

### Toronto Hosts the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference

As a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors, I was proud that Toronto hosted FCM's 73rd Annual Conference in May. The meeting brought together over 1,500 councillors and mayors from across the country to discuss issues affecting Canadian communities.

For over a century, FCM has played a vital role in bringing municipal issues onto the national stage. In recent years, FCM successfully lobbied for a permanent Gas Tax Fund, which currently delivers over \$2 billion per year to local governments.

#### CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

At this year's conference, delegates unanimously endorsed resolutions to build a post-stimulus partnership with Ottawa, to work with all orders of government to address traffic gridlock, and to re-invest federal social housing subsidies.

Municipalities from across the country are calling for a seat at the table when federal and provincial governments are developing policies and programs that affect municipalities. With Canadian cities and towns delivering services legislated by other orders of government, municipalities need to ensure that they are not shouldering the financial and organizational burden and that the policies truly address community needs.

#### SHOWCASING TORONTO

As the Chair of FCM's Women's Committee, I presented Toronto's Regional Champions program to the delegates. Now in its second year, this mentoring program matches young women with women councillors with the goal of increasing women's participation in municipal government.

The Toronto conference allowed us to bring past and current participants to speak about their experiences, as well as detailing the program's creation and structure. Many of our protégées attended the meeting and the women's breakfast, using the opportunity to mingle and network with councillors from across the country. Please visit my website to read articles by my protégées about the program and their experiences.

The conference was also an opportunity to show Toronto to visiting municipal leaders. Over 30 study tours were held to showcase the City's many innovations and achievements, such as our redeveloping waterfront, the 3-1-1 centre, our

environmental initiatives, and our thriving BIAs. I was pleased to take delegates on tours of our Regent Park redevelopment and our newest housing co-operative at 60 Richmond.



Councillor Pam McConnell is joined by past and current protégées in Toronto's mentoring program.

#### FCM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The City of Toronto received several awards at the conference, recognizing our City's leadership and innovations:

- Sustainable Community Award (Energy Category) for the Regent Park Revitalization
- Sustainable Community Award (Brownfields Category) for the Wynchwood Car Barns
- Watershed Award for our Basement Flooding Protection Program
- Award for Sustainability for a Municipality for Toronto's leadership in environmental action and sustainability

#### QUALITY OF LIFE REPORTING SYSTEM

Among FCM's important work is the Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS), which monitors and reports on poverty trends and the role of municipalities. This spring, FCM released its sixth report, titled Mending Canada's Frayed Social Safety Net, and I was invited to present the findings to Social Planning Toronto.

Using data from 24 municipalities representing 50% of Canada's population, this report demonstrates that the federal and provincial retreat from social transfers has left cities across the country struggling to fill the gaps in the social safety net – far beyond their traditional responsibilities of roads, garbage collection, and water. As municipalities take the place of other orders of

government in delivering these services, they are placed in a financial squeeze.

Municipalities receive only eight cents of every tax dollar collected in the country, which is inadequate to deliver the types of social services that are necessary for healthy communities. Currently, almost 80% of Toronto's property tax bill is related to delivering social infrastructure that used to be the responsibility of other governments.

#### CANADIAN COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Immediately following the FCM conference, I chaired the third meeting of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD), hosted by the City of Toronto in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Attended by over 100 delegates from across the country, this meeting heard from municipal representatives about best practices and challenges in creating inclusionary local governments with diverse populations.

Toronto was one of the founding members of CCMARD, established in 2005. Member municipalities are expected to develop and implement concrete plans to combat racism and discrimination.

The meeting and workshops discussed the barriers faced by minorities, as well as the social and economic benefits that come from the protection and promotion of human rights. Delegates at the meeting were supportive of expanding the scope and the structure of CCMARD, with the hope that FCM could play a role in co-ordination. I am looking forward to moving this forward at FCM's Board of Directors meeting at the end of August.



Councillor Pam McConnell at the 2010 FCM Annual conference hosted by Toronto.

### Union Station South Public Entrance at Maple Leaf Square

Union Station's revitalization continues with the opening of the new south public entrance. This connection provides another important improvement to the accessibility and pedestrian flow at Canada's busiest transportation hub.

