



# 2019 BEY— NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCILLOR  
**BRAD BRADFORD**



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[bradbradford.ca/newsletter](http://bradbradford.ca/newsletter)

## The Power of Community-Led Change

Dear Neighbours,

It's hard to believe a year has gone by since the community gave me its support and sent me to City Hall as your representative. It's been a privilege every day since. So much of what we've accomplished in 2019 is a direct result of your leadership. Whether that's ravine cleanups, visioning our future neighbourhoods, or bringing Canada's first Vision Zero pop-up to the East End, it takes local champions, volunteers and supporters like you to make it happen!

Although we've achieved a lot, there's an incredible amount to do. With almost 40 pedestrians killed on Toronto's streets in 2019, road safety is a pressing need. In the last 12 months we introduced 32 traffic calming measures—among the highest number for any Ward in Toronto—but we need to do more. With provincial funding cuts and the pressures of a growing city felt on the TTC, our affordable housing stock, and our community services, we need to make critical investments to keep up. Local government impacts our daily lives the most. One of the best parts of being a Councillor is the opportunity to shape that. I am here with my team to support you in making the change you want to see.

Happy New Year & Best Wishes for 2020!

Toronto City Councillor  
Beaches—East York | Ward 19

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# TOP LOCAL PRIORITIES

## ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES

Of the thousands of issues I've heard about over the last 12 months, road safety is one of the biggest concerns in our community. I've made it my top local priority:

**Traffic calming on local streets:** Residents play an important role in bringing traffic calming measures like speed humps, all-way stops, and pedestrian crossings to local streets. Of the 32 traffic calming measures we've introduced in the last year, most were initiated by community members acting as the local experts. If you'd like to find out more about the process for requesting traffic calming on your street, please contact my office.

**Ward 19 Speed Limit Reductions:** Speed limits are being reduced on arterial and neighbourhood roads across the City as part of Vision Zero 2.0. In Ward 19, speed limits have been reduced to 40km/h on Victoria Park Avenue, Kingston Road (Queen Street to Victoria Park), and many others including some collector roads like Sammon Avenue.

**Vision Zero 2.0 Road Safety Plan:** In July, I joined City Council in giving unanimous support to the \$109 million Vision Zero 2.0 road safety plan. The plan focuses on reducing speed, re-designing roads, and improved enforcement. We'll be doubling the number of red light cameras, creating school safety zones around all public and private schools, and installing 50 automatic speed enforcement cameras.

**Lake Shore-Woodbine:** After four serious incidents in the last year alone, this collision hot-spot needs addressing. I had unanimous support at City Council in October for staff to start designing a safer intersection here. We'll see their proposals in early 2020. Thanks to area residents for championing safety improvements here, they will benefit us all.

## STRONG MAIN STREETS CAMPAIGN

Main Streets are the heart of our community. Throughout this term on Council, I have been working with a stakeholder advisory committee and passionate community members to help find solutions to the vacant storefronts and challenging environment for many businesses on Main Streets across Beaches-East York.

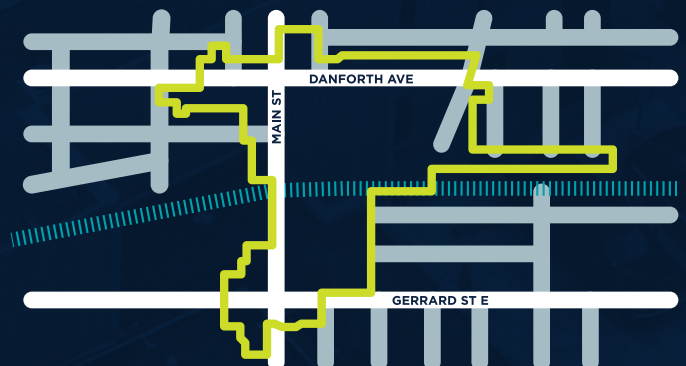
On September 18 2019, I held a public consultation with dozens of community members to get the community's input on how we can make our main streets the best they can be. We got a lot of great ideas, and we are going to be moving forward with working groups in three categories:

- TAXES AND CITY POLICIES
- PUBLIC REALM
- TRANSIT AND ACCESSIBILITY

We need to work in all of these areas to bring our main streets back to their full potential. We will be coming back early next year with a work plan for changes we're going to make in each of these categories. Please consider getting involved and keep up to date by calling my office **(416) 338-2755**.

### Map: Main Street Planning Study Area

For more details see 'Community Updates' section.





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# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### PARADES AND FESTIVALS

Attending parades and festivals is one of my favourite parts of the job. Nobody does it better than the East! From the *Beaches Santa Claus Parade* to the *East York Canada Day* festivals in Stan Wadlow, there's so much to celebrate across the ward!



