

CITY COUNCILLOR

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WARD 17 DON VALLEY NORTH



COMMUNITY UPDATE FALL 2023

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Dear neighbours,

There's nothing I love more than fall in Don Valley North. This year, I have a special request of you—to share your thoughts on our **2024 City Budget**.

I am proud to now be serving as **Toronto's Budget Chief** and the **Mayor's Economic Development & Culture Champion**. I understand the great responsibility that comes with both of these roles as Toronto struggles with a growing affordability crisis and continues to recover from the impacts of the last few years. Rest assured that affordability and quality of life are always top of mind in my work.

The reality of next year's budget is grim—our city faces a \$1.5 billion funding gap for the 2024 Operating Budget. We are hard at work exploring every option possible to address that gap. As Budget Chief, I am participating in a line-by-line review of the budget to find efficiencies and savings without sacrificing service levels. In the long term, I am also working with Mayor Chow to create a sustainable funding model and secure a new deal for Toronto from the Provincial and Federal governments.

This month, we launched a **Pre-Budget Consultation Process** to hear your priorities for our 2024 budget. I hope you will join one of our in-person or virtual engagement sessions, or participate in the online survey to share your thoughts. Find the full list of dates and other ways to get involved at toronto.ca/budget.

Aside from the budget, this newsletter includes updates on a number of exciting local projects and city-wide initiatives, including efforts to **protect our ravines**, a number of local **park enhancements**, expanded facilities at **North York General Hospital**, and much more.

I look forward to continuing to connect with you on the issues that matter most to our community. Be sure to subscribe to my weekly E-Blast to stay up-to-date on these items and more at shelleycarroll.ca/subscribe.

Sincerely,

Want more information on anything here?
Call 416-338-2650



Parks & Environment

Protecting Our Ravines



The City is conducting studies in **German Mills Creek** and **Newtonbrook Creek** to protect these spaces from erosion. Both ravines are home to Toronto Water sewers and water mains, and the resulting work from these studies will protect City infrastructure, improve the creeks' ecological conditions, and maintain these beautiful spaces for all to enjoy. More information can be found at toronto.ca/german-mills and toronto.ca/newtonbrook.

Dog Off-Leash Areas

My office is working closely with City staff on the creation of new dog parks in **Parkway Forest Park** and **Old Sheppard Park**. After an unfortunate delay, I'm happy to report that Parks staff are close to finalizing the design for the off-leash area in Parkway Forest Park, which will include separate spaces for small and large dogs, two new water stations, a shade structure, and increased seating. Updates will be available at toronto.ca/parkway-forest. The off-leash area in Old Sheppard Park is still in the preliminary stages. I'll be sure to keep the community up-to-date on this project through my weekly E-Blast.

Participatory Budgeting Updates



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to vote in our **Bayview Village Participatory Budgeting** process at the beginning of November. This process allowed neighbours in Bayview Village to vote on how to spend \$500,000 in local community benefit funds. I am excited to announce the results of our vote day. In total, all of the projects on the ballot received 396 votes!

Nine of the eleven projects on the ballot were successful, including an improved pathway in **Blue Ridge Park**, improved stairs at **Clarinda Park** leading to the ravine, Bayview Village street signs, seating improvements in three local parks, and more! A special thanks goes out to our project champions who helped spread the word and brought so many neighbours out to our vote days. View the full list of successful projects at shelleycarroll.ca/PB.

Moving forward, my office and I will be working with City staff to action the winning projects. I'll be sure to share updates in my weekly E-Blast, and look forward to seeing these exciting new amenities realized in Bayview Village.

Planning, Development & Transportation

Long-Term Care Expansion at NYGH

There are exciting changes coming to our local **North York General Hospital**. They will be creating a new long-term care and seniors' health facility at 4000 Leslie Street, which will be the largest in Toronto in a generation once complete. NYGH has begun to engage the community on this project, and I look forward to this much-needed facility being built.

Sheppard Line Extension



The Province is finally consulting our community on the Sheppard Line Extension. I've been fighting for a concrete plan and timeline for an extended Sheppard subway for years now. I'm glad to see the Province finally delivering on the long-promised extension for our rapidly growing communities in North York and Scarborough. Learn more at metrolinx.com/sheppard.

Sheppard Road Reconstruction

The major road reconstruction on **Sheppard Avenue East** from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street is tentatively scheduled to begin late next year. This project will include widened sidewalks, enhanced crossings, new transit stop features, cycle tracks, and new plantings and green infrastructure to beautify the street. Together, these aim to make the road safer for all road users. Stay up-to-date on the project at toronto.ca/SheppardAvenueEast.

In the Community

Safer Streets in The Peanut



Last year, I requested that **The Peanut** be included in the next **Neighbourhood Streets Plan** cycle to create a community-guided plan for traffic, road safety, and active transportation in the area. I'm happy to announce that The Peanut has been selected for this program! City staff will work with the community to identify opportunities for short-term and long-term road safety improvements. Visit toronto.ca/NeighbourhoodStreetsPlans to learn how to get involved and share your hopes for the neighbourhood.

Don Valley North Holiday Contest

What better way to celebrate the holidays than showing off your decorating skills! Enter our holiday contest by sending photos of your outdoor decorations to councillor_carroll@toronto.ca by **December 13**. Photos can feature your front lawn or balcony. Winners will receive a special certificate and have their photos shared in my E-Blast and on social media.



Local Library Renovations



Two of our local libraries are receiving major upgrades. Renovations to the third floor of **Fairview Library** are well underway, and are slated to be completed next year. The new space will be fully accessible, with new digital equipment, work and study spaces, and more. During the renovation, holds for pick up have been transferred over to the brand new **Ethennonhawahstihnen' Library**.

The highly-anticipated **Pleasantview Library Expansion** is slated to begin the first phase of construction early next year. Improvements include a 3000 square foot expansion, a Digital Innovation Hub, increased study space, accessibility features, and more. To stay up-to-date on the project, visit tpl.ca/pleasantview.

Steeles Avenue Resurfacing

Steeles Avenue East is undergoing a major road resurfacing from Bayview Avenue to Townsend Road. Work will pause over the winter and resume in spring 2024, with anticipated completion in October 2024. Beyond replacing old asphalt and repairing damaged sidewalks/curbs, this project will upgrade traffic signals, improve TTC bus landing pads, and add a new crosswalk and left-turn calming median at Steeles & Townsend. Learn more at toronto.ca/DonValleyNorth.

Toronto Community Crisis Service

The **Toronto Community Crisis Service**, which is currently operating in four areas of Toronto, will be expanded city-wide by the end of 2024. The program has been extremely successful, diverting 78% of calls with no police involvement and connecting 40% of clients with ongoing supports. I am glad that this non-police-led, alternative model of crisis response will soon be available to all Torontonians. Learn more at toronto.ca/toronto-community-crisis-service.



Budget Town Hall

Save the Date: Monday, January 15th
Fairview Library Theatre

I will be hosting my annual Budget Town Hall in the New Year. This will be your chance to ask questions of City Finance staff and learn more about how the budget shapes the services you rely on. Keep an eye on my E-Blast and website for more details.