The entrance opens onto Maple Leaf Square, a grand plaza fronting the Air Canada Centre. The square is framed by the new Telus office building, and the Maple Leaf Square residential/hotel/office/retail complex.

A number of significant public benefits were achieved during the planning process, including extending the PATH system into all of the buildings. The plaza itself

provides a gathering space for events while the buildings offer wide canopies for protection from the weather. Public art lights the skywalk from the ACC to Maple Leaf Square, and its canopy is decorated with modules that create an effect of light filtering through the leaves of a maple forest.

The PATH system and weather protection are part of a cohesive plan to improve pedestrian connections between the downtown and the waterfront. The York Street Promenade Plan compliments this system with generous sidewalks and large planting beds from the railway to Lake Shore Blvd.

The next step in Union Station revitalization will examine improvements for Front Street. An Environmental Assessment is studying options to reconfigure the sidewalks and lanes for better pedestrian accessibility. You can view proposals and provide feedback by visiting [www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/frontunion](http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/frontunion).



## EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

### St. Lawrence North Market Building Design Selected



Councillor Pam McConnell speaks with a member of the winning design team.

In June, I was joined by Mayor David Miller to announce the winning design in the St. Lawrence North Market Building Design Competition. The "Red Design" by Adamson Associates Architects and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners was selected from five short listed finalists in the international competition launched in November of last year.

The winning design was the unanimous choice of the seven member jury, which included experts in architecture, urban design, culinary arts, environmental sustainability, and heritage. Their

deliberations were assisted by comments from over 1,000 members of the public who viewed the short listed designs on the City's web site and at an exhibition in the St. Lawrence Hall.

The four-storey building features a glass atrium that will provide an outdoor market atmosphere and a view of the St. Lawrence Hall. When complete, the new North Market Building will include Traffic Courts and Court Services administration on the upper floors and three levels of underground parking operated by the Toronto Parking Authority. The main floor and mezzanine will house the Saturday Farmers Market and the Sunday Antiques Market.

In the next few months, a small display area will be installed in the existing North Market building, giving an opportunity for vendors, shoppers, and the community to see the model and design boards and to receive updates on the project. Starting in the New Year, we will begin to explore additional community uses and programming for the main floor and mezzanine.

This \$75 million project is the result of a decade of work by the St. Lawrence Market Precinct Working Group, which includes community merchants,

residents, and City staff. The guidelines for the new building and the process came from these consultations and discussions.

Currently, staff are working with the architects to refine the design, with the final plans expected to be completed by early 2011. Demolition of the old North Market is scheduled to begin in late 2011 with construction to be completed in 2014. During construction, the Saturday Farmers Market and the Sunday Antiques Market will be relocated to a temporary building on the parking lot at Jarvis and The Esplanade. The temporary building will be erected by mid-2011.



Winning design for the new North Market.

### Waterfront Development Moves Ahead with Bayside Approval

The creation of Toronto's next great neighbourhood is moving forward with the agreement among the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, and Hines Canada Management Company to develop the lands south of Queens Quay, between Sherbourne Common and Parliament Street.

This next phase in the revitalization of our waterfront will be a mixed use residential and commercial development, consisting of small, connected districts that vary in character and scale.

The Bayside development will be designed to encourage all-season uses at all times of the day. Street patterns meander and connect areas within the neighbourhood, creating spaces that block winter winds and capture sunlight. A plaza at the foot of Bonnycastle, a new Aitken Place Park, and a series of small, public courts will welcome pedestrians. An all-season glass winter garden will create a pedestrian connection from Sherbourne Common to Bonnycastle.

Cultural uses will focus on the water's edge, and restaurants, entertainment, and retail activity will offer an active mix for residents and visitors. The agreement allows for the continuation of the waterfront promenade and the Martin Goodman Trail bicycle path along the south side of Queens Quay, from Jarvis to Parliament.

A range of market and rental residences will speed development and create a variety of neighbourhood experiences. Hines will continue to implement the City's sustainability standards in the waterfront revitalization, drawing on their experience as a leading 'green' builder in the United States.

The proposal, designed by renowned architects Pelli Clarke Pelli, will now undergo detailed design work with Waterfront Toronto to refine the plan before construction begins.

