



BE 

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CITY COUNCILLOR

2021 COMMUNITY UPDATE

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DANFORTH MURALS




Main & Danforth got a fresh new look this fall at the Sobeys! As part of the [#DestinationDanforth](#) mural series, Jakarundi Graphics in partnership with the City and East End Arts created a beautiful addition to our local community and shines a light on the important themes of confronting racism and recognizing the deep resilience in our communities.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE



As vaccines roll-out for **kids over 5-years-old**, there’s a real sense our communities are being adequately protected. If you haven’t booked a first dose, head to [toronto.ca/COVID19](#) and click the blue ‘**Book a Vaccine**’ button; or call **1-833-943-3900** and check out [tehn.ca/covid19vaccine](#) for info on pop-up clinics in your area!

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Dear Neighbours,

It’s hard to believe we’re coming to the end of another incredible year of making community-led change together. Although we need to stay cautious through the winter, it’s so special being able to safely visit friends and loved ones again, and getting back out in the community we call home.

This newsletter is full of stories about you—and how working together we’re making Beaches-East York a more welcoming, affordable, sustainable and equal place to live. Despite the many words on these pages—it’s impossible to thank and acknowledge everyone who plays a part in making this community special. My work as your City Councillor—and all we accomplish together—is only possible through the time, energy and dedication you bring.

From our frontline heroes and small business owners working tirelessly, to the active citizens participating so fully in the life of this city—I couldn’t be more grateful for all you do. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope you have time to rest and reflect this holiday season.

Looking forward to even brighter and more hopeful days with you in 2022!



Brad Bradford, Toronto City Councillor
BEACHES—EAST YORK | WARD 19



CANADA’S FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

On September 30, we honoured the first National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. We reflected on the past trauma caused by residential schools, remembering those who were lost, survivors and their families. Educating ourselves on the history of residential schools and Indigenous culture couldn’t be more important. 2021 has seen painful yet important revelations about Canada’s shameful mistreatment of Indigenous peoples. While this history is not new, the discovery of burial sites at former residential ‘schools’ has given us a renewed focus to continue the work of truth and reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS	94 COUNCIL & COMMITTEES	961 MEETINGS & EVENTS	50+ INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES
10,056 EMAIL INQUIRIES ACTIONED	3x  SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE INSTALLATIONS	100+ TRANSPORTATION SAFETY UPGRADES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Crescent Town Bridge Reconstruction+ Topham Park & Woodbine Gardens Basement Flooding Protection+ Dentonia Park Clubhouse Improvements

Community Events

GIVING BACK WHILE CELEBRATING HOMETOWN HERO PENNY OLEKSIK



In October, Beaches resident and Canada's most decorated Olympian **Penny Oleksiak**, turned the community's desire to celebrate her into an incredible opportunity to give back to those in need. Partnering with the Daily Bread Food Bank, The Beach BIA team and our convener Gene Domagala we collected over 1,200 pounds of non-perishable food items that went directly to the families in need of food!

PUMPKIN PARADES BACK IN #BEY

Several fantastic **Pumpkin Parade** events took place around our community on November 1, marking a special return to a favourite local tradition! Thank you to all the volunteer organizers and community members who helped set up events from Dentonia Park to Moncur, East Lynn to Stephenson Park, and beyond. With this community's carving creativity, the parades turned into beautiful, fun and creative art shows!

LEUTY BOATHOUSE MURAL



Photo: ©Alan Shakleton, Beach Metro

Members of the local community gathered in September to unveil a new mural by artist **Jacque Comrie**. The theme of the beautiful new mural is around mental health with the bright colours helping to inspire visitors. Thank you Jacque for bringing your beautiful work to our community. Special thanks go to Sapphira Charles, Ginetta Peters and Lisa Rochon who've worked closely with the artists and the City to make this vision a reality, especially for ensuring this project celebrates the work of artists from the Black Indigenous People of Colour (BIPOC) community.

ASHBRIDGES BAY PARK RED EMBERS INSTALLATION



This powerful installation was originally in Allan Gardens and serves as a memorial paying tribute to the **Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls & 2SLGBTQIA** community members, that amplifies and increases the representation of Indigenous women in the arts. Thank you to many local leaders, including Pamela Hart and Lisa Rochon for helping make this possible.

BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO PATIOS!



This summer, I teamed up with Councillors Bailão and Fletcher to launch a new pilot program to bring **live music to patios**! We kicked things off back in July with Mayor Tory on the Danforth at our local favourites Trecce and Local 1794!

FARMERS' MARKETS BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Some of the best in-person encounters this summer were at our incredible **farmers' markets** around the Ward! Thank you and congratulations to the organizers involved in the Harmony Hall Good Food Market, East Lynn Farmers' Market, East York Farmers' Market and especially the return to a market in Fairmount Park led by Jennifer Forde.

