



JON BURNSIDE

City Councillor • Don Valley East • Ward 16


Jon's E-Newsletter Spring 2026

Dear Constituent,

As your local Councillor and a member of the Don Valley East community, I value opportunities to connect with area residents.

In this issue of my **E-Newsletter**, we'll dive into a few key updates: the **2026 Budget**, my **Canadian Flag Motion**, and several upcoming **community events**. I'm also looking forward to co-hosting an event with **Councillor Matlow** regarding the **Ontario Science Centre**.

As always, if you would like to speak to me directly, you may email my office at Councillor_Burnside@toronto.ca or call [416-397-9256](tel:416-397-9256).



Councillor Jon Burnside
Ward 16 - Don Valley East

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Budget 2026

This year's budget from Mayor Chow, which held the total property tax increase to 2.2% (the rate of inflation), came as a welcome relief to many — myself included. After the previous two budgets resulted in a combined 16.4% increase, well above inflation, many Toronto taxpayers were understandably fatigued. It's also worth noting that while Mayor Tory's budgets were described as "at the rate of inflation," they consistently added an extra 1.5% through the City Building Fund.

At first glance, this election-year budget appears encouraging. However, I worry the underlying reality is less reassuring. One of the key strategies used to keep the increase at 2.2% was a heavy reliance on reserve funds — funds intended to help the City respond to unforeseen circumstances. Instead, they were drawn down significantly despite no immediate emergency. The CFO of the TTC even acknowledged to me that they were instructed to reduce their reserves as much as possible. That is a strategy you can only use once.

Now that an unforeseen circumstance *has* emerged — sharply higher gas prices — the consequences are clear. The City must now find an additional \$710,000 for every 1-cent-per-litre increase in gas prices over a year. If prices remain 50 cents per litre higher, that amounts to roughly \$35 million.

While Mayor Chow has made strong investments in emergency services, including the 911 call centre, some other choices raise concerns. Much attention has been given to the number of potholes filled this year, but that focus misses the larger issue. Filling potholes is essentially applying a

band-aid; healthy roads in good repair don't develop potholes in the first place. In the year before the mayor took office, the City allocated \$311 million (inflation-adjusted) to the state of good repair. Since then, the average annual allocation has been only \$284 million — a reduction of \$27 million per year. If the road state-of-good-repair budget had kept pace with property tax increases, it would now be approximately \$350 million annually.

Hopefully, next year's budget will get us "*back on track*," as originally promised.

Canadian Flag Motion

With growing concerns about threats to our economy and even our sovereignty, along with a renewed focus on patriotism through initiatives like "Buy Canadian" and the "Elbows Up" campaign, I felt it was the right moment for council to re-examine our flag-raising policy.

But the issue goes deeper than that. A flag should be a symbol that brings people together, not a flashpoint for division. Too often, I've looked out my office window to see officers in riot gear lining Bay Street in anticipation of certain flag-raising events. That is not what City Hall should represent.

City Hall ought to be a place that unites us. Hosting events that fracture our community is simply not acceptable. The world is complex, and so is its history. Municipal leaders should not be put in the position of choosing sides in international conflicts. What we all share—regardless of where we came from—is the decision to make Canada our home.

At the late-March council meeting, I introduced a motion to end the practice of flying other nations' flags at City Hall, effective December 1, 2026. The motion passed 17–9 with the support of Mayor Chow. Notably, the City of Mississauga adopted a similar policy shortly afterward.

Since then, I've been encouraged by the many residents who have stopped me on the street, called, or emailed to express their support.

Youth Academy

For those who may not yet know Superintendent Donovan Locke, the unit commander of 33 Division, you're missing out on an exceptional leader. 33 Division covers all of Ward 16, with the exception of residents living south of Eglinton Avenue.

Superintendent Locke is a true problem solver.

Two years ago, he introduced the community hub model at Fairview Mall and later at the Shops at Don Mills. Neighbourhood officers are now stationed at these hubs alongside community partners who provide non-policing supports, creating opportunities for officers to build meaningful relationships with local residents. These hubs have seen a dramatic reduction in criminal activity, and community members consistently report feeling safer. Other divisions—and even other police services—are now adopting this approach.

Both Toronto Police and Toronto Fire have long faced challenges in attracting marginalized youth to their services. At the same time, many young people

from marginalized communities have felt that careers in policing or firefighting were out of reach. Yet nothing brings people together more than serving their community.

While TPS offers unpaid internships, many marginalized youth simply cannot afford to give up paid summer work. That's why the 33 Division Summer Youth Academy at Seneca Polytechnic is such an important step forward. This innovative eight-week pilot program will introduce 40 youth to policing and firefighting while providing them with paid employment. Participants will even earn a micro-credit upon successful completion.

