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BRAD BE** BRADFORD CITY COUNCILLOR 2021 COMMUNITY UPDATE

bradbradford.ca

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION



Vaccine information is changing every day. If you haven't booked a first dose, head to <u>toronto.ca/</u> <u>COVID19</u> and click the blue "Book a Vaccine" button or call 1-833-943-3900 to book an appointment at a City-run clinic.

You can also check the website <u>tehn.ca/covid19vaccine</u> for more info on pop-up clinics in our area or book an appointment through Toronto East Health Network.

We are here to support you with accessing a vaccine. Call, email or reach out to us on social media!



As the City moves into a COVID-19 recovery phase, it's important to hear from the community on your priorities. Take a moment to fill out this survey on the recovery you want to see: bradbradford.ca/2021survey

Dear Neighbours,

Wave after wave, we've stayed optimistic that there's light at the end of the tunnel. As we move into summer and Canada achieves one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, we truly are "nearly there". As your City Councillor, it's been easy to be hopeful over these 16 months of pandemic life. Why? Every day I've experienced first-hand the leadership, resilience and compassion of communities across Beaches-East York.

The East End has been a leading light in Toronto. Michael Garron Hospital and East Toronto Health Partners were the first in the city to vaccinate all of our long-term care homes and led Canada's first vaccine clinic to deliver 10,000 doses in 24-hours. Together, we also raised over \$400,000 with CRUSH COVID: Ride for Mind to fund the support needed as we face the pandemic's long-term mental health impacts.

At a grassroots level, we saw lawn signs and banners popping up everywhere, food banks inundated with donations, neighbourhood heroes set up text groups to check-in on neighbours, and small acts of creativity and connection with projects like Lucas Walker's rock snake at the beach, brightening up our community. Alongside these moments of community spirit, the hard work of local government has continued. We made important progress building desperately needed supportive and affordable housing on City-owned land, continued to roll-out road safety improvements across the ward, and supported our local businesses and main streets through the worst of this crisis. Updates on this, and more are in this newsletter.

Happy Canada Day—I'll miss seeing you at the parades and fireworks, but look forward to more time in the community this summer!

3-15

Brad Bradford, Toronto City Councillor Beaches—East York | Ward 19



ACKNOWLEDGING ATROCITIES AGAINST



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INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

"215 Stars" by Mike Cywink, 2021 @MikeCywink

The 215 buried children found at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation serve as a painful reminder of a devastating, shameful part of our history. We not only have to acknowledge it in moments of pain like this but also choose to actively move toward truth and reconciliation in our policy decisions and actions every day.

In our own community we have several active, lively efforts engaging Indigenous communities and local Indigenous heritage including place-keeping efforts in the City's affordable housing plans at Queen and Coxwell, the redevelopment plans for the Dawes Road library and dialogue with Indigenous youth of Wiigwaasikaa in Taylor-Massey Creek.

01 Community **Events**

CRUSH COVID

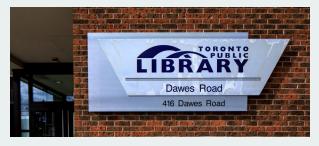


In April, I teamed up again with Michael Garron Hospital and Toronto Hustle to organize CrushCOVID: Ride for Minda 24-hour cycling marathon raising funds for post-pandemic mental health supports. With 473 participants and 58 teams, we raised over \$400,000 for frontline health heroes and world-class mental health programs. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

CELEBRATIONS

Observances and special events in the ward continued virtually. While it's not the same, I have enjoyed celebrating religious holidays with our Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and many other faith communities so far this year. Thank you for the sacrifices you've made to protect your community!





We want your ideas for a new Dawes Road Library. Consultations on the library's reconstruction (including a new community hub) started earlier this year. Share your views on the design and services we need to help this community thrive. Learn more: torontopubliclibrary.ca/dawesroad

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Farmers markets are back! Support your local businesses: East York Farmers' Market (East York Civic Centre, Tuesdays, 8am-2pm); Fairmount Park returns Wednesdays, 3:30-7:30pm; DECA's East Lynn Market (East Lynn Park, Thursdays, 3-7pm).



