



GVCA

1958-2025

Guildwood Village **NEWS & VIEWS**

The official publication of the Guildwood Village Community Association

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President's Message



Robert D'Addario

President, Guildwood Village Community Association

president@guildwood.ca

On behalf of the GVCA Board of Directors, we would like to wish you all health and happiness for 2025!

This new year is already off to a positive start! We have already started to plan for our Annual General Meeting in March, Guildwood Day in June, continued our advocacy and action plan on the success of Guild Park and Gardens, and a variety of events in between. Thank you to our volunteers that dedicate their time and efforts into making every event a success.

One of the most discussed items at our GVCA Board of Directors meetings is our involvement in housing concerns and proposed developments. We have started our GVCA Housing subcommittee, which is chaired by GVCA Vice President Jeff Garrah. In our discussions, we listen to the concerns of our neighbours and work to influence the outcome of development applications which do not fit the character of our community. We want to ensure that all Guildwood Village voices are heard!

In addition to writing letters opposing specific developments, we have also opposed elements of the Expanding Housing Options for Neighbourhoods (EHON)

initiative. We remain committed to the fundamental idea that Guildwood Village cannot adhere to a one-size-fits-all model as proposed through EHON. Thank you to Andy Manahan for representing GVCA at a recent City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee EHON meeting which would permit certain retail and service uses on residentially zoned properties.

The GVCA continues to work to support Guildwood Village. I would like to welcome Ashley Tilley to our team as a Communications lead. We are excited to have her part of the team and share her expertise. I would also like to give a special thank you to Susan and Don Briggs who continue to support the delivery of the News and Views, create fun crosswords as a regular feature (that often have Guildwood references!), help with editing the News & Views newsletter, and support our new housing subcommittee. Thank you to all our volunteers that support GVCA and the broader community.

I'd now like to share a heartwarming story that was passed along to me recently. One of our senior Guildwood residents experienced an unfortunate fall near the intersection of Guildwood Parkway and Livingston Rd. on October 27. She recalls six people who provided immediate assistance for which she is so grateful. This lovely woman does not know who they are so she asked the GVCA to publish a heartfelt "Thank You" to those individuals. Helping each other is what we do and is yet one more reason to be proud of our community!



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Join Us for the Coldest Night of the Year Walk – Saturday, February 22, 2025

Deirdre MacLeod, Fundraiser, Kennedy House



We are excited to announce that the annual **Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY)** walk will take place on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**. This national event, held in communities across Canada, raises funds and awareness for local charities supporting people experiencing homelessness.



For many young people, Kennedy House is more than just a shelter—it's a beacon of hope.

How You Can Get Involved

We are looking for volunteers and fundraisers to make this year's CNOY event a success! You can participate by walking either the 2k or 5k route, both of which start from **St. Barnabas Anglican Church at 361 Danforth Ave.** Whether you walk with friends and family or join us solo and meet new people, this event is a great way to support youth in need.

How to Register

- Register to walk and fundraise, or donate to a walker at: cnoy.org/location/torontodanforth.
- Volunteer at the event by contacting our office at (416) 299-3157 or emailing info@kennedyhouse.org.

Your support—whether through walking, donating, or volunteering—makes a huge difference in the lives of vulnerable youth in our community. Thank you for standing with us and for them!

Community members are invited to participate in a fundraising walk on what is typically the coldest day of the year, offering a glimpse of what it's like for those without a safe place to call home. By walking with us, you'll be helping to raise critical funds for Kennedy House Youth Shelter.

Support Kennedy House Youth Shelter

All contributions raised from the CNOY walk go directly to supporting the youth at Kennedy House. Your donations help provide:

- Warm coats
- Hot meals
- A safe place to sleep

But Kennedy House Youth Shelter offers so much more. In addition to basic needs, we provide crisis counselling, emotional support, and employment coaching to youth aged 16-24. We work closely with them to find permanent housing, and they gain not only security but also friendship, understanding, and guidance.

In the words of one youth:

When I first came here, I was confused. I was going through a lot of struggles, misunderstanding, and feelings of hopelessness, but with your help, I'm becoming the person I want to be. Your help made me focus on my plans and dreams again. You've become a family for us youth. I'm so grateful to have been here.

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Celebrating Japan in Scarborough



Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko and Music Group will present "Celebrate Japan in Scarborough!" concerts — part of Arts in The Parks 2025 (<https://artsintheparksto.org>). Our performances will feature a hands-on taiko drumming / movement workshop and taiko drumming concerts in four Scarborough parks:

Saturday, July 19 2025 at 6 pm - Prairie Drive Park
[rain date: July 26]

Sunday, July 20 2025 at 6 pm - Guild Park and Gardens
[rain date: July 27]

Saturday, August 16 2025 at 6 pm - Cedar Brook Park
[rain date: August 23]

Sunday, August 17 2025 at 6 pm - Alexmuir Park
[rain date: August 24]

The 30-minute interactive workshops will be facilitated by Nagata Shachu member and Education / Outreach Coordinator Andrew Siu, and assisted by the rest of the ensemble. Associate Director Aki Takahashi will once again design the workshop in which participants will learn Japanese rhythms with choreographed movement using "uchiwa taiko" (fan drums played with sticks). These instruments were purchased as part of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we received in 2017, where we engaged 10,000 students over three years at TDSB and TCDSB schools in priority and underserved neighbourhoods. Workshop participants will also have a casual and informal environment to ask questions about the music and to interact with the musicians.

Following a short break (approx. 15 minutes), Nagata Shachu will then take the stage presenting a 60-minute concert which will feature several new works that were developed for our most recent concert seasons (we celebrated our 25th Anniversary last season and this year celebrate 40 years of Kiyoshi Nagata's taiko drumming in Toronto). The energetic performances of taiko drumming will be displayed with the highest levels of musicianship and discipline that Nagata Shachu has become renowned for. In addition to our thunderous taiko drums, the concerts will feature Japanese bamboo flutes, the three-stringed shamisen, and singing. Nagata Shachu's primal and heartfelt drumbeats transcend all boundaries and strike a chord with people from all walks of life. In ancient Japan, village boundaries would be determined by the furthest distance that one could hear the taiko which was set up in the middle of town. In the same spirit, it is our desire to expand boundaries and include new communities through the sound of our drums.

For this season, we are looking for 12 local Scarborough youth from middle and/or high school schools (approx. 12 to 16 years of age) to participate in a special drumming program. We are looking for three participants in and around each park to represent their park and neighbourhood! Youth players do not need to have any previous musical or taiko experience to participate. All material is taught through example and repetition. Ability to read music is not a requirement.

Youth participants will have the opportunity to learn the basics of taiko drumming through three (3) one-hour sessions at the Nagata Shachu studio (Hymus Road @ Warden Avenue) in the late spring - early summer of 2025. Through the support of the Toronto Arts Council, we are offering participants:

- \$100 Honorarium (upon completion of three rehearsals and performances)
- Nagata Shachu T-Shirt
- TTC / Transportation costs provided for rehearsals and performances

Youth participants will perform a 5-minute piece at each of the 4 park locations, opening each Arts in The Park performance following the workshop session.

For more information, check us out at

www.NagataShachu.com

Instagram: @NagataShachu

YouTube: @NagataShachu

Call us with questions! (416) 651-4227

Apply by Monday, March 17 2025, email: taiko@nagatashachu.com (Subject: Youth Player: Celebrate Japan in Scarborough)

Tell us a bit about yourself:

- Age, grade, and what school you go to
- Which park you are close to
- Why you would like to learn taiko drumming



A Sweet Success Story

Tammy Macklin

Once again the "Great Guildwood Candy Cane Hunt," was an amazing success. This year we received lots of food for the food bank and even some cash donations! I would like to thank Your Independent Grocer's owner - Tammy, the GVCA and Councillor Paul Ainslie for their continued support to make this event a success. I would also like to thank Brad Warren, Dee Peroff, Jason Writer and my family for helping to organize the hunt.



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Guildwood Gives Back

Rising to Meet a Growing Need

Carol Foderick



In 2024, the need was greater than ever. Across the city, food bank usage surged to unprecedented levels, with Scarborough being particularly affected. The Scarborough Food Security Initiative (SFSI), which serves over 3,000 families per week, has become a vital lifeline for many, and the Guildwood

Area Food Drive was proud to partner with them. Together, they worked to ensure no family went without the basics during this challenging time.

For those fortunate to live in Guildwood—a neighbourhood known for its safe streets, excellent schools, and strong sense of community—the food drive was an opportunity to extend a helping hand. It was about sharing good fortune and embodying the true spirit of the season.

How the Community Helped

Participating in the food drive was simple but impactful. In the week leading up to the food drive a team of volunteers distributed brown paper donation bags door-to-door to every home in the Guild. On Sunday, December 15th


neighbours participated by placing their filled bags out on their porch and they were collected by a dedicated crew of volunteer drivers. The turnout was tremendous with over 800 homes participating, which represents thousands and thousands of meals being delivered to the food bank.

A Community That Cares

The Guildwood Food Drive was, and has always been, about more than just food—it's about fostering a spirit of kindness and unity. Through this collective effort, the community made a significant difference in the lives of many families during the holiday season.

From Carol and Regan, to everyone who participated:
Thank you for your generosity!

This extraordinary journey of giving continues to leave a lasting legacy, proving that a united community can achieve remarkable things, one brown paper bag at a time.




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Guildwood Village Greets Santa

John P. Mason, President, Friends of Guild Park

Guild Park hosted Santa and more than 200 Guildwood Villagers at the 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting. “This was so much fun!” commented a local resident on social media. “Such a great turnout - the kids had so much fun!”

In addition to Santa’s special visit, people enjoyed lots of hot chocolate and hot cider, live music and a crafts table where youngsters made their own tree decorations and ornaments.

This year a merry time was had by all as the crowd gathered round Guild Park’s living Christmas tree, then counted down as Santa turned on the 400 lights on the 20-foot native spruce.



All ages enjoy carols



As part of the festivities, attendees donated about six hampers of items for the local food bank. Local volunteers from Scouts Canada made sure the food got to the food bank in time for Christmas.

Event organizer, Friends of Guild Park, thanks the GVCA for supporting this local celebration. Thanks also to the others in the community that made the event possible:

- Carol Foderick Real Estate Group
- Catering by Maria Jefferys
- Guild Inn Estate
- Scarborough Uke Jam (live carol music/entertainment)
- Scouts Canada
- Tammy’s - Your Independent Grocer (Guildwood Plaza)

Long-time residents will recall the tradition of having Christmas parties and dinners at the old Guild Inn, when it operated under its original owners, Rosa and Spencer Clark. The GVCA later held family Christmas celebrations at Guild Park until 2001, the year that the City of Toronto closed the original Guild Inn.

In 2013, Friends of Guild Park, in collaboration with the GVCA, the City of Toronto and other supporters, brought back the Christmas tree lighting to Guild Park. For the past five years, Covid-19 regulations halted such in-person events.

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Exciting News: The Elizabeth Simcoe Fun Fair is Coming Back to Our Community!



The much-loved annual Fun Fair is returning, and we couldn't be more thrilled to invite you to join us in making this year's event a smashing success. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 30, 2025 and prepare for an unforgettable evening filled with games, food, entertainment, and the joy of coming together as a community.

