



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD

UPDATE

April 2017

GBRA Board 2015-16

Alan McFarland - President

Chris Fraser - Vice President

Jeff Hanemaayer - Secretary-Treasurer

Kathryn Langley Hope - Director

Jason Jessel - Director

Keith Nash - Director

George Paradi - Director

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

EVENTS

Community Meeting re: Triangular Park at Douglas Crescent & Governors Road

On **Monday, April 10** at Rosedale United Church, City Councillor Mary Fragedakis hosted a meeting to collect feedback from the community on potential suggested enhancements to this greenspace, such as a children's garden, concrete ping pong table, benches, flowers, etc. About 25 people attended to express their views. No one in attendance supported a concrete ping pong table but there was broad support for installing new benches and plants/gardens to support local bees and butterflies. Discussions will continue.

"Clean Toronto Together" Community Clean Up Day

On **Saturday, April 22** from 9:00 am to noon. Please join us to help do a spring clean in the neighbourhood. Goal is to clean up around Nesbitt Park; the wooded area bound by True Davidson, Nesbitt and Bayview; and the "walking bus" route to Bennington Heights school. Gloves and garbage bags will be available in Nesbitt Park. Garbage collected will be left at Nesbitt and True Davidson for pick up by the City.

Wine & Cheese Reception & Annual General Meeting

On **Thursday, May 4** in the Catherine Grant Room of Rosedale United Church, 159 Roxborough Dr. (at Glen Rd.), the GBRA will host a wine and cheese reception at 6:15 pm followed by the AGM from 7:00 to 9:15 pm. Come enjoy a glass of wine with your neighbours while participating in our AGM.

Free Compost Day

On **Saturday, May 6** at about 10:00 am, the City will drop off a truckload of compost in the "triangular" park at the corner of Governors and Douglas. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent source of plant nutrients for gardens and lawns which also improves the structure and water holding properties of the soil.

PUBLIC SPACES

Nesbitt Park Ice Rink

This past winter neighbourhood volunteers tried to create an ice rink without using a liner. It didn't work very well, especially with the relatively warm weather.

The GBRA Board has authorized the purchase of a new liner so hopefully there will be skating in the park next winter.

Ping Pong Table in Governors Bridge

GBRA's Ping Pong Table committee met on site with City staff to determine the feasibility of a concrete ping pong table in Nesbitt Park before proceeding to collect feedback from the community on the matter. It was determined that there is no suitable spot in the park that can accommodate the physical requirements of a ping pong table and surrounding playing area.

The same group also proposed that the "triangular" park at the corner of Governors Road and Douglas Crescent be considered as an alternative location. It was decided by the office of the City Councillor Mary Fragedakis to seek input from the community on the proposal. See under EVENTS for details.

Safer Access to Crothers Woods from Nesbitt

Since early 2016 the GBRA Board has asked the City to improve access to Crothers Woods: a continuous sidewalk on the east side of Bayview heading south from Nesbitt to the access point where people park their cars, with a barrier to protect pedestrians and cyclists from traffic.

While it was too late for these improvements to be part of the recent repaving of Bayview, the Board will emphasize its ongoing importance as part of the Functional Planning Study for the potential reconfiguration of Bayview Avenue from Moore to River. However, the study is not due for completion until June 2018.

Don River Valley Park

The GBRA Board is going to meet with Evergreen Brick Works to review their latest plans for this exciting project to improve the Don River Valley. For more info, visit donrivervalleypark.ca.

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OTHER MATTERS

Parking & Traffic Issues in Governors Bridge

The committee formed at last year's AGM identified the problems within the neighbourhood related to parking and traffic, the potential solutions, and the associated pros, cons and risks of these solutions. They provided the following recommendations to the GBRA Board:

Community Self-Policing to:

- Reduce blocking of emergency, large and residents' vehicles by vehicles parked on both sides on the bend at 25-33 Douglas Crescent and the two bends on Nesbitt Drive northwest of the traffic circle;
- Reduce the number of parking tickets issued on Douglas Crescent. These tickets are in response to complaints by residents. There is hope that by encouraging all residents to avoid parking that inconveniences others, residents will be discouraged from calling Parking Enforcement.

Transportation Analysis (Traffic Study) by the City to determine the extent of the problems and potential solutions for:

- Speeding on Governors Bridge and Nesbitt Drive;
- Lack of stopping on Nesbitt Drive at Douglas Crescent T intersection;
- Lack of stopping on Governors Road at Douglas Crescent T intersection;
- Heavy truck traffic in Governors Bridge.

Continued GBRA involvement in these files:

- Oppose Redway Road extension to Bayview Avenue (there are no current efforts to move this proposal forward, but the issue certainly isn't dead);
- Participate in Functional Planning Study for the potential reconfiguration of Bayview Avenue from Moore to River, which commences this year.

Bayview Avenue Bus (#28)

In case you're not aware, the #28 bus from Davisville/Yonge St. station to Evergreen Brick Works now stops at the Nesbitt traffic lights while going south on Bayview in addition to when it's going north. The Board is encouraging the City to take steps to improve the safety of the waiting for bus riders from nearby speeding traffic.

New Private Facebook Group for Governors Bridge Residents

The GBRA Board will soon introduce a private Facebook group for exclusive membership and use by residents of Governors Bridge. For the rest of 2017, it will be open to both GBRA members and non-members alike, as another incentive for non-members to join and support the GBRA. After December 31, 2017, it will be limited to members only. Stay tuned for more information in your email in box.

Use of GBRA Email List by Others

Very often Gmembers and non-members request that the GBRA send communications on their behalf to the GBRA email distribution list of both members and non-members in Governors Bridge. To avoid inundating our neighbours with emails, the GBRA will communicate only GBRA business and community emergencies. The new private Facebook group will give members a venue to communicate their particular matters.

Call for Directors

The GBRA is comprised of voluntary directors and committee members. If you want to help make our community better by being a director or a committee member, come to the AGM or contact any director.

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. Most GBRA communications are distributed only by email. If you want to be included, please send your email address to jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com.

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