

CITY COUNCILLOR

# Shelley Carroll 高雪莉

WARD 17 DON VALLEY NORTH



COMMUNITY UPDATE SPRING/SUMMER 2021

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## Dear neighbours,

It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and I know it's been a challenging one for all of us. With the vaccination effort well underway, the end of this difficult time is at last in sight.

My office has received hundreds of inquiries throughout the pandemic, and I've dedicated a full section of this Community Update to important information and resources related to our vaccine response.

I am hosting a special telephone town hall on Wednesday, April 14 at 6 PM to give you a chance to get your pressing questions about vaccinations answered by Dr. de Villa from Toronto Public Health and Karyn Popovich from North York General. Read on to find out how you can take part.

While COVID-19 remains our most pressing concern, there's still plenty to discuss. We have updates on the environment, parks, development, infrastructure, and much more.

And don't forget to subscribe to my weekly E-Blast. It's a great way to keep in touch and stay up to date on what's happening right here in Don Valley North. Visit [shelleycarroll.ca/subscribe](http://shelleycarroll.ca/subscribe) to join the conversation.

Sincerely,

## COVID-19 Updates

### Vaccination Response



The COVID-19 vaccination effort is a major undertaking to get us closer to the end of the pandemic. The City of Toronto has opened mass immunization clinics across the city to help Torontonians better access vaccines following the Provincial government's priority framework. To book an appointment, visit [www.toronto.ca/covid-19](http://www.toronto.ca/covid-19) or call **1-888-999-6488**. To get the latest updates on COVID-19 and vaccines, visit [shelleycarroll.ca/covid-19](http://shelleycarroll.ca/covid-19).

### Mental Health Supports

COVID-19 has added significant anxiety and stress to our lives. I've heard from many residents facing tremendous personal challenges as a result of the pandemic who are feeling isolated and anxious. It's important to

reach out for help if you're feeling distressed. There are many services available to support your well-being, both city-wide and here in Don Valley North. To learn more, visit [shelley.carroll.ca/resources](http://shelley.carroll.ca/resources).

## Community Safety

### Crime Prevention

Many residents have reached out to my office over the past few months to share concerns about a variety of safety issues in their neighbourhoods. It is my priority to ensure you feel safe in your community and have the necessary tools to address issues as they arise.

I keep in regular contact with our officers at Division 33 to ensure they're aware of your concerns. They can provide you with support and tips for crime prevention.

Here are some helpful police contacts:

- Emergencies: **9-1-1**
- Non-emergencies: Call **416-808-2222** or file a report online at [torontopolice.on.ca/core](http://torontopolice.on.ca/core)
- Division 33's Crime Prevention Officer (Constable Henry): **416-808-3395**

Have a general question or concern about safety in your neighbourhood? Email [councillor\\_carroll@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_carroll@toronto.ca).

### Vaccine Town Hall

COUNCILLOR SHELLEY CARROLL'S  
**COVID-19 VACCINE  
TELEPHONE TOWN HALL**  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:



Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Medical Officer of Toronto



Karyn Popovich  
President and CEO, NYGH

**WEDNESDAY  
APR 14  
6PM-7PM**

# Parks & Environment

## Gypsy Moths



Homeowners in Don Valley North were impacted by gypsy moth infestations last summer resulting in various levels of tree damage. In 2020, over 7000 trees were surveyed in Ward 17, with 756 scheduled for egg mass removal and 58 designated for pesticide treatment.

I want to thank residents for working with us to manage infestation. If gypsy moths are a problem for you this upcoming season, please let my office know and visit my resource page [shelleycarroll.ca/gypsy-moths](https://shelleycarroll.ca/gypsy-moths).

## Duncan Creek



Construction is well underway to restore Duncan Creek. This important work started last summer to protect the creek from erosion. Crews have nearly completed the first phase of the restoration and have commenced re-installing the recreational trail.

The trail is set to re-open this summer and will allow us to again enjoy the creek's beautiful scenery and take full advantage of our outdoor spaces here in Don Valley North. For more information about this work, visit [shelleycarroll.ca/duncan-creek](https://shelleycarroll.ca/duncan-creek).

