

*This newsletter is a co-operative effort between City of Toronto's Transportation Services Division, Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission. City Routes addresses transportation issues of concern to motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.*

## It's time to clear the air

**All** of us want to keep our air clean, but that's something for big business and government to do, right? The average person can't do anything to help improve climate change, can we?

Wrong! Here's a simple thing that all of us can do to help improve the quality of the air we breathe. Instead of idling your vehicle, turn off the engine. It's a simple but effective step toward cleaner air.

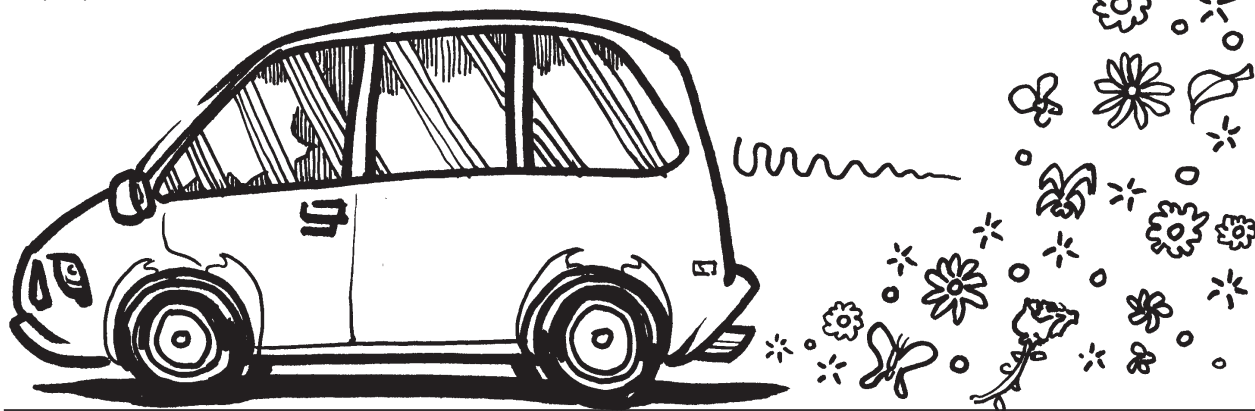
When a vehicle is idling, harmful contaminants are released into the air. Recent studies have shown that pollutants from vehicle emissions are major contributors to deteriorating air quality in our city. By turning off your vehicle's engine, you can do your part to help keep our air clean.

And, not only does it save our air, it can save money, too. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine. If your vehicle is left idling for 10 minutes a day, you would use up more than 100 litres of fuel in a year. Improving air quality and saving money—that's a combination you just can't beat!

Here are a couple of other tips that can help. It's better to warm up your car by driving it than by idling the engine. Warm up times are reduced by half and you'll use less fuel. Use remote car starters sparingly. The use of this item results in additional engine idling.

The City of Toronto has a by-law aimed at reducing unnecessary idling. It limits idling to no more than three minutes in a 60-minute period. The by-law allows for idling during extreme outdoor temperatures to ensure heating or cooling inside a vehicle.

It's time for all of us to take a lead role in clearing the air. Turn off your vehicle's engine instead of idling. Let's all breathe easier.



## Making street name signs more visible makes it easier to get around Toronto

**The** City is taking strides toward making street name signs more visible and easier to read.

Toronto City Council's intention is to ensure a high quality, coordinated and well designed public realm for both residents and visitors. Transportation Services is taking this approach with street signs—an integral part of the urban landscape.

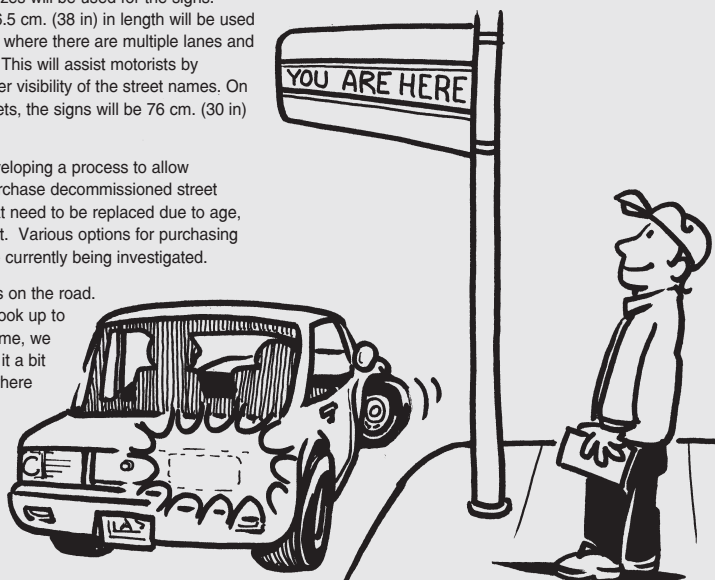
Toronto's new street signs will be made of aluminium and feature three basic components. The three-dimensional central piece will be common to all signs and will feature highly reflective blue sheeting with upper and lower case white reflective lettering. This will result in a consistent, easy to read street name.

