

Peter Tabuns

MPP, Toronto-Danforth

Come visit Peter's office!

*Come visit Peter Tabuns' constituency office at: 421 Donlands Avenue, East York ON M4J 3S2
(just south of O'Connor on the east side of Donlands)*

Contact the office by phone at 416-461-0223 or by email at tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca

www.petertabuns.ca

Bill 76: Tabuns wants you to know

Are there hazardous materials being stored in your neighbourhood?

Are local businesses releasing harmful pollutants into the environment?

Peter Tabuns believes you have the right to know about chemical risks in your home and community. Toxic chemicals are everywhere — in cleaners, cosmetics, smokestacks, and even children's toys.

In May, Peter Tabuns re-introduced his private member's bill the Community Right to Know Act (Disclosure of Toxins and Pollutants).

Previously introduced as Bill 164, Bill 76 would inform the public by:

- requiring labels on products containing toxins
- requiring the Ministry of the Environment to establish a pollutant inventory to document the release of pollutants into the environment
- reporting pollutants' health and environmental effects.

Bill 76 would also protect employees by requiring employers to:

- maintain information about hazardous materials used in the workplace substitute less harmful materials when possible

Bill 76 would also require businesses to provide local fire departments with the material data safety sheets for all hazardous materials.

California has had this legislation for 20 years. It is considered a best practice in cancer prevention and environmental protection.

Last time, Peter's bill was reviewed by committee and almost become law. Support Bill 76 and tell the government you want the right to know.



*Boy Scout leader
Chris Sammond,
Peter Tabuns, Don Dewall
and Jack Layton at the
Canada Day festivities at
Stan Wadlow Park.*

Toronto's pesticide ban overruled

As the NDP Environment Critic, Peter Tabuns strongly supports Toronto's ban on cosmetic pesticides, which came into effect last September.

Next spring Toronto's by-law will be overruled by a new provincial law. The Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act, 2008 seeks to reduce cosmetic pesticide use across the province, but will take away the city's right to pass its own stronger by-laws. That means some pesticides and herbicides banned by Toronto's by-law may be permitted under the

provincial legislation.

Peter Tabuns believes this is a step backwards. Municipalities have been at the forefront of the cosmetic pesticide ban movement. The new law takes away the power of local governments to make decisions that respond to local health needs.

The NDP submitted 13 amendments to the legislation during its review by committee. They were endorsed by a wide variety of groups including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario,

the Canadian Association for Physicians for the Environment, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, the City of Toronto and others. The Liberal-dominated committee rejected the NDP's amendments.

Peter Tabuns will continue advocating for strong pesticide laws. Regardless of the laws, you can refuse to use pesticides yourself — remember how unhealthy a perfect lawn can be!

Toronto-Danforth is a Green Community

Earth Hour community event successful

On March 29th Peter Tabuns participated in the global Earth Hour movement towards reducing our carbon footprint on the environment. Residents were asked to take the small step of switching the lights off for an hour at 8 pm. They were also invited to attend the **RIVERDALE UNPLUGGED! Community Dinner and Parade** held at the Withrow Park Clubhouse. People brought food to share and their own reusable dishes and cutlery. The dinner was followed by a candlelight parade around the park and along Danforth Ave.

Peter wishes to thank the many volunteers who worked hard organizing this resident-led event, which he hopes will be held again.

Don't wait until next year's Earth Hour to turn off the lights! Make conservation part of your daily routine.

Make your home a green home — Government rebates for conservation!

Maybe it's time for a new furnace or air conditioner. Maybe you want to insulate your attic or basement. Renovations like these can be eligible for rebates up to \$10,000 from the provincial and federal governments. First, book a Home Energy Audit. Follow their suggestions within 18 months, and you can get some cash back.

A list of eligible retrofits is online at the Government of Ontario Home Energy Audit website www.homeenergyontario.ca.

For rebates offered by the Government of Canada ecoENERGY Retrofit program visit www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca or 1-800-622-6232.

