



Sarah Doucette

City Councillor
Ward 13



Dear neighbours,

It's been a year since the election and I continue to feel privileged to represent you at City Hall. I knew that a lot would be expected of me. I knew the hours would be long, and I knew that the work would be rewarding. I was right, about those things at least! In the last 12 months I've also learned many things about our complex and fascinating city and the way it works through my participation at the Etobicoke York Community Council, at the many Committees that assess new and existing programmes, at City Council, and the work my staff and I do for you on a daily basis.

I've enjoyed meeting many of you at my weekly constituency hours, at community events and public consultations and I plan to keep doing so. It's also been great meeting and getting to know everyone on Council, a real exciting and motivating experience. There are some truly intelligent and caring Councillors and City staff members that I'm very happy I get to work with every day.

During the last six months, we've all been absorbed by the City's service and efficiency reviews requested by the Mayor's office and carried out by the City Manager and his staff. Managing the budget can be an exhausting process however the concept of finding efficiencies didn't start on December 1, 2010. We all understand that City staff, often directed by Council, began looking for them years ago. From the day I started working as your Councillor, I have been closely managing my office budget so that we – you and I – are not paying for anything unnecessary.

In the next few months, you will once again be called upon to give your input on the kind of City you want. The 2012 Budget Process is in the works and you will have a chance to comment on the City's proposal at the Budget Committee meeting on December 8, 2011. (See p3 for more information.) I hope to see you there. You can count on me to be at the Budget Committee meetings, standing up for services and a thoughtful, sustainable approach to delivering services and managing our money.

As you know, I believe the City's role includes providing certain services. Library hours, TCHC homes, bus routes, child care, the High Park Zoo – these are all services the City provides that I believe in. They've all been cut in Ward 13 (and many other wards). This is the result, in a large way, of a loss of revenue and a property tax freeze this year. A small property tax increase of 1 or 2 % and the Personal Vehicle Tax (PVT) revenue - \$64 million – would have allowed us to avoid these disproportionately damaging cuts. We can't turn down revenue – we wouldn't be losing bus routes and library hours if we hadn't cancelled the PVT or frozen property taxes.

It's been a difficult year, but working with you and my Council and City colleagues continues to be exhilarating. Thank you! Here's to the next three years!

Sincerely,

Sarah Doucette

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With MP Peggy Nash and MPP Cheri DiNovo at the Ukrainian Festival



Swansea Legion's Remembrance Day Service

1. High Park Zoo

At the September City Council meeting I successfully moved a Motion allowing City staff, Councillor McConnell's office, and myself to work on establishing conservancies for both High Park Zoo and Toronto Island Farm, which would include the operation of the Zoo and the Farm. I want to find a way to keep both of these as accessible as possible to residents across the City. I will keep you updated on the progress of this project.

2. The Junction Farm Fest

This past July the Junction hosted the first annual Junction Farm Fest, a one day event that brought rural farming to the streets. The 11th Division Police Department hosted a collection of chickens, goats, sheep and bees in their parking lot. Residents young and old stopped by to see the animals and learn about their lives on the farm. At the Junction Train Platform a collection of environmental and farming organizations set up activity booths to learn about agriculture both at the farm and in the urban environment. The event was a huge success and organizers are looking forward to holding the Junction Farm Fest again next year.

