

## UPCOMING DATES

### MARCH 29

**City of Toronto consultation, Draft Waste Strategy Overview, 6:00 p.m., 227 Bloor Street East**

### MARCH 30

**Toronto Public Art Commission, 5:30 p.m., committee room 1**

### MARCH 30-31

**Council, 9:30 a.m., council chamber**

### APRIL 4

**Government Management Committee, 9:30 a.m.**

**City of Toronto consultation, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: Waste Diversion in Houses, Apartments and Condos, 6:30 p.m., 20 Grosvenor Street**

### APRIL 5

**Etobicoke York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., council chamber, Etobicoke Civic Centre**

**North York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., council chamber, North York Civic Centre**

**Scarborough Community Council, 9:30 a.m., council chamber, Scarborough Civic Centre**

**Toronto & East York Community Council, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1, City Hall**

**City of Toronto Design Review Panel, 12:00 p.m., committee room 2**

### APRIL 6

**Planning & Growth Management Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1**

### APRIL 7

**Parks and Environment Committee, 9:30 a.m., committee room 1**

**City of Toronto consultation, Diversion Opportunities: Businesses and DIY Home Renovators, 2:00 p.m., webinar**

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CITY OF TORONTO EDITION

## Monitoring downtown air quality

# BREATHING IN

By Leah Wong

With help from residents, the **Toronto Environmental Alliance** is heading downtown in April to monitor the impact of ongoing development and intensification on street-level air quality in the core.

“The reality is that we have a lot of high towers in the downtown core. What we understand is that this can create channels for air pollution where there isn’t really anywhere for the pollution to go,” TEA campaigns director **Heather Marshall** told *NRU*.

The alliance’s air monitoring project—the Initiative for Healthy Air and Local Economies (INHALE)—is focused in on the downtown core, with residents given air monitoring equipment to collect data on levels of street-level pollution. TEA then examines the data to assess street-level air quality in different parts of the study area.

“With more and more people living in the downtown core and not necessarily having green space to turn to for exercise...we see more people jogging in the downtown core and doing intensive activities,” said Marshall. “It would be helpful to understand what kind of air they might be breathing in.”

The study area—bordered by Dupont Street (north), Lake Shore Boulevard (south), Don Valley Parkway (east) and Bathurst Street (west)—is the second

location for the INHALE project. Monitoring in South Etobicoke, the first study area, wraps up next week and TEA will start to work with local community members to utilize data collected over the last 10 months. [See *NRU February 13, 2015 Toronto edition*.]

For example, Marshall said TEA will work with local community groups in South Etobicoke to see how the data can be used to guide environmental interventions to improve air quality. TEA is working with **Cycle Toronto’s** Ward 6 advocacy group to demonstrate how additional bike infrastructure could be installed to improve air quality. Marshall also recommends that INHALE’s data be used as evidence when the city considers a proposal to fill in the gap in bike lanes along Lake Shore Boulevard.

In downtown, as in South Etobicoke, Marshall sees opportunities to assess the contribution of additional bike infrastructure on air quality. For example, the city is expected to conduct a pilot project on bike lanes on a portion of Bloor Street West in the summer.

“Segments of that [corridor] will have a bike lane being tested,” said Marshall. “This will be an exciting opportunity for us to hopefully collect some data before the bike lane goes in, as well as while it’s in [place]” **NRU**

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