



Sarah Doucette

City Councillor
Ward 13

Dear residents,

A lot has been happening in the ward and I wanted to give you an update. As you know, City staff is preparing recommendations for the 2013 budget, Councillors and residents have the opportunity to take part in the process. As your Councillor, I am concerned about access to recreation for our children, youth, and seniors. I am concerned about the various Ward 13 parks and their structures. I want to ensure our libraries have the resources they need to continue to be a vital resource and community hub for all residents, across all wards. I will continue to fight for funding for Board of Health matters such as bed bugs and student nutrition. And I will add my voice to the chorus trying to protect our environmental programs including the tree canopy, the solid waste diversion rates, and the work of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund.

Public consultation for the 2013 Budget will take place in December and January. (Please see page 3 for dates and committees.) I encourage you to come and have your voice heard or to get in touch with me. Let City Council and myself know your ideas, concerns, and priorities.

On built form matters, I continue to fight for funding for an Avenue Study along Bloor St W in 2013 and the development of Heritage Conservation Districts in our ward in hopes of stemming the tide of development pressure along Avenues such as Bloor St W.

I have been pleased to receive correspondence from many residents about this matter and I would like that to continue, especially now that several tall building proposals may be coming our way on the lake shore and smaller, but still inappropriate, developments coming up along Bloor St W (specifically between Keele St and Runnymede Rd). I will be communicating changes and updates and the best way to get them in a timely fashion is to sign up for my e-newsletter (see instructions on the back page) or by checking my Web site regularly (www.ward13.ca).

On another note, the High Park Zoo's first annual fundraiser, the Peacock Gala, was a terrific success, adding enough to the zoo's account to keep it open until October 2013. The volunteers continue to be remarkable and they're the reason the High Park Zoo is still running. I am continually thrilled by the commitment to the city displayed by residents from one end to the other. Another example of extraordinary commitment is the successful rebuilding of the Jamie Bell Adventure Playground. On July 7, our sponsor, the television program Holmes Makes it Right, and about 800 residents came to take part in the completion of the playground's rebuild. It was amazing! Once again I have to thank all of you for everything you did, and continue to do, for the zoo and the playground.

Overall, it's been another eventful and informative year. It continues to be a pleasure and privilege to be your Councillor. I am looking forward to working with you in 2013.

Sincerely,

Sarah Doucette

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At LEAF's Depave Project in the Junction. (Page 2)



Swansea Town Hall Remembrance Day Service

1. Depave Project

Wednesday, September 26, 2012 was National Tree Day and, to celebrate, I attended an event in the Ward hosted by LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests). This event was part of a province-wide project with LEAF, Depave Paradise and Green Communities Canada to promote the transformation of over-paved places; engaging and inspiring communities to reconnect urban landscapes to nature through the reduction of pavement. With the help of the Junction BIA and Tim and Sue's No Frills, LEAF members improved the health of the honey locust trees along the boulevard on Pacific Avenue by removing paving stones from tree pits, mulching the area and then planting native strawberry plants around the edges to discourage damaging foot traffic in the tree pits. The Junction BIA promised to water and maintain the site until the plants are established and any pavers removed were recycled with the help of a landscaping company.

