

BEDFORD PARK BULLETIN



... your community voice is more important than ever before!

April 2019



RE-ROUTING LAWRENCE BUSES

One of our concerns is the increase to cut-through traffic into the Bedford Park community.

The bus terminal at the Lawrence TTC station is scheduled for underground re-surfacing beginning in June. The project will continue until at least the end of 2019 and will reduce the number of buses that can be accommodated in the station during construction. As a result, certain buses will need to find an alternative location to turn around.

The TTC is proposing to re-route empty buses from the Lawrence station, west on Lawrence and north on Avenue Road, to turn around at a TTC-owned loop just south of Roe Avenue. The buses would return to Lawrence station by reversing this route.

BPRO has voiced our concerns to the municipal gov-



Backed up from Avenue Road.

ernment and the TTC. We are worried about increased traffic congestion and risk to pedestrian safety. Lawrence and Avenue Road is a precarious intersection and we feel the inherent risks created by increased bus traffic, especially *turning* bus traffic, should not be taken lightly by the TTC.

The northeast corner of this intersection is particularly crowded with pedestrians – youth walking to one of four schools in the vicinity, TTC users waiting at the bus stop, people crossing to Shoppers Drug Mart, etc. Foot traffic will only increase, as will the safety risk to pedestrians, once the new Starbucks opens this spring.



Photos: Su Keen

Count five buses in this photo, at 3:30 pm. And we'll have more?!



Photo: Kirsten Cooke

Pedestrian crowds at Lawrence and Avenue Road.

Another of our concerns is the increase to cut-through traffic into the Bedford Park community. Frustrated drivers already divert onto our residential streets because of the traffic backlog on Avenue Road and westbound Lawrence.. We don't need more of this.



Photo: Su Keen

Cut-through traffic, in this case, exiting the neighbourhood.

We also cannot ignore the traffic pressures that will mount in our area with three large condo projects – the resumed construction of 1700 Avenue Road at Fairlawn, the continuing excavation and construction of 1580 Avenue Road at Bedford Park Avenue, and the upcoming development of 250 Lawrence.

Today's existing traffic volume in our area is bad enough. BPRO will vigorously oppose any proposal that increases the risk

to pedestrian safety or that adds to the already high volume of shortcut traffic through our residential streets.

“The Better Way” needs to find a better way to manage this problem!

We have urged Mike Colle, our Ward 8 Councillor, and Jaye Robinson, TTC Chair, to find a safer, more workable solution. We feel the impact on our neighbourhood is too great to proceed with this proposal.

BPRO, along with other concerned neighbourhood groups and individual residents, would like to see the Roe Bus Loop site revitalized into a new parkette. Our collective community is starved for green space so a park, albeit small, would be a big improvement.

On April 3, Councillor Colle's office advised us that a meeting will be arranged with his staff, TTC and Councillor Robinson to discuss the issue and work to find an alternative solution. BPRO has requested representation at this meeting. We will keep you updated on progress.



Photo: Su Keen

Avenue Road construction slow-downs are never-ending.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

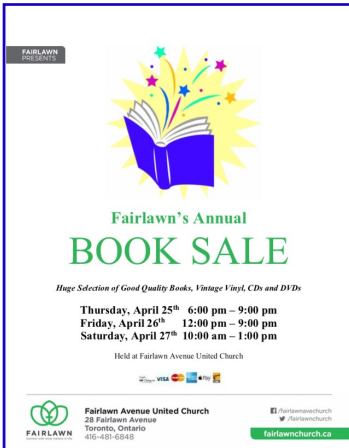
Mark your calendar!



FAIRLAWN UNITED CHURCH BOOK SALE

28 Fairlawn Avenue

April 25 - April 27



Looking for a new home for your gently used books, CDs, DVDs or LPs? Need some new books or music just in time for spring? Visit Fairlawn Church's 58th annual book sale:

Thursday, April 25: 6 - 9 pm

Friday, April 26: Noon - 9 pm

Saturday, April 27: 10 am - 1 pm

Donations to the sale should be dropped off in the main lobby no later than Monday April 15. For more information on what specifically will be accepted (and what won't be), please visit www.fairlawchurch.ca/events/booksale.



