



# BRIDGE REPORT

Governors Bridge Ratepayers Association Newsletter

## 56th Annual GBRA Neighbourhood Barbeque

Please join us in Nesbitt Park on Saturday, September 20th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. As always, we'll have hotdogs, hamburgers, corn, games, face painting and more! There is **new pricing this year of \$5 for members under 65, \$10 for non-members under 65, and seniors are FREE.**



- *Hot Dogs, Burgers & Corn*
- *Face Painting*
- *Balloon Twisting*
- *Games, Races & Prizes*
- *Firetruck Visit*



## If you didn't receive this newsletter by email...

Then we don't have your contact information. To help us keep you informed, please send your

name, street address and email address to [GBRAtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GBRAtreasurer@gmail.com).

## Changes on the GBRA Board of Directors

At the Board's July 9 meeting, Charles (Chuck) Gluek of 98 Douglas Cres. was appointed unanimously as a **new Director**. The Board is now at its maximum of 9 directors.

While Past President Chris Fraser has moved out of GB, he remains very active working with GBRA Directors Jorge Santos, Charles Gluek, the 5 RAs, FoNTRA, Evergreen Brick Works and the City to make Toronto a more walkable city and to see the development of a walking path system between the East Toronto Railpath and the West Toronto Railpath via the Waterfront - affectionately called the Downtown Desire Line.

## Treasurer's Report

With our fiscal year ending September 30, here is our latest financial report:

<u>Fiscal Year</u> (Oct 1st to Sep 30th)	<u>2019/2020</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025F</u> (Estimates)
Number of paid members	109	3	135	118	125	120
Dues & Donation Revenue (1)	\$4,425	\$120	\$5,420	\$4,984	\$5,195	\$4,760
Community Events Revenue (2)	\$0	\$0	\$805	\$840	\$895	\$800
Community Events Expenses (2)	\$0	-\$673	-\$1,609	-\$1,971	-\$1,863	-\$2,257
Net Revenue (Expense)	\$0	-\$673	-\$804	-\$1,131	-\$968	-\$1,457
# of households at barbeque	0	0	41	50	49	50
Interest Income & Bank Fees	\$5	-\$8	-\$3	-\$12	-\$14	\$178
Special Projects	Fed. Candidates Debate, noise signs, FoNTRA	LPAT appeal, GB Lookout, Fed. Candidates Debate, FoNTRA	FoNTRA website, Prov. Candidates Debate	FoNTRA support, Mun/Mayor Candidates Debate	NW Signs, FoNTRA support	new soccer net, TPS CPLC fundraiser, FoNTRA/FUN support
Special Projects (net)	\$421	\$663	\$348	\$244	\$1,475	\$733 <sup>↑</sup>
Insurance	\$1,116	\$951	\$971	\$1,000	\$1,117	\$1,117
Communications	\$318	\$476	\$226	\$1,504	\$681	\$792
Other Expenses	\$325	\$0	\$349	\$784	\$952	\$911 <sup>↑</sup>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$2,250</b>	<b>-\$2,652</b>	<b>\$2,718</b>	<b>\$308</b>	<b>-\$11</b>	<b>-\$71</b>
<b>Member Equity at Year End</b>	<b>\$9,497</b>	<b>\$6,845</b>	<b>\$9,564</b>	<b>\$9,872</b>	<b>\$9,861</b>	<b>\$9,789</b>

With a healthy projected Member Equity of almost \$10,000, we can afford to spend more on special projects next year. We intend to plant pollinator gardens in Nesbitt Park and elsewhere in GB. **If you have an idea for a project that would benefit the community, please let us know.**

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## Shared Private Security Update

Before Supreme Security's first year ended on April 7, we contacted some other security companies for competitive quotes. No other company was willing to provide similar services for an equal or better price.

On April 21, Supreme started their second year of providing private security to participating residents in GB. Since they first started in April 2024, there have been **ZERO BREAK-INS** in GB! (You may remember that there were 10 in only 8 months from August 2023 to March 2024 after averaging only 2.8 per year for the previous 5 years.)

However, auto thefts have not stopped. There have been **TWO AUTO THEFTS** so far this year (to end of August). This is similar to the average of 3.4 per year from 2018 to 2024 (with a high of 7 in 2022).

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## Community Police Liaison Committee

The CPLC meetings provided key updates on recent community initiatives and enforcement matters. Highlights included the successful completion of a fundraiser supporting student scholarships, as well as the appointment of four new community police officers to serve districts across Toronto.

The committee also reviewed noise bylaw enforcement, which continues to generate a significant volume of complaints, primarily concerning nighttime disturbances and daytime construction activities. Additionally, Residents Associations members raised ongoing concerns about driver non-compliance with stop signs, emphasizing the need for increased awareness and enforcement.

There has been an overall decrease in the numbers of car thefts and break-ins reported across 53 Division.

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## Motorcycle Noise Heard in GB

Several residents have complained about loud motorcycles racing on Bayview and the DVP at night throughout week. TPS is well aware of this problem but their ability to address it is hindered by limited resources, culprits leaving the area before police arrive, police restrictions on chasing fleeing motor vehicles (let alone the ability to catch them if they tried), and difficulty of speed enforcement cameras reading motorcycle license plates if they are

obscured.

If you do witness excessive speeding, racing or dangerous driving, do call 911. If you're bothered by the loud noise, don't bother to call 911 since they will not respond. Your only recourse is calling 311 to complain, but don't expect a timely response, if at all.

