



# Sarah Doucette

City Councillor  
Ward 13



## Fall 2013

Dear neighbours,

Several important items have been voted on at Council recently, including the Scarborough transit decision. I support subways, but I believe that residents of Scarborough deserve good transit now. I could not support turning down a fully-funded, provincially-supported Light Rail Transit (LRT) line that has a completed environmental assessment report. The LRT would have 7 stations (4 more than the subway) including one servicing Centennial College's 40,000 full-time students, and 3 stations going into under-serviced neighbourhoods.

The subway proposal will cost the residents of Toronto a minimum of \$1 billion and according to the TTC and the City Manager reports, there is enough ridership to pay for the operation of an LRT, *but not a subway*. The \$1 billion would be paid for by using \$165 million of development charges and \$745 million *minimum* from property taxes. On top of the possible 1.75% property tax increase for 2014, residents will be paying an additional 1.6% tax increase phased in over the next three years (0.5% in 2014, 0.5% in 2015, and 0.6% in 2016) to pay for this project. This puts into question the City's ability to afford other priority issues such as basement flooding infrastructure upgrades, improvements to the Gardiner, Toronto Community Housing repairs, and child care, to name a few.

If you have any questions about this or other ward or city matters, let me know. This is the third year I have been meeting with you at libraries and community centres across Ward 13 to discuss your ideas and concerns. During that time we've talked about front yard parking pads, committee of adjustment cases, developments, community and recreation programming, traffic and transit matters, overgrown gardens and safety in our neighbourhoods, and many, many other things. These face-to-face meetings are important so please continue to contact my office to make an appointment to come and speak with me about your neighbourhood, the ward, or the city.

Finally, I want to let you know that I'll be hosting a second Ward 13 Development 101 Town Hall in early 2014. Stay tuned, I'll be letting you know about it through a newsletter dedicated to development and planning in the city that you will receive ahead of the Town Hall. City staff will be on hand to answer your questions about planning policy and process in Toronto.

Until then, I wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and Holiday Season!  
Sincerely,

### Sarah Doucette

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Meeting with residents at the Junction Farmer's Market.



Speaking at the Trees Across Toronto launch.

### 1. Dundas St W and Keele St Right-Turn Prohibitions

Recently, City staff installed signage to indicate "No Right-Turn-On-Red" going southbound, westbound and eastbound at the Keele St and Dundas St W intersection. One of the main complaints I have received since becoming Councillor concerned safety at this intersection. These concerns prompted a traffic study that recommended this change. The City is now looking at adjusting the light timing to improve congestion for motor vehicles.

### 2. Bloor/South Kingsway/Riverview Gardens road realignment

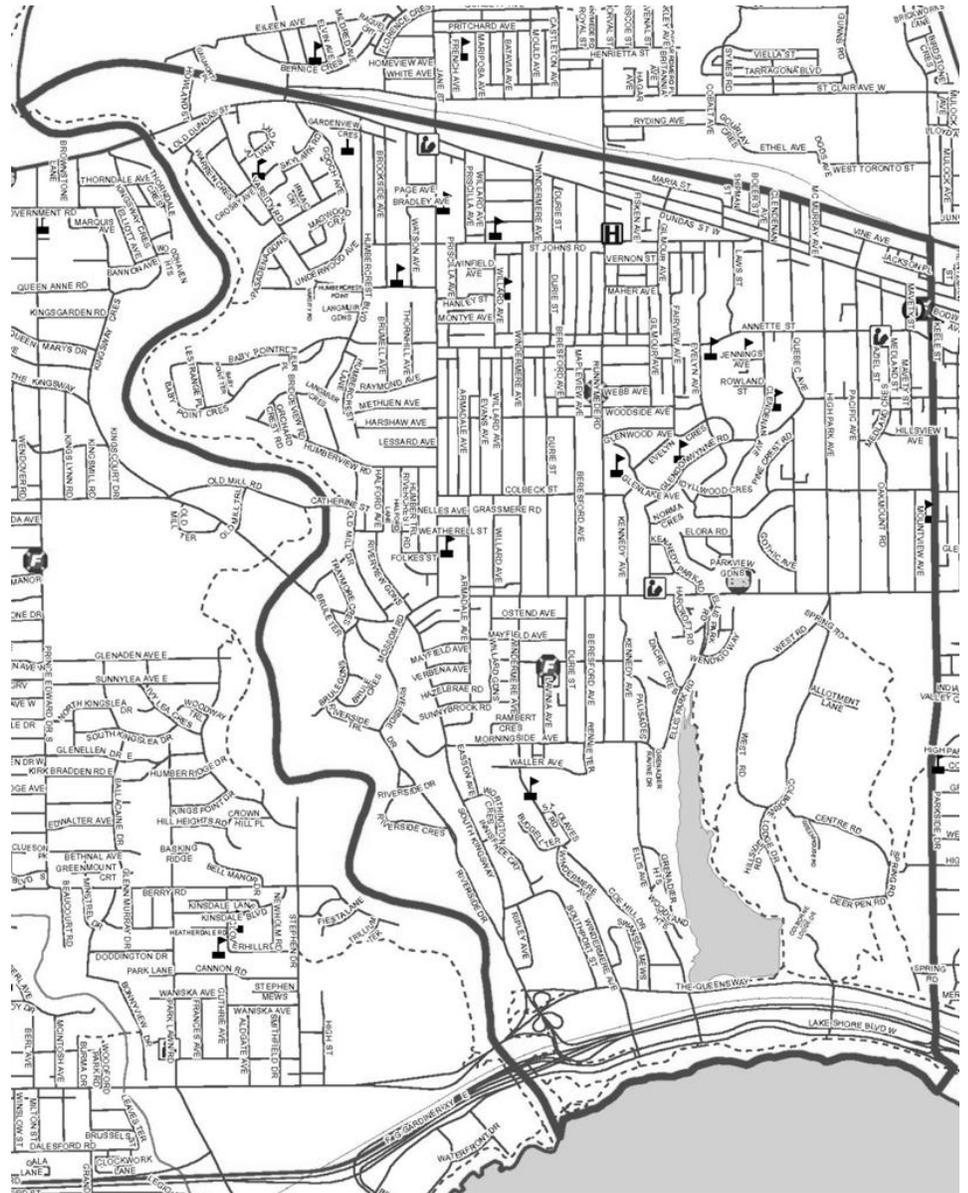
Many of you may have noticed that there are changes happening at the Bloor/South Kingsway intersection. City Transportation has determined this to be a dangerous intersection and as a result the City has to make it safe. Tridel, the developer of One and Two Old Mill, is covering the cost of this work, but even if this were not the case the realignment would still have to be done by the City. The new development has caused several residents to call with concerns regarding future traffic flow around this area and I would like to assure you that the developer will be paying for a post-development Traffic and Road Safety Audit.

