



Councillor



Mike Del Grande

WARD 39 • SCARBOROUGH - AGINCOURT

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1

"Working With You and For You"

Dear Friends and Neighbours:

While we are fully aware of the global economy and the impact on every country including Canada, we need to remind ourselves that nothing has changed with my advocating on your behalf at City Hall. Given that these are cautionary times, I know that coping strategies are a must with the Cost of Living.

You need City Services without having to complain about lack of them or the way they are delivered. On your behalf, I always look for alternatives and suggestions to make City Hall more fiscally responsible to your needs. I know the struggles; I hear the concerns. Some do not get it, but as your representative, I do. I am able to review and suggest ways to curb spending and also come up with ways of saving your money. I want to ensure that you continue to receive the services paid for by your taxes.

Mike Del Grande

Councillor, Ward 39 • Scarborough-Agincourt

UPDATE ON GROW OPS

While I continue to be vigilant in Ward 39, Grow Operations continue to exist even though very minimal. I need your assistance to keep our neighbourhoods safe by being aware of your surroundings. You can call 222-TIPS at any time and your information will be anonymous and taken seriously. For a start, I urge you to get to know your neighbours; meet them, talk to them, say "hello". Due to my efforts, owners of homes where Grow Operations are discovered will be charged for all City costs. Occupancy of such homes is not permitted until the property is deemed safe for habitation.

Prosecution

Who are Ka Bon Chu, Ji Yang, Jin Park and Wei Feng? They were:

- working for Wing Ching Chan;
- given an 18-year prison term for their involvement in terrorizing our community with major marijuana grow operations in numerous homes;
- sentenced for the murder of Pei Ding Xu in 2005 as reported in the news recently;
- involved in a gun fight with a rival gang in our neighbourhood;
- running grow operations on Arnall Avenue, Wintermute Blvd. and Belinda Square.

Our constituents played a significant role in assisting police by noting licence plate numbers of vehicles at the location of suspicious activity. Team work pays off!

Grow Op Statistics

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
31	28	13	5	9	2

2008 Locations

Silver Springs Blvd., Heatherside Drive, Fundy Bay Blvd., Glendower Circuit, Passmore Avenue, Finch Avenue East, Chester Le Blvd., and Fort Dearborn Drive

Click on <http://www3.thestar.com/static/googlemaps/starmaps.html?xml=growops08.xml> for specific addresses.

2009 Locations

langrove Terrace, Chester Le Blvd.

And 1st place goes to.....Ward 39 2008 Community Environment Day:

- 44,014 kgs of material were diverted from landfill – 6,161 kg more than in 2007.
- Electronics alone were 24,474 kg of the total weight.
- 3000 people attended the event.

Since we have outgrown the old location, our new location for:

2009 ENVIRONMENT DAY L'Amoreaux Community Centre

2000 McNicoll Avenue
(Kennedy Road & McNicoll Avenue: NW corner)
Saturday September 19th, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

If you miss my Environment Day, RONA, 3750 Midland (McNicoll & Midland) recycles old paint (some paint in can), energy saver compact fluorescent bulbs, plastic bags and shrink wrap. Call the RONA Store for more information - 416-298-0575.

MLS joins our Environment Day!

Last November, the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division's (MLS) Mobile Unit was at Kidstown so constituents could ask "all they ever wanted to know about Property Standards", in the comfort of the Ward. If you missed it, the MLS Unit will be back on Environment Day. You can always call 416-396-7071 to have your questions answered.



MLS Mobile Unit - Mike with Residents

You have a date... come, join in the fun!



The Rotary Clubs of North Scarborough, Agincourt and Scarborough Bluffs and the Provisional Rotary Club of Scarborough Twilight present:

"A Multicultural Event"

June 26th – 28th:
11:00 a.m. onwards
2000 McNicoll Avenue
L'Amoreaux Community Centre

Multicultural food, music and talent showcase. A first for Ward 39!. Proceeds will go towards Ward 39 projects.

