



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Governor's Bridge Neighbourhood Newsletter – April 2020 (7 min read)

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“What a difference a day makes” is a lyric many of us know well. And now a new day has dawned with COVID-19 where many of us are house bound and self-isolating to flatten the curve.

This GBRA newsletter is being sent to you to highlight “what a difference a neighbour can make.”

City Hall Helps:

Councillor Layton and Angela Surdi. We're fortunate to have two strongly committed champions in Ward 11 who try their best to look after the best interests of Governor's Bridge and to lessen the suffering caused by the current city-wide shutdown.

If you have a minute, please bookmark this [regularly updated link](#) for important updates relating to the City of Toronto and our home – Governor's Bridge.

You can help by sending in updates, ideas, and making donation suggestions by sending them to councillor_layton@toronto.ca.

GBRA Online Resources

Over the last couple of years, the GBRA Board and homeowners have worked hard to create and maintain important community building resources. In this time of need, we thought it would be important to make sure you have access to them.

GBRA Website: If you have some time, please visit our Web site and take a read. Special thank you to Gary Stothers and Sophie Fraser for continuing to build this important community resource.

GBRA's Private Facebook site: Another valuable link for Governor's Bridge neighbours. If you'd like to join at this stage, please complete [this survey](#).

NextDoor: A new addition to community building, this site has become a very active "go to" information source for neighbours in need. In addition, NextDoor has added a Help Map which is beneficial for neighbours who need assistance getting food, medications, or anything else that they can't access during these times of quarantine. Note: residents returning from trips who are required to quarantine for 14 days can get some great insights on food services that will deliver to your home – like <https://www.summerhillmarket.com/home-page/home-deliveries/>.

Please remember, while following social distancing guidelines, you can still support local businesses that have supported the GBRA over the years - e.g. Summerhill Market and Valumart on Bayview.

Neighbourhood Watch – Protect and Connect:

At last September's Community BBQ, we introduced the concept of a Neighbourhood Watch program in Governor's Bridge. Since then, we've been refining this idea to help the Governor's Bridge community.

Special thanks go out to Karen Powell of the North Rosedale Residents Association (NRRRA) for sharing their program model and training framework with the GBRA Board.

In a nutshell, the goals of the Neighbourhood Watch program are:

- to work together as a community, with Councillor Layton and his team, and the 53rd Division of the Toronto Police, to enhance area security.
- to encourage Governor's Bridge neighbours if they "see something" they should "say something" by e-mailing their respective Street Captains about suspicious events.
- to encourage homeowners in Governor's Bridge to get to know their neighbours.
- to offer assistance to neighbours in Governor's Bridge where possible, should an emergency situation arise.

More background on this program and ways that you can volunteer are going to be posted on the www.governorsbridge.net website in the near future. We are doing a soft launch at this stage because of COVID-19.

Current Street Captains are:

Chris Fraser and George Paradi – Douglas Crescent
Jeff Hanemaayer – Governors Road
Aprile Royal – Nesbitt Drive
Kathryn E Langley Hope – True Davidson Drive
TBD – Hampton Park Crescent

Street Captains will, to the best of their ability, based on the city-wide COVID-19 State of Emergency:

- Inform neighbors of the GBRA Neighbourhood Watch program and act as a liaison between residents on their street and the GBRA.
- Maintain an up-to-date contact list of residents on the street.
- Collect information about suspicious local activity and crime-related incidents.
- Pass on relevant emergency and crime-related information to the Governor's Bridge home owners, Councillor Layton's office and 53rd Division.

Important note: Neighbourhood Watch does not replace the City of Toronto's 911 service.

Please remember:

- **An emergency** is a situation where personal safety or property is at risk like fire, crime in progress, medical emergency, or domestic violence. If you observe an emergency – **call 911**.
- **If you need to contact the police about a situation that is not an emergency**, call the police at 416-808-2222.
- **You can report online:** To report theft, fraud, reports about local drivers, property damage, damage to vehicles, theft from vehicles, or graffiti (non-hate) visit www.torontopolice.on.ca/core.
- **If there are ongoing issues** such as nuisance issues, trespassing, noise complaints, call 53rd Division - 416-808-5300 - and ask for a complaint form.
- **If you want to remain anonymous and have ANY information on a crime:** visit www.222tips.com or call 1-808-222-8477.