I'm thrilled to be part of this initiative and want to extend my thanks to Mayor Chow and Budget Chief Carroll for their support, as well as to all of our partners—including Cadillac Fairview and the police and fire unions—whose contributions have made this program possible.

Flemingdon Fire Hall

While police 911 response times often receive significant attention, fire service response times are equally critical to public safety. Because the number of firefighters is determined by population, the primary factor influencing response times is the location of fire halls. As traffic congestion continues to worsen, strategic fire hall placement has become increasingly important.

Toronto Fire Services aims to achieve a total response time of six minutes and twenty-four seconds or less, 90 percent of the time. Although most of Ward 16 meets this standard, Flemingdon Park does not. In fact, Flemingdon Park—

along with Thorncliffe Park—experiences some of the poorest fire service response times in the city.

To address this unacceptable situation, City Council approved funding for a new fire hall in Flemington Park. Unfortunately, the limited availability of suitable land means the facility must be located within the parking lot of the Angela James Arena. As a result, eight parking spaces and two of the arena's four tennis courts will be removed.

To mitigate these impacts, the City is entering into an agreement to build a multi-sport court on the adjacent St. John XXIII school property. We are also looking for locations for the much-requested volleyball courts.

Let construction begin!

Quick Notes

- **Grenoble Tunnel Lighting Project Installation:** Spring/Summer 2026.
- **July 14, Flemington Town Hall:** A presentation on the new fire hall and pickleball.
- **10 Deerlick Ct. Traffic Lights:** Still on track for Fall 2026.
- **Mallow Park Lights:** 7-8 lights to be installed late Fall 2026.
- **Don Valley Station:** Fully accessible with both escalator and elevator access.
- **Civitan Arena:** I am pleased to report that we have secured one more season (Winter 2026/ Spring 2027) for the Arena.

PARKS

Splashpads - Coming Soon

Dr. Daniel Hill Park New Splashpad

Construction Start: Fall 2026

Construction Complete: Early 2027

Includes a new splashpad, pathway improvements, and a seating area.



Concept Plan

Ferrand Drive Park Playground Improvements & New Splashpad

Construction Start: Summer 2026

Construction Complete: Fall 2027

Originally, it was planned to include a new splashpad and playground equipment for ages five to twelve, an accessible pathway to the playground area, and seating improvements. We have increased the scope to include a spiral slide, drinking fountain, and a rubberised surface.



Splashpad and Playground Option A

Wigmore Park Playground Improvements & New Splashpad

Construction Start: Late-Spring 2026

Construction Complete: Late-Fall 2026



Existing Site Condition

Fenside Park Playground Project

I have been working with Parks staff to deliver this project earlier than originally planned.

I am pleased to share that community consultation will start in 2026, with construction in 2027.

Graydon Hall Park Outdoor Amenity Improvement

Construction Start: Fall 2026

Construction Complete: Winter 2026

The scope of the project is to complete State-of-Good Repair on existing tennis courts and to create two (2) dedicated pickleball courts featuring new asphalt.

Bartley Park Expansion

Construction Complete: Summer 2026

New junior and senior playground areas, including a rubber surface.



Photos of playground rendering & Bartley Park design layout

Rowena Park Playground Improvements

Construction Start: Fall 2026

New playground equipment for ages five to twelve, rubber surfacing, and a new basketball court.

Sandover Park Play Enhancement

Construction Start: Fall 2026

Construction Complete: Winter 2027

The scope of the project was expanded to include adult fitness equipment.

40 Moccasin Tr. & 50 Greenbelt Dr. Development Update

As many nearby residents are aware, the derelict and mostly abandoned buildings at 40 Moccasin Tr./50 Greenbelt Dr. fell into receivership over a year ago and have since been purchased.

Much of the property was an eyesore and worse.

The new owners plan to start construction this Summer/Fall in accordance with the original 2017 OMB-approved plans for a 4-storey (West Block 40 Moccasin Trail) with 100 units and an 8-storey (East Block (50-60 Green Belt Drive) with 194 units.

Councillor Jon Burnside's Offices

Toronto City Hall

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Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Telephone: 416-397-9256

Community Office

895 Lawrence Ave. E. Unit 205

North York, ON M3C 3L2

(Check our [website](#) for our monthly office hours)

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COUNCILLOR BURNSIDE'S IN-PERSON FENSIDE TOWN HALL

Budget

Parks

Q&A Session



Jon Burnside

Councillor, Ward 16 - Don Valley East


Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Fenside Public School, GYM
131 Fenside Drive

Join Jon at his in-person Town Hall meeting.

