

Toronto City Councillor

Chin Lee

WARD 41 E-NEWS REPORT



Call: (416) 392-1375 E-mail: councillor_lee@toronto.ca

Issue: April 2017

Dear Neighbour & Friend:

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable Easter long weekend!

And Happy Passover! Pesach Sameach!

My office is gearing up for Community Clean-up day on Saturday, April 22nd from 10am to 12noon, at Milliken District Park, and I invite you to join us on this group effort in beautifying our park. Please see details in this edition of the E-news. If you or a friend would like to become a volunteer at this event, please email my office at councillor_lee@toronto.ca.

If you are doing your own cleanup in your community, I thank you for your efforts and will appreciate you sending photos of your event.

Please follow my website (<https://chinlee41.wordpress.com/>) and other social media outlets (<https://twitter.com/CncllrChinLee> | <https://www.facebook.com/councillorchinlee>) to keep apprised of upcoming events.

Your truly,

Chin Lee

Your Ward Councillor

Featured this month:

- **Clean Toronto Together 2017 – Milliken District Park**
- **Public Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Vacant Unit Property Tax Rebate & Vacant/Excess Land Property Tax Reduction Programs**
- **Nomination opens until April 20 for Mayor's Community Safety Awards**
- **Youth In Policing Fall Recruitment**
- **Canada 150 Local Series – 32 Agincourt Dr.**
- **Events**

CLEAN TORONTO TOGETHER 2017 – MILLIKEN DISTRICT PARK

We are calling upon community and student champions to join us on Saturday, April 22nd at Milliken District Park (4325 McCowan Rd., Scarb) for our third annual Community Clean-up Day. This event is truly a community effort with partnership from community associations such as CICS and the Rotary club, local high schools, and McDonald's. We'll be rolling up our sleeves and ready to give Milliken Park a makeover! Join us and be a part of this wonderful team! Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Dress appropriately for the weather.

High school students will receive volunteering hours from participating in this event. Please email my office at councillor_lee@toronto.ca to sign up.

I look forward to seeing you there!

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE VACANT UNIT PROPERTY TAX REBATE & VACANT/EXCESS LAND PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION PROGRAMS

The Property Tax Rebate for Vacant Commercial and Industrial Building was introduced in 2001 to owners of vacant commercial and industrial buildings where the current rebate level is 30% of the property tax for vacant commercial space and 35% for vacant industrial space. The city rebates approximately \$45 million annually to qualifying property owners (about half is for the Provincial portion). The vacant land and excess land subclass tax reduction applies to commercial or industrial land that are either vacant or are not being used for business purposes and is applied automatically. The tax reductions for this program total approximately \$13.9 million (City portion is \$4.9 million, provincial education portion is \$9 million)

The City of Toronto is soliciting input from the public about eliminating the Vacant Unit Property Tax Rebate program. There are two ways in which you can participate:

- Open public meeting on **Wednesday, April 19th, 2017** from 7pm – 9pm at **Metro Hall, 55 John St., Room 303**;
- An [online survey](#) is open until April 21

The feedback will be part of the report back to Executive Committee and City Council in May.

NOMINATION OPENS UNTIL APRIL 20 FOR MAYOR'S COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

A call for nomination for Toronto-based projects that help build safe communities. The Mayor's Community Safety Award is looking to award five projects with \$1,000 and winners will be honoured at a ceremony at Toronto City Hall on Saturday, June 10. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/m9hbyor> for project eligibility. Nomination opens until April 20th.

YOUTH IN POLICING FALL RECRUITMENT

The Toronto Police Service is about to begin recruiting for their 2017 Fall Youth In Policing program with a April 30th, 2017 deadline. The Youth In Policing is a joint partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Police Service Board and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The program offers a paid position and employs students between the ages of 15 – 18 within priority identified neighbourhoods. The youth will get to work within various units and divisions and gain valuable hands on job experience. Applications are accepted online at www.torontopolice.on.ca/yipi and please see the attached poster for eligibility.

CANADA 150 LOCAL SERIES – 32 AGINCOURT DR.

In June of 1858, before Canada was officially a country, a merchant named John Hill in a little farming community centred around Sheppard Ave. between Kennedy Rd. and Brimley Rd. applied to have a post office in his General Store, located at Brimley and Sheppard, and the Community of Agincourt was born. The community remained largely agricultural in nature for about 50 years.

Then in 1913, a farmer named W. H. Paterson decided to sell off a large parcel of his family farm, “Lot 27 in the third Concession of the Township of Scarborough in the City of York”, which ran north from Sheppard Ave. to Havendale between Midland and The Grand Trunk Rail Line (later the Canadian National Railway Line and currently the Metrolinx GO Line). He signed papers which specified dividing the land into 82 lots, 75 feet wide, and various depths. The first “subdivision” in Agincourt was born. The main street running north from Sheppard Ave. was called First Avenue (now Agincourt Drive).