We are looking for Neighbourhood Watch Street Captain Volunteers:

- if you are interested in representing the street you live on
- if you have time available to volunteer
- if you can easily use e-mail and social media
- if you are accessible to neighbours and the GBRA (following current social distancing rules for COVID-19)
- if you are passionate about improving the quality of life and making Governor's Bridge a safer place to live

Please e-mail Chris Fraser – chris@moveable.com – if you would like to volunteer.

Source: North Rosedale Residents Association Street Captain Program – Training and Support Version 2 – 2020.

Exciting News:

In these times of self-isolation, we know there is a lot of talent at home – possibly looking to volunteer or help out with area projects online. We welcome your expertise and involvement in the following projects to make Governor's Bridge a great place to live in the City of Toronto. Here's a sampling of the major projects the GBRA is working on.

1) Governor's Bridge Lookout Revitalization Project at the Don Valley Brick Works Park:

We are very fortunate that Cheryl Post, Natural Environment Specialist, City of Toronto – Urban Forestry, is working with the GBRA, original GB Lookout founders Richard Brightling and Jeffery Smyth, and Councillor Layton, to complete final Detailed Design for the Governor's Bridge Lookout project. Once completed and approved, our hope is to create an additional Perpetuity Wall fundraising program for new residents to add their name to the Lookout.

The Governor's Bridge Lookout will become a major look forward to and we're encouraging all homeowners to visit [the project website](#) to learn more about how this could become one of Toronto's best lookouts.

If you have ideas or thoughts after learning more about this project, please send them to greentoronto@toronto.ca and chris@moveable.com.

2) Rosedale Park Revitalization Project:

As part of the Rosedale Park Revitalization Committee, Rory O'Leary is keeping the GBRA Board involved and up-to-date on an exciting improvement project going on at Rosedale Park – a favorite destination for Governor's Bridge residents.

Rosedale Park was the original site of St. Andrew's College private school and its playing field (originally called the Toronto Lacrosse Grounds), was the home to the Toronto Argonauts from 1874-1897 and was the host venue for the first CFL Grey Cup in 1909.

Rory O'Leary has joined forces with members of the Mooredale Community Centre, Moore Park Residents Association, Rosedale Park Sunday Dads Group, North Rosedale Residents Association, Rosedale Tennis Club and South Rosedale Residents Association to create a leadership group for this revitalization project.

The mandate of this group is to build a plan to secure funding from the City of Toronto for revitalization requirements for this park - a "cherished cornerstone in the day-to-day life of North Rosedale and Toronto residents for almost 150 years."

3) Bayview Boardwalk Project

Thanks to Pierre Rivard, Catherine Paquet, and Francine Rivard, initial discussions have started between the GBRA and area residents, to create a corridor walking path from off Nesbitt/True Davidson to the Governor's Bridge Lookout at the Brickworks. The path continues with a safe crossing at the stoplight on Bayview to the Don River Valley Park.

If you're a city-builder, architect, city planner, or cartographer, and would like to work to create the Bayview Boardwalk – please reach out to chris@moveable.com.

4) Revival of the Discovery Walks program for North Toronto

Discussions are underway with Councillor Layton to find the necessary resources and monies to fund a re-launch of the City of Toronto's Discovery Walks program. The goal of this project would be to create inspiring content, descriptions, and maps of the "Top 10" Discovery walks from Governor's Bridge. Check out the latest issue of Post Magazine for some great walks (not forgetting physical distancing).

If you are looking to volunteer for a creative project that brings together great content, graphic design and cartography to motivate people to go walking locally, please connect with chris@moveable.com or any of the GBRA Board members below by e-mail.

Other projects the GBRA Board is working on that might be of interest to you during these isolating COVID-19 days:

5) Traffic management (Vision Zero) and area safety

The GBRA Board and Councillor Layton's team are working with the City of Toronto's Transportation Service Division on a Service Road Safety Review for Bayview Avenue – expected to be completed by Q2 -2020.

If you have transportation/traffic/safety experience or expertise – please reach out to one of the Board members below to volunteer to help with changing Bayview from a highway to a safe city street.

6) Ravine Strategy

As one of Canada's leading banks has confirmed, Toronto's Ravines are a big part of the City's lungs and worth \$7 billion. Protecting the ravines, keeping them clean and limiting invasive species must be a common goal for all residents of Toronto.

