

SAHRA Information – Dec 10 2018

Auto Thefts on the Rise

An interesting article on the rise in auto thefts in the Toronto area along with a security expert's opinions on why and what we have to do to prevent the theft.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/car-thefts-rising-1.4930890>

Bill 66 – Premier Doug Ford Exemptions for Industry Lobbyists Threatens Greenbelt, Green Water

The following letter was sent by Councillors [Josh Colle](#) (Toronto-St. Paul's), [Gord Perks](#) (Parkdale-High Park), [Mike Layton](#) (University-Rosedale) and [Mike Colle](#) (Eglinton-Lawrence) to Premier Doug Ford.

Re: Bill 66 *An Act to restore Ontario's competitiveness by amending or repealing certain Acts.*

Dear Premier Ford,
As Toronto City Councillors, and environmental advocates, we have significant concerns about the harmful impact your government's Bill 66, *An Act to restore Ontario's competitiveness by amending or repealing certain Acts* will have on our city and our province.

Companies that create good jobs invest in jurisdictions that have educated workers, strong health care, excellent schools, and a high quality of life supported by clean air, water and green spaces. Ontarians rely on their government to ensure that their health and natural environment is protected.

We strongly urge you to reconsider the exemptions in Bill 66 allowing companies to override important environmental protections, without consultation or public notice, including the:

- Clean Water Act
- Great Lakes Protection Act
- Greenbelt Act
- Lake Simcoe Protection Act
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act
- Places to Grow Act

Our residents have long advocated for many of the measures contained in the above legislation. The source water protection required in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act defends the headwaters of the Rouge, Don, and Humber Rivers. The Greenbelt preserves vital aquifers, wildlife corridors, agricultural lands and provides a natural buffer to inefficient urban sprawl and provides green space for all residents in our city and region. Both Acts ensure that there is more greenspace to absorb stormwater runoff, which has been the main culprit of an increase in flooded basements in recent years.

Eroding environmental protections like the *Clean Water Act*, legislated in the wake of the Walkerton tragedy, will put the health of the people you serve at risk and make our province less attractive to

prospective companies looking to create new jobs- Businesses from around the world are lining up to invest in places like Toronto and Ottawa, not Flint, Michigan.

We urge you to create an Ontario with a clean, healthy environment that is truly “open for business”, not just industry lobbyists.

Do You Know Where Your Catch Basins Are?

A catch basin, also called a storm drain, is built along the curb in the gutter on the edge of the road, allowing water runoff. It is part of the sewer system. The catch basin does just what its name implies: it catches waste and stops it from entering drainpipes. It has a grate at street level catching debris before the water enters the catch basin. Clogged catch basins may cause water to pool on streets. It is imperative that catch basins be occasionally cleaned to maintain their ability to ensnare residue and subsequently their ability to prevent flooding. In the fall, the grates are often covered by loose leaves. In the winter, it is very important that the catch basins be ‘opened up’ from snow accumulations to allow proper draining of the street.

Each block in our area will have one or more catch basins, usually positioned opposite each other on each side of the street. The residents in a block need to take on responsibility to ensure that their catch basins are clear of debris and ice so that they can properly deal with water flows to prevent flooding.

Now is the time of year to look at where the catch basins are positioned on your block. Do they need cleaning of fall debris? Involve your block neighbours in catch basin monitoring/cleaning/snow removal.

You are doing a great thing for your block/neighbours when you act as a catch basin guardian.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle during the Holiday Season

As we prepare for holiday celebrations, the City encourages us to be mindful of the amount of waste we generate. Small changes to reduce waste, such as using reusable plates, cutlery and cloth napkins for a holiday event, can make a difference!

Tips to recycle right over the holidays:

- Empty and rinse recyclables such as aluminum roasting pans and tins, plastic plates and cups before placing them in the Blue Bin (recycling).
- Paper wrap, flattened cardboard and rinsed plastic plates and plastic cups (except black plastic) also go in the Blue Bin (recycling).
- Foil/metallic wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, bubble wrap, bubble envelopes, packing peanuts (foam pellets) and fruit crates go in the garbage.
- All food scraps as well as soiled paper napkins and paper plates go in the Green Bin (organics).

More tips on managing holiday waste are available at <http://www.toronto.ca/reduce-reuse>. Information about how to properly dispose of holiday items is available at <http://toronto.ca/wastewizard> or on the new TOwaste App available at <http://ow.ly/1AJT30mHUB9>