A farmer named Mr. Green bought Lots 7 and 8, on the west side of First Avenue (directly east of what is now the Agincourt GO station). He built the house on Lot 7 and lived in it, and had a house built on Lot 8 for one of his children in 1918. The attached photo, taken around 1920, shows that First Avenue is still a dirt road, the upstairs “sunroom” is still open to the weather as a sunporch, and a woman from the Green family is standing beside the front porch. The maple saplings seen in the picture were planted by a group of city employees, including Mr. Garner Preston, whose son, Howard, now lives next door on “Lot 9”, and two of those original trees still grace the property today.

Various members of the Green family lived in the house until the late forties, when they sold to Doug and Jessie Adams. The name of the street was changed to Agincourt Drive in 1957, because of the amalgamation of the boroughs to form “Metro”. Jean Forsythe, from #36 and Jessie Adams petitioned the other residents on the street to get the name changed.

In 1958, a couple named George & Eileen Downing were living on Sheppard Ave., just east of what is now Reidmount Ave. (That home had to be demolished to make way for the Sheppard Ave. Grade Separation.) Feeling that their home was becoming too small for their growing family of five, and concerned that the two-lane Sheppard Ave. was getting too busy for safety, (their second youngest had just been run over by a car and sustained a broken leg, a broken nose, and broken glasses), they decided to move around the corner to the house at #32 Agincourt Drive, formerly Lot 8. By this date the upstairs “outdoor sunporch” had been closed in to be a room. They bought the home from Mr. Adams for the princely sum of \$18,000. They raised their family there, and all five children attended Agincourt Public School and Agincourt Collegiate.

In 1981, their youngest daughter, Christine, and her husband Steve Lincoln bought the house from the Downings when they wanted to downsize. Christine and Steve raised their three children there, and they live there still. The house has undergone some renovations over the years, but the outside from the front looks almost identical to the picture from 1920, except for the closed in sun porch.

In 2018, the three story brick house at 32 Agincourt Drive will turn 100. Birthday celebrations are still in the planning stage, but it promises to be a wonderful party!

I'd like to thank Christine for this beautiful essay and the photo on the history of 32 Agincourt Dr.

If you have stories, historical artifacts, heritage homes and individuals that you think would be suitable for this series, please email my office at councillor_lee@toronto.ca with "E-news Canada 150 Series" in the subject line along with details. Your content may be featured in our upcoming e-Newsletter!

EVENTS:

Community Consultation Meeting on 4181 Sheppard Ave E Planning Application

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Location: Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Dr., Committee Rooms 1 & 2

Details: The City is holding a Community Consultation meeting on 4181 Sheppard Ave E., where plan of subdivision and rezoning application have been submitted with a proposal to redevelop this site to accommodate 80 townhouse units, a future mixed use development block and public park on the south side of Sheppard Ave E. These applications have been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board with a hearing date of April 25, 2017. For more information on the public meeting, please refer to the attached flyer.

Open Dialogue on vulnerability in Toronto Series – Preventing and Responding to Drug Overdoses

Date: Friday, April 21, 2017

Time: 9am – 12:30pm

Location: North York Civic Centre, Council Chamber, 5100 Yonge Street, Lower Level

Details: Featuring discussion about anti-oppressive approaches to care provision, suggestions regarding addressing stigma, strategies for successful outreach, and agency preparedness. Register at https://preventing_drug_overdoses.eventbrite.ca or see the attached poster.

Clean Toronto Together – Councillor Lee's Community Clean-up Day

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

Time: 10am – 12noon

Location: Milliken District Park

Details: We're continuing our annual tradition in beautifying our beloved public park. This year, we'll be cleaning Milliken Park once again and are calling upon school and community champions to join us on this effort. Please contact my office to sign up.

TransformTO – Online Webinars

1) Thursday, April 27, 2017 – 6:30pm – 8:00pm: Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mscrwnw>;

2) May 2, 2017 – 12noon – 1:30pm: Register at <https://tinyurl.com/kllv3fw>

Details: Providing an overview of the Transform TO Report 2 and an opportunity for Questions & Answers from the public. The report will identify a long-term approach to reducing Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 while also improving health, prosperity and equity. More information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/je6vdw2>.

Annual Job Fair at Scarborough Civic Centre

Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Time: 10am – 4pm

Location: Scarborough Civic Centre, Rotunda, 150 Borough Drive, Scarb.

Details: An annual Job and Career Fair to meet employers from a variety of sectors. Bring your resume and be prepared for an on-the-spot interview. An opportunity to connect with Employers and apply for jobs. For more details, see the attached poster or visit <http://www.toronto.ca/job-careerfair>.

Tropicana Community Services - Uplifting Spirits

Date: Friday, June 2, 2017

Time: starts at 6pm

Location: 1385 Huntingwood Drive, Scarb.

Details: For tickets, call (416)439-9009 or visit <http://Eventbrite.com> and then search "Uplifting Spirits"

Councillor Lee's 2017 Community Environment Day

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2017

Time: 10am – 2pm

Location: Nashdene Yard, 70 Nashdene Rd, Scarb.

Details: Join Councillor Lee at the annual Community Environment Day where you can pick up free compost to start/renew your spring garden, drop off hazardous household wastes such as used batteries and ink toners, and engage with City departments on various services offered.

Luminato 2017

Date: June 14 – 25, 2017

Details: Visit <https://luminatofestival.com/> for schedule and details.

[Upcoming Events](#)
