

**IMPORTANT:**

Please advise our office if any change in your business address, contact person or if you have any questions or comments about the L.B.P.A Newsletter.

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# L.B.P.A NEWSLETTER

## Letter from the President

Much has happened during the past twelve months in Toronto and Leaside. John Tory has been elected our new Mayor and this seems to have energized City Hall and so more projects are now on the move again. Construction of the new Eglinton LRT is well underway, which is, as expected, causing a great deal of traffic headaches for all. This will continue for the next several years. It is also expected that the LRT will bring much more development along Eglinton from Laird to Brentcliffe, as well as on Laird so stay tuned for a lot more delays and urbanization.

Traffic and congestion continues to be a significant concern for businesses within the Leaside Business Park, especially for trucks that have to navigate around many more cars. With the additional development along Eglinton, Laird and Overlea Boulevard there is likely to be more cars cutting through the Park and disrupting existing businesses. One bright spot for businesses, although not popular with everyone, as evidenced by the very close vote at City Hall, it was decided that the Gardiner Expressway would remain an expressway, rather than a ground level boulevard. This will help keep traffic moving in and around the City.

As the City evolves over the next number of years it will be important for members of the LBPA be heard not only in our immediate community but at City Hall as well. We will continue to be that voice.

Have a safe and enjoyable year.

Yours Sincerely,

Dag Enhorning  
 President LPBA

## LBPA Membership Drive

In an effort to engage companies located in the area, the LBPA is pleased to announce that we have hired a summer student to recruit new members to the organization. Starting on a part-time basis in mid-July, Arlie Millyard will be calling, door-knocking and meeting local businesses to encourage them to be part of our association. Part of this work will also be collecting data to understand the type of companies located in the area, issues of concern and ideas for making the business park better. Arlie will be working out of Summerhill's office located at 30 Commercial Road and can be reached by phone at 416-922-2448 or [amillyard@summerhill.com](mailto:amillyard@summerhill.com). Through her professional and educational life, Arlie Millyard has worked in a variety of fields including a pathobiology lab and is interested in the effects of psychology and the environment on physical health. Arlie has worked as a summer student at Summerhill for three years in roles such as a field ambassador, call centre administrator and project coordinator on many utility and stewardship programs. She is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto with a double major in biochemistry and psychology.

Building a strong and diverse membership base is critical to ensuring we represent the views of organizations in the area, as well as working together to make this an even more desirable market to do business! If you are not part of association, we encourage you to join us in promoting this as a great place to do business. Annual membership starts at just \$75.00.

### Ian Morton, Founder and CEO

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## Should the City build a highway through the Leaside Business Park?

The City of Toronto has on many occasions stated that having vibrant industrial employment zones in the City is vital to maintaining this as a dynamic place to both live and do business. After all, all of the condo residents need places to work and thrive and industrial jobs pay comparatively much better than retail or service industries do. So it is surprising how often developers are allowed to encroach into existing industrial parks, including the Leaside Business Park, and build retail, restaurants, and other businesses that are not permitted by the current zoning. They are able to do so by simply going to the Committee of Adjustment and ask for variances, or in some cases just proceed without the proper authority. The lack of a consistent policy that the City would follow in such cases and the lack of proper policing of violators is frustrating.

With all of the recent development along Laird Avenue, traffic here is often at a standstill. While projects are routinely approved after another “traffic study” has been completed by the developer’s traffic experts, who invariable suggest adding another traffic light, clearly Laird is far too congested to take on more traffic. Yet more projects are planned or have already been approved.

Two significant projects near the park will add considerable traffic to the surrounding area. The first is the SmartCentres retail site currently being developed on the north side of Wicksteed, east of Laird, where Walmart could be the anchor. The other site is a possible Costco and gas bar on Overlea Boulevard where Coca-Cola had their headquarters.

If these two retail sites are developed as planned, the resulting traffic between them and for customers getting to them will overwhelm already crowded streets and many shoppers will cut through the LBP. Most of this traffic will be on Wicksteed. Wicksteed is already busy and has considerable backups whenever a train crosses Wicksteed at the controlled crossing, which then takes a long time to clear. With the additional traffic this will become much, much worse. So, perhaps the solution is to build a four lane highway and an overpass over the tracks. That would not be popular with the businesses within Leaside, but should satisfy the traffic experts and the developers.



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*“WE ARE NOT A  
TEAM BECAUSE  
WE WORK  
TOGETHER. WE  
ARE A TEAM  
BECAUSE WE  
RESPECT, TRUST  
AND CARE FOR  
EACH OTHER”*

– VALA AFSGAR

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## A message From Councillor Jon Burnside

My first memories of the LBP were of slow moving trains crossing Brentcliffe Rd. and, of course, the ever present extrusion tower at Canada Wire and Cable. My parents moved into Leaside in 1965 and my mom still lives on Airdrie Rd. In those days Leaside was quite different; it was very much middle-class – I still remember the chatter on our street when someone got air conditioning in their car – and really a town within a City, with the LBP as its thriving industrial base. I graduated from Leaside High and University of Western Ontario. For two years after graduation I sold office equipment for Canon, until I became a Toronto police officer. Ten years later I switched careers and, in 2001, started a prepared-food-to-door business – which I still own – and operated it until my election to Toronto Council Office.

Now, the LBP is very important to me for both practical and nostalgic reasons. Whether one sees the world from the left or right, we can all agree that a good job is essential to an individual's well-being. From Leaside perspective, the Business Park is all that stands in the way between more big box stores and condos.

Being already tested twice on this belief, I believe that it is paramount that I support the LBP at every opportunity.

