



Councillor McConnell's

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAY

Thursday, April 28, 2011

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Lower Sherbourne Park
171 The Esplanade
(along Frederick St.)

I will also be providing compost at the Forsythia Festival on Sunday, May 1st at Wellesley Park.

Products Available - Fees may apply

- Backyard Composter
- Green Bin
- Kitchen Container
- Indoor Water Efficiency Kit
- Rain Barrel

Pick up for FREE

- Green Bin and Kitchen Container (with proof of new residency in the last 90 days or in exchange for a damaged bin)
- Leaf Compost (limit of one cubic metre per household)

Drop off for recycling or proper disposal

- Computer Equipment & Peripherals (e.g., desktops, laptops, hand-held portables, monitors, printing devices, etc.)
- Audio/Visual Equipment & Peripherals (e.g., telephones, cell phones, pda's and pagers, cameras, small TVs, radios, receivers, speakers, tuners, equalizers, turntables, projectors, recorders, DVD players and VCRs, etc.)
- Household Hazardous Waste (e.g., cleaning supplies and solvents, motor oil, paint, batteries, old/unused medication, mercury thermometers/thermostats, pesticides, fluorescent and compact fluorescent bulbs, propane tanks, etc.)

**Note: You can recycle plastic shopping bags, foam polystyrene, empty paint and empty aerosol cans in your blue bin.*

Items donated to local schools for reuse*

- Art supplies (e.g. pencils, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Buttons, keys, and collectors' coins and stamps
- Clipboards, corks and cork boards
- CDs and cases
- Children's books
- Costume jewelry including broken/old watches and clocks with hands
- Dress-up clothing (e.g. costumes, prom dresses, uniforms, etc.)
- Fabric pieces and yarn
- 35 mm cameras and equipment

Other Items donated for reuse *

(Please keep separate from others)

- Sporting goods (e.g. skates and jerseys, etc.)
- Books
- Medical equipment in good condition (e.g. eyeglasses, walking aids, hearing aids, etc.)
- Small household items (e.g. dishes, ornaments, etc.)
- Textiles in good condition (e.g. clothing, linens, etc.)
- Non-perishable foods will be donated to a food bank

**All donated items must be in very good condition*



Visit the Toronto Water information tent to learn about money-saving programs!



Please do not bring: Construction waste, gasoline, garbage, wood, cassette and videotapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste and scrap metal.



Call **311**

Visit toronto.ca/environment_days

This newsletter is printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.



Pam McConnell

2011 Spring Newsletter
Volume 13 • Issue 1

SUPPORTING AND IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITIES

200 Wellesley Street Fire

On September 24, 2010, a devastating six-alarm fire broke out on the 24th floor of 200 Wellesley Street. This Toronto Community Housing building is one of Toronto's largest, with over 800 units and 1,700 residents.

For their safety, all residents were evacuated. Following the fire, all of the residents were displaced because of fire, smoke, and water damage and to accommodate the Ontario Fire Marshall's investigation. Residents could not immediately return to their units until it was determined that the building was safe and that the units were clean in order to ensure that everyone was returning to a healthy environment.

Initially, shelter was provided at the Wellesley Community Centre and the University of Toronto. Long term



Pam at the St. James Town Festival

accommodations were found in some vacant TCHC units, with some able to stay with family and friends and hotel rooms used when necessary.

South tower residents moved back into their homes within a few weeks, except for the floors that were most immediately impacted by the fire. By January 2011 all but a small number of residents whose units were closest to the fire had returned.

The response to this crisis was tremendous. Toronto Fire, EMS and Toronto Police worked tirelessly during the fire. The City of Toronto's Shelter, Support and Housing division coordinated the response from many City divisions along with TCHC, to ensure that residents' needs were met during the evacuation and resettlement. Local and city-wide agencies assisted with the response and residents from across Toronto contributed donations – both financial and material – to help residents address their losses.

I want to thank all of the residents for their patience throughout this stressful experience. The support that you provided each other in your time of need is an example for the rest of Toronto of how strong neighbours make for resilient communities.

Front Street East Promenade Plan a legacy of the 2015 Pan Am Games

A Promenade Plan for Front Street East will beautify this important connection between downtown and the future Pan American Games athletes' village for visitors, residents and businesses.

Promenade Plans prioritize pedestrian safety and help make our neighbourhoods more sustainable. This Plan will create new "bump outs" at several intersections, provide more plants and trees, use innovative drainage construction, and add heritage lighting. It also plans for wider sidewalks and more landscaping along future development sites.

The Plan will connect the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood with the Pan Am Games athletes' village in the West Don



On behalf of the City of Toronto, Pam accepts an award from FCM recognizing the City's Walking Strategy.

Lands. The games will bring 10,000 athletes and over 250,000 visitors and will showcase our city and neighbourhoods. The village will later become a new residential neighbourhood.

This Plan builds on the success of projects on Yonge, Bay, York and Jarvis Streets. Sherbourne Street from Front Street to Queen's Quay will be implemented when the road is reconstructed in 2012.

The Front Street Promenade will be implemented beginning this summer along with watermain replacement and road repaving from Jarvis Street to Eastern Avenue.

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Waterfront Revitalization led by new park spaces

Sherbourne Common became a winter destination this year with the opening of its skating rink in January. Making sustainability a priority, the award winning Pavillion will have LEED Gold status and sits on a UV stormwater treatment facility. The final piece of this wonderful park will open this spring on the north side and will feature more recreation space and striking art structures.