Two additional pieces will make up the look of the new signs. The upper "blade" will provide an opportunity to place the name or other relevant identification of a distinctive neighbourhood, community or local business improvement area. The lower "blade" will be used to show the closest address number to the intersection. A common mechanism will be used to attach the signs to the existing poles being used.

Two different sizes will be used for the signs. Larger signs 96.5 cm. (38 in) in length will be used on major roads where there are multiple lanes and higher speeds. This will assist motorists by providing greater visibility of the street names. On residential streets, the signs will be 76 cm. (30 in) in length.

City staff is developing a process to allow residents to purchase decommissioned street name signs that need to be replaced due to age, damage or theft. Various options for purchasing these signs are currently being investigated.

Keep your eyes on the road. But when you look up to find a street name, we think you'll find it a bit easier to see where you are.



# Work continues to fix City roads

**The** right treatment for the right road at the right time. That's the mandate of the City's Transportation Infrastructure Management team as it goes about the task of repairing roads throughout the city.

The Transportation Division's goal is to keep the roads in a state of good repair at a minimal cost to the taxpayer. This cost-effective way of maintaining the roads is called "life-cycle costing." It means fixing the roads as necessary to avoid costly maintenance in the future and, in essence, postponing the date when an old road would have to be completely reconstructed.

Typically, a major roadway is made up of an asphalt top and concrete bottom. In most cases, a new road's asphalt has a life span of 18-25 years. As weather conditions and regular wear-and-tear occur, cracks and holes appearing in the road are repaired by city staff. The freeze-thaw cycle is a road's worst enemy. When water enters the cracks created in the road and freezes, it actually has the strength and capability of lifting huge chunks of the asphalt.

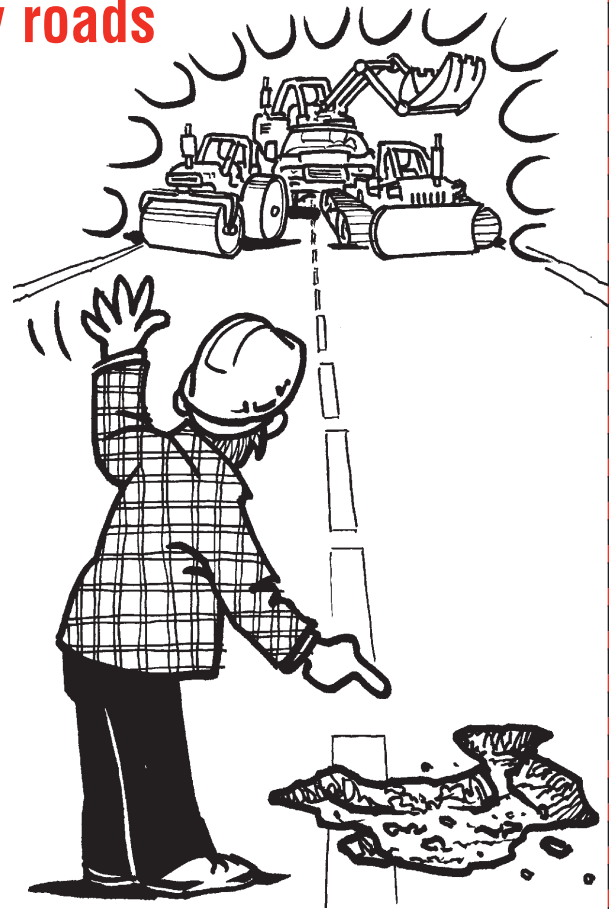
After the road has been in existence for about 20 years, inspectors look at the road and perform engineering tests to determine if it needs a new surface. If the road is deemed to be in good shape, no work will be done at this point and the inspectors will return at a later date. If, however, the asphalt is in disrepair, the City will resurface the road by replacing the asphalt.