If you live in Toronto-Danforth Ward 30 (south of Danforth Ave.) you can participate in The Toronto Solar Neighbourhood Initiative. This new program offers financial incentives up to \$1000 in addition to the existing provincial and federal incentives for solar hot water installations in homes.

Another local group called the Riverdale Initiative for Solar Energy (RISE) is participating in the Toronto Solar Neighbourhood Initiative, and is organizing a community buying club to help make this environmental opportunity more affordable.

For more information visit www.solarneighbourhoods.ca or www.riseagain.ourpower.ca.

Head out of the city for a green tour

Join the first ever Tour de Greenbelt — cycling and fun for everyone. Experience rural hospitality, savour fresh, local food and explore all that Ontario's Greenbelt has to offer. www.tourdegreenbelt.ca

Peter in the House

Members of Provincial Parliament occasionally have the opportunity to make a Member's Statement in the Legislature. These 90 second speeches allow the MPPs to speak out on any issue they wish to put forward to the other MPPs. Peter Tabuns has used his Member's Statements for a wide variety of issues. Some relate to his Queen's Park critic portfolios, some to Toronto-Danforth, and some are just issues he cares about deeply.

Read below for some samples. To read the entire statements or to see a list of all of Peter's Member's Statements, visit www.ontla.on.ca.

Ontario Hansard — 17-June 2008 CHINESE CANADIAN HEAD TAX REDRESS DAY

Mr. Peter Tabuns: This coming Sunday, the Chinese community will be marking Head Tax Redress Day. In 2006, I filed a resolution in this chamber to have Ontario recognize June 22 as Chinese Canadian Head Tax Redress Day in Ontario. It was passed with all-party support on October 4, 2006...

Ontario Hansard — 05-May 2008 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. Peter Tabuns: Today, I rise to remember and honour those who faced unimaginable horror and persecution less than a few decades ago in the

Holocaust...We must always be ready to stand up and speak out today and every day against anti-Semitism, against Islamophobia, against hate and racism, against discrimination and prejudice in all its insidious forms...On this day, we commit ourselves to creating a better and safer world so that we never see the horrors repeated again.

Ontario Hansard — 15-April 2008, SCHOOL POOLS

Mr. Peter Tabuns: Last night, I attended a meeting in my riding held at Riverdale Collegiate. Students were there and parents were there, and they were angry that school pools are facing closure...Today many of those students and parents are with us here in this chamber. I urge this government to listen to their simple request to take action for the protection and promotion of the health of our young people and to hold onto these extraordinarily valuable pools.

Ontario Hansard — 01-April 2008 CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Peter Tabuns: Last summer, the Premier announced the climate plan but in fact provided none. The government has not been open about its lack of a climate plan. Thus, we on this side of the House are forced to look for clues, to paw through the entrails to find out what's going on...

Are you a senior in the WoodGreen area?
Are you a caregiver in the Woodgreen area?
Are you an Older Adult with a disability?

Do you need help filling in forms?

Do you need help reading bills and official letters or documents?

We can help

Come to WoodGreen's
DROP-IN
Document Clinic!

When:
Every Tuesday 10 am to 3pm
Clinic starts on
September 23, 2008

Where:
WoodGreen
Community Services
815 Danforth Avenue,
Main Floor
If you have any questions
please call
416-645-6000 ext. 1262



Peter Tabuns with Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships award recipients from Monarch Park Collegiate Institute.

No Big Box in Leslieville: Tabuns and residents united in opposition

"...the addition of a 'Smart' Centre and its massive parking lot in Leslieville is abhorrent to my community values. Just walk down Queen Street East and observe the cultural and economic transformation in progress — new restaurants, galleries, design stores, flower and coffee shops as well as a plethora of public and private housing projects..."