In January, I voted against Councillor Mike Layton's Motion to start charging industrial polluters for all four pollutants that the City treats as opposed to just the major one. As a business owner I know the danger of what amounts to incremental tax increases – essentially, death by a thousand paper cuts. As a citizen, I find it offensive when a government unilaterally decides to change an agreement.

In March, I was a strong supporter of Mayor Tory's choice of the Hybrid option for the Gardiner Expressway. This maintains the highway link with the DVP and keeps the ring road system intact. While this was a contentious issue in Ward 26, I agreed with the views of the LBP as well as the Board of Trade. Unfortunately, the debate was marred with many factual errors which I tried to dispel when I spoke.

I want to thank the members of the LBP for the kindness that you have shown towards me and look forward to working with you in the future.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at (416) 392-0215.



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*“In every community there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.”*

– Marianne  
Williamson



## **Eglinton Crosstown**

### **What is the Crosstown?**

The Eglinton Crosstown is a 19-kilometre light rail transit (LRT) line that will run along Eglinton Avenue through the heart of Toronto, with an underground central section. The line will connect Mount Dennis in the west to Kennedy Road in the east, and the new service will be up to 60% faster than the bus service today.

### **Launch Shaft at Brentcliffe Road**

Launch shafts are deep excavations that provide access points for tunnel boring machines (TBMs). The excavation of the west end of the launch shaft is expected to complete by the end of July. Excavation and tie-back installation in the east end is still ongoing. Assembly of the TBMs commenced in early summer 2015 and the TBMs will be lowered into the west end of the launch shaft by later this summer. The two TBMs, named Don and Humber, will begin tunneling from Brentcliffe Road in fall 2015 and work their way west toward Yonge Street. Tunneling will continue through 2016.

### **Headwall Construction at Laird Drive**

Headwalls are support walls for future underground stations. Headwall construction has begun along Eglinton Avenue East, including in the Leaside area. The future Laird LRT station will be constructed between headwalls west of Brentcliffe and east of Sutherland. The Brentcliffe headwall, which was installed by a piling rig, is now complete. This headwall utilized drill rigs and other equipment similar to what is seen on condominium foundation construction around the city.

Construction of the headwall near Sutherland required a jet grout plant to be established nearby to pump a form of concrete, otherwise known as “grout”, into the ground to mix with the soil. Headwall work in this area will be completed by the end of August.

For more information about the Eglinton Crosstown, please visit [www.thecrosstown.ca](http://www.thecrosstown.ca)

## **Featuring your Business!**

The LBP has many great businesses both new and old. We want to feature your business in our Newsletter. Every issue of this newsletter will have a “Featuring your Business” column with one or two different businesses featured.

This is a great opportunity to let our Community know about upcoming events, new promotions, new products, or just news you would your fellow LBP members know about.

Leaside is a growing neighbourhood with growing companies; big and small. There are so many businesses connected with LBPA and we want to showcase as many as we can.

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*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn”*

*– Benjamin Franklin*

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*“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is a progress; working together is success.”*

*– Henry Ford*



## Feature your Business – Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office

**Who are we?** Thorncliffe Neighborhood Office is a well-established social and settlement service agency located in the heart of Thorncliffe Park. Established in 1985, TNO started as a family and newcomer support organization and has evolved to offer a wide range of community, social and immigrant settlement services organised under two departments: Investing in Communities; Settlement Support Services, Language & Employment Training and Investing in Families: Child, Youth & Family Support Services

Almost half of the estimated 30,000 people living in Thorncliffe Park are living with low incomes. Recent reports inform us that 50% of the children in the community, (34% of the population are children between 0 – 14 years old) live in poverty. Participation in the labour market is a challenge with only 57% of residents gainfully employed, well below the city average of 68%.

**TNO Employment Ontario (EO) Services** supports clients through one-to-one Employment Counselling to develop an action/service plan. Services include: resume development, interview skills, one to one job placements (matching clients' skills and interests with work opportunities) and provides employers with financial training incentives. 71% of our clients have secured employment (the provincial standard is 69%). TNO partners with the City of Toronto to deliver the Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE) program and is a founding member of the Don Valley Employment Solutions (DVES) group.

Typically a client:

- Has up to ten years of relevant work experience; half our clients have worked in at least 3 countries.
- Is between 25 and 40 years old
- Is well educated: 64% of recent immigrant males, and 58% of women in Thorncliffe Park have a university education – approximately 50% have post graduate degrees
- Has a background in Business, Finance and Administration: 38%, Natural and Applied Sciences: 13%, Sales and Services: 49%

**TNO Family Child and Youth Services:** Our goal is to holistically support families in the community, not solely to provide employment opportunities, but also to support healthy beginnings, wellness programming and youth and seniors programs for low income families.

**Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser Gala will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2015** at the new, beautiful Ismaili Centre on Wynford Drive. Premier Kathleen Wynne will be the keynote Speaker. Matt Galloway, Host of CBC Metro Morning, will be the MC.

Our fundraising goals are to support families. 1) Funds raised through the Gala event will allow additional families to benefit from a program already supported by a generous donor, allowing families on a long waiting list to have nutrition support and diapers supplied for infants from birth to 18 months. 2) Education about respect for women, delivered to students, will go a long way to forestall violence against women in families. 3) Neighbourhood kids will benefit from an opportunity to leave the community to attend summer camps.

We are seeking support through table sponsorship and the sale of individual tickets. For information on how you / your business can be involved, please contact: Ahmed Hussein, Executive Director/ 416-421-3054 x 232 / [ahussein@thorncliffe.org](mailto:ahussein@thorncliffe.org)

[www.thorncliffe.org](http://www.thorncliffe.org)



**THORNCLIFFE**  
NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICE

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**“BUSINESS  
AND  
INDUSTRY  
WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR  
GROWTH”**



## The Board of Directors 2015

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