



## HELEN KENNEDY CAMPAIGN UPDATE - APRIL 9TH

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### 1. Intro

Dear friends,

It's official! I am now a declared and registered candidate for Toronto City Council. Thank you to everyone who came out to our launch party on March 20th - it was an amazing event, attended by more than 100 supporters and friends.

I have been working hard on this campaign, talking to residents in every neighbourhood of our Ward about the issues that matter to them.

My thanks to everyone who has supported our campaign so far - your input is vital and greatly appreciated. However, there is still much to do! You will have a chance to help me fight for the residents of Ward 20 at the NDP's official endorsement meeting, to be held in a few short weeks. More details will follow soon.

### 2. Globe & Mail Article

The municipal election is months away, and already the media is turning a spotlight on this Ward. The article talks about Olivia's support for me, and the need for a strong progressive candidate in our Ward.

Read the article:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20060401.CITYHALL01/TPStory/TPNational/>

*(requires subscription to globe and mail insider edition. alternatively, you can access it via google news, or email me for a pdf of the article.)*

### 3. What our neighbours are saying

Here's what some residents of Ward 20 are saying about my candidacy:

Sue Dexter, (resident of Willcocks Street):

*"I've worked with Helen on issues as big as Varsity stadium and as small as the garbage at the foot of Robert Street. She is a miracle. She knows who to call, what to say, where to push, where to fade. She knows City Hall..."*

Sarah Hastie, (owner of one of the most seriously damaged houses in the Robert Street fire which happened on July 11, 2005):

*"As one of the homeowners whose house was destroyed by fire last summer, I found Helen to be enormously supportive. We were very concerned that rigorous efforts would not be taken to save the historic facades of these century-homes; Helen rallied around and ensured that members of Heritage Conservation and City Planning attended hastily-called on site meetings to discuss saving the house fronts. And we were successful! Another example of how Helen works to make the neighbourhood a better place and supports the residents."*

David Powell (president, HSRO):

*"Huron-Sussex Residents Organization wants Helen Kennedy's experience in City Hall. She's always worked hard for us."*

Paul Durfee Oberst (resident of Kensington Market, Architect and Heritage Consultant):

*"Helen Kennedy has been energetic and diligent on neighbourhood and heritage issues that I care about. When we needed her, she showed up."*

#### **4. Campaign highlights so far**

I'm already hard at work campaigning to represent you on council. Here are some of the major events of the campaign so far (thanks to Sue Dexter for keeping this journal):

*"March 20: Campaign Launch Party; More than 100 people crowded the Duke of York pub on Bedford Road for a rousing introduction of the candidate by Olivia Chow. 'Helen's my choice for candidate! I'm supporting her because I know her spirit and dedication to the ward. We worked together for seven years. We made things happen. Let's get all three levels of government on the same side and work together.'"*  
*"Helen got an enthusiastic reception from the crowd. She got the biggest ovation of the night by her criticism of the blight on the urban landscape by advertising in public spaces. She talked about taking back the Island Airport for a park and demobbing the Port Authority, and said the preservation of our neighbourhoods and creative city planning is central to her campaign."*

*“April 1. Environment Day was literally down-to-earth for the candidate as she worked with Annex resident Robert Brown and other members of the Annex Residents Association. Helen worked the neighbourhoods, talking to residents, finding out their concerns.”*

*“April 3. A celebration of the restoration of funding to the LGBT Parenting network, an organization that organizes support groups, and information and resources for gay parents. Helen and fellow advocates Anna Willats and Jane Walsh managed to persuade Provincial Health Minister George Smitherman to rescue the service from government cuts and fund the program through the Sherbourne Health Centre. Rachel Epstein, program co-ordinator praised the trio, calling them ‘our three m(o)uskateers’. Helen received Mickey Mouse ears and a plastic sword as mementos of her continued activism!”*

*“April 5. Tim Grant from Robert Street hosted a meeting for local neighbours to introduce Helen as our candidate. Questions flew, from Toronto Island airport, to government accountability, to ways to ensure neighbourhood preservation in the face of increasing populations, to the role of police in society. She promised to be a strong advocate for trees, parks and the environment and for strengthened urban planning to ensure developments are supportive of city life, not destructive. Bottom line for the candidate: a stimulating meeting with thought-provoking questions from intelligent folks.”*

## **5. Questionnaire**

As your councillor, my job will be to advocate for you, and to do my job properly I will need to know what you want from your government.

What issues motivate you? What do you think that council can and should do better?

To get a better picture of what you would like me to focus on while in office, I've prepared this short questionnaire. Your responses will help to make me a more effective voice in council.

Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Evening Phone:

E-mail:

Which issue or issues are you most concerned about?

- Environment
- Property Taxes
- Crime & Public Safety
- Development and Land Use
- Waste Management
- Clean City
- TTC / Transit

- Waterfront / Island Airport
- Government Accountability / Ethics
- Intergovernmental Relationships

What other issues or problems would you like me to look into?

If you would like to speak to me personally, I can be reached at [helen@helenkennedy.ca](mailto:helen@helenkennedy.ca), or by phone at 416-703-6695. Thanks once again, and I'll be sure to keep in touch!

Cheers,

Helen Kennedy.

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead