



Sarah Doucette

City Councillor
Ward 13



Dear residents,

I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of summer. It was a cold, wet spring but I'm sure the next few months will make up for it. I am looking forward to seeing many of you out and about this season.

As you know, budget cuts this term have affected all aspects of daily life at City Hall, including Councillors' office expense allowances. That means there are no longer enough funds in my budget to rent a privately-owned space in the ward to be my constituency office. But, because I promised to be accessible to you, from the start I began holding constituency hours in public locations across the ward almost every Friday at locations such as Annette St, and Runnymede libraries, Swansea Town Hall, and Lambton House. If there is something important you'd like to speak with me about, you can make an appointment to come and see me at one of those Friday afternoon or early evening sessions.

Of course, the state of the City's budget is on everyone's mind as the results of the Core Service Review and Recreation Service Review are assessed and City staff charged with balancing the books. I'd like to thank everyone who had a chance to attend one of the City's eight Core Service Review Roundtables or our own co-hosted by Councillor Gord Perks, Councillor Ana Bailão and myself. We wanted to hear your priorities regarding the City's fundamental role in our lives and I'm very pleased to have taken part in more than one roundtable because it gave me a chance to hear many voices.

During the campaign you made your priorities clear and I have done my best to represent them at all times while keeping my promises to listen, respond, and take action. We answer your calls and emails promptly and find a solution for you as quickly as possible. I've also tried my best to bring you information about the City's processes and services that you would need or find useful by hosting Town Halls on the 2011 Budget (January), Building Permits and Minor Variances (March), Seniors' services (April) and the Core Service Review (June). We have also held two Ward Council meetings attended by representatives from the BIAs, and Residents', Tenants', and Ratepayers' groups. (If you would like information about upcoming meetings, please ask us to add your name to our e-newsletter list.)

I've seen many of you at events and community meetings in the Ward. I attend as many as I can. If you ever need any help with City matters, please contact my staff and me by calling 416-392-4072 or sending an email to councillor_doucette@toronto.ca. I hope you will take a minute to read this newsletter and find out what's been happening in the Ward.

Sincerely,

Sarah Doucette

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Cutting the ribbon for the Baby Point Gates BIA renewal project



Speaking to residents at the Seniors Town Hall

1. Ward 13 Environment Day – May 14, 2011

I hosted my first Environment Day as your Councillor on May 14, 2011. This year it was in the parking lot just south of Lakeshore Blvd and east of Ellis Ave. For 20 years, the City's Environment Day program has helped residents divert tonnes of recycling and compostable material from landfills, however, we are still throwing away toxic and inorganic materials in our garbage bins and this is a serious problem. If you cannot attend any other Environment Days being held this season, simply call 311 at any time to have electronics and household hazardous waste picked up in front of your house. To find out about upcoming environment days nearby, you can call 311 or visit www.toronto.ca/environment_days. Looking forward to seeing you next year!

2. Green 13 Project Neutral, Farmer's Market, and Community Garden

Green13 is a group of volunteers committed to the environmental health of Ward 13, hosting inorganic markets and Earth Day walks, and being an information source for the public. The Junction here in Ward 13 has been selected to be part of the Toronto pilot of Project Neutral, aiming to become a carbon neutral neighbourhood. Besides making history, participating businesses and residents will learn to reduce their footprint to zero. Please visit www.projectneutral.org or www.green13toronto.org for more information.

Recently Green 13 has also formed two groups, one to research a market and the other to find a garden location. The community garden group received a grant from the City's Neighbourhood Beautification Program to create their first garden in Lithuania Park, which we hope will be the first of many in Ward 13 and 14. If you are interested in being a part of these initiatives please contact Green 13 through their website www.green13toronto.org.