— Toronto-Danforth Resident Davis Mirza

Peter Tabuns has joined the East Toronto Community Coalition, with local residents, businesses and other politicians fighting to keep a SmartCentre out of Leslieville. The SmartCentre, likely anchored by a Walmart, would build 700,000 square feet of big box retail space, and 1,800 parking spots on the former Toronto Film Studios land on Eastern Avenue.

There is strong neighbourhood opposition to the proposed development, with objections including:

- the environmental impact of thousands of more cars driving through the community
- the loss of high-paying jobs if the area is zoned away from industrial and manufacturing

- fears that big box stores will drive local independent shops and services out of business

The East Toronto Community Coalition formed in order to have official standing at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings which are currently underway. The OMB will announce its decision October 3rd. If approved, the SmartCentre plans to begin construction in 2009 and open in 2011.

For more information visit the group "No Big Box Power Centre in Leslieville" on www.facebook.com. Together we can, as Davis Mirza concludes his letter, "support local revitalization initiatives that are environmentally sound, community-based and ethically driven."

Public Forum: From Poverty to Power

In June, Peter Tabuns hosted a public forum called *From Poverty to Power*, along with other Toronto-Danforth politicians MP Jack Layton, Councillor Paula Fletcher, and TDSB School Trustee Cathy Dandy, as well as CUPE and OPSEU.

Over 25 agencies attended the forum, which was held at the City Adult Learning Centre on Danforth Ave.

Toronto-Danforth is fortunate to have so many excellent community agencies serving residents and advocating for social change. These service providers are well aware of the poverty right here in our neighbourhoods.

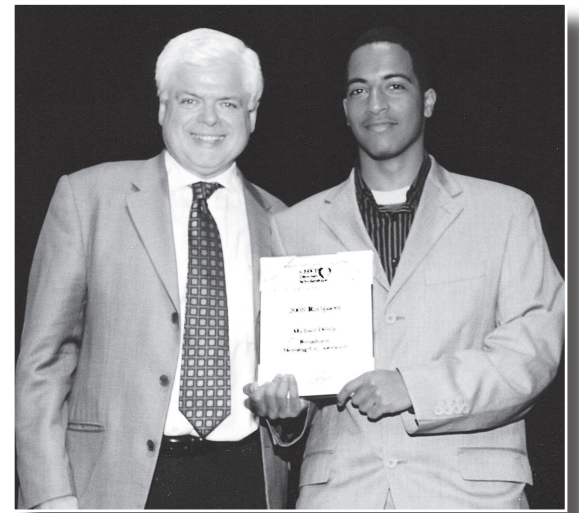
The forum offered information about health care, housing, employment, immigration, and other issues.

Workshops encouraged service providers, their clients and other concerned residents to brainstorm ways to fight poverty.

In the afternoon the participants reported their ideas back to the politicians. Peter Tabuns was impressed by the many suggestions generated at the forum, and will be taking them to Queen's Park.

This spring the government also held public consultations on the issue of poverty.

Peter and his caucus colleagues are now urging the government to release the findings from its consultations and address the real poverty of people in our community and across Ontario.



Peter Tabuns and Diversity Scholarship recipient Michael Dereje at the Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto awards in June.

Need a family doctor?

The New Bridgepoint Family Health Team is now accepting patients. Call 416-740-6690.

You can also use the College of Physicians and Surgeons "Doctor Search" tool at www.cpso.on.ca.

Complaints about government services?

The Ontario Ombudsman investigates complaints about provincial government services and may be able to solve your problem. He can also make recommendations to change government policies and practices to prevent problems from occurring in the future.

File your complaint

by email: info@ombudsman.on.ca

by phone: 1-800-263-1830

by TTY: 1-866-411-4211

by mail: Ombudsman Ontario, Bell Trinity Square, 483 Bay St. 10th Floor, South Tower, TO, M5G 2C9

Freeze Till Sale: a new plan for property assessment

Peter Tabuns and his caucus colleagues have proposed a new model for property taxes that would freeze the assessed value of your home at its purchase price for as long as you own your home. It would replace the existing system and make property assessment fair, predictable and easier to understand.