

## **GBNA update, December 2012**

### **Reminder: join the GBNA “Christmas Mingle”!**

Many people and many groups have worked hard on issues that matter in our neighbourhood. GBNA is comprised of many of these groups and the ‘Mingle’ is a great chance to meet across organizations and to keep the ‘network’ alive!

**Tuesday December 18, 7.30-9.30pm**  
**Naval Club, 1910 Gerrard St E. (just west of Woodbine)**

Snacks and drinks available. Join us!

### **Queen Street update - Urban Design Guidelines information session**

*Update from Uwe Sehmrau (TBERA) & Jeffrey Levitt (BTRA), co-chairs GBNA Visioning Study Committee.*

The new Urban Design Guidelines for Queen Street East have now been ratified by Toronto City Council, making these guidelines the most recent "Council approved" planning direction to be used by the Planning Department and the Committee of Adjustments in assessing development applications along Queen St. E. in the Beach.

GBNA's participation in the Visioning Study, which led to these guidelines, proved to be a valuable experience for our Association not only for the involvement in creating new tools to help in the protection of the character of Queen Street, but also in building respectful relationships with staff and elected officials at City Hall.

In our endeavor to witness positive results from the new guidelines, GBNA will proceed with the following actions:

1. To the degree permitted, GBNA will engage itself in the planning application review process.
2. Facilitate a community information event to bring about a better understanding of how the new guidelines apply to the "built form" along Queen Street. This event will be sponsored by the Toronto Beach East Residents Association (T-BERA), a member organization of GBNA, during the latter part of January.

**Please indicate your interest by return email** so that we can secure an appropriate location.

### **Storm water management update**

*Update from Chris Howling (KBNA) Chair of the GBNA Water Management Committee, Hans Looije (BTRA), Neil Sinclair (BWCA)*

The GBNA Water Management Committee attended the Dec 3 Storm Water Management meeting at the Balmy Beach Club hosted by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon. A number of city Water Management folks were also in attendance, including Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, City of Toronto Water Division. The city focused on three areas in its presentation to residents and Residents Associations such as TBERA, BTRA, BRAT, KBNA, BBRA and BWCA (full names at the bottom of this email).

The City covered the following points:

- **Basement flooding**

*An update on the current infrastructure and the issues with it as it relates surface and basement flooding in the Ward.*

They reviewed the results of the Environmental Assessment study on Basement Flooding in Ward 32 and the progress that has been achieved. The improvements include increased capacity on some Queen Street sewer feeders and extra catch basins at the foot of Lee Ave and Waverly Ave. They also spoke about work to keep the storm-water overflow outlets on the beach clear of sand and debris after storms that caused high wave action on the beach. The Kew Beach Ave interim remediation's identified in the EA have not been addressed yet. They include the disconnection on the Woodbine Development streets currently connected to the Woodbine Ave feeder to retention tank in front of Kew Beach. No timeframe was provided as to when this task would be completed, but the City indicated there was a provision to accelerate it on an emergency basis.

- **Downspouts**

*Information on the impact of downspouts on the storm water and combined sewer lines and the need for residents to continue with disconnection.*

Although the deadline for mandatory disconnection has passed, the City will not be pursuing potential fines on residences for not meeting the deadline.

We, the GBNA and the RAs in attendance, were asked to remind our members to continue with the disconnect program. Although funding has been discontinued for this program, other programs are still available to subsidize the installation of back-flow preventer and sump pumps. This information is available on the City's website [http://www.toronto.ca/water/cs\\_programs.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/water/cs_programs.htm).

- **Impact on infrastructure**

*Review of the process for assessing new development impact on the infrastructure.*

We were assured that the current guidelines for assessing the impact of rainfall on a site were adequate and that the system can accommodate the additional

effluent and storm water runoff. They also discussed how they monitor developers to meet those guidelines. If a site is seen to be impacting storm water lines and combined sewers, developers are required to install holding tanks to store this water until the storm has passed. They can then empty the holding tanks. The city does not monitor the maintenance and management of these tanks, but does monitor the flows into the systems. It was pointed out to the City that the new Rainsford development was connected directly to the Rainsford street sewer line instead of the Queen Street line and this matter should be investigated. It could present a potential flooding problem for residents north of the site. Another issue was tabled regarding development fees: the current fees charged by the City are too low and are not being distributed appropriately. The City officials responded that these fees and how they are calculated are defined by the Province.

• **Information links**

Wet Weather Flow Master Plan -

[http://www.toronto.ca/water/protecting\\_quality/wwfmp/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/water/protecting_quality/wwfmp/index.htm)

Area 32 Basement Flooding Environmental Assessment -

[http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/basement\\_flooding/sa\\_32.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/basement_flooding/sa_32.htm)

Downspout Disconnection -

[http://www.toronto.ca/water/protecting\\_quality/downspout.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/water/protecting_quality/downspout.htm)

Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program (including Backwater Valve Subsidy) -

[http://www.toronto.ca/water/sewers/basementflooding\\_protectionsubsidy.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/water/sewers/basementflooding_protectionsubsidy.htm)

September 2011 WWF + BF update report -

[http://www.toronto.ca/water/cleanwaterways/pdf/wwfmp\\_n\\_basement\\_flooding\\_protection\\_program\\_update.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/water/cleanwaterways/pdf/wwfmp_n_basement_flooding_protection_program_update.pdf)

• **Conclusion**

In closing and in light of this update meeting , the Water Management Committee will pursue the following:

- 1) Continue to monitor the remediation plans identified in the EA and work with Councillor McMahon and the City to accelerate these plans where feasible.
- 2) Continue to monitor new developments in the Beach area to ensure they

adhere to the City's water-management guidelines.

- 3) Pursue options for the City to increase development fees that can be allocated directly to infrastructure initiatives.

## **Friends of Glen Davis Ravine fundraising**

*A message from Jan Hykamp*

As you may recall, our FOGDR friends launched an OMB appeal last year in response to a development proposal on Kingston Road, at the top of the Glen Davis Ravine. While the action was site specific, the case has broader relevance in terms of protecting our ravines and their overall importance to Toronto. OMB appeals are costly and FOGDR has been on a continual fund raising campaign ever since.

Martin Gladstone, a community activist and contributor to GBNA, has been an energetic and creative force assisting in their fundraising effort. Martin (who was the lead singer and rhythm guitarist for the popular Toronto band “The Grottybeats” in the 1980’s) and two partners have created a fabulous CD for the holidays, featuring 17 beautiful songs of the Beatles. Part of the proceeds will go to ongoing support of FOGDR, please visit: [www.cdbaby.com/martingladstone](http://www.cdbaby.com/martingladstone) to sample and purchase this beautiful music. Share with others and on Facebook, give generously! Contact [kipmccaskill@gmail.com](mailto:kipmccaskill@gmail.com) for further information about FOGDR and ways in which you can help them.

### **Thank you!**

On behalf of the GBNA team, thank you for your interest in the community and your support for GBNA this year. Have a happy holiday season and our very best wishes for next year - we hope to see you at the GBNA 'Christmas Mingle'!!

Jan Hykamp

#### **GBNA member or participant associations:**

Beach Triangle Residents Association (BTRA)  
Beach Waterfront Community Association (BWCA)  
Kew Beach Neighbourhood Association (KBNA)  
Toronto Beach East Residents Association (TBERA)  
Friends of Glen Davis Ravine  
Friends of Norwood Park  
Beach Residents Association - Toronto (BRAT)  
Balmy Beach Residents Association (BBRA)

[www.gbna-toronto.com](http://www.gbna-toronto.com)

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