If the road was in need of repair, but neglected at this stage, the deterioration would continue right through to the concrete base of the road. The result would be a costly base reconstruction which usually costs about three times the amount of repairing the asphalt portion of the road. Usually, a road's base will last about 50 years if preventative measures such as resurfacing are done periodically. If preventative measures are not undertaken, a road's base might last only 25-30 years.

Taking steps to repave the road before it reaches a state of further disrepair has some obvious benefits. The work results in an improved road surface that benefits road users and also avoids the premature deterioration of the road's base. Bridges and sidewalks are maintained in a similar fashion.

This might explain why certain road work is performed. Some residents might see a road that, on first glance, they don't think requires resurfacing. But, by doing so, the city is prolonging the life of the road as well as saving money by avoiding a complete reconstruction. This process—the planned preventative interventions combined with financial modeling techniques—forms the basis of life-cycle costing. These techniques allow staff to manage "assets" better.

Life cycle costing has proven to be a cost-effective process in maintaining smooth sailing for Toronto's road users and taxpayers.



**Watch Where You Plant** Here's a reminder to residents about where you place flowers and other plants. Planting too close to the sidewalk can affect sightlines, as well as cause obstructions for pedestrians. Please assist pedestrians by trimming back any plants that hang over the sidewalk.

## Transportation Services helping to keep Toronto clean and beautiful

**Making** Toronto one of Canada's most attractive cities is a goal of Toronto Council. And Transportation Services is doing its part in helping to keep Toronto clean and beautiful.

The division is involved in such activities as mechanical street sweeping and flushing, manual cleaning around parked cars, leaf pick-up and expressway cleaning. Work at the side of the road includes grass cutting, some boulevard cleaning and cleaning up graffiti.

**Here are some of the areas where work is taking place.**

### Coordinated Street Furniture Program

Street furniture involves the design and placement of such items as transit shelters, refuse bins, benches and publication boxes. The City is in the process of coordinating all street furniture to eliminate the cluttered appearance of city streets. The new system will improve city streets with flexible, high quality furniture.

### Gardiner Expressway Underside Restoration and Clean-up

As part of its state of good repair work for city roads, Transportation Services is working to improve the area below the elevated portion of the Gardiner Expressway from Bathurst Street to Bay Street.

The work involves incorporating modest upgrades through the use of granular materials, trees and other

plantings, lighting, fencing and limited paving. It is aimed at improving the area for pedestrian travel in the vicinity of crossings, as well as enhancing the remaining land. To date, work has been undertaken between Yonge and York Streets and at the crossings of Simcoe and Rees Streets.

### Roadside Cleaning

Throughout 2006, work has been done to clean up areas adjacent to road surfaces by cutting grass in transportation corridors, cleaning litter on boulevards, mechanically collecting leaves in designated areas in the city, as well as graffiti removal and illegal dumping.

More than 300 locations in the city called "orphan spaces" or City-owned land, where maintenance has been inconsistent. In 2006, work was removed from these areas and green spaces were maintained.

Manual weed control has been done in paved areas such as traffic islands, sidewalks and the median along the Gardiner Expressway, an activity that has been challenging since spraying pesticides were banned in April 2004.

### Roadway Cleaning

Work has been done to clean up city roads by mechanically sweeping and flushing streets, manually cleaning around parked cars, cleaning leaves from roadways, cleaning expressways and streets after special events such as the Santa Claus Parade.

## City to improve safety for pedestrians at crosswalks

**The** City of Toronto has launched a \$10.2 million program to improve pedestrian safety at the City's pedestrian crossings over the next five years

After a study was done to investigate the safety of crosswalks around the City, a number of sites were recommended for changes. Some areas will receive traffic lights while others will get improvements to make them safer for those who cross the road at these locations.

In 2007, a total of 24 locations will receive traffic lights while the remaining 53 identified in the study will be improved to make them more visible to drivers. The improvements will include painted zebra-striped crosswalk markings, larger and brighter overhead flashing beacons and new side-mounted beacons at the sidewalk to draw drivers' attention to pedestrians who are waiting to cross the road.

In 2008, work will focus on the 253 crosswalks on the minor arterials roads. Of these locations, 37 will be replaced with traffic signals and 216 will receive enhancements.

