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## Police Liaison Report

By Chris Blythe

The 55 Division Community Police Liaison Committee is made up of community volunteers and police service representatives who work together in identifying, prioritizing, and problem-solving local policing issues. Your BTRA Executive has actively monitored committee developments for many years. Among topics reported at recent meetings:

- Extra officers were brought on-board several weeks ago to deal with a sudden increase in break and enter incidents in the area. An arrest was made and the incidents subsequently ceased.
- 55 Division is again making available free home security audits. Simply contact Crime Prevention Officer, Constable Robert McDonald at (416) 808-5579 for an appointment and an officer will visit to identify ways you can make your home less susceptible to break and enter.
- Though this division has thankfully not seen an increase in pedestrian fatalities, the numbers are generally up for the rest of the GTA and inappropriate pedestrian behaviour such as J-walking has been marked as one cause for concern. To this end, warnings and fines were handed out for such behaviour during a city-wide focus on pedestrian safety over the Christmas holidays.

- Resident-proposed parking policy changes for the Triangle have been thoroughly researched.
- Police initiatives for the balance of 2009 include a focus on traffic enforcement to reduce impaired driving and accidents while increasing road safety, enhanced officer visibility with an emphasis on professionalism, and increased summer staffing for the Community Response Unit.
- Summer policing of the parks begins shortly.
- We are asked to remember the importance of reporting crime so police can better identify trends and problem areas.

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([forestry@beachtriangle.com](mailto:forestry@beachtriangle.com))

**Environment:** Chris Blythe  
([environment@beachtriangle.com](mailto:environment@beachtriangle.com))

**Police Liaison:** Chris Blythe  
([police@beachtriangle.com](mailto:police@beachtriangle.com))

**Newsletter Editor:** Keith Schengili-Roberts  
416-698-2995 ([newsletter@beachtriangle.com](mailto:newsletter@beachtriangle.com))

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**Past Presidents:** Chris Blythe, John Ellis, Patricia Silver, Layton Stewart, and David Windrim.

**BTRA Annual General Meeting**  
*Wednesday, June 3rd, 7:00 p.m.*

*Corpus Christi Church, Basement Meeting Room at Lockwood and Queen*

**MEET:** Your friends and neighbours

**HEAR:** Reports on Triangle Issues

**SPEAK:** On the issues that concern you

**ELECT:** Your 2009-2010 Board of Directors.

(Want to run for election? Contact Layton Stewart at 416-691-0686.)

# TRIANGLE

## TOPICS

Neighbourhood News and Information

*Spring 2009*

*Published by*

*The Beach Triangle Residents Association*  
*Toronto, Ontario*

[www.beachtriangle.com](http://www.beachtriangle.com)

### Enthusiastic Residents Conduct Parking Poll

By Lynn Wilson

A committee of Triangle residents was brought together in April to conduct a poll on all interior streets in the Triangle to test resident interest in changing the one-hour parking limit, dating back to problems with Greenwood Race Track. Thanks to Peter Demarco and Laura Inward for survey design, to the eight enthusiastic canvassers, and to the BTRA Board for assistance in logistics, the poll was completed in only one month.

Although results are still being tabulated at the time of publication of Triangle Topics, canvassers reported strong support for change to a three-hour limit.

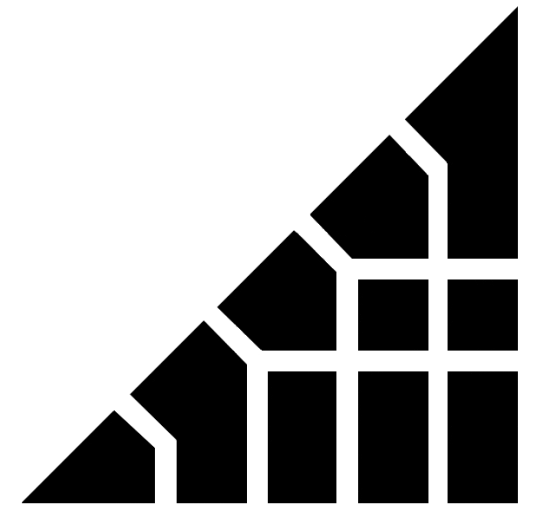
The results will be turned over to Councillor Sandra Busin's office, to determine if support was strong enough for approval of the change.

