



Pam McConnell

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Building Communities on our Waterfront

Exciting Developments in East Bayfront

The recently announced Parkside development will bring a residential and commercial complex to an important East Bayfront gateway site. Located east of Sherbourne Park and north of Queens Quay, Parkside is the first private sector development in the precinct. Acclaimed architect Moshe Safdie has designed a building carved with terraces and green roofs to create “gardens in the sky” and complement the neighbouring park.

I worked with the community on the creation of the Precinct Plan, and this development fits within those guidelines. The building maintains important view corridors and the building heights – a 120 metre tower on a 38 metre podium – descend towards the lake. Also following the plan, Parkside encourages family living with a daycare centre and ensuring that five per cent of the units have three bedrooms or more.

Parkside will follow sustainability standards and may even surpass LEED Gold. A green wall in the building’s atrium will improve indoor air quality and locally sourced and recycled materials will be used in the construction.

Parkside is one of a number of exciting projects underway in the East Bayfront community.

Sherbourne Park Scheduled for completion this summer, this 1.47 hectare park will provide year-round recreation space. Centered around a decorative pavilion, the park will feature a



Councillor Pam McConnell at the official groundbreaking of Sugar Beach.

water feature running the length of the park to the lake and a pond that becomes a skating rink in the winter.

Corus Quay This office building at the foot of Lower Jarvis is nearing completion and will begin occupancy in the spring. This building will feature a publicly accessible interior walkway to the water and stunning public art pieces to compliment the exterior.

Sugar Beach Toronto's second urban beach is under construction and will be completed this summer. It will provide an oasis in the midst of a busy city that integrates into a performance space next to the new Corus Quay building.

George Brown College George Brown has broken ground on the new Health Sciences campus with construction to be completed by fall 2011. A student residence will also be constructed and will bring a new vibrancy to the precinct.

Pan Am Games a win for Toronto and the West Don Lands

Toronto’s successful bid for the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games not only brings a premier sporting event to our city, it also fast tracks the development of the West Don Lands.

The Pan Am Games are the second largest multi-sporting event in the world, bringing together 42 countries, 10,000 athletes, and attracting over 250,000 visitors. The games represent a

\$1.4 billion investment by the three orders of government, with Toronto contributing \$49.5 million. While existing sports complexes will be used, the games bring investments in new venues such as a training facility in Scarborough and a new aquatic centre.



Artist's concept of the West Don Lands.

About \$1 billion will be invested to create the athlete village in the West Don Lands. The buildings, street networks, public spaces, parks, and Cherry Street streetcar line will be accelerated and built out by 2015. The temporary facilities, such as the meal tent, transit mall, training ground, and administrative offices, will be replaced with development envisioned in the West Don Lands Precinct Plan.

After the games, the buildings will be converted for use in the mixed market and affordable housing plan for the West Don Lands.

Unlike previous event bids, careful planning and co-operation with Waterfront Toronto and the community provided a clear vision for development in the West Don Lands. The work we have done will create a community based on pedestrian and cycling accessibility, sustainability, excellent design, public art and great public spaces.

Pam McConnell

**MAKING OUR
COMMUNITY
BEAUTIFUL AND
LIVEABLE**

Beautifying Public Spaces in Our Community

Many exciting initiatives are taking place across our ward, making our community and neighbourhoods more beautiful places to live and visit.

Ontario St. Parkette

Ontario Street Parkette will get a makeover as one of the recipients of the City's Clean & Beautiful neighbourhood beautification program. I am working with local residents and Parks staff on preliminary plans to rehabilitate this park.

Sword Street



Councillor Pam McConnell uses a wood sword to cut the ribbon on Sword Street

I was pleased to celebrate the official ribbon-cutting of the Sword Street revitalization at the Cabbagetown Festival. Completed last fall through the Clean & Beautiful Program, residents are now enjoying the fruits of our collective efforts with a new sidewalk, planter boxes, trees and plantings. This successful project has recently been highlighted by City staff at public realm conferences across Canada.

