



WARD 3 UPDATE



Fall 2020 Newsletter

Stay Connected

If I can ever be of assistance with a municipal issue, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

- contact info: councillor\_grimes@toronto.ca, 416-397-9273, @mark\_grimes, @themark.grimes, www.markgrimes.ca

Dear Neighbour,

This year has been unlike anything we have seen before. We rang in 2020 filled with hope and optimism, but not long after, those feelings quickly became clouded by fear and anxiety as COVID19 knocked on our front door.

It was unclear what impact this virus would have on our communities, but we knew that drastic measures had to be taken. Our families went into lockdown, our schools closed, and our businesses were shuttered. Over time we lost loved ones, and were left wondering how we would make it through.

Our community has proven once again just how resilient we are, and that if we work together we can overcome anything. I don't know what's next for us, but what I do know is that I'm proud of our community.

Your neighbour,

MARK

COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

In late January 2020, the first case of COVID19 was confirmed in Canada. On March 11th, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic.

On March 17th, the City of Toronto temporarily suspended all non-essential services to direct efforts to responding to the pandemic.

On March 23rd, Mayor Tory declared a State of Emergency for the City of Toronto – the first time in our City's history.

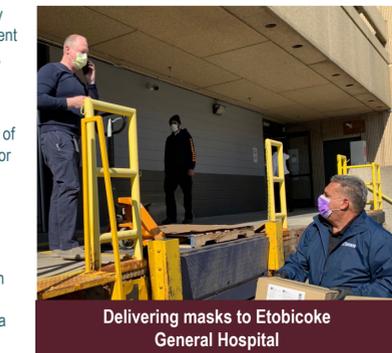
Following this, each level of government took steps to help individuals, families, and businesses through the pandemic.

The majority of 2020 has been dedicated to responding to the challenges that COVID19 has presented. By the time you are reading this, there are likely to be further changes, so be sure to sign up my weekly eNews at www.markgrimes.ca

This list is not exhaustive of all of the steps each level of government has taken to throughout this pandemic. For more resources please visit:

- www.toronto.ca/covid19, www.ontario.ca/covid19, www.canada.ca/covid19

Following the spring lockdown, we progressed through the Province of Ontario's Reopening Framework throughout the summer.



Delivering masks to Etobicoke General Hospital

TRAFFIC AND TRANSIT

Traffic safety continues to be one of my top priorities. I work closely with the City's Transportation Services division and my office assists residents every single day with requests for new stop signs, traffic calming, and speed limit reductions.



In February, I met with the Principal and Parent Committee of Seventh St. Jr. School to discuss traffic safety

Through the City's Vision Zero program, we have some new tools at our disposal. These include permanent and rotating "Watch Your Speed" signs, the mobile Automated Speed Enforcement cameras that came into use this year.

We can continue to put up new stop signs, reduce speed limits, and install speed humps, but we need enforcement to accompany them. If you notice dangerous driving in your neighbourhood, you can report it directly to the Toronto Police at www.torontopolice.on.ca/core

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Etobicoke-Lakeshore is one of the fastest growing communities in the City of Toronto. I know that there are many questions about the development process, and while I can't take you through everything in this short article, there are a few things that are worth mentioning.

Our City's planning policies are governed by the Province through the Ontario Planning Act. Under the Planning Act, the provincial government issues Provincial Policy Statements (PPS) to provide direction to municipalities about land use planning and development.

If you have any questions about the development process, or different applications in our Ward, please don't hesitate to contact me at 416-397-9273 or councillor\_grimes@toronto.ca.

Park Lawn GO

In June, Metrolinx released an updated business case for a Park Lawn GO station, outlining the positive impact this station will have for our community.

Cycling Infrastructure

Etobicoke-Lakeshore's cycling network is constantly expanding. City staff are consistently looking for opportunities to grow the network to ensure that people can ride safely in our community.

