



Sarah Doucette

City Councillor
Ward 13

Spring 2013

Dear Neighbours,

Happy Spring! As an avid gardener, this is my favourite season. Although even those without green thumbs look forward to it, I am sure. Spring brings out the optimist in many and gets us outdoors again, talking, planting, walking, and newly invigorated! As usual, there are many things happening in the ward.

We just had our annual Earth Hour walk in High Park again. About 150 residents joined me and many of the dedicated High Park volunteers starting at the Grenadier restaurant, walking through the zoo, stopping at the High Park Straw Bale Teaching Kitchen for a tour, and then making our way back to the Grenadier. Thanks everyone for coming out and Sam and his family for keeping us warm and making us feel welcome.

Since our Fall newsletter, the 2013 Budget was passed. You can find more information about it in the following pages including the outcome of the Runnymede Fire Station, the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation budget, and the City's Tree Canopy program.

In that regard, I was recently asked to fill the honorary role of Tree Advocate at the City and I happily accepted. I see myself as a link between the community and the City with respect to protecting and growing our tree canopy. Those of you who know me are familiar with my work on behalf of our environment, including trees, that spans many years. This new role is a way for me to put that passion and experience to work where it can really make a difference.

Also in this newsletter you'll find the flyer for our Environment Day coming up on Saturday, May 18, 2013, updates on some activity across the ward, and a list of contacts and tips to help you navigate the City and its services. Of course, if you need assistance you can contact my staff and me at any time.

Throughout the rest of May and into June I'll also be hosting some coffee mornings in an apartment or condo building near you, so if you see my staff and me there, please stop and have a coffee or tea and let us know what's on your mind or if you need our support for anything. We are planning another Seniors' Fair, Ward Council, and Town Hall in the next few months where I look forward to meeting new residents and seeing familiar faces.

Sincerely,

Sarah Doucette

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With Integrity Commissioner Janet Leiper and City Ombudsman Fiona Crean



With residents at the High Park Earth Hour Walk

1. Lake Shore Blvd Dog Off-Leash Area

A new dog off-lease area has been opened in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park along Lake Shore Blvd. The area is fenced in and allows commercial dog walkers. I had heard from residents living in the new buildings around there that they'd like an off-lease area closer to home and the Parks department realized that an actual need had arisen. Thanks to staff, it's up and running already. I hope you are enjoying it.

2. High Park Zoo

On Sunday, January 13, 2013 the Friends of High Park Zoo held their first Annual General Meeting and welcomed three new board members. They are busily planning events at the zoo for the coming months and will continue to work to raise funds to maintain operations at the zoo. Please consider visiting the llama pen on weekends to join the fun and contact the board at friendsofhighparkzoo@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

3. Pedestrian Crossing at Runnymede and Glenwood

The long-awaited enhanced pedestrian crossing near Runnymede Public School has now been installed. This change includes bump outs and increased lighting on the existing crossing.

4. Sunnyside Swimming Pool has been renovated

The Sunnyside pool change rooms have new wall tiles, ceilings, plumbing fixtures, floors, and change rooms. A new perimeter fence is also expected to be installed by the end of May 2013.