Children's Garden

Receiving a Clean and Beautiful award, St. Lawrence Gardeners will add a green roof to the Eco-shed of the Princess Park Children's Garden. The garden is

used to educate children about locally-grown produce and that gardening can be an important part of a sustainable city. Over 3,000 visitors attended the garden and its honorary caretaker Bunny the rabbit last year.

Britain St. Beautification

Britain Street has undergone many changes through its history. In recent years, the old warehouses have been converted for use by media, architecture, art studios, and a Ryerson design school, along with new residential developments in the area.

I worked with residents and business owners to eliminate parking on the sidewalk, create a new sidewalk on the north side, and introduce trees and landscaping. When completed later this year, pedestrians will enjoy a street that is vibrant, safe, and beautiful.

Yonge Street Promenade



Councillor Pam McConnell at the opening of the Yonge Promenade.

The stretch of Yonge Street south of Front Street has been transformed with wider sidewalks, new trees and plantings, and bike lanes, making this public space safer and more inviting for pedestrians and cyclists.

Ward 28 Award Winners

Congratulations to community residents and groups for city-wide recognition of their achievements and initiatives.

John Campey – Winner of the Access, Equity and Human Rights Pride Award for his commitment and contribution to the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities.

Central Park Youth Sports Club – Winner of the Mayor's Community Safety Award for building teamwork and leadership through a cricket program in the Regent Park community.

Community Matters Toronto – Winner of the Public Health Champion Award for advocating and providing support for families in the St. James Town community.

Sally Gibson – Recipient of the Heritage Toronto Award of Merit (Book Category) for *Toronto's Distillery District: History by the Lake* which chronicled the people, events, and buildings that made the Gooderham & Worts Distillery an important part of Toronto's history.

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association – Winners of the Neighbourhood Challenge in the Waterfront Marathon, SLNA raised over \$11,000

for the nutrition programs at Market Lane Public School and Downtown Alternative School.



City of Toronto – Winner of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Community Award, for its programs that promote sustainable buildings, and the Outstanding International Volunteer Contribution Award, for its leadership in bringing programs to El Salvador, Botswana, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.



Councillor Pam McConnell and award winner John Campey

Spotlight on Heritage in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood

In November we flicked the switch on heritage lighting in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. This project featured a mix of permanent lighting installations and temporary lighting, to demonstrate possible lighting treatments on significant buildings.

Heritage lighting is used to highlight the unique architectural features of our historic buildings. This tool has been used to accentuate the Parliament Hill District in Ottawa and Montreal's Old Port.

The lighting installation for the St. Lawrence Hall is permanent, allowing residents and tourists to appreciate this historic icon year-round. The heritage storefronts on the south side of Front Street are in various stages of completion, with most receiving a "wash" of light with detailed lighting to follow. Similarly, the St. Lawrence Market South is partially complete, with plans to finish the installation early this year. The Flatiron building and St. James Cathedral received temporary lighting for the event and will be permanently lit in the future.

The demonstration event was a great success, attracting hundreds of residents and visitors from across the city. I worked with the BIA, our City's Heritage staff, the St. Lawrence Market, Toronto Hydro, and the Old Town Alliance to bring about this lighting plan and the demonstration event.

This lighting project is part of a larger heritage initiative for the Old Town. Currently a Heritage Interpretation Master Plan is being finalized, and when complete, will set up a framework for various forms and themes to celebrate the history of the Old Town and Toronto.



Permanent lighting of the historic St. Lawrence Hall

Corktown Off-leash Area Approved



A new off-leash area for dogs will be prepared this spring, reclaiming an unused green space in Corktown. The half acre of land bounded by Power, Adelaide, and Richmond Streets was identified by community members to serve a growing need for people and dogs.

Following the *Dogs, Parks, and People Strategy*, City staff evaluated the site and determined it a good location for off-leash use. I hosted three community meetings to hear concerns and recommendations to fine tune the proposal.

The site will be secured with decorative fencing and new benches will be installed. Parks staff will maintain the area, keeping it neat and safe. The off-leash site will receive proper Parks signage and will be named, based on community input.