### Tower Renewal's Recipe for Community in St. James Town

Tower Renewal is one of the key elements of Toronto's strategy to advance environmental, social, economic, and cultural goals in our 1960's-built apartment neighbourhoods. St. James Town was selected as a pilot site for this initiative.

The Toronto Community Housing buildings at 200 Wellesley Street and 275 Bleecker Street are undergoing significant energy and water efficiency retrofits as part of this project. Although environmental initiatives are the backbone of the program, Tower Renewal strives to support community-building projects that are resident-inspired and contribute to the development of safe, vibrant, and prosperous neighbourhoods.

This month, I was proud to announce the Recipe for Community program, which is a partnership between the City of Toronto, TCHC, the Toronto Community Foundation and Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment.

Recipe for Community will embrace community and youth engagement activities, including those that centre on food, artistic creations, community gathering, and neighbourhood beautification. This year, more than \$550,000 will be invested in St. James Town, bringing an initiative that will have lasting benefit for the neighbourhood.



Councillor Pam McConnell and community partners at the Recipe for Community announcement.

# BUILDING A VIBRANT COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE

## 1 ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE IN REGENT PARK

Arts and culture play an important role in every healthy community. This summer the ground was broken for the Regent Park Arts & Cultural Centre on the south side of Dundas. The federal and provincial governments have partnered with TCHC, Daniels, and Artscape to create a multi-tenant arts hub for this rich and culturally diverse community, scheduled to open in spring 2011.

## 2 AQUATIC CENTRE IN REGENT PARK

The new indoor Aquatic Centre began construction this summer. With the consultations on design elements completed and the construction crews on site, we can expect this fabulous addition to the Regent Park Revitalization to be complete by the end of 2011. The \$17 million dollar aquatic centre will include a lap/training tank, therapeutic pool, leisure pool, change rooms, public viewing areas, and an outdoor terrace fully integrated with the park.

## 3 BAY-ADELAIDE CENTRE CONSTRUCTED

Left as a stump when construction was halted in the 1990s, the Bay-Adelaide office tower has been completed. The highrise building provides an employment use that keeps thousands of jobs in downtown Toronto. Incorporating the historic National Building in its structure, Bay-Adelaide meets high sustainability standards, expands the underground PATH system, features a large urban plaza and includes a wonderful public art installation consisting of shifting and changing light.

## 4 BRITAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION

Britain Street used to look like an unsafe back alley, with cars parked on asphalt everywhere. I supported a community-driven initiative to remake the street with proper sidewalks, planting beds, trees, and bike posts. The new street is now properly integrated into the neighbourhood growing around it. Its users have been given the respect they deserve.

## 5 CABBAGETOWN LANEWAY NAMING INITIATIVE

Cabbagetown's laneways are a unique aspect of this historic Victorian neighbourhood. Not only do they provide a link to our city's past, they have become important to vehicular and pedestrian traffic today. Owing to the hard work of dedicated residents, the City of Toronto has named and signed 52 public laneways in Cabbagetown and Cabbagetown South. Led by the Cabbagetown Preservation Association, this initiative identified names with historical significance to celebrate this heritage.

## 6 CABBAGETOWN NORTHWEST HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The fourth stage of expanding Cabbagetown's heritage district is now complete. The Cabbagetown Northwest Heritage District, which is bounded by Parliament, Carlton, Sherbourne, and Wellesley Streets, came into effect in 2010. Properties in this area are now protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. The designation will ensure that this community's Victorian-era streetscapes are preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

## 7 CANADA'S SUGAR BEACH

Designed by Claude Cormier Architects, Toronto's second urban beach at the foot of Lower Jarvis is a bright and colourful oasis. Playing off nearby Redpath Sugar, the white sand and pink umbrellas let us enjoy the lake in a new way. Water fountains provide refreshment and the large candy-striped rocks will be an amphitheatre for events at the neighbouring Corus building.

## 8 CENTRAL PARK

The new park in the centre of Regent Park is an important feature in the Revitalization. Located between Sackville and Sumach Streets on the north side of Dundas, the park is being created during Phase Two. Public consultations took place throughout the planning of the park and were used to identify the features and designs that will make this a true gathering place for the entire community. Construction of the park is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011.