Vaccine Pop-Ups around the community, focusing on priority areas. Working with our health partners, the City has supported pop-ups in key areas including Crescent Town, Main Square, Dentonia Park, Wakunda and Parma Court, and Dawes Road.

PUBLIC SPACES





Rocky Smiles the rock snake brings joy to our community. Thank you to young Lucas Walker for inspiring the community to get creative with the Beach's very own rock snake. Go check it out!

RECREATION

Local playgrounds are getting upgrades. The City gave Gledhill playground an upgrade in 2020 after funds were dedicated to improve equipment and make the playground accessible. Similar upgrades are planned for the playground in Norwood Park. Consultation and design on some major upgrades for the playground in Stan Wadlow Park will start in 2022.

A proactive plan is in place for Woodbine Beach in light of immense COVID pressure. I have been working with by-law, parks staff, and police, to put a plan in place for increased garbage bins, litter collection, and improved enforcement at the beach. A second COVID summer has put even more pressure on the beach and like any good plan, it continues to adapt to changing circumstances. We're working on expanding towing efforts for busy beach streets, south of Queen especially. Learn more: bradbradford.ca/woodbinebeach

SAFER STREETS

Improvements are coming to the laneways around Main Street TTC station. In partnership with The Laneway Project, we are investing in upgrades to make these busy laneways safer and more accessible to thousands of residents moving through the area every day. For more information: thelanewayproject.ca/danforth-main

We raised the Bangladeshi flag at City Hall on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. I was honoured to join Mayor Tory and MPP Doly Begum for this special ceremony.

Honouring Int'l Women's Day with Bengali and South Asian community organizations. The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and visible minorities. A strong recovery will support women in the workforce and build an inclusive economy.

COMMUNITY

A big thank you to our community organizations who continue to support those most in need. Many organizations and their incredible volunteers worked tirelessly to make sure people have access to food, an ear to listen, and access to essential care.

Winter Stations became Spring Stations. Our seven-years' annual tradition had to adapt to the pandemic. The 2021 winning entries were built, kept ready for installation, and rolled-out in the Distillery District. We'll be back at Woodbine Beach next year!



Shaheed Minar: Toronto's newest monument completed in Dentonia Park. Funded through years of work in the Bengali community, it recognizes the struggle for language rights across the world.

Capital work continues around St. Clair Ave and O'Connor-new public space and road safety measures. This part of the community is undergoing 100-year infrastructure upgrades to prevent basement flooding and upgrade storm and sewer infrastructure. It is disruptive work, but it will see major improvements to the area, including a full reconstruction of O'Connor Drive from Sandra Road to Bermondsey Road. Please be aware that there will be major construction in the area for at least a year!

Beginning this winter, the City will start clearing snow on all streets in Beaches-East York. After the pilot phase, a combination of new equipment and some manual clearing will ensure that 103,000 additional households in Toronto have their sidewalks cleared.

02 Community News

Ted Reeve Arena is getting \$5 million in funding for accessibility improvements!

Funding from all levels of government will help make Ted Reeve more accessible for the community. Dollars will go towards:

- mechanical upgrades
- a new refrigeration plant
- dehumidifier
- piping and concrete pad ٠
- dasher boards and protective glass for the "bubble"

03 **City Hall Updates**



Improving transit access and advocating better transit planning

Transit will play a critical role in our longterm recovery as we reopen Toronto. When the Federal government recently announced a \$10 billion investment across four projects (the Ontario Line, the Scarborough Rapid Transit replacement, the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and the Yonge-North subway extension) I supported the plans. Not because they are perfect, but because the best plans are the ones that get built.

While I might not have chosen these routes as top priority or the best technology, transit debates have gone on too long without action. The time to move forward is now. The City did exactly that by purchasing an additional 60 streetcars this spring to bolster our surface transit network, along with the bus priority transit corridors to put precious time back into people's days.

