



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Governor's Bridge Neighbourhood Newsletter – May 2021

Top 10 GBRA Neighbourhood Highlights:

- 1) GBRA AGM – Join us June 16 by Zoom at 7:30 P.M.
- 2) Neighbourhood Watch – *Protect and Connect* launch
- 3) GBRA joins 53 Division Community Policing Liaison Committee (CPLC)
- 4) GB Lookout Revitalization Program
- 5) Metrolinx Layover Site in the Don Valley/Ontario Line – Update
- 6) East Toronto Railpath improvement strategy
- 7) GBRA and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland
- 8) Improving Safety on Bayview through Data Analysis
- 9) GBRA and FoNTRA
- 10) Look forward to's

Welcome to the “Next Normal.” Hopefully, you’ve found vaccines for your family members who qualify. We all hope that the current lockdown won’t be extended beyond June 2. And of course, let’s hope the great spring/summer weather continues making it easy to take a [local stroll](#) or head to Nesbitt Park to enjoy a family picnic at one of three picnic tables that the great Toronto Parks and Recreation team have provided for our community.

1) GBRA AGM

Wednesday, June 16 starting at 7:30 P.M. We know you’re over the novelty of meeting by Zoom. Hopefully, this is our last GBRA AGM using Zoom. We’d really appreciate it if you could join us and learn about how this incredible community is changing and improving in many ways. A formal notice and agenda will be distributed next week.

2) Neighbourhood Watch – Protect and Connect

Launched in early May. We’re fortunate to be partnering with Deidre Cameron from Lawrence Park West (who has a very active NW program) and Kathy Falconi from North Rosedale Residents Association.

NW is managed by Jeff Hanemaayer (with Chris Fraser as backup). Each street in GB is represented by one or more Street Captains:

- **Douglas Crescent:** George Paradi (george.paradi@gmail.com), Ed Abdou (edabdou@rogers.com), Chris Fraser (chris@moveable.com)
- **Governors Road:** Jeff Hanemaayer (jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com)
- **Nesbitt Drive:** Aprile Royal (aprile.royal@look.ca), James MackIntosh (james.d.m@outlook.com)
- **True Davidson Drive & Hampton Court:** Kathryn Langley Hope (kelangleyhope@bell.net), Susan Mainprize (susan.mainprize@gmail.com)

3) Toronto Police 53 Division CPLC Virtual Meeting on April 22

GBRA Board members attended 53 Division's re-launch of quarterly Community Policing Liaison Committee (CPLC) meetings. GBRA is well served at 53 Division thanks to key community contacts like Timothy Somers. At this meeting, D/SGT Scott Bradbury reported on H.E.A.T. (High End Auto Theft – that GBRA's communicated just before launching Neighbourhood Watch), pedestrian/neighbourhood safety, parking reports, and COVID-19 related challenges.

4) GB Lookout Revitalization

We reached \$66,750 pledged by 90 households! City of Toronto Project Manager Cheryl Post confirmed on April 22 that Plant Architects is close to completing final detailed designs. In addition, Cheryl has been able to "officially add" the North Slope Interpretative element to Plant's contract which we believe will help educate and protect this incredible geological wonder in the sanctuary at the Brickworks.

5) Metrolinx's Proposed Train Layover Facility in the Don Valley and the Ontario Line

Local concern continues to mount about the double impact of the layover facility and the Ontario Line in the Don Valley. A recent Globe and Mail article highlights the challenges with developing transit in the [Don Valley](#).

6) East Toronto Railpath

The GBRA continues to explore options for the abandoned rail line between Douglas Crescent and True Davidson and the railway bridge over Bayview beside the Brick Works. Working actively with FoNTRA, FoSTRA (Federation of South Toronto Residents Associations, just launched), Midtown Ravine Group, Ward 11's 5 residents associations, Don't Mess with the Don, Wonscotonach Trail, and Evergreen, the GBRA is looking to research and develop options for this viable ["rails to trails" conversion](#).

7) Letter to Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland

Active transportation options (walking and biking) have taken centre stage in Ottawa thanks to Minister McKenna's recent [Active Transportation Fund](#). The GBRA believes there is a real

opportunity to access these funds, like we did to renew Nesbitt Park, to build more pathways and access to the amazing asset that we live beside – the [Don River Valley Park](#).

8) Improving Safety on Bayview

Anyone who drives along Bayview regularly has seen an explosion of walkers and bikers – thanks to programs like the City of Toronto’s ActiveTO street closures. Working via WYSP (Watch Your Speed Program - part of the City’s Vision Zero program), the GBRA has been able to get traffic data (thanks to the help of Angela Surdi, Senior Adviser for Councillor Layton) and thanks to local talent in Governor’s Bridge, our hope is to be able to interpret and model this data and work with the 53 Division CPLC team to improve road safety on Bayview.

9) GBRA and FoNTRA

The GBRA is an active participant with FoNTRA on different files that affect our community – from the Yellowbelt to [Garden Suites](#) to ActiveTO Bloor to Davisville revitalization to improving communication with residents via better websites.

10) Look forward to’s

- [No more sidewalk clearing required](#)
- StreetART Toronto Underpass Program – delayed due to planned refurbishment of the Bayview underpass north of Nesbitt.
- Governor’s Bridge Community Clean-up – July TBC
- 53rd Annual Community BBQ in Nesbitt Park – September TBC
- **Enjoy a great summer in Governor’s Bridge and beyond – guaranteed.**

Finally, a special thank you to Aprile Royal who has retired from the GBRA Board and has now become a Neighbourhood Watch Street Captain.

If you’re interested in becoming a GBRA Board member or joining one of the organizations 14 sub-committees covering everything from the Nesbitt Park Rink Committee to the Young People’s Fun Committee, please reach out to chris@moveable.com.

Upcoming GBRA Schedule of Board Meetings: If you have any questions or area ideas that you’d like to share with the Board, please send them in advance of these meeting dates.

July 12th – 7:30 P.M.

September 13th – 7:30 P.M.

December 13 – 7:30 P.M.

Be well,

Chris Fraser – chris@moveable.com - President

Jeff Hanemaayer – jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com – Secretary/Treasurer and Neighbourhood Watch Program Manager

Kathryn E. Langley Hope – Director – kelangleyhope@bell.net

George Paradi – Director – george.paradi@gmail.com

Don't forget GBRA's Web site at www.governorsbridge.net.
GBRA also hosts a private Facebook group "[Governors Bridge Community](#)".
And for hyper-local information, check out www.nextdoor.com.

Sampling of articles about the natural beauty that surrounds Governor's Bridge and active transportation options:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-what-torontos-ailing-ravines-show-about-the-unhealthy-future-of/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ravines-are-a-toronto-treasure-but-everyone-needs-an-equal-chance-to/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/toronto/article-the-magic-and-the-mystery-of-torontos-ravines/>

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jonathan-kay-oh-look-now-the-ravines-are-racist-too>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-a-ravine-land-whos-who-take-a-virtual-hike-through-our-urban/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-globe-climate-this-is-your-brain-on-trees/>