### 3. Sunnyside Bike Skills Park Construction Underway

Once completed, residents will have a new place to practice their bike skills in this all-inclusive public park. 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. 1978-2002 Lake Shore Blvd W – the former location of the Joy Oil Station

This property is the former location of the Joy Oil Station. The historic building was declared a heritage property and moved down the road near the Royal Burger in 2007 and the land left empty for a few years until just recently when it was transferred to Build Toronto. With the support of the City Planning division, I was able to add a strata of 65 m to this property, which means that anyone who buys this property from Build to develop it will only ever be able to build up to 65 m above ground, or 20 storeys. That limit is in line with the height of the buildings at Ellis Rd and Lake Shore Blvd W and cannot be appealed to the Committee of Adjustment or the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).



#### Developments

For updates on the following developments, please visit my website at [www.ward13.ca](http://www.ward13.ca) or send me an email at [councillor\\_doucette@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_doucette@toronto.ca).

- A. 200 Keele Street
- B. 1990 and 2114 Bloor Street West
- C. 77 Quebec Avenue & 40 High Park Avenue
- D. 1926 Lake Shore Boulevard West
- E. 3803 Dundas Street West (at Humber Hill)
- F. 441 Jane Street

## Local Park Refurbishments

Funding for these local park refurbishments is coming from the Cash-In-Lieu of Parks bylaw (Section 42). New developments bring new residents and increased use of our green spaces. Developments that do not increase green space for the new residents must provide a certain amount of funds for the upgrade of existing spaces to accommodate the increased usage. In 2014 we will be refurbishing two small parks that have been neglected for many years and are in need of some tender loving care. In each case, construction should start in the Spring and last for a period of about 12 weeks.

### 5. Maria Street Parkette

On September 28, 2013 we hosted a meeting for residents to meet with the Planner and Playground Designer and discuss the refurbishment of Maria Street Parkette. Numerous ideas were brought forward and discussed including keeping the existing major playground structures, and simply upgrading it to current safety standards. Residents agreed they wanted to see enhancements such as climbing equipment, additional swings, a sandbox with a water feature, more shade and more seating. They also want to see the playground redesigned to include underutilized areas, making the whole parkette brighter and safer.

### 6. Lollipop Park (Willard Gardens Parkette)

At a meeting on October 17, residents and staff agreed that Lollipop Park is in desperate need of refurbishment. The equipment is rusting and does not meet CSA standards. At the meeting residents discussed the best kinds of playground equipment, including a sandbox and climbing apparatus - that doesn't get in the way of the toboggan hill! We'll also be naming the steps leading into the park from Mayfield, the Raymond Souster Steps, because the renowned poet lived on Mayfield and used those steps almost every day for many years. More to come on this!

### 7. Safety Meeting

On October 7, 2013, I held a safety meeting in response to residents who had either experienced a break-in or heard about break-ins in our area. Several officers of 11 Division came to our meeting as did members of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC). The presentation included an overview of crime statistics in our area, showing that in general crime is down for our area (except for break-ins), and a Q & A between residents and 11 Div officers who made suggestions about how to discourage break-ins, such as trimming bushes, keeping front doors locked when working inside, installing sensor lights, and if you're at home and someone knocks on the door, make it known that you're in the house even if you don't answer the door. Toronto Police Service operates several mailing lists to provide residents with news and information (sign up at [www.torontopolice.on.ca](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca).)

