

WARD 11 JANUARY NEWSLETTER



City Councillor
Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

Dianne's Desk

Dear neighbour,

Happy New Year to all Ward 11 constituents as well as Torontonians across the city. The task of being a City Councillor is endlessly challenging and fascinating, and I am grateful for the opportunity. A special thanks to the dedicated city staff I have had the chance to work with since assuming office on November 15th.

Our first few weeks were dominated by the Ford government's onslaught of changes to our city through Bills 3, 109, 23, and 39. Although the full consequences are not yet known, the cumulative damage is likely to be substantial. For example, Ford's changes have cost the City at least \$350 million / year, all of which was desperately needed to provide infrastructure for the hundreds of thousands of new residents. Paving the Greenbelt and other aspects of Bill 23 will be devastating for liveability, affordability and sustainability. The City's powers to insist on good design and to obtain community benefits from developers have been slashed. And important tenant protections may be lost, without notice, when Ford adopts a new regulation.

Nevertheless, Council made important progress on long-overdue issues such as rooming houses and housing zoning reform. I have been pushing hard to improve safety for walkers and cyclists. My office is also working on hundreds of other constituency issues, including zoning applications and appeals, construction management, noise, poor road and sidewalk maintenance, mental illness and homelessness/encampments. And we are supporting other councillors on issues such as protecting the Osgoode Garden.

Work will start this month on my various committees, including the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Project Green and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors. I will also be chairing the city's Francophone liaison committee. December brought invitations to volunteer and we highlight a number of worthwhile community organizations in our Volunteering section.

However, the biggest issue this month will be the 2023 City budget. The budget is where priorities are translated into action. The new strong mayor powers mean significant changes, including a more dominant role for the mayor, and less time for public input. The mayor will propose his budget on January 10 and it must be approved by February 14. See below for all the key dates, and please join our Ward 11 Budget Town Hall at 7 pm on January 15.

If you want a budget that raises enough money to keep the city in good repair, takes effective climate action, or otherwise expresses your values, I encourage you to submit comments on the budget. Public input matters. Written comments are requested by January 18. To appear in person (physically or remotely) before the Budget Committee on January 17, you must register by 4:30 pm on January 16.

We recommend that you make three key points, and ensure you ask for things the City can actually do. Please reach out to my office for any assistance, or visit [this information link](#).

With the whirlwind of provincial Bills, plus some technical difficulties, we had a slow start answering some constituent emails. Thank you for your patience as we got our new constituent management system up and running. If you have an outstanding issue and have not heard from us yet, please get back in touch. We are always glad to hear from you at councillor_saxe@toronto.ca.

Our new website is now under development at <https://www.diannesaxe.ca/>. The full website will be launched this month, with calendar, development updates, and contact information.

Dianne Saxe



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2023 City Budget

The City is preparing the budget for 2023. Here is a list of key dates and other important information. Please refer to these details if you would like help delegating to council or to attend the Ward 11 Budget Town Hall. For the city's own summary visit the [budget portal](#).

Key dates in this year's budget process:

- January 10th - Mayor Tory will present his 2023 budget to the budget committee.
- January 12th at 7 PM - A volunteer from my team will be offering peer-to-peer support to anyone wanting to submit a written or verbal delegation to the budget committee.
- January 12th and 13th - Staff will submit their presentations to the budget committee.
- January 15th at 7 PM - We will hold a Ward 11 Town Hall, focusing on the Budget.
- January 17th from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM - An opportunity for residents of downtown wards to speak to the budget committee.
- January 18th - Deadline for written public submissions on the budget.
- January 24th - Budget committee meets to consider motions to amend.
- February 1st - Special council meets to debate the budget.
- February 14th - Deadline for council approval of the budget

Ward 11 Budget Meeting

To learn more about the proposed Budget, and to share your comments with your neighbours, please join us at 7 pm on January 15, when my office will be hosting a Budget Town Hall. We are looking for your feedback about whether this Budget will build the City you want to live in, and what changes you would like to see. Please register for the Town Hall [here](#):

We encourage you to make your voice heard as the City's Budget Committee considers the proposed Budget.

There are three ways to comment:

1. Write directly to the Budget Committee. Address your email to buc@toronto.ca, or your letter to Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2. If possible, submit before by 5 pm on January 18. This email will be made public.
2. Speak directly to the Budget Committee the morning of January 17. Register by email, addressed to buc@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4666, no later than 4:30 pm on January 16.
3. You can also share your feedback privately by sending my office an email at Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca with the subject line "Budget Feedback"

City Hall Updates



Last month's Council session was held on December 14th and 15th. Key results include:

1. After many years of failed efforts, this Council passed a bylaw to **authorize and regulate rooming houses** across the entire city. This should lead to a significant increase in the availability of lower-cost single-room-occupancy dwellings in Toronto, and better compliance with fire codes, building codes, and similar protections for their tenants.
2. The Mayor launched a major revision of Toronto's **zoning bylaws for housing**, which must come back to Council in the spring. Councillor Saxe successfully moved to amend this 2023 Housing Action Plan so that it must now "further Toronto's climate goals and good planning, including enhancing the public realm and encouraging the creation of vibrant 15 minute neighbourhoods where most local trips are made by active transportation or by transit." The amendment was adopted 25-1.
3. Councillor Saxe moved her first stand-alone member's motion, directing Transportation staff to report in March on how to **improve cyclists' safety** when passing the many construction sites along the Bloor bike lanes. The motion aims to provide safe cyclist movement without requiring them to share a lane with cars and trucks, or to share sidewalks with pedestrians. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie, and adopted 24-2.
4. Along with most councillors, Councillor Saxe voted to oppose Bill 39, the **minority-rules strong mayor powers** that were not disclosed during the election campaign. Additionally, Councillor Saxe was one of only nine councillors who also voted to refer Bill 39 to the executive committee so the public could make deputations. That was the only way members of the public would have had a chance to be heard about this major change to our municipal government. Unfortunately this motion did not pass.
5. Council voted to request a public enquiry into the egregious **delays afflicting the Crosstown Eglinton** subway, and which might be repeated on Metrolinx's other upcoming projects.

For more details, search the relevant dates on the [highlights link](#). For full information on Council committees, meetings, and votes, visit the Council & Committee section of the [city website here](#).

[Register to Online Town Hall](#)

Each month, Councillor Saxe will field questions from the community on her vision for and the direction of our community. This month there will be a special focus on the city's 2023 budget, and how you would like to see money being spent.

Community News



Vision Zero Improvements

Far too many people die and are injured on Toronto streets because they are unsafe by design. Vision Zero is the city's plan to cut road deaths and injuries by using targeted data from priority areas. This provides for street design improvements, traffic law enforcement, and better education of our road users. The program protects the most vulnerable: school children, older adults, pedestrians, and cyclists.

How is VZP being implemented in Ward 11? The Engineering and Construction Services team advises that advanced lights for pedestrians are being installed across the Ward, including at Davenport and Dupont. In addition, four intersections will be reconstructed:

1. Bedford Road at Prince Arthur Avenue and Lowther Avenue: Summer 2023 to 2024
2. Herrick Street at Palmerston Boulevard: early July to early August 2023
3. Yarmouth Gardens from Manning Avenue to Palmerston Avenue: early July to early August 2023

4. Yorkville Avenue from Bay Street to Avenue Road: early July to early August 2023

A reconstruction is also planned for Dupont in 2025, including safety improvements at Davenport and Dupont, subject to capital and staff resources.

Toronto Catholic District School Board - Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the Toronto Catholic District School Board begins January 25, 2023 10am EST. You can register online at soar.tcdsb.org. For more information call 416-222-8282 or visit tcdsb.org/kindergarten.

City Notices & Development

Midtown Yonge Complete Street

The Yonge Street Complete Street Pilot will come to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for approval on January 30. If you have suggestions for how the Pilot can be improved, please share them at this link: [Midtown Yonge ActiveTO Complete Streets Pilot Feedback Form](#)

No one person has all the answers. I want to hear your ideas, your opinions, and your feedback so that we can build a better city and better community together.