VALLEYVIEW GARDENS TO SPONSOR "WARD 39 WINNING GARDENS CONTEST"



Benny and Larry Varlese (father and son team) from Valleyview Gardens (3012 Kennedy Road, 416-291-1270) have generously donated 10 gift certificates of \$25 each to the best gardens in this part of town. Let your garden grow....be a winner around mid-July. To participate, please submit: name, address and phone number to my office by July 1st. Send a picture....----it speaks a thousand words.



One of the 2008 Garden Winners

Canada Day Parade July 1, 2009

Wear a hat, something white and red, sunscreen and a smile...

Marching Bands, Drum & Bugle Corps, Clowns, Floats and more....the Canada Day Parade will begin at Scarborough Civic Centre at 5:00 p.m. Route: South on Brimley Road to Lawrence Avenue E. ending at Thomson Park. Activities run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the park.

Mike Del Grande

416-392-1374

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST....

....TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON PHARMACY AVENUE AT ARNALL AVENUE!



In 2004 I had asked for a survey to determine the feasibility of having traffic lights installed. With the tragic death of two pedestrians last summer, I lobbied again with the help of residents' petitions. I am pleased to report that new traffic lights have been approved for installation this summer.

NEW LIGHT INSTALLED: BEVERLY GLEN BLVD. AND BRIDLETOWNE CIRCLE

According to the findings of a traffic study, a traffic light was warranted at the corner of Beverly Glen Blvd. and Bridletowne Circle. A left hand turn lane, to alleviate traffic congestion coming out of Bridlewood Mall will be installed.

....CROSSWALK CONVERSION ON BIRCHMOUNT ROAD AT STALEY TERRACE

The crosswalk has been identified for conversion to Traffic Control Signals in spring 2009.



....40 KM SPEED LIMIT ON STONEBRIDGE BLVD.

Residents were concerned about speeding cars. You asked

for speed limit signs and I delivered – 40 km signs are posted. The "Watch-Your-Speed" trailer will be located on Stonebridge Blvd. this summer.

.....LANE DESIGNATION & TIMING OF LIGHTS:

New left turn lane and shared through/right turn lanes on Bamburgh Circle have been designated on both the eastbound and westbound directions. It eliminates guesswork for drivers and enhances overall traffic operations at Warden Avenue and Bamburgh Circle, south intersection.

....LEFT PRIORITY TURN FEATURE:

On Birchmount at Finch Avenue the east bound left priority turn feature is scheduled for completion in 2009.

....ON BIRCHMOUNT ROAD AT SANWOOD BOULEVARD:

Changes to the signal timing have been completed during morning peak traffic times.

OTHER TRAFFIC ENHANCEMENTS:

BAMBURGH CIRCLE PARKING
The community asked and I encouraged Scarborough

Community Council to eliminate the "no parking anytime" regulation along Bamburgh Circle adjacent to Terry Fox Park. It will now be more convenient for people attending events at the Park. However, the 3-hour City-wide parking limit still applies.

COUNT DOWN TO SAFETY AT WARDEN & NORTH BRIDLETOWNE CIRCLE

L'Amoreaux Collegiate requested additional pedestrian lights be installed. In addition to this request being fulfilled, I also asked for the count-down feature. Given the volume of seniors and students who use this intersection, both additions should assist in safer crossing.

SAFER WALK FROM SHEPTON WAY TO KENNEDY ROAD

The walkway from Shepton Way to the Kennedy Road bus stop was successfully completed in December 2008. This new, sturdy construction includes guardrails for safe walking and should withstand snowfall and snow removal. Thank you for the feedback indicating you were positively impressed with this new installation.

SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING AT TENDERCARE:

You asked for signs to be

installed; I delivered.

ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE

Perthshire Street and Fort Dearborn Drive – parking restriction signs installed.

Brigadoon Crescent at Andes Road – new Stop Sign installed

• No Heavy Truck sign restrictions on McNicoll Avenue 7:00 p.m. - 7:00a.m.

NEW PARK SIGNS

- Terry Fox Park – "Dogs on leash / Pick up after pet" and "Please don't feed the Birds" signs were erected.
- In the Huntsmill Hydro Corridor, there were two "No Winter Maintenance" signs and three "Dogs on leash/Pick up after pet" signs are installed.



