



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 918, Parking on Residential Front Yards and Boulevards – §918-7 Canadian National Exhibition Temporary Parking

Date:	October 22, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Manager, Right of Way Management, Transportation Services, Toronto and East York District
Wards:	Ward 14 – Parkdale - High Park
Reference Number:	Te2015039.te.row

SUMMARY

Transportation Services has received a request from Councillor Perks to rescind section 918-7, Canadian National Exhibition temporary parking, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 918, Parking on Residential Front Yards and Boulevards. This section of the Code speaks specifically to roads identified and located wholly in Ward 14.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 918, Parking on Residential Front Yards and Boulevards, by deleting § 918-7.
2. Council authorize and direct the appropriate staff to take the necessary steps to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City as a result of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 13, 1982, former Toronto Council passed By-Law No. 519-82 and, in doing so, amended former Toronto By-Law No. 65-81 to permit parking on front yards and boulevards during the dates of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). These amendments were required to be done on a yearly basis, each time before the beginning of that year's CNE.

At its meeting of June 27, 28 and 29, 2006, Toronto City Council adopted By-law No. 680-2006, adopting a new City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 918, Parking on Residential Front Yards and Boulevards. The new harmonized Code Chapter 918, as adopted, included what currently remains as § 918-7 and reads as follows:

"§ 918-7. Canadian National Exhibition temporary parking.

None of the provisions of this chapter shall prohibit the temporary parking of motor vehicles on the boulevard or front yard each year from the opening date to the closing date, inclusive, of the Canadian National Exhibition, on the public highways designated in Column 1 below between the limits set out in Column 2:

Column 1

*Cowan Avenue
Spencer Avenue
Springhurst Avenue
Thorburn Avenue (north side)
Tyndall Avenue*

Column 2

*Springhurst Avenue and the south end
Springhurst Avenue and the south end
Fort Rouille Street and Dunn Avenue
Entire length
Thorburn Avenue and the south end"*

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Increasingly over the years, the local Councillor's office, as well as the Off-Street Parking office, have received complaints and/or been made aware of concerns from local residents that boulevard and/or front yard parking was, during the Canadian National Exhibition, steadily expanding beyond the areas covered within Section 918-7. In the areas covered by Section 918-7, there are approximately 104 properties legally eligible to participate. The properties that do participate charge a fee to vehicles parking. The City receives no revenues from this practice.

Additionally, there is a perception and concern that the negative effects of permitting vehicles to park on soft surfaces, including in the middle of what would normally be tree protection zones, are being ignored or disregarded by continuing to permit this practice.

Councillor Perks' office has advised Transportation Services that they will be canvassing the affected area and advising the affected residents of the proposed change. At the time of writing of this report, Councillor Perks' office had invited staff to attend a community meeting to be held on November 2, 2015.

COMMENTS

Parking on residential front yards and boulevards has long been regulated and the intention of the by-law in its various forms has always been to permit/allow the activity as a means of last resort for the resident. That is, where there is no other parking alternative available. This is not the case for this situation. The by-laws governing parking in front of the main front wall specifically prohibit this practise, except where and when an application is permitted and approved. Allowing this to continue is not consistent with the policies and procedures in place with respect to parking in front of the main front wall.

City Council, at its meeting of July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2013 adopted with amendments report PE21.6, Vehicle Parking in Marilyn Bell Park.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-59450.pdf>

This ended the practise of permitting the temporary parking in the park during the CNE. The report identifies a number of impacts associated with parking on surfaces not meant for parking, including, soil compaction, poor turf quality and stunted tree growth, the impacts of which, are cumulative over a period of time. These impacts would also be applicable within the subject area.

Additionally, there are safety concerns as vehicles at many locations access the parking via means other than a driveway apron and/or legal ramp. For example, Photos in Appendix B for Tyndal Road Avenue, show makeshift ramps created with the use of wooden boards. Moreover, Cyclists, pedestrians or other users of the City's right of way, are generally not accustomed to vehicles driving over full-faced curbs onto sidewalks to access front lawns.

Assuming that Council amends City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 918, Parking on Residential Front Yards and Boulevards, to delete Section 918-7, Transportation Services, Right of Way Management, will consult with the local Councillor's office with respect to advising the affected properties of the change, both at the time of the passing of this change as well as just prior to the 2016 CNE. Other measures which could be considered during the CNE, are the issuance of Notices of Advice to those properties that might not be fully aware of the change in the by-law.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 'A' – area map
Appendix 'B' – photos