

Water & Hydro for New Developments

I understand the concern when a significant development is built in our community. While height and density are often primary considerations, the potential negative impact on essential services also warrants attention. The drive to build more housing has made the fight for responsible heights and density more complex. Fortunately, protections are in place regarding water and electricity services.

Toronto Water is involved on all applications from the outset. They review the existing infrastructure and capacity (storm, sanitary, water supply) and if any upgrades are necessary, the developer is responsible for covering all associated costs.

Notably, new developments must include on-site water storage tanks that capture rainfall and gradually release it into the storm sewers, aiding in flooding prevention during intense rain events. Toronto Hydro ensures that new connections do not compromise the service to current customers, maintaining a safe and reliable supply. If additional capacity is needed, the required infrastructure is built out, with the developer bearing the responsibility.

Did You Know?

The majority of the finished compost comes from the Yard Waste program, while five to ten per cent comes from the Green Bin program.

One part compost should be mixed with six parts soil.

Our Team

I've got the best team at City Hall working for you!



Connor, Ahmed, Jon, Lynda, Vicky, Robert, Mary and Paula

Presented by
TCEU-Local 416 & Councillor Jon Burnside

MOVIE NIGHT

Inside Out 2

Tue, Aug 19, 2025

Starts at 8 PM

Aga Khan Park
77 Wynford Drive

Keep In Touch

Toronto City Hall Office
100 Queen Street W, Suite B33
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Constituency Office
895 Lawrence Ave E, Suite 205
Toronto, ON M3C 3L2

Thank you to everyone who attended our community events - we hope to see you at the next one!

With Jeff Sigmund at our Flemingdon Town Hall in January

With Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award recipient Mebs Dhalla at the Don Mills Town Hall in March

A lighter moment at our Compost Day at Victoria Village P.S. Pictured with Rey Velasco.

With Stanley Lum at Fenside Arena. Our 3rd Compost Day this Spring!

Providing pickup service for our Environment Day event- we helped Norm Reynolds and Elsie Orchanian to dispose old electronic devices and hazardous items.

IN-PERSON TOWN HALL

Monday, Oct 6, 2025
6:30-8:00 PM
Victoria Village Public School
88 Sweeney Drive

Monday, Nov 17, 2025
6:30-8:00 PM
Ranchdale Public School
60 Ranchdale Crescent

It's a great opportunity to discuss ward and city issues, and for me to hear your feedback. See you there.

Coffee with Jon

Wednesday, Dec 3, 2025
9 AM - 12 PM
Constituency Office
895 Lawrence Ave. East, Suite 205

Hope you can drop by!

To stay updated on local and City-wide news, and receive notices for Ward 16 events, sign up for our E-update at my website.

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Jon BURNSIDE

City Councillor, Ward 16 Don Valley East

SUMMER 2025 COMMUNITY UPDATE

2025 City Budget

Last year, the Mayor stated a 9.5% increase was needed to “dig out of the hole she inherited”. However, this year, the fiscal hole created was of her own making.

Although I opposed the budget, under the strong Mayor powers, councillors no longer vote on the budget itself. This year’s tax increase was 6.9%.

As a result of the New Deal with the Province, we received an extra \$400 million in operating funding -- the equivalent of a 9% property tax increase.

I strongly believe in the provision of City services which are our responsibility such as roads, water, emergency services and parks. Unfortunately, this budget reinforces spending in many areas which should be provided by senior levels of government including the building of affordable housing. Almost 20% of those on the list for Rent-Geared-to-Income housing live outside of Toronto. Why are our property taxes being used for non-Toronto residents?

Are Toronto taxes too low? Here are some interesting facts:

1. Toronto is the only municipality with a Municipal Land Transfer Tax (MLTT). In essence, it “front loads” property taxes so that annual property taxes are more manageable. Most comparisons omit the MLTT as part of the calculation. However, without it, annual property taxes would be 18% higher.
2. Most municipal comparisons examine the “mill rate” which is the percentage of the property value used to assess one’s property tax. This is a crude way to measure the tax burden. A more accurate assessment would be the residential taxes paid “Per Household” or as a “Percentage of Household Income”. Using either, Toronto households have the highest tax burden in the GTA when including the MLTT.
3. Toronto is the only municipality in the GTA which charges separately for waste disposal, adding approximately \$400 per year.
4. The budget does have some positive aspects. For instance, there are additional funds for our parks, as well as the Toronto Police Service's hiring plan that will help address their service standards.

Checking out Gabby & Reynold's cat cage during our weekly "Friday in the Community" canvass.