The evening ended on a positive note when one officer announced that 22 Division had made a significant arrest. As a result of this arrest valuables from numerous break-ins were recovered and people who were victims of these break-ins were invited to view the items recovered.



8. 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Mural

This past July our 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Image Makers program had the honour of completing a mural located on the underpass of the TTC rails, at Clendenan Avenue and Bloor St. W, for the community of Ward 13. The project was a culmination of over a year of advocating for funding in part by the 7<sup>th</sup> GIM program coordinator Lindsey Lickers, and by Councillor Doucette's office. At the beginning of the summer season we received the great news that the project was approved for funding by the City of Toronto's Street Art fund, and shortly after we began to notify the community and get started on the creative process.

As an Aboriginal youth arts-based program, the focus for the mural naturally came from a First Nations perspective and interpretation of imagery, with the focus being to foster the growth of new relationships, while simultaneously promoting the environmental responsibility we have to the land. Being that High Park is one of the largest green spaces within the City of Toronto, it seemed fitting to highlight the history of the land as well as pay homage to the wildlife that once resided in the area. Furthermore, the incident involving the BMX trails and various Aboriginal groups in the year of 2011 that ended in confusion, fueled the urge for the programs youth artists to give something back to the community to recognize the history, while also promoting positive dialogue for such issues in the future. Overall the mural was received with positivity from community members and many have thanked us for not only bringing this perspective to the forefront, but also solving the neighborhood graffiti issue consistently associated with the mural site. The 7<sup>th</sup> GIM youth artists had a blast researching the history of High Park and bringing that history, combined with color, for the community members to enjoy for many years to come.

A big Chi Miigwetch (Thank You) to Councillor Doucette and office, TTC, Street Art Toronto, and to the community of Ward 13 from the youth artists and myself.

Lindsey Lickers,  
7<sup>th</sup> GIM Program Coordinator  
(Native Child and Family Services of Toronto)

### Capital and Operating Budgets, 2014

The City of Toronto 2014 Capital and Operating Budget season launches on Monday, November 25 with presentations from the City Manager's Office. Residents can share their views at the Budget Committee on **December 2 and 3**. Contact [buc@toronto.ca](mailto:buc@toronto.ca) by 4:00 pm on November 29 if you wish to speak.

On November 1, the **2014 Rate-Supported Budgets** - Water, Solid Waste, and the Toronto Parking Authority – were launched. The Budget Committee has sent its recommendations to City Council taking place on December 16 and 17, 2014. Visit my Web site [www.ward13.ca](http://www.ward13.ca) or sign up for my electronic newsletter while you're there for ongoing status updates and information on the entire 2014 City Budget. Final voting takes place January 29 and 30, 2014.

## More Updates and Contacts

### Wildlife in the Ward

Living in our tree-filled ward means we also live in close quarters with wildlife. My office receives regular calls regarding racoons, squirrels and even rats that are becoming a nuisance and in some cases creating a health hazard. Although there is no by-law to restrict feeding of wildlife on your own property I would like to ask everyone to consider not putting food scraps out for the wildlife. If you have compost containers outside please make sure they are secure. If you choose to feed the birds make sure that other animals are unable to reach the bird food. This will go a long way in making sure that our properties do not become overrun with unwelcome critters.

### Emerald Ash Borer Update

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. This past spring and summer, our very own Green 13 teamed up with LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) to organize door-to-door information canvassing as well as hosting a community meeting and local replanting activity. If you want to get involved individually, consider becoming an EAB Ambassador through LEAF. Your role would be to inform people about the issue and let them know what options they have, such as treatment and replanting. Contact LEAF at [www.yourleaf.org](http://www.yourleaf.org).



With some of my fellow Councillors at the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build.

My office can be contacted Monday to Friday from 9 am – 5 pm by emailing [councillor\\_doucette@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_doucette@toronto.ca) or by calling 416-392-4072. You can visit my website at [www.ward13.ca](http://www.ward13.ca), where you can sign up for my e-newsletter. You will also find me on Twitter at [doucetteward13](https://twitter.com/doucetteward13) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/councillordoucette](https://www.facebook.com/councillordoucette).

### My office staff:

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

**11 Division:** 416-808-1100

**Parking Enforcement:** 416-808-2222

**Blocked driveways:** Call Toronto Police Services at 416-808-2222 and tell the dispatcher that you have a "driveway obstruction"

**Elder Abuse:** 416-808-7040

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

**Health Hotline:** 416-338-7600

**2-1-1:** access to over 60,000 community, social, health and related government programs and services in Ontario

**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](http://www.ttc.ca)

**TTC Customer Service:** 416-393-3030

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

**Building Permit Status:** [www.toronto.ca/building](http://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.)

**Toronto Hydro main number:** 416-542-8000

**Trees on Hydro wires:** 416-542-8000, choose option 1 and speak to a dispatcher

**Street Light Outages:** 416-542-3195 or fill in the service request form on their Web site at [www.torontohydro.com](http://www.torontohydro.com). There's a link in their Helping You at Home section.