

Don't Miss "A Night on The Town"

Last year we inaugurated a new Hampstead event called "A Night on The Town." The event sold out, with over 300 residents in attendance. The following morning, everywhere we went, people were talking about the fabulous event. Those who had attended were talking about how much fun they had and those who hadn't were kicking themselves for missing it. Make sure you order your tickets today before we sell out again.

Kosher food will again be catered by Simone Toledano, whose sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and desserts were such a hit last year. To help burn off those calories, there will be dancing to the music of 'The Fundamentals' 8 person band. While the theme this year is Swing, all kinds of music will be played. Entertainment will be provided by the Swinging Air Force, whose acrobatic swing dancing will dazzle you. If you are lucky, one of the dancers may invite you for a spin on the dance floor after the show.

There will be complimentary wine and a cash bar so consider walking over and you won't need a designated driver. In addition, there will be a raffle with super and unique prizes. I am fully expecting other surprises from the organizing committee, who are actively working on this evening, as I write this.

"A Night on The Town" will be on Wednesday, Oct.17 at 7 pm in the big tent at 30 Lyncroft and all adults from 18 to 80+ are invited. Call the Community Centre at (514) 369-8260 to order tickets.

I look forward to seeing you there.

So Why Weren't the Roads Paved from Sidewalk to Sidewalk?

If I had a dollar for every person who has asked me that question, I could afford to buy a small house in Hampstead! Seriously, the administration and your council have spent a lot of time deciding which roads to repair and how to do the work. To develop a master plan for the repair and maintenance of our infrastructure, we have had studies done by professional firms on our roads, sewers and water mains.

In order to bring our road network back to an acceptable level as quickly as possible, without taking on excessive debt, we have had to set priorities and make some tough choices. Factors that we considered included the traffic volumes, the road condition, the state of sewers below the road and the cost. The basic choice was between doing very extensive and expensive road rebuilding that would last for 20+ years, or doing much cheaper work that would serve reasonably well on our lower traffic streets, lasting up to 5 years. We have chosen to do the less expensive work for most roads with less traffic.

Here is a description of all the types of roadwork that we are doing:

1. The most expensive options involve removing the old asphalt and/or repairing the road base:

- **Scraping off the old asphalt prior to resurfacing** - This will last about 15 years and costs about 2.5 times the techniques which just cover the existing asphalt. This technique was done on the selected blocks on Dufferin, Finchley, Stratford, Heath and Queen Mary. These blocks were chosen for this repair because of higher traffic and/or the need for work under the road surface.

- **Total reconstruction including the road base** - This will last 20+ years depending on traffic and maintenance and is the most expensive option. We did this on Queen Mary between Hampstead and Fleet and plan to do this on Fleet between Finchley and Queen Mary. This is recommended for high traffic areas and/or where the concrete base has serious deterioration.

2. We have achieved significant savings by resurfacing without scraping on lower traffic roads – but the roads will likely need to be worked on again in about 5 years

- **Resurfacing without scraping the underlying road surface** - This is the technique used for the recent work on Finchley, Merton and Thurlow. It will be used for most of the work to be done this Fall in the area north of Fleet. We need to leave channels on the side to ensure that the water drains properly. **That is why those roads were not paved from sidewalk to sidewalk.**

- **Using Hampstead’s own paver is another strategy to reduce our costs** - There is no scraping but the asphalt layer is built higher in the middle so we get good drainage and can go sidewalk to sidewalk. Using our paver on low traffic streets is cheaper than using an outside contractor and the work is almost as good but it takes longer. We have used the paver on Eton Crescent, Hampstead Road between Finchley and MacDonald, Cressy between Queen Mary and Heath, and Haverstock.

3. Short-term ‘patch’ work will continue to be used, as needed

- **Cold patches** – We do this in Winter for large potholes that must be repaired immediately. The patch only lasts for a few weeks but that is all that can be done in cold weather.

- **Hot patches** – We use this technique in the Spring and the repairs could last a year or two or more but road is bumpy and unsightly.

A plan for the future

Before the end of this council’s mandate, we expect to have a long term plan to address continued maintenance of our infrastructure along with a plan to finance the work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Steinberg
Mayor, Town of Hampstead