This is a great opportunity to discuss ward and city issues. There will be a question-and-answer period where you can provide feedback directly to city staff and Jon himself. There will also be a presentation on Fenside Park by city staff.

We hope you attend, and we look forward to seeing you on June 2nd.

 416-397-9256

 Councillor_Burnside@toronto.ca

 www.Ward16.ca

COUNCILLOR BURNSIDE'S IN-PERSON FLEMINGDON TOWN HALL

New Fire Station

Crime & Safety

Q&A Session



Jon Burnside

Councillor, Ward 16 - Don Valley East

**Tuesday, July 14th, 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**Dennis R. Timbrell Resource and
Community Centre
29 St Dennis Dr, North York**

Join Jon at his in-person Town hall meeting.

This is a great opportunity to discuss ward and city issues. There will be a question-and-answer period where you can provide feedback directly to city staff and Jon himself. There will also be a presentation on the *new fire hall*, as well as a presentation from guest speaker Edward Brown.

We hope you attend, and we look forward to seeing you on July 14th.



416-397-9256



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www.Ward16.ca



Jon
BURNSIDE

City Councillor, Ward 16 Don Valley East

Visit our Website or give
us a call!



416-397-9256



www.Ward16.ca

Free Compost!

*While supplies last

May 9, 2026

9:30 am

Donway Covenant

United Church

230 The Donway W

Remember to bring a shovel and bucket/bags.



Jon
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City Councillor, Ward 16 Don Valley East

Visit our Website or give
us a call!



416-397-9256



www.Ward16.ca

Free Compost!

*While supplies last

May 24, 2026

9:30 am

Victoria Village
Public School

88 Sweeney Dr

88 Sweeney Dr


Remember to bring a shovel and bucket/bags.



Jon BURNSIDE

City Councillor, Ward 16 Don Valley East

Visit our Website or give us a call!

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COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS

MAY 30

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fenside Arena

30 Slidell Crescent, North York

Reuse, Recycle and Safely Dispose of Unwanted Items

Free Bagged Compost



Please do not bring: construction waste, air conditioners, textbooks, kitchen appliances beyond repair, Garbage and Blue Bin recycling, wood, commercial/ industrial hazardous waste, cassette and videotapes, tires, and scrap metal.



Call **311** Visit toronto.ca/environment_days






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 www.Ward16.ca

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAYS

JUNE 20

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Donwood Plaza

55 Underhill Drive, North York

Reuse, Recycle and Safely Dispose of Unwanted Items

Free Bagged Compost



Please do not bring: construction waste, air conditioners, textbooks, kitchen appliances beyond repair, Garbage and Blue Bin recycling, wood, commercial/ industrial hazardous waste, cassette and videotapes, tires, and scrap metal.



Call **311** Visit toronto.ca/environment_days



Coffee with Jon

Wednesday, July 8

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Jon Burnside's Constituency Office

895 Lawrence Ave. East Suite 205

Come by our office for a cup of coffee and a casual chat.
It's a great way to connect, ask questions, or just stop in to say hello.



Jon Burnside

Councillor, Ward 16 - Don Valley East



416-397-9256



Councillor_Burnside@toronto.ca



www.Ward16.ca

PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Reimagining the Future of the Ontario Science Centre

**SATURDAY, MAY 23RD
1:30 PM TO 3:30 PM**

Metro Hall Rotunda
55 John Street, Toronto

- Take the TTC -



**Free
Parking!**



CRIME PREVENTION EXPO

**JOIN US
IN PROMOTING A
SAFER COMMUNITY!**



**Wednesday April 29
2:00PM-7:00PM**



**Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave E
Toronto, ON**

Opening Remarks 2:00PM

**An engaging afternoon focused on community safety,
crime prevention, & well-being.**

Guest Speakers:

33 Division Superintendent Donovan Locke & Councillor Shelley Carroll

Featured Vendors

- Knightwatch Alarms
- Paladin Security
- Metalex Security Solutions
- Victim Services
- Canadian Tire
- Avante Security Inc.
- Nichelle Laus & 416 Tactical Supply
- TD Bank
- Canada First: Home Security
- Window Armour
- Don Mills Collegiate students
- Attorney General Q & A
- Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.
- Canadian Hearing Services
- Hammer Fitness
- Assaulted Women's Helpline
- Senior Safety Helpline
- Bank of Canada
- Blue Pencil
- CAA
- Toronto Fire Services
- SecurUs
- TPS Communications Unit- Sgt. Laroche

Don Mills Middle School

Presents



We're collecting new, unopened boxes of cereal to donate to the local food bank

The Goal is 500 Boxes

But, before donating the cereal boxes, students will create a giant domino chain with the boxes throughout the school. The more cereal boxes donated, the longer the domino chain!

