



# JAYE ROBINSON

Toronto City Councillor • Ward 25 – Don Valley West

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## Hello to all constituents of Ward 25!

Welcome to the first of many e-newsletters being distributed to the residents of Ward 25. I hope this newsletter and those that follow will help to make City Hall more accessible to the constituents of our ward. Each e-newsletter will feature Council Highlights, as well as any major issues that have been addressed during the previous months. There will also be a section which highlights upcoming events or initiatives in the community.

Please feel free to explore this first e-newsletter issue and should there be any concerns, suggestions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff by phone at (416) 395-6408 or by email at [Councillor\\_Robinson@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Robinson@toronto.ca).

Sincerely,

Councillor Jaye Robinson  
Ward 25 – Don Valley West

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## = Inside this issue =

1. March 2011 City Council Highlights
2. The Personal Vehicle Tax
3. TTC as an Essential Service
4. Upcoming events
5. Contact information

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### 1. March 2011 Council Highlights

#### Toronto Community Housing Corporation

On February 28, 2011 the City's Auditor General released a scathing report about the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), where obvious lack of due diligence, frivolous employee spending and lack of financial accountability was found. I am deeply troubled by the Auditor's findings and as a representative of the residents of Ward 25 who live in Toronto Community Housing I am appalled at the mishandled way the TCHC has been run. Toronto Community Housing is an important arms length agency, which helps over 160,000 individuals, and we cannot have the taxpayer's dollars spent on frivolous activity.

The TCHC is the largest social housing provider in Canada and the second largest in North America. It is home to about 164,000 low and moderate-income tenants in 58,500 households, including seniors, families, singles, refugees, recent immigrants to Canada and people with special needs. Our ward contains a variety of TCHC buildings and as a result I want to ensure these reports bring about some much needed positive changes for the residents of these buildings.

Council adopted a series of resolutions involving City agency, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), at a Special Council Meeting on March 9. The resolutions included removal of the remaining members (and designated alternates) of TCHC's Board of Directors and the immediate appointment of former City Councillor Case Ootes as Managing Director of the TCHC. His term will end when Council appoints a replacement Board of Directors. Council directed that a new Board of Directors is to be in place by the time Council meets in mid-June of this year. Council also adopted resolutions to bolster the accountability of TCHC and its Board of Directors.

Please feel free to examine the City Auditor General's report at: <http://www.toronto.ca/audit/reports2011.htm>

### **Prevention of fraud at the City of Toronto**

At its regular business meeting March 8 and 9, Council directed the City Manager to take steps to ensure that City staff is aware of the whistleblower protection provisions in the City's fraud prevention policy. Council also asked the City Manager to ensure that the City's ethics training for staff includes guidance on what constitutes retribution and emphasizes the importance of protecting employees who report allegations of wrongdoing.

### **Review of environmental grants**

Council requested a review of the City's environmental grant programs to ensure they are suitably structured and well managed. Council wants to see a more effective grant monitoring system - one that includes appropriate action where monitoring by the City finds that the use of a grant is not fully consistent with the conditions of the grant. A related Council decision will result in periodic inspection of green roof projects funded through the City's Eco-Roof Incentive Program and will require repayment of the grant if a green roof has not been satisfactorily maintained.

### **Management of the City's computer software**

Council adopted a series of actions with the intention of improving the acquisition and management of computer software in all City divisions and agencies. Council directed the City's Chief Information Officer to prepare a software asset management plan that includes policies, procedures and practices for managing the City's software. In addition, the Chief Information Officer is to undertake periodic risk assessments of the City's software and take steps to address identified risks.

### **Administration of Parks concessions**

Acting on recommendations of the Auditor General, Council adopted a series of steps designed to improve the collection of concession revenues and improve administrative processes for concessions - specifically food services, bicycle rental and theme parks administered by the City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation division. Steps to be taken include, for example, the preparation of formal procedural guidelines for staff's follow-up on past due accounts.

### **Protocols for Auditor General's reports**

Council asked the City's Auditor General, in consultation with the City Manager, to review the current protocols for Auditor General Reports and recommend any changes that would reduce the possibility of reports being made public before their consideration by the Audit Committee.

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## **2. Personal Vehicle Tax refunds**

On Thursday December 16, 2010 City Council approved the termination of the City's Personal Vehicle Tax (PVT) effective January 1, 2011. All vehicle owners who live within the City of Toronto and with birthdays before January 1, 2011 were still required to pay the PVT. Vehicle owners who purchased a two-year renewal in 2010 will receive a

refund for the 2011 year. Those who qualify were to be reimbursed by the City by April 2011. The first round of cheques were sent out February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, ahead of the initially proposed scheduled date.