Improvements to Woodbine **Bike Lanes**

Outside the pandemic, there aren't many bigger conversation starters in our community than the Woodbine bike lanes. I've been clear I would not remove them, but would improve the design to work better for everyone. City Council approved a number of changes to improve safety and traffic flow, with construction expected in the Fall. Here are the changes you can expect to see:

- Lowering the speed limit on Woodbine Ave to 40 km/h
- Adding physical separation for the bike lanes south of Danforth Ave
- Adding a northbound travel lane on Woodbine between Kingston and Gerrard during evening rush hour by limiting parking from 3:30-6:30pm

This approach reflects specific conditions found on Woodbine. It isn't perfect, and won't appease everyone; but, it will reduce cut-through traffic on local streets and congestion during peak periods while also improving safety, sight lines and incorporating physical separation. Full overview: bradbradford.ca/woodbine2021

Gainsborough Fire

Six months after the devastating fire on Gainsborough, many of us are still struggling to make sense of this tragedy. The fire was one of the deadliest in Toronto's modern history, and we will always remember the loss of four community members in this close-knit neighbourhood. An investigation found that the house did not have working fire alarms, and improper wiring work had been done. Our thanks to the brave first responders who put themselves in harm's way to protect us.

BRINGING MODULAR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TO **BEACHES-EAST YORK**

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#modularhousinginitiative

We need to get people out of shelters and parks and into permanent, supportive housing. With funding from the Federal government, the City is using modular construction to build 59 supportive housing units near Woodbine and O'Connor with occupancy expected before the end of 2021. The new homes will be for individuals exiting or at risk of homelessness, focusing on seniors, women, Indigenous Peoples and racialized persons.

I'm grateful to community members who've put in numerous hours to give detailed feedback to make this a success! The work continues through our Community Liaison Committee. Success here depends on input from residents as the local experts and the neighbours that are going to welcome people into a community who would have otherwise been in shelters.

Supporting live music and (~) Toronto's music sector

The live music industry has been among the hardest hit by the pandemic. At the beginning of 2021, I was appointed Chair of Toronto's Music Advisory Committee made up of leading music professionals and stakeholders tasked with advising how to help music culture in Toronto flourish. Inevitably, we have focused on COVID recovery efforts, advocating to the Provincial government for a smart, proactive plan to help music venues open. As of now, there is no specific guidance; however, working with Dr. de Villa and her Provincial counterparts, we're working towards a safe re-opening of venues as soon as possible.



Addressing systemic racism

It's been over a year since George Floyd's death sparked critical conversations about anti-Black and systemic racism in communities around the world. The City has taken steps to respond to the clear call for change in how we respond to emergency calls and confront racism embedded in our society.

At a local level, I have supported the efforts of the Friends of Smalls Creek to minimize the environmental impacts of the Province's plans to expand the GO corridor. Metrolinx is adding a fourth track which is a positive step to improve regional transit but as our community leaders have shown, there are alternative approaches to this work and we should look at every option to protect our local ecosystems.

I've also been working to pilot live music on patios city-wide. Current by-laws don't allow this, but after much sacrifice, our musicians and communities deserve to enjoy music! Well-designed policies could achieve this in a way that works for everyone.

The City is developing a Community Crisis Support Service that will provide an alternative to a police response to 9-1-1 calls for mental health. This service will launch as a pilot in priority neighbourhoods with the highest volume of calls. The search is underway for a new Chief of Police with community input playing a critical role in the criteria and selection process. You can search "Toronto City Council police reform dashboard" for a detailed look at how the City is progressing on 36 key actions we approved at Council last summer, 67% are complete already but much of this work will be long and intensive.



04

Top Local Priorities

"Moving the needle at City Hall takes relentless urgency and steady patience. Both in equal measure. Both at the same time."

IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

Road safety is my top priority! If you'd like to engage your street in a discussion about adding road safety measures such as speed humps or stop signs—head to bradbradford.ca/polls or send an email to: Councillor_Bradford@toronto.ca

We have moved forward on 15 traffic calming initiatives across Beaches-East York so far in 2021, with more to come. Some key changes this year:

- Improvements to Woodbine Ave, including a lower speed limit to 40km/h
- Lowering the speed limit on St. Clair Ave and O'Connor to 40km/h (from their intersection east to Victoria Park Ave
- Approving speed hump installations for Balfour Ave, Dunkirk Road, Lockwood Road, Roblin Ave and Woodington Ave
- Adding all-way stops on Oak Park at Gates Ave and Westbrook Ave

We're still working on some major projects that have been delayed by the pandemic bringing safety improvements to Woodbine Ave and Lake Shore Blvd as well as the Main Street intersections at Danforth, Kingston, and Gerrard. If you know of an area that needs work done, let me know!

IMPROVING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Housing is the biggest challenge facing our city. No matter where you are on the housing ladder, communities are feeling the pinch with the rising market squeezing people out or worse, leaving people without a place they can afford.

There's no silver bullet to skyrocketing housing prices; however, the City plays a critical role through bringing in new kinds of housing supply. I'm working on this at City Hall. "Missing Middle" housing is about giving buyers options other than multi-million dollar homes or a starter condo. Long-standing planning policies mean we're not building much in between in terms of "gentle density". A pilot will be coming to Beaches-East York to test how it would work in neighbourhoods across Toronto. The goal is to look at ways of creating medium density housing like triplexes in appropriate areas to give residents new choices.

In addition to new modular supportive housing coming to Woodbine & O'Connor, (to move the homeless out of shelters and into homes), the City is working on building affordable homes on Cityowned property at Queen/Coxwell and Danforth/Coxwell. The site at 1631 Queen is going through rezoning and is open for feedback: createto.ca/1631queen. The Danforth-Coxwell site will use a parcel of the Coxwell Barns property for affordable housing. Those plans are still developing.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND MAIN STREET RECOVERY

Our main streets were struggling before the pandemic. The last 16 months have heightened the pressure to do more to help keep the doors open at our favourite storefronts, and reduce vacancies.

As the Mayor's lead for small business recovery during the pandemic, I have been working with Toronto's 85 Business Improvement Areas and our three local BIAs to help them support our businesses towards recovery.

Early on in the pandemic we played an important role in advocating for and securing programs like rent relief, wage subsidies and other measures from the Federal and Provincial Governments. As we move into the recovery phase we're focused on developing smart, long-term programs and policies to help businesses bounce back and stay stable.

We're starting consultations on a new tax class for small businesses which would help them avoid large increases in their assessments from the Provincial government, especially as real estate prices keep driving up. We're expanding our Digital Main Streets program which is helping thousands of Toronto businesses develop an online presence with tens of thousands of hours of support provided. Of course, programs like CaféTO are back this summer to help our restaurants with a much-needed lifeline to re-open safely.

OFFICE OF BRAD BRADFORD

What we can help with:

- + Animal Control
- + Anniversary, Birthday,
- + Police and Fire Protection
- + Property Taxes
- Flopenty laxes

City Support:

311 Non-emergency services, programs and information available 24/7.

Beaches—East York | Ward 19

Stay Connected!

Subscribe to our newsletter and receive updates on City Hall, community events, and ways to get involved.

sign-up here: bradbradford.ca/newsletter

Special Event Scrolls

- + By-law Enforcement
- + Land Use Planning
- + Local Public Transportation + Waste and Recycling
- + Local Roads
- + Noise Complaints
- + Parks and Recreation
- + Snow Removal
- + Subsidized Housing Issues
- + Waste and Recycling Collection
- + Water and Sewer Services

For urgent matters, call or email: <u>311@toronto.ca</u>

211 Community, social and health service questions or concerns.

Contact us:

EMAILCouncillor_Bradford@toronto.caPHONE(416) 338-2755FAX(416) 392-7233

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