## 9 CHILDREN'S HUB

Construction is near completion and occupancy is expected to begin this fall for the Children's Hub located at 30 Regent Street. This inspired use for the former 51 Division site is a crucial element of Regent Park Revitalization, offering a new home for the Regent Park Daycare, Parents for Better Beginnings, and Focus Media Arts Centre.

## 10 COLE STREET

In June, we celebrated the opening of Cole Street, the first new street in Regent Park in 50 years, and the reintroduction of cross streets. Phase One is nearing completion with tenants moving into the new buildings for seniors and families on Sackville, the first condominium at One Cole (winner of a Green Toronto Award), the townhouses on Cole Street, the rental building at One Oak, and the new retail spaces along Dundas and Parliament streets. More than 700 replacement public housing units will be completed by the end of this year.

## 11 CORKTOWN OFF-LEASH DOG SPACE - ORPHANS' GREEN

I implemented a community proposal that turned a previously orphaned space into an off-leash park for dogs at Power Street. The space is enclosed with a recently installed fence that provides a safe space for our pets to exercise. The name commemorates the possible location of orphanage buildings.

## 12 HERITAGE INTERPRETATION MASTER PLAN FOR THE OLD TOWN

The consultant study on heritage interpretation for the Old Town has been completed and is being reviewed by our City's Heritage staff. The Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework for celebrating our heritage assets and the history of Toronto. This work is in addition to the Heritage Lighting Plan that was launched last November, which uses light to highlight heritage buildings like the St. Lawrence Hall. A public meeting will be held in the New Year to review the report and to gather public input.

## 13 HERITAGE TRAILS NETWORK

Toronto is joining the federal, provincial, and other municipal governments to create a series of events and projects to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. One of the legacy projects for our city will be a Heritage Trail, stretching from the Don River to the Humber River, with interpretative stations that tell the story of Toronto. I have been working alongside other members of the 1812 Steering Committee to mark this important event in our country and our city's history.

## 14 ISLAND PARK RESOURCE GROUP

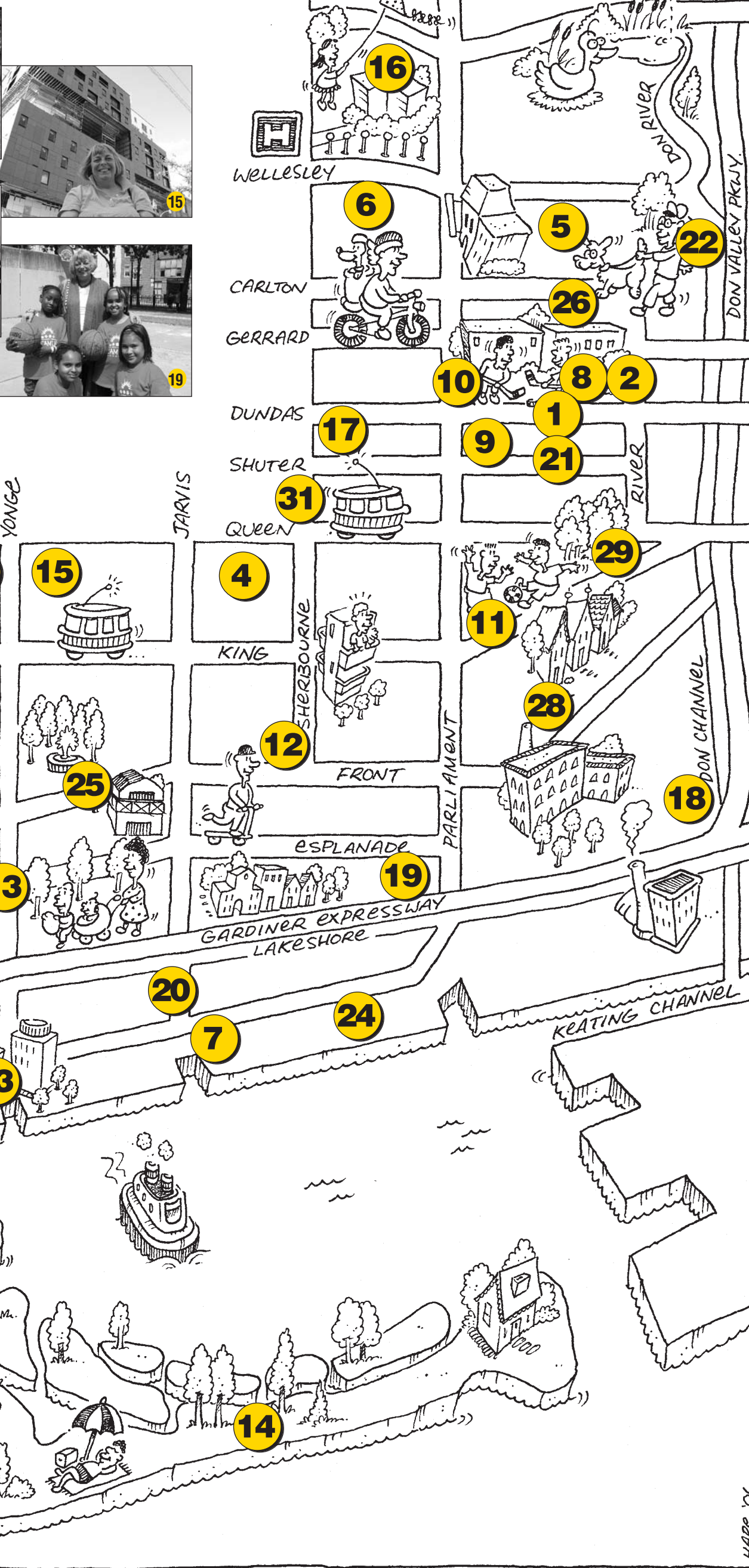
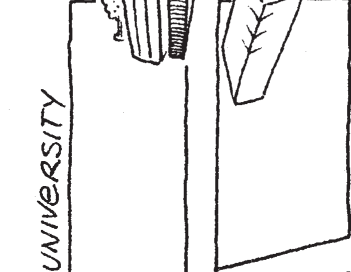
I convened an Island Park Resource Group of community members to work with City staff to improve one of our most important destination parks. We are working together to ensure that the Island Park is an attractive, year-round destination. Among its principles is ensuring the uses are sustainable and respect the unique environment while embracing the goals of access and equity.

