

TICA TALK

News From the Toronto Island Community Association Executive

Committee Updates

STREETLIGHTS

We have had some problems with streetlights, so here is a request: Please do not tamper with the lights by removing bulbs or blacking out the lens. Your neighbours need the light at night to navigate the streets; don't create a danger for them. Also, it is frustrating for the crew who come over here to replace bulbs to have them immediately removed afterward.

GARBAGE UPDATE

Adam Zhelka

Hopefully by now, all households have received their new garbage & recycling bin order cards. As noted, the new bins will be required for garbage collection and each household must order the size best suited for your needs. You will be billed based on the size of garbage bin selected. For additional garbage beyond what your bin holds, you will have to purchase garbage tags and pay for each extra bag placed at the curb.

Recycling, green bin, yard waste, and oversized bulk items (mattresses, appliances, etc.) will still be collected without charge although a new recycling bin will have to be ordered (for free) for the new program.

As we do not yet have the new garbage bins, garbage

tags will have to be used on your garbage bags until the new system is implemented here. All households should have received 5 free yellow tags (mailed out several weeks ago) which can be used. Additional tags must be purchased. We are attempting to arrange for garbage tags to be purchased through the Island Trust office although this is not yet confirmed.

If you did *not* receive your 5 free tags in the mail or have other immediate concerns, contact Sam Nicolosi from the City Solid Waste Management Services at (647) 321-4199.

What can we do to improve snowplowing?

Cut back bushes beyond the edge of the road.

Don't encroach on the road edge. This means keeping free the area 18 inches (Ward's) or 24 inches (Algonquin) from the road edge by

- removing rocks, boulders, and logs
- not storing garbage containers, recycling bins, green bins, bicycles, carts, etc.

SNOWPLOWING

Adam Zhelka

Winter has begun and the Island Parks staff will once again be handling snow removal on the community streets. For a number of reasons, several problems persisted throughout last winter and many islanders were equally persistent with their thoughts and concerns regarding the snowy and icy roads. TICA recently met with Parks staff and did a walk-around to anticipate problems before they occur and to make the

entire effort more satisfying for all concerned.

Parks will do their best to get the roads cleared as early as possible during and after a snowfall. Where a significant storm is expected throughout the night, staff will

November 26, 2008

stay overnight so as to get an early start. They know the importance of having walkable streets ASAP and will clear the main access roads first so as to benefit the majority of the early morning travelers (Channel and Bayview to the docks on Wards and the Bridge and Omaha on Algonquin). Side roads and final cleaning will obviously come after the main access routes are done.

Unfortunately, Parks are essentially forced to use and adapt existing equipment which is not always ideal. Uneven roads, wood bridges, and raised concrete edges all affect how well the road is plowed. Parks realizes this and will continue to do their best to get the best results possible with the assorted equipment they have. Modifications and adjustments will be made where possible.

As the crews become more familiar with the Island streets (the windy spots, the puddle spots, etc.), they hope to avoid earlier problems. To avoid unwanted snow build up, marker posts may be placed to locate certain areas, snow fencing erected to limit drifting, and additional plowing done in other spots.

Parks Staff do have many concerns about encroachments on and at the edge of the roads that prevent them from pushing the snow to the edge of the concrete. The result is a narrow pathway that is unsafe and inaccessible to emergency vehicles. Parks and TICA agree that good wide plowing early in the snow season is essential to keeping the streets from getting too narrow as additional snow gets pushed aside throughout the winter. TICA and Parks will also work to get the City to do needed road repairs in the long term.

What we can do to improve snowplowing

-Please cut your bushes back beyond the edge of the road. This can prevent broken windows and mirrors, especially when a heavy snowfall would have caused the branches to sag onto the roadway. Paul Horne reported three broken windshields in his plowing days.

-Remove rocks, boulders, and logs from the road edge. The City has requested that we abide by the set-back of 18 inches on Ward's and 24 inches on Algonquin. The plowing crews worry about being struck by rocks which get scooped up by the plows. As well, snow not pushed off of the road will continually melt and create an ice hazard.

-It is equally important that the streets be kept clear of garbage containers, recycling bins, bicycles, carts, etc. Please keep these items in your own yard as the streets are used by everyone.

Our streets are important to use and judging by all the comments last year, we obviously expect our snow plowing to be done to a fairly high standard so as to permit easy year-round walking, cart pulling, and bicycle riding. TICA agrees with this and will work to get the best results possible from our local Parks team. That said, we the community can certainly help by dealing with our encroachments. Again, please trim back offending hedges and bushes and pull back rocks, bricks and logs before the snow hits so the plow can do a decent job for all of us.

TORONTO ISLAND HOUSING INITIATIVE

Mary Middleton

On November 8 the newly formed TIHI committee held its first community meeting. The aroma of fresh muffins greeted the over 60 community members as they came into the AIA to meet the TIHI committee and hear about the progress being made towards the establishment of rental coop housing on the Island. The crowd of home owners, tenants, and artists from Gibraltar Point heard about the history of establishing housing on the island, the process this has followed, the nature of coops, the site plan so far, and the impact and desirability of the development.