The City's Traffic Department conducts studies and make requested enhancements if warrants are met. The studies you requested include:

- Partridge Lane Castle Hill Drive – Stop sign.
- Sanwood Boulevard and Treerun Avenue – to review traffic safety.



- Silver Springs Public School – to have "school bus parking/ no stopping" in place on Saturdays.
- Steeles Avenue East at Mountcastle Gate – to have pedestrian crossing protection.
- Birchmount Road and Huntingwood Drive – to have northbound left-turn green arrow feature .
- Warden Avenue between Finch Avenue East and Bridletowne Circle North - to review traffic safety issues.
- Pharmacy Avenue and McNicoll Avenue - to investigate the need for southbound left-turn green arrow in the afternoon period.
- Steeles Avenue at Pharmacy Avenue – west bound left-turn green arrow in the afternoon.
- Chester Le Boulevard just south of Morecambe Gate - pedestrian crossover (PXO) to replace the existing school crossing PXO. (denied)
- No Heavy Truck sign restrictions on Pharmacy from McNicoll Avenue. to Finch Avenue.
- St. Henry Catholic School – to have parking restrictions on Bamburgh Circle
- Warden & Steeles – east/west and north/south left-turn green arrow study.

TTC TRANSIT SERVICE INCREASE

The TTC has responded to both my requests: better service in Ward 39 and reinstating the Wayside stop on the 39E route. My office was flooded with calls – you asked and I delivered after much persistence and hard work. My staff and I met with the TTC representative and the 39E stop is now reinstated. To those who took the time to call and express your thanks, I appreciate it – enjoy the ride!

Changes to TTC service effective November 23, 2008:

There is new all-day, every-day service and more-frequent service in peak periods on busy routes. Here are the changes:

- You are now able to take almost any TTC route between approximately 6:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. on Sundays) and 1:00 a.m., seven days a week.
- Routes that operate during peak periods only or midday only, now run during all the hours that the subway operates.
- All routes operate every 30 minutes or better, all the time.
- Service has been increased

during rush hour on a number of busy routes.

Improved TTC bus routes in Ward 39:

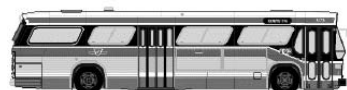
- 17 Birchmount, 42 Cummer, 39 Finch East, 169 Huntingwood, 43 Kennedy, 167 Pharmacy North, 85 Sheppard East, 53 Steeles East and 68 Warden.

New Rates for TTC Parking Lots as of April 1st, 2009

Weekdays 5 am – 3 pm	
Don Mills	\$4.00
Ellesmere	\$3.00
Finch	\$6.00
Kennedy	\$5.00
Lawrence East	\$2.00
Victoria Park	\$4.00
Warden North	\$3.00
Warden South	\$4.00
All other times	FREE

TTC #: 416-393-INFO

Construction is to begin on the underpass at Reidmount Avenue this year for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) on Sheppard Avenue.



SIDEWALK AND OTHER ETIQUETTE

All too often we tend to forget the small civilities of life. Sidewalks are 1.67 yards (5 feet) or 1.52 meters wide and designed to allow two people to pass comfortably.

If you are walking in a group and are "spread" across the sidewalk, passing you is a difficult maneuver. As in driving a car – keep right, smile and say "hello" to your neighbours, instead of literally "bumping" into them.

Do not spit, drop litter, spit gum and lastly..... do not throw cigarette butts on the sidewalks. Proper disposal of each item is essential for good hygiene and to keep sidewalks clean for everyone's enjoyment. Clean-up costs everyone.

Dog owners: Enjoy your pets and the exercise you get from walking them. Remember: dogs must be on a leash and you must "scoop the poop" and dispose of it in proper receptacles so it does not end in our drinking water.

The fine for not cleaning up after your pet is \$250 - \$5,000.

