



Councillor

Mike Del Grande

WARD 39 • SCARBOROUGH - AGINCOURT

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2

請閱內頁中文版

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

This will be my sixth newsletter of the current term of Council. Thus far, at your requests, I have provided you with these newsletters to inform and educate, to let you know what is going on in the Ward and to give you my personal perspective of what goes on at City Hall.

If I told you – in hindsight - that I was fully prepared for 100 Queen Street, that would be incorrect. I came here with the expectation that logic and public interest would prevail. What I found was a little disheartening to say the least – horse-trading contrary to public good, pre-arrangement of most issues coming before Council, an incredible disparity between investment downtown vs. the suburbs and total disregard for the long term financial impacts of decisions in Council. Over the past 3 years, I have become known as the voice of fiscal reason. I regularly stand up and take issue with City initiatives that don't appear well thought out or are questionable in benefit. I came to City hall to represent you and I believe in my heart this is what you would have me do.

You have repeatedly voiced concerns about crime and I agree there is reason for concern. Home invasions, vehicle thefts & break-ins, purse snatchings, swarmings, robberies and vandalism are on the rise and make us feel unsafe. The solution is simple - we need more Police on the streets and for harsher penalties to keep criminals off the streets. We all need to do our part to watch out for each other. It is the criminal, not the law abiding citizen, who should be looking over their shoulder.

I have spent considerable time with the community on local issues to improve our Ward. As many of you have noticed, I regularly tour our community and proactively report issues. People continually tell me that they see the difference; they tell me that our community is starting to look cared-for again. I'm grateful that I have been able to play a part in this and even more grateful that people are responding.

As always, I am privileged to be your elected representative at City Hall. Thank you for your continued trust.

Yours truly,

Mike Del Grande
Councillor, Ward 39
Scarborough-Agincourt

(Please visit my website at: www.mikedelgrande.ca)

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

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Environment Day 2006

Saturday September 16
10 AM – 2 PM

Kidstown – 3159 Birchmount Road

Bring your hazardous waste & recyclables and pick up some free compost

Shopping Carts

Retailers provide shopping carts for their customers' convenience while you are in the store. Removing a shopping cart from the retailer's property is theft.

If you must 'borrow' a cart, please return it to the store instead of dumping on the boulevard or in front of someone else's house. Please show your neighbours and OUR community a little respect.

