

# Introducing... *Leslie Barns*

## Winter 2013 Newsletter



Image: Leslie Barns – looking north on Leslie Street from Commissioners Street

### *Streetcar Maintenance and Storage Facility Gets New Name*

*It's official. The Toronto Transit Commission has a new name – Leslie Barns – for its newest home for Toronto's streetcars. Formerly known as the "Ashbridges Bay Streetcar Maintenance and Storage Facility," Leslie Barns is now under construction at the southeast corner of Lake Shore Boulevard and Leslie Street.*

### *New Streetcars... New Home*

When construction is complete in July 2014, Leslie Barns will provide a state-of-the-art storage and maintenance facility for Toronto's new streetcar fleet. Existing TTC streetcar facilities – the Roncesvalles and Russell (Connaught) Carhouses – are both over 80 years old and cannot support the maintenance and full storage needs of the new streetcar fleet. However, they will continue operating to store approximately half of the new streetcars.

The majority of streetcars travelling on Leslie Street will operate during offpeak hours between 5am-7am. The majority will return to the Leslie Barns after 7pm.

The new streetcars will be low-floor, quieter and have features such as air conditioning for greater rider comfort.

(Continued on page 2)



TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

### *Message from Andy Byford Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), CEO*

With 204 new streetcars on order and Leslie Barns well under construction, this is a very exciting time for TTC and transit in Toronto. In 2014, we will begin to see the first of the new, accessible, state-of-the-art streetcars in service and Leslie Barns ready to house and maintain the new fleet.

Later this Spring, we will begin major upgrades to underground infrastructure on Leslie Street. These key upgrades are being coordinated in advance of construction of the streetcar connection track along Leslie Street that will link the Leslie Barns to the existing tracks on Queen Street. TTC is very pleased to be contributing new amenities - including a beautified streetscape designed by Brown and Storey Architects, more greening and public art along Leslie Street and nearby on Queen Street. Once construction is fully complete in late 2014, the result will be a renewed and revitalized Leslie Street Corridor, with a connection track for the new streetcars and Leslie Barns in place to service the fleet. During construction, we are committed to keeping neighbours and businesses informed and engaged through a community engagement and communications program.

Finally, I am very pleased that TTC is working in close partnership with the City of Toronto and Waterfront Toronto on this important project to revitalize the Leslie Street Corridor and bring transit closer to the Port Lands.

### *A Word from the Project Partners*

*John Livey, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto and John Campbell, President and CEO, Waterfront Toronto (See page 3)*



## Streetcar Maintenance and Storage Facility Gets New Name

(cont'd from page 1)

The vehicles will have leading-edge, clean technology for better reliability and performance, and will be able to carry twice as many people as the current streetcars. TTC is anticipating delivery of the first round of new streetcars in 2014 and when they arrive, Leslie Barns will house and maintain the new vehicles.

## Leslie Barns – Green Inside and Out

TTC's newest streetcar facility is being built to City of Toronto's Green Development Standards and includes environmental features such as a green roof and an onsite stormwater management pond. New landscaping will include hundreds of new trees and plantings around the perimeter of the facility, at the corner of Lake Shore and Leslie, and along the Martin Goodman Trail.



Image: Looking north on Leslie from Eastern Avenue (beside Loblaws)

In late September and early October 2012, the TTC hosted a series of meetings with residents, businesses and cyclists to review the latest streetscape improvement plans for the Leslie Street Corridor. These plans include a beautified streetscape, more greening and public art – to complement the streetcar connection track to be built along Leslie Street between Queen Street and Leslie Barns. The new streetscape recognizes Leslie Street as a gateway to the Leslie Street Spit, stretches from the foot of Leslie Street at the entrance to Tommy Thompson Park to Queen Street, and extends at street corners along Queen Street from Rushbrooke Avenue to Hastings Avenue.

Participants at the consultation meetings were able to review and discuss block-by-block plans for enhanced streetscaping, including specific design concepts (such as wider sidewalks, customized street light poles, sidewalk brick treatments and landscaping plans) for neighbourhood streets. In general the proposed plans were well received by participants, with some suggestions for refinements such as widening sidewalks. A strong interest in upcoming construction schedule and plans was also expressed.

The TTC is now finalizing the streetscape plans in consultation with the City of Toronto prior to construction getting underway in 2013.

## Queen Street Also Gets a Makeover



Image: Queen and Hastings Avenue, looking north

New streetscape enhancements will be installed at street corners along Queen Street between Rushbrooke Avenue and Hastings Avenue

# Project Benefits: A Snapshot

## **Streetscape Beautification:**

The streetscape (sidewalks, street features, landscaping) along Leslie Street between Queen Street and Tommy Thompson Park, and at street corners along Queen Street between Rushbrooke Avenue and Hastings Avenue, will be improved and beautified.