Once again we are putting out a call for sponsors to partner with us in supporting this fantastic event. By becoming a sponsor, you'll not only gain visibility within the community, but also contribute to a wonderful cause: raising funds for school enhancements and technology upgrades at Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. Public School.

Why Sponsor the Fun Fair?

Last year's Fun Fair was a tremendous success, and thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors and attendees, the funds raised have already had a meaningful impact. Here's how some of the money has already been put to good use:

- **Lego Robotics Kits:** Providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in STEM.
- **Scientists in School Programming:** Bringing engaging, curriculum-aligned science workshops to the classroom.

- **Classroom Enhancements:** Upgrades to make learning spaces more dynamic and student-friendly.
- **Parent Support Groups:** Fostering community connections and providing resources for families.
- **Little Yogis Event:** Promoting mindfulness and well-being among students.

This year, we aim to build on these successes and support even more initiatives that will benefit our school and its students.

Sponsors will receive recognition at the Fun Fair through banners, announcements and promotional materials — a great opportunity to showcase your commitment to our community. Sponsors can choose to support one of our exciting activities, such as face painting, crafts, or inflatables, or they can have a booth at the fair to engage directly with attendees and promote their brand.

Interested in joining us as a sponsor? Please reach out to us at elizabethsimcoefunfair@gmail.com. We'd love to discuss how we can work together to make this year's Fun Fair better than ever.

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Music to Our Ears **You too can have fun expressing yourself**

Jay Moonah



Playing music or singing with a group offers a multitude of benefits for people of all ages. It fosters a sense of community and belonging, as individuals come together to create something beautiful. Collaborating with others enhances communication skills, teamwork, and the ability

to listen attentively. Musicianship improves through shared experiences, as members learn from each other and grow together. Moreover, group music-making can reduce stress, boost mood, and provide a much-needed creative outlet. And there are lots of opportunities close to Guildwood to make this happen!

For kids, the Bach Children's Chorus is a great program. Founded over 30 years ago by Linda Beaupré, the BCC offers something special, building positive relationships among the participants through musical education, and creative expression. Based at Scarborough Bluffs United Church at Kingston and Scarborough Golf Club Roads, BCC has a range of different choirs geared at children from kindergarten to high school age. Visit their web site at www.bachchildrenschorus.ca for information.

Literally just across the street from Bluffs United Church is The Olde Stone Cottage pub, meeting place of the Scarborough Uke Jam. Geared toward adults (although younger folks are certainly welcome), this group meets every second Monday to sing and play. See www.scarboroughukes.com for more information.

Along similar lines, about a 10-minute drive from Guildwood, you'll find the Port Union Community Centre (Lawrence Ave. just west of Port Union Rd.) The Memory Lane Band and Port Union Ukes are two related groups catering to retired folks. The Memory Lane Band is actually primarily a singing group (although a few folks play guitars and other instruments as accompaniment) with a focus on great oldies. They meet every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Following that at 12:15 pm, the Port Union Ukes take over the same space, playing and singing ukulele music of a similar vintage. You can participate in one or both depending on your interest. Port Union Ukes has a website at <https://sites.google.com/view/portunionukes/home> to help get you started.

None of these sound like your speed? Don't fret, a quick Google search will turn up more options for playing and singing in and around Scarborough!

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Guild Park's Missed Opportunity for More Dollars

John P. Mason, President, Friends of Guild Park



The dream of having more money to improve Guild Park & Gardens and build outstanding new features to welcome more Torontonians and visitors from around the world will have to wait... indefinitely.

An innovative plan to allocate new funds for this historic 88-acre park – and help pay for the dozens of long-delayed projects – failed to gain enough support at City Hall late last year.

As a result, the landmark site in the heart of Guildwood Village will continue to lack the dollars required to address basic deficiencies and implement priorities first identified more than a decade ago by City officials.

The proposal to better fund Guild Park came from local Councillor Paul Ainslie at a committee meeting in December with 10 of his City Council colleagues. In his one-page recommendation, Councillor Ainslie asked Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow to apply City revenue generated at the park so those dollars can “be reinvested back into Guild Park & Gardens as a new source of long-term funding for site capital projects.”

The revenue involved is the annual rent the City now earns through its 40-year lease agreement with Guild Inn Estate, operator of the private event facility in the park. In November 2023, the City division responsible for this agreement announced it would collect about \$600,000 in rent that year. The amount represented about 10 percent of the total \$6-million revenue generated by events held in 2023 at Guild Inn Estate.

Self-Funding Strategy

Those dollars from Guild Park are a miniscule drop in the bucket of the City of Toronto's annual budget of \$19.1 billion. But \$600,000 represents 100% more than what the City's Parks division has made available for Guild Park's capital improvements. According to its annual capital budgets, Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) allocated no money to Guild Park in either 2023 or 2024.

Since PFR lacks the dollars, Councillor Ainslie proposed using the annual rent generated at Guild Park as a “dedicated funding source for future projects” at the site. This approach would set up a self-financing element to Guild Park's on-going operations. The more park visitors who rent event space at Guild Inn Estate, the more funding becomes available to improve Guild Park – all without adding to the City's current financial pressures.

Councillor Ainslie identified many park projects that could proceed with more funds, including:

- Park Repairs/Improvements: better washrooms, trails, gardens and signage.
- Natural Environment Protection: preserving ecological features and enhancing conservation efforts.
- Arts Services/Public Art Upgrades: improving the Greek Theatre, restoring the boarded-up log cabin, repairing/installing outdoor art and architectural features, and preparing for the 100-year celebrations to mark the founding of the Guild of All Arts.



A metal band around the collection of four "provincial panels" has damaged the Arctic panel by sculptor Emanuel Hahn. The limestone around the figure's torso has worn away exposing metal underpinnings.



Most of these initiatives are included in the series of comprehensive Guild Park plans that PFR first announced more than a decade ago. At that time, park visitors and local residents had long recognized the property's poor condition and its lack of resources compared to other destination parks in Toronto. Every building on the site was then closed to the public and few events took place on the grounds.

Unfunded & Endangered

In 2011, Guild Park's plight caught the attention of the National Trust for Canada, the charity that helps save heritage places. It listed Guild Park among the 10 most endangered historic sites in the country that year. The Trust noted the property's importance as Canada's first artists' community and its outdoor collection of irreplaceable architectural artifacts. Guild Park's dilapidated condition was, according to the Trust, an example of “demolition by neglect” by the municipal departments and agencies in charge of the site. As a response, community volunteers began collaborating on Guild Park projects. One outcome was establishing Friends of Guild Park, a group that brings more awareness and activities to the site.

In 2014, PFR officials, with input from a team of park experts and the public, published the City of Toronto's

Management Plan for Guild Park & Gardens. The 97-page document stated how the property possesses “a unique character that needs to be protected, preserved and enhanced... [to] create a rare park visitor experience.” PFR’s plan recommended dozens of large- and small-scale improvements for Guild Park’s trails, gardens and overall operations, including 17 “priority initiatives.”

Over the next four years, PFR plus teams of park experts and the public delivered two more detailed studies: The Trails Master Plan for Guild Park & Gardens; and the Guild Park & Gardens Horticulture Plan. Each contained specific recommendations, plus prioritized timetables to implement the projects.

All these plans are available online at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/parks-facility-plans-strategies/guild-park-gardens-management-plan>

No Funds, No Problem

By 2018 the City of Toronto had established, according to PFR, “a comprehensive framework” for improving Guild Park’s “use, trails, horticultural elements and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage features.”

But PFR’s “framework” came without funding. In late 2018, PFR officials announced that implementing their comprehensive plans for Guild Park would be delayed due to limited budgets. City staff suggested that, since money was a problem for PFR, Guild Park volunteers should find alternative funds for site projects.

Park groups went into action and obtained various grants and other assets. These efforts continued for years as City resources for Guild Park became further restricted during and after the pandemic. Examples of improvements initiated by Guild Park supporters include:

- Volunteers raised money and supplies to plant two new on-site gardens. The most recent, Guild Park’s Native Pollinator Garden, earned the City of Toronto’s 2024 award for Best Community Garden across the city.
- Heritage Toronto and Friends of Guild Park partnered to collect more than \$14,000 in public donations for a pair of plaques, the first official heritage panels on-site. Their initial campaign paid for a custom plaque commemorating the site’s historic Guild of All Arts. The second campaign raised funds for a Heritage Toronto plaque honouring the park’s landmark Greek Theatre (to be installed in 2025).
- Volunteers suggested planting memorial Vimy Oaks on-site as living reminders of Guild Park’s historic military significance. This became a recommendation of PFR’s horticulture plan for the site. The Canadian government provided the authentic trees and later a descriptive plaque which the City of Toronto installed at Guild Park. (See John McKay’s article, page 30 in this issue)



A Decade Without Dollars

But the City’s chronic underfunding of Guild Park continued. As recently as December 2024, a PFR official admitted that “project work has not been initiated and remains unfunded” for the priorities listed in the City’s 10-year-old Management Plan for Guild Park. The backlog of long-delayed improvements was one reason Councillor Ainslie proposed a new funding approach for Guild Park. Urgency for better park financing was also driven by Guild Park’s dramatic increase in popularity. Less than a decade ago, fewer than 20,000 people a year came to the park. It was an era when every on-site building was in disrepair, a few port-a-potties served as park toilets and limited activities took place.

By 2023, Guild Park was welcoming more than ten times that number of people; today 200,000+ visitors are attracted to the site annually. They come to the three significant park buildings that the City of Toronto has had restored, rebuilt and reopened:

- the original Guild Inn, completely modernized and rented out as a private events facility;
- the Clark Centre for the Arts, a City-run exhibition and art programs space; and
- an original artist’s cabin, open seasonally as a visitor “hub” operated by volunteers under agreement with the City.

More Visits, Few Features

Hundreds of in-park activities also bring year-round participants and audiences, visitors from well beyond Guildwood Village. Guild Park's popular attractions include:

- The annual weekend arts festival organized each July by Councillor Ainslie;
- The summer-long seasons of live performances at the park's Greek Theatre, produced by the award-winning Guild Festival Theatre;
- Public events held by the GVCA and Friends of Guild Park, including well-attended collaborations with Doors Open, Jane's Walk, Heritage Toronto and Arts in the Parks;
- The weddings, corporate meetings and special catered events hosted by Guild Inn Estate. This private business paid more than \$15 million to restore the original Guild Inn and now operates the modernized building through various arrangements with the City of Toronto.

Despite so many people and events, visitors keep asking why Guild Park has so few public features? These questions come from the increasing number of Torontonians and arts groups who visit from other parts of the city. The answer comes down to how many dollars City officials decide to direct to different Toronto parks.

The City's current funding process for the past six years hasn't benefited Guild Park nor all the people who arrive at the site along the Scarborough Bluffs. Visitors continue to point out that Guild Park lacks the infrastructure, such as on-site food services, park signs and benches, recreation programs and public facilities, available at other Toronto comparable parks operated by PFR, such as Canoe Landing, High Park and Love Park.

Plans & Promises

Toronto City Council originally planned that Guild Park would offer more to the public. To ensure the then-derelict Guild Inn was suitably restored, in 2014 City officials designated the development as a "municipal capital facility." In return for annual tax concessions to the Guild Inn Estate operation, City officials required the facility also provide specific "community benefits."