Litter Costs: The City of Toronto's litter budget this year is \$15 Million. Spring Clean up alone costs \$1.5 Million. Just think, if everyone did their part and did not litter, besides a clean neighbourhood, money could be spent on other worthwhile projects

Crack down on Illegal Signs

Licensing officials are cleaning up streets with the removal of mobile signs. MLS hopes to remove 10,000 temporary signs from city property this year, which is up from 4,200 in 2008. Another 10,000 illegal plastic-and-wire signs will also be removed.. Any signs placed on the boulevard are deemed illegal. It won't take place overnight, but it will happen.

LET'S RID CRIME IN WARD 39



Be watchful and always pay attention to your surroundings. Purse snatching and personal robbery are growing concerns. There is a surge in home break-ins. Meet your neighbours, be attentive and alert. If you have concerns, phone the police: 416-808-2222.

Problems identified by the police in the Morecambe Gate/Victoria Park area warranted special attention. Thanks to the project and dedication of the officers 17 persons were arrested and 51 charges were laid including robbery, failing to comply, possession of drugs and weapons. Information was passed on to the Guns & Gangs Task Force.

HOW I VOTED ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU

- Opposed the Land Transfer Tax – which penalizes home buyers and sellers.
- Opposed the Vehicle Registration Tax – this Council is opposed to cars and providing solutions to traffic flow. There is no will on Council to look beyond Bloor Street. There is a lack of understanding of what is required to live in our area of the City. Cars are a reality until transit becomes appealing and more user-friendly. 75% of Ward 39 residents use cars to get to work and 77% use them for non-work trips (2006 Census).
- Supported 2009 rebate for eligible low income Seniors and persons with disabilities. This was my Motion and it passed.
- Supported communicating with the Province to declare Toronto Transit Commission's Wheel-Trans Service as an essential service. A minimum 48 hour notice must be given before any TTC strike can legally take place.
- Supported - a time extension permitting debate on each program in the budget. Today each Councillor is allowed only 5 minutes to debate the entire budget. This did not pass.
- Opposed spending \$10 Million on an Environmental Assessment to tear down the Gardner Expressway nor spending \$360 Million to tear it down.
- Opposed the garbage/water program.

THE BUDGET

I am in favour of having a proper plan that recognizes responsible spending. I would also like you to know:

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM:

Property Taxes Up 4%
User Fees Up 3.7%

39% of Budget Property Taxes \$3.4 Billion
24% of Budget Provincial Grants & Subsidies \$2.1 Billion
15% User Fees \$1.3 Billion
14% Other Revenues \$1.2 Billion
4% Reserve Funds \$0.3 Billion
2% Land-Transfer & Vehicle Taxes \$0.2 Billion

WHERE THE MONEY GOES:

\$855 Million Toronto Police
\$357 Million Fire Services
\$302 Million TTC
\$3.9 Million Tree Maintenance
\$3.7 Million 6 New Courtrooms
\$1.6 Million New Trees
\$210,000 70km New Bike Lanes



OTHER BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

Frozen \$70 Million
\$8 Million
\$2 Million
\$4 Million
\$230,000
\$140,000
\$114,000
\$400,000 increase

TTC Fares
1300 New Employees
Staff Merit Increase
Mayor's Office Renovation
Streets to Homes Program, Permanent Funding
Toronto's 175th Anniversary Celebrations
Mayor's London England Office on the Environment
Office of Civic Engagement
Student Nutrition Programs

Fifteen cents of each tax dollar goes to pay off the City's debt.

Seniors and the disabled living on their own, with incomes of less than \$30,000 and homes worth less than \$525,000 can apply to have reductions in their property tax and water rates. Have Questions or Need Help? Call us: 416-392-1374.

My Office Expenses at City Hall – Responsibility with Accountability

I have not used City funds for out-of-town trips or office junkets. I continue to donate my salary increase to charity. My office expenditure for 2008 was the 7th lowest of all 44 Councillor's offices at City Hall. The majority of these funds are to print and distribute Newsletters, cover postage and pay for City Hall office space.

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

It is illegal to dump household garbage, building materials or landscaping waste on boulevards or in City Parks' garbage receptacles. The Waste Enforcement Fines are up to \$365 for illegal dumping and enforcement does take place.

If you see someone in the process of illegal dumping, please jot down licence plate numbers if they are in vehicles; then call my office 416-392-1374.



Building Permits & Business Licenses

When is a Building Permit Required.....

.....if you want to make alterations to your home or business or are renovating your home or wish to verify if a building permit exists for a particular property. Call 416-396-7526 or visit www.toronto.ca/building/index.htm to check Building Permit Status.

Business Licence Charges

All companies doing business in the City of Toronto require a licence. Anyone doing business with an unregistered company does so at their own risk. To obtain information, telephone 416-392-6700.

LIBRARY FACTS

I've written to the Library Board asking them to improve our library services:

- The Bridlewood Mall Branch ranks 3rd in performance of all of Toronto's 79 Public Library Branches.
- Open for 58.5 hours over six days a week, this branch is often filled to capacity.
- Library space of 5,445 sq. ft. is well below the identified size of 10,000 to 15,000 square feet for neighbourhood library services.
- During discussion of the

lease renewal in 2007, Bridlewood Mall Management suggested an expansion for the Branch but did not offer any financial support for the expansion, unlike other malls like Woodside Square and Cliffcrest. In these 2 malls, the local branch has been relocated to larger premises with a significant contribution from the mall owner for leasehold improvements.

- To double the size of the Bridlewood Branch, would cost approximately \$2.75

million for leasehold improvements.

- Bridlewood Mall would also benefit from increased operating hours including Sunday services and longer weekday hours.
- The Steeles Branch (at Bamburgh Gardens Plaza) is 14th out of 79 neighbourhood library branches.
- 130,000 clients with 303,201 circulated items per year.
- At 5,009 sq. ft. this branch falls well below the identified size for neigh-

bourhood libraries.

- During the lease negotiations in 2006, a representative of the property owner suggested re-location of the Steeles Branch to a new two storey building in the north-west area of the plaza. The building was not built and in February 2009, the mall owner advised that this was unlikely to happen.
- To double the size of the Steeles Branch, approximately \$2.35 million would be required for leasehold improvements.



Black History Month - Mike and "The Angels"



Dr. Norman Bethune CI Students at Civics Integration Day

ROOMING HOUSE UPDATE



I continue to assist with reporting of Rooming Houses to Municipal Licensing & Standards for investigation and enforcement. Working within the confines of the law is challenging, however, with a dedicated group like ours, there is sweet success.

Two owners of one house on Canongate Trail were each fined \$10,000 for an illegal operating a rooming house. Two owners on New Forest Square were each fined \$5,000, one owner on Shepton Way was fined \$72,000, and one owner on Castle Hill Drive was fined \$7,000.

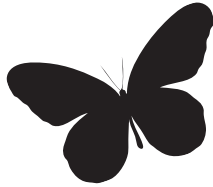
Town Hall Meetings

Over the last several months, I have met many of you at Town Hall Meetings held in the Ward. The meetings offer an excellent opportunity to have your concerns heard and acted upon as well as to know firsthand what is happening at City Hall. I will continue to communicate, share information and listen to you. Come, join us! I will respond to your meeting requests... all you need to do is call.

Councillor Mike Del Grande

BIRDS, BATS & BUTTERFLIES.... I'M WORKING ON IT

My vision for the L'Amoreaux Nature Walk is taking shape. McNicoll Avenue will have the first "Walking Arboretum" in the City of Toronto. Besides just walking along McNicoll, there will be trails throughout L'Amoreaux Park.



There will be maps showing points of interest, a native burial ground as well as Bird & Bat houses and Butterfly gardens or plants that attract them. Different species of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees will also be listed. What an opportunity to appreciate nature!

The project is at the conception stage with many City departments working towards launching it. Over the last year XXXX trees and shrubs have been planted. On May 2, 2009 there will be another planting taking place on the west side of the pond, north of McNicoll Avenue. Stay tuned for updates as the Walk evolves.

An Inventor among us.....

Congratulations to our very own Mr. L. Del Nin for his door locking system invention, now available in RONA stores. The product is designed to prevent break-ins.

FIND THE TULIPS...

....in L'Amoreaux Park:

1. West of the main driveway entrance to the Community Centre along the sidewalk.
2. Along the North side of McNicoll Avenue, east of Silver Springs Blvd. in front of the Spruce trees.
3. At the far east of the park behind the Park Sign

When the bulbs begin to bloom.....