## **Greening:**

More greening and landscaping will be installed throughout the Leslie Street Corridor, including hundreds of new trees and plantings adjacent to Leslie Barns.

## **Public Art:**

The streetscaping plans include a public art process to be led by the City of Toronto that will result in new public art at selected locations in the Leslie Street Corridor.

## **Transit Enhancements:**

When complete, the new streetcar facility and track connection will open up connection possibilities for high order transit in the adjacent Port Lands.

## A Word from the Project Partners

### **John Livey, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto**

For the City of Toronto, this project represents an important renewal and City-building opportunity in the Leslie Street Corridor. Our City planners, urban designers and infrastructure specialists are working closely with the TTC and Waterfront Toronto to ensure that the TTC's streetcar track connection plans are carefully coordinated with the Port Lands Acceleration Initiative and with necessary upgrades to City infrastructure (including sanitary, storm sewer and road improvements) and enhanced streetscaping along Leslie Street and Queen Street.

### **John Campbell, President and CEO, Waterfront Toronto**

Waterfront Toronto is pleased to be working with the TTC and the City on this important project in the Leslie Corridor. The new streetscaping along Leslie will complement our ongoing revitalization efforts in the Port Lands. We encourage everyone to attend our upcoming Port Lands Update Meeting to learn more about the project.

## Meet Toronto's New Streetcar



## Key Features

- Fast boarding through multiple entrances
- New fare collection system to reduce line-ups
- Low-floor access for persons with disabilities, seniors, strollers
- Accommodation for bicycles
- Air conditioning in summer

# Construction Plans on Track for 2013-2014

## Update on Leslie Barns Construction

Construction of Leslie Barns continues at the facility site south of Lake Shore Boulevard near Commissioners Street. This work includes the installation of new Hydro One duct near the facility. During this phase of the project (until March 2013), the following can be expected:

- Temporary (short duration) lane reductions on Leslie to 1 lane northbound and 2 lanes southbound from Commissioners to Lake Shore;
- Temporary re-routing of the Martin Goodman Trail; and
- Removal of trees and shrubs (to be replaced/upgraded).

Construction of Leslie Barns is expected to be complete by July 2014.

## Major Construction on Leslie St to Start in April 2013 with Expected Completion by December 2014

The major construction work for the track connection along Leslie Street between Queen Street and Commissioners Street is scheduled to start in April 2013. It is expected that all construction will be complete by the end of 2014. Construction of the entire project is anticipated to be completed in 4 main phases:

- Phase 1:** Hydro One Work – Sept 2012 to March 2013
- Phase 1A:** Leslie Barns Construction – November 2012 to July 2014
- Phase 2:** Utility Work – April 2013 to May 2014
- Phase 2A:** Queen Street Streetscaping – August 2013 to October 2013
- Phase 3:** Track, Road, Sidewalk Construction, Leslie Streetscaping – March 2014 to August 2014
- Phase 4:** Final Plantings and Project Completion – September 2014 to December 2014

## Commitment to Community Engagement

TTC is committed to clear and ongoing communication with area residents and businesses and the broader community to help people prepare for construction. Plans include regular and ongoing communication through an onsite community liaison office, dedicated community liaison officers, project website, regular newsletters and project updates, meetings with local businesses and residents, and establishment of a Construction Liaison Committee.

## Plans to Deal With Construction Impacts

Detailed plans to reduce construction impacts are now being developed and consultation will be held with local businesses and residents. In the meantime, TTC has established a set of principles to guide construction activities and manage community impacts:

### Access to all businesses and residences on Leslie maintained throughout construction

#### Pedestrian and cyclist safety:

- At least one sidewalk on one side of the road maintained at all times
- Cycling trails maintained in existing or alternate location

#### Priority for east-west traffic flow:

- 5 of 6 lanes east-west lanes (Queen + Eastern + Lake Shore) maintained throughout project in each direction, except during temporary intersection closures when 4 lanes will be open

#### Clear and two-way communications:

- Commitment to communicate with residents, businesses, commuters and the broader community well before construction starts and to communicate changes (e.g. lane and intersection closures) well before they are implemented
- Commitment to address issues and concerns as quickly and as efficiently as possible through a coordinated “one window” response

#### Consistent traffic management:

- Lake Shore – Leslie intersection: at least 2 East-West lanes + left turn lane maintained for most of construction phase
- Minimum 1 lane north and 1 lane south maintained on Leslie, except during above ground construction (6-8 weeks) and short term closure of Commissioners – Leslie intersection
- Plaza access (Loblaws and Tim Hortons/Price Chopper) maintained throughout construction
- Above-ground work to be fast tracked during intersection closures

#### Watch for Our Next Newsletter...featuring:

- What to expect during each phase of construction
- Community engagement and communications plans