Development Meetings

1. 505 University and 180 Dundas Community Consultation Meeting
 - Register for January 18th, 6PM: [City of Toronto Web Conferencing - Register Meeting \(webex.com\)](#)
 - Planner: Derek Waltho: Derek.Waltho@toronto.ca
 - [505 University application](#)
 - [180 Dundas application](#)
2. College Street (from Manning Avenue to Bay Street) - 22ECS-TI-09SP was delayed to Spring 2023 + 506 streetcar service resume January

2023

- [Infrastructure Improvements on College Street from Manning Avenue to Bay Street \(toronto.ca\)](#)
3. To safely remove the Glen Road Pedestrian Bridge structure that spans over Rosedale Valley Road, there will be a full closure of Rosedale Valley Road from Park Road to Bayview Avenue, starting at 12 a.m. on Saturday, February 4 until 6 a.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023. Ahead of the bridge removal work, there will be no access to the multi-use trail on the same section of Rosedale Valley Road from Friday, January 13 to Friday, January 27, 2023, to allow work crews to prepare the area by installing erosion control and safely setting up the required equipment. Access to the multi-use trail will temporarily reopen from Saturday, January 28 to Friday, February 3.
- More info: [Glen Road Pedestrian Bridge & Tunnel Replacement – City of Toronto](#)
4. Recent meetings on proposed development projects include:

Address	Meetings Attended	Planner on File	Application Information Centre Link	Next Steps
208 Bloor Street W.	Community Consultation, residents, developers, city planning, and city legal	Corinna Prior, Corinna.Prior@toronto.ca	Information	Ongoing discussions
1087-1091 Yonge St.	Community Consultation	David Driedger, David.Driedger@toronto.ca	Information	Reaching out to residents in the near future to start discussions
1080-1088 Yonge St.	Community Consultation	Chris Pereira, Chris.Pereira@toronto.ca	Information	Reaching out to residents in the near future to start discussions

38 Walmer Rd.	Community Consultation, site visit, residents, working group, developers, and city planning	Corinna Prior, Corinna.Prior@toronto.ca	Information	Ongoing discussions, working group in January
350 Bloor St. E.	Community Consultation, city planning, developers	Corinna Prior, Corinna.Prior@toronto.ca	Information	Reaching out to residents in the near future to start discussions
914 Bathurst St.	Community Consultation, city planning, residents	Chris Pereira, Chris.Pereira@toronto.ca	Information	Reaching out to developers, site visit upcoming
717 Church St.	Site visit, residents, developers, city staff	David Driedger, David.Driedger@toronto.ca	Information	Ongoing discussions with all stakeholders
145 St. George	Residents, developers, city staff	Corinna Prior, Corinna.Prior@toronto.ca	Information	Ongoing discussions with all stakeholders, Bill 23 implications

Our office planner Holli Butrimas can be reached at by email at holli.butrimas@toronto.ca or by phone at 416-392-4010 should you have questions, comments or concerns about any planning or development issues.

Community Events & Programming



The Centre Cannot Hold: Labourious Memories

Presented by: Art Museum at the University of Toronto

The Centre Cannot Hold: Labourious Memories considers artistic labour in relation to community building, activism, and memory. Curated by three MVS graduate students, the exhibition is composed of three sections. Works by Mary Kavanagh, Morris Lum, Soledad Fátima Muñoz, Bélgica Castro Fuentes, and Amaranta Ursula Espinoza Arias.

When:

Tuesday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Thursday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Saturday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Every week until June 30th.

Where: 170 St George St. 10th Floor

Cost: Free

Just Beyond

Presented by: Art Gallery of Ontario

One of the finest painters to emerge in the 1990s, the late Trinidadian-

Theatrum Orbis Terrarum

Presented by: Art Gallery of Ontario

Named after the first modern European world atlas, **Theatrum**

Canadian artist Denyse Thomasos (1964-2012) left an indelible, yet frequently overlooked, mark on contemporary painting. A career retrospective, **Denyse Thomasos: Just Beyond**, brings together more than 70 paintings and works on paper, many rarely seen, to show how she challenged the limits of abstraction, infusing personal and political content onto her canvases through the innovative use of formalist techniques. Through pattern, scale and repetition, Thomasos conveys the vastness of events such as the transatlantic slave trade without exploiting the images of those who were most affected.

When:

Tuesday, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, 10:30 am - 9:00 pm

Thursday, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Friday, 10:30 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday, 10:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Sunday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Every week until February 20th

Where: Art Gallery Of Ontario, 317
Dundas St W

Cost:

Adult: \$25.00

25 and Under: Free

Free admission to collection galleries every Wednesday from 6-9 pm. Tickets must be pre-booked online.

