



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD

UPDATE

May 2019

GBRA Board 2018-19

Chris Fraser - President

Jason Jessel - Vice President

Jeff Hanemaayer - Secretary-Treasurer

Kathryn Langley Hope - Director

Alan McFarland - Director

George Paradi - Director

EVENTS

GBRA AGM - Wine & Cheese Reception

On Monday, May 27th 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 and enjoy a glass of wine with your neighbours while participating in our AGM.

Crothers Woods Trail Maintenance & Planting

On **Saturday, June 8th** from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, join other area residents to plant trees and maintain and restore natural surface trails in this beautiful forest setting. Tools will be provided, and no expertise is necessary. Meet at the Thomas Hauser Memorial Trailhead (at the south end of the Loblaws parking lot).

Community Clean-Up Day

On **Saturday, April 27th**, Governors Bridge residents participated in "Clean Toronto Together". Your neighbors and the Morning Glory Cycle Club collected about 20 garbage bags and other trash leaving our public spaces looking much cleaner.

PUBLIC SPACES

Ice Rink in Nesbitt Park

After buying a new liner last winter, the GBRA purchased boards this past winter to allow for a better set up. Many thanks to the hardworking volunteers who toiled many days and nights to set up and maintain the rink despite Mother Nature not always cooperating.

City Snow Clearing Needs Improvement

With the increased snowfall this past winter, the City struggled to provide effective and timely snow removal on roads and sidewalks throughout the City. The GBRA Board is working with Councillor Layton to improve service next winter.

Repair & Improvement of Brick Works Lookout

The GBRA Board is working closely with the Toronto Region

Conservation Authority (TRCA) who manage the sanctuary property behind the Brickworks to restore the Lookout and make it a more attractive and accessible destination. The TRCA will be seeking community input for ideas on how to improve the Lookout.

Potential Mural on Bayview Underpass

A local volunteer is quarterbacking an initiative to bring curated public art to the Bayview underpass just north of Nesbitt.

Supplementary Water Spigot on True Davidson

The GBRA Board has been working hard to try to get a second water spigot installed at the western end of True Davidson to enable more effective watering of the boulevards on both sides as you enter Governors Bridge Estates.

After much effort, the City declined to pay the water cost. The GBRA is looking at alternatives to get it installed.

Dog Poop Left in Other People's Bins

The GBRA Board has received complaints because people are leaving dog poop bags in others' green or waste bins. This proves offensive when the bins are empty, especially in the summer or when returned to the owner's garage. We will be printing stickers for members to apply to their bins to encourage others to be considerate of their neighbours and bring their dog's waste home with them.

OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

Bayview Avenue Functional Study

Despite the best efforts of our past and present Councillors and the GBRA Board, this important study is now further deferred - to start in 2020. Given the tens of thousands of people moving near the Lower Don and on Eglinton in the next 10 years, it is important that this project not be delayed even further. A maximum number of affected residents' associations will need to get together to "move the needle".

In the meantime, Councillor Layton has requested that a "Surface Road Safety Review" be conducted as part of the City's Vision Zero program to eliminate road fatalities.

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OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

City Proposal to Extend On-Street Permit Parking in East York

The results of community consultation and a potential implementation plan for the expansion of residential on-street permit parking City wide was heard at the April 24 Toronto and East York Community Council. Since consultation was conducted prior to the boundary changes, the item was deferred to the June 25th meeting to permit Councillors to consult with local residents and resident groups to better understand their needs.

In order for Councillor Layton to understand the perspectives of Governor's Bridge residents who may be impacted by any changes, he is conducting a survey until May 24. Please email JeffHanemaayer@gmail.com for the survey link. (You should complete it, as soon as possible, even if you completed the City's survey last year.)

The Councillor's office will share the aggregate results for Governors Bridge with the GBRA in time for our AGM. Members of the GBRA Board will attend a consultation with City staff and Councillor Layton on May 28 to advocate on the community's behalf.

Digital Speed Sign

The GBRA Board has researched the installation of a digital sign that displays the approaching vehicle's speed and records speeding data for use by the City Transportation Dept. and police. The sign could be rotated through different locations where speeding is a problem. While the Board is willing to fund the acquisition, we hope to get the City to pay a portion of the cost and take care of ongoing maintenance.

New Construction in Governors Bridge

The owners of 26 Governors Road obtained all of their permits and are hoping to begin the demolition/construction process any time now.

Another project is in the works for 4 Douglas Cres. The GBRA Board arranged and participated in a March 17 meeting of nearby interested neighbours with the designer to provide feedback on the proposed design and associated variances. The neighbours are awaiting a response from the owner to their feedback, especially on the variances.

Neighbourhood Response Framework

The GBRA is developing a "Neighbourhood Watch" like program that includes the usual efforts to prevent crime but also help neighbours more effectively respond to natural events (like severe weather) that cause peril to persons and property.

Cooperation with Other Nearby Residents Associations (RAs)

Prior to City Council shrinking from 44 to 25 councillors, the GBRA initiated a meeting of the leaders of the nearby RAs (east of Yonge) in Ward 11: South Rosedale, North Rosedale, Moore Park and Summerhill (SRRA, NRRA, MPRA, SRA) to see if there are common issues. By collaborating, we are more effective than each acting on our own.

This was somewhat prescient. Now that each councillor has more RAs to deal with along with twice as many constituents overall, Councillor Layton, asked the RAs in his Ward if we could collaborate on common issues. We are still working with the other RAs to finalize a list of common issues.

In the same vein, the GBRA Board attended the April 6 "Toronto Neighbourhood Summit" hosted by the Toronto Atlas of Neighbourhood Groups and Organisations (tango.to). The goal was to figure out how RAs across the City can collaborate to get things done in light of a smaller council and a reduced ability to handle constituents' issues.

Join the GBRA. It's easy.

If you have the time, and want to join the neighbourhood improvement process, please come to our Community BBQ on September 22, 2019 or drop any one of the GBRA Directors an e-mail saying you'd like to join and participate in making Governors Bridge a better place to live. If you're new to Governors Bridge, joining the GBRA is a terrific way to meet your neighbors and connect to what truly makes this neighborhood very special.

Call for Directors

Do you have 10-12 hours a year (4 to 5 meetings) that you can use to join the GBRA as a Director or a committee member? If so, please contact Chris Fraser, chris@moveable.com.

Have an Issue or Idea?

If you have an issue that needs resolution or an idea on how to improve the quality of life in Governors Bridge, please contact Chris Fraser. If your issue relates to the City of Toronto, please call 311 or contact Angela Surdi in Councillor Mike Layton's office (Angela.Surdi@toronto.ca).

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