



**THE ANNEX
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

This Week in the Annex:

May 31, 2023

Councillor Saxe on the Case

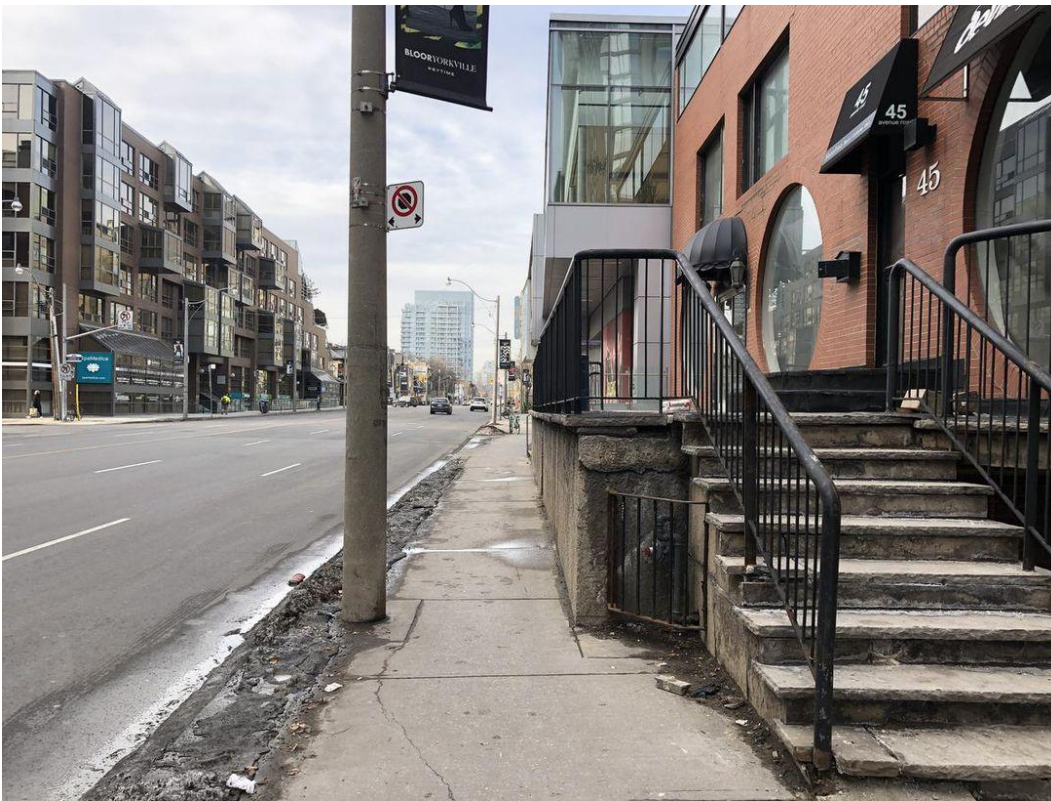
Well we might have been out of town this past May, but that doesn't mean things weren't hopping in the 'hood, so to speak. In particular, Councillor Dianne Saxe was hard at work promoting Annex interests.

Taming Avenue Road

On May 10, City Council adopted [Councillor Saxe's motion](#) seeking to tame Avenue Road. The substance of the initiative was neatly summarized by our RARA neighbours to the north ([The Rathnelly Area Resident's Association](#)):

1. Reduce the speed limit between Bloor Street and St. Clair Avenue to 40 kilometres per hour from 50 km/h.
2. Request the Toronto Police Service to consider "enhanced speed enforcement ... because of the prevalence of illegal speeding and the resulting risk to pedestrian safety."
3. Install physical barriers in the curb lane in front of the Church of the Messiah to protect people using the day care and food bank.
4. Direct the Transportation Services department to report on a much-delayed study on a redesign of the thoroughfare and to provide options for improving pedestrian safety by next July.

5. Direct Transportation Services to establish a pilot program to improve pedestrian safety by a variety of measures, such as sidewalk widening.



As the image above mutely testifies, something clearly has to be done to promote pedestrian safety! But while the motion is a vindication of the efforts of the [Avenue Road Safety Coalition](#), it's just a start. We're counting on Councillor Saxe to keep Transportation Services' metaphorical feet to the fire on this one.

In the Name of Fitness

City Council's agenda for the daunting three-day marathon that began May 10 also included Councillor Saxe's revised motion regarding the expenditure of money on adult fitness equipment for Jean Sibelius Park. Specifically, she has recommended the enhancement of park facilities with an adult-sized balance beam, step benches, a group fit structure, and an exercise bench.



The revised motion addresses a convoluted set of financial transactions that must take place across various City accounts and budgets, roadblocks that thankfully didn't deter our Councillor. To get an idea of the hoops involved (yeah, sure, pun intended) you can read the background files posted on the City's website:

Revised Member Motion MM6.19

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-236282.pdf>

Fiscal Impact Statement from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-236482.pdf>

Decking out Dupont Station

Also on our Councillor's radar -- the current state of the Dupont subway station.