3. Prescribed Burn in High Park

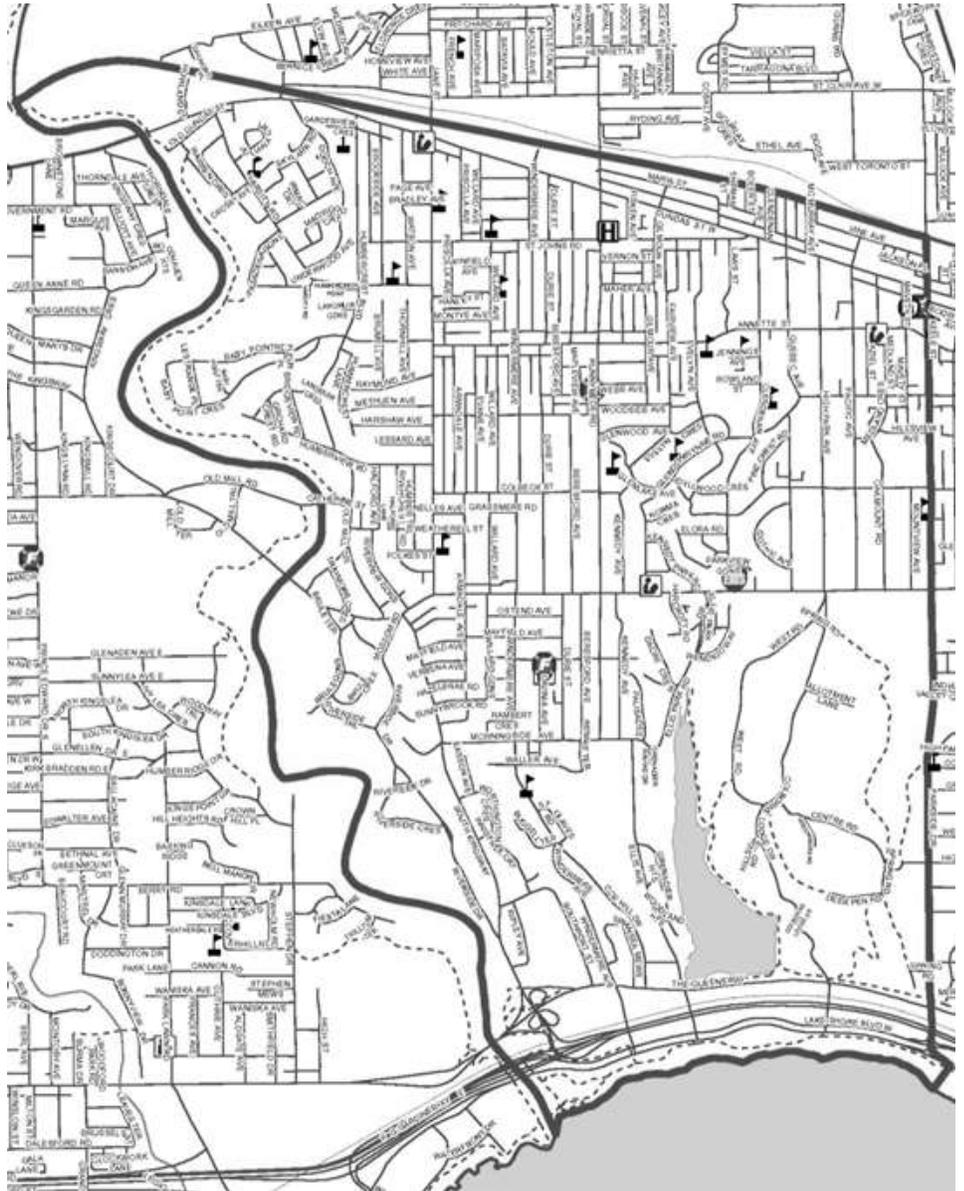
On April 14, the Parks department undertook a prescribed or "controlled" burn in High Park, which is a deliberately set and carefully controlled fire that burns low to the ground and consumes dried leaves, small twigs, and grass stems, but does not harm larger trees.

Prescribed burns have been safely executed in the past by the City's Urban Forestry unit, and are part of the long-term management plan to protect and sustain Toronto's rare black oak woodlands and savannahs. In order to survive, they depend on periodic fires which get rid of competing vegetation, enrich the soil and promote growth and germination of rare savannah species.