Orbis Terrarum (Theatre of the World) consists of four videos projected sequentially onto four white globes. Working with layers of image and sound, Mohawk artist Alan Michelson incorporates a Haudenosaunee perspective through music as well as the words of Mohawk activists Richard Oakes, leader of the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz, and Ellen Gabriel, a spokesperson during the 1990 Kanien'kehá:ka Resistance (or "Oka Crisis") in Quebec. *Theatrum* brings together material from dozens of maps, illustrations, paintings, photographs, videos, and audio, to disrupt five hundred years of colonial history through powerful displays of Indigenous resistance.

When:

Tuesday, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, 10:30 am - 9:00 pm

Thursday, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Friday, 10:30 am - 9:00 pm

Saturday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sunday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Every week until April 30th

Where: Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas St W

Cost:

Free admission to collection galleries every Wednesday from 6-9 pm . Tickets must be pre-booked online.

The AGO offers complimentary

The AGO offers complimentary admission to all Indigenous Peoples.

admission to all Indigenous Peoples.

Reservations / Advance Tickets are required for this event.

Online: tickets.ago.ca

Black Women in Leadership Exhibition

Presented by: City of Toronto and Black Artists Networks

Featuring portraits of 40 Black women leaders by four Toronto-based visual artists, Janice Reid, Leyla Jeyte, Jon Blak, and Patricia Ellah. Curated by Sarah Edo and Belinda Uwase, **Black Women in Leadership** celebrates and highlights contributions from Black women leaders across various sectors including arts and culture, business, health and wellness and activism. These women have led and continue to inspire change in their communities and have paved the way for the next generation of Black women leaders through community involvement and advocacy.

When:

Monday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Every week until August.

Closed weekends and statutory holidays.

Where: City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Rd

Cost: Free

Volunteer Opportunities

Feeding the Hungry

December is a time of celebration and service for many. Thank you to the excellent local organizations that fight hunger in University-Rosedale. In

December, I volunteered at:

- The [Avenue Road Food Bank](#) is a Daily Bread member food bank located in and operated by the Church of the Messiah at 240 Avenue Road.
- The [Fort York Food Bank](#) in the southwest of Ward 11 is an enthusiastic multiservice agency, providing a community resources center along with food support.
- St. Peter's Church at 840 Bathurst St. runs a "Winter Welcome Table," offering a meal and warm hospitality from late fall until spring. [Get involved today.](#)
- At 502 Spadina Ave., the [Scott Mission](#) provides 50 shelter beds for homeless men seven days a week. Food, clothing, and hot meals are provided to families at no cost. Councillors Saxe and Malik helped to serve dinner on December 25.

I was also honoured to visit Reverend Maggie at St. Stephen's in the Field at 103 Bellevue Ave. who runs a number of community programs, and hosts a small encampment in the church yard. Reverend Maggie and the Neighbourhood Group are working hard to reduce debris, improve fire safety, and to help the occupants find housing.

These are just some of the community groups helping their neighbours in Ward 11. Remember that food banks and drop-in centres need volunteers, donations, and monetary support all year round.

Women's College Hospital is Looking for Volunteers

Whether you're looking to get involved in healthcare or just want to lend a helping hand, there's always an opportunity to give back at Women's College Hospital. This is a great volunteering option for those with 3.5 hours a week that they're looking to fill with meaningful work.

[Volunteers | Women's College](#)

Community Living Toronto - A Chance to Help the Differently Abled

Make a real difference in your community by contributing to Community Living Toronto as they work to create a society where everyone belongs and where everyone is valued. Community Living Toronto exists for people who want their differently abled children to live in the community, not in an

[Hospital \(womenscollegehospital.ca\)](http://womenscollegehospital.ca)

institution.

[Volunteer With Us!](#)

Meals on Wheels

The Neighbourhood Group is looking for volunteers for Meals on Wheels to volunteer one day per week between Sundays and Thursdays. Volunteers must be able to commit one day per week between 10:30 am to 1:00 PM. They are looking for people to both help as drivers and as runners (volunteers who deliver the meals to the door and check on the client). If you are interested, contact Nina Shwaizer Safary, 416.691.7407 ext. 236 or email volunteer@neighbourhoodlink.org.

The Scott Mission

The Scott Mission is hoping that you can assist in their mission to provide for the destitute and less-fortunate in our community. Whether you'd like to help in the kitchen, sort food and clothing donations, distribute lunches or work in the overnight shelter, there are many different ways for you to help out and make the world a little warmer.

[Volunteer – The Scott Mission](#)

The Scott Mission also offers the chance to tour the premise and get a sense of how their critically vital operation runs, so you can see first-hand how your contribution will help.