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VIBRANT COMMUNITIES IN OUR GROWING CITY

Tower Renewal comes to St. James Town

The Mayor's Tower Renewal project is now underway in St. James Town. Tower Renewal is an initiative to improve energy efficiency while bringing social, economic, and cultural enhancements to the city's concrete apartment tower neighbourhoods.

The Toronto Community Housing buildings at 200 Wellesley Street East and 275 Bleecker Street have been selected as pilot sites. TCHC is considering expanding the pilot to other buildings in the ward.

Firms are currently submitting proposals for energy efficiency opportunities and options for green roofs,

water conservation, waste management, and exploring wind, solar and geothermal energy. A winning proposal will be announced this spring.

A significant aspect of Tower Renewal is community engagement, and the Tower Renewal team has been working with tenants in this process. Residents will be given opportunities to enhance liveability in their neighbourhood through safety audits and identifying options for community space. I will continue to work with the Tower Renewal team as the initiative evolves over the next year, to ensure we have the best possible results.



Councillor Pam McConnell with performers and community members at the St. James Town Festival.

Regent Park Revitalization Update

Regent Park hit a number of key milestones in 2009. As tenants began moving into new units, Phase 2 plans got well underway with newly announced investments in infrastructure and housing.

252-256 Sackville Street.

The first tenants began moving in to the first Toronto Community Housing buildings of Phase 1 in May 2009. These buildings, with rental units for seniors and families, are now completely occupied with returning tenants. The buildings include shared amenity space, learning space for the University of Toronto, and the Community Energy System which will provide heating, cooling and hot water to all buildings in Regent Park.

One Cole

One Cole Condominiums, at the northeast corner of Dundas and Parliament, are nearing completion. The first owners will be taking possession of their homes early in 2010. This complex will include a Sobey's grocery store, a Royal Bank, and a Tim Horton's – introducing commercial establishments to Regent Park for the first time.

Aquatic Centre and central park

The new indoor Aquatic Centre has been fully designed and is set for construction beginning this spring with completion expected in 2011. Public consultation on the new 2.5 hectare central park to anchor the community is set to begin in January 2010. The Aquatic Centre and the park

will be located on the north side of Dundas Street, between Sackville Street and Sumach Street.

Regent Park Community Centre

Beginning in January, I will host a series of community consultations on the design of the new community centre to be built as part of Phase 2. Located beside Nelson Mandela Park Public School, the 4,645 square metre centre will nearly double the recreation space available in Regent Park. The community centre will be built and operated in partnership with the City of Toronto, the Toronto District School Board, and Toronto Community Housing. The existing community centre will remain open until the new centre is complete in 2012.

Children's Hub

Construction is underway on the Children's Hub at 30 Regent Street. This facility will provide space for the Regent Park Daycare, Parents for Better Beginnings, and Focus Media Arts Centre. Federal and Provincial infrastructure funding has also been contributed to this project.

Revitalization Centre

The Revitalization Centre is open and located at 415 Gerrard Street East. This office is a central point of call, serving those with questions about the redevelopment and offering returning tenants information about selecting their new unit. All relocated tenants have the right to return to a new unit in Regent Park.

Remembering Community Builders

This year we lost some important community builders. We all owe a great deal to the contribution of these neighbourhood heroes, and they will all be greatly missed.

Barrie Chavelle – A dedicated public servant with the City of Toronto, she profoundly influenced our community in her work on homelessness, building strong neighbourhoods, and the redevelopment of the Portlands.

Peggy Kurtin – Instrumental in saving cherished historical buildings, she helped lead the development of the Cabbagetown

Preservation Association, the creation of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District, and in documenting the history and attributes of thousands of heritage homes.

Carl Orbach – Lawyer and founding member of the Cabbagetown BIA, he will be remembered as the "Mayor of Cabbagetown" and for his dedication to the Cabbagetown Youth Centre and the creation of the Cabbagetown Festival and parade.



North Market Design Competition Launched



Councillor Pam McConnell with Alan Seymour, Mayor Miller, and Bruce Bell at the release of the Competition Brief.