Subway Accessibility

Before the accessibility upgrades to Royal York station, those with accessibility needs had to travel to either Kipling or Jane station to use the Bloor-Danforth line in the west end.



In February, we celebrated Royal York becoming the 46th accessible TTC station



Christie's Planning Study

City Planning staff initiated the Christie's Planning Study in 2019, and have continued their work throughout the Pandemic, holding virtual community consultations to develop the draft secondary plan that was presented to Council in late September.

Cloverdale Mall Redevelopment

The property owner of Cloverdale Mall is proposing a large-scale redevelopment of the site. Preliminary staff reports were presented to Etobicoke York Community Council in December.

Mimico GO Redevelopment

Metrolinx has entered into an agreement with the owner of 315 & 327 Royal York Rd. to integrate the Mimico GO station into their development project.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I know that many in our community struggle to find an affordable place to live. I continue to advocate for more affordable housing in all new developments to ensure that our supply of affordable units continues to increase.

Need Help Finding Housing and Services? Access to Housing Resource Centre 416-338-8888, 24/7 Info on Community Services 2-1-1, 24/7 Info on other City services 3-1-1

Housing Now Initiative

Housing Now is an initiative that was approved by City Council in January 2019, and uses city-owned land to build affordable housing and create a mix of affordable rental, market rental, and ownership housing opportunities.

This is one component of the City's HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan to address the full spectrum of housing issues in Toronto. Phase One of Housing Now includes plans on eleven city-owned properties.

Housing Now & the Redevelopment of Etobicoke Centre How We Got Here - A Timeline



Community Resources

- 311 Toronto, Toronto Seniors Helpline, The Seniors Safety Line, Toronto Tenant Hotline, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Hydro, Toronto Police 22 Division

The new affordable rental homes under Housing Now will remain affordable for 99 years, providing quality housing opportunities for future generations.

You can learn more about these projects and review the summaries of the community consultations by visiting creato.ca/housingnow.

Be sure to sign up for my weekly eNewsletter at www.markgrimes.ca for updates on this project.

Who does Housing Now help?



Inclusionary Zoning

Another key element of the City's HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan to help address the housing needs in Toronto is Inclusionary Zoning. This policy would require new residential developments to include affordable housing units.

Through inclusionary zoning, the City hopes to:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing; Continue to encourage market housing development by supporting a diverse range of housing supply; and, Create more inclusive, complete and equitable communities.

For more information on inclusionary zoning and Toronto's HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan, please visit www.toronto.ca/housingTO.

Who does inclusionary zoning help?



Resources for Seniors

- Toronto Seniors Helpline, The Seniors Safety Line, 211 Ontario, Toronto Seniors Helpline, The Seniors Safety Line, Toronto Tenant Hotline, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Hydro, Toronto Police 22 Division



Before the pandemic, I had an opportunity to sit down for tea with Lakeshore Lodge residents



The City of Toronto print unit is FSC certified

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Local businesses are vital to our economic health both nationally and locally, and they've been hit hard by this pandemic. According to the Toronto Employment Survey (2019) there are over 4,500 businesses in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, and they employ approximately 80,000 people.

Sadly, some of these businesses have closed due to challenges from COVID19, and many more will follow if we don't support them. Early on in the pandemic, each level of government stepped up to find ways to help our businesses and their employees.

It's important that we remember that these aren't just statistics, or percentages, they are people's livelihood. It's their ability to put food on the table, and keep a roof over their heads.

Please, support local business.



CaféTo has been an important part of the work to help support our local restaurants through the Pandemic



At Jimmy's Coffee for a Cup-o'-Joe in Mimico!



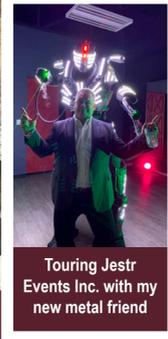
Welcoming My Thai Kitchen to our community!