Mike Del Grande

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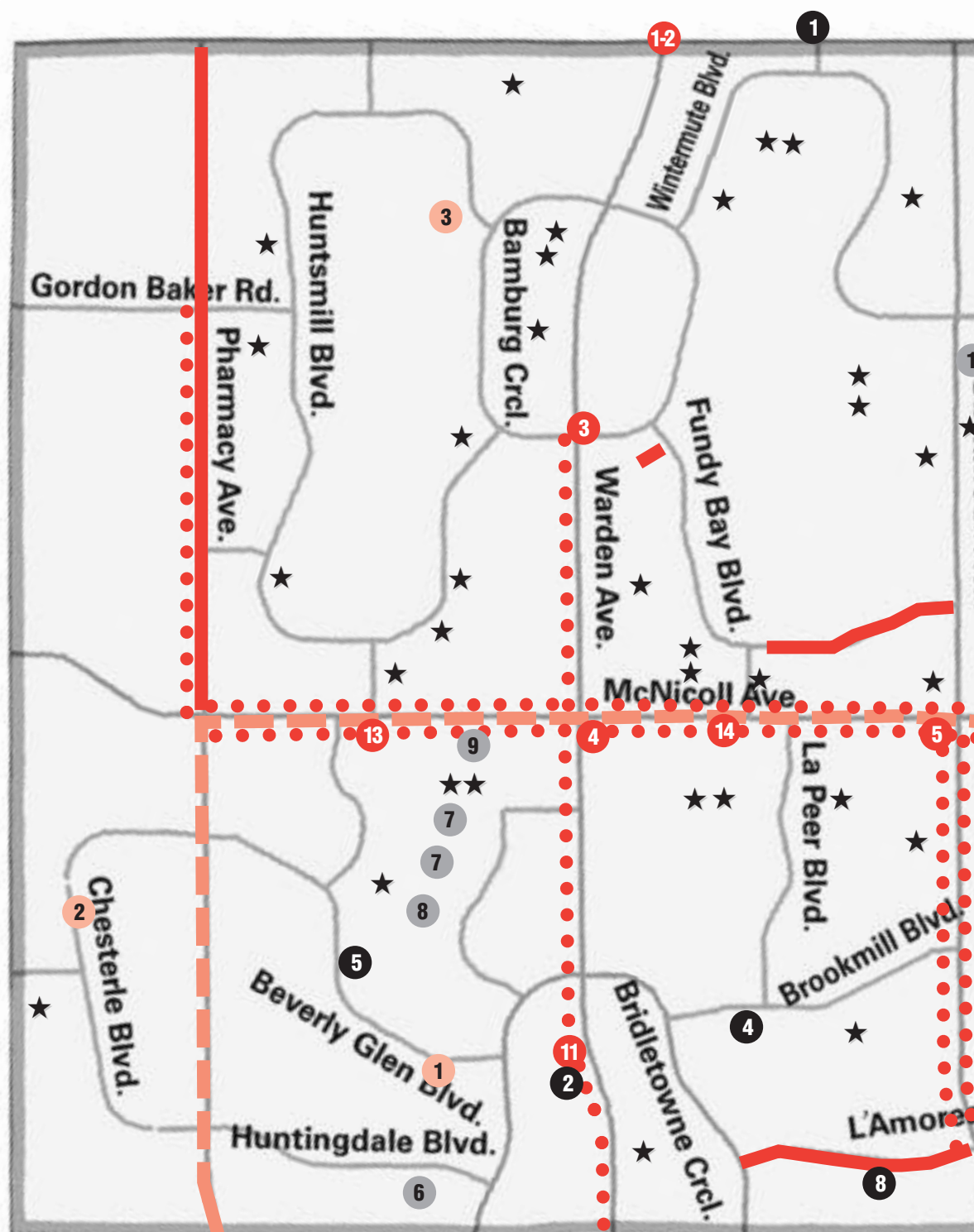
Ward 39 Developments

1 Parks Improvements

- 1 Birchcrest Park
- 2 Chester Le Park
- 3 Bamburgh Park
- 4 Sanwood Park
- 5 L'Amoreaux Park – Bus Loop Restoration

1 Traffic Improvements Major Arterials

- 1 Warden & Steeles – northbound left turn signal extended
- 2 Warden & Steeles – pending new east & westbound left turn signals
- 3 Warden & Bamburgh (south) east/west green signals extended
- 4 Warden & McNicoll – pending new southbound left turn signal
- 5 Birchmount & McNicoll – pending new left turn lanes (all directions)
- 6 Birchmount & Huntingwood Drive east/west green signals extended
- 7 Kennedy & McNicoll – Improved left turn signal timing – all directions
- 8 Kennedy & Finch – new north & southbound left turn signals
- 9 Kennedy & Huntingwood Drive new northbound left turn signal
- 10 Kennedy & Havendale Road – new traffic signals
- 11 Warden – between Finch & Bridletowne new pedestrian crossing signal
- 12 McNicoll & L'Amoreaux Community Centre – pending new eastbound turning lane
- 13 McNicoll & Eagle Point Road – pending new eastbound turning lane
- 14 McNicoll & Innislawn Road – pending new traffic signals
- 15 Steeles & Redlea Avenue new traffic signals



1 Traffic Improvements Minor Stop Sign Locations

- 1 Treerun Avenue & Burnt Bark Drive – 2 locations
- 2 Chapel Park Square & Chapel Park Square
- 3 Gold Medal Way & Shepton Way
- 4 New Forest Square & New Forest Square
- 5 Purcell Square & Purcell Square
- 6 Birchcrest Court & Huntingdale Boulevard
- 7 Candlebrook Crescent & Stonebridge Boulevard
2 locations
- 8 Hillwood Court & Stonebridge Boulevard
- 9 McNicoll & Stonebridge Boulevard
- 10 Silver Springs Boulevard & Dancy Avenue
- 11 Inverary Crescent & Kilchurn Castle Drive
2 locations