Six years ago -- virtually to the day -- a [Blog TO article](#) celebrating the best TTC subway stations rated Dupont number one. To quote the full citation: *Opened in 1978, Dupont is a perennial favourite of TTC riders for its mosaic tiles, dome entrances, and built-in benches. The attention to detail here is far greater than at*

the vast majority of stations on the line, for which kudos should go to Dunlop-Farrow Architects.

Alas, as any passerby can tell you, the exterior of the station fails to live up to its top billing. It began with good intentions as revealed [two years ago in this newsletter](#). But a collage of photos assembled from Google by our P+D Co-Chairs – Elizabeth Sisam and Henry Wiercinski – highlights the sorry state of affairs today.



The pair wrote to Councillor Saxe arguing that funds available from the new development proposed at 374-390 Dupont should be directed towards at-grade improvements. To quote from their message:

... this development is located 270 metres to the west of two of the most unfriendly and inhospitable subway entrances on the system. There is only hard space, extremely limited and horrible seating. Yet this is the higher order transit consultants so enthusiastically reference when making the case for development projects.

It would be a true public service to the local community to direct funding to the northwest and southeast subway entrances for at-grade improvements including

benches, planting, lighting for safety, and waste containers.

In total agreement, Councillor Saxe has begun negotiations with the developer and on May 24 successfully sponsored a motion at TEYCC (Toronto East York City Council) arguing for the deployment of funds for the repair and enhancement of the station exterior. We'll keep you updated as this motion winds its way through the labyrinthian corridors of City Hall.

Contacting the Councillor

Note that on these and any other Annex or City issues, Councillor Saxe welcomes residents' input and comments. You can reach her by email at Councillor.Saxe@toronto.ca. The point person for the Annex in Councillor Saxe's office is Constituency Assistant and Planner Holli Butrimas who can be contacted at holli.butrimas@toronto.ca. And if you're interested in being on the distribution list for Councillor Saxe's newsletter, by all means register at <https://diannesaxe.ca/news/#newsletter>.

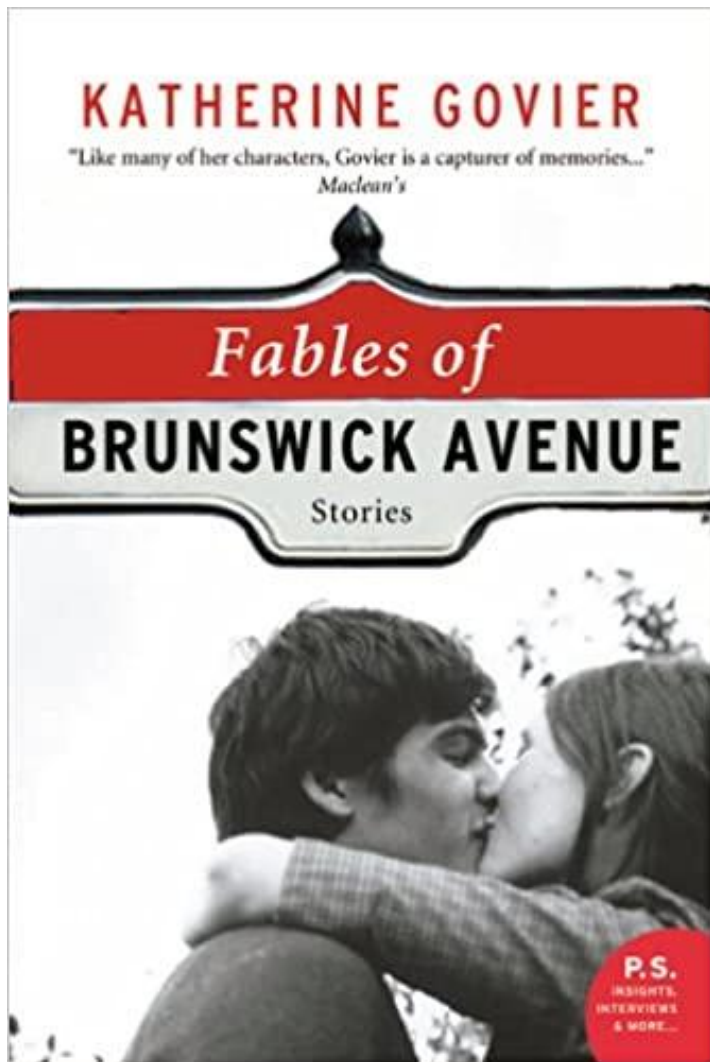
A Jane's Walk that Bears Repeating

May also featured an Annex-based [Jane's Walk](#) led by author Katherine Govier. We couldn't be there, but ARA Board Member Sandra Shaul kindly stepped up to send us the following report:

On May 7 writer Katherine Govier led a *Jane's Walk* that brought to life the memorable opening of her magical collection of short stories entitled *Fables of Brunswick Avenue*:

Everyone lives on Brunswick Avenue sooner or later... Some longer than most. If you've never actually found the apartment of your dreams on this downtown street where anything is possible, then you may do so yet.