[Book A Tour – The Scott Mission](#)

Neighbourhood Spotlight



Chinese New Year

Every month we plan to do a special feature on a community group, event, or neighbourhood feature that helps make Ward 11 a great place to live, work, and raise a family. This January it's time again to celebrate Chinese New Year! We wish Happy New Year to all residents celebrating as well as the Chinese community across Toronto.

This is the Year of The Rabbit, one of twelve zodiac signs celebrated on the Chinese lunar calendar. The centre of festivities in Toronto are just across the ward boundary on Spadina Avenue. Visit Chinatown Centre (222 Spadina Ave.) or Dragon City Mall (280 Spadina Ave.) from 11 am to 5 pm on January 21 & 22 (Saturday & Sunday).

Admission is free and all are welcome. Traditional activities include the Lion Dance, Folk Dance, Chinese Orchestra, Calligraphy, and Zodiac Fortune Telling. There will be cultural booths and lucky draws throughout the weekend Mahjong King competition. The wonderful food of Chinatown will be on display as usual, along with special New Year Cooking.

The two-day celebration is organized by the Chinatown BIA, which you can visit here: <https://chinatownbia.com/>. You can also call for more details at (416) 260-9800. We would like to thank the association as well as all the individual businesses for making the celebration possible. See you there!

Climate Action Toronto

Annex Tree Losses

The Annex Residents' Association just completed the first tranche of its 10 year re-survey of local trees.

In 2011, there were 2139 trees on three Annex streets. Only 1603 of them now exist. Thus 536 trees, or a full 25%, are missing. Only 231 young trees have been planted to replace those missing trees and a tiny little sapling cannot be expected to do the work of a mature tree, let alone half the number of them.

To be down over 1 in 4 trees in a decade is devastating news. Many of the remaining trees are now nearing the end of life and many more are finding it hard to survive under these very stressful conditions. The pollution in the area is high and their roots are often covered with asphalt or trodden upon or poisoned with salt.

Trees are so important for a livable community. Researchers found that residents who live in heavily treed areas have lower instances of heart attacks and other heart health risks. Trees absorb excess rainwater and reduce the odds of flooding. Trees also provide evaporative cooling (in addition to shade). This means in the urban heat island that is this concrete jungle, trees help keep us cool – a critical function as climate change ravages our cities.

We absolutely cannot afford to lose our urban forest. The city promised that it would increase the urban canopy to 40% by 2050. Instead, we see a drop in canopy coverage which is now around 22%. We need the city to step up its efforts.

The ARA is raising money to hire this summer's forestry student to continue this survey. If you can, please be generous. They have a \$15k goal to get 2 students working this summer. To make a donation go to theara.org.

More Electric Vehicle Chargers

LI have been pushing to install more electric chargers in Ward 11 and across the city. Here are the chargers that were installed in December and those tentatively planned for 2023:

14 Existing Chargers in Ward 11: University-Rosedale

Location	On or Off	# of Chargers	Type
705 Shaw St	On-Street	2	L2
41 Inglewood Dr	On-Street	2	L2
365 Lippincott St (Car Park 51)	Off-Street	10	L2
Total		14	

42 to 44 Planned Chargers for Installation in 2023 in Ward 11: University-Rosedale (TENTATIVE)

Location	On or Off	# of Chargers	Type
Christie St (S of Dupont St)	On-Street	2 to 4	L2
20 Charles St E (Car Park 1)	Off-Street	30	L2
74 Clinton St (Car Park 111)	Off-Street	4	L2
19 Spadina Rd (Car Park 231)	Off-Street	6	
Total		42 to 44	

Elsewhere in the City, charges are now available at these Green P parking lots:

	On or Off	# of Chargers	Type

302 Queen Street West (Car Park 262)	Off-Street	4	L2
City Hall (Car Park 36)	Off-Street	8 and 3	L2 and DC Fast
YD Square (Car Park 34)	Off-Street	8	L2
268 Dockside Drive (Car Park 286)	Off-Street	5	L2
13 Delisle (Car Park 13)	Off-Street	4	L2
Total		32	

Many more will be added in 2023.

Contact & Connect With Us

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, reply to this email and please let me know.

You can also send an email to councillor_saxe@toronto.ca if you'd like to share an event or news item with your community through this newsletter.

For updates on the local issues that matter to you, please check out and follow our social media accounts!

Councillor Dianne Saxe
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