CITY-WIDE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

On your street

April 27 - 28



Thank you for responding to the flyers we posted all over the neighbourhood. We recently removed all of them, though if we missed one, please take it down for us.

After you've visited the Fairlawn United Church Book Sale, please consider participating in Toronto's annual spring clean-up initiative, *Clean Toronto Together*. Thousands of residents and community groups will do their part and pick up litter from public spaces to keep our city clean and green.

Since there are very few public parks and open green spaces in the Bedford Park community, we were unable to identify an appropriate location to clean-up. For safety reasons, we did not choose the Douglas Greenbelt ravine. We'd like to see improvements to this public parkland first, as part of the 250 Lawrence development.

So instead ... we urge you and your neighbours to gather on April 27 or 28 and clean up your own street. Take a photo of your group, send it to us at info@bprotoronto.ca and we will post it on the BPRO website.

Let's keep our neighbourhood clean!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mark your calendar!



COMMUNITY SAFETY NIGHT

125 Chatsworth Drive (high school auditorium)

Wednesday May 1, 7:30 – 9:00 pm



Learn the facts about crime in our community and how to prevent it. Topics discussed will include:

- Break-in and auto theft crime statistics
- What, when, how to report
- Prevention techniques to protect your home

Toronto Police Service and our Councillor Mike Colle will be in attendance.

This event is hosted by our neighbouring resident associations, South Armour Heights Residents' Association (SAHRA, to our north) and Upper Avenue Community Association (UACA, to our west) who have generously extended an invitation to all BPRO members and subscribers.



COMPOST DAY

200 Eglinton Avenue West (North Toronto Memorial Community Centre)

Wednesday May 8, 2:00 pm



Hosted by our Ward 8 Councillor Mike Colle, come out to pick up FREE compost for your garden. Bring your own containers, shovels and gloves. *Compost is limited so arrive early.* Event is rain or shine.



COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAY

200 Eglinton Avenue West (North Toronto Memorial Community Centre)

Thursday June 6, 4:00 – 8:00 pm



Join Ward 8 Councillor Mike Colle, Councillor Josh Matlow and community members. Do your part to create a greener and cleaner Toronto. Drop off reusable and recyclable items such as clothing, small appliances and electronics. For details please visit www.toronto.ca.



TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOOD SUMMIT

BPRO attended



Community activist Dave Meslin organized the one-day Toronto Neighbourhood Summit, which BPRO attended on April 6. The agenda was to share ideas between various resident organizations, learn from each other, and discuss ways to work together across the entire city. Meslin is lobbying for a way to increase citizen participation in municipal decision-making in light of the smaller 25-ward system. It was an informative day and the audience at the conclusion of the summit voted to authorize Dave to continue working on how a city-wide organization focusing on this kind of activity might be structured. BPRO looks forward to reviewing the results of Dave's further work.



IS SOMETHING AMISS?

BPRO Neighbourhood Pride



Problem.



Problem solved.

Let's call it *BPRO Neighbourhood Pride*.

If you see something amiss in the neighbourhood, please don't hesitate to report it. If everyone assumes someone else has already called, then the issue may take weeks to be resolved. This fallen street sign was reinstalled shortly after being reported. You can call 3-1-1, or our Ward 8 Councillor Colle at (416) 338-2500, or email him at councillor_colle8@toronto.ca.



UPDATE

250 Lawrence

BPRO continues to monitor the initiation of the Site Plan Working Group. This group will be involved in the next stages of planning and will include BPRO representation. We'd like to see improvements to the Douglas Greenbelt ravine to enhance our community's public green space, which is heavily deficient.

For the Bedford Park Bulletin:

Design & Layout, Editor: Su Keen
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... your community voice is more important than ever before!

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