### TTC Rush Hour Extension Proposal... Your Opinion is Requested

By John Ellis/Chris Blythe

The BTRA Board has joined with other area residents associations (RA) in meeting monthly with the Beach Business Improvement Association (BBIA). An important item at the April 21 BBIA/RA meeting was a proposal from the TTC to increase the rush hour by two hours to 3:00-7:00 p.m., and perhaps the morning rush hour as well, due to rush hour traffic delaying streetcar service.

The BBIA is absolutely opposed to the TTC proposal because it will discourage after-work shoppers from driving to Beach retailers, due to lack of parking on Queen. It is believed that most Queen Street rush hour traffic originates in Scarborough and beyond, and is trying to avoid Kingston Road congestion. There is concern that racing



B ♦ T ♦ R ♦ A

drivers in the curb lane will endanger school children and bicycle riders.

Alternatives include making it easier for afternoon drivers to get onto Kingston Rd., morning drivers to get onto Lakeshore or Eastern Avenue, and controls to discourage use of residential streets.

BBIA wants BTRA support to persuade councillors to not support the TTC proposals.

This is a tricky issue. On one hand, the TTC needs quick service, free of short turns, to encourage riders but, on the other, the TTC shouldn't be supporting anything that encourages use of autos. Also, many urban studies around the world have shown that any steps that make driving easier result in more traffic.

The BTRA Board wants to hear from Triangle residents on this issue. Call or email any board member (see the list in this newsletter)

### Volunteers Needed for 2nd Annual Beach Triangle Funfest: September 12, 2009

By Terra McKenna

Due to the success of our 2008 Triangle Funfest, we will once again be holding the event in coordination with our local Beach partners. Keep an eye open for our flyer in your mailbox with all the exciting details! If you would like to help out with this annual event, please email: [beachtrianglefunfest@gmail.com](mailto:beachtrianglefunfest@gmail.com) or give me a call at 416-686-0911.

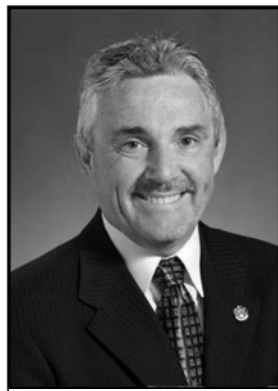
# Queen Condo - Community Consultation Meeting

By John Ellis

The Community Consultation Meeting at the Beaches Library on March 23 was specifically with regard to "Application to Demolish Rental Housing", related to the proposed condo development at 1862 to 1876 Queen East. Facilitators were Tine Major of City Planning and Noreen Dunphy of City Housing.

The city has policies and by-laws to protect rental housing and tenants. However, all of the rental properties in this project are in a "High End" category (the other two are "Mid-Range" and "Affordable") at 1.5 times average market rent, under which the city doesn't ordinarily demand that the developer take steps to provide replacement of rental units, tenant relocation or assistance. (The city can take steps to assist tenants at any time up to approval of the Building Permit.)

City Planning has tentatively approved all but two aspects of the builder's application for the six-storey building (and the city wasn't discussing which two were still under review). Assuming resolution of the two issues, the goal is to have a draft by-law before a daytime meeting of Community Council, where citizens can make presentations, by the end of June. If approved



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there, the application would go to city council (where citizens will not be able to make presentations) hopefully by the end of July.

Notice of the Community Council meeting will be distributed within 120m of the site and to anyone who attended earlier meetings (i.e., several BTRA Board members and other Triangle residents). The developer would then file for a Building Permit and all of the details in the Site Plan would probably take four to six months to be approved (e.g., November).

Bottom line? A shovel wouldn't go into the ground until spring 2010 at the earliest. If the economy doesn't improve, development may be further delayed or, the developer's agent stated, "We may divest ourselves of the property".