### JURASSIC BEACH

The Raptors winning the Championship has to be one of 2019's biggest highlights! I was glad to help bring the celebrations to our community and host Jurassic Beach watch parties for Games 4, 5 and 6 of an unforgettable final.

### FAIRMOUNT PARK BAKE OVEN GRAND OPENING

In November we unveiled Ward 19's very first community bake oven in Fairmount Park! Special

thanks to former Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon and the *Fairmount Park Ice Masters* for years of work on this. **Details for booking the oven:** [bradbradford.ca/bakeoven](http://bradbradford.ca/bakeoven)



### COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS AND TREE PLANTINGS

Our community cares about the environment. I took part in several ravine, park, and beach clean-ups as well as tree plantings across the ward, from Woodbine Beach to Stephenson Park, and Dentonia Park to Glen Stewart Ravine.

### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

With the size of Council being cut and the wards doubling, I've been holding town hall meetings every two months in an effort to hear from residents and share updates about what's happening at City Hall and in the community.



### TASTE OF BANGLADESH

In August, the Danforth hosted Canada's largest Bengali street festival *The Taste of Bangladesh*. Ward 19 is home to Canada's largest Bengali population. Over the year, I enjoyed many Bengali festivals such as Bengali New Year (above).



### 8 80 STREETS DANFORTH

I worked with 8 80 Cities to bring Canada's first *Vision Zero pop-up* to the Danforth. The goal was to take the current, most car-oriented design of the Danforth to the least car-oriented with temporary bike lanes, wider sidewalks and more gathering space. It was a great conversation starter on rethinking how we share our streets. We will be incorporating lessons learned into the Danforth Complete Streets Study.

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# COMMUNITY UPDATES

There are many more important initiatives than we have space to mention here. I'd love to hear your priorities for 2020!

Have your say at: [bradbradford.ca/survey](https://bradbradford.ca/survey)



## Woodbine Bike Lanes

One of the issues that I hear most about in my office is the Woodbine Bike Lanes. In my first days at City Hall I got to work on fulfilling my election commitment to finding solutions to make the bike lanes better for everyone: reducing congestion and cut-through traffic on local streets, and improving cyclist safety. Over 200 residents attended my community meeting in April and I have been working with my staff on four possible options based on your feedback. I will be bringing these back for your input.

Full update at: [bradbradford.ca/woodbine](https://bradbradford.ca/woodbine)



## On-Street Permit Parking

Toronto-East York councillors debated permit parking three times in 2019. In December, councillors voted on a ward-by-ward approach. Opinion and feedback in Beaches-East York was divided on whether the City should apply permit parking to all streets. With no clear majority, I opted to follow the existing system but to proactively poll streets in existing permit zones to give them the chance to opt-in to permit parking for their street. This helps streets with parking problems opt for change, without changing the rules for everyone.



## Snow Removal Strategy

It's that time of year again... the snow has started falling, and many people are frustrated by the inequity of the City's snow removal programs. I voted in favour of expanding City sidewalk clearing to the whole city.



## Community Group Contributions

Through your contributions we have put on hundreds of events and community projects. From Danforth Rocks in Stephenson Park to the first *Danny Loves Music* in East Lynn Park, and from slope-stabilization efforts in Parkview Hills to advancing an International Mother Language Day Monument in Dentonia Park. You have put so much incredible energy into our community. I want to thank all of the residents associations, tenants associations, community associations, business improvement areas, informal community and 'Friends of' park groups, and good neighbours for embodying community-led change every day.



## East York Hall of Fame

2019 has special significance for East York. John Candy was inducted as the inaugural member into the East York Hall of Fame. This initiative championing our local history, continues to grow!



## Crescent Town Bridge and Resident Safety

Days before I took office as City Councillor, a pedestrian bridge in Crescent Town collapsed. Luckily nobody was hurt. At my request, the City conducted an internal audit inquiry leading to important recommendations to improve our inspection regime, including a proactive investigation of ~170 privately owned bridges across the city. A replacement bridge should be built by early-2020.



## Topham Park Clubhouse

After a long wait, Topham Park Clubhouse is being renovated! This summer, we had a community meeting to get feedback on the design. Construction is expected to start June 2021 to reduce any disruption for baseball season.



## Danforth Complete Streets and Planning Study

With the Danforth changing before our eyes I am working with Councillor Fletcher and City staff on a study that will look at the future of the iconic strip from Broadview to Victoria Park, planning for the next forty years. This first of its kind study will look at road safety, strong local retail, and transit-oriented development in a coordinated approach.

Learn more: [toronto.ca/danforth](https://toronto.ca/danforth)

# BY THE NUMBERS

JAN-DEC 2019

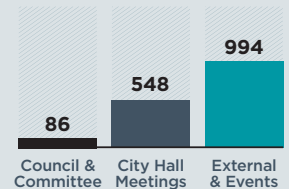


“The numbers show the real impact of cutting City Council in half. Residents come first and we’re working every day to be there.”

