



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD

UPDATE

May 2016

GBRA Board 2015-16

Alan McFarland – President

Chris Fraser – Vice President

Jeff Hanemaayer – Secretary-Treasurer

Kathryn Langley Hope – Director

Keith Nash – Director

The GBRA Board and volunteers have been working hard on many important matters on your behalf.

EVENTS

Wine & Cheese Reception & Annual General Meeting

On Thursday, May 19 in the Catherine Grant Room of Rosedale United Church at 159 Roxborough Dr. (at Glen Rd.), the GBRA will host a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 pm followed by the AGM from 7:15 to 8:45 pm. Come enjoy a glass of wine while rubbing elbows with your neighbours and participating in our AGM.

Film Screening on the Don River Valley Park

Evergreen Brick Works is proposing the creation from now through 2019 of a new park in the Don River Valley from Pottery Road south to Corktown Common. The park would restore and enhance the natural environment, build connections, improve access for everyone and generate cultural activity.

On Tuesday, May 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Evergreen Brick Works, there is a film screening of the documentary "Accidental Parkland" for residents to learn about Toronto's incredible ravines and their role in the new park, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker Dan Berman and a panel of experts. Free tickets are available at donrivervalleypark.ca.

PUBLIC SPACES

Chorley Park Trail

The final revised design for the Chorley Park Trail Connection is moving forward, with construction expected to start in late 2016 and completed in 2017.

Post Hydro One Midtown Project: Restoration

A local resident committee worked with Hydro One on the restoration of the landscaping to bring it back to useable green space including new bike/walking paths. The project is starting in June and should be completed by fall.

Shade in Nesbitt Park

Chris Fraser and Alan McFarland met with Councillor Fragedakis and Carol Guy of Parks and Recreation to discuss what options exist to shade the children's play area, specifically the slide. Carol Guy confirmed that sun sails would not work over the children's play area and suggested planting a maple tree instead.

Potential Ping Pong Table in Nesbitt Park

Residents of Governors Bridge have the opportunity to play ping pong on a concrete ping pong table in Nesbitt Park. To ensure that members of the community were consulted and had a chance to voice their opinions about this outdoor opportunity, the GBRA released an online survey.

Before the survey was completed, the City advised us that before they will install the table, they require a petition be signed by a majority of residents.

[Before the survey was closed, 54 residents (members and non-members) replied with 65% in support, 20% opposed and 15% undecided.]

We are looking for at least two volunteers to go door-to-door to complete the petition.

Improvements to Bayview Ave.

This summer the City is going to add a bikeway trail and repave Bayview between Rosedale Valley Road and Moore Avenue.

We asked Councillor Fragedakis and Burnside to request that the City add to this project improved access from Nesbitt at Bayview to the access to Crothers Woods.

Improved access should entail a continuous sidewalk on the east side of Bayview heading south from Nesbitt to the access point where people park their cars. A barrier between the sidewalk and traffic would be ideal to protect pedestrians and cyclists from traffic.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Rail Safety

Rail safety is an ongoing concern in our community. The Board sent a letter to our MP Chrystia Freeland (copied Minister of Transport Marc Garneau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau who lives in Bennington Heights) encouraging federal action. Rail Safety First made a comprehensive submission to the Federal Standing Committee on Transportation and hosted a Town Hall meeting attended by Minister Garneau.

Hydro Emergency Preparedness

Trees caused most of the problems during the last major ice storm. The City is trying to trim trees that pose a risk. Anyone can call Toronto Hydro to report trees that need to be trimmed.

Improved Street Lighting

It was felt that street lighting is not optimal on Nesbitt. The Board asked the City to complete an assessment for Douglas, Governors and Nesbitt. They found that illumination levels are sufficient and exceed recommended guidelines, so no additional lighting is proposed.

Proposed "No Parking" Zones on Douglas & Nesbitt

As you are aware, the majority want "no parking" in at least the first two bends from the traffic circle on each street (in fact a large minority want no parking on one entire side the streets).

The Board contacted Mary Fragedakis' office to find out how we go about requesting "no parking" zones in the specified bends. We must provide specifics of what we are proposing. The councillor's office will forward the specifics to the City Transportation Dept. for review and evaluation to see if our proposal is in keeping with City policies and practices.

If we receive a positive evaluation from Transportation, we must develop a petition with the councillor's office and get support from the majority of residents.

OTHER MATTERS

Member Use of GBRA Mailing List

Given the amount of email most of us receive, the Board decided that it is not appropriate to use the GBRA mailing list to send communications requested by members on subjects that do not specifically relate to our community.

Proposed Local Appeal Board

The Board sent a letter in support of City Council's progress towards approving the formation of a Local Appeal Body (LAB) to replace the OMB in matters relating to Minor Variances. We have long been in favour of the City's own appeal board because it provides the City the opportunity to address the very real problems with the OMB.

City Report on Non-Profit Groups Registering as Lobbyists

We sent an email to City Clerk to strongly encourage City Council to not pursue any new initiatives that would require non-profit groups to register as lobbyists.

GBRA Volunteers Wanted

The Board, committee members and current volunteers need help on many fronts to continue efforts to enhance the safety, value and enjoyment of our neighbourhood. If you can spare some time, please contact any Board member.

Have an Issue or Idea?

If you have an issue that needs resolution or an idea on how to improve life in Governors Bridge, please send it to a Board member. If it relates to the City of Toronto, please also send it to Councillor Fragedakis (councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca).

Do we have your email address?

If you didn't receive this newsletter by email, we don't have your email address. Some GBRA communications are distributed by email only. If you want to be included, please send your email address to jeffhanemaayer@rogers.com.

Board Member Contact Info

Alan McFarland
President
alancmcfarland@gmail.com

Chris Fraser
Vice President
chris@moveable.com

Jeff Hanemaayer
Secretary-Treasurer
jeffhanemaayer@rogers.com

Kathryn Langley Hope
kehope@sympatico.ca

Keith Nash
keith.nash@elderwooddrive.com

Visit us online at
www.governorsbridge.net