● ● ● Major Tree Plantings to be done

— Road Reconstruction / Resurfacing

— Road Reconstruction / Resurfacing (2007)

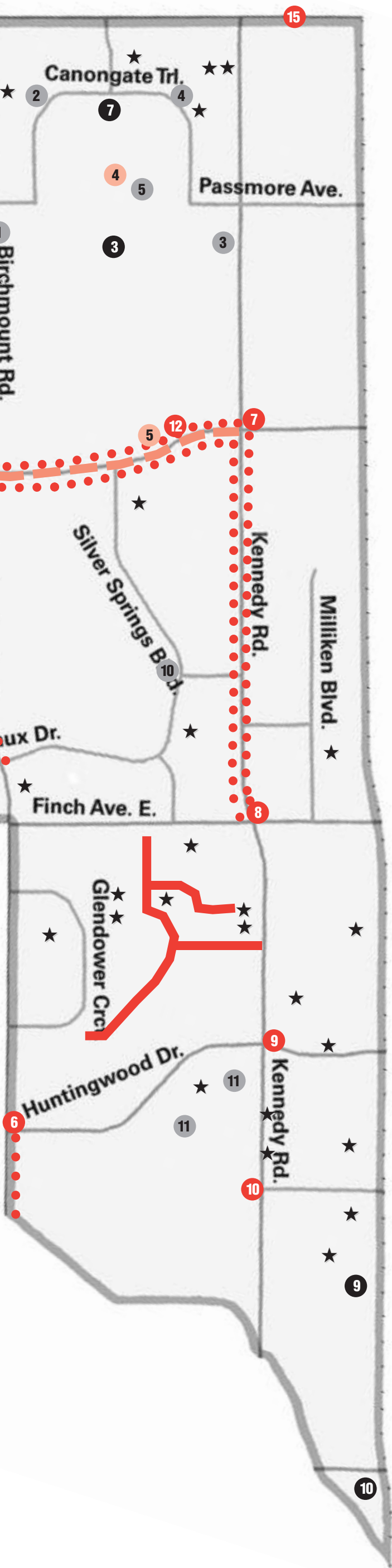
★ Marijuana Grow Houses

1 Traffic Improvements and Other

- 1 Steeles & Mountcastle Gate – new bus shelter
- 2 Warden – between Finch & Bridletowne
2 new bus stops
- 3 Sanwood Boulevard – speed limit reduction
- 4 Brookmill Boulevard – speed limit reduction
- 5 Beverly Glen Boulevard – speed limit reduction
- 6 Innislawn Road – speed limit reduction
- 7 Heathwood Community
overnight parking restrictions
- 8 L'Amoreaux Drive – at 121/151 L'Amoreaux
permanent parking restrictions
- 9 Marilyn Avenue – sidewalk & lighting
improvements
- 10 Train whistling stopped



Cutting the ribbon to officially open Birchcrest Park – August 2006.



Graffiti Alert!!

Graffiti not only makes our community look messy, but leads to bigger problems if left unattended.

Several months ago, I convinced staff from the Clean & Beautiful City Secretariat, to pilot a new project in Ward 39 – pro-active graffiti audits of public spaces. These audits were being conducted downtown, quietly, and I felt there was no valid reason for not doing likewise outside of the core.

All major arterials in the Ward have already been audited. After each audit, official letters are sent to Toronto Hydro, Canada Post, Viacom and the owners of newspaper boxes - asking them to deal with graffiti on their assets. The results are evident and public boulevards are cleaner. I thank those who wrote to me after noticing the difference. Shortly, the pilot project will move into residential streets in Ward 39.

If you see graffiti in any public place – mail boxes, light poles, hydro boxes, park benches, etc - please call my office and I'll have it removed.



Attending a fundraiser for Carefirst Seniors Centre with John Tory, Councillor Jane Pitfield and community leaders.

Marijuana Grow Houses

The fact that you've read about grow houses in almost every newsletter is no accident – in the short and long term, this is the single biggest problem facing our community. I have focussed a great deal of time at City Hall to combat it and am proud of our accomplishments in a relatively short time.

When I first took office in 2003, the City had no official response to our grow house problems. Today, the situation is very different. I invited staff to pilot new and innovative solutions and they responded.

My first priority was opening the lines of communication between the Police and the City's internal enforcement departments. Next, I worked with staff to aggressively educate the public – installing lawn signs and distributing information, to equip you on how to spot grow houses. Finally, I worked with Municipal Licensing & Standards as well as Building departments to put strategies in place to force owners to make properties safe before selling to unsuspecting buyers. Today, both departments issue Orders to Comply and prohibit occupancy until fully satisfied that all structural and environmental issues are addressed. Most recently, the property owners have to pay for the cost of enforcement. My sincere thanks to the Toronto East Drug Squad for their assistance.

Yes, it has been a long and frustrating battle, but well worth it for our families and communities. We've shut down 60 grow houses and the flood of busts in 2004 & 2005 has slowed to a trickle. Please keep your eyes open and get to know your neighbours. A community that is aware is the best and easiest defence.

Cleaning Up Our Community

As your Councillor, and – more importantly – as your neighbour, I didn't like what was happening to our community. I felt that we weren't getting our fair share of city services; in fact, it was manifested in the upkeep of our parks, our streets and boulevards. As a result, our community was in decline and, as a 23-year resident of Agincourt and Co-Chair of my local Ratepayer's Association, I too had enough.

What I suspected was confirmed – resources and manpower intended for Ward 39 were being diverted elsewhere. Changing this was a challenge and I met with a lot of resistance. Other Councillors, accustomed to their over-allotments of resources, were not willing to give up anything for our Ward. I'm proud of the progress I've made in 3 short years. Here are some of the highlights:

PROPERTY STANDARDS

Like all Councillors, when I receive a complaint about tall grass, poor property maintenance, widened driveways, accumulated garbage or anything else on private property, I report it to our Municipal Licensing and Standards department. Unlike other Councillors, I follow each and every complaint through to resolution – which many of you know. The Privacy Act prevents me from providing details about the investigation;

however, I like to be courteous and call to confirm that your concern is addressed since you took the time to call me.

You should know that I don't pre-judge complaints when I receive them – that is the responsibility of our Enforcement Staff. My job is to forward the complaint and ensure staff respond to it.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Occasionally, a resident files an application with the Committee to allow a minor variance from the Zoning By-law. Maybe they want to build a small extension on their house and the extension is a little too big. I believe in the concept of an independent body to consider requests like this because there is a difference between 'the spirit' and 'the letter' of the law. With some applications, I do write to the Committee to support or not support applications which have global ramifications rather than just local interest. As the system is supposed to work – the final decision is up to the Committee members.

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION

The City requires that almost all renovation work requires a permit. The permit system is there to HELP homeowners and protect them from unscrupulous contractors who want to do shoddy work. It is also there to protect future owners of the home from past 'do-it-yourselfers' who don't really know what they're doing. Finally, the

system is there to stop people from adding basement apartments that are unsafe for their future tenants. If you have a renovation in mind – please – do yourself a favour and get a permit.

