



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Governor's Bridge Neighbourhood Newsletter – September 2022

Welcome to the New Normal. We're looking forward, after 3 years, for you and your family, to join us for the 53rd Annual GBRA Community BBQ at Nesbitt Park on Saturday, September 17th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Admission is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (up to 16 years) and FREE for seniors (65+) to a maximum of \$25 per household. A special thank you to Karri Paradi and Nicole Brightling for teaming up to organize another festive gathering.

We value your membership and participation. With 64% of GB households being members of the GBRA, we're looking forward to your continuing support. Member dues can be paid by cash or cheque (to GBRA) at the BBQ on September 17th, dropped in the mailbox at Treasurer Jeff Hanemaayer's home at 15 Governor's Road or by e-transfer to GBRAtreasurer@gmail.com.

Thank you to Councillor Mike Layton and his Senior Advisor Angela Surdi: It's been a very tough 30 months due to COVID-19. Sadly, a constant champion for improvements in Ward 11, Councillor Layton, has decided not to run in the October 24th civic election. And Angela has decided to pursue different opportunities after the election. Councillor Layton and Angela have been tremendous advocates for Ward 11 files including the revitalization of the GB Lookout, creation of the 5RA group, staff report on the creation of the ETRP and purchase of the rail corridor and bridge over Bayview, new Vision Zero safety programs on Bayview, restoration of the North Slope at the Brick Works, trying to calm traffic noise on Bayview and many other files. On behalf of GB, our hope is that you'll join us in thanking both Councillor Layton and Angela for all of the hard work and follow-up they've undertaken over the last 4 years on our behalf. If you have a minute, please do send them a thank you note directly at [Councillor Layton@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor.Layton@toronto.ca) and Angela.Surdi@toronto.ca.

October 24 Election: Fourteen different candidates have filed to succeed Councillor Layton in Ward 11. The GBRA is working closely with Michael Rodger and the 5RAs (5 residents associations) to create an All-Candidates Forum to make it easier for you to learn about whom to vote for on October 24. We'll be in touch when the details are locked down. Briefing our new councillor when they're elected with an extensive continuity briefing about what counts in GB is underway with Angela Surdi.

The GBRA is working for you on a daily basis: The GBRA and its sub-committees are working on many active files at City Hall. We'd love to have your ideas and help on these files which include:

East Toronto Railpath (ETRP): Our main goal is to see the City of Toronto purchase from Metrolinx the rail corridor property east of GB and the rail bridge over Bayview east of the Brick Works for a rails-to-trails conversion in the next session of council. Angela Surdi and MPP Jessica

Bell have walked the ETRP and our hope is that Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland will enjoy the experience in the fall.

Metrolinx Train Layover Site: Metrolinx seems intent on completing this project in the Don Valley north of the Bloor viaduct despite ongoing opposition from Toronto City Council, many area RAs and many other community groups.

"New" Park in GB: Initial discussions have taken place with the City of Toronto about creating a "natural park" on the east side of True Davidson.

Bayview Underpass: Discussions continue with the City of Toronto to learn more about the planned repair of the Bayview underpass (north of Nesbitt) and underpass mural program.

Governor's Bridge Lookout: The project continues to move forward with a primary focus on getting it funded and built in 2023.

GBRA Bylaws: The bylaws will be updated to comply with the new Ontario Government rules for not-for-profits.

Evergreen Brick Works: Opportunity exists to work with Evergreen to create a Ravine Visitors' Centre at the Brick Works and develop an educational ambassadors program at the site.

Road Safety & Noise: Enhancing safety for pedestrians and cyclists and decreasing the level of car and motorcycle noise remains a priority for the GBRA.

History of GB: Developing a history/technology project about Governor's Bridge, The Brick Works and the Ravines with the help of York University students is in discussion stages with assistance from Jeffrey Smyth.

Thermal Comfort Study: A study is underway for Toronto's public realm assets, like parks and sidewalks. If you want the great outdoors to be more comfortable, please complete this brief questionnaire: <https://bit.ly/3wOhndt>. Learn more about the study: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/thermal-comfort-study/>

Environmentally Friendly Trees & Plants in GB: Interest has been shown by several GB neighbours to add to the area's tree canopy and encourage pollinator gardens.

Policing: Enhanced police services and coverage in Ward 11 is a priority and we're working with other resident associations and FoNTRA to try to maintain police presence.

GBRA's Neighbourhood Watch - *Protect and Connect*: We continue to work with 53 Division to share safety and crime related information.