These changes will go a long way toward making our roads safer for pedestrians.

## What to do if you get a parking ticket?

**Each** year, approximately 2.8 million parking tickets are issued in the City of Toronto. The City's Revenue Services Division is responsible for the processing and collection of fines for all parking infraction notices (i.e. parking tickets) issued in the City of Toronto.

If someone receives a City of Toronto parking ticket there are two options available. Pay the ticket or come into one of the four offices (addresses listed below) to dispute the ticket and/or request a trial.

If the offender wishes to simply pay the ticket, there are currently four payment options available to them; online, over the phone through our Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), in person, or by mail.

If the offender does not wish to pay the ticket and would like to dispute it, they must come into one of the four offices listed below and discuss their concern regarding the issuance of the ticket with a staff member. If the offenders concern/dispute cannot be resolved at this point, they may request a trial by completing a Notice of Intention to Appear in Court and filing this document with the counter clerk.

Persons with disabilities who live more than 100 kilometres from the City of Toronto, whose vehicle was stolen, or who are holders of valid permits for parking in designated parking spot may call 416-397-8247 (TAGS) for assistance in dealing with a parking infraction notice.

**Parking Tag Operations – Central**  
55 John Street (John south of King)  
3rd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, Ontario

Hours of operation:  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday:  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday:  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Parking Tags Operations – East**  
1530 Markham Road  
Main Floor, Scarborough, Ontario

Hours of operation:  
Monday, Tue-Friday:  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday:  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Parking Tags Operations – West**  
York Civic Centre,  
2700 Eglinton Avenue West  
Main Floor, York, Ontario

Hours of operation:  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday:  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday:  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Parking Tags Operations – North**  
North York Civic Centre,  
5100 Yonge Street  
Lower Level, North York, Ontario

Hours of operation:  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday:  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday:  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

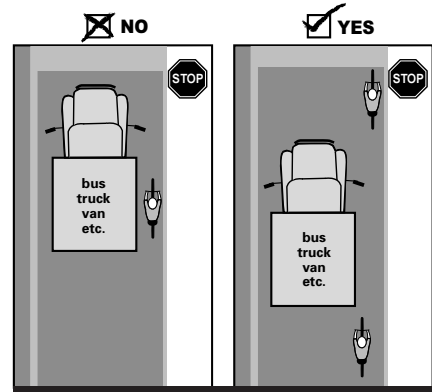
**Note:** All four sites are wheelchair accessible. Closed on statutory and civic holidays.

# Please don't squeeze

We can all work together to prevent collisions between large vehicles and cyclists. Here's a tip that could save a life.

**Attention cyclists:** Large vehicles take up the full width of a lane so it is not safe to try and share the lane with them. Stay well behind large vehicles and never squeeze through between the vehicle and the curb. Large vehicles have HUGE blind spots. The driver may not see you, and they will not hear your bell, so always stop or slow down to stay well behind a vehicle when it is turning right. Please don't squeeze. Leave room to breathe.

**Attention drivers of trucks, buses, vans, SUVs and motor homes:** Your vehicle takes up the full width of a lane so it is not safe to share the lane with a cyclist. You must change lanes to safely pass a cyclist or stay behind. Never attempt to overtake a cyclist in the same lane. Remember: cyclists may ride faster than you think. Check blind spots often and avoid cutting off a cyclist on a turn. Please don't squeeze. Leave room to breathe.



## Get ready for Bike Week – May 28 to June 10

Riding your bike is a great way to get outside, and get where you need to go. Using a bicycle as part of your strategy for getting around is a great way to get sunshine and fresh air as part of your day. And, it's a great way to beat traffic!

If you haven't tried it, perhaps this is the time to consider using your bike to commute. It's all about a new attitude—the idea that bicycle commuting can be both practical and enjoyable.

A number of fun events will take place during Bike Week, including free mechanical workshops to get you and your bike in shape for the summer. One of the most popular Bike Week events is the 18th annual Group Commute and Pancake Breakfast which will take place on Monday, May 28. Pick up a free T-shirt and participate in the City of Toronto's marquee Bike Week event by meeting at one of five points around the city. Starting at Yonge and

Bloor, the group will ride down to Toronto City Hall for a free breakfast at 8:30 a.m. provided by the St. Lawrence Market.