Additional information can be found at: [www.toronto.ca/finance/pvt](http://www.toronto.ca/finance/pvt)

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### **3. TTC as an Essential Service**

On Thursday December 16, 2010 City Council proposed that the Toronto Transit Commission be declared an essential service and submitted this proposal to the provincial government.

During the February 22nd, 2011 meeting of the Provincial Legislative Assembly, the Toronto Transit Commission Labour Disputes Resolution Act, 2011, was introduced by MPP Charles Sousa. Should it be passed, this bill would prohibit strikes and lockouts at the TTC. Ontario's Labour Relations Act would continue to apply to labour relations between these parties. However, in cases where the parties reach an impasse in collective bargaining, outstanding issues would be resolved through a fair and neutral third-party process: binding-interest arbitration.

*The Toronto Transit Commission Labour Disputes Resolution Act has been given Royal Assent at the Legislative Assembly on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*

Please feel free to examine the Legislative Assembly Hansard for more details:

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2453&detailPage=bills\\_detail\\_status&Intranet=](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2453&detailPage=bills_detail_status&Intranet=)

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### **4. Upcoming Events in the Ward**

There are a variety of events and initiatives occurring in the upcoming months. The following have been brought to our attention:

#### **a. Spring Clean up – 2011 20-Minute Toronto Makeover**

We ask all Torontonians to do their part and help clean up the city for 20 minutes. It's a great chance to get involved in the City's annual clean-up events and reduce everyday litter. While clean-up supplies will be available for the Makeover, this year, please reuse a grocery size plastic bag or re-useable container from home to collect your litter. By opting to reuse an existing plastic bag or container, residents can help support Toronto's policy to reduce unnecessary waste.

*The 2011 20-Minute Toronto Makeover is scheduled for 2pm on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>*

Please come out and join me and my team in front of Locke Library at 2pm on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

All businesses, students and residents are asked to go outside on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for 20 minutes to pick up litter around their workplace, school or home.

Participating groups can pick up their cleaning supplies (free garbage bags provided by GLAD and a single glove per person) at Toronto Community Centres, Civic Centres, selected Toronto Works Yards listed on the registration form, as well as participating Pizza Pizza locations starting April 8<sup>th</sup> – while supplies last.

The City requires groups and organizations to register starting March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>.

To register, visit: [www.toronto.ca/litter](http://www.toronto.ca/litter). If the internet is not an option, please call 311.

### **Community Clean up – Bayview/York Mills**

The annual neighbourhood cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 11:30am at Irving Paisley Park. The park is located at the south east corner of York Mills and Bayview.

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Please bring a pair of gloves. Garbage bags will be provided.

Please contact Barry Stephens at [barrystephens1@rogers.com](mailto:barrystephens1@rogers.com) if you would like to participate in this worthwhile community event.

### **Don Valley West Clean up**

The annual cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm.

Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Please bring a pair of gloves. Garbage bags will be provided.

Location to be announced. For further information please contact Councillor Robinson's office at (416) 395-6408 or [Councillor\\_Robinson@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Robinson@toronto.ca).

### **b. LEAF – Tree Planting Program**

LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) is a subsidized tree planting program designed to beautify yards, create wildlife habitat and reduce energy consumption in Toronto. It was funded in part by a grant from Live Green Toronto, a program of the City of Toronto.

The backyard tree planting program offers native trees and shrubs to homeowners at a subsidized cost through the contribution of its supporting partners. Certified arborists help make an educated decision about the type of tree/shrub that best suits the property and where it should be planted.

Service includes:

- 30 min site consultation with the arborist
- 5 to 8 foot tall native tree
- between \$150 to \$200 per tree
- full planting service
- native shrubs available for \$25

To book a consultation or to order shrubs visit: [www.yourleaf.org](http://www.yourleaf.org) or call 416-413-9244.

### **c. Toronto Police Service Public Forums**

Four public forums have been scheduled by the Toronto Police Service to discuss and comment on the following question: From a community perspective, what do you think is the most important issue that the Service should address as a Priority?