5. Yield control at Varsity Road and Old Dundas Street

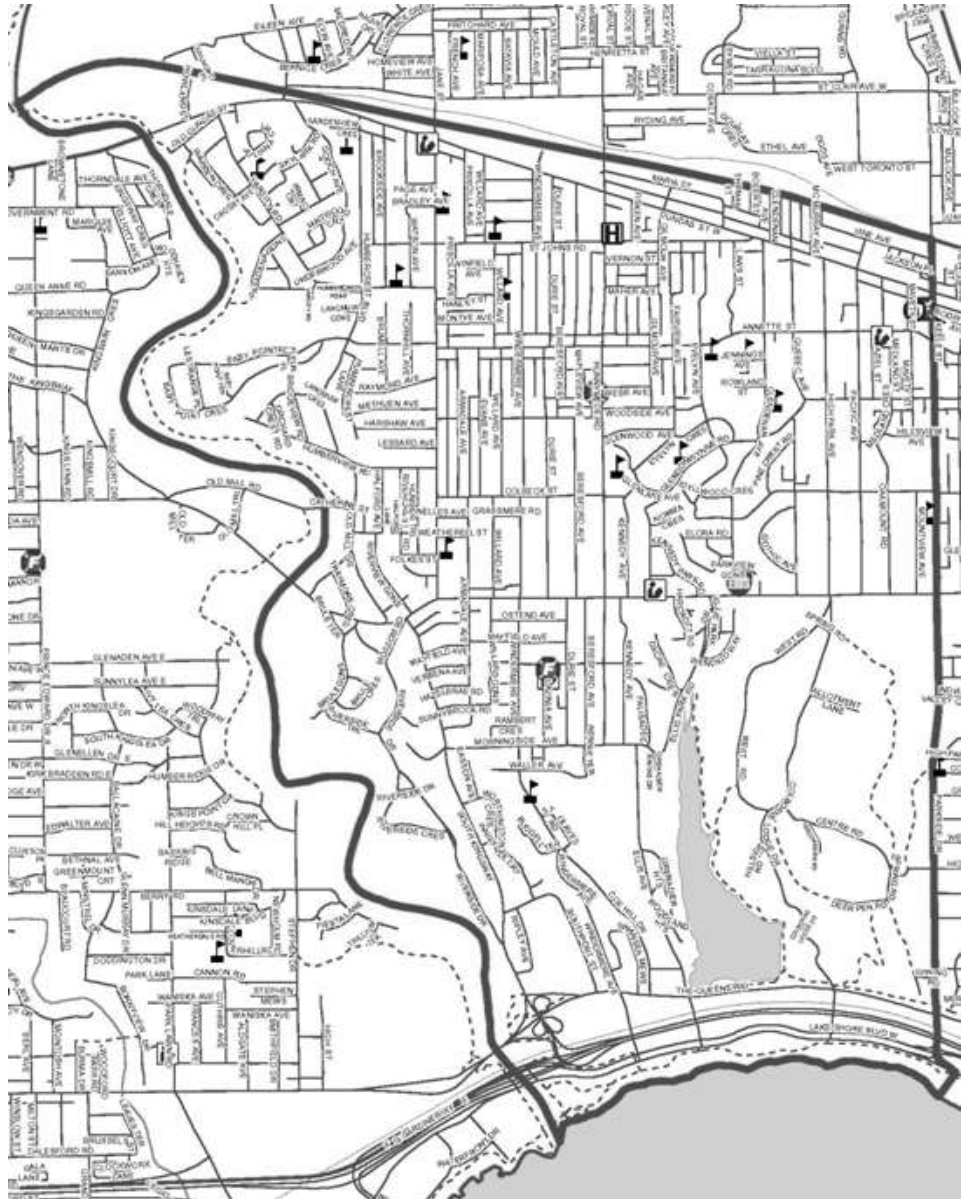
This spring a yield control sign will be installed on Varsity Road at the intersection of Old Dundas Street. This intersection is currently uncontrolled and the installation of the sign will define the right-of-way, enhancing traffic management and safety at this location.

Toronto Hydro Conductor Replacement

Toronto Hydro is planning to rebuild the aging overhead electrical system in our community. The rebuild includes replacing the electrical conductors within the City's public property allowance, within the boundaries of Bloor Street West (North), South Kingsway (East), Morningside Avenue (South), and Brule Gardens (West).

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

In the next year you may notice more trees than usual being cut down due to the EAB, an insect from Asia that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. There are treatments available for ash trees which have not yet been badly infected. To learn more visit www.toronto.ca/trees/eab.htm



Developments

For updates on the following developments, please visit my website at www.ward13.ca or send me an email at councillor_doucette@toronto.ca.

- A. 34-50 Southport Road
- B. 1844 Bloor Street West
- C. 200 Keele Street
- D. 1990 and 2114 Bloor Street West
- E. 77 Quebec Avenue & 40 High Park Avenue
- F. 1926 Lake Shore Boulevard West
- G. 3803 Dundas Street West (at Humber Hill)

Budget 2013

Thank you again to all the residents, neighbours and concerned citizens who took the time to sign the petition or send me an email about the Runnymede Fire Station. At Council on January 16, 2013, I voted for Councillor Fletcher's motion that would add 63 front line firefighters in addition to the 20 approved by the Executive Committee on January 10, 2013 and that this complement of 83 be utilized to maintain the fire service vehicles at Stations 213, 215, 324, 413, and 424, including retention of Station 424, which is Runnymede Station, until June 2013 at least.

As well in the 2013 Budget, I moved a motion that City Council agree to a one-time grant of \$250,000 for the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation. I'm happy to say that it passed. This will allow TPTF to grow its ability to be an effective fundraising resource for our public parks, open spaces, natural areas and trees across the City. For information about its ongoing projects, visit the Foundation's website at www.torontoparksandtree.org.

I was also pleased to move a motion to re-instate the original timeline in the 2008 Urban Forestry Service Plan to achieve the 40% tree canopy targeted by the year 2050. It is estimated that there are 10.1 million trees in Toronto that store 1.1 million metric tonnes of carbon each year, the equivalent of carbon emissions from 733,000 cars. Trees are also great at blocking the sun in the summer and protecting our homes from the cold in the winter. They save residents and the City money by decreasing the need for the energy to cool and heat our homes, schools, recreation centres, and businesses.

Town Hall with Ombudsman and Integrity Commissioner

On Thursday, November 22, 2012, I hosted a Town Hall meeting with our City's Ombudsman and Integrity Commissioner to give them a chance to discuss their roles and talk about how they can assist you. The Ombudsman investigates complaints about administrative unfairness throughout all City Departments. The Integrity Commissioner investigates complaints about the conduct of Members of Council, Members of Local Boards and Adjudicative Boards and determines whether or not there has been a violation of the City's Codes of Conduct.