Creating the [Don River Valley Park](#) and [Loop Trail](#) are key legacy projects that we cannot afford not to create and give to our children.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewagendaitemhistory.do?item=2020.EX12>

If you're a forestry or green asset expert, we need your help making sure that the City of Toronto can manage this all-important asset. Please reach out to one of our Board members to volunteer and join a multi-resident association group that will tackle the future planning of this amazing asset – the Don Valley Ravine system.

7) City of Toronto Survey of Neighbourhood Housing Needs and Growth

City Planner Gregg Lintern is starting the process of surveying options to add density to the Yellow Belt (Gil Meslin's term for part of the city that have severe restrictions on development where existing low-rise building exists). FoNTRA and the Moore Park Residents Association [have written to Mr. Lintern](#) saying that more time and a more inclusive consultation process must take place in densifying the downtown core.

If you're a city planner, architect, or traffic specialist, and would like to volunteer to help create a "livable Toronto" in the future, please reach out to one of the GBRA Board members below.

8) Evergreen Brick Works Master Plan

Master planning the Evergreen Brick Works is another great opportunity to build a more sustainable future on this amazing property - right beside Governor's Bridge.

If you enjoy all that the programming and spaces that the Brick Works has to offer and have the time, please do get involved in the [public consultation part of the Evergreen Brickworks Master Plan](#) directly.

9) The 5 Resident Associations (RAs)

The 5 RA's East of Yonge in Ward 11 are meeting quarterly with Councillor Layton and Angela Surdi, to share best practices and to plan and execute on area improvements. These RA's include Governor's Bridge, North Rosedale, South Rosedale, Moore Park and Summerhill. A key issue common to all RA's is area development, associated bylaws, and adjudication of development proposals by the Committee of Adjustment.

A special word of thanks must go out to Jeff Hanemaayer and the GBRA Board for successfully working with the owner of 4 Douglas Crescent and Saba Al Mathno of QBS Architects to make changes that neighbours were OK with and could support for this property for the Committee of Adjustment.

If you are planning to redevelop your property, please reach out, or have your architect reach out, and share your plans in advance with the GBRA Executive and neighbours.

10) The Hockey Rink in Nesbitt Park

Sadly, people power and weather precluded us from building the rink in Nesbitt Park this winter. However, once the City of Toronto lifts the restrictions around use of Nesbitt Park, the soccer net will be installed. Laura Stover and the team from Toronto Parks and Recreation do an incredible job at looking after Nesbitt Park. If they are out looking after the gardens or cutting the lawn - please say thank you to them while they make this community centre better.

If you have expertise for the projects mentioned above, ideas for the neighbourhood, or want to get involved with one of the most dynamic areas in Toronto, please reach out to Chris@moveable.com or one of our Board members (see below).

We promise to embrace your ideas and if we have the resources – implement them.

And as part of the Neighbourhood Watch (neighbours connecting), we want to start a Kindness Committee to see neighbours helping neighbours at this once in a lifetime - time of need. If you want to help-a-neighbour by getting food for someone in quarantine, or provide a donation to help front line workers, send the GBRA Board an e-mail, or go to your NextDoor account and share it online, or send Councillor Layton an e-mail.

A great example of this was Peter Maxwell reaching out last week to the GBRA through George Paradi with a great donation to UHN.

Finally, George Paradi also made a great suggestion about getting the Governor's Bridge Neighbourhood together - "to get loud in thanking healthcare and front line workers on their front door step."

Kathryn Langley Hope was very kind in providing a link that shows how other Canadians are saying thank you. <https://globalnews.ca/video/6721591/cheers-ring-out-for-b-c-healthcare-workers-on-front-line-of-covid-19-pandemic>.

More details will follow, and we hope that you can join us in celebrating the efforts of healthcare workers and front line staff who are helping us through this challenging time.

Be well,

Chris Fraser – chris@moveable.com

Jeff Hanemaayer – jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com

George Paradi – George.paradi@gmail.com

Aprile Royal – aprile.royal@rogers.com

Kathryn Langley Hope – kelangleyhope@bell.net

P.S. If you or someone you know need support in this time, you can text someone using NextDraft. <https://www.crisistextline.org/?ref=nextdraft>

P.S. The GBRA is discussing options to hold the AGM online and will confirm shortly.