—COUNCILLOR BRADFORD

## 1628

MEETINGS & EVENTS



ACTIONED >10,000 EMAIL INQUIRIES

## 50+

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

- + Coxwell Bridge Rehabilitation
- + Queen Street & Kingston Road Streetcar and Road safety
- + Topham Park Basement Flooding Protection

## 32

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY UPGRADES



## 6 / PER YEAR

SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE INSTALLATIONS



### Coxwell barns/Danforth Garage Visioning

In July 2019, City Council adopted a long awaited master plan for the Coxwell barns TTC site at Danforth and Coxwell. The master plan will bring in a consolidated Toronto Police headquarters for 54/55 Division, community cultural space in the former barns buildings, and affordable housing. New zoning for the site was approved in December and the Mayor moved my recommendations calling for more employment use on the site to bring jobs to the East End.

Details: [bradbradford.ca/barns](http://bradbradford.ca/barns)



### Managing Development Pressure: Main St. Study

We ‘Believe in the East!’ Our community has many assets such as the ravines, the beach, great transit access, and engaged and diverse residents, making it an attractive place to invest and develop. With this investment and new development coming to the Main and Danforth area, we need to make sure we have the city services, parks, schools, affordable housing, and infrastructure capacity to keep up. I’ve been working with City Planning staff, area residents’ and associations, BIAs, and land owners to create a community-led vision for future growth. **Learn more:** [bradbradford.ca/msps](http://bradbradford.ca/msps)



### Committees and Boards I serve on:

- » Budget Committee, Vice-Chair
- » Toronto Transit Commission, Commissioner
- » Planning & Housing Committee, Member
- » Toronto & East York Community Council, Member
- » Toronto Parking Authority, Board Member
- » Subcommittee on the Protection of Affordable Rental Housing
- » Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Standing Committee Member

## CAUSES TO SUPPORT—

I’m grateful to have so many good causes to support in our community. Two to highlight:



**Cure SPG50**, a campaign to find a cure for young Michael who has a rare neurodegenerative disease.

### beadonor.ca

**Trillium Gift of Life:** 1,600 people in Ontario are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, 15 live in Beaches-East York. One organ can save up to eight lives, please register: [BeADonor.ca](http://BeADonor.ca)



## MY WORK AT TORONTO CITY HALL

I ran for Council to make City Hall work for you. Alongside supporting you in delivering the many initiatives that make our community special, I have been using my seat on Council to advocate for a more sustainable and affordable city. Here is a selection of the issues I've worked on for you:

### 1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- Council has made affordable housing its top priority this term. At our first meeting in January 2019 we designated 11 city-owned sites for 4,000 affordable housing units. In December we adopted the 10-year HousingTO Plan, a \$23.4 billion government investment, helping 340,000 households in the next decade.
- Major housing initiatives such as allowing laneway suites city-wide, creating a new funding model for Toronto Community Housing which will help address their billion-dollar repair backlog, protecting vulnerable groups who live in rooming houses, and many others.
- I helped form a Subcommittee on the Protection of Affordable Rental Housing to address renoviction in the city. We're working on stopping unethical evictions, and helping tenants understand their rights, as well as coordinating across departments to keep people housed.

### 2. IMPROVING TRANSIT:

- My position is clear: I opposed the TTC upload and advocated to stay at the negotiating table with the Province after the Premier cancelled the Relief Line for the Ontario Line.
- I supported Council's deal with the Province which will see them pay for the Ontario Line, reimburse the City for the work we've already done, and free-up almost \$5 billion to spend on City transit priorities.
- Locally, I worked with the TTC to reduce noise and vibration disturbance for residents living above Line 2 caused by flat wheels. We reduced flats from 100+ daily to less than 20, on average.

### 3. PARKING PADS AND EVs:

- After hearing from many of you, I went to Community Council asking my colleagues to make parking pad rules consistent and lift the ban on new, bylaw-adhering parking pads north of Danforth on the condition

that electric vehicle charging infrastructure is installed. My Council colleagues didn't agree and asked to study the issue more in early 2020. **Full details:** [bradbradford.ca/parkingpads](http://bradbradford.ca/parkingpads)

### 4. SINGLE USE PLASTICS:

- I've been advocating for a ban on single use plastics. I joined Councillor Robinson in asking for a staff report to Council on how we can support more reusable dishware in restaurants.

### 5. TERM LIMITS AND BETTER GOVERNMENT:

- Council did not support my motions to introduce term limits to help improve accountability and diversity at City Hall. I stand by my personal commitment to term limits. I also supported a successful vote for a report on using ranked ballots to elect a more representative council. Council also rejected my effort to introduce electronic transcription to make our meetings more transparent and accessible.

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