Honoured to be invited to celebrate Eid in Flemingdon Park. Pictured with Aleem-UD-Din Syed and Adnan Jameel.

FIFA

With the FIFA World Cup twelve months away, the excitement is increasing for many but so are the challenges the City faces.

In 2022, when Council agreed to bid on being one of sixteen host cities (not exactly special...) the estimated cost of \$300 million was shared amongst all levels of government. The City’s portion was \$101 million.

Although the easily measurable benefits of hosting FIFA largely accrued to the federal and provincial governments (increased HST), a main “selling” point for Toronto was the opportunity to showcase itself to the world. I wasn’t on Council at the time but worried about the timing given our state of disrepair. Whether it’s ever-present graffiti, large encampments in parks, overflowing trash cans or deteriorating infrastructure, I felt our money and effort was better spent on improving our City.

Three years later the only thing that has changed is the cost. It has increased to \$380 million (mostly assumed by the City) with potentially worse news to come. The City assumed that services normally provided by each level of government (provincially – extra policing, healthcare etc.) would not be expensed as part of the donation. However, the Province sees it differently with \$40 million of said expenses currently being negotiated.

Regardless, Council has agreed to cap its payment with a potential alternative being a scaled back games. We still have time to address many issues, but the political will needs to be found.

Civitan Arena Closure

Unfortunately, the day has come. The Don Mills Civitan Arena will likely be closed at the end of the 2026 season.

While the arena is long past its prime, the timing is a huge blow to the community. I am especially worried about the Don Mills Civitan Hockey League (DMCHL).

In the 2021 updated agreement between the City and Cadillac Fairview, the decision to trigger the land swap at the Shops of Don Mills was made at the sole discretion of Cadillac Fairview -- provided they gave the City 12 months notice. That notice was recently received.

Unfortunately, the construction of a new twin pad facility down the road won’t be completed until 2031. In the meantime, City staff will make every effort to accommodate the DMCHL house league and other community arena users at other facilities as close to Don Mills as possible.

911 Call Centre

One of the biggest challenges Toronto has recently faced is 911 response times. For anyone needing immediate assistance, each second seems like hours.

The situation had become such a crisis that in 2023, the average response time was 22 minutes. To Mayor Chow's credit, her budget added police funding which has resulted in a reduction to 18 minutes. However, this is still unacceptable as the standard is six minutes.

Although we often think of the need for more police officers, 911 operators are a crucial link that is often overlooked. I recently had a fascinating tour of the 911 call centre. To say it was busy would be an understatement. As the first point of contact, operators work under extremely stressful conditions – especially when they must calm callers until an officer becomes available and arrives on the scene. One can only imagine trying to reassure a frantic individual for 20 minutes.

Handling over 120 calls per eight-hour shift, Toronto is the busiest call centre in the province with exposure to critical traumatic injury a constant issue. Like police officers, backfilling staff is a long and arduous process. With training taking 18 months and a 40% failure rate, proper staffing levels are a never-ending challenge.

Street Cleaning on Garbage Day!

I've recently heard concerns regarding the street cleaning schedule overlapping garbage pick up.

Many residents improperly leave their bins on the road, so street cleaners are forced to go around -- thereby missing large sections of roadway. Intuitively, the suggestion to schedule both services separately made sense but, unfortunately, I learned this would be impossible due to other logistical considerations. Some interesting facts:

- It takes approximately 10 weeks to clean our entire Ward 16.
- Each ward has one street sweeping machine that cleans about 8 km/day.
- Street cleaners must drive full bins back to their depot at Leslie & Sheppard - 2 to 3 times/day.
- Roads are classified as arterial, collector or local; local roads are cleaned once every 60 days.
- Ward 16 has almost 300 km of curbs to be swept.
- There are many interruptions due to sick days, courses, vacations and (most commonly) equipment failure.
- Routes are mapped out as efficiently as possible and strictly adhered to so that nothing is missed.

Civic Pride in Action

We are lucky to live in a community with such wonderful people. Here are a few people who make life better for others in Ward 16:

Adil Patel

A big thank you to Adil for his 16 years of dedication helping to operate (with Toronto Police) the **ProAction Hockey League** in Flemingdon Park. Over a thousand kids played for free and benefited immensely from his years of hard work!



Ben Groos & Daniel Kunanec

Don Mills C.I. teachers Ben and Daniel received the **Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching** for their Tasting History project, which used food, culture and storytelling to help students explore the past and connect it to their own identities and experiences. Thanks for your creativity and going the extra mile.