The St. Lawrence North Market redevelopment took a large step forward with the launch of the international design competition in November. The competition began with the release of the Competition Brief, which outlines the requirements and design criteria.

The guidelines in the brief are the result of almost 10 years of work with the St. Lawrence Market Precinct Working Group, consisting of neighbourhood stakeholders and City staff. These guidelines include specific mention of the uses of the building, the need to respect the history and the heritage character of the neighbourhood, and sustainability and energy efficiency requirements.

The brief is available at http://www.toronto.ca/stlawrence_market/design.

This design competition consists of two stages. Stage I collects and evaluates expressions of interest from around the world, and selects a shortlist of qualified applicants. The shortlist will be announced in February 2010. Stage II will include a public exhibition of the proposed designs, with the winner of the competition announced in June 2010. Construction is slated to begin in 2011 with the new building opening in 2014.

During construction of the new North Market, the Saturday Farmers' market and Sunday Antique Market will be relocated to a temporary building on the parking lot at Jarvis and the Esplanade.

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BUILDING AND IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Getting the Lead Out



Lead pipes were commonly used for water service connections in homes built before the mid-1950s. Lead from these pipes can dissolve into drinking water when it stands for more than a few hours. Lead can affect brain and nervous system development and most affects foetuses, infants, and children under six years old.

The City of Toronto is carrying out one of the most ambitious lead water service replacement programs in North America. There are estimated to be over 65,000 lead water service connections in the city. Over the last two years, about 14,000 connections have been replaced at a cost of

approximately \$30 million. The City also received \$10 million in federal Infrastructure Stimulus Funding to help accelerate the program that aims to replace all lead water services by 2016. Thirty projects on 25 streets in Ward 28 are underway or scheduled for 2010.

To get the full benefit of the City's efforts, homeowners should also replace the lead water service from the property line to the home. My office has been working with Toronto Water to improve the information and notification that homeowners receive. An initial public notice will be delivered six months in advance of the project, with a second reminder notice, including the contractor's contact information, two to

four weeks before construction begins.

After receiving the second notice, residents should arrange for quotations from qualified contractors and where possible, try to co-ordinate with the City's work. Homeowners may replace the private side of the service before or after the City's portion, or at the same time, if hiring the City's contractor. Replacing the entire water service is the only way to ensure your drinking water does not come in contact with lead pipes.

The City of Toronto does free lead testing for older homes. For more information on lead testing, the lead pipe replacement, and projects in Ward 28, visit www.toronto.ca/water.

2010 Capital Budget – Building our City for the future

I was proud to support the 2010 Capital Budget and the 10-Year Capital Plan. The \$16 billion 10-year plan makes significant investments in building infrastructure to support our growing population while maintaining the services and facilities we all depend on. This budget also takes advantage of federal and provincial stimulus funding, accelerating a number of projects. Among the important investments included in the 10-year plan:

- ✓ \$8.7 billion to replace aging buses, street cars, and subway cars and other TTC improvements
- ✓ \$1.6 billion to repair roads and bridges
- ✓ \$101 million for bike lanes and off-road bike paths
- ✓ \$96 million for new police facilities
- ✓ \$49 million to support the Pan-Am Games

The 10-year Capital Plan includes a number of key projects in our community:

- ✓ \$622 million for Union Station revitalization
- ✓ \$75 million to redevelop the St. Lawrence Market North

- ✓ \$72 million to develop the West Don Lands and East Bayfront precincts
- ✓ \$27 million for the Regent Park Community Centre and central park
- ✓ \$17 million for the Regent Park Aquatic Centre
- ✓ \$13 million for the St. Lawrence Library expansion

This Capital Plan also features a restructuring of the City's borrowing. Rather than funding all projects with 10 year terms, long life assets, such as subway tunnels, will be paid with 30 year borrowing. These new terms for about 25% of the projects will lighten repayments and provide more flexibility. This restructuring has been endorsed by top bond rating agencies. The City's credit rating remains AA – better than the Province of Ontario's rating.



*May we all
have a peaceful
and prosperous
New Year.*

Pam



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.pammcconnell.ca.



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