The Heathwood Ratepayers Association added to Ward 39's beauty when they planted over 3000 daffodil bulbs last fall. Congratulations to the Heathwood volunteers – you care and it shows.



Heathwood Residents Plant Over 3000 Daffodils.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS



Councillor Del Grande's Office	416-392-1374
City of Toronto Website	www.toronto.ca
ACCESS Toronto – City Directory & Information phone line	416-338-0338
After hours Emergency Dispatch	416-396-4808
Animal Services	416-338-PAWS (7297)
Flooding (Water/Sewers)	416-338-8888
Forestry (Trees)	416-338-8733
Garbage & Recycling	416-338-2010
Hazardous Waste Pick up	416-392-4330
Hydro/Power Outages	416-542-8000
Parks and Recreation	416-338-4FUN (4386)
SNOW Information hotline	416-338-SNOW (7669)
Solid Waste Item not picked up:	416-338-2010
Street Light Outages:	416-542-3195 (24x7)
Tax and Water Customer Contact	416-338-4829

UPDATES ON FUNDY BAY HYDRO PROJECT FIXING CONTACT VOLTAGE



A three phase underground rebuild began in 2007 within the boundaries of Wintermute Blvd., Birchmount Road, Redheugh Crescent and Ambercroft Blvd. The focus was to install new cables, tap boxes and vaults to upgrade the system. Phase one is complete; Phase two is fifty percent completed. Phase three will commence this spring. All electrical and civil work is scheduled for completion in 2010. Questions? Phone Hydro Project Rebuild Hot Line 416-542-3366.

STREET FURNITURE

I asked for new street furniture on your behalf. You may have noticed new bus shelters, benches and garbage cans in the Ward.



Bridlewood Mall Update

**Next Community Meeting:
May 6, 2009, L'Amoreaux C.I., 7:00 p.m.**

My sincere thanks to the independent Citizens' Committee who have worked tirelessly, diligently and painstakingly on the Area Revitalization Study for Bridlewood Mall and the surrounding area. There have been innumerable meetings and countless hours spent selflessly in creating a viable vision for our community, keeping property values in mind, pride of ownership, destination point attraction and the many facets that make planning not just a subject but translate it into a community. This group of astute, dedicated individuals has come together to ensure that our voices are heard not only by City Staff but also by the Bridlewood Mall Owners and their Developer. The May 6th meeting will share the collective vision for this area. Please attend – I hope to see all of you.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

People often call my office saying that they did not know of the 3 hour street parking limit which is a City wide by-law. Calls to my office about extended street parking will be forwarded to Parking Enforcement (PE). When PE receives a call from the Councillor's Office, a Station Detail is created and the street will be patrolled for multiple days. All enforcement is complaint generated. If you wish to call PE directly for enforcement on your street only, phone 416-808-6600.

CELEBRATIONS IN 2008 & 2009

2008

- Mr. Malhotra ➤ 80th Birthday
- The Kamerman & Ellens Families ➤ 60 Years in Canada
- Mr. & Mrs. MacGilchrist ➤ 60th Wedding Anniversary
- Mr. & Mrs. Malhotra ➤ 50th Wedding Anniversary
- Scarborough – York Region Chinese Business Association ➤ 26th Anniversary
- The Monterey – 175 Bamburg Circle ➤ 20th Anniversary
- Athavan Publications Inc. ➤ 14th Anniversary
- Feng Tai Supermarket (Foody Mart) ➤ Grand Opening

2009

- Chi Ping Dance Group ➤ 25th Anniversary
- The Honourable Jim Karygiannis, P.C., M.P. ➤ 20 Years in Service
- Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. ➤ 2nd Annual Civic Integration Day
- Civics Education Network ➤ 2nd Annual Civic Integration Day
- St. Harvard Education Centre ➤ Grand Opening
- Unipage Solutions ➤ Grand Opening

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Due to Canada Post's delivery requirements, residents outside of Ward 39 may have received this newsletter.

Keep in touch!

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