

GBNA update, January 2013

Queen Street / Woodbine Avenue development

Two development applications have been submitted for the North West and North East corners respectively of Queen Street and Woodbine Avenue. Both of these applications appear to exceed the new Urban Design Guidelines (UDG) for Queen Street East in significant ways, including overall height, street-wall height, angular planes and more.

On December 14, GBNA participated in a meeting chaired by Councillor McMahon and including staff from the Planning Department, the Developer and the Beach BIA. It was encouraging to hear both the Councillor and the Planner express their support for the UDG in evaluating these applications.

At this time, the Planning Department is waiting for an updated proposal from the developer, after which it will schedule the mandatory community meeting for an update. GBNA is following these applications closely and will send a newsflash as soon as further information is made available to us.

Historical Society / Heritage Conservation District

A number of community meetings have been held recently to look at the benefits and the process of obtaining a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) designation for the Beach. It became quickly clear that the absence of a local Historical Society in these discussions made a detailed and thoughtful analysis very difficult.

During the most recent meetings on January 9 and 16, it was agreed to try to rejuvenate the Beach and East Toronto Historical Society founded in the 'seventies and active until several years ago. Councillor McMahon attended the January 16 meeting and indicated support for a broader community event during February (details pending). Rejuvenating the Society offers a number of advantages, including an established historical archive and more. Its revival will benefit the community in the long run and provide a knowledge base from which a potential HCD application can be assessed.

Guiding GBNA is our inherent interest in Planning policies and guidelines that result in compatible development within our communities. GBNA applauds the effort to bring back BETHS as we believe it will add valuable expertise in helping the community determine what steps it wishes to take towards HCD status.

Traffic, Transit and Parking in the Beach

Monday, February 4th, 7.00pm
Balmy Beach Club (foot of Beech Avenue)

Councillor McMahon is hosting a Toronto Transportation Information Session as a result of the Queen Street East Visioning Study. This follows a similar initiative on Water Management issues at the Balmy Beach club in December.

Representatives from Transportation Planning, Transportation Services, the TTC and the Toronto Parking Authority will give presentations and answer questions about current and future transportation issues in our community. This event speaks to issues that are of considerable concern in the Beach. We highly recommend attending.

YMCA/Kingston Road update (by Hans Looije, BTRA)

The East City YMCA, located at 907 Kingston Road near Beech Avenue, is slated for redevelopment with a new 24- 30,000 sq. ft. facility built to LEED (leadership in environmental and energy design) building standards. The new YMCA centre will include a gymnasium, a pilates studio, strength and conditioning areas, and spaces for youth and community programs as well as affordable rental accommodation on upper floors.

YMCA is reportedly exploring a joint development partnership with Mitchell and Associates and plans to rezone the property for a combined YMCA/residential development. No specific building proposals appear to have been made at this time.

Beach Waterfront Community Association (Update by Neil Sinclair)

The Beach Waterfront Community Association has completed its first year in which we participated on the Advisory Committee of Waterfront Toronto and the acceleration of the Portland's development. The result was to underline the importance of the environmental and diversification of land use and the opening of new development closer to Lakeshore just west of our geographical concerns.

One of our Board members is bringing new signage to the bikeway along the Boardwalk, with the assistance of our Waterfront Parks Manager Mr. James Dann. The BWCA also was an active participant in the Queen Street visioning study in recognition of the importance of the services on Queen Street connected with the local, city and tourist visitors to one of Toronto's significant natural and recreational resources.

BWCA is pleased to be working with GBNA on Water issues throughout Ward 32 many of which continue to have a direct impact on Lake Ontario and our Blue Water status. In 2013 BWCA will be releasing a policy on safety in the Beach and exploring heritage designations in connection with the Beach and the enhancement and preservation of some of our City's important landmarks. One of the next goals is to redevelop our web site to give a wider perspective on issues that affect the use and enjoyment of our stakeholders and community

including our local residents, residents in our terrific city and many visitors to our picturesque shoreline. For more information visit www.bwca-toronto.com or email neil@neilsinclair.ca.

Thank you!

On behalf of the GBNA team, thank you for your support during our 'maiden' year 2012! Check our website for an update on 2013 priorities and more!

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 (FOGDR)
Friends of Norwood Park
Beach Residents Association - Toronto (BRAT)
Balmy Beach Residents Association (BBRA)

www.gbna-toronto.com

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