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## City Planning Bylaw Changes and Challenges

City council recently approved multiplexes with up to 6 units (sixplexes) on any residential property in certain wards in the Toronto and East York districts including Ward 11 which contains GB. While fourplexes have been approved city-wide since 2023, significant numbers have not been being built yet. These types of housing are essentially small apartment buildings and while none are currently built in GB, they may show up in our neighbourhood in the future as part of the City's efforts to gently increase density.

One challenge that the City has had with fourplexes is people building what is essentially a larger home under the guise of a fourplex by having 3 small apartments in the basement so as to qualify as a fourplex to take advantage of the greater size allowed for a fourplex versus a single-family house. The City has updated the regulations to prevent this by assigning minimum sizes to each apartment.

Another issue the City has been dealing with recently is the lack of regulation on basement size resulting in so-called "iceberg houses" which have multi-level below-grade floors that are significantly larger than typical basements. This can impact trees, underground water flow and the structural integrity of nearby foundations. We continue to monitor how the city intends to address this issue going forward.

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## Net Zero Neighbourhoods Project

Harbord Village Residents' Association has a [Net Zero Carbon Project](#) that includes information (including financial assistance) and news on reducing the greenhouse gas emission of your home to help fight climate change.

In addition, they are hosting a series of "Heat Pump Parties" on October 24, November 18 and January 19 where you can learn from an expert and meet homeowners who've bought heat pumps. See their [website](#) for more details.

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## LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program

The City has partnered with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests ([LEAF](#)) to offer backyard tree planting services to Toronto residents at a subsidized cost. LEAF offers 5- to 8-foot-tall native deciduous trees or 2- to 4-foot-tall native evergreen trees with either a full-service planting option or do-it-yourself option. For more details, see the [LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program](#) under “Urban Forestry Grants & Incentives” on Toronto.ca.

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## Metrolinx Property for Sale at Nesbitt & Bayview

According to Avison Young Commercial Real Estate Services, there are some groups interested in the property, but nothing firm yet.

(The GBRA expressed concern to Avison Young about the large commercial-size for-sale sign on a residential property. As a result, they replaced it with a smaller one.)

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## High Frequency Rail Project

In case you haven't heard, this VIA Rail HFR project is now rebranded as Alto, a public-private partnership with the government selecting Cadence to design, build, finance, and operate the new infrastructure. Cadence is a consortium composed of CDPQ Infra, AtkinsRéalis, Keolis, Systra, SNCF Voyageurs, and Air Canada.

\$3.9 billion dollars has been allocated for them to work alongside Alto to design the railway, along the same corridor proposed for HFR but requiring a new alignment for higher speeds, with an “investment decision by Canada” to proceed with construction not being made until the end of the decade.

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## Community Clean-up on April 26





Nine residents volunteered to help clean-up around GB, which was just enough to cover the desired areas. After skipping it last year due to minimal trash the year before, doing this every 2 to 3 years is adequate.

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## Midtown Ravines Group

The [Midtown Ravine Group](#) is a confederation of ten residents' associations seeking to revitalize the ravines in Toronto's midtown core. Rosedale's ravines — potentially and historically a recreational resource and an ecological treasure — are a pale shadow of the destination parks that existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, degraded by the inexorable effects of erosion coupled with lack of maintenance. MRG's mission is to bring back and realize that potential.

They are especially focused on the [degradation of the Vale of Avoca ravine](#) under St. Clair Ave. East in David A. Belfour Park. Check out their website if you use this area and want to see the efforts being made to rehabilitate the ravine.

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## Recycling and Dog Waste Issues

Some residents in GB Estates have reported people rummaging through blue bins and leaving the contents strewn about. To address this problem, we suggest leaving any beer and liquor bottles beside the blue bin for easy collection.

There have been numerous complaints of someone with a large dog who doesn't clean up after their pet on Douglas Cres. If you are the culprit, please take responsibility for your dog's poop.

If you're annoyed by people leaving dog poop in your green bin, we have a limited supply of stickers that say "Please, NO DOG POOP IN OUR BINS. Thankyou". If you want one for your green bin, please send a request to [GBRAtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:GBRAtreasurer@gmail.com).



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## GB Walkers

Efforts to date include an area survey about who walks, where they walk, and when they walk. Twenty-five percent of recipients responded. They show genuine interest to promote walking in GB as an intentional daily activity and to work together to protect the ravines.

Next steps: The GBRA Board is working with Evergreen Brickworks to develop walking programs/clubs - which will likely encompass the adjoining 5 residents associations (5 RAs). A Halloween Walk might be fun as that is how the GBRA was started many years ago. And work is being done with Councillor Saxe to promote safe walking across Bayview and on the Governor's Bridge. **(You can look forward to a petition which will be circulated to put a speed bump on the bridge to slow down traffic. Unfortunately, the City will not widen the sidewalks on the bridge).**

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## Visit us at...

[governorsbridge.net](http://governorsbridge.net)

[Governors Bridge Community Private Facebook Group](#)

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## If you have an area idea or want to get involved, please reach out to a member of the GBRA Board:

Alan McFarland, President, [alancmcfarland@gmail.com](mailto:alancmcfarland@gmail.com)

Chris Fraser, Past President, [chris@moveable.com](mailto:chris@moveable.com)

Jeff Hanemaayer, Secretary/Treasurer, [jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhanemaayer@gmail.com)

Charles "Chuck" Gluek, Director, [acgluek@gmail.com](mailto:acgluek@gmail.com)

Kathryn E. Langley Hope, Director, [kelangleyhope@bell.net](mailto:kelangleyhope@bell.net)

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