City Council decided that the new facility would benefit public visitors at Guild Park by including a restaurant and PRF services, like recreation programs and community meeting space. Ten years after City Council's decision, the facility still gets municipal tax benefits, but City officials overlook that this municipal capital facility is required to deliver community benefits on-site.

Allocating the rent generated at Guild Inn Estate toward Guild Park improvements would redress the imbalance between the tax benefits received by this municipal capital facility and the lack of community benefits delivered to public visitors at Guild Park. Councillor Ainslie announced his funding proposal in November 2024. It immediately gained widespread

support from those who use and appreciate the 88 acres of parkland, gardens, forest, bluffs and shoreline. Those endorsing this innovative funding process for Guild Park included:

- Park People, the national charity that champions best practices at city parks across Canada.
- The GVCA, which represents the community surrounding Guild Park and the thousands of local residents who regularly use the park.
- Friends of Guild Park, the not-for-profit group that collaborates with City officials and other groups to bring more activities, awareness and visitors to the park.
- Guild Festival Theatre, whose award-winning productions at Guild Park's Greek Theatre are a cultural asset to both our community and our city; plus
- The arts group, Tender Possibilities, which launched a popular program of poetry readings at Guild Park last summer. This is one of the City-funded groups that recognizes the park's potential to inspire visitors yet notes the site's lack of facilities compared to the other major City parks that host Toronto Arts In the Parks events.

Failure to Fund

Another significant supporter is Guild Inn Estate, the business that, through the rent it pays to the City, generates the money for the proposed park funding. The company's senior management noted how the City "will enhance the experience of the park users" by allocating more dollars to improve Guild Park.

"As the source of these funds comes solely from operations that take place in the Guild Park, the logical allocation of the funds should be to beautify and improve the park and its amenities," stated Guild Inn Estate executives in their support letter to the City of Toronto.

Despite all these comments, the long-delayed park projects and the decade of unfunded PFR plans, Councillor Ainslie's proposal wasn't approved. It needed support from at least four more members of the City's Executive Committee to go ahead.

The idea of investing a new source of revenue for Guild Park – simply using money from Guild Park to improve Guild Park for its hundreds of thousands of visitors – failed to inspire the City politicians who ultimately influence the site's future.

Guildwood Village residents enjoy a special connection with Guild Park. As the park becomes busier, it requires more supporters to step forward and be active. Having more people involved ensures Guild Park activities and advocacy continue. It's also a great way to meet like-minded volunteers who are making the park and our community better. If you're interested in Guild Park and have some time available, we invite you to help. To get started, send an email to friends@guildpark.ca describing your interest in making a difference at Guild Park.

The Art Guild of Scarborough

Kay Minter, Publicity Chair (volunteer)



The Art Guild of Scarborough is a non-profit organization. Over the past 62 years, we have brought together artists, most of whom live in Scarborough, to promote and celebrate the creation of original art. This year there are 165 members ranging

in experience from novice to professional. The Art Guild of Scarborough holds weekly member meetings which feature both demonstrations by notable artists and hands-on art activities.

Our Spring Art Show and Sale showcases over 500 juried, original works of art created by The Art Guild of Scarborough artists. The art features a variety of mediums such as watercolour, pastel, oil, acrylic, ink, sculpture and mixed media, and is available for purchase.

For more information about upcoming shows please visit <http://theartguildofscarborough.com/upcoming-shows>

THE ART GUILD OF SCARBOROUGH



Island in the Bay by Hal Bilz

SPRING ART SHOW & SALE

ALL ORIGINAL ART

Saturday and Sunday, April 5 & 6, 2025
10 am to 5 pm

Awards Presentation – Saturday, April 5 at 10:15

Centennial Recreation Centre - Scarborough

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Scarborough, ON

(between Markham and Bellamy)

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING & REFRESHMENTS

For more information see our website:

<https://theartguildofscarborough.com/upcoming-shows/>

Keeping Our Shoreline Clean

Rosalee Mitchell Spohn



Friends of Guild Park (Friends) organize shoreline cleanups along Guildwood's Lake Ontario shoreline – from the Grey Abbey ravine in the east to the Doris McCarthy Trail in the west. Each year, tens of thousands of items are picked up – mostly plastic. Since September 2013, we have recorded picking up 329,434 items weighing more than 3.2 tonnes.

Thank you to everyone who has joined one of our cleanups over the years. Plan to join the Friends at their annual spring shoreline cleanup during Clean Toronto Together weekend of April 26th – 27th, 2025. In the spring, more information will be available at GuildPark.ca and Facebook.com/GuildPark

Thank you to City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the office of Councillor Ainslie for their on-going support throughout the years.



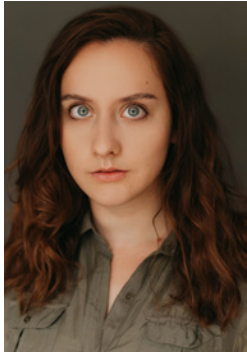
255 Circles ... and a Square was created with 256 items found on Guildwood's Lake Ontario shoreline throughout 2024.

Slapstick Meets Suspense In Guild Festival Theatre's 2025 Season



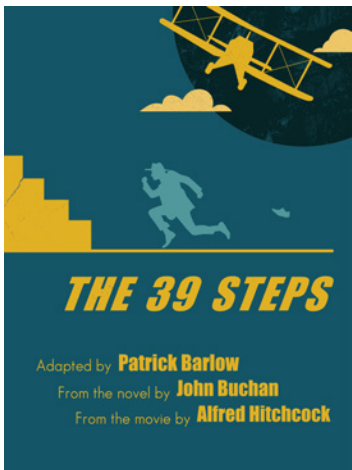
Guild Festival Theatre's 14th season will be a summer of laughter and intrigue in Guild Park!

Bonnie Duff, Guild Festival Theatre, Communications Assistant



Have you seen the news about Guild Festival Theatre's 2025 summer productions? We know that Guildwood is going to love what we have planned: A world premiere inspired by Shakespeare's Hamlet and a tour-de-force comedy spy thriller based on a Hitchcock classic. This summer, the Greek Theatre will be alive with comedy and thrills!

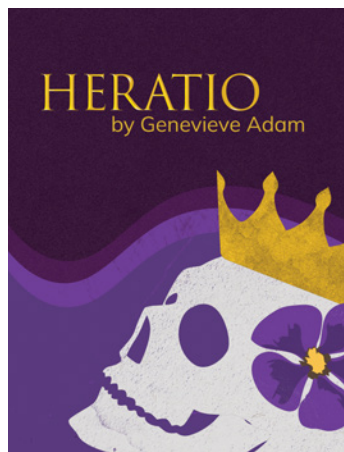
First up is *The 39 Steps*, a hilarious stage adaptation of the Hitchcock thriller based on the novel by John Buchan. This brilliant play has been a hit on the West End and Broadway and now comes to Guild Park's own Greek Theatre. We can't wait for audiences to experience the play that The New York Times called "Theatre at its finest"!



The 39 Steps is filled with nonstop laughs, fast-paced fun, thrilling action and some old-fashioned romance! Follow the incredible adventures of our handsome hero Richard Hannay as he encounters dastardly murders and double-crossing secret agents. Part Hitchcock masterpiece, part classic spy novel, part Monty Python comedy - *The 39 Steps* is a hilarious

whodunit featuring a cast of four playing over 100 characters.

Guild Festival Theatre's second production of the summer, *Heratio* by Genevieve Adam, stands out not only for its creative vision but also for its local roots.



This bold re-imagining of Hamlet picks up the story after Shakespeare's ending. Through a delightful blend of humour, mystery and melancholy, *Heratio* gives the stage to the women and

servants who are left to clean up the mess created by the intrigues of princes and kings.

The play was developed through GFT's inaugural In Conversation With Classics workshop, a program that fosters diverse voices and invites bold reinterpretations of classic works. An excerpt from the script was presented at a showcase last March and we immediately knew it would be a hit! *Heratio* was also nominated by the Playwrights Guild of Canada for the prestigious Tom Hendry Award for Comedy, shining a national spotlight on the incredible creative work coming out of Scarborough. We're proud to have nurtured this original play and excited to be presenting the world premiere right here in Guildwood!

Tickets and passes are already on sale for Guild Festival Theatre's 2025 summer season. Book yours today at www.guildfestivaltheatre.ca



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GVCA Steps Up to Address Housing Challenges

Jeff Garrah, GVCA Chair of Housing Subcommittee



The subject of housing in Canada these days is a hot one, with many different perspectives, angles and most certainly emotions. We are inundated with messaging about a housing crisis defined by rising ownership and rental prices. Generally, there is a consensus that more housing supply is required,

but at what cost?

Should we be making knee-jerk decisions about zoning, or cramming as much density as possible into every nook and cranny in the city? Should we abolish all the checks and balances of a system put in place to encourage consultation and engagement with the communities we live in? As more and more legislation passes or gets pushed through, “abolishing the red tape” and accelerating development, the rules are changing quickly.

Our voices and the calls for careful consideration of planning and infrastructure impacts and effects of these decisions are not being heard by political decision makers. The challenge is that we will need to deal with the fallout from these decisions long after a four-year political term is complete. We need to see a better plan from our governments to address the issue of affordable housing not only by forcing density into well established communities at scale, but by looking at the types of developments in the process of being built. The number of condos in this city is staggering but not everyone can afford to buy. Where are the rental midrise and high-rise developments?

Unfortunately, there is a proliferation of rooming houses across Toronto which are being managed by investors who have no real connection to our communities. Residents heard at a recent community meeting hosted by Coun. Ainslie about the new framework around multi-tenant or rooming houses. Even though the Municipal Licensing Standards has had a new policy in effect since March, no operators have registered under the system. In conjunction with Councillor Ainslie, GVCA's housing subcommittee wants to put together a list of rooming houses in the neighbourhood so that we can help MLS to enforce zoning and other by-laws. Please send me information on rooming houses on your street and we will compile a list (email: vicepresident@guildwood.ca).

Guildwood is a community like no other in Toronto. Our history is steeped with arts, culture, conservation ... a true garden community. Our beautiful mid-century modern homes, the lush tree canopy, and the vision of Rosa and Spencer Clark is at risk.

The GVCA has heard these concerns from our community and we've established a housing subcommittee which has been meeting regularly. We have a great mix of volunteers, including long-time residents and even a planning student. Your GVCA executive is taking these concerns very seriously and wants to strategically advocate for positive changes on your behalf.



Guildwood residents listen with interest to Paul Ainslie's presentation at the Clark Centre for the Arts on Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Our agreed upon mandate, at this stage, is to:

- Investigate and understand the changing legislation with respect to housing
- Identify and outline actions our Guildwoodians/GVCA members can take to engage the right channels to uphold standards of living and housing in our community
- Craft a vision for how the community wants to tackle gradual density intensification and a set of guidelines in which to operate
- Publish and maintain a list of proposed developments in the community (defined Guildwood boundaries)
- Provide support, examples, templates and sample letters and suggestions on formatting and structured arguments that resonate with the Committee of Adjustment or other governing bodies for community members addressing egregious development concerns
- Better educate and enable the community on processes to make their voices heard

We strongly recommend that Guildwood residents become familiar, and possibly actively involved, with the topics and issues that are being presented. You can read more about them in the following documents:

EHON (Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods) <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/expanding-housing-options>

Planning and Housing Committee initiatives such as Neighbourhood Retail and Services Study Phase Two Final Report <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.PH17.2>

If you have questions or concerns about these initiatives and others affecting the future of our community, don't be shy. The more voices and noise that is made, the more impact we can have, please contact your local councillor, municipal, or provincial elected officials and let them know. We will be working towards publishing more information and content regarding our progress in future issues of News and Views, and on the GVCA website.