## 15 LOCAL 75 HOSPITALITY WORKERS HOUSING CO-OP

This spring, residents moved into the first housing co-operative built in Toronto in over a decade. I worked with UNITE HERE Local 75, CHFT, and TCHC to create 85 affordable housing units for downtown hotel workers and their families. Located at 60 Richmond Street East, this LEED certified building won several awards, including the 2010 PUG Award for Residential Development. The main floor of the building is the future site of a training centre for service workers.

## 16 NORTH ST. JAMES TOWN PLANNING FRAMEWORK

North St. James Town, the area bounded by Bloor, Howard, Sherbourne and Parliament Streets, contains what remains of the Victorian neighbourhood that was demolished to make way for the towers of St. James Town. This year, I have been working with City Planning and local residents on reviewing the planning controls. These planning



controls are intended to protect the unique heritage character of the area, to identify opportunities to improve the public spaces, and ensure any changes enhance the neighbourhood.

## 17 ONTARIO STREET PARKETTE

Ontario Street Parkette, located in Cabbagetown South, is an important part of the community, but in recent years it has become tired and run down. The Public Realm office has awarded local residents with a neighbourhood beautification grant. The City has been working closely with the community to identify priorities for improvements. Planned upgrades include better lighting, replacing the children's play equipment, removal of the railway ties, levelling the berm, replacing the paths, and new plantings. This \$145,000 project will be considered as part of the 2011 Capital Budget.

## 18 PAN AM 2015

The Pan Am and Para Pan Games in 2015 have fast tracked the construction of the West Don Lands. The athlete's village will be built to be converted into market rate and affordable housing after the games are over. All the great public spaces, parks, transit and green standards in the Precinct Plan will be implemented to leave us a wonderful new neighbourhood.

## 19 PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN DAVID CROMBIE PARK

A development contribution from SAS Canada's office building on King Street East allowed us to install a swing set with an accessible seat for disabled children. The old broken pavement at the basketball court is receiving a makeover through a Parks Partnership with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment's Team Up Foundation.

## 20 PROMENADE PLANS

Lower Jarvis is the latest street to implement a Promenade Plan to improve the north-south connections across Lake Shore Blvd between downtown and the waterfront. A new traffic signal and crosswalks give pedestrians the priority to reach the new parks and buildings in the East Bayfront. This plan follows the work on Yonge, York and Bay Streets, with another plan for Lower Sherbourne to follow.