Chatting with Bruno at Mamma Martino's on the Queensway about the impact of COVID19 on local businesses



Workin' the oven at Revolver Pizza Co.!



Touring Jestr Events Inc. with my new metal friend



At the Col. Sam Smith Park Cenotaph with Donna & Bill from RCL Branch 643



Your Neighbourhood Barbershop in New Toronto. Andy asked for just a little off the top

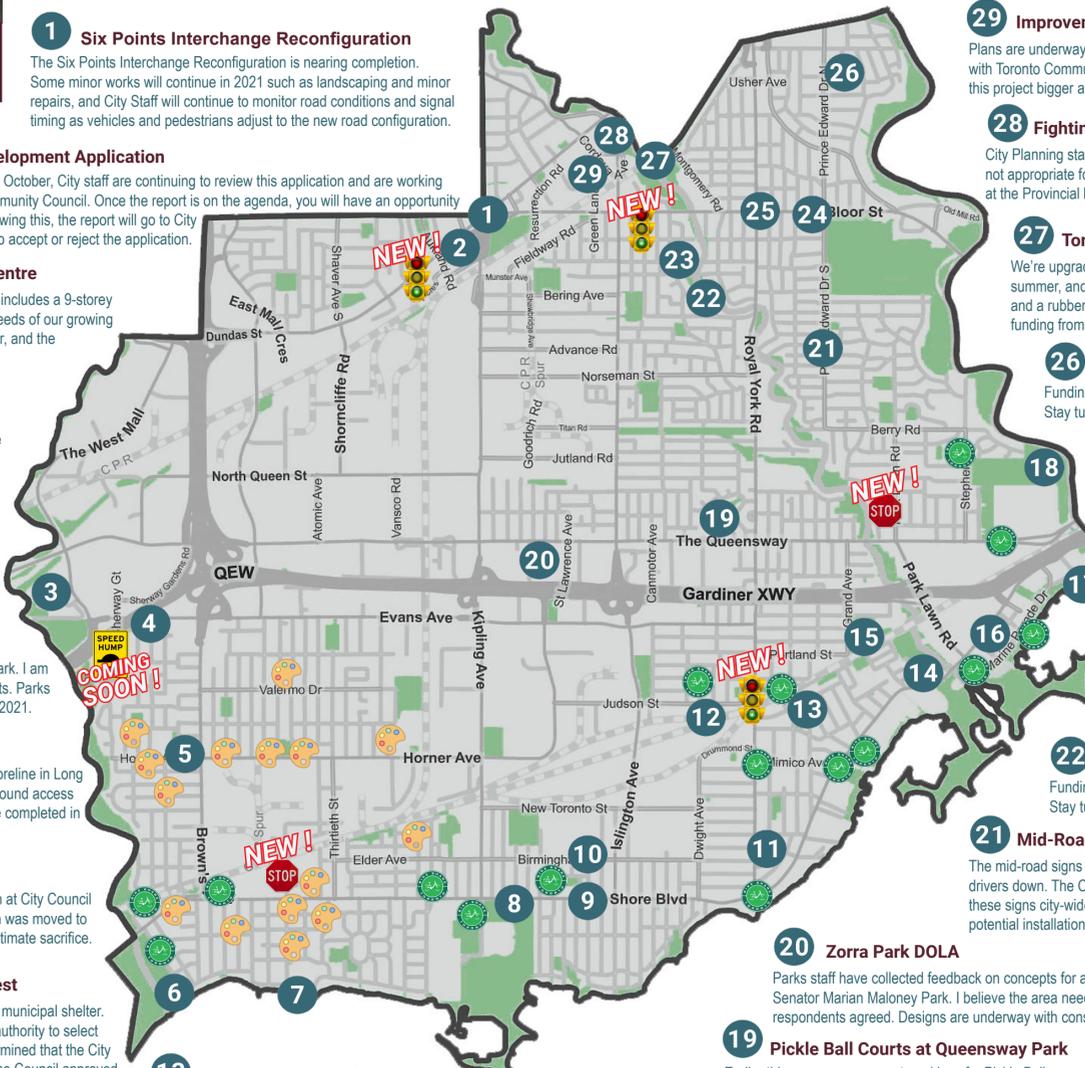


Checking in on Azarias, one of our great local businesses in the Kingsway!