**Footnote:** The owner of a nearby home was there primarily because of concern about the shadow impact (e.g., slower melting of snow off the roof, decreased light for a skylight and the yard), discomfort during construction (vibration, noise and dust), and irritation with traffic in the alley. If the development is approved, this resident of many years will seriously consider moving.

A local resident believes the developer badly wants six stories so the elite penthouses can have a lake view - over the roofs of the buildings across Queen and the houses beyond - perhaps helping to justify the million dollar price mentioned earlier.



## Home History: The Hidden Twins... 1878 and 1880 Queen Street East By John Ellis

Two of the oldest houses on Queen Street in the Triangle, 1878 and 1880, are now almost totally hidden by urban growth. These houses show up clearly in the photo taken in about 1906 from the fire hall tower but now barely discernible.

The c.1906 photo reveals only four buildings on the north side of Queen, a barely discernible building in the distance, 1864 Queen, and 1878 and 1880. A few hours at the Toronto Archives confirms the place in Triangle history occupied by these houses.

In 1901, James Lumbers of 67 Front Street acquired two lots at this location. By 1902, he had an "unfinished house" at 1878 Queen. The lot was valued at \$150 and the house at \$600. By 1903, the house at 1880 (an exact twin to the one at 1878) was complete and occupied by tenants.

Renting 1878 in 1903 was William Hogan, 31 years old, with his wife, Mary Kyle, and five children. He was born in Ireland, she was born in Canada and they were married in Egmondville, Huron County, 2 June 1896. Hogan was a jeweler. By 1904 they had moved on. William Hogan died on October 29 1931 at 60 years of age in residence at 22 Alhambra Avenue and was buried at Park Lawn Cemetery.

Discovering that a jeweler lived in the house solved a puzzle for Ruth, the current resident. She wrote me: "I found a ruby ring embedded in a wall shelf in our pantry that was engraved 'Birmingham, England', and my guess is that it was lost by Mrs. Hogan while working in the pantry".

The next tenant, in 1904, was Thomas C. Greenwood, an editor (we have so far found nothing of his history), who lived there with someone, perhaps his wife.



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In 1905, Peter C. Parker, a Baptist clergyman, moved in with his wife, Jane, and their five children. Peter Parker was born in Scotland in about 1856, although his parents were born in England. He and Jane immigrated in 1884 and settled for a time in Peterborough. Their children, Agnes, Welmer, Evlyn, Clifton and Ishbel lived with them at 1878 Queen.

By 1907, the Parkers had moved on and 1878 was rented by Charles K. Miller, a 23-year-old jockey (he was probably attracted to this location by being able to walk across the street to Woodbine Race Track!). Although we found nothing of his history, there were seven people living in the house. The value of the property was now \$250 and the house \$1,100.

We now turn to 1880 Queen, also a rental property at this time. A true twin to 1878, the lot and house values were identical. Through the entire period 1903-1907, 1880 was rented by Elizabeth M. Smith. In 1903 and 1904, she lived there with her husband and two children. By 1905, her husband had died and she lived on at 1880 with her children until the end of our study, in 1907.

1878 and 1880 are, possibly the oldest two homes in the Triangle, with 1878 having the edge. These twins were lost behind storefronts, and now may become further lost in the shadows of the proposed condo development spanning 1864-1876 Queen.

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own, issued a report to the Toronto Board of Health with the recommendation to:


- "request the Ontario Minister of the Environment and the City of Toronto to consider the cumulative impact of emissions from any new or modified industrial facility on adjacent residential areas with elevated burden of illness/mortality, or that have a disproportionate share of pollution point sources, such as in South Riverdale, prior to issuing a Certificate of Approval"

In spite of the above recommendation, the Portlands Energy Centre (a new Ontario-owned gas-fired power generation plant) was located in the Portlands and this year, at a locally held Open House, Toronto Water proposed incineration as a viable disposal option to finalize the draft Bio-solids Master Plan.

With fewer than 20 residents in attendance at the Open House it could be construed that East End Toronto is no longer opposed to an incineration option at Ashbridges Bay treatment Plant that will have a significant impact on the health of the communities within its airshed and, particularly, those in close proximity to both plants where air quality is already poor, health has been compromised and residents are vulnerable, as documented in the Health Study.

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E-mail [sbussin@toronto.ca](mailto:sbussin@toronto.ca) now to voice your opposition to incineration at the plant.

**Note 1:** The six community members who participated in the ABTP Environmental Assessment (EA) and are signatories to the Mediation Agreement are:

- "Karen Buck (CSE), Dr. Stephen Connell, David Done (SSC), Jim Neff (CSE), Karey Shinn (SSC) and Stephen Whyte. The two community organizations represented by the above individuals are Citizens for a Safe Environment (CSE) and the Safe Sewage Committee (SSC).


**Note 2:** Profile of Karen Buck: President, Citizens for a Safe Environment (CSE), a non-profit incorporated community group that began in 1983, and is concerned with issues around local environmental and health protection. CSE advocates for government and individual actions and policies that support healthy communities with regard to good air quality, water quality and continuously improved wastewater treatment. Karen is also Co-Chair of the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood Liaison Committee and Member on the City's Implementation and Compliance Monitoring Committee (ICMC), which monitors the City's compliance with the commitments in its Mediation Agreement.

**Note 3:** If you want to see Karen Buck's original article, including supporting references too numerous to be included in the newsletter, or learn how to obtain more information on Citizens for a Safe Environment, visit [beachtriangle.com](http://beachtriangle.com).

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**Community Environment Day**

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*When?* Saturday, May 30, 10:00-14:00  
*What's New?* Free Document Shredding, courtesy of Councillor Bussin  
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[councillor\\_bussin@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_bussin@toronto.ca)

**Emerald Ash Borer Still Devastating Trees in Toronto**

*By Terra McKenna*

The Emerald Ash borer is still devastating trees within the Toronto area and was recently (February 2009) detected in Hamilton, ON. The best way to keep our Ash trees safe from this insect is to limit transportation and use of Ash species from wood packaging, nursery stock, firewood and raw wood materials.


Detection is very difficult because symptoms such as suckers on the trunk of the tree, cracking bark, D-shaped holes and thinning crowns can also occur naturally, without infestation. Furthermore, these results are usually not noticeable until two or more years of infestation.

In 2004, Toronto Urban Forestry issued a moratorium on the planting of Ash trees on city property. Information on regulated areas for the Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the CFIA website: [www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/mc/2007ontarioe.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/mc/2007ontarioe.shtml)


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If you think that you may have an Ash tree that has been affected, please contact Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017.

**Live Green Toronto Meeting a Great Success!**

*By John Ellis*

"What is a Community Animator?", I wondered as I joined about 50 people representing a wide variety of community groups in registering at the Information Session sponsored by Councillors Sandra Bussin and Janet Davis at W.S. Stewart Library on May 4th. Martina Rowley, Community Animator for Live Green Toronto, took us through a review of the Live Green Toronto program, funding opportunities, examples of successful projects, and an opportunity to meet other neighbourhood groups to share ideas, interests and concerns.

Through the Live Green Toronto Program, the city is providing human and financial resources to strengthen and enhance the ability of Toronto's neighbourhoods and community groups to undertake collective action on climate change, clean air and sustainable energy use.

The goal of the \$2.2 million Live Green Toronto Community Investment Program (CIP) is to help fund community groups in identifying issues and being empowered to take action on these issues. The grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for any

one project. Grants must be used within one year of the first installment.

The CIP will be available into the indefinite future. Project applications are reviewed twice a year, in spring and fall, and the decision of the Review Committee follows about a month later. (Martina pointed out that other levels of government also provide grants for certain climate change projects and Live Green Toronto provides a list of such funding opportunities.)

Martina then had the registrants divide into workshops of about ten people each and facilitated a series of brisk workshop sessions, focused on getting to know each other, what sort of projects we are interested in, what the strengths and weaknesses of our groups are, and the opportunities for partnerships. As a result, seven categories were identified and discussion locations assigned around the room: Tree Inventory, Solar/Geo-thermal, Bioswales, Roof Gardens, Green Walls, Community Gardens and Other. I first chose the Solar Power and Geo-thermal group where I met Bruce Crofts of East Toronto Climate Action group.

Bruce was instrumental in the RISE project in Riverdale, where 35 families negotiated with a supplier for a volume discount on the solar panels resulting in the average home installation

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costing only \$10,000. Five roof-top panels cost about \$16,000 and produce, on average, 1 kw of electricity, reducing the electricity bill by 40%-44% (with no PST or Delivery Charge). A 2 kw system could eliminate a Toronto Hydro bill altogether.

The opportunity is even better now, as the province is paying 80¢ kw when the homeowner is contributing surplus power to the grid. The original recovery on the investment was 18 years but will be much less under the new schedule.

RISE has been such a success that Riverdale residents are forming RISE AGAIN, to install either electricity or water heating (some say this is the real opportunity for savings) or both. RISE AGAIN is looking for other homeowners to join.

I had ruled out Geo-thermal as an alternative for home heating and cooling because of the smaller back yards and prevalence of trees in the Beach Triangle but I learned not to be so hasty. First, one geo-thermal installation can serve several homes (so the drilling could be in a less-well treed yard) and, second, the method has moved from a wide area of underground pipes to a deeper, single, vertical hole. The name of a business that specializes in this was provided, and an average cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 was mentioned.

To close the session, Martina Rowley advised that a follow-up workshop will be held within two months. This session will include experts on the areas of interest, cost estimates, issues, and regulations. In the Q and A sec-

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tion, I asked if the city would limit the number of approved projects from any one area. Martina replied that the program is too new to know the answer. For now, they want all the applications they can get!

This was an exciting, stimulating and valuable session. As I walked out into the evening air, I knew what "Community Animator" means.  
([www.livegreentoronto.ca](http://www.livegreentoronto.ca), [mrowley@toronto.ca](mailto:mrowley@toronto.ca), 647-208-1810)

**No More Breathing Room: Speak Up or Hold Your Breath**  
*By Karen Buck, Citizens for a Safe Environment*

(At the request of David Windrim, the BTRA Board invited Karen Buck to submit this article for the Spring 2009 Triangle Topics newsletter.)

In 2004, 250 local residents filled the auditorium at the Fire Academy for presentation of the conclusions of the Biosolids Master Plan. The six community members who had dedicated fourteen years to the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment couldn't believe their ears when they heard Lou Di Gironimo, Manager of Toronto Water, conclude that incineration was back on as "contingency disposal when needed". Those years of hard work had just gone "down the drain", so to speak, and the City was now in violation of its own approved Mediation Agreement that had brought a successful conclusion to the Environmental Assessment (EA).

This announcement to use the incinerators again, after Toronto Council under the lead of Councillor Bussin had

achieved their closure in 2002, was a monumental setback for the biosolids beneficial use program and community air quality.

Of greater concern (in addition to the breaking of Mediation Agreement commitments), Toronto Water reached this conclusion without the completion of a critical study of biosolids use on non-agricultural lands and the completion of the required Health Studies.

In 2005, and in fulfillment of the City's commitments arising from the EA Mediation process, Toronto Public Health presented the conclusions of the Health Studies to 150 residents seated in the same Fire Academy auditorium. The results of the Emissions Study concluded that:

- "East end Toronto air quality was adversely impacted by nitrous oxides, particulate matter and toxic pollutants like arsenic, cadmium, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls, and dioxins when the incinerators were operating; and,
- "Beach air quality was adversely impacted by these same toxic pollutants at higher concentrations as a result of the elevated stacks and strong southwest winds; and,
- "East end air quality will continue to be adversely impacted by benzene and hydrogen sulfide from the open tanks until odour controls are in place.

The results of the Health Study concluded that:

- "Beach and South Riverdale residents experienced higher mortality and hospital admission rates from all circulatory and respiratory disorders than did the residents of comparison communities with similar economic and social profiles but without similar nearby industrial air emissions.

In response to the release of the above two studies, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David McK-

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