WINTER STATIONS RETURN



After the pandemic turned Winter Stations into Summer Stations, our community's beloved international design competition is back for 2022! The competition theme will be **Resilience**, in recognition and celebration of the strength, courage, and resilience people have shown over the last two years.

VIRTUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

The **Beaches Jazz Festival** was back for its 33rd year this summer! While it was another year of out-of-the-ordinary celebrations, the lineup of incredible musicians did not disappoint. I'm looking forward to working with the organizers for a return to an in-person event in 2022.

AN ENHANCED SPACE FOR YOUTH



After a lot of hard work to secure additional budgets, the City opened an Enhanced Youth Space in the **O'Connor Community Centre** in July. These spaces help youth build life skills, open doors to learning, job training and continuing education supports where they are most needed.

RAVINE CLEAN-UPS ACROSS #BEY



Thank you to the tireless volunteers and community organizers who support our Beaches-East York parks and ravines. While official City clean-up days were cancelled due to COVID, many of us rolled up our sleeves to do our part across the Ward. Special thanks to the **Friends of Glen Stewart Ravine** for hosting a regular series of clean-up days and having me join in.

RALLYING FOR OUR RAVINES



The work of protecting our vital ravines and natural areas as the city and region grow is being led by the community. Over the last year I've supported the **Friends of Smalls Creek** and community organizations across Toronto to challenge Metrolinx and the Provincial government to pay closer attention to the environmental and social impacts of how they build new transit. In November, groups from across the city joined forces for a rally to raise awareness; thank you to all the organizers for working together on this!

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Community News



Dawes Road Library & Community Hub Development

The Dawes Road Library is being reconstructed and expanded to include a new Community Hub addition. It is being developed based on Indigenous design principles and with several consultations throughout 2021.

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City Hall Updates



✓ Making the TTC greener

As a TTC board member, I'm working hard to achieve our target of a zero-emissions fleet by 2050. In 2021, we bought 300 e-buses to help us create a cleaner environment for future generations! In addition to buses, we need smart facilities to charge them. Thanks to much-needed federal funding I also helped the TTC launch a state-of-the-art electric bus and facility smart charging platform back in July.

✓ CaféTO Patios made permanent!

At the October City Council meeting, I joined my colleagues in voting to make the CaféTO patio program permanent! Since launching the program as a rapid pandemic response in 2020, the patios have been a lifeline for our local businesses and helped bring us back together in ways we'd never imagined before. The patios will continue to be removed through winter but with a permanent program businesses are guaranteed an option to create these special spaces in 2022. With no permit fees for next year, we're continuing to help build back our main streets. Catch you on a patio next summer!

Topham Park Clubhouse renovation

Plans to substantially renovate the Topham Park Clubhouse are moving ahead again. Renovation documents have gone out to tender and construction on the clubhouse is set to commence in late spring/early summer 2022. The timing is going to be coordinated to avoid any disruptions to the baseball season.

Planning and development around Danforth GO Station

Three development applications have come forward in the area around and north of the Danforth GO Station (6 Dawes Road, 10-30 Dawes Road, and 9-25 Dawes Road). These properties fall in a bigger area where the City put in place a set of planning policies to manage the growth (Main Street Planning Study). The focus of the plan, is to make sure that the new development that is coming to the area also provides

for community facilities, and services the area's existing and future residents needs. That means building new recreation facilities, daycare spaces, parks space, affordable housing, station integration, road safety improvements and more. The active applications in the area have been appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal and I am working closely with the City's lawyers and planners to negotiate and deliver all of these community benefits. I will be sharing more information when the settlements for these projects are finalized.

New East End live music venue!

Toronto's newest music venue has officially opened in November! This 2,500-person capacity venue meets an important need for space in Toronto's music and entertainment sector. This is a transformative investment and addition to our community and city!

TRANSFORMING O'CONNOR & ST. CLAIR



After several delays, the City is moving ahead to reconstruct O'Connor Drive from the St. Clair intersection to Bermondsey. This is going to give the street a new look to create a main-street feel that supports local business and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The St. Clair & O'Connor intersection will also be completely reconstructed to make it safer, including a new landmark public plaza at the north-east corner. The City's coordinating basement flooding protection work through this project to avoid multiple construction phases. There will be more consultation and information about managing lane closures while the work is happening. Find out more here: toronto.ca/oconnor

✓ New policies to require affordable housing in development proposals

For decades, the City has been asking the Province for Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) powers. Inclusionary Zoning is a planning tool used across North America to require new developments to include a certain proportion of affordable units. In November, Council approved a new framework allowing the City to require up to 22% of new units to be affordable in certain parts of the city over the coming years.