2. Road Resurfacing on Keele Street and Bloor Street West

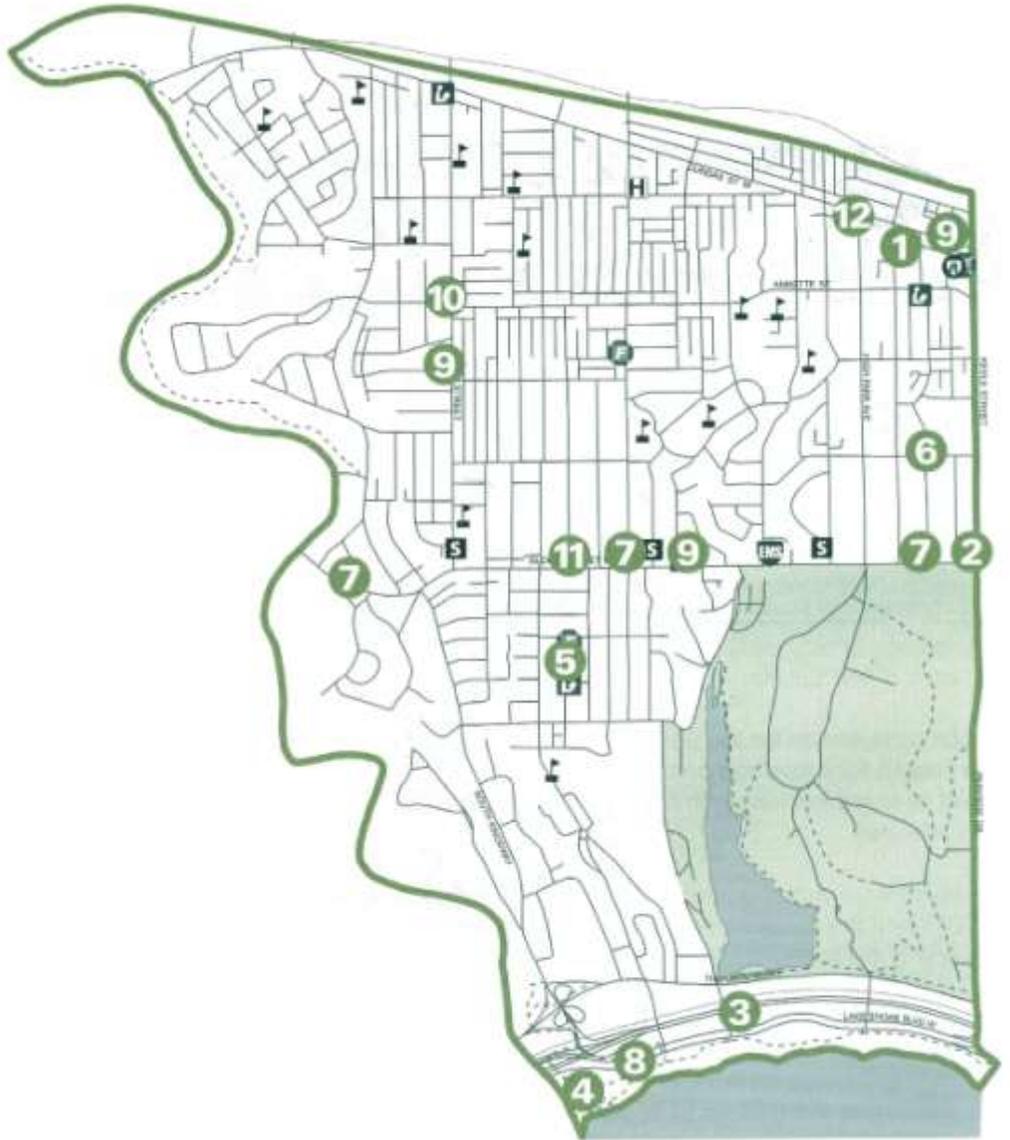
Construction started on the road re-pavement of Keele Street, between Glenlake Avenue and Bloor Street West on October 1. Traffic and TTC service will continue during construction, however partial road closures will be necessary. Beginning next year, work will transition to Bloor Street West between Keele Street and Clendenan Avenue.

3. Sunnyside Bike Skills Park

One activity that has always been popular in our ward is off-road cycling. This fall, construction began on the Sunnyside Bike Skills Park. Once completed, residents will have a new place to practice their bike skills in this all-inclusive public park. The park will run parallel to the north side of Lakeshore Boulevard between Ellis Avenue and Colborne Lodge Road. This park will allow cyclists to enjoy fun and exciting jumps and obstacles for everyone from beginners to experts. The park will also move cyclists away from some of the more ecologically sensitive areas of High Park.

4. Humber Bridge Art Installation

Throughout the summer and early fall, a temporary art installation was set up over the Humber pedestrian bridge. The bridge was transformed into a monumental light sculpture animated by two 20-foot-long dancing creatures.



5. Emerald Ash Borer Town Hall

In August I hosted a Town Hall meeting to provide residents with information on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Live Green Toronto and Green 13 kindly supported this event at which a LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) representative gave a presentation where we learned that the EAB is an introduced insect pest from Asia that feeds on and kills ash trees. It is estimated that the City of Toronto will lose nearly all of its 860,000 ash trees to EAB by 2017 - a number which represents 8.4% of canopy cover over both public and private land in our urban forest. We were provided with information on the treatment available for ash trees and how to help protect our tree canopy. If you would like to learn more about the EAB please visit the city web site www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm or contact 311.

2013 Budget Consultation Dates:

- The Budget Committee will be presenting the 2013 Budget to the public during the week of December 3. Public hearings will take place on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11. Contact 416-397-7796 or buc@toronto.ca to sign up to speak.
- Thursday, January 10 is the Executive Committee meeting where the 2013 Budget will be debated again. It will be another chance for you to speak in front of City Councillors and Staff. Contact 416-392-6627 or exc@toronto.ca to sign up to speak.
- Tuesday, January 15 – Thursday, January 17, the 2013 Budget will be voted on by Council. Unfortunately, there is no opportunity for speakers at Council meetings.



With the Bloor West Village BIA at the 2012 TABIA Awards

Our Ward's Business Improvement Area

6. Tree Plantings

Over the spring and summer about twenty-five new trees were given homes on Oakmount Road, Pacific Avenue, Glenlake Avenue and High Park Avenue.