**Donate a box of cereal or two between
May 4 - 15, 2026**

Collection/Drop off Point:

Don Mills Middle School

17 The Donway E, North York, ON M3C 1X6

Any questions or for more details please contact us at 416-395-2320

Thank you for supporting Don Mills Middle School and the Community

LEASIDE LAWN BOWLING CLUB OPEN HOUSE

10am - 4pm
Saturday
May 9th



☀️ All ages welcome—drop in and
learn to **LAWN BOWL** with us



190 Hanna Rd

We'll show
you how!

STRONGER TENANT PROTECTIONS STARTS WITH YOU.



SCAN QR CODE



Closes March 30th, 2026

The Empowered Tenants Project invites renters living in the City of Toronto to share your experiences accessing resources and navigating housing challenges in a short survey - a few minutes of your time and feedback can help strengthen tenant protections across Ontario!

Languages Available:

English	Chinese	Spanish
French	Portuguese	Tagalog
Amharic	Punjabi	Tamil
Arabic	Somali	Urdu
Bangla		

Sign up to learn more about the Empowered Tenants workshops for a chance to receive one of ten \$50 gift cards!



FEDERATION OF
BLACK CANADIANS /
FÉDÉRATION DES
CANADIENS NOIRS



Toronto
Community
Benefits
Network



Department of Justice
Canada
Ministère de la Justice
Canada



Stronger Together!
REGENT PARK
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION



Right to Housing
in Toronto



REGENT PARK
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

HOUSING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EQUITY

COMMUNITY SERVICES

neighbourhood
pods TO

RPTRA
Regent Park Toronto English Association

STRONGER TOGETHER!
REGENT PARK
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION

RIGHT TO HOUSING
IN TORONTO

FINANCIAL LITERACY
ENTREPRENEURIAL
SOCIETY HUB

CANADIAN
CENTRE FOR
HOUSING RIGHTS

ACTO
TDCP

Do You Rent in Toronto?

The Empowered Tenants Project invites you to share your experiences accessing resources and navigating housing challenges as a renter in Toronto in a short survey - a few minutes of your time and feedback can help strengthen tenant protections across Ontario!



Sign up to learn more about the Empowered Tenants workshops for a chance to receive one of ten \$50 gift cards!

Survey closes on March 30th, 2026!

www.bit.ly/etpsurvey26



We Want to Hear From You!



Toronto
Community
Benefits
Network



Department of Justice
Canada
Ministère de la Justice
Canada



Strangers Together!
REGENT PARK
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION



Kensington-Bellwoods
Community Legal Services



FINANCIAL LITERACY
ENTREPRENEURIAL
SOCIETY HUB



ACTO
TDCP



REGENT PARK
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE



BRÉ
HOUSE



TNG
Community Services



neighbourhood
pods TO



RPTRA
RIVERSIDE PARK TORONTO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Right to
Housing
in Toronto



Canadian
Centre for
Housing Rights



New Circles
CLOTHING · CONNECTION · COMMUNITY

BOOK YOUR SHOPPING APPOINTMENT AT GLOW!

Free Shopping for the Whole Family

Looking for a fresh start with a new wardrobe? GLOW (Gently Loved Outfits to Wear) is here for you!

We are proud to offer Toronto's largest free clothing program to individuals and families in need. From warm winter coats to workwear, everyday outfits to children's clothing, GLOW has everything your family needs — **at absolutely no cost.**

As a donation-based organization, item availability varies on donations.



What You'll Find at GLOW:

- Clothing for men, women, and children.
- Seasonal wear, shoes, accessories & more.
- A dignified shopping experience in a welcoming space.



REGISTER NOW



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info@newcircles.ca

New Circles Community Services | 44 Mobile Drive | Toronto | M4A 2P2 | newcircles.ca

Charitable Registration Number 83634 3673 RR0001

The Serenata Singers' 50th Anniversary

*Celebrating half a century
in song*



THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER

Michael Morgan, Director ♦ Stan Farrow, Piano ♦ Matthew Coons, Piano

Thursday
May 7th, 2026
2:00pm

Friday
May 8th, 2026
7:30pm

Scarborough Bluffs United Church
3739 Kingston Road
Parking at rear 

Tickets: \$25/Adult \$10/under 12

For tickets call:

Charlotte 416.887.1249



www.serenatasingers.ca

Your feedback is important, so please remember that you can always contact me directly by [email](#) or by phone [416-397-9256](tel:416-397-9256). Let me know if there are any items that you would like to see included on the website or in our email newsletter. And, if there are any community events you would like me to attend, please contact my office.



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Community Office

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(Check our [website](#) for our monthly office hours)

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