Did you know? The online version of the News & Views has active links you can click on to get to these reports, and any other links in all the articles: guildwood.ca



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Car Thefts on the Rise in Toronto: Tips to Protect Your Vehicle



Blaise Kurucz #9165, Toronto Police Services 43 Division, Crime Prevention



Car thefts continue to be a significant issue across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with thieves using increasingly sophisticated methods to steal vehicles. As winter sets in, police and insurance companies are urging drivers to take extra precautions to secure their vehicles, especially during the colder months when warming up cars is a common practice.

Insurance Companies May Help with Anti-Theft Devices

Did you know that your car insurance provider might assist with the cost of anti-theft devices? Many companies have budgets allocated for such purposes, offering partial coverage to help protect your vehicle. It's worth contacting your provider to see if they can help with devices like:

- **Immobilizers:** Prevent the engine from starting without the correct key or fob.
- **GPS Trackers:** Allow you to locate your vehicle if it's stolen.
- **OBD-II Locks:** Secure the onboard diagnostic port, blocking thieves from reprogramming your car's electronics.
- **Alarm Systems:** Deter criminals with noise and flashing lights.

Work with Professionals to Safeguard Your Car

Several businesses across the GTA specialize in enhancing vehicle security. These companies can help relocate certain vulnerable components in your car, making it far more difficult for thieves to bypass your security systems.

The Risks of Idling Vehicles

Many drivers like to warm up their vehicles during the winter, but this practice comes with risks. Even if you take your fob with you after starting the car, the vehicle may still be driven away and will continue running for some time before shutting off.

A better alternative is to install a remote starter. This allows your car to warm up while remaining locked, ensuring that it can't be driven without the fob.

Stay Vigilant

Toronto Police Service encourages residents to remain vigilant and take proactive steps to prevent car theft. If you've fallen victim to a theft, report the incident immediately. Working together with local businesses and insurance providers can significantly reduce our risk and help keep your vehicle safe this winter.

For more information on protecting your vehicle, contact your insurance provider or your local Toronto Police Service division.

The Awesome Opossum

Ann Brokelman



I have always loved opossums, but until recently I'd only seen a handful in the wild. I think, sadly, that I'd seen more laying by the side of the road than up and walking

around. Once I got my night camera, however, I was excited to see they were regularly visiting my front yard. They are one of the animals that, while we rarely if ever see them, exist in the tens of thousands in our city.

One of the most memorable rescues I've experienced with a little opossum was found by a boy named Henry. The tiny creature had accidentally fallen off its mother's back, without her even noticing. At that age, when they are barely the size of a baby squirrel, and with their big ears and pointy snout, they almost look like Mickey Mouse come to life! Henry and his family brought the little one to Jennifer Kirby, a resident of Guildwood, who then called me. I quickly picked up the opossum and took it to Shades of Hope Wildlife Centre. I'm happy to report that his physical condition steadily improved over the next few months. By the time it was ready to be released, our best guess was that it was about five months old.

When the big day came, I was thrilled that Henry's sister, Hannah, and their mom, April Garrah, could join me for the release. The opossum had been through so much, and it



was heartwarming to see how invested the family had become in giving it the best chance possible. We set up the release box with soft straw, warm blankets, and a tarp, all to try to keep the little guy warm and dry. The spot we chose couldn't have been better: nestled near the Scarborough Bluffs and a ravine, surrounded by fallen trees, branches, and a buffet of bugs in every direction. It

must have been pure paradise for a little opossum.

So, what are "O"possums? (While you can call our animal a possum, Australia has a whole other type of critter with the same name. Google it if you want to see what that adorable animal looks like.) Did you know that about 30% of marsupial species live in the Americas, but opossums are the only one in North America? The rest are found in

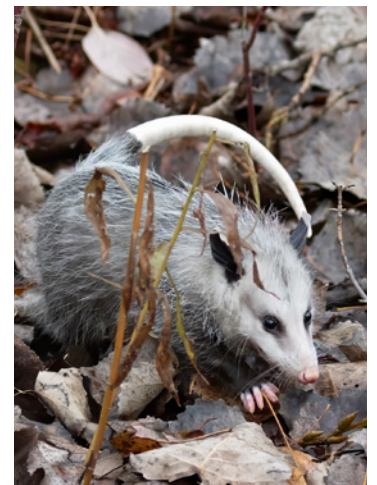
and around Australia. Our opossums are often referred to as nature's cleanup crew, since they eat everything and almost never get sick.



They aren't native to Ontario but have been slowly coming north from the United States. This might be a boon to us, as they love to eat the same ticks that you're hearing about more and more. There's a good chance that the whole reason there are so many opossums now is

connected to the growing tick population. Another lucky thing for us: opossums don't like to build dens inside our homes. Unlike raccoons and squirrels, you'll almost never find these marsupials inside your roof, shed, or garage. They prefer the nests that other animals have already built. More fun facts? Here you go: they do not carry rabies or other common animal diseases and are even immune to rattlesnake bites. Ok, I know rattlesnakes are not a common problem around here, but it's still a fun fact!

Among their more notable physical features, opossums have fifty teeth and a prehensile tail. They can use the



tail to carry leaves or sticks to help augment their nests, not to mention to scoop up a baby that may be trying to wander off. They are not considered predators, but rather scavengers and opportunistic feeders. They do, in fact, play dead when they feel danger is around, complete with being unconscious and emitting horrible odours. After the 'incredibly lengthy' 12-13 days of pregnancy, an opossum can give birth to over twenty jelly bean sized babies. The

mother, however, only has thirteen nipples (one of the only mammals to have an odd number of nipples) and since the baby opossums (also known as joeys) will latch onto a nipple continuously for sixty, or more, days, the largest litter an opossum can support is 13. Once they pass that 60-ish day mark, the babies will regularly spend their days clinging to their mother's back for the next 4-5 months, making for some truly adorable animal sightings.



Baby opossum

Some portions of this column are taken from Beach Metro News On the Wild Side.

Despite their amazing abilities, opossums only live for 2-3 years and are notably susceptible to frostbite during our coldest winter days. If you find one, and suspect it is in duress, please don't hesitate to call a wildlife centre for help. If you see one that you think has been hit by a car, and it's safe to pull over, look to see if there are any babies wandering around in the vicinity. Volunteers like myself are always on standby, all across the GTA, to help where needed. If you see one wandering around in the wild, enjoy the rare sighting! They are one of our most unique, and useful, wild neighbours.

This past year many different animals have been seen with leg traps, pop cans on feet or jars on their head. I am asking that we all make sure we keep the lids on the jars, both plastic and glass, and crush pop and beer cans. Using leg traps is very cruel to the animal. Please find a better solution or learn to co-exist. Or better yet, call Toronto Wildlife Centre to see how you can solve an issue. I am attaching a link to the skunk video that had a glass jar on the head put together by Toronto Wildlife Centre.

<https://youtu.be/C4bcGE1UHLU> video of the skunk with a glass jar being removed.



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Guildwood's Got Talent



It is always interesting to find people who have more than one significant artistic talent. Ian is both a successful photographer and an accomplished musician.

One of Ian's early influences is his uncle, Don Sinclair, who was a senior photographer with a local newspaper (the St. Catharines Standard). Don encouraged his interest in photography and art with gifts of books and visits to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. He even allowed him to tag along on a few of his work assignments. Later, one of his neighbours, Doug Kirkland, took time to discuss the possibilities of a career in photography. Doug had started on the Fort Erie paper but was already famous for his iconic photos of Marilyn Monroe and other Hollywood celebrities.

As fate would have it, while attending a skydiving event, Ian had the presence of mind to take a photo of a diver who was injured during a jump. He then approached the editor of the local paper at the Times Review and sold his first photo. That introduction led to a weekly column of school news often illustrated with his photos.

After high school, Ian moved to Toronto to continue part-time courses in photography at Ryerson (now Toronto Metropolitan University) and studied at OCA (now OCAD) with a commercial photographer named Pat Knox. At the same time, he started taking music lessons at Snider School of Music. Ian met his wife, Sharon, who happened to be the editor of an East Toronto newspaper and he began to contribute photos to her publication. "I guess you could say I married the boss and after 51 happy years, she's still the boss despite what Springsteen says."

Ian worked at several of the large catalogue houses where they "churned out work for clients such as Canadian Tire, Eatons, Simpsons, Shoppers Drug Mart and even Consumers Distributing." Eventually he went freelance and, with Sharon's help, they opened their first studio in Cherry Beach where they specialized in product photography, advertising, annual reports and architecture. "We didn't shoot portraits or weddings but if you wanted a picture of a toaster, we were the place!" Clients included Swiss Chalet, Chapmans Ice Cream, Southam Business, Ford Motor Company, JCB, & Weston Foods. In the early days, he worked on several political campaigns and for a very short time had the same clearance as the Prime Minister's security detail.

"Commercial Photography always starts with an idea of what the final image will look like. We have to hire the models, find the props, scout and arrange clearance for locations, create the sets and lighting. The business side and technology are both changing rapidly. For example,

Presenting Ian Sinclair



we no longer shoot on 11x14 sheets of film. With the advent of digital photography, some of the tasks that took us days in the studio turned into a couple of clicks of the mouse. And, of course, Artificial Intelligence will continue to revolutionize the world of photography – possibly eliminating the need for a camera completely. If we think of ourselves as image creators rather than merely picture takers, we can embrace the new technology and use it to unlock new ways to express ourselves and realize our vision. It's an exciting time!"

Some of Ian's professional affiliations included acting as President of the Toronto Chapter of Canada's Association of Commercial Photographers and Illustrators. During that time, they held several events at the Guild Inn. Ian also served as a Director at Richard Bell's Niagara School of Imaging, a summer school for professional photographers held each year in early 2000's, at Brock University. Students literally came from around the world to better their skills and enjoy the beauty of the Niagara Region.

It wasn't until later that Ian became more serious about music. He enrolled for a night course at a Scarborough high school assuming it was for group guitar lessons so he was surprised to discover the course was more focused on performing. Singing was not something he was prepared to do so he came close to dropping out after the first evening. But, Ian persevered and, at the end of the term, the teacher invited him to join his own band! He gigged regularly for the next 25 years – performing with a number of bands including one with his good friend, Sten Eirik, founder of the Guild Festival Theatre. They were fortunate to have some notable gigs including main stage at Guelph RibFest, Jeff Healey's bar downtown, and more locally at Big Pete's, Coco's, the Black Dog, the Kilt and Guildwood Park.



Irene Torres at Hugh's Room

"I always enjoyed photographing musicians. Having been a musician myself, I can appreciate the joy that comes with making music so I try to capture that in my images. When I first started there weren't many people taking pictures at concerts and much of the early music scene in Toronto is completely undocumented but I still see some of my pictures showing up whenever someone does a video about the early Toronto/Yorkville Sound of the 60's & 70's."