## Summer Park Enhancements

The Cummer Park playground at 6000 Leslie St is about to get a major re-design. The new playground area will include upgraded play equipment, accessible pathways, a gathering area with shade and seating, and wood chip surfacing for enhanced safety. The design of the play structure and park layout was developed over the winter through community consultation. Visit [toronto.ca/CummerParkPlayground](https://toronto.ca/CummerParkPlayground) for more information.

## Add me on WeChat!

WeChat ID: ShelleyCarroll

我也通过微信为大家提供市政讯息，欢迎大家扫二维码或搜索ShelleyCarroll添加我为微信好友。



## Finch Hydro Corridor



This pandemic has pushed many of us outside into parks and green spaces in our neighbourhoods. I'm sure some of you have wondered, "What if these spaces could become something even better for the community?" The one space that residents have spoken to me about is the Finch Hydro Corridor between Bayview Avenue and Pineway Boulevard.

This summer, my team and I will begin conversations with you to explore new community-building and recreational opportunities along the corridor. Particularly, we're looking for community champions to advocate for different uses and possibilities. If you have ideas to share or are interested in working with us, email us at [councillor\\_carroll@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_carroll@toronto.ca).

## Environment & Compost Days

We know Environment & Compost Days are very important to Don Valley North. We originally planned to have Environment Day and two Compost Days in advance of gardening season. Unfortunately, the City has had to cancel all events until July 1st due to COVID-19. We are planning to have an Environment Day in the fall and hope you'll join us then!

## Park Pop-Ups



I'm bringing my office to a park near you! Last year we held several pop-ups in parks across Ward 17. We're planning to meet with residents again this summer as safely as possible.

With so many parks in the Ward, we're looking for suggestions on which ones we should visit next. Email my office your recommendations and keep track of where we're visiting next by subscribing to my weekly E-Blast and following me on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### TTC

During the pandemic, the TTC has seen ridership drop to historic lows. As a TTC Commissioner, I have paid close attention to this. Early on in the pandemic, hundreds of TTC employees were laid off in an attempt to save money. We quickly saw the impact: overcrowding on dozens of routes used by frontline workers, including Finch East. I successfully fought to recall workers in order to match service to the new demands on the system. We can't afford to have people lose faith in the TTC's ability to deliver a safe commute.

In other news, the TTC and Mayor Tory supported my push to proceed with new vehicle purchases, even without commitments from other levels of government. Why is this a big step? Ordering a subway car, streetcar, or bus isn't like ordering from Amazon. Procuring these major assets takes a long time. With our order in, we won't see new streetcars until the end of 2022 or early 2023. This order will also secure more buses sooner, many of which will be hybrid or fully electric. While the City will leverage Mayor Tory's City Building Fund to increase transit as we recover from COVID-19, we all must continue to advocate for dedicated funding from other levels of government.

### Sheppard Avenue Watermain Upgrade

This spring, the City of Toronto will be cleaning and structurally relining the watermain along Sheppard Avenue East from Leslie Street to Parkway Forest Drive, and Buchan Court. A reminder that traffic on Sheppard will be impacted until the work is complete.

## Housing Updates & Supports

### Short-Term Rentals



An online registration system for Short-Term Rentals (STR) launched in 2020 and the City has since pursued a rigorous licensing regime to ensure accountability. If you notice a STR is operating without registration, not used as a principal residence, unsafe, making a nuisance or for non-emergency reasons, please contact 311 or my office to escalate enforcement further. For more information, visit [shelleycarroll.ca/short-term-rentals](https://shelleycarroll.ca/short-term-rentals).

### Rooming Houses

My team is working diligently with residents and by-law officers to address concerns about rooming houses here in Don Valley North. As we work through these issues on the ground, the City is undertaking a review of its policy on rooming houses. This will include a series of public consultations and it's extremely important to

### Bessarion Community Centre



A new, multi-use community centre that will also house a childcare centre and Toronto Public Library branch is currently under construction in the Sheppard Avenue East and Bessarion Road area.

The construction is expected to be completed by summer 2022 and open to the public later next year.