4. TTC Station Construction

After a few issues arose during construction last fall at Runnymede Station, it is now on track for completion in early fall. A new bus platform is being created to ensure the integrity of the roof for the subway below. After the bus roadway is reopened, work will then move to the area in front of the station entrance doors. Due to the delay we arranged for a temporary bus shelter to be placed north of Bloor St W on the west side of Runnymede Rd.

The TTC has also started work on a plan to have elevators installed in all subway stations by 2024. In addition to the existing elevators at Jane and Dundas West Station, elevators will be installed at Keele Station in 2015, High Park Station in 2018 and Runnymede Station in 2022.



5. 55 Warren Park Bus Route

As many of you may recall, last January the TTC proposed service cuts to more than 48 bus routes. There were 4 routes in our ward slated to have their evening and holiday service cut significantly, three of them affecting the Dundas St West - Warren Park area. I fought for all of them. I didn't think that cutting bus service in the evening anywhere in the City was fair to shift workers or young people. Unfortunately, I could not save all of them but am pleased to say that the Warren Park #55 service did not change in any way. The other routes in our ward that have changed as of May 8, 2011 are:

80 Queensway: Monday to Friday service ends at 10 pm east of the Humber Loop. On Saturday, Sundays, and holidays, all service ends at 10 pm. There is no service east of Humber Loop on Sundays and holidays.

30 Lambton: Service ends at 10:00 pm on Sundays and holidays.

26 Dupont: Service ends at 10:00 pm, everyday.

6. Sunnyside Enclosure Update

In 2008, City Council approved funding for a three-year pilot project to construct a contained swimming enclosure, called a "curtain", that used ultra violet (UV) treatment to disinfect a section of Sunnyside Beach and try to improve water quality at this beach for swimming.

During the first year of the pilot (2009), the results were promising and the water inside of the curtain was safe for swimming 83 per cent of the time, versus 68 per cent outside the curtain. As can happen with pilot projects, situations arose that are unexpected. In the case of the curtain, a very hot summer last year led to heavy algae growth, which clogged the intake screens, reducing the efficiency of the system. City staff attempted to keep the pumps running manually, but the algae growth proved to be too aggressive and very costly to control. Due to the poor performance, the City's budget being spent in two years as a result of the algae problem, the challenge of keeping the system operating, and Environment Canada's prediction of another hot summer, the City has decided to end the pilot project and remove the curtain.

To help keep our beaches clean, please don't feed the ducks, geese and seagulls and place all garbage in proper bins at the parks.

7. Bloor Street West Reconstruction

I know the reconstruction of Bloor Street West has been a trying time for everyone, residents and businesses alike and I would like to thank you all for your patience and co-operation. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and we should be seeing all work complete by the beginning of October. In addition to the brand new sidewalks and repaved street, we will have new bike posts and some new trees. If you notice something that concerns you about the work being undertaken, please call 311 or our office.

8. Ormskirk Park Stairs

The Parks department will be undertaking the removal and replacement of the stairs at Ormskirk Park. Construction for this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011 and I will keep you posted as the project progresses.



Core Service Review

9. High Park Children's Teaching Kitchen and Adopt-a-Bale Program

The High Park Teaching Kitchen will be built in place of the picnic shelter adjacent to the Children's Garden in High Park. It will be a special place for children, youth, and community members to gather together and learn about healthy food, nutrition, organic gardening, and nature. It will stand as a unique, energy efficient building serving as an educational venue around healthy eating and healthy environments.

One of the many exciting parts of this project is the innovative building material being used: straw bales! Once plastered, straw bale walls are remarkably strong, have a high fire safety rating and provide exceptional sound and environmental insulation. Construction should be complete by the end of October 2011. If you'd like to find out about how you can support the new Children's Teaching Kitchen, visit www.torontochildrengarden.ca/teaching-kitchen/adopt-a-bale/.

10. High Park Restoration

The area located in the south east corner of High Park near Parkside Dr (visible from the Queensway) has been used by off-road cyclists for many years, leading to significant ground erosion in an area of old growth trees. City staff met with community members on May 13 to discuss short- and long-term plans for the site following a City decision to restore the area to its natural state in partnership with community volunteers. The restoration was undertaken to address the overall deterioration of trees and soils, enhance vegetation cover, protect trees from further damage causing dieback, and eliminate cycling use in an unsafe, ecologically sensitive environment. I am also working with City staff to find a new off-road cycling location in the ward.

11. Joy Oil Station

In 2007 the city relocated the Joy Oil Station heritage property to its new location on Lakeshore between Windermere and Ellis Ave. While campaigning I heard many residents say that we do not need another location serving food. I requested that City staff be directed to look at the idea of offering rollerblade, bike or even cross country ski rentals from this location in addition to food. This motion passed unanimously at City Council on June 14, 2011. I will keep you updated!

Seniors' and Families Fair – April 12, 2011

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Seniors' and Families Fair on Thursday, April 12. I wanted to bring together diverse organizations from the City and in the community (such as staff from the City's Parks and Recreation department and the Toronto Public Library) that provide services to seniors in order to inform them and their families about the many places they can turn to when looking for activities or support. We received very positive reviews from residents and participants and I plan to do it again next year. I'll let you know about it!

Graffiti removal and murals

Graffiti has been a problem across the City for many years and there is now a great focus being placed on its control and eradication. The City is undertaking a review of its graffiti policy as I write this and we should all be hearing City staff's proposed changes by September 2011. During that time the current Graffiti bylaw continues to be applicable and will be readily enforced by City Staff. If you receive a graffiti violation notice, you have three options: you can appeal the Notice, you can remove the graffiti, or you can engage a local artist to have a mural painted in the area of the graffiti, especially if this is an area that is consistently tagged. Please note that you should contact my office so we can offer you some direction on the process of commissioning a mural on your property.

Royal Wedding Celebration

I hope you all enjoyed the Royal nuptials on April 29. My office and the staff at Swansea Town Hall were in the Rousseau Room at the Town Hall by 5:30 am, having set up the night before, to greet residents who wanted to watch the wedding on the big screen TV while sharing some light refreshments. It was a lot of fun! But, like you, I thought it was way too early so I've politely requested that the next Royal wedding take place after 1:00 pm English time, at least, which will make it much easier on us!

Did you know?

- If you want to engage the visually-impaired auditory cues at intersections with traffic lights, you must hold down the Walk button for 3 seconds.
- You should be placing your garden waste out at the same time as your other waste to be collected that week. Please do not leave garden waste out at the curb before your collection day.
- You will receive two orange tags from the City for excess garbage. Extra tags are only available at Canadian Tire stores, at their customer service desks. The closest Canadian Tire to Ward 13 is at 2129 St. Clair Ave West. Extra garbage bags put out without tags will not be collected.
- To get information about local road closures and restrictions, visit this Web site at any time: http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/road_info/.
- All on-street parking in Toronto has a three hour limit unless otherwise posted.

CONTACTS



My office can be contacted Monday to Friday from 9 am – 5 pm by emailing councillor_doucette@toronto.ca or by calling 416-392-4072. You can also visit my Web site at www.ward13.ca, where you can sign up for my e-newsletter. You can also find me on Twitter @doucetteward13 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/councillordoucette.

My Office Staff:

Sonia D'Agostino, Executive Assistant
Chris Haskim, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Trimble, Constituency Assistant
Madison Maguire, Summer Student

311:

My staff and I have had very good experiences using 311 and recommend calling them for issues such as potholes, water main breaks, traffic light outages, missed solid waste collections, parks maintenance, noisy businesses, and street cleaning/snow removal. 311 staff can connect to other City staff more directly than we can so matters requiring immediate attention (such as traffic light outages) are best referred to them.

Other Levels of Government and School Boards:

MP Peggy Nash: 416-769-5072 for matters such as pensions and immigration.
MPP Cheri Di Novo: 416-763-5630 for matters such as property value assessments.
TDSB Irene Atkinson: 416-397-3091
TCDSB Barbara Poplawski: at 416-512-3410

Blocked driveways:

Call Toronto Police Services at 416-808-2222 and tell the dispatcher that you have a "drive obstruct".

Street Light Outages:

Contact Toronto Hydro directly at 416-542-3195 or fill in the service request form at Report Street Light Out.

Parking Enforcement: 416-808-1100.