Guild colours

Ian grew up in the small town of Fort Erie with a younger sister, Ann, where their father worked with Canada Customs. After spending time in the anonymity of downtown Toronto, Ian finds that living in Guildwood strikes a perfect balance. “We have access to all that Toronto has to offer but still enjoy a strong sense of local community.” For the past 25 years, Ian has taken an

annual trip to Lake Superior – ranging between Sault St. Marie and Wawa – to relax and take scenic photographs which have been sold as images for a calendar.

“I love the variety of taking photographs of different things. My camera has taken me inside operating rooms photographing surgeons at work, inside auto plants and other manufacturing facilities where I get to see how things are made, into political backrooms witnessing deals that shaped our government. I met my sports heroes at Maple Leaf Gardens, photographed batting practice on the field with the Blue Jays those balls sure come fast while standing at the plate. I’ve had the pleasure of taking photographs of the Queen Mother, Justin Bieber, Bradley Cooper and even spent an entire day with Harrison Ford.”



Mamainse Harbour, Lake Superior

See more of Ian's photos on the back cover

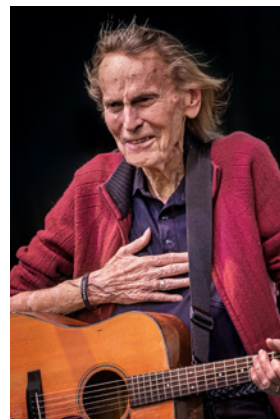


Oriole at Guild Park and Gardens



Niagara Falls

Retiring in January of 2020 turned out to be perfect timing and he is now free to “take photographs of what I want, when I want.”



Gordon Lightfoot



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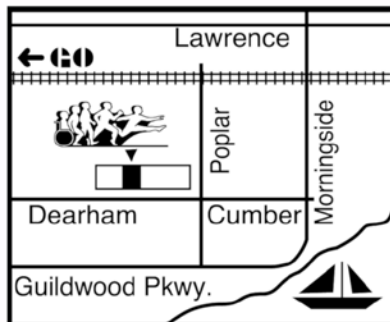
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What's on @ Guildwood Library



Matthew Parish, Guildwood Library, 416-396-8872

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday	12:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Friday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Programs

EarlyON Baby Time - Babies in Playland

Ages – Newborn to 18 months

Children and their caregivers enjoy stories, songs and rhymes.

Drop in. Space is limited.

Contact the branch for exact date and times.

Family Story Time

Ages – Newborn to 5 Years

Enjoy fun activities, stories, songs and rhymes at a staffed story time for the entire family. For children 0-5 years with their parents and caregivers.

Drop in. Space is limited.

Contact the branch for exact date and times.

Guildwood After School Club

Explore the technology available for use including Snap Circuits, Dash and Dot and Sphero robots! Explore new crafts and board games. Drop in. Space is limited. Access and use of equipment will be on a first come, first serve basis. Suitable for ages 6 and up.

Tuesday Night Tech Night Support Drop In

Have questions about your tablet, phone, laptop, email or an app? Need help with eBooks or other online library services? Please bring your personal device and any questions you may have. No registration required. This is a drop-in event, come to the library to get one-on-one tech support! Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Please contact the branch for specific dates.

Space is limited.

Guildwood Discussion Group

Ages - Adult

Come to the library to discuss current events. Every third Friday each month from 2 – 3 p.m. Please contact the branch to register. Space is limited.

Silent Book Club

Come bring a book you are reading. We read for a few minutes and then everyone talks about what they have read or what book they would recommend to read. This drop in program is available to anyone 13 and up! We meet the second Thursday of every month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Book a Librarian

Get free one-on-one expert help.

Book a free 30 to 60-minute appointment with a staff member who can help you research any topic or help you:

- Find great reads
- Basic computer help
- Setting up your new tablet
- Browse and borrow library digital download content (e-books, e-magazines, e-movies and e-music)

More program information is available on our website

www.tpl.ca

Recommended Books from Guildwood Staff

Matthew recommends:

Every Man Dies Alone by Mats Sundin

Lisa recommends:

The Boyfriend by Freida Mcfadden

Ellie recommends:

Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions by John Grisham & Jim McCloskey

Regina recommends:

The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley

Sam recommends:

Long Island: A Novel by Colm Toibin

Sapna recommends:

A Song to Drown Rivers by Ann Liang

Raushan recommends:

The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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Guildwood Tennis Club



Rosemary Enright

A hush has fallen over the Guildwood Tennis Club. There are no players vying for a record setting rally, or players resting on the benches planning a new strategy for a winning title. Silence stretches along the club's four courts.

There are no nets. Gates are locked. The courts are empty. The 2024 season is over. GTC sleeps? What an illusion! GTC never sleeps. If you walk along the perimeter of the courts, you can hear the echo of the club's executive assessing the past season.

And what a season the summer of 2024 was! Membership exceeded 500 members, and we even had a wait list for adults. The demand reflects the fact that GTC is one of the best tennis clubs in Scarborough. The club executive and many volunteers worked hard to establish this excellence and to generate within the club a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere. Notably, last year the courts were resurfaced and an expert club pro, Jared Nicholson was hired. With Jared's advice and expertise, along with the input from the executive program committees, the club can now offer separate comprehensive adult and junior programs.



A challenging official opening to the 2024 season

Moreover we offered lessons and clinics geared to skill level, competitive participation in the Scarborough Tennis Federation (STF) events, prime time court bookings, competitive ladders, round robins, social events and club championships. Challenging but fun activities with delicious goodies were held to celebrate the official opening, Canada Day, Junior Fun Day, Membership Appreciation Day and net and court close down day.

Also contributing to the success of the GTC is the active participation of the executive in tennis associations like the STF and Ontario Tennis Federation so that the GTC could be informed about the latest tennis news and ideas. There is even a memorial garden to honour and remember deceased members.

GTC could not operate as effectively as it does without a dedicated group of volunteers. To recognize their contributions, the club presents four yearly awards:

- Schachow Award for leadership and sportsmanship was awarded to Chris Martin.
- The Phil Yeoman Award for commitment and dedication was awarded to Angela Talbot
- The Rollit Goldring Award to the junior who exhibits a passion for tennis was awarded to Jacob Jesudialarsa.
- The Bruce Childs Award, (an Ontario Tennis Association Award) for outstanding service was awarded to Frasier Bellam.

Other members to celebrate are the winners of the GTC yearly championships:

- First in men's singles: Gabriel Torres
- First in men's doubles: David Alfonsi and Jeremy Miranda
- First in mixed doubles: Maria Levogiannis and Terry Christapoulas.

The adult C1 competitive STF team placed first and the junior A1 team won all their matches in regular season play.

What is in store for 2025? Stay tuned. Behind the scenes the new executive is hard at work refining program offerings. One important change is the new software being installed and tested to ensure that our prospective members have a snag free experience when registering for 2025. If you're interested in becoming a member, be sure to check the website regularly where we will post information as it becomes available at

<https://www.guildwoodtennis.com>

Remember to register early as some programs fill up quickly!



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Knotty Knitters

Karen Manuel



The Knotty Knitters is a group of ladies that get together to knit and crochet for charity, share patterns and advice, and socialize. These gatherings take place every Tuesday morning in the party room of the apartment building at 55 Livingston Road. Not all of our members live in Guildwood but come from other areas of Scarborough.

The group was started in 2010 by Shelley Angus, who at that time was the Activity Coordinator at Livingston Lodge Retirement Home. Gerard Baribeau shared a story about a taxi driver's wife who knitted and donated everything. He suggested that Shelley start a knitting group. To this end, she placed an ad in the News and Views asking for donations of yarn and inviting people in the community to join the group. Gerard began calling us The Knotty Knitters and the name stuck.

During the use of the premises at Livingston Lodge, some of the donations of yarn, needles, quilts, blankets, hats, mitts, baby booties, sweaters, and other knitted and crocheted items, were donated to:

- The Rotary Club
- Rosalie Hall
- Autism Dog Services
- The Salvation Army
- Filipino-Canadian Assistance Relief Program (Typhoon Hagupit disaster)
- Centenary Hospital
- various local elementary schools
- a school in Zambia, Africa

The residents of the Lodge also benefited from our work at times. For example, during the great ice storm of 2013, quilts made by the group were distributed to the residents for warmth. Some seniors also requested help with clothing that needed to be repaired or hemmed and we were happy to oblige.

In 2017, the Lodge was purchased and rebuilt as the Chartwell Guildwood Retirement Residence so we had to decide whether to disband or find another place to knit. We enjoyed socializing and doing something worthwhile for the community so one of the ladies, who lived at 55 Livingston, made arrangements for us to knit in their party room.

As of now, we are a group of about 22 participants. Many of the ladies live alone, and after retirement were looking for a group they could join to get out and interact with others who have a common interest. Many of these people were new to knitting and eager to learn. In our group there is always someone willing to help and give advice.



The ladies all have their own stories about why they joined and how they heard about the group. For myself, my mom was a resident at the Lodge and, although she could no longer knit, I joined so I could take her to the meetings and sit with her while everyone worked on their knitting. I wasn't the greatest knitter at that time but, with practice, I have honed my skills over the years. I also crochet, as do others in the group. News of our existence usually spreads by word-of-mouth in the neighbourhood or the apartment building, itself, as well as through affiliations with other organizations such as Probus-Guildwood or the Red Hatters.

Note: The Red Hat Society is a worldwide membership society that encourages women in their quest to get the most out of life. We support women in the pursuit of Fun, Friendship, Freedom, Fitness and the Fulfillment of lifelong dreams.

One of the newer members made a large donation of wool to us and, since the group she belonged to disbanded, asked if she could join us. Now she is using the wool she donated to make items for our charity work! There is also a notice in the laundry room describing weekly activities, one of which is the knitting group.

Here are a few of the things we have made and donated in recent years:

- lap blankets and shawls for Centenary Hospital and Providence Villa



Shawl

- hats and mittens for children. These are collected by the Scarborough Rotary Club and taken to 3 area schools for children in need.
- baby items for the Unexpected Pregnancy Group. We have also donated to Rosalee Hall in the past.
- blankets for Suites by the Lake Retirement Home.
- nests for Animal Rescue
- hats, scarves and mitts for Kennedy House and for the homeless
- fiddle muffs and fiddle blankets for Alzheimer patients at Providence Villa and Extendicare
- finger puppets for various hospitals; these are used to aid with anxiety in children who may be having immunizations or other procedures
- hats for Special Olympics



Hats and Mitts for the Rotary Club



Baby blanket



Nests for the animal rescue

Most years we have a craft sale to raise funds for other charities. Lately, we have held these sales in the lobby at 55 Livingston Rd. Since this is an apartment building, the public does not have access to the sale but the residents of the building have been extremely supportive. I'm happy to report that this year we made a sizable donation to the food bank at the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities. At present, we are also having an afghan raffle from which the proceeds will go to the Yonge Street Mission. In past years, we have made donations to many other organizations, including but not limited to:

- Sick Kids Hospital
- Doctors Without Borders
- The Australian Red Cross for victims of wildfires
- Morelands Send a Kid to Camp



Animals for the craft sale



All of this would not be possible without donations of yarn from the public. During this last year, we unfortunately had to use some of the proceeds from previous sales to purchase yarn as our stock was very low. I put an appeal on Guildwood

on the Curb which was shared by someone else to another Guildwood group. As a result, we received a few very generous donations. Donations are always gratefully received. They can be dropped off at 55 Livingston Rd. any Tuesday morning after 9:30. Just ring the Knotty Knitters doorbell by the entrance door and someone will come to let you in. You can also contact me at 416-283-5079 or text 416-312-7299 or message me on Facebook. Someone from our group will gladly pick up any yarn you wish to donate!