BASEMENT FLOODING

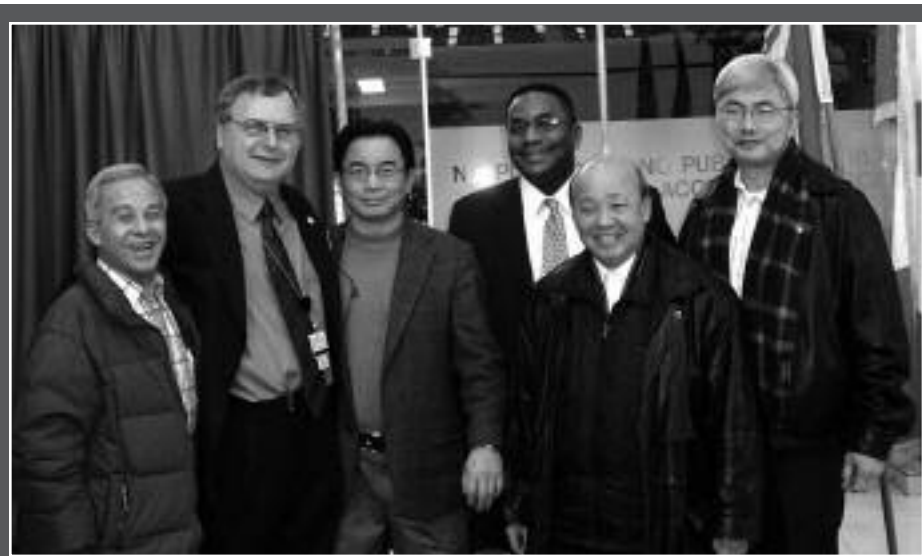
Last August, many of you watched in disbelief while water (or worse) backed up from the City storm and sanitary systems into your basement. After the storm, I met many affected residents and promised I would do something about it. Do something about it, I did! Even if you didn't decide to accept the City's offer of the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy or the No Fault Grant, you can rest assured that I've asked for engineering studies and to have the suggested solutions implemented. I can't undo the damage many of you suffered last August; however, I can ensure that the City helps you protect yourself for the future and that we are doing everything we can to assist.

ROOMING HOUSES

Even though they are difficult to prove, often requiring months to resolve, I report each address given to me to our Property Standards office for investigation. Since 2003, we have fielded more than 400 complaints about suspected rooming houses. Please be assured that each file stays open until staff have been inside and verified the living arrangements.



Joining my Scarborough Council colleagues in support of a new subway to replace the aging LRT line.



Enjoying the Scarborough New Year's Levee with community residents, and Councillor Mike Thompson.

Hydro Upgrades Underway

Subsequent to ward tours and feedback from you, I recognized a major problem with hydro reliability. I am pleased to say that the end of regular power outages is finally in sight if your community is currently living with them. Over the next 2 years, Toronto Hydro will replace the entire distribution network in the Huntmill, Heathwood and Beverly Glen communities. After my persuasion, Toronto Hydro's investment in Ward 39 now totals \$ 15 million over 2 years.

Unfortunately, this issue provides the perfect example of the inequity between downtown and the suburbs. The residents of northern Scarborough are asked to wait for several years for a system rebuild to

restore basic reliability. At the same time, residents along St. Clair Avenue are given a blank cheque (\$ 18 million and counting) to bury perfectly good hydro lines – simply for aesthetic reasons. Not Fair!

In addition to the system rebuild, Toronto Hydro Street Lighting (the Hydro affiliate that purchased the City's street lights), has agreed to replace or retrofit all of the pole-top street lights where there is new underground cabling. The fixture, directly on top of the light pole, does not conform to standards creating dangerous shadows below. After 2 years, I am thrilled that my efforts are starting to pay off.

My Office...By the Numbers

Working with the people I represent is the essence of local politics. How else would I know: how you want to be represented? your views on issues that affect you and our community? and... your opinion on my performance?

Here it is...by the numbers... a sample of my interaction with my neighbours over the last 3 years:

- 11 – area residents given summer positions/internships in my office
- 18 – planning or development-related meetings held to get your views
- 22 – town hall meetings held in 2006 (most Councillors hold 2/year)
- 40 – tonnes of recyclables diverted from landfill at my first 2 environment days

- 48 – tonnes of compost given away at the same 2 events
- 130 – constituents who required signatures on documents
- 150 – homeowners at the community BBQs in 2005
- 195 – people who attended my Spring 2006 'Afternoon at the AGO'
- 277 – residents flooded on August 19, 2005 and obtaining assistance from City Hall
- 300 – property tax assistance information given to seniors to help them stay in their homes
- 395 – attendees at the Town Halls, sharing their views and expressing concerns
- 1,100 – abandoned shopping carts reported to staff and removed
- 4,112 – constituent contact files opened and closed

Keep in touch!

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