These forums will be held at the following locations:

Scarborough Civic Centre  
150 Borough Drive – Council Chambers  
Monday April 11  
6pm to 9pm

Metro Hall  
55 John Street – Room 308/309  
Tuesday April 12  
6pm to 9pm

Etobicoke Civic Centre  
399 The West Mall – Council Chambers  
Wednesday April 13  
6pm to 9pm

North York Civic Centre  
5100 Yonge Street – Council Chambers  
Wednesday April 27  
6pm to 9pm

**d. Toronto Hydro Projects in Ward 25**

**Toronto Hydro Construction - Electrical Upgrade: Rear to Front Lot Conversion 4KV to 27.6KV.**

All individuals who will be affected by this upgrade have already received a notice which outlines specifics on this upgrade; however, this is a general overview for residents.

Toronto Hydro is in the process of installing a new electrical system in areas of Ward 25. The three specific construction sites are:

- Banbury/Larkview (initial civil construction work to begin May 2011, with electrical work to be finished in 2012)
- Lawrence-Leslie (initial civil construction work to run from late March 2011 to late August 2011, with electrical work to occur in Winter 2011)
- Lesmill (initial civil construction work to begin shortly, with electrical work to be finished in 2012)

Hydro is planning to move the system from the rear lot to the front lot within the public road allowance. The new cable will be placed underground and connected to flush to ground fibreglass boxes and above ground pad mounted transformer boxes. The work involves open trenching, installation of new meter bases, cabling and equipment positioning. The poles that are currently located in the backyards of the homes affected will not be removed. During the electrical phase, you may experience some power interruptions. They will be necessary to switch from the old to the new supply arrangements. We will endeavour to keep the interruptions to a minimum and to give you prior notice. Toronto Hydro inspectors will be on site on a regular basis. Any concerns that arise during the project can be discussed with them.

Restoration will be done in various stages during construction of the projects. The grass will be replaced with new sod where we excavate in the spring. All asphalt will be replaced from cutline to curb; this also includes driveway repair, if affected by our excavation. After Hydro's construction, the City will make permanent concrete repairs to any sidewalks when the total project construction is completed.

Should you require additional information, please contact Christopher Chahine at 416-542-3366 or [capitalprojects@torontohydro.com](mailto:capitalprojects@torontohydro.com) and reference the name of the site being worked on.

**e. Transit Town Hall – April 26th**

A Transit Town Hall Meeting with Councillor Robinson, Councillor Parker, Councillor Stintz, Councillor Matlow and Councillor Colle has been scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm, and is to be held in the multi-purpose room on the first floor of the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Avenue West.

Please come out and join in on the discussion!

**f. GoodLife Fitness Marathon – May 15<sup>th</sup>**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Goodlife Fitness Toronto Marathon takes place on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. This major running event consists of a Marathon, Half Marathon, 5k and a relay offering an event for everyone at all skill levels.

The race begins behind Mel Lastman Square and runs south on Yonge Street through Lawrence Park, Yonge and Eglinton, Forest Hill, Yorkville, Rosedale Valley, Cork Town, The St. Lawrence Market, Queen's Quay, Harbourfront, The Lakeshore, University Avenue and finishes at Queen's Park.

Since 1995, over \$10 million has been raised through the efforts of the participants of the Goodlife Fitness Marathon, for the Princess Margaret Hospital, Sick Kids, MS, Diabetes and many other causes.

For those that prefer not to run, please come out and help support the participants by cheering them on and helping at one of the many neighbourhood water stations!

For more information on the event and road closures in your area, please go to:  
[www.torontomarathon.com](http://www.torontomarathon.com)

**Should you like to inform me of any events or initiatives that your group or organization is setting up, or would like to see a specific event featured in upcoming e-newsletters, please contact me at Councillor\_Robinson@toronto.ca or 416-395-6408.**

**As we are continually building up our contacts, I would very much appreciate if any individuals who know of residents who would like to receive my newsletter please inform their neighbours to contact our office to be placed on the email list**

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**g. Contact Information**

This e-newsletter is a monthly news communication from Councillor Jaye Robinson. This e-newsletter is sent only to those who have provided us with their email address for the purpose of corresponding on municipal matters. Email addresses will be kept confidential. If you wish to discontinue receiving our newsletter, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line. I welcome your comments on any municipal matter and am happy to be of service.

**CONTACT US:**

■ T: 416-395-6408

■ E: [councillor\\_robinson@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_robinson@toronto.ca)

**ADDRESS:**

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen St. West, Suite A12., 2nd Floor

Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

**My website will be available shortly. Please keep checking back at [www.jayerobinson.ca](http://www.jayerobinson.ca)  
Thank you for subscribing!**