For more information on participating in this fun event, contact the Bike Week office at 416-392-7592, bikeweek@toronto.ca, or visit [www.toronto.ca/cycling](http://www.toronto.ca/cycling).



## Cycling – the safe and fun way

Using a bike to run errands or get to work can save you time and money while increasing your fitness level and reducing emissions.

Consider learning the CAN-BIKE way. CAN-BIKE is the only program in Canada that provides the support and training you need to make cycling part of your lifestyle. CAN-BIKE instructors are regular commuters and recreational cyclists with the on-road and in-class experience to help you increase your skill and confidence levels. Our students include: children, new riders, bike couriers and daily commuters. Regardless of your skill level, there is a CAN-BIKE course to match your needs.

**The City of Toronto offers CAN-BIKE training at the following locations:**

Agincourt recreation centre; Allan A. Lamport Stadium; Birchmount community centre; Centennial recreation centre; Etobicoke Olypmium; York University; High Park; James S. Bell community centre; Palmerston Library; Trinity Bellwoods.

If you have special needs or have a group of four or more friends eager to ride more confidently or if you wish to become an instructor—call 416-392-1311. Visit [www.toronto.ca/cycling/canbike](http://www.toronto.ca/cycling/canbike) for more information.

## Toronto hosts international walking conference in the fall

**Dr. David Suzuki will join with experts and advocates from around the world to explore strategies for designing more walkable cities, at the 8th Annual Walk21 Conference in Toronto this fall. Walk21 Toronto 2007 will bring together professionals, (planners, designers, engineers, researchers, health experts), politicians and advocates for three days of workshops, walking tours and other activities.**

**This conference will provide Toronto with a unique opportunity to learn from some of the best international examples as the City continues to develop a new walking strategy.**

**The conference is hosted by the City of Toronto and Green Communities Canada, a national umbrella organization involved in environmental and health issues.**

**Information about the Walk21 program and registration will be available in May at [www.toronto.ca/walk21](http://www.toronto.ca/walk21).**

# Contact your Councillor and Mayor

Ward	Councillor	Telephone #	Ward	Councillor	Telephone #	Ward	Councillor	Telephone #
Mayor	David Miller	416-397-2489	15	Howard Moscoe	416-392-4027	30	Paula Fletcher	416-392-4060
1	Suzan Hall	416-392-0205	16	Karen Stintz	416-392-4090	31	Janet Davis	416-392-4035
2	Rob Ford	416-397-9255	17	Cesar Palacio	416-392-7011	32	Sandra Bussin	416-392-1376
3	Douglas Holyday	416-392-4002	18	Adam Giambrone	416-392-7012	33	Shelley Carroll	416-392-4038
4	Gloria Lindsay Luby	416-392-1369	19	Joe Pantalone	416-392-4009	34	Denzil Minnan-Wong	416-397-9256
5	Peter Milczyn	416-392-4040	20	Adam Vaughan	416-392-4044	35	A.A. (Adrian) Heaps	416-392-0213
6	Mark Grimes	416-397-9273	21	Joe Mihevc	416-392-0208	36	Brian Ashton	416-392-4052
7	George Mammoliti	416-395-6401	22	Michael Walker	416-392-7906	37	Michael Thompson	416-397-9274
8	Anthony Perruzza	416-338-5335	23	John Filion	416-395-6411	38	Glenn De Baeremaeker	416-392-0204
9	Maria Augimeri	416-392-4021	24	David Shiner	416-395-6413	39	Mike Del Grande	416-392-1374
10	Mike Feldman	416-395-6407	25	Cliff Jenkins	416-395-6408	40	Norm Kelly	416-392-4047
11	Frances Nunziata	416-392-4091	26	John Parker	416-392-0215	41	Chin Lee	416-392-1375
12	Frank Di Giorgio	416-392-4066	27	Kyle Rae	416-392-7903	42	Raymond Cho	416-392-4076
13	Bill Saunderson	416-392-4072	28	Pam McConnell	416-392-7916	43	Paul Ainslie	416-392-4008
14	Gord Perks	416-392-7919	29	Case Ootes	416-392-4032	44	Ron Moeser	416-392-1373



## of the GST NOW!

### Our City. Our Money. Our Vote.

**You** may have seen media reports and advertising about Toronto's One Cent NOW! Campaign.

The campaign seeks the support of the public in obtaining one cent of the existing GST to be dedicated to funding the needs of Canada's cities. For Toronto, that would mean approximately \$410 million.