3. Skating Rinks

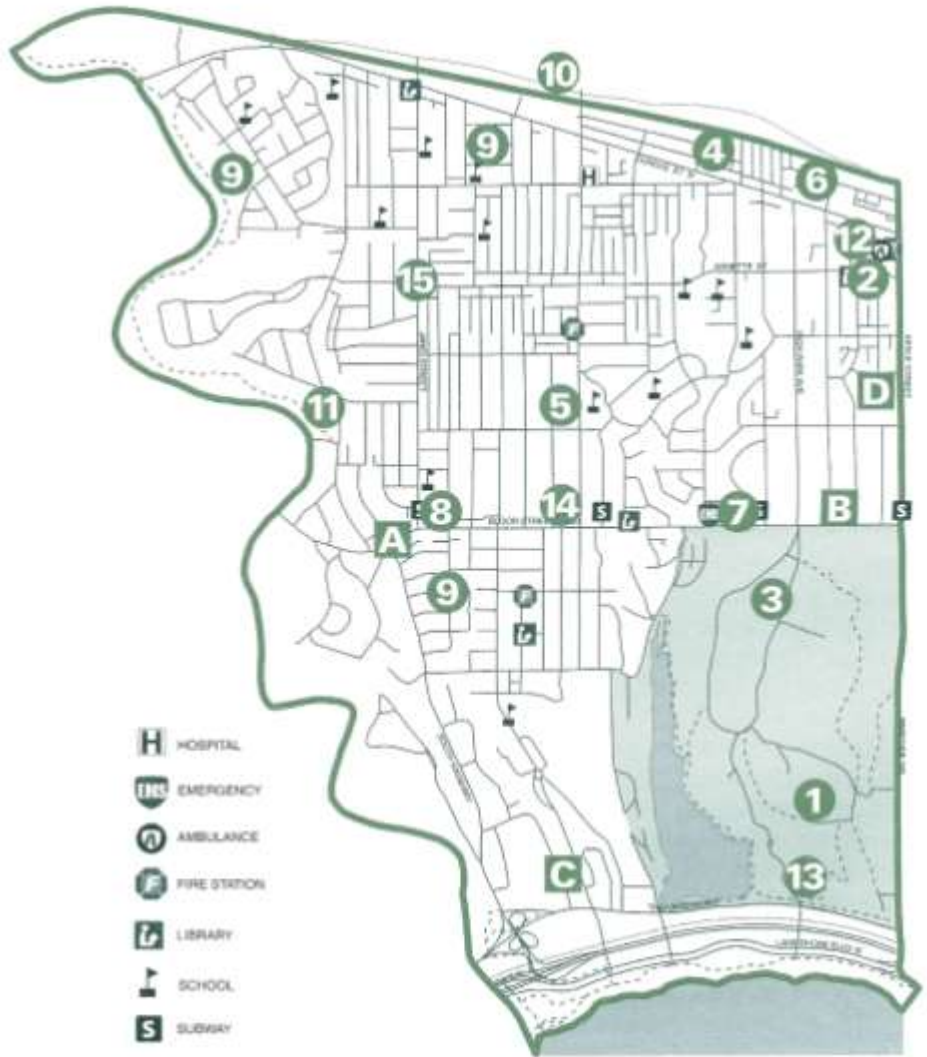
Summer is barely over and it's time to get out and enjoy winter. Start by getting your skates sharpened and head out to Rennie Park where the skating rink will be operational from November 19th to March 11th. The High Park skating rink will operate from December 3rd to February 26th.

4. Junction Shul @ 100

On Thursday, September 15, I attended a Morning Service at the Knesseth Israel Synagogue, also known as the Junction Shul, at 56 Maria St. The congregation celebrated its 100th Anniversary this year with the publication of a book on the Shul's history, special services, and a street party with the community. For more information, visit: www.junctionshul.org.

5. 100th Anniversary of the Runnymede Community Church

On September 17th the Runnymede Community Church celebrated their 100th year of services. A special service and homecoming party were held to share stories about the Church and the changes that have occurred during the past century. The Church also collected donations for their centennial project, Turn on the Tap, which raises funds to provide clean and safe drinking water for 100 families in Cambodia.



6. Vine Parkette

Section 37 funds helped pay for the new playground and landscaping improvements to Vine Parkette, and I am happy to inform you that they are now complete. The city was able to add some additional trees to the north of the park along the fence line and to the west edge of the new playground. On behalf of the city I would like to thank the community for their patience and co-operation during the construction phase and hope they will enjoy the new playground and the open space that's been covered with fresh, new grass.

7. Bennett Park

This small parkette at the corner of Gothic Ave and Quebec Ave will also benefit from Section 37 funds. A public meeting was held in May and after input from the community plans were drawn up to improve sight lines, remove hidden corners, and add open green space for flexible play. A path is proposed within the park in order to provide an access to the park for people with disabilities. There will be a decorative entrance and a low stone retaining/seating wall, groundcover and shrub beds and row of small flowering trees. The work is scheduled to begin in 2013.

8. Parking Changes on Armadale Ave

An issue that was discussed at a recent community meeting was parking and vehicles blocking Armadale just north of Bloor. At the October Etobicoke York Community Council meeting, the other councillors and I voted in favour of installing a No Stopping zone on the west side of the street from Bloor St to a point 70 metres north on Armadale Ave. This will help deter motorists from stopping on this section of road and alleviate the congestion at the corner, providing safer traffic operations in the area. This will also give Parking Enforcement the authority to ticket immediately any vehicle that stops to park or unload/load passengers in this area.

9. Audit Walks

In late August my staff and I took part in our first 3 audit walks for Ward 13. An audit walk is a tour of every street of a neighbourhood on the lookout for any issues, municipal or otherwise. This includes pot holes, sidewalk cracks, graffiti vandalism and damage to City property. In these three walks we audited Warren Park, the St. John and Runnymede area, and north-west Swansea. During this time we found over 100 issues to look into that were sent to 311 and appropriate City staff. Next spring we plan to do more audit walks and are looking to cover an even larger area of our ward. If you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact my office.

10. Holiday Train

The CP Holiday Train will be arriving in Toronto on Tuesday, November 29th at the CP Lambton Yard, 750 Runnymede Rd. Arrive by 5:30 to catch the train go by and stay for a show featuring Valdy at 6:30. Of course Santa will also be making an appearance. The Holiday Train program supports the Daily Bread Food Bank and any of the food and funds raised at this event will stay within our community. Donations can also be made to 11 Division's CPLC Annual Hats, Mitts, and Scarves Drive. Gently used and new items are welcome. For updates please visit our website at www.ward13.ca.

11. Discovery Walk Shared Path Plaques in Humber Valley

On Saturday, October 22, I had the pleasure of taking part in the unveiling of nine new historical panels along the "Shared Path" in the Humber River Valley. These panels document and illustrate the ancient and rich history of three First Nations in this area, the Huron-Wendat, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Mississaugas of the New Credit, who all supported the commemoration and were represented at the event. The whole concept of the "Shared Path" is based on the ancient portage route formed by Toronto's First Peoples that wound its way up the Humber River valley and was a short cut from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay and the Upper Great Lakes.

12. Mavity St Clean-Up

As some of you may be aware the corner of the laneway just south of Dundas St West on Mavity St had experienced a recurring problem over the years with the illegal dumping of garbage. However, with community collaboration, the help of the building owner, and increased monitoring by the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards department, this location has greatly improved. Thank you to everyone for a successful collaboration!



Vine Parkette's new play area

DEVELOPMENTS

For plans of the developments please visit my Web site www.ward13.ca/developments.

A. 2490 – 2500 Bloor St W

As you have seen, phase one of the new Tridel development at 1 Old Mill Drive, at the corner of Bloor and Riverview Gardens, has started. The new road realignment at the intersection of South Kingsway and Riverview Gardens was approved at City Council on Sept 21st.

B. 1844 Bloor St W

On November 9, we held our 3rd community meeting and City Planning is now reviewing the latest proposal from Daniels and residents' feedback. Daniels' revised plans will be going to Community Council in the new year.

C. 34-50 Southport Rd

Our October 5th meeting at the Swansea Legion was very well attended by local residents. The developer, State Building Groups was present and revealed a more detailed plan of the proposed development. The next step is for State Building to receive and respond to the City's comments and address any outstanding issues. I will continue to work with the City and the developer to bring in appropriate retail as requested by the local residents.

D. 200 Keele St

On October 13, the City Planning department and I hosted a public consultation for residents affected by the proposed development at 200 Keele St. At this point we are waiting for the required City departments to comment on the proposal. As the project moves forward I will keep you informed.

13. Straw Bale Kitchen Update

The Straw Bale Kitchen near the High Park children's garden is finally underway! They've poured the foundation and are now working on the straw bale walls. For more information on the construction of the Kitchen, the Parks department has a construction progress story on their blog: <http://torontochildrensgarden.ca/teaching-kitchen/from-start-to-finish> and they often post pictures to their Facebook account.

14. Bloor St and Runnymede TTC Station

Bloor St was in a period of transition this year as the construction started last summer to repave and refinish the roadway and sidewalks. I am happy to say that the construction work is officially done and the finishing touches, such as extra garbage bins, bike rings and new trees, are complete. Runnymede Subway station also went through a major structural overhaul. The bus path has been reinforced, and small cosmetic work was done. Buses have now returned to their regular schedule. I want to thank all the residents and business owners of the area for your patience and understanding during the construction period.

Budget 2012

The Budget Committee Review of the 2012 Capital and Operating Budgets takes place at the following Budget Committee meetings: December 2, December 7-9, and January 9, 2012. **Residents can speak at the December 7, 2011 Budget Committee meeting. But you must register to speak by 4 pm on Dec 6. Call 416-392-7340 or email buc@toronto.ca.** The 2012 Budget will be considered by the Executive Committee on January 12, 2012. Then, finally, City Council will vote on it at its meeting of January 17-19, 2012.

Our Business Improvement Areas

Ward 13 is home to three unique BIAs. The city's oldest Business Improvement Area, the Bloor West Village BIA, unveiled a plaque in Neil McLellan Park this summer commemorating the creation of the BIA model 40 years ago. The BIA was also the proud recipient of the Environmental Award for their solar-paneled lights at the first annual TABIA Awards. Bloor West Village held a number of great events throughout the year like sidewalk sales, a visit from the Easter Bunny, and hosting the Ukrainian Festival which is organized every year by the Ukrainian community.

The Junction BIA has many new faces in 2011, with new ideas coming forward. This year, the BIA had a collection of well received events, including the annual CONTACT Photography Festival, the "Stars under the Stars" outdoor classic film screening, and the Fall's Pumpkin Fest. In a few weeks' time Santa will be returning to the Junction for his annual visit. This year's visit will include ball hockey, live performances in 15 store locations, and a children's choir singing holiday classics.

Did you know?

- When you purchase a home with a parking pad you should confirm with the seller that the pad is legal. If it is, the pad must be transferred to the new owner. This can be done by calling Transportation Services at 416-394-8419 or trarrow@toronto.ca. You should also contact them if the front yard parking pad is not legal.
- Your leaves need to be placed in rigid open containers or kraft paper bags and placed outside on your regular yard waste collection day and not before. The last yard waste pick up date for 2011 is December 14th.
- Effective January 1, 2012 the City will no longer hand out any garbage tags for excess garbage, thereby saving \$500,000. Extra tags will only be available at Canadian Tire stores, at their customer service desks. The closest Canadian Tire store to Ward 13 is at 2129 St. Clair Ave W. Extra garbage bags put out without tags will not be collected.
- All property owners are required to clear their sidewalks of snow and ice within 12 hours after a storm has taken place.
- Seniors and disabled persons can apply to the City for free snow removal by calling 311 or downloading an application at www.toronto.ca/transportation/snow.

Baby Point Gates BIA, one of the city's newest, had been very active even before they officially took office in March. Banners have gone up along Jane and Annette branding the area and bringing more life to the street. Three murals have been painted showcasing the area's history. Their next major project is the restoration of the Baby Point Gates, which will see their history preserved, while updating the area with new plants and streetscaping.

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 at [doucetteward13](https://twitter.com/doucetteward13) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/councillordoucette.

My Office Staff:

Sonia D'Agostino, Executive Assistant
Katherine Trimble, Constituency Assistant
Chris Haskim, Administrative Assistant
Irmgard Hees, Administrative Assistant

311 is the city's one-stop number for city issues, including potholes, water main breaks, traffic light outages, missed solid waste collections, parks maintenance, noisy businesses, and street cleaning/snow removal.

Other Elected Officials:

MP Peggy Nash: 416-769-5072
MPP Cheri Di Novo: 416-763-5630
TDSB Trustee Irene Atkinson: 416-397-3091
TCDSB Trustee Barbara Poplawski: 416-512-3410

Blocked driveways: 416-808-2222
Street Light Outages: 416-542-3195
Parking Enforcement: 416-808-1100