5RAs: Based on the success of the 5RA quarterly meetings, our hope is that the 5RA Work Group in Ward 11 will continue after October 24th.

Work with Other Groups: Active discussions and collaborations with FoNTRA, FoSTRA, CORRA, the Midtown Ravine Group, University of Toronto's School of Cities and other City departments are producing solid collaborative results and sharing of best practices.

#28 Bus: Initial discussions have taken place about how to enhance transit connectivity with the #28 Bus that goes to the Brick Works and the planned East Harbour Transit Hub (<https://www.metrolinx.com/en/greaterregion/projects/smarttrack-east-harbour-transit-hub.aspx>).

Net Zero Program-Buying Group: Ongoing discussions are underway with Tim Grant of Harbord Village about this buying group covering technology like induction ovens, hot water heat pumps through Home Depot and other green products. For more information please go to - <https://harbordvillage.com/projects/netzero-carbon-project>.

GB Centennial Celebration: Initial discussions about holding a celebration in Governors Bridge and North Rosedale in 2023 are underway.

Board Member Profile: Kathryn E. Langley Hope:

We're very fortunate to have an active GBRA Board made up of both new and long-time residents.

Kathryn E. Langley Hope remembers GB in the early days very well. She came to the area, post-War, and lived in the Crestview Apartments on Moore, attending Bennington Heights and Rolph



Rolph Road schools and Oakwood Collegiate Institute. An early passion for nursing inspired Kathryn to attend and graduate from the Wellesley Hospital School of Nursing, then U. of Windsor, via U of T.

Kathryn is a true believer in volunteering and community building - on land and on the water. In December, Kathryn was honoured by the Lt. Governor, Her Honour, Elizabeth Dowdsell, as a multifaceted volunteer, including NATO Canada, here and abroad and Toronto Search and Rescue-Marine (T-SAR), both as a valued Patron, Chair and Vice-Chair of these causes.

While the list of her accomplishments is too long to mention in its entirety, they include: Honorary Chair Emerita of the NATO Association of Canada, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Order of St George, Empire Club of Canada Community Service Award, Paul Harris Ruby Fellow and numerous Board roles including ROTARY Toronto - Forest Hill, Foundation Chair.

Giving back, investing in the community, and getting projects done is gospel to Kathryn and we're fortunate to have her on the Board helping to build this great community.

To get better results in GB, call 311 or visit <https://www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/>

We want to make things better for you, but we need your help when it comes to your concerns about noise, park maintenance, garbage collection, flooding under the Bayview underpass, etc.

311 provides GB residents with easy access to non-emergency City services, programs and information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 311 can offer assistance in more than 180 languages. Please take a few minutes to [create a request](#) for anything that needs attention to improve living in our community! And you'll be surprised with the follow-up and we guarantee it will help the GBRA Board get results at City Hall.

Disconnect your downspouts – please.

There are multiple benefits of the City's Mandatory Downspout Disconnection Program (<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/water-environment/managing-rain-melted-snow/basement-flooding/mandatory-downspout-disconnection/>).

Why we need your help:

- Disconnecting your home's downspout so it directly waters the lawn or garden, or goes into a rain barrel for use later, saves both water and money.
- Diverting your downspout away from your home's foundation helps reduce the risk of basement flooding.
- Disconnecting your downspout so it is no longer directly connected to the sewer system helps keep the City of Toronto's storm sewers from overloading during heavy rain.
- The program also offers eligible households financial assistance for downspout disconnection, where some costs could be reimbursed.

There's a whole lot of Woof Woof going on in GB:

WOOF WOOF! GB is home to many adorable furry friends including some new, some old and some rescued. In the spirit of bringing the community and our furry companions together, local residents Nicole Brightling and new GBRA Board Member Peter Smyth have created the GB Dog Walking Group, which can be followed on Instagram @dogsofgovernorsbridge. The group meets every Saturday at 9:00 AM at Nesbitt Park and all residents are welcome to join, with or without a furry friend. It's a very informal, casual walking group and the dogs are all friendly and loving with each other. Check out some pictures of the local pups and our walks (<https://bit.ly/3CWGEpO>).

We encourage you to wear sneakers or hiking boots as we often walk the trails through the Moore Park Ravine, Brick Works, the ETRP and more. We often stop at Cafe Belong in the Brick Works for coffee or stop at the local farmer's market, which is thriving on Saturday!

We hope you will join us on our next walk. New moms/parents and babies in strollers are also welcome and we can accommodate walks with pathways for easy walking :).

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Jeff Hanemaayer – Secretary Treasurer – jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com

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

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Peter Smyth – peter@smythandsons.com