7. TTC Track and Noise Vibrations

Residents contacted me about this in September 2010, even before I was elected Councillor and, after many, many months of trying to get a response from the TTC, the commission completed its investigation and presented it to affected residents at a public meeting on October 18. Moving forward, a new wheel flat monitor has been installed, and the TTC is now watching for flat wheels on all trains daily; hand grinding will have been done by the end of November on affected joints in the ward; rail replacement will take place in and around the Jane and Keele stations in 2013, and a full mechanical grinding will take place throughout the ward in the Fall 2013 (I am trying to get this date moved up).

8. Lake Shore Blvd Off-Leash Area

Coming this fall, a new dog off-leash area in the ward! Situated in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, it will be approximately 1956 square metres. This off-leash area will be much more accessible to the many residents in the area. It is off Lake Shore Blvd W near the Humber River and the Lion Monument.

9. Message Boards

You may have noticed the six new message boards in our ward, four along Bloor Street, one at Dundas and Mavety, and one at Jane and Annette. As new posting rules in the City come into effect, these boards will be the only City property on which to legally post notices. I encourage everyone to use these boards to get the word out about such things as community events, garage sales, or lost pets.

10. Baby Point Gates BIA

On November 17, the Baby Point Gates BIA held their first public event, *Baby its Cold Outside*, a winter celebration for the businesses of the neighbourhood. Stores stayed open late, and had special offers on hand for residents and customers. Since forming the BIA, the vacancy rate in Baby Point has dropped to zero. Take some time to visit the new and long-time businesses in the area!

11. Bloor West Village BIA

This summer, Bloor West Village once again hosted the Ukrainian Festival, our ward's largest celebration. This year's turnout was better than ever. Since then, they have followed up with Pumpkinfest in October, and are planning for Santa's return to the neighbourhood in December.

12. Junction BIA

The Junction BIA launched two new events this year, adding to their already busy event schedule. In July, they celebrated the Summer Solstice, with a display of art, culture and entertainment. Buskers roamed the streets as local restaurants and vendors offered special treats. In September, the Junction Music Festival took place in over 20 venues and on three main stages. Both events were a great success, and the BIA is looking to expand upon them in 2013.

DEVELOPMENTS

Here are locations in the ward at various stages of development. For more information, please contact me or visit my Web site at www.ward13.ca.

200 Keele St
1844 Bloor St W
1990 Bloor St W
2114 Bloor St W
3803 Dundas St W
34-50 Southport St
441 Jane St

Did you know?

- To file an appeal for your MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) reassessment, you must file a 'Request for Reconsideration' by March 31. More information is available at www.mpac.ca For questions or concerns contact MPP Cheri DiNovo's office: 416-763-5630 or dinovoc-co@ndp.on.ca.
- Oversized items such as furniture can be put out for free pick-up on your regularly scheduled garbage day. Place oversized items out next to your black garbage bin, no tags required.
- Snow removal of expressway routes takes place when 2.5-5 cm of snow has fallen and after 5 cm for main roads. For side streets snow removal happens when 8 cm or more has fallen and once the snow has stopped. Expect it to take place 14-16 hours after a snow fall to complete.
- In some areas of the City, snow is cleared off sidewalks mechanically after 8 cm of snow has fallen. For residents not in these areas, failure to remove snow and/or ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property could result in a fine of \$125.00. For seniors and disabled residents not in these areas, manual snow removal is offered by registering for the service. Contact our office to find out how you can register!
- Looking to hold an event or meeting but don't know where? Lambton House, Swansea Town Hall and Colborne Lodge all offer great, rentable spaces within the Ward! Contact our office or visit www.toronto.ca for more details. And don't forget about our libraries!
- Planning to hold your event in a City park? Don't forget to apply for your permit six weeks prior to the date.
- The City is hosting a number of clinics where the flu shot will be available. The vaccine is free for everyone six months and older who live, work or attend school in Ontario. For a list of times and locations, please visit the Toronto Health web site at www.toronto.ca/health.
- The donation boxes are still in place at the High Park Zoo. We've raised enough to keep the Zoo open until October 2013. A few more months to go for next year and then we're on to 2014!
- 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 2012 is Wednesday, December 12, or Friday, December 21. Do not put leaves onto the street as they block the sewer drain.

Wishing you and your loved ones the best of the season. My office will be open between Christmas and New Year's so please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything during that time, (as well as every other time of course). I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you in the community.



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

Silver Circle (Seniors' Services): 416-653-3535

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Landlord and Tenant Board: 1-888-332-3234

Ontario Works (Social Assistance): 416-397-1800

Animal Services: 416-338-PAWS(7297)

Tax and Water Bills: 416-338-4829

TTC Schedules: 416-393 INFO(4636) or www.ttc.ca

Toxic Taxi (for hazardous waste pick-up): 311

Fire Services (General Inquiry): 416-338-9050

Building Permit Status: www.toronto.ca/building - click on the Building Application Status link. (Tip: enter only the street number and name, e.g. 2 Bloor instead of 2 Bloor St.)