## 21 REGENT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

The new Regent Park Community Centre is going ahead during Phase Two of the Regent Park Revitalization. Through a unique partnership with TCHC and the Toronto District School Board, the City of Toronto will construct the Community Centre in conjunction with the refurbishment of Nelson Mandela Park Public School. Final designs are nearing completion, using input from community consultations. Construction is set to begin in 2011 with completion in 2012.

## 22 RIVERDALE PARK WEST IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING

Riverdale Park West is one of the crown jewels in Toronto's Park inventory. Heavily used by local and City-wide residents alike, the Park attracts cyclists, families, residents, dog-walkers, and both casual and competitive athletic users. Throughout 2010, I have been working with community members and City staff to look at possible improvements that can be made to ensure that the Park continues to attract and accommodate these various uses. Refurbishment of the pathways and improvements to lighting are among the priorities to be considered for a future Capital Budget.

## 23 QUEENS QUAY TRANSFORMATION

Detailed design is being completed for the new Queens Quay, with construction scheduled to begin in 2011. The plan replaces the lanes south of the streetcar tracks with a tree-lined promenade and completes the connection of the Martin Goodman bicycle trail. This is the first phase of a plan that will create a continuous path along the water's edge from Bathurst to Parliament.

## 24 SHERBOURNE COMMON

I sat on a jury for the naming contest that dubbed this new park "Sherbourne Common". Located in the heart of East Bayfront, this 1.4 hectare park provides year-round activity with a skating rink doubling as a splash pad, a pavilion with refreshments, open greenspace, and a wonderful water channel running along three tall art structures. The water feature reflects the sustainability standards of the waterfront by acting as a UV filtration system for the East Bayfront. The park will be officially opened in September.

## 25 ST. LAWRENCE MARKET PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I requested staff to study the operations of the St. Lawrence Market and the Hall, to improve the governance and the experience for the community and visitors. They have recommended an Advisory Committee to work with the Market Manager. The committee will consist of representatives from the market and the community as well as those with expertise in heritage, tourism, and food marketing. Recruitment for the committee is scheduled to begin in 2011.

## 26 SWORD STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

The City's Clean & Beautiful program helped residents transform Sword Street into a stunning showcase for the neighbourhood. Old asphalt was removed for an improved sidewalk and paving stones. New trees and plantings line the street in new planter boxes. This project has become a model for other beautification projects throughout Toronto and across the country.

## 27 TORONTO ISLAND SAND DUNE PROTECTION

The dunes at Hanlan's Point beaches are a sensitive ecosystem. Work begins this fall to provide formal access points to avoid trampling and to enhance local biodiversity. Amenities to increase accessibility such as new boardwalks, bike posts, and benches will be provided. Better wayfinding and signage will help direct visitors around this popular destination.

## 28 TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT TRINITY STREET AND EASTERN AVENUE

With community support, I secured a new traffic signal at the intersection of Trinity and Eastern. This stretch of Eastern could be very dangerous, and the new signal has made crossing the street safer for pedestrians and vehicles. With more and more residents and visitors in Corktown and the Distillery District, a safe connection between these neighbourhoods is vital.

## 29 UNDERPASS PARK

Construction is underway on Underpass Park, transforming a dark and unfriendly space into an attractive destination. The area will have recreation space, climbing structures, public art, and new lighting to make it a community gathering place. It will also act as a friendly connection between Corktown and the new West Don Lands development.

## 30 UNION STATION

The \$640 million revitalization is underway at Toronto's transportation hub and heritage icon. City Council recently selected the head lessee and the construction management company, and work has begun on the train shed roof, the new VIA 1 lounge, and portions of the dig down. The station will remain fully operational during the redevelopment with phased construction, blocking off only portions of the station. The project is scheduled for completion in 2015.

## 31 WI-FI AT 155 SHERBOURNE

Computers and the internet have become an important part of today's world, and it is vital that no one is left behind. The City of Toronto has donated 30 refurbished and licensed laptops for TCHC residents at 155 Sherbourne Street and Wi-Fi access has been installed. Residents will be able to sign out the computers, giving them access to technology and information that many of us take for granted.