



E-Newsletter 27 January 2023

Help us phase out paper newsletters. Forward your email address to lytttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com

Volunteer with LPRO



We are an all-volunteer organization and we depend on our residents to support us through memberships and donations. We are always looking for active volunteers to provide their time and energy for our initiatives.

Here are some of the areas where you could share your expertise or acquire some skills, while volunteering in your local community.

- planning and development
- community safety
- parks, trees, and the environment
- road safety and transportation
- heritage
- communications via eblast, newsletters, LPRO website
- events, such as the yard sale, ravine cleanup and AGM

As Arthur Ashe said, “Volunteer. Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

If you would like to learn more, email us at LytttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com, and put Volunteer in the subject line.

Toronto City Budget 2023



Mayor Tory submitted Toronto's 2023 budget to the Budget Committee on January 24.

The 2023 Budget is scheduled to go to City Council on February 14.

Several recently enacted Provincial Bills will have a negative impact on Toronto's budget. For example, a significant impact of the legislation is the requirement for the City to refund development application fees if prescribed timelines for approval or decision-making are not met.

Toronto has unfunded Covid-related expenses from 2022, for which Mayor Tory is anticipating funding from the Provincial and Federal levels of government.

Residents and visitors can notice that the State of Good Repair in the City is deteriorating; that public transit fares are very expensive while frequency and convenience of service is worsening; that more people are without a home.

The [Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations](#), which consists of more than 30 residents' associations including Lytton Park, submitted a letter to the Budget Committee, with its comments on the [2023 Capital and Operating Budgets](#).

The letter suggests that the Budget should take a longer view on matters such as:

- The **State of Good Repair backlog**, which is increasing in operations such as roads, parks, and forestry. Deferring these expenditures is a risky proposition that can result in increased costs in the long term - a city that becomes "shabby" is on a path to decline - look south to the Rust Belt.
- Additional funds are urgently needed to address the increasing issues of **homelessness**.
- An increase in capital funding is needed for **transit, cycling and street safety** to shift people out of cars by increasing transit frequency, and by making streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians.
- To reach the **Climate Target of Net Zero by 2040**, the City needs accessible and affordable public transit, and other active transportation initiatives to decrease emissions. It needs an increased protection of our urban forest.

The letter also suggests:

- That Toronto **not proceed with the very costly Gardiner Expressway Rebuild** that will provide small time savings for a very few, at considerable and growing (but unknown) expense, but instead the City should proceed with the much cheaper alternative Boulevard Plan that will have minor journey time increases and will make the area suitable for attractive redevelopment.
- That the City **not implement the proposed 10-cent increase in transit fares**, and not implement a 9% reduction in transit frequency. The proposed changes would discourage passenger usage and would disproportionately impact those with low incomes.

It is contrary to the City's Climate Goals.

- That the City **urgently examine and implement new revenue tools**, such as a municipal sales tax (as widely applied in US cities), a commercial parking levy, and a municipal income tax.

Unless measures are taken to ameliorate the structural deficit, this year's level of property tax increase, which may be marginally acceptable on a one-time basis, will become annual, which is not acceptable to Toronto residents, nor viable for the long term.

And finally,

- **Publicly hold the Province to account for losses being experienced by the City as a direct result of the Provincial legislative changes.**

Capitol Theatre Sidewalk at Construction Site To Re-Open on February 1



LPRO has received assurances from the Madison Group that the long overdue re-opening of the sidewalk on the west side of Yonge between St Clements and Castlefield will be completed by February 1st. They also apologize to the community for the extended delay.

The following is an interesting recap of the challenges and issues related to the heritage façade retention work:

- Demolition of the existing building and retention of the heritage façade could not commence until temporary footings in Yonge Street were installed. During footing installation, numerous utility conflicts were discovered that were not identified in our preliminary investigations or day-lighting programs.
- During installation of the exterior retention system, the prefabricated steel components needed to be altered on site to accommodate the change in footing installation. The change in footing installation created numerous obstacles and delays as the system was designed to be installed as a modular system.
- As we commenced demolition of the building we discovered a few very concerning issues. As one could imagine, a building experiences many alterations and changes over a 75-year lifespan.
 - On the exterior of the building, we discovered that lintels and other bracings had been removed to accommodate new windows and storefronts. These removals caused significant concerns for the heritage retention as they created weak points which could cause damage to the heritage components.
 - On the interior, we discovered that load bearing portions of the structure had been inappropriately altered which forced us to create temporary structural supports to ensure no damage was done to the heritage components of the building.

Winter Reminders - Frozen Pipes and Snow Clearing

In winter, water pipes in your home can freeze leaving you with no water or cause your pipes to burst, which can cause property damage. The City of Toronto has some tips to help you avoid frozen pipes during cold weather.