### Sheppard Avenue Reconstruction

There is a planned road reconstruction project on Sheppard Avenue East between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street in 2022.

In addition to resurfacing the road, City staff is considering changes such as widening sidewalks and adding bike lanes. There will be a public consultation later this year before a final decision is made and I hope you'll take part. To stay up to date on this project, be sure to subscribe to my E-Blast.

### Tenant Issues & Resources

Since my last newsletter, tenants have seen a temporary moratorium on evictions in the early part of 2021 and a province-wide rent freeze announced for the rest of the year. But this has not stopped far too many tenants from experiencing issues such as attempted Above Guideline Increases (AGIs), broken utilities, threats of renovations and more.

Last December, my team released our **Winter Tenant Guide** which was sent out to thousands of residents in Don Valley North. We also worked to assist tenants experiencing out-of-service elevators, lack of snow clearing and other concerns.

I encourage you to continue to communicate your concerns to my office so that we can provide help for your particular issue. You can also check out my special **Tenant Resources Guide** which has links to important groups like the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and Willowdale Community Legal Services. Visit [shelleycarroll.ca/resources](https://shelleycarroll.ca/resources) for a full list of links and resources for tenants.

me that your voice is represented at these meetings. To learn more about rooming houses and get updates on the consultations, visit <https://shelleycarroll.ca/rooming-houses>. If you have concerns about a rooming house operating in your neighbourhood, please contact my office.

# Development

## Development Applications & Growth

This past year, we have seen an accelerated growth in development in Don Valley North with over 30 active applications in all corners of the ward. Residents, City staff, my team and I are all grappling with the many effects of this tremendous pressure to increase our housing supply.

I have attended many virtual community meetings in the last few months for contentious development propos-

als such as 1 Heron's Hill, 630 Finch, 680-688 Sheppard and 1181 Sheppard. I saw first-hand how challenging the virtual consultation format can be for residents who want to have their voices heard.

My team and I will host additional meetings with residents to discuss these proposals, ideally in-person when it is safe. For more information about development in our ward, visit [shelleycarroll.ca/development](http://shelleycarroll.ca/development).

## Cummer Avenue Reconstruction



Cummer Avenue between Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street is scheduled for road reconstruction starting in **May 2021** following final approval by City Council. The planned improvements include reducing roadway widths, lowering speed limits, improving pedestrian crossings, and adding protected bicycle lanes. The project also provides an opportunity to replace damaged sections of the road, curb, and sidewalk. In December 2020, a virtual public meeting was held where community members had the opportunity to offer feedback on the Cummer reconstruction. You can find more information at [toronto.ca/CummerAve](http://toronto.ca/CummerAve).

## Pleasant View Library



In 2014, our community voted to create a Digital Innovation Hub at Pleasant View Library through participatory budgeting. This project was delayed as the City waited to receive the necessary Section 37 funds. I was able to renegotiate with the developer to get those funds now so we can get started on this important project. My request to add the Pleasant View Branch Design project to the 2021-2030 Capital Budget was supported by City Council in February. Next, an architect will consult with the community on potential designs for the library. I will keep you updated as we continue to make progress on this exciting project.

# In the Community

## Don Valley North Youth Council



Last fall, we established a Youth Council of local high school and post-secondary students. Through our virtual Youth Council meetings, we've been able to engage on a number of issues that are important to our community, such as development and policing.

I'm glad our youth have a place to have their voices heard while learning about the issues they find important. Thank you to all of our current Youth Council members for making this such a successful program! You can find out more about getting involved in the DVN Youth Council at [shelleycarroll.ca/youth-council](http://shelleycarroll.ca/youth-council).

## Neighbourhood Associations



I want to highlight some of the great initiatives that have been led by our neighbourhood associations. These events are a great way to support community members and keep them up-to-date during the pandemic.

- The **Bayview Village Association** hosted a Health Town Hall and will hold their 5th Tree Giveaway in the spring.
- The **Henry Farm Community Interest Association** organized virtual sessions for painting and baking.
- The **Brian Village Association** has worked hard to keep residents informed during the pandemic.