

**Removal of Parking Restriction -  
Langley Avenue, Victor Avenue and Simpson Avenue  
(Don River)**

*(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, struck out and referred this Clause, back to the Toronto Community Council for further consideration, together with the report dated December 7, 1999, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services was requested to hold a site meeting with interested Ward Councillors.)*

**The Toronto Community Council submits this matter to Council without recommendation.**

The Toronto Community Council reports, for the information of Council, having requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to report directly to Council on the removal of the parking restriction from November 30 to April 1 on Langley Avenue, Victor Avenue and Simpson Avenue.

The Toronto Community Council submits the following communication (November 26, 1999) from Councillor Layton:

I am attaching a letter which I have sent to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services in the hope that he may report directly to Toronto Community Council on this matter so that it can be resolved before the upcoming winter season.

Recommendations:

That the report from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be submitted directly to the City Toronto Council meeting with respect to the removal of parking restriction from November 30 to April 1 on alternate sides of the streets – Langley Avenue, Victor Avenue and Simpson Ave.

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(A copy of a communication (November 26, 1999) from Councillor Layton addressed to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services referred to in the foregoing communication, was forwarded to all Members of the Toronto Community Council with the agenda for its meeting on December 2, 1999, and a copy thereof is in the office of the City Clerk)

*(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following report (December 7, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:*

Purpose:

*To report on a request submitted by Councillor Jack Layton to the Toronto Community Council to rescind the parking prohibition during winter months and retain the "island" parking arrangement on a year round basis where currently in effect on Langely, Victor and Simpson Avenues.*

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

*There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.*

Recommendation:

*It is recommended that the current parking prohibition from December 1 of one year to March 31 of the following year on Langley Avenue, Victor Avenue and Simpson Avenue remain in place to ensure public safety.*

Background:

*The Toronto Community Council, at its meeting of December 2, 1999, in considering a communication (November 26, 1999) from Councillor Jack Layton, on behalf of residents on Langley, Victor and Simpson Avenues, has forwarded a request to City Council without recommendation to rescind the parking prohibition from December 1 of each year to March 31 of the next following year, inclusive, where currently in effect on these streets to enable the "island" parking arrangement to operate year round and maximize parking opportunity for residents of these streets. The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services was requested to report directly to City Council on this matter. (Clause No. 5 of Report No. 15 of the Toronto Community Council).*

Comments:

*The subject parking regulation was implemented in 1996 on each of these streets in conjunction with the installation of the "island" parking arrangement. Island parking is a modified form of two-sided parking that generally provides two parking spaces at about 36 metre intervals on the side of the street where parking is otherwise prohibited. The parking "island" concept was originally proposed for the dual purposes of increasing the on-street parking supply in non-winter months in areas where parking demand generally exceeded supply, and at the same time, provide a measure of traffic calming without the necessity of costly construction.*

*Prior to approval by the former City of Toronto Council, extensive consultation took place with staff of the former City of Toronto Fire Department, Legal Department and Works Services, to develop a parking strategy for "island" parking that was operationally sound and considered public safety. Specifically, in order to effectively ensure street access, passage along the street and adequate space for deployment of fire fighting equipment when "island" parking is present on narrow streets such as Langley, Victor and Simpson Avenues (each 7.3*

***metres in width with one-way traffic operation), stringent conditions were imposed which, among other provisions, stipulated:***

- (a) That a minimum driving lane of at least 3.3 metres in width be maintained. This necessitated a minimum cross-section width of 7.3 metres on which parking occupied a maximum 2.0 metre width along each curb; and***
- (b) That the parking “islands” only be in effect during non-winter months.***

***Our reports to the former City Services Committee (and more recently to the Toronto Community Council) have clearly indicated that the “island” parking arrangement should not operate during the winter months (from December 1 to March 31) due to operational safety concerns and that residents need to be aware that the parking shortfall, which is addressed from April 1 to November 30, will recur during the winter months.***

***Although we appreciate the residents’ concerns over the loss of several parking spaces from December 1 to March 31, snow accumulation along the curbs would narrow the travelled portion of the roadway to a width of less than 3 metres if the parking “islands” were retained on a year round basis. Notwithstanding the difficulty this would create for ploughing or sanding/salting operations, passage by emergency vehicles and to a lesser degree delivery trucks and other public service vehicles such as garbage compactors, would be obstructed.***

**Conclusions:**

***Based on our experience, it would not be prudent for Council to recommend rescinding the parking prohibition from December 1 to March 31 and continuing the “island” parking arrangement during the winter months on Langley, Victor and Simpson Avenues due to the potential impact on public safety and road operations.***

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