Park Updates

• Wigmore Park

Playground & Splash Pad
Issues with selection of contractor.
Summer 2025: Construction phase planned to commence. **Fingers crossed.**

• Flemingdon Park

Construction has begun!

• Ferrand Park

New Splash Pad & Playground Improvement
Summer 2025: Public consultation
Spring 2026: Construction begins

• 40 Grenoble

New Park at Flemingdon
Summer 2025: Construction begins
Winter 2026: Construction complete

• Dr. Daniel Hill Park

Splash pad design and consultation: 2025
Construction timeline to be confirmed

Constituency Office

As part of my ongoing commitment to be as accessible to the community as possible, I have decided to expand our local community office hours. We're located at **895 Lawrence Ave East (2nd floor)**. Feel free to drop in and say hi.

Office hours:

Tuesday to Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Our office hours may change from time to time. Please check our website before your visit. For an appointment with Jon, please call us in advance.



Thanks to everyone who came out to our coffee chat. Pictured with Salhi (on the left) and Susan McAlister (on the right).

Planning & Development

The development applications at **1 Broadlands Blvd. and 150 The Donway West** were a concern to many residents. Although both applications were rejected at North York Community Council, City Council agreed with City Staff recommendations and the applications were overwhelmingly approved.

In support of the community, I voted against the proposals, but the changed political reality -- municipally, provincially and nationally -- meant this was a very steep hill to climb. With the pretext of a housing crisis, the decades-old goal of protecting the integrity of neighbourhoods has been turned on its head. The Federal government is tying housing funding to the elimination of "exclusionary zoning" and the Province is providing cash incentives to the City based on the number of new housing starts. Last year, Toronto received \$114 million for exceeding its housing targets. The City has essentially taken an almost "anything goes" stance regarding intensification in and around neighbourhoods.

Despite the hard work of Ward 16 residents to highlight the community's concerns, fighting inappropriate development remains difficult in today's housing climate. Living on an adjacent street to the Donway East, I understand the residents' concerns firsthand. Approximately 150 metres from me is a four-tower proposal ranging in heights from 28 to 36 storeys. Unfortunately, my proximity legally prevents me from any involvement. However, suffice it to say, I am steadfast in my commitment to continue working with residents on all other proposals to get the very best outcomes for our communities.

Speed Cameras Update

As part of the City's road safety plan, a sizeable investment has been made in the use of automated speed enforcement (ASE). The number of cameras has increased from one per ward in 2019 to six currently, for a total of 150 city-wide.

Provincial regulations stipulate that ASE can only be employed in **Community Safety Zones (CSZs)**, of which there are currently 39 in our ward. These zones are designated by City Council and follow the parameters of close proximity to schools, seniors' residences, or a multitude of other vulnerable road users.

Due to the cumbersome nature of rotating cameras and the consistent number of vehicles travelling at extremely high speeds in certain areas, one of six cameras in each ward will be installed permanently. That location is yet to be determined in Ward 16.

While I generally support automated speed enforcement, I am keenly aware that unsafe driving is about more than speeding in certain areas and that we need to be mindful of relying too heavily on automation at the expense of the use of police officer presence throughout the ward. Of interest, approximately 26% of tickets are spoiled due to obstructed licence plates. (Last year alone, over 18,000 drivers were charged with obstructing their licence plates.)

Although Transportation Services ultimately decides on the placement of speed cameras, my office can recommend worthy locations (from the list of Community Safety Zones) based on community feedback. If you would like to share your traffic concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

In The Community



A big thanks to **Toula (on the right)** and the **Scotiabank Don Mills branch** team for their efforts in the Clean Toronto Together initiative. I was disappointed with the amount of trash on the banks of the Don Valley Parkway. On a 100-ft stretch we filled six bags of garbage! Lots more work to do.



I was delighted to be invited by Beth Painter-Main to the **8th Don Mills Scouts and Venture Troops Electronics Drive**, a great initiative to collect e-waste. Pictured with Scouters Michael, Liz, and Janette.



Paula and I were helping out at the **Sloane Public School Fun Fair** with our cotton candy machine - always a hit with the kids!



A great time at the **Parkwoods Hockey League's outdoor Winter Classic** at Broadlands Rink. Thanks to Rosemary and the gang for putting on an amazing event. Pictured from left to right: Richard Paton, Michelle Fullerton, Crosby Star (aka Jeff Armstrong), Alexander Hilliard, and Rosemary Cooke.



Thank you to Rashida Walji for the kind invitation to celebrate Eid and Nowruz with seniors at the **Fountain View Care Community**.