Successful IZ policies are about striking a balance: the requirements need to be high enough to create a meaningful number of units but also not too heavy-handed or fast to slow down development activity and worsen the affordability problem. Council approved a made-in-Toronto approach which makes us the first municipality in Ontario to have these kinds of requirements to improve affordability. The policy will be reviewed after a year to make sure it's working as intended.

✓ Tackling homelessness by building housing (Trenton Modular)

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 in Spring 2022.

The new homes will be for individuals exiting or at risk of homelessness, focusing on seniors, women, Indigenous Peoples and racialized persons.

I am grateful to community members who have 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 who are going to welcome people into our community that would have otherwise had to rely on living in a shelter.

Top Local Priorities

INCREASING ROAD SAFETY

Lowering speed limits on Woodbine, O’Connor & St. Clair

Road safety is a top priority in Beaches-East York. This year, we made important reductions on O’Connor (from Coxwell-Victoria Park), St Clair (from O’Connor-Victoria Park) and Woodbine from Lake Shore to O’Connor. The speed limit will be lowered to 40km/h on all of these roads.

100+ Local road safety initiatives

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of thousands of community members who’ve reached out to my office we’ve now approved more than 100 road safety initiatives in the Ward like speed humps and stop signs. The September Toronto-East York Community Council was a record day with 25 new installations approved.

Woodbine Bike Lane changes

We are making critical changes to Woodbine to make it work better for everyone. These changes include:

- Lowering the speed limit on all of Woodbine Avenue to 40 km/h
- Adding physical separation for bike lanes on Woodbine, south of Danforth
- Restricting parking during evening rush hour to create an extra northbound travel lane between Kingston Road & Gerrard St. East
- Ongoing reviews of signal timings for Woodbine at Gerrard & Kingston

These are on top of additional road safety measures on neighbourhood streets that have experienced more cut-through traffic including Cassels, Firstbrooke, Glenmount Park and Lockwood Road.

IMPROVING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

1631 Queen Street East—Coxwell & Queen

As part of the City’s *Housing Now* initiative, 1631 Queen Street E is one of the identified city-owned sites across Toronto to be developed for affordable housing.

- The site will contribute ~300 new homes to the City, with up to 50% affordable rental units for people we’ve celebrated (frontline health workers, teachers, TTC operators, etc.)
- We’ve had several consultations, including Indigenous sharing circles where we’ve been working to incorporate Indigenous design principles into the heart of the project

Missing Middle

No ‘one’ single policy will solve housing affordability. One area that I am focused on is creating more “missing middle” housing to fill the gaps between highrise condos and multi-million dollar homes dominating Toronto’s housing options. This is about planning rules that allow “gentle density” for people to age-in-place or have options for adult children to live in communities they call home, rather than being priced out. We’ve been working on new permissions for accessory housing, like laneway houses and garden suites. At November’s Planning & Housing Committee we gave the green light to start consultations on new policies for more multiplex housing in the city.

The need for housing options in the City is clear. We have to strike the right balance between preserving what’s best for existing communities while giving the space needed to grow and evolve.

STRENGTHENING MAIN STREETS

Providing tax relief for small businesses with a new tax class

The East End of the city has some of the most incredible main streets! But, too often we have seen rising rents squeezing out local businesses and leaving many storefronts vacant.

- I’ve been leading the charge on City Council to level the playing field to make sure our mom and pops are not taxed like condo development sites
- At the November Council meeting, we approved a 15% property tax reduction for small businesses worth an expected \$26.9 million in relief

As the small business lead on Mayor Tory’s *COVID-19 Recovery Task Force*, we were able to use COVID as a catalyst for a change that has been a long time coming!

Supporting O’Connor-Bermondsey Business Association

Thank you to community leaders like George Paul Vlahakis, Justin van Dette and Doug McCann who’ve been working tirelessly to form a Business Improvement Area for the O’Connor-Bermondsey area. The existing business association has been an invaluable partner and advocate as the City rolls out its plan to transform O’Connor Drive (see City Hall Updates).

In the coming months, we will continue our outreach to help form a business improvement area once construction is completed. The new BIA will help bring marketing/programming for businesses, and new investments such as facade and streetscape upgrades. If you’d like to learn more or get involved please reach out.

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✉ 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

What we can help with:

- + Animal Control
 - + Anniversary, Birthday, Special Event Scrolls
 - + By-law Enforcement
 - + Land Use Planning
 - + Local Public Transportation
 - + Local Roads
 - + Noise Complaints
- + Police and Fire Protection
 - + Property Taxes
 - + Parks and Recreation
 - + Snow Removal
 - + Subsidized Housing Issues
 - + Waste and Recycling Collection
 - + Water and Sewer Services



311 Non-emergency services, programs and information available 24/7. For urgent matters, call or email: 311@toronto.ca

211 Community, social and health service questions or concerns.

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📱 Connect on social media for real-time updates!

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