Govier actually lived at several addresses on the street, but *Fables* was written in an upstairs flat at number 411.



More than thirty participants followed Govier on her engaging walk despite the challenge of a very heavy spring rain. Former literary neighbours Susan Swan and Karen Mulhallen were also present to add their own anecdotes.

A charming recitation of *Alligator Pie* preceded the last stop of the tour at Jean Sibelius Square Park. However, on that grey, wet day, Dennis Lee's reflections on the park from his Governor General's Award-winning *Civil Elegies* came even more to mind. By the end of the walk, one was left wondering who didn't live and write on Brunswick?

Ed's note: The good news for those of us who missed it is that Govier would like to offer the tour again. Sandra's promised to keep us informed.

Notes and Queries

Meet Your Next Mayor

Tonight's the night! FoNTRA and FoSTRA – the residents' association coalitions to which the ARA belongs – are hosting an in-person debate at 7:00 pm this evening at OCADU Auditorium, 100 McCaul St. Nicole Swerhun of Third-Party Public will moderate the exchange with confirmed candidates: Ana Bailao, Brad Bradford, Chloe Brown, Olivia Chow, Mitzie Hunter, Josh Matlow, and Mark Saunders.

If you haven't already secured a ticket, be advised that the event is officially sold out. Of course there's a slight chance you might be able to score a seat at the door (there's always a chance of no-shows). But why not make it a sure thing and watch the live-stream broadcast instead on OCADU's YouTube channel: www.ocadu.ca/live? There's no registration required for virtual attendance.



The Mulberry Festival is Coming

Here's a heads up that the annual mulberry picking festival will be held this **Sunday June 25** from **3:00 to 5:00 pm** at **Jean Sibelius Park**. But to guarantee

its success, organizer Terri Chu is asking Annexionians to **register early** and, if they can, volunteer to help out.

When you complete the [on-line registration form](#), you'll be given an opportunity to offer a hand. Assistance is needed starting now in finding mulberry tree owners and seeking permission to pick. Terri also needs help in sourcing and coordinating materials needed for the day including the supply of kid-friendly, nut-free snacks. And during the actual festival she needs volunteers to lead teams of pickers or manage the food and admin tables.

Last year's event was a huge success. Let's make this year's even bigger.



Photo courtesy Stephanie P

TPS 53 Division Open House This Sunday

The Annex is bifurcated at Spadina Road between two divisions of Toronto Police Services – number 14 to the west and number 53 to the east. Those of us on the east side of the divide have been invited to an open house this coming **Sunday, June 3rd** from **10:00 to 2:00 pm** by our assigned Community Response Officer, Constable Timothy Somers. The division headquarters are located at **75 Eglinton Ave West** where you can meet the officers, tour the facilities, and enjoy the horses, dogs, marine unit, face painting, food & refreshments.



53 DIVISION OPEN HOUSE

10 AM TO 2 PM, SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023

STATION TOURS - VARIOUS POLICE UNITS ON DISPLAY
COFFEE & TREATS - FACE PAINTING

75 EGLINTON AV W

Farmer's Market Returns

It's a sure sign of summer when the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market returns to the Green P lot just south of Bloor on Borden. It's marginally out of the 'hood geographically speaking but one very much in the ARA's heart as it's a community venture supported annually by a small donation from ARA coffers and run by Annex stalwarts Helen Goldlist and Terri Chu.

There won't be any of the traditional ceremonial bagpiping (apparently Gus is on the holiday of a lifetime), but that won't stop the opening next **Wednesday June 7th** promptly at **3:00 pm**. As always, the market runs Wednesdays rain or shine until 7:00 pm. For more information or to sign on to the mailing list contact bloorbordenmarket@gmail.com.



Save the Date: Sunday June 11, 11:00 am

As we announced in our [last newsletter \(May 03\)](#), ARA Board members Sandra Shaul and Lynne DiStefano have sponsored the newest Annex tour offered by Heritage Toronto: *Writing Change in the Annex*. Focussed on our neighbourhood's profound influence on the personal lives and prose of women writers who spent time here, the walking tour runs for 90 minutes and costs \$8 plus tax per person. Pre-registration is required and now available online at <https://www.heritagetoronto.org/whats-on/writing-change-june-11/> .



Gwendolyn MacEwen Park is sure to be featured on the tour which will also be repeated later in the summer on August 10 and 19, and September 16.



The Annex Residents' Association is a volunteer organization of residents committed to improving and preserving the distinctive character of our neighbourhood. Our strength depends on our base of support in a well-informed community.

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The Annex Residents' Association