Reminder - you can see the entire News & Views in full colour at www.guildwood.ca

We LOVE to hear from you!

The News & Views team enjoys hearing from our readers with any of the following:

- ideas for future articles
- suggestions for local people to profile in the talent section (even yourself!)
- photos of Guildwood scenery or events
- comments about previous articles

Send an email to newsandviews@guildwood.ca

Protecting our Trees - Frequently Asked Questions

Josee Jauvin



Trees are beneficial to the planet for countless reasons. They cool the planet and are generally known as “the lungs of the earth” because of their air filtering capability. Through photosynthesis, they change carbon dioxide into oxygen – a role which

is doubly important in urban settings. In addition, trees provide shelter and food to birds and wildlife, prevent soil erosion and provide protection from winds. We are very lucky here in Guildwood, to enjoy mature trees despite the Emerald Ash Borer insect having killed so many of our ash trees over the past 15 years.

The City of Toronto recognizes the importance of trees on air quality and is planning to increase the size of its tree canopy from 28% to 40% by 2026. In a 2021 report entitled “CanopyTO”, the City defines “canopy cover” as “the area of the tree population as viewed from above.”

To help strengthen and protect our existing tree canopy, Tree Bylaw 817 Chapter III forbids anyone from removing healthy trees which have reached a certain size, without a permit. This Bylaw specifically protects trees which have a diameter of 30 centimetres or more and are at least 1.4 metres high.

As residents and homeowners in Guildwood, questions often arise on the subject of our responsibilities in regards to our trees. Here are a few examples of questions that often come up. The answers to these questions were obtained from Toronto Tree Bylaw 817.

Question: Am I responsible for the maintenance of the trees on my property?

Yes. The maintenance of privately owned trees is the responsibility of the property owner. Where a tree falls under the protection of the Bylaw, pruning of the tree is permitted provided the pruning is performed in accordance with good arboricultural standards (defined below).

- To encourage the health of a tree
 - To clear tree limbs and branches interfering with structures, street lighting, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, utility conductors and traffic signals or signs.
 - To encourage the natural form of the tree species
 - To remove dead limbs
 - To maintain structural stability and balance of a tree
- It is recommended that a qualified tree expert always be retained to carry out tree pruning.

The best prevention is to inspect the trees on your property regularly for dead branches, disease or weaknesses, and to maintain the tree regularly. Utility companies should be contacted for a tree that is hanging

over telephone or electrical wires. Toronto Hydro is responsible for maintaining trees near electrical wires. If the tree on your property is interfering with any type of cable or telephone line, it is recommended to call the customer service number of the company affected directly. The City of Toronto will also clear phone and cable lines while performing regular maintenance on City trees.

Question: Am I responsible for maintenance of trees between the street and my property?

The area between the street and the front of your property is generally known as “the boulevard” or the “public road allowance” which is owned by The City of Toronto. It is the City that is responsible for the 600,000 trees located on this portion of land, as well as on park land. The City maintains these trees and is responsible for carrying out inspections, pruning, and removal if necessary. Residents can contact 311 if a City-owned tree requires maintenance or poses a hazard to pedestrians or traffic.

Question: Can I remove a healthy tree from my property?

The short answer to this question is: **not without a permit.** There are circumstances where a permit to remove a healthy tree can be granted when, for example, if it is at risk of causing structural damage to homes or roofs, or for certain construction projects. Permits will **not be** granted, however, where the tree is simply considered to be a nuisance for landscaping or maintenance purposes, or when there are concerns about possible root damage to the home foundation.

The application for tree removal can be found online on the Toronto website at <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/8f42-injure-remove-trees-application.pdf>

Once an application is approved, the applicant is required to pay all costs including fees for:

- the tree removal
- replanting a tree
- possible additional fees:
 - An arborist report
 - A planting plan
 - A commitment to re-planting one to three trees back on to the property
 - A payment in lieu of replanting of \$585 per tree
 - A construction arborist report

In Toronto, the fine for removing a tree without a permit can range from \$500 to \$100,000 per tree. The amount of the fine depends on the size of the tree and whether it was protected under the Private Tree Bylaw.

Question: Can I remove an injured or diseased tree from my private property?

If a tree is considered to be diseased or dead, a permit is not required to cut it down, but the tree must first be assessed by a qualified arborist. Their report should be submitted to the Department of Urban Forestry, and approval must be obtained before proceeding with any work.

If a private tree is deemed to present an imminent hazard by an arborist, a permit to cut it down is not required, even if it is protected under a tree protection by-law. In such a case, arborists and property owners should take photos of hazardous trees and advise the City by calling 311. This will help create a record of the tree loss and allow the City to respond to any possible complaints that healthy trees were improperly removed.

Question: Can I prune my neighbour's tree that overhangs property lines?

Should your neighbour's tree be hanging in your backyard and require pruning, the City Urban Forestry department's website recommends that this issue be discussed and agreed upon with your neighbour, as the pruning or trimming of trees on private properties is a civil issue between neighbours and is not regulated in Toronto.

When dealing with neighbouring trees, one should keep in mind that, although you have the right to maintain your property in a safe condition, the tree cannot be damaged and agreement should be obtained before trespassing on your neighbour's property.

If there are concerns that the tree or branches may pose an immediate danger, the City may investigate these concerns and issue an Order to Comply to correct the situation. This is a document that is issued to a property owner when they violate the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629 (Property Standards by-law).

The City advises, however, that this be considered a last resort to address this type of situation.

Question: What should I do if my tree is damaged in a storm?

A tree damaged in a storm should be assessed for damage to determine if it can be maintained or should be removed by a qualified arborist hired by the property owner. Where the tree damage is significant and the tree cannot be maintained in a safe condition, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to arrange for the removal of the tree which may require a permit.

In the event that a tree situated on a neighbouring property is at risk of falling, you should stay away from the area and the property owner should be advised immediately to rectify the situation and any damage should be addressed between neighbours as this remains a civil issue.

Fallen branches can be collected with yard waste by the City and left at the curb. Be sure to secure brush and branches in bundles no longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet), no wider than 0.6 metres (2 feet) and no heavier than 20 kilograms (44 lbs).

Question: What should I do if I think a tree is being damaged or unlawfully removed?

If you suspect that a tree is being cut down or injured without a permit or in contravention of the Tree Bylaw, you can call 311 or make a 311 service request using the website mobile app.

A final note:

Please keep in mind that this article was provided for general information only and may not cover one of the many possible exceptions covered under the Bylaw. Additional and more detailed information can be obtained by calling 311 or can be found online at <http://www.toronto.ca/trees>.

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An Update from Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P. Scarborough-Guildwood



As we recently celebrated the season of joy, togetherness, and reflection, I want to take a moment to highlight an important piece of our shared history: the Guild Inn. This landmark is more than just a scenic venue on the Scarborough Bluffs; it is a living testament to the creativity, resilience, and community spirit that define our neighbourhood and our nation. Knowing its history helps us connect with the legacy of those who came before us and inspires us to preserve and build upon it. It is such a treasure for all of us.

The Guild Inn's story begins over a century ago; in 1914, it was built as a private residence for Brigadier General Harold Bickford. Known as the Bickford House, the property was a stately example of Edwardian architecture and an embodiment of the aspirations of the era. But its transformation into something truly unique came in 1932, when Rosa and Spencer Clark acquired the property and reimagined it as the "Guild of All Arts." At the height of the Great Depression, a time of widespread economic despair, they created Canada's first artists' colony—a sanctuary where artists, sculptors, writers, and craftspeople could live, work, and thrive.

The Clarks understood that art could uplift not just individuals but entire communities, and their efforts at the Guild reflected this belief. The Estate became a vibrant hub of creativity and collaboration. Artists found inspiration in the natural beauty of the Scarborough Bluffs and the camaraderie of a like-minded community. Works created at the Guild enriched Canada's cultural landscape and showcased the talent and resilience of its people. The Guild was not just a place for creating art—it was a place where hope and opportunity flourished in an era of uncertainty.

What truly set the Guild apart was its innovative approach to architectural preservation. Rosa and Spencer Clark were passionate about saving pieces of history that might otherwise have been lost. They salvaged columns, facades, and sculptures from historic buildings across Toronto that were slated for demolition and gave these artifacts a new home at the Guild. These treasures, carefully placed throughout the estate's gardens, turned the property into an open-air museum unlike anything else in Canada. Visitors marveled at these architectural fragments, surrounded by the natural beauty of the bluffs and Lake Ontario. This visionary approach not only preserved these pieces of the past but also elevated the Guild to a place of national significance.

The Guild Inn's history took another turn during World War II, when the estate shifted from an artistic haven to a vital wartime facility. It first served as a training base for the Women's Royal Naval Service and later as a military hospital for returning veterans. This chapter of the Guild's story reflects its adaptability and its importance to our community. Even in wartime, the spirit of service and resilience that defined the Guild remained strong. A few years ago, we planted Vimy Oaks to commemorate the military significance to the Guild. Today, the two oaks thrive on the front lawn, giving a living testimony to past resilience.



Following the war, the property returned to its role as a cultural hub, drawing visitors from near and far. The 1950s and 60s were a golden age for the Guild, with exhibitions, events, and a steady stream of tourists who came to experience its unique charm.

However, the late 20th century brought challenges for the Guild Inn. By the 1980s, changes in ownership and financial difficulties had taken their toll. The once-thriving estate fell into disrepair, and its future seemed uncertain. But the Guild's significance was not forgotten. Local advocates and preservationists rallied to save it, emphasizing its importance as a cultural and historical landmark. In 1993, the property was designated a heritage site, ensuring that its story would not be lost. This milestone marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Guild, one focused on restoration and renewal.

The Guild Inn's rebirth came in 2017, when the property reopened as the Guild Inn Estate. This comprehensive restoration preserved its historic charm while adding

modern amenities to meet contemporary needs. Today, the estate spans 88 acres and serves as a premier venue for weddings, corporate events, and community gatherings. Its gardens, still decorated with the architectural artifacts salvaged by the Clarks, continue to inspire wonder and admiration. The beautifully restored Bickford House, elegant ballrooms, and picturesque grounds showcase the estate's timeless appeal and its ability to adapt while honouring its roots.

Beyond its beauty and functionality, the Guild Inn Estate stands as a symbol of resilience and collaboration. It is a reminder of what can be achieved when individuals, communities, and institutions come together to preserve something of value. The estate's history speaks to the enduring importance of creativity, cultural preservation, and community pride. For those of us in Scarborough-Guildwood, it is a source of inspiration and a testament to the power of shared vision and determination.

As we celebrate the Guild Inn's legacy, it is also a time to reflect on our broader responsibilities as Canadians. We are fortunate to live in a safe and peaceful country, but the global geopolitical landscape reminds us not to take

this security for granted. Around the world, conflicts and instability highlight the importance of preparedness and vigilance. Canada must ensure that it is ready to protect its people and values in an uncertain world. This readiness includes not only investing in national defense but also fostering a culture of resilience and unity. Let's all take time to consider how we can contribute to maintaining Canada's safety and prosperity.

The Guild Inn's story is a perfect example of the strength that comes from preparation and care. Whether it served as a haven for artists, a wartime facility, or a restored heritage site, its resilience has always come from the dedication of those who believed in its value. Let us carry that same spirit forward as we look to the future, ensuring that we remain a nation capable of adapting, thriving, and protecting what matters most.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Guild Inn and its remarkable history. It is a landmark that reminds us of the richness of our shared heritage and the strength of our community. Let us draw inspiration from its story and commit to building a brighter, safer, and more resilient future together.

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH,
9:30 AM - 1 PM**

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Dear Guildwood Neighbours,

Wishing everyone a wonderful and healthy Winter Season!

Hope everyone had a great winter holiday celebration and are staying healthy, safe, and warm!

As the temperature remains cold, it's crucial to keep in mind some helpful suggestions for staying healthy while enjoying the brimming festivity this season brings: www.toronto.ca/immunization

For City's winter maintenance please visit: www.toronto.ca/snow

The pipes in your home can freeze in cold weather and this can leave you with no water or cause your pipes to burst. Take steps to protect your pipes at: toronto.ca/frozenpipes

Toronto Activities

Check out the City's Festival and Events page at www.toronto.ca/events for a delightful selection of activities

My Calendar

Visit my website for events I am hosting or attending in the community: www.paulainslie.com/Paul-Ainslie-Events-Calendar.htm

Community Updates

Speed Limit Reduction on Bethune Boulevard

Residents have expressed concerns about the new 30km/h speed limit on Bethune Boulevard, particularly during challenging weather conditions due to the hill. My office contacted Vision Zero staff and was advised that they evaluated this section of roadway and the maximum slope on Bethune Boulevard between Hill Crescent and Catalina Drive is 10.6%, well below the maximum slope of 16% for local roads with a posted speed of 30 km/h specified in the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) geometric design standards. Transportations Operations staff have been notified to flag this section of the road to ensure the road is plowed and salted promptly to ensure safety.

Vacant Home Tax 2024 Declaration

Declare online at toronto.ca/VacantHomeTax, by calling 311 or in-person at the Utility counter at City Hall or any civic centres. Scarborough Civic Centre is located at 150 Borough Drive.

Traffic Lights at Guildwood Parkway and Rowatson Road Update

Transportation Services continues to work with Toronto Hydro on the design for these traffic lights. Completion is tentatively expected by fall 2025.

Celebrating a Century: Collective Efforts with the Guild Resource Group to Prepare for the 100th Anniversary of Guild Park and Gardens

Thank you to the Guild Resource Group for coming together to collectively paint a future prospect in preparing for Guild Park and Gardens' 100th anniversary in 2032.

In our April and October meetings, we compiled a list of projects, and my office, along with the Guild Resource Group, has been in close discussions with City staff to ensure these initiatives are successfully completed. I am pleased to share the positive outcomes from our collective efforts; the following projects have been completed:

- **Improved Signage, Maps, and Noticeboards by Livingston Road, Forest Boardwalk and Sculptor's Cabin area:** providing visitors with clear directions and information about the park's trails and features. These improvements make navigation easier and ensure that everyone can fully enjoy the park's natural beauty.
- **Seasonal Trailer (washroom):** This provides an opportunity to explore the park's seasonal features by providing access to facilities.

Guild Park and Gardens is a cherished destination, and I extend my sincere thanks to the Guild Resource Group and City staff for their support. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our community as we look forward to celebrating this significant milestone in 2032.

Funding Request

To ensure the successful completion of the remaining projects, I sought the City's funding support. My proposed funding strategy to the Executive Committee and City Council in December 2024 is to reinvest revenues from the Guild Inn Estates sublease back into Guild Park and Gardens. This initiative aims to enhance the park's long-term sustainability by funding critical repairs, improvements, and ecological restoration.

Guild Park and Gardens, a significant cultural and historical landmark, includes the Clark Centre for the Arts, which hosts various cultural events and educational programs. The park also preserves historical buildings and landscapes, supports biodiversity, and attracts visitors, contributing to local tourism. This reinvestment would ensure the park remains a cherished community asset.

Stay Updated & Get Involved!

Scan the QR code or email my office to subscribe to community updates, monthly Ward Reports, submit feedback on City services and sign up to volunteer with my office!



If you have any community questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me and my Constituency Office. We are dedicated to providing assistance and support in these matters.

Constituency Office Email
councillor_ainslie_CO@toronto.ca
Phone: 416-396-7222

Working for Scarborough-Rouge Park

Jennifer McKelvie, Deputy Mayor, Councillor, Ward 25, Scarborough – Rouge Park



Dear Neighbours,

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season with their loved ones! It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our Skate with Santa in December.

The City of Toronto Housing Action Plan (2020-2030) has an ambitious goal of adding 285,000 new housing units by 2031. This includes 65,000 rent-controlled homes, including 41,000 affordable and 6,500 rent-geared-to-income (RGI) homes. The Housing Data Hub has been launched to provide information on our progress towards these goals and is available for viewing at toronto.ca/housingdata.

In 2024, 602 housing market units started construction in Scarborough-Rouge Park. Since 2020, 368 affordable units have been approved in Scarborough-Rouge Park, including 84 units of supportive housing that will open soon. Maps displaying the number of housing units across the city by ward and type is available on the hub.

Congestion Management Plan

In October, Toronto City Council approved our Congestion Management Plan, which highlighted the steps we're taking to ease congestion. Some of the new initiatives include:

- “Don’t block the box” – we’re raising the fine for an improper stop in an intersection to \$450, or \$500 in a school safety zone, to help people get where they need to go safely and quickly;
- Launching a new Strategic Capital Coordination Office to better manage construction in our growing city; and
- Implementing a new Special Events Advisory Team, which will develop a new framework for reviewing and approving events permits that will consider traffic management plans, impacts to emergency and police services, communication plans and more.

We have a lot to be proud of when it comes to our world-class city, but we need to keep Toronto moving today while building for tomorrow.

We have also launched a new Congestion Management Dashboard to track travel times and our progress on the roll-out of smart signals, expansion of the traffic agent program, and other measures. You can find it online at toronto.ca/TrafficManagement.

Electric Bus Fleet Update

Toronto has an ambitious goal to reach net zero emissions by 2040. As part of that goal, we are working to have 50 per cent of the city-owned and TTC bus fleet consist of zero-emission vehicles by 2030.

Toronto previously had the largest fleet of electric buses in North America with 60 in operation, before Edmonton procured a total of 61. Last year, we announced the purchase of 340 additional electric buses, which will bring our total to 400 by the end of next year. As of November 2024, we now have 78 battery-electric buses in operation, which once again makes our battery-powered bus fleet the largest in North America!

Stay in Touch

If you'd like to get in touch or sign up for my e-newsletter, please email me at councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca or call 416-338-3771.



Santa took a quick break and joined us for our Skate with Santa event at Heron Park Arena in December!

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An Update from Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park



Dear residents of Guildwood,

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of Scarborough in 2025!

Putting More Money Back in Your Pocket

I was delighted to welcome Premier Ford back to Scarborough to announce that every Ontario taxpayer and eligible child will receive a \$200 rebate.

This builds on a number of initiatives we have spearheaded to tackle the affordability crisis including:

- Ontario's One Fare Program which I launched earlier this year, allows riders to pay only once as they transfer for free between the TTC, GO Transit and participating transit agencies in the GTA. For an adult who commutes five days a week, this could save you an average of \$1,600 a year.
- Cutting the gas tax by 10 cents per litre, saving you \$380 since this was first introduced.
- Scrapping the license plate renewal fee, saving you \$120 per year for each car.
- Removing tolls on Highway 412 and 418.

Cracking Down on Encampments

Our government is answering the call from our constituents and leaders across the province to put an end to the chaos, ensuring safer communities by restoring law and order.

That is why we are cracking down on encampments and illegal drug use in our parks and public spaces by introducing legislation that, if passed, will provide new enforcement tools for our local police to take action. We are taking a compassionate approach, investing more than \$75 million in programs that provide more long-term stable housing and temporary accommodations for those living in encampments.

We will always prioritize public safety!

Making Progress on the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health

We are making fast progress on the first ever medical school in Scarborough at UTSC - the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health. If you've been by Morningside Ave. and Military Trail recently, you will see the building finally going up. We are expecting to welcome the first class in 2026!

I am especially delighted that our government announced new changes that, if passed, will require all medical

schools in the province to allocate at least 95% of all undergraduate medical school seats to residents of Ontario with the remaining 5% reserved for students from across Canada. These actions are designed to ensure we are training and graduating doctors, including family doctors, who are significantly more likely to practice in our community.



I had the opportunity to visit the construction site for the medical school building at UTSC.

We are also further breaking down barriers for students to become family doctors through an estimated \$88 million investment over three years, expanding Learn and Stay grants for 1,360 eligible undergraduate students that commit to practice family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate.

We are putting Ontario students first!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our office at 8130 Sheppard Ave. East Unit 105, by email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org, or give us a call at 416-283-8448.

Vijay Thanigasalam

**E-
NEWS**

Sign up for the GVCA e-newsletter!

Get up-to-date monthly news and events delivered to your inbox. Subscribe at

www.guildwood.ca

An Update from Andrea Hazell, MPP Scarborough-Guildwood



Dear Guildwood Neighbours!

I hope the holiday season was filled with warmth, joy and love, and lots of cherished memories with your loved ones. These past few months have been both immensely busy and productive, and I am so thrilled to share all that I have been doing throughout the community and for you!

Youth Civic Action and Community Engagement Conference

December marked my first Annual Youth Civic Action and Community Engagement Conference. This event was put together to provide Scarborough youth with the tools, skills and guidance necessary to excel and achieve their goals. Topics like mental health, unemployment, housing, education, social youth policy, violence and peer pressure were presented, and a platform was provided for meaningful conversations that allowed youth to voice their thoughts, concerns and seek answers to any questions they may have had. There were panels and break out sessions that allowed for deep, insightful conversations, ultimately, inspiring the youth to take their learnings into the real world of leadership and advocacy. A huge thank you to everyone who attended! Inspiring Scarborough's youth is something I keep at the forefront of my work, as they are the future, and it is crucial that we invest in them!

Holiday Card Making and Pancakes!

As the holiday season arrived last year, it's important to embrace a spirit of gratitude and appreciation for all that we have. For those of us in privileged positions, it's crucial to extend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate. This year, my team and I organized a Holiday Card-Making event, where we invited constituents from the riding to join us for a pancake breakfast and help create cards. These cards were then distributed to senior homes, shelters, and churches, offering a reminder to those who may feel alone that they are in our thoughts. It's a way to ensure they feel the love and care we are sending their way during this special time.

Queen's Park Update

During the last few months, I have been working hard to represent my community in the legislature. To do so, I have repeatedly questioned the government on our failing healthcare system and the ongoing affordability crisis. There are currently over 19,000 residents in Scarborough-Guildwood without a family doctor. Without a serious solution from this government, that number will only continue to grow. I have been holding the government to account each day in the legislature and have also been an advocate for you as I spoke to Women's History Month and National Day of Remembrance and Action on

Violence Against Women. Watch me on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2K2Ifu2MI41AvFwUoU7YhA>

Committees

Being a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs during these past months of budget consultations has actively allowed me to contribute to the formulation of the budget in Ontario. From participating in pre-budget consultations across the province to representing constituents' interests, I have been dedicated to ensuring your voices are heard throughout. I thank all the organizations that presented and were part of this process; your input is invaluable as we work towards the well-being and prosperity of all Ontarians.