Toronto and Canada's other cities are the economic engines of our country and need regular maintenance to operate efficiently. But there's a huge

gap between what cities need and the money available to pay for major projects and programs. In Toronto's case, the gap is \$1.1 billion annually. That's why a consistent source of money that grows when our economy grows is so critical.

With one cent of the GST, we could improve and expand the infrastructure that helps you and your family get around the city safely and quickly. We could ensure faster delivery of goods and services and continue to make Toronto cleaner and greener. We could overhaul our affordable housing stock and invest in community centres and libraries.

This is not just Toronto's campaign. Mayors from across Canada are joining together to get One Cent NOW! from Ottawa.

The federal government has already said there is room to cut the GST. Toronto believes if there is room to cut the tax then there is room to share it with Canadian cities. Cities like Toronto must pay the ongoing costs for major projects — like transit, parks and recreation programs. However, the cost of such projects goes far beyond what the property taxpayers of Toronto can pay. The one cent NOW! Campaign aims to show that the growth Toronto creates benefits all of Canada and that the cost of supporting the growth Toronto creates should be shared.

With a possible federal election this year, now is the time to be heard. You can do that by going to the campaign website: [www.onecentnow.ca](http://www.onecentnow.ca) to sign the online petition, learn how to contact federal politicians or order a bumper sticker, button, window card or other items.

With your help, we will get One Cent NOW! for Toronto.

Remember: it's Our City. Our Money. Our Vote.

Ecco qualcosa di semplice che noi tutti possiamo fare per contribuire a migliorare la qualità dell'aria che respiriamo. Invece di tenere acceso il motore dell'autoveicolo, spegnetelo. È un semplice, ma efficace, passo in avanti per ottenere aria più pulita.

Quando un autoveicolo è lasciato col motore acceso, delle sostanze inquinanti e dannose vengono disperse nell'aria. Spegnendo il motore del vostro autoveicolo farete la vostra parte per aiutare l'ambiente.

Voici quelque chose de très simple que nous pouvons tous faire pour améliorer la qualité de l'air que nous respirons. Plutôt que de laisser tourner votre moteur de voiture, arrêtez-le. C'est une étape toute simple et efficace pour purifier l'air.

Lorsque le moteur d'une voiture est en marche, des contaminants nocifs sont libérés dans l'air. En éteignant le moteur de votre voiture, vous participez à l'assainissement de l'environnement.

Każdy z nas może przyczynić się do poprawienia jakości powietrza, którym oddychamy. Prosty i skuteczny krok w tym kierunku jest wyłączenie silnika pojazdu w czasie postoju.

W czasie tzw. jałowego biegu silnika (idling) do powietrza przedostają się szkodliwe substancje chemiczne. Wyłączając silnik w czasie postoju przyczyniamy się do ochrony naszego środowiska naturalnego.

Há uma coisa bem simples que todos nós podemos fazer, para ajudar a melhorar a qualidade do ar que respiramos: desligar o motor dos veículos quando estamos parados. É um passo simples, mas eficaz, para termos um ar mais limpo.

Um veículo parado e com o motor a trabalhar liberta contaminadores nocivos na atmosfera. Ao desligar o motor do seu veículo, está a contribuir para um melhor meio ambiente.

Hay algo muy sencillo que todos podemos hacer para ayudar a mejorar la calidad del aire que respiramos. En lugar de dejar los vehículos en marcha, apague el motor. Es una medida sencilla pero eficaz para tener un aire más limpio.

Quando se deja un vehículo en marcha, se liberan contaminantes nocivos en el aire. Al apagar el motor de su vehículo, puede contribuir a ayudar al medio ambiente.

我們都可以做一件很簡單的事情，幫助改善空氣的質素。不要讓車輛引擎空轉，把引擎關閉。這是使空氣更清新既有效又簡單的方法。

當車輛引擎空轉時，有害的污染物會釋放於空氣中。您可以盡自己一份力量，保護環境，把您的汽車的引擎關閉。

#### How to Reach Us

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416-393-INFO (4636)  
[www.ttc.ca](http://www.ttc.ca)

Toronto Police Service  
416-808-1900 (Traffic Services)  
416-808-6600 (Parking Enforcement Unit)  
[www.torontopolice.on.ca](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca)