



THE PARK BENCH

APRIL 2016

HUDSON PARK'S QUARTERLY EXCHANGE OF NEWS AND VIEWS

Editor's Desk

Welcome to the first edition of our revamped Hudson Park newsletter, which your Communications Committee hopes to issue at least four times a year.

We're calling it **The Park Bench** because this publication is by and for the residents of Hudson Park. It's meant to encourage folks to have a seat, chat a while, and get to know one another.



Contributions Welcome

And so we welcome your involvement. Please send letters to the editor, story ideas or photos for future editions to

thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com



Archive

This is the first edition of **The Park Bench**, but it's not the first Hudson Park newsletter. Past newsletters have been filled with useful tips and information. To bring those to your fingertips we've created an archive. You can find paper copies in the library/lounge in each HP building. Electronic copies will also be available soon.

Reminders: Windows will be washed April 4-8 at HP2 and April 11-15 at HP1. Garage levels A, B and Visitors will be cleaned during the work day April 11, and levels C and D on April 12. Please remove your cars during this time!

Elevators going up

Elevator A at HP1 will soon be back in service as part of a Board plan to retrofit all four machines in the two towers over the next year.

Regional Elevators has the contract to replace the machines, which include the motor, bearings, pulleys, brakes and cables. The new machines are expected to suffer fewer stoppages. They are also said to be quieter than the old ones.

The work began on car D at HP2 and will continue until all four elevators are upgraded.



HP lights go green

Hudson Park is going green as more than 1,800 older bulbs in corridors, stairwells, garages, lounges and exercise rooms are replaced with high-efficiency LED bulbs.

Motion sensors are also being installed in the garbage-chute rooms, so that lights are activated only when a resident uses the space.

The Board took advantage of an Ontario SaveOnEnergy program to subsidize the cost of replacing so many bulbs. It's estimated that, by cutting our annual power consumption by some 230,000 kWh, the retrofit will pay for itself within two years.

View from on high

When the air finally warms and our balconies beckon, so too do our rooftop terraces. The terraces were expected to open in April this year—up to a month ahead of normal—enabling us all to enjoy the lovely and expansive vista.

As a reminder, there's no smoking or excessive noise allowed up there, and alcohol is permitted only in accordance with city bylaws. Children must be accompanied by adults. Access to the two barbecues atop each building are on a first-come-first-served basis. And please always respect the posted guidelines on cleaning up after use.

So fire up a 'cue and enjoy the open air, Hudson Park style!



News from the residents committees

Social: If you want to get to know your neighbours a little better while sharing some fun activities, then the Hudson Park Social Committee wants to hear from you. Residents have expressed interest in organizing card games, walks through local neighbourhoods, outings to nearby coffee shops, or even group excursions to galleries, museums and the NAC. To learn more, please contact Brenda Lovett, lovettbrenda759@gmail.com.



Landscaping: Our 10 enthusiastic volunteers have toured the property, including the terrace, courtyard and roof. Although the outdoor space was attractively designed, we have identified room for improvement. For example, some areas don't have enough gravel, soil or mulch. Other beds may need a redesign and new or different plants. We've also assessed the plants inside the lobbies, which so far have been tended voluntarily by residents Pam Gahan and Selina Mackie.

Communications: The launch of *The Park Bench* is our first major initiative. With a mandate to improve the flow of information among HP residents, we're currently examining other ways to keep you informed about the goings on at Hudson Park. If you have thoughts to share, please contact us at thehudsonparkbench@gmail.com

Spokes

By John Gahan

April for me means time for the tires to hit the road again. Just two, mind you, because I ride a bicycle (though not in the winter, I'll admit.)

If you're a cyclist too, you've probably already found that the best place to park your bike at Hudson Park is on the wall racks at your parking stall—if you have one. Your storage locker is also an option, although for most of us that space is full.

On garage level A there's also a single bicycle locker room to serve both buildings, but, as the picture shows, it's small and bursting at the seams. Stay tuned for news about some serious housecleaning that we hope will occur there in the near future.

Where you really don't want to go with your bike is your condo balcony or the elevators that get you there. Both are banned under the HP rules. (One person told me he got around the rules by walking his bike up the stairs to his unit, but, as a denizen of the 15th floor, I'll not try that myself!)



Getting your bike out of the garage is easy, and you can choose between the Nepean or Lisgar Street exits. Getting back in, however, can be trickier. Here are the options:

1. If your cell phone is hooked up to the lobby- and garage-door systems (the property manager can help if they're not) just punch in your assigned code on either of the garage entry keypads. Press 9 when your phone rings to open the overhead door.
2. A key fob will also open the garage doors. If you don't have one, they're available for a nominal charge from Superintendent Don, or any place that sells that sort of thing.
3. Walk your bike in through the pedestrian entry to the right of the Lisgar Street garage door. This doesn't work from Nepean Street because the elevator lobby comes between you and the garage.

One of the first things you'll probably want to do in spring is get your bicycle tuned. Foster's Sports Centre at Bank and MacLaren is a great place to go nearby, with friendly and professional service and reasonable prices.

That's it for now, but expect more on downtown cycling in the next issue of *The Park Bench*.