Stay Connected

If you have any inquiries, please reach out to our constituency office at 416-281-2787, email us at ahazell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org, or find me on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @andreaHazell to share your input. Please visit our website www.andreaHazell.onmpp.ca for updates, announcements and to connect with me!

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"It is my pleasure to show and sell homes in the community I call home."

An Update from Gary Anandasangaree, MP Scarborough-Rouge Park



Dear Guildwood,

As we step into a brand new year, I wish you and your loved ones happiness, health, and success in 2025.

I'd also like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual holiday toy drive in support of children with sickle cell anemia at the Scarborough Health Network. Your kindness made their Christmas truly unforgettable!

A Tax Break for all Canadians

From December 14, 2024, to February 15, 2025, Canadians enjoyed a GST/HST exemption on essentials like groceries, restaurant meals, and children's items. While we couldn't directly control prices at the checkout, this measure was designed to bring meaningful relief to Canadians during a challenging time.

I remain committed to serving everyone in Scarborough-Rouge Park. Whether it's expanding access to affordable dental care for uninsured Canadians, supporting small businesses, or securing federal funding for local priorities, I am dedicated to serving our community and addressing the issues that matter most to you.

Expanding Rouge National Urban Park

Last year, we took a major step to protect community green spaces by expanding Rouge National Urban Park. This expansion added 119 hectares of land, ensuring greater protection for vital natural areas in Canada's largest urban region.

I also announced a federal investment of \$949,940 to restore critical habitats along Rouge River and West Duffins Creek to mitigate flooding, plant new trees, and strengthen the ecological integrity of these essential watersheds. Together, these efforts are restoring park ecosystems and creating vibrant spaces for residents to discover and connect with incredible wildlife, forests, marshes, and meadows.



The expansion of Rouge National Urban Park

Advancing Reconciliation and Conservation in the NWT
Indigenous Peoples have been stewards of the land for millennia. In the Northwest Territories, I was proud to sign Canada's largest Indigenous-led conservation agreement to protect land and water in the North. This historic agreement, known as NWT: Our Land for the Future, safeguards an area four times the size of Nova Scotia, creates hundreds of jobs, and, most importantly, restores Indigenous leadership in conservation.

This marks another important step on the path toward reconciliation and a testament to what can be done when we work together in true partnership.



Apologizing for the Nunavik Dog Slaughter in Kangiqsujuaq, Quebec

Supporting Small Businesses: Lower Fees & New Rebates!

Small businesses are anything but small — they represent 98% of all businesses and employ 10.7 million people across Canada. To support their success, we've implemented key measures to help them save more and grow:

- **Lower Taxes:** In 2019, we reduced the small business tax rate from 11% to 9%, saving small businesses approximately \$6 billion every year.
- **Lower Credit Card Fees:** Over 90% of small businesses now benefit from reduced credit card transaction fees—by as much as 27%. For example, a business processing \$300,000 in card payments annually could save up to \$1,080 each year.
- **Canada Carbon Rebate:** In December, small businesses received over \$2.5 billion through the tax-free Canada Carbon Rebate. The rebate was based on the number of employees: a small business in Scarborough with 25 employees received \$10,025, while a business with 50 employees received \$20,050.

Creating Youth Jobs: Canada Summer Jobs 2025

Every year, the Government of Canada creates over 70,000 summer jobs through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program. These jobs provide hundreds of local

youths with valuable opportunities to develop new skills, build confidence, and earn extra money, all while supporting community businesses and organizations!

Get ready — applications for Canada Summer Jobs open in April! Please visit JobBank.gc.ca for more information. In the meantime, my team and I are working closely with employers to secure as many CSJ positions as possible for Scarborough-Rouge Park.



Meeting last summer's Canada Summer Jobs students

Guildwood Village **UPCOMING EVENTS**

25 MARCH	<p>GVCA Annual General Meeting 7:00pm</p> <p>Check the e-news for location closer to the date</p>
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APRIL MAY	<p>GVCA Membership Drive April 11 to May 11, door-to-door</p> <p>Also at: Guildwood Physiotherapy, and online at www.guildwood.ca</p>
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26 APRIL	<p>Spring Cleanup Day Community Clean-up organized by the GVCA 9:30am to 1:30pm Rain date April 27, 11:00am Church of the Holy Trinity grounds</p>
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27 APRIL	<p>Shoreline Cleanup Organized by the Friends of Guild Park 9:00am to Noon</p>
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Guildwood's Government Representatives

	<p>Paul Ainslie, Toronto City Councillor Ward 24, Scarborough - Guildwood Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive 416-396-7222 www.paulainslie.com councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca</p>
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	<p>Jennifer McKelvie, Toronto City Councillor Ward 25, Scarborough - Rouge Park 4630 Kingston Road, Unit 20 416-338-3771 www.jennifermckelvie.ca councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca</p>
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	<p>Andrea Hazell, MPP Scarborough - Guildwood 3785 Kingston Road, Unit B1 416-281-2787 www.andreahazell.onmpp.ca ahazell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org</p>
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	<p>Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough - Rouge Park 8130 Sheppard Ave. E, Unit 105 416-283-8448 www.vijaythanigasalam.ca vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org</p>
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	<p>John McKay, MP Scarborough - Guildwood 3785 Kingston Road, Unit 10 416-283-1226 www.johnmckay.libparl.ca john.mckay.c1@parl.gc.ca</p>
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	<p>Gary Anandasangaree, MP Scarborough - Rouge Park 3600 Ellesmere Road, Unit 3 416-283-1414 www.garyanandasangaree.libparl.ca Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca</p>
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www.guildwoodchurch.ca

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 13
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17
Quiet Prayer & Communion Service, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18
Service of Tenebrae, 11:00 am

Easter Sunday, April 20
11:00 am Easter Worship Celebration

Worship Services

Sunday Morning Service at 11:00 a.m.

Monthly Prayer and Communion Service
Held the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.,
except July and August.

Our Community Outreach Programs Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group takes place every 3rd
Wednesday of the month in the church lounge at 10:00 a.m.

New Grief Support Group

Our Grief Support Group meeting is every 3rd
Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the
lounge. A grief group is not a counselling/therapy group
but a peer support group. We will create a safe space to
share, listen, pray, and reflect on our life journey. If you
have questions, please
email minister@guildwoodchurch.ca.

New Preschool Drop In Beginning In 2025

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Guildwood
Community Presbyterian Church in the hall from 9:30
a.m. to 11:00 a.m. An opportunity for parents and
caregivers to enjoy coffee and conversation while
children have an opportunity for free play. **Scheduled
2025 Meetings are March 12, April 9, May 14 and June
11.** There is no need to register, however, if you do
plan to attend, kindly contact the office so that we can
determine the interest of this program in the community.

Crossword

Don Briggs



Answers at

www.guildwood.ca/blog

1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9	10	11
12						13		14					
15								16					
17						18							
				19	20				21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29		30								
31				32					33				
34						35	36	37					
		38				39							
40	41					42				43	44	45	46
47				48	49			50					
51			52				53		54				
			55				56	57			58		
59	60	61			62	63				64			
65						66							
67						68				69			

Across:

1. A famous Captain
7. Head of South Africa 1978-1989
12. Country in West Africa
14. Consigned to obscurity
15. Dark area between 2 rainbows (2 wds)
17. Fred and Ethel
18. Jeff Lynn's band
19. Brand of Australian wine
26. Troubles
30. Sordid part
31. Body part
33. Domesticates
34. Mr. _____ on Three's Company
35. Treat a cold _____
38. _____ well
39. City in Pennsylvania
40. Out of _____
42. Unwanted shell-fish
47. Presidential nickname
48. Billy-Joe didn't live to hear it
50. Respect and admiration
51. Avenue in northern Scarborough

54. Divide in two
55. _____ in (enclose)
56. Long narrow inlet
58. Gymnast Nadia Comineci got the first one ever in 1976 Olympics
59. One of specified character

62. Describing something that is hard to fathom (3 wds)
65. _____ Canada
66. General and applied _____
67. Complain
68. _____ crow
69. A clock changer (abbr)

Down:

1. An edible bi-valve mollusc
2. Anger
3. Form of transportation
4. The one after
5. Willie Nelson wrote it - Patsy Cline sang it
6. Ancient liquid measure = 5.7 litres
7. Form of transportation
8. Sphere
9. _____ Maria
10. Female lobster
11. Increase
13. She wrote and sang "Skyfall"
14. Cleaning tool
16. Ms. Fitzgerald
20. Zone that includes Guildwood (abbr)
21. A nice street in Guildwood

22. Former Russian Emperor's title
23. Je t'_____ - French for I love you
24. Time in March associated with Julius Caesar's assassination
25. A word used mostly on Remembrance Day
26. Song by Edwin Starr
27. _____-Medonte, an Ontario municipality
28. Achaemenid and Ottoman
29. Exhausted
32. Annoying
35. Big name in outdoor cooking
36. George Gershwin's brother
37. Have enough of
40. Ingest a small amount
41. Quebec produced cheese
43. _____ fork in the road

44. Boston's NBA'ers
45. A young hare
46. Removes errors from text
49. Tie and Max _____
52. One of the Stooges
53. CBC comedy drama "Being _____" ran from 2007 to 2011
57. "_____ Over Now" sang T. Swift
59. Provider of transportation (abbr)
60. Affirmative vote
61. It makes a golfer happy
63. Became part of publicly traded company and changed it's acronym from this in 2002
64. Some think it is near

More Photos from Ian Sinclair



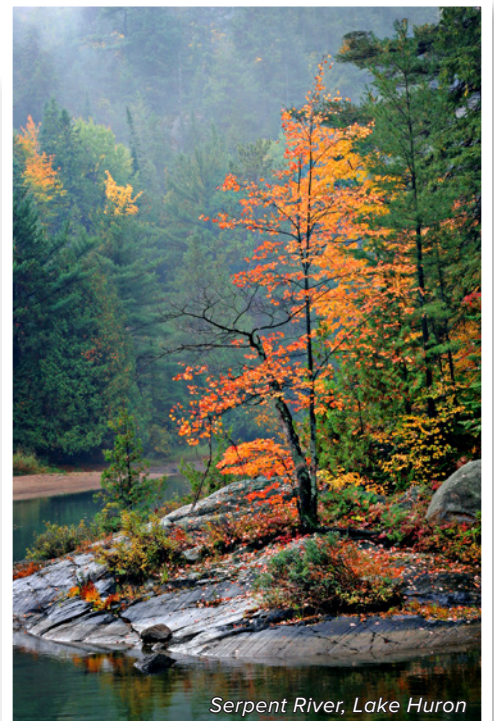
Sawpit Bay, Lake Superior



Deer at Guild



Zion National Park



Serpent River, Lake Huron

A Cool Phenomenon

These white snowy shadows were created when the car and gate blocked the sunlight, keeping the ground there slightly colder - allowing the snow to linger just a little longer.

Photos by Dave Arnold

Submit your photos to newsandviews@guildwood.ca