- 1 Trillium Health Partners - Queensway Health Centre
2 Beamish & Jopling Development Application
3 Bisset Park DOLA
4 Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)
5 Marie Curtis Park Volleyball Courts
6 Long Branch Park Shoreline Remediation
7 Centotaph Relocation
8 Proposed Shelter at 2950-70 Lake Shore Boulevard West
9 Eighth Street Skate Park Mural
10 Lake Crescent Park
11 ML Ready Mix

Etobicoke-Lakeshore

While I wish I could include everything happening in our community in this newsletter, there's just too much going on and we ran out of room. If you want to know about any developments, parks projects, traffic safety initiatives, or anything else happening in your neighbourhood, please don't hesitate to contact me at 416-397-9273 or councillor\_grimes@toronto.ca.



- 13 Queens Avenue Park
14 South Mimico Creek Trail
15 Grand Manitoba Park
16 Silver Moon & Lake Shore Traffic Lights
17 TRCA Shoreline Remediation
18 The Oculus
19 Pickle Ball Courts at Queensway Park
20 Zorra Park DOLA
21 Mid-Road Signs
22 Spring Garden Park
23 Van Dusen Pedestrian Bridge Replacement
24 2915 Bloor St. W. Development Update
25 Royal York Subway Station Accessibility Upgrades
26 Lambton-Kingsway Park
27 Tom Riley Park Improvements
28 Fighting the 26 Burnhamthorpe Road Development
29 Improvements to Mabelle Parkette

We've planted 10,932 new trees and shrubs in Etobicoke-Lakeshore this year!



My office has been operating remotely seven days a week during the pandemic to ensure you get the answers you need



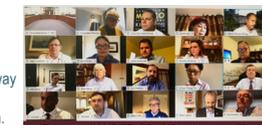
The concept chosen by local residents for the Tom Riley Park Playground upgrades is a nature-play 'River Beach' theme



Our BIA's do great work to help improve our public spaces. The Kingsway BIA recently installed new solar lights along Bloor St. W.



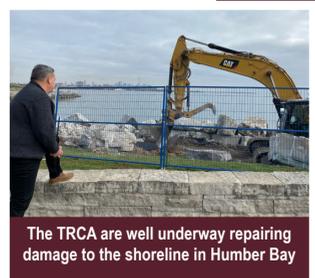
Challenges due to COVID19 have delayed the opening of the Berry Road Food Co-op. I know how eager everyone is for Etobicoke's first food co-op so be sure to stay tuned for news on their grand opening!



Due to COVID19, City Council, Community Council, and all other meetings have gone virtual. You can always follow along at youtube.com/TorontoCityCouncilLive



Checking out the new mural additions to the Eighth Street Skate Park with Lakeshore Arts



The TRCA are well underway repairing damage to the shoreline in Humber Bay



Work on Jean Augustine Pond was finally completed this fall!!

Bike Share Expansion
This year Bike Share expanded further into Etobicoke-Lakeshore, adding 16 new stations to our community in Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch and the Queensway!



This new Bike Share station at Mimico GO will allow more people to connect with our existing transit infrastructure!

Bell Box Mural Projects
This year, I partnered again with Lakeshore Arts, Community Matters, the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association, and Alderwood Residents Association to bring the Bell Box Mural Project to Long Branch and Alderwood.



I stopped by while Linh Thai was working on her mural on Horner Ave. Completed by Andrea Rodriguez, you can see how this project can transform a space

\*Please note that there are some photos in this newsletter where I am not masked indoors. These were taken earlier this year prior to the pandemic.\*