The discussion was positive with many clarifying questions about our process: a proof of community interest and support.

There were some concerns voiced about having an influx of people into the community or that priority should be given to the Purchasers' List or the children of Islanders. Committee and community members contributed clarifying responses to these concerns, but generally the strongest argument for a fair transparent housing process was based in the fact that of 9 members of TIHI 4 are under 30 and children of islanders. These 5 each in turn rebuked the suggestion that they should be privileged over another group and clearly stated that they were on the committee, not out of personal interest, but out of interest for their community.

Developing rental housing is about keeping the community viable and it was obvious from the meeting that the majority there understood this. They spoke up with helpful suggestions about finding existing plans or getting in touch with the former consultants. The general enthusiasm was very encouraging for our small dedicated TIHI group. Also encouraging was the long list of names of people interested in being on our mailing list. It will take many hands to get this needed housing built and the

support shown so far has been wonderfully encouraging.
Stay tuned for more exciting coop news! Thank you.

WATERFRONT ISSUES

Pam Mazza

There will be a public meeting on Monday, December 8 at Harbourfront Community Centre to discuss Queen's Quay from Lower Jarvis to Spadina. Interested people should attend if possible.

NEWLETTER DEADLINE

Peter Dean

The deadline for our next Toronto Island Newsletter (Winter 2008) will be Friday, December 5, 2008 for, ideally, a December 19 delivery. We are planning an "Island Winter Holidays Issue" and would appreciate appropriate material. And as always, we are looking for brief articles on Island life, past and future, and plans and updates from community organizations, as well as the usual Island esoterica. Please send all material directly to me at Peter.Dean@sympatico.ca with "Winter 2008 Newsletter Article" in the subject line of the e-mail.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Glen Newbury

With thanks to Eric Zhelka the transfer of the torontoisland.org website is complete. It was a lot of work by someone that doesn't even live on this side of the country right now (but hopefully returns one day).

It was a rebuild of the old website which is now hosted at a new ISP. Mainly it was a cleanup and debug of issues that were plaguing people managing content on the site (particularly the B&B people). This will hopefully work fine now. Also there were bugs with the photo management system. There is a new one online now that should work a lot better. If you have questions about content for the site please contact Nina at nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca.

If you have questions about the myNeighbours or Toronto Island newsgroup or require membership please contact me at glen@newburyng.com (or gnewbury@gmail.com as I don't look at my work email on weekends, gotta have balance!)

TECHIE WANTED

TICA is looking for a volunteer to provide occasional computer help to the Trust office. It would be mostly in the form of troubleshooting when problems arise on the PC. Ideally the person would be available during some office hours, but it's not necessary. Any help would be much appreciated. Please contact Nina at nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca if you are able to help.

*The TICA Executive
wishes everyone
a very happy
holiday season*

Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Matters

MANDATED REVIEW IS COMPLETE!

Ellen Allen

Hurray! At last! We have received notice from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that they have concluded the mandated 10 year review of the Regulations (in year 15). The Regulations under the Toronto Islands Residential Stewardship Act have been revised to conform with the recommendations of the final report by Chartered Accountants Day and Day. These include the revisions

- to include leap year days in the calculations;
- adjusting the formulas to allow second and subsequent leaseholders to only pay for the amount of the lease that they have used;
- adjusting the formulas regarding the purchase price of a land lease to reflect a change in the interest rate from 10 percent to 8 percent; and
- requiring documentation regarding the calculations for the purchase prices of houses and land leases, and the amount payable to the City of Toronto to be added to the Trust register.

These are the same provisions that were presented by TICA to the Ministry after being passed by the community at the spring AGM. But they do not include a fourth revision that TICA requested, i.e. that children on inheriting a lease would not have to make a payment to the City of Toronto, or that a cap be placed on that amount.

The amending Regulation can be viewed on line at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2008/elaws_src_regs_r08346_e.htm and the amended Regulations at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_930817_e.htm

Many, many thanks to all the community members who have spent time and energy on this for the past six years!

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Marty Crowder

The 2008-2009 Levy notices have all been mailed. If you have not received your invoice please call the office. Some have been returned. A reminder that if you pay your levy before December 31, 2008 there will not be any interest charged.

The Annual General community meeting was held on Thursday, October 23, 2008. Dennis Reid of Clarke Henning was at the meeting to present the audited financial statements. There was a surplus this year. The Board decided to reallocate funds to reserve accounts. Copies of the audit to the end of March 31, 2008 are available in the office if you have not received one and are interested.

Changes to the Governance bylaw were presented and accepted. One of the changes is that Islanders can receive notice of meeting via email. If you would like to receive notice by email instead of by a hand delivered notice to your door please send an email to the office at trust@torontoisland.org instructing the office to do so in the future. Thanks.

The office will be open on December 24, 2008 until 4:30p.m. The office will then reopen again on Monday January 5, 2008.

Would you prefer to get an e-mail notice of a Community Meeting rather than a paper one in your mailbox?

If yes, e-mail the Trust office at trust@torontoisland.org to be put on the new mailing list.