

City Walkout: Day 34

2 new dump sites open

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Toronto is opening two new temporary drop-off sites for garbage, and closing two others. The two new ones are a parking lot at Amesbury Arena, near Black Creek Dr. and Lawrence Ave. W., and a tennis court at Otter Creek Centre, near Avenue Rd. and Lawrence Ave. W. They open at 7 a.m. today while two existing drop-offs, Caledonia Park, near Caledonia Rd. and Lawrence, and North Toronto Memorial, near Eglinton Ave. W. and Oriole Parkway, closed last night at 7.

THE PUSH FOR PERMITS

Toronto's decision to resume issuing building permits doesn't go nearly far enough, and should include handing out fast-track permits for small, uncomplicated residential projects such as decks and garages, says Councillor Peter Milczyn.

The normal fast-track service, allowing people to obtain permits on the spot, was cancelled when the civic workers' strike began June 22.

The city announced this week that it would start handing out permits already in the pipeline when the strike began, a modest step that should be augmented with the return of counter service for small projects, Milczyn said.

"This is about some resumption of normalcy," he said.

BID FOR INJUNCTIONS

The city has gone to court seeking two injunctions – one to prevent picketers from blocking or delaying workers and clients from entering a social services office in Etobicoke, the other prohibiting strikers from blocking clean-up efforts by the city at Bluffer's Park in Scarborough, where illegal dumping has taken place. The city has already been awarded two similar injunctions.