and low shrubs that will separate the cobble beaches from the walking trail
- Lookout and seating area located adjacent to the waterfront trail
- Undulating dunes interwoven with an existing grade change
- Series of stepped gardens with limestone walls and intertwining walkways

When you take a stroll or ride down that way, you'll also see that the found relics of the former Palace Pier will act as an entrance to the cobble beach. Thanks to all the people who worked on this project—this makeover is going to look great!

POLICE COLLEGE IN NEW TORONTO

Since one of my goals as your Councillor is to make our community safer, I am very pleased to announce that a new Police College will be built in the heart of our Ward. Having a police college as a neighbour is a rare opportunity, and through the budget process, I was able to ensure that the initial design and planning stages proceeded smoothly. Construction of the college on a 16-acre site on Birmingham Street will begin in the very near future. I will continue to work closely on this project with Police Chief Julian Fantino.

On the topic of safety:

- The Chief has offered to make a portion of the new College facility available to residents and local groups to use for public meetings and programs.
- Upon my request, Chief Fantino has agreed to consider a possible storefront police station in the new college.
- It gets even better: the Department of National Defence (DND) is interested in pursuing a joint venture with Toronto Police Services which would see them use a portion of the College for Cadet and Militia operations. To see how this partnership works and to evaluate the benefits for our Ward, I'll be touring a similar shared Police/DND facility in Windsor, Ontario.
- I've been working closely with Superintendent Edwin Hoey to increase police presence. We now have many more officers walking (and riding) the local beats. Many of you have noticed and have commented on how reassuring it is to see the police back patrolling the neighbourhood.



"Superintendent Hoey and I in front of the former Continental Can lands, now home to the new Police College."

SAVING MIMICO RAILWAY STATION

It's hidden behind a wall now, but many of you have seen the old Mimico Railway station at Judson and Royal York Road. Built in 1916, the station was operated by CNR from 1923 to 1989 when it was abandoned and allowed to deteriorate. In 2002, the property beneath it was sold to a developer who applied for a permit to demolish the building.

In the face of this threat to demolish a building of historical and architectural importance, City Council designated the property under the Ontario Heritage Act. In fact, the station is a very important link to our past—Mimico was a well-known stop on the way to and from Toronto, and was a vital part of the railroad industry at the turn of the 20th Century.

A recent assessment concluded that it would be feasible to move the building to another site and to restore it. The owner supports this decision and has offered assistance. I'm working with the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure that we can find a suitable location nearby. The City is now in the process of reviewing cost proposals from organizations interested in doing the work.

It would be great to see this piece of our local heritage saved from the wrecking ball and preserved for future generations. And it would be another step in the effort to rejuvenate our community.

For further information, please visit www.mimicostation.ca.

NEW TORONTO EMPLOYMENT AREA

The first kickstart to the "New Toronto Employment Area" was my announcement that the new Police College will be going in on Birmingham. I have been working closely with our Economic Development Team and I am hoping that I will be able to report to you, a significant proposal for other brownfield lands in the next few months. This is an exciting time again, business and industry are in the process of discovering the New Toronto brownfield lands. You and I know that our area has so many advantages. We have efficient access to all points within the City and beyond via the Gardiner, QEW, 427, 401 and 407. We have a skilled workforce, we have superior telecom availability, we have good access to TTC and GO but most importantly, we have easy access to Canada's largest market—Toronto and the GTA.

Many prospective buyers are presently examining site remediation, building retrofits or building expansion but mainly they are looking at new development on these lands. And that means jobs for the Lakeshore!!!

The City of Toronto has created Toronto's first Industrial and Office Investment Grants. This is an innovative and creative approach to stimulate investment in our community. We have announced a dual grant program for the "New Toronto Employment Area". The first is the Rehabilitation Grant—this grant provides a tax grant to undertake property and building improvements and is available to a maximum of 62.5% of the total municipal share of new taxes resulting from new development. A minimum investment of \$500,000 is required and the property must be utilized for eligible employment uses. The second grant available is the Façade Grant—this grant will go to redesign, renovate or restore commercial/industrial facades. It is available to a maximum of \$12,500 and covers 50% of eligible costs with a minimum \$5,000 investment. Remember that architectural and design fees are also eligible expenses. To qualify for either grant, the property must be located within the "New Toronto Employment Centre". If you or your company want to apply, applications are available by calling 416-394-8244 or 416-392-1005. Should you require any further information, please call my office.



"We have to change this kind of image. These lands should be on every corporate radar as the place to build and operate businesses from."

NEW INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED IN WARD 6

During this past Election Campaign, I stood for revitalization of our industrial lands and for re-energizing our local economy and therefore, I am pleased to announce that Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) has acquired 260 Eighth Street, a 38.8 acre vacant, industrial site in New Toronto. These lands have sat vacant for the past 15 years and were formally owned by IVACO Inc. Operations ceased in 1989 and the site was used for the manufacture of copper, brass, and cut stone products.

Our Ward has an excellent labour force and we have premium access to QEW/Gardiner and the 427 Highways. This site has excellent opportunities to redevelop one of the largest vacant brownfields in Etobicoke-Lakeshore with the potential to accommodate a variety of uses.

This site will allow the private sector to reinvest in our area primarily for employment purposes. Exploring our brownfield redevelopment opportunities will see an increase in our tax base and the generation of new tax revenues to the City, with an added benefit of job creation for "The Lakeshore".

The property is located in the New Toronto area, which is within the New Toronto Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Area. This is the first CIP with financial incentives for development, brought on through tireless efforts of an inter-departmental City working group from Finance, Economic Development Services, and TEDCO.

For further information on this property, please contact my office and speak to me directly.

NEW SCHOOLS FOR THE LAKESHORE

The groundbreaking ceremony to initiate construction of the new Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School is only months away. This is another exciting development for the Lakeshore community and a boost for local children.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is investing over \$20 million in this state-of-the-art facility, which will be completed in 2005. It will be located at Lakeshore and Kipling, adjacent to Humber College.

Designed by ZAS Architects in association with MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller, the 130,000-sq. foot school will have a capacity for 1,100 students. Other high-profile Etobicoke buildings designed by these architects include the Humberwood Centre, St. Gregory Catholic School and, in our own neighbourhood, John MacLennan designed the award-winning Rotary Park Pool.

Working together, staff at the City and School Board developed an exceptional public use plan for the facility that includes:

- Community Centre attached to the school
- Unprecedented public access for programming and recreation
- Easy after-hours public access to art rooms, music rooms, theatre and athletic spaces

Plans are also underway to build a Catholic elementary school east of Lakeshore Lodge. I am very pleased that the TCDSB has guaranteed that there will never be portable classrooms at Father John Redmond or the new elementary school site.



The new Father John Redmond School
(Photo used with permission of ZAS Architects)

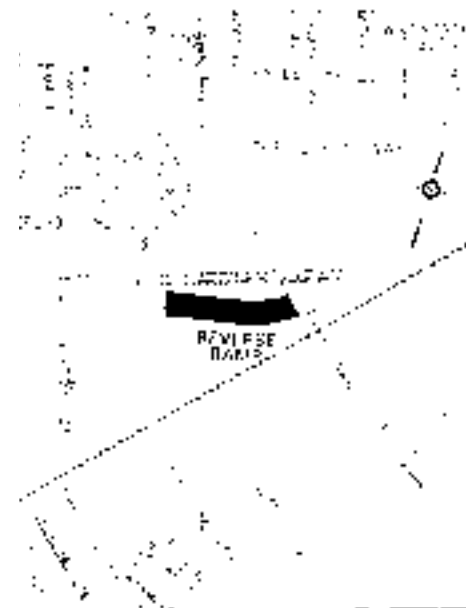
"It is heartening that the last six months have been constructive, Councillor Grimes has been working with us to ensure that this much-delayed and badly needed boost for our community will soon come to fruition."

*—Angelo San Giorgio,
Toronto Catholic District
School Board*

PARK LAWN RAMP

Changes are coming to the QEW-Park Lawn off-ramp to make it easier for drivers and pedestrians to access the new residential area located near Legion Road. The existing one-way, eastbound ramp will soon be converted to a two-way street allowing an approach from both East and West. The plan includes new signalling, streetlights, signage and a pedestrian/bicycle bridge.

This is good news for the area, but I first consulted with the nearby businesses and residents groups such as Kraft/Christies, Mystic Point Condominium Boards and Humber Bay Shores Condominium Association. Everyone seems to be in favour of the changes and is looking forward to the improved access.



**Reverse Ramp @ Parklawn Road
and Legion Road**

*A detailed design should be ready by mid-July.
Construction will begin on September 27th and should be
completed by December 10th, 2004.*

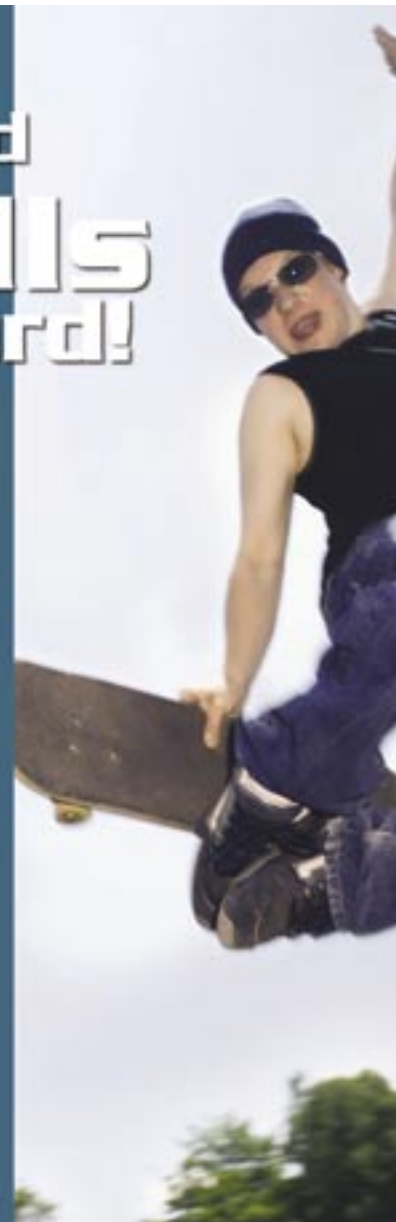
skateboard park rolls forward!

**A dedicated skatepark
is a great idea for our area.**

To fulfill the promise I made to some of my young constituents during the election campaign, I met with the Commissioner of Parks to see what could be done.

The Commissioner has recently announced that his Department has undertaken a citywide skatepark study that will be presented to the Economic Development and Parks Committee this September. A skatepark for Ward 6 will be on the list of potential locations.

Look for updates on this project in my next Newsletter.



Dial 211

Knowing who to call is the first step in accessing city Services. For information about community, social, health and governmental services, you can Dial 211 and get the answers you need. You can also access information at www.211toronto.ca.