Electric Trains on the Georgetown Corridor

I just signed a letter to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Glen Murray, on the anniversary of the Toronto Public Health report outlining the necessity for electric trains on the new Georgetown corridor trains. Along with Councillors in the other wards affected by this project, I've been doing whatever I can to promote the work of the Clean Train Coalition and the efforts of my colleagues including my fellow Councillors Frances Nunziata, Mike Layton, Gord Perks, and Ana Bailão.

Faith in the City

In January I was happy to attend Faith in the City, a multi faith symposium for faith communities across Toronto who are working together to build Toronto. I was honoured to have been a member of the steering committee during the formation of this group and look forward to seeing how faith communities can increase their participation in city building.



5. LAMBTON HOUSE

By guest writer Madeleine McDowell

Ward 13 is a trove of history! In the northwest corner of the Ward is a significant part of this lively trove: the Historic Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street, a stone's throw from the Humber, adjacent to the Historic Park along the River.

The Lambton House is being doggedly restored, by a group of dedicated volunteers, members of Heritage York – a non profit charitable organization, who operate the Lambton House as well. They wish it to function as a lively historic resource in the community and on the Humber. They provide regular monthly historical talks and additional tours by appointment. Local musicians entertain at a monthly Community Pub Night.

The Lambton House was established as an Hotel in 1847, located in its present building by 1860. It functioned as a stage coach stop and a place for travellers to rest and locals to eat and drink for a hundred and fifty years. The building was designated in 1985 under the Ontario Heritage Act by the LACAC and Council of the City of York. When the doors closed as a tavern in 1988, it had the longest standing licence in Ontario. It is the only public building on the lower Humber remaining from the nineteenth century milling period. A National Historic Sites and Monuments Board Significant Person's Plaque here, commemorates Father of Confederation Sir W.P. Howland, original owner of the Lambton House.

The Lambton House is used by Rate Payers, Field Naturalists and other organizations. Members of the public may rent the venue for an event.

Electronic Newsletter

To learn about more events going on in our ward, please sign up for our bi-weekly electronic newsletter at www.ward13.ca.

Upcoming Events in Ward 13

6. CONTACT: Photography in the Junction

May 1 to 31
The Junction (Dundas Street West)

7. Sunnyside Art Show

May 31 to June 2
Sunnyside Pavilion

8. Baby Point Gates Event

June 15
Jane and Annette Street

9. Bloor West Village Sidewalk Sale

June 20 to 22
Bloor West Village

10. Junction Summer Solstice

June 22
The Junction (Dundas Street West)

11. Ukrainian Festival

September 13 to 15
Bloor West Village

News You Can Use

Looking forward to the spring but not to what yard waste is hidden under the snow? From mid-March into December, **leaf and yard waste collection** will be picked up every other week on garbage collection day. You should be placing your garden waste out at the same time as your grey garbage bin to be collected that week. *Please do not leave garden waste out at the curb before your collection day.*

Remember to **lock your front doors while you're gardening** in your backyard this season!

According to experts, a healthy lawn only requires approximately 2.5 cm of water a week, including rainfall. **For a free rain gauge, attend your local Community Environment Day.** Our Ward's will be held on Saturday, May 18 at Sir Casimir Gzowski Park.

Planning to hold an event in a City park? Make sure to **apply for a permit six weeks prior** to the event date.

Are you getting rid of some oversized items in your own spring clean-up at home? Furniture and mattresses, for example, can be put out for free pick-up on your regularly scheduled garbage day. Place oversized items next to your black garbage bin, no tags required.

There are **two property tax relief programs available** for eligible low-income seniors and persons with a disability. The two programs available are the Property Tax Increase Deferral Program and Property Tax Increase Cancellation Program. This year there has been a slight change to the Property Tax Increase Cancellation Program, increasing the maximum combined household income cut-off from \$36,000 or less to \$38,000 or less. These programs must be applied to each year to ensure maximum benefit. The deadline to apply for the 2013 taxation year is August 31, 2013. Application forms and more information can be found by calling 311.

To get **information about local road closures and restrictions**, visit this Web site at any time:
www.toronto.ca/transportation/road_info.

Vehicle operators are only **allowed to idle their engines for one minute** during any 60 minute period.

Within the City of Toronto, if there are no posted signs for parking time limits, a **maximum three-hour parking limit** exists.

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 Ward! Contact our office or visit www.toronto.ca for more details. And don't forget about our libraries!

Home renovations can be costly. This year there will be federal/provincial funding available for eligible low-income senior and disabled homeowners through the City of Toronto's Affordable Housing Office. The eligibility criteria include a maximum home assessment value of \$514,000 and income thresholds.

This funding is meant to assist with essential home repairs and modifications that support seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently in their homes. These repairs/modifications include: ramps and chairlifts, furnace upgrades, electrical safety upgrades, and roofing and foundation repairs.

Applications for Toronto Renovates have not yet become available. For more information on the program and/or when applications will be available, call 311. Our office would also be happy to assist with any questions.