Sherbourne Common is one of the great public spaces that are the leading elements in waterfront revitalization. The first segment of the water's edge promenade connects Sherbourne Common to the popular Sugar Beach. The Corus building is occupied and the George Brown Health Sciences Centre campus is scheduled to open in 2012.

In the West Don Lands, the creative Underpass Park will be under construction this spring. This design will take an unfriendly space under the Richmond and Adelaide flyover and make it into a safe and attractive recreation area.

These new parks will attract visitors and serve residents and workers as the build out of our new waterfront continues.



Sherbourne Common

Live Green Toronto building a healthy city



Pam at last year's Environment Day

Live Green Toronto is a City program that offers opportunities and incentives to help residents and businesses address climate change and green the city.

The latest program is the new Live Green Toronto Membership Card. Individuals who sign up for the free card receive discounts on environmentally friendly products and services at over 200 participating businesses. The card allows residents to save money while supporting green-committed businesses.

On the local level, Live Green Toronto's Community Animators work to assist neigh-

bourhood-based initiatives across the city with workshops and expert advice.

The animators are part of the Regent Park Gardening & Food Access Strategy Workgroup, a partnership between several City and non-profit agencies and organizations. Current projects include plans for a community garden at Sprucecourt Public School, led by Green Thumbs-Growing Kids, and an upcoming visioning session with Regent Park residents and agencies to create a long-term strategy for gardening and food access issues.

A partnership was also established with Green Thumbs, Tower Renewal, and Rosedale Heights Secondary School to provide an opportunity for St. James Town gardeners and AfriCan Food Basket to grow food in the school's beautiful greenhouse.

For more information, to sign up for the membership card, or to get started on your neighbourhood project, visit www.livegreentoronto.ca.

Remembering Community Builders

We have recently lost important community builders. Their contributions to our neighbourhoods will be greatly missed.

Elizabeth Harris – Teacher, community volunteer, and Cabbagetown resident, Elizabeth was instrumental in the creation of Friends of the Farm and the launching of the farmers' markets at Riverdale Farm and the Brickworks. As a teacher, she organized exchanges with school children in Regent Park and Quebec. She has received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism in Ontario and a Green Toronto Award. The Elizabeth Harris Outstanding Volunteer Award has been established by the

City of Toronto in her honour with Elizabeth receiving the inaugural award.

Paul Oberman – A developer with a deep passion for protecting and celebrating historic buildings, Paul was responsible for important heritage renovation projects in our city. Although best known in Toronto for the stunning restoration of the Summerhill Station LCBO, he had a keen interest in preserving heritage properties in the Old Town, including the Flatiron Building, King James Place, and the recent, ongoing renovations of the Old Fish Market on Market Street.



2011 City Budget

City Council recently approved the 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets.

The \$12.8 billion 10-year Capital Plan continues important investments, such as replacing aging TTC vehicles, creating bike lanes and off-road bike paths, and supporting the Pan Am Games. Included are a number of key projects for our community:

- \$563 million for the revitalization of Union Station
- \$31 million to redevelop the West Don Lands and East Bayfront Precincts
- \$74 million for the redevelopment of the St. Lawrence North Market
- \$20 million to build the Regent Park Community Centre
- \$13 million to construct the Regent Park Aquatic Centre
- \$16 million for the future St. Lawrence Library expansion

The 2011 Operating Budget totals \$9.4 billion to fund municipal services such as emergency services, TTC, libraries, and recreation. The budget includes a property tax freeze and is balanced with an increase to user fees, service reductions, and over \$300 million in one-time surplus funds. Exhausting our prior year surplus puts the City in a vulnerable position, should an emergency or economic downturn take place.

The service reductions include cutting TTC routes, reducing library collections, and closing the library branch in Metro Hall. I am most troubled by the introduction of

user fees for adult recreation programming at the City's Priority Centres. Our Priority Centres allow everyone in the community to register and participate in fitness and recreation programs.



While those below the Low Income Cut-Off may access the Welcome Policy subsidy, new user fees will create barriers for low-income families and push away middle-income families.

I moved a motion at Council to continue free recreation programming for all ages at Priority Centres. Although many Councillors understand the importance of recreation programs and supported my motion, it was defeated by 2 votes.

As we move into the 2012 budget process, our City will face increased financial pressures. I remain committed to protecting the services Torontonians depends on to ensure that we all enjoy healthy communities.



Councillors Pam McConnell, Kristyn Wong-Tam, and Adam Vaughan listen to residents at their Downtown Budget Consultation session held in January.

VISIT MY WEBSITE

Keep up to date on news, events, and meetings from City Hall and our community and sign up for my e-newsletter at www.pammccconnell.ca.

LET'S CELEBRATE! Don't miss these great community events

April 28

Environment Day
See back page for details

May 1

Forsythia Festival
Parade starts at 10 am at Riverdale Farm

May 28 & 29

Doors Open Toronto
www.toronto.ca/doorsopen

June 4

St. James Town Festival
St. James Town

June 10-19

Luminato
www.luminato.ca

June 11 & 12

Woofstock / A festival for dogs
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood
www.woofstock.ca

July 1

Canada Day in St. Lawrence
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood

July 10

Sunday in the Park
Regent Park

August 25-28

BuskerFest
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood
www.torontobuskerfest.com

September 10 & 11

Cabbagetown Festival
Street entertainment, wine tasting, and more
Parliament and Carlton Streets

September 9 & 11

Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Sale
Riverdale Park

September 10 & 11

Riverdale Farm Fall Festival

October 1

Nuit Blanche
www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca