



Ken Lister

TDSB School Trustee - Don Valley East
March 2017 Newsletter

Mayor Tory Cancels Lease of More Swimming Pools

Since our schools were built, the City of Toronto has used TDSB pools for community use in the evenings and on weekends. This is just one of many mutually beneficial partnerships between the City of Toronto and the TDSB. But last month, Mayor John Tory told his executive council to cancel the lease of 3 swimming pools in TDSB schools. One of those pools is at Don Mills CI here in Don Valley East.

Under the lease, the City of Toronto pays for 100% of the operating costs of the pools, while the TDSB pays for 100% of the capital costs such as maintaining the roof, walls, doors, sidewalk, and parking lot. But our mayor feels that it is unfair for the city to pay 100% of the operating costs when the pools are also used by TDSB students during the daytime. He feels it is time for the TDSB to pay our fair share of the operating costs. And I couldn't agree more.

Yes, you heard me right. The TDSB should pay more. We are not paying our fair share of the operating costs.

But that means it is also time for the City of Toronto to pay their fair share. The City of Toronto needs to pay their fair share of part of the capital costs for each pool. But, no need to stop there. Each day, countless Torontonians walk on TDSB property after school hours without a permit. Some people walk their dogs on TDSB property without paying for a permit. They use our playgrounds, soccer fields, and baseball diamonds after hours, without a valid permit. I myself do not have school aged children, yet on Family Day I went tobogganing on TDSB property without a permit. Perhaps an example of trespassing. And if our mayor wants the TDSB and the city to pay their fair share, then he must stop all unpermitted uses.

There is only one way to ensure each of us pays our fair share, and that is by hiring hundreds of Bylaw Enforcement staff and purchasing gates and fencing to keep out trespassers. By spending tens of millions of YOUR tax dollars on enforcement, and having extra City and TDSB bureaucrats and accountants chasing each other for a few cents, John Tory could finally sleep easy knowing there is finally fairness and we are both paying our fair share.

But do you really think that is a good way to spend YOUR tax dollars?

It is very clear to me that there is only one taxpayer, and it is irresponsible to change our mutually beneficial partnership on swimming pools.



Online Budget Survey & Online Forum

Community consultation is a very important part of the TDSB's budget process. Last month, I held a Ward Forum on February 13th to hear feedback from students, parents and the community on the TDSB's budget.

If you were unable to attend my budget ward forum in person, the TDSB will also be hosting an online budget forum to hear from parents, students and the community on the 2017-18 budget.

The online budget forum will take place on Monday, March 20, 2017 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. To access the online budget forum, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca on March 20 and click on the banner on the home page. During the online budget forum, you will be able to ask questions and have them answered by TDSB budget staff.

You can also provide your input by completing the [budget survey](#). The survey was created to give parents, students and the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the TDSB's 2017-18 budget.

As the Trustee for Don Valley East, I value your input and feedback on the TDSB's budget. I hope that you will take part in the online budget forum or complete the [budget survey](#).



Special Education Ward Forum

On the same evening of March 20, I will be holding a Ward Forum at Muirhead Public School at 6:30pm on Special Education. I hope you will join me and share your thoughts and experiences! Pizza and refreshments will be provided, and if you need childcare at the meeting, just email me. Visit www.kenlister.ca to find more Ward Forum details.

Last month, the TDSB held a live webcast on Special Education. To view the Q&As please visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/VideosandPresentations.aspx



TDSB Community Services Annual Report

The TDSB is proud to be a community Board. By providing learning opportunities and supports to the community, we promote a healthier environment for the families of our students and the community at large.

Community Services develops and delivers services that support a diverse clientele in overcoming barriers to achieve their settlement, language, employment and skill development goals. Programs are designed to provide tools, training and support for individuals to gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.

A variety of individuals can benefit from these programs, including adults, youth, newcomers and people with disabilities. We offer employment services and career planning, skills development, apprenticeship training, language instruction, enhanced and specialized language training, and much more. The programs are funded by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Learn more about [Community Services](#) at the TDSB and read the [annual report](#).

Nominate Someone for an Excellence Award!

Staff at the Toronto District School Board are among the most dedicated and qualified in Canada. Every day, nearly 39,000 professionals support our students and help them achieve their very best.

We want to recognize those staff who go above and beyond every day in support of students, staff, parents and the community. The Excellence Awards is our opportunity to honour and celebrate outstanding TDSB individuals and programs.

We invite you – staff, students, parents, community members – to nominate a TDSB staff member or team whose work has made a difference in your life or the lives of those around you for an Excellence Award.

Ready to nominate? To start, you need to gather two letters of reference and one statement of recognition. The statement of recognition is an opportunity to deepen the nomination and can be written by the nominator. Then, you can complete the online nomination form.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 4 p.m.

All nominees will receive a personalized letter congratulating them on their nomination as well as informing them of those who contributed to the nomination. The winners are additionally celebrated at an awards ceremony in May.

www.tdsb.on.ca/excellence

Parents as Partners Conference

You're invited to our annual Parents as Partners Conference! Registration is open. The Parents as Partners Conference 2017 is on Saturday, April 1 and all parents are welcome!

This free conference – planned by parents, for parents – includes a variety of workshops and resources that will help any parent support their child in their achievement and wellbeing at school and at home.

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Keynote speakers include John Malloy, Director of Education at the TDSB, and Itah Sadu, an award-winning storyteller and author. Transportation, childcare, lunch and translators are all provided. www.parentsaspartners.ca

Continuing Education - Community Programs

Registration for Learn4Life spring classes is now open and classes begin Saturday, April 1. Ever wanted to learn about ghosts or Egyptian Bellydancing? Take up a new hobby, learn a language, and meet people in your community. Put your hands to work and decorate and glaze your own pottery or sculpture. Stay active with full body boot camp classes, tennis and golf. Gain knowledge on how to invest in the stock market or prepare your taxes. Please refer to our brochure for a complete list of our offerings.

www.learn4life.ca [Facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life](https://www.facebook.com/TDSBLearn4Life) [@TDSB_ConEd](https://twitter.com/TDSB_ConEd)

TDSB Earth Hour 2017 - Friday, March 24, 2-3 p.m.

During Earth Hour, we'll be using as little electricity as possible in the office, halls, classrooms, library, gym and cafeteria. Where possible, schools will also be reducing their electricity usage over the weekend.

More information is available on the EcoSchools website

www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/ResourcesandGuides/EarthHour.aspx

Continuing Education – Summer High School

Summer school co-op and in-school credit courses begin July 4 and conclude on July 28, 2017. Summer school co-op is open to all current TDSB students 16 years of age or older. Students can access the summer school co-op application online on the website. The application deadline is March 24, 2017. Just a reminder that students enrolled in a Specialized High School Major (SHSM) program need to fulfill their co-op requirement during the school year. Registration for in-class summer credit courses begins May 1, 2017 and ends at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2017.

Visit www.creditprograms.ca for more information. [@TDSB_ConEd](https://twitter.com/TDSB_ConEd)

Continuing Education – Summer Music Camps

Enrich your child's summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, DownTown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now.

For more information please visit www.tdsbsummercamps.ca [@TDSB_ConEd](https://twitter.com/TDSB_ConEd)

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/FSLAC%20Newsletter%20-%20March%202017.pdf>

FREE March Break Fun in French

Toronto Public Library will be hosting lots of entertaining events in French for children including Reptilia en français, solving a mystery using science, interactive theatre and musical performances at branches across the city. Some performances require registration. Details [here](#).

Kids age 10-14 are invited to 'Seul à la maison!', a workshop on staying at home alone at the Woodside Square branch on Wednesday, March 15 at 6 pm. Registration is required at [416-396-8979](tel:416-396-8979).

For more information please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/FSLAC%20Newsletter%20-%20March%202017.pdf>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Lister'.

Ken Lister

Trustee, Don Valley East

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www.facebook.com/kenlistertoronto