- These tips, including a video on ways to avoid frozen pipes, are available at toronto.ca/frozenpipes.

WHEN WE CLEAR SNOW

ALL THE ROADS ARE SALTED FIRST. PLOWS GO OUT LATER, IF REQUIRED.

Road type	When does the City start salting?	When does the City start plowing?	How much snow is that?	How many hours does it take to plow each round?
Expressways (Don Valley Parkway & Gardiner Expressway)	When the snow first accumulates	2.5 cm	Quarter	2 hours
Major roads, transit routes, and streets with lots	When the snow first accumulates	5 cm	House key	6-8 hours
Residential Streets	When the snow first accumulates	8 cm	Bank card	14 hours

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Keep a safe distance from snow clearing equipment.
- Regularly clear around fire hydrants near your property.
- Clear your sidewalk if less than 2 cm of snow falls.
- Follow us on social media to get the latest updates: @cityoftoronto
- Connect with 311 to make a service request approximately 16 hours after snow stops falling: toronto.ca/311

Use the #PlowTO map (www.toronto.ca/PlowTO) to see which roads and sidewalks have been serviced and learn more about the City's winter operations at toronto.ca/snow.

Waste Collection Schedule 2023

[2023 Waste Collection Schedule](#) is being distributed as part of the utility bill. Check the last page of your latest bill for your schedule. The **Waste Management Guide** began mailing in late December and includes important information about how to properly sort and reduce your waste. Please watch out for it and hold onto it for reference throughout the year.

Learn more on [the City's webpage here](#).

New Smoke Alarm Awareness Campaign

In December, the City launched a new smoke alarm social media and direct mail awareness campaign, which alerts residents to the very real dangers of not having a working smoke alarm on every floor of the home and outside all sleeping areas.

The campaign originated from a comprehensive fire origin and cause analysis conducted by Toronto Fire Services. The analysis found that **in the last five years, 59**

percent of fires in single-family residential homes across the city were in homes that did not have a working smoke alarm.

The campaign, running until the end of the year, provides a QR code and link www.toronto.ca/ext/digital_comm/fire/alarmcheck.ics for residents to embed reminder dates in their mobile phone or computer calendars to change their smoke alarm batteries every six months.

More information on smoke alarms and the new campaign is available at:

[City of Toronto Safety Tips and Prevention](#)

Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning devices, helping individuals and families gain precious time to escape a fire safely. Fire can spread rapidly through a home, leaving those in the building with as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

A backgrounder with additional insight and details on the Fire Services' smoke alarm research is available online: [Smoke alarm research](#)



- City of Toronto notices have been mailed to residential property owners advising of the requirement to declare the occupancy status of their property.
- A declaration of the occupancy status of their residential property(s) can be made on the City's online portal **prior to February 2, 2023**, or by completing a hard copy declaration form.

Submit your declaration and learn more at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/property-taxes-utilities/vacant-home-tax/>

**Mail and Identity Theft Increasing:
Tips to Stop Mail Theft**

You can help protect your mail from identity fraud by following these tips, taken from Canada Post : [How to prevent mail and identity theft](#)

Keep the mail you receive safe

1. Collect your mail daily.

2. If you'll be away, use the [Hold Mail](#) service to suspend delivery until you return.
3. When you move:
 - [File a change of address](#) with us.
 - Advise your banks and other companies of your new address.
4. If your mail fails to arrive, contact senders to ensure they have your correct mailing address. Report any concerns to Canada Post Customer Service.
5. Shred documents that contain personal financial information, such as statements and credit card offers.

Keep the mail you send safe

1. Never send cash in the mail. Use [postal money orders](#), available at all post offices.
2. Deposit your mail close to the scheduled pickup time posted on the mailbox.
3. Deposit mail items containing sensitive or financial information at your local post office, as well as large quantities of mail.
4. If you see an overturned or vandalized street mailbox, call us at 1-800-267-1177.
5. If you see suspicious activity at your mailbox, report immediately to your local police.

Think you might be a victim of identity theft? [Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#). If you suspect that mail has been stolen from your mailbox — notify the police and report it to Canada Post [customer service department](#)

Coyote Alert

Coyotes have recently been seen in our Lytton Park Neighbourhood.

Like raccoons and skunks, coyotes are a part of our urban landscape and below are tips from the City's website on how we can best coexist.

Coyotes generally do not pose a danger to people, but can pose a **danger for pets**. They are active during the day and at night, particularly dusk and dawn, and help to control rodent and rabbit populations. Coyotes thrive in urban areas. Coyotes generally do not pose a danger to people, but can pose a **danger** because of the abundance of food and shelter available. **They do not hibernate** and may be seen more often during winter months as they are not hidden by foliage. Coyotes will eat whatever food is available such as small mammals and birds, and improperly stored garbage.



Remember these tips:

- Never feed coyotes
- Do not approach coyotes, their dens or their young

- Do not touch coyotes, even if they appear tame, sick or injured
- Keep your dog on a leash
- If you see a coyote, do **not** run but make some noise to scare it away
- Dispose of garbage and waste before leaving parks

What should I do if I see a coyote near my home or on my property?

- Encourage the coyote to keep moving by shouting and gesturing aggressively.

To stop a coyote from coming into your yard:

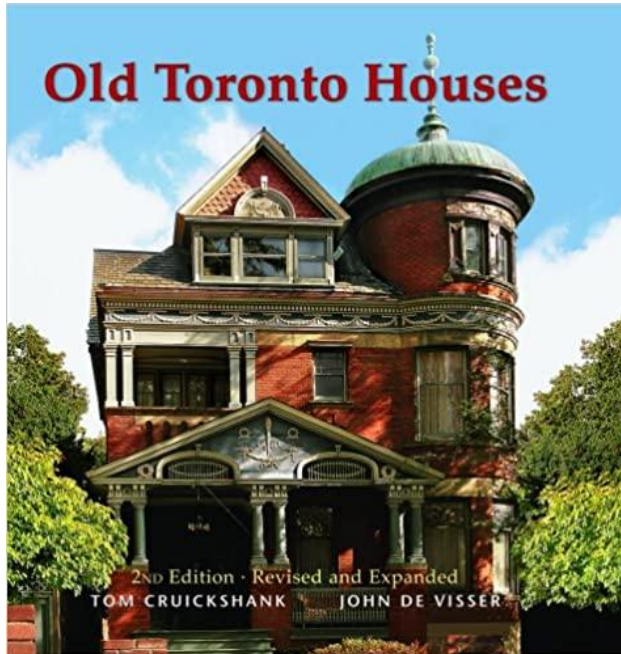
- Avoid feeding your pets outdoors.
- Store garbage, recycling and organics properly.
- Remove dense brush and weeds to minimize hiding spots.

[For more information](#)

City of Toronto e-learning course: [Coyotes in the Urban Landscape](#)

Our First Book Review of 2023
Courtesy of our own Mel D'Souza

Old Toronto Houses by Tom Cruickshank and John De Visser, 2nd Edition. 2008.



This 320-page book describes the heritages of over 250 houses, over the past 200+ years, through over 400+ colour photographs as well as succinct commentaries. The table of contents and the book itself is superbly structured into signature urban architecture house styles. However, it also covers 11 Toronto neighbourhoods as well as houses in the Greater Toronto Area. The book describes at least three houses within LPRO boundaries. Snider House, 744 Duplex Avenue near Glencairn Avenue, is featured on page 52 and its history is documented from a Regency cottage in 1828 to its subsequent metamorphosis to Victorian opulence around 1867 through

elevation of its roof and addition of a second story. Garland House, 97 Glengrove Avenue West, completed in 1898, is featured on page 108 as an example of Annex style domestic Toronto architecture, different from that in other cities, though still with American and British influences. The bungalow at 15 Lytton Boulevard is featured on page 134 and shown as well-preserved with intact original features.

Many houses within LPRO boundaries arose out of the Arts and Crafts movement, with bungalows and Four-Squares being the typical house forms, with “craftsman” being the interior style. Nowadays, we think of bungalows as single-story subdivision houses, though this style arose in California in 1900 and arrived in Toronto around 1919. These original bungalows had upstairs bedrooms and bathrooms, with broad roofs, verandahs, dormers and chimneys. Four-Squares have four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. Reading this book will help you identify your house’s architectural style and perhaps even help you decide if you wish to remain true to style when renovating or to morph style.

LPRO Membership 2023

Time to renew your membership for 2023! The \$30.00 membership is an annual fee.

Joining the Lytton Park Residents’ Organization provides you with membership to a community organization that works to enhance community spirit and supports a strong community. Stay engaged and stay informed.

LPRO’s 2022 activities include:

- Monitoring development proposals in our area
- Participating in mediation sessions with developers and the City
- Hosting a community-wide lawn sale
- Hosting a community spring ravine clean up
- Providing support and feedback for Murals on Yonge Street
- Providing community consultation (bike lanes, Eglinton Park Revitalization)
- Communicating information through our website and newsletters
- Working with other residents’ groups in North Toronto on common issues
- Liaising with our elected officials

To renew, simply go to our website: [LPRO](https://lyttonparkro.ca/)

TOGETHER WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



The Lytton Park Residents’ Organization (“LPRO”) is an incorporated non-profit association, representing residents living in the area bounded by Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue. We care about protecting and advancing the community’s interests and fostering a sense of neighbourhood in our area. We work together to make our community stronger, sharing information about our community issues and events.

“Together we DO make a difference!”

<https://lyttonparkro.ca/>