



COUNCILLOR



# Josh Matlow

Your Community Advocate

WARD 22 ST. PAUL'S

SPRING 2012

Dear residents and friends,

During the past year, we've achieved a lot together here in Ward 22. We're moving forward on opening new parks & improving existing green spaces, supporting our local schools, transit routes and creating a new sense of community with farmers markets, regular town halls and a focus on responding to local needs.

At city council, I've been advocating for a more thoughtful, creative and responsible new approach. I've supported budget proposals that are both fiscally responsible and socially progressive, advocated for better transit and solutions to gridlock, championed strategies for seniors and have consistently made informed decisions that are based on evidence, community consultation and the merits of arguments—rather than ideology or left or right-wing partisanship.

My staff and I are here to assist you with any concerns or questions you may have. We're also working every day to improve our local neighbourhoods—along with supporting the many valued services Torontonians rely on every day. You are always welcome to contact me at 416-392-7906 or by email at [councillor\\_matlow@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_matlow@toronto.ca).

Sincerely,

Josh

## Transit: Moving Forward

Over the past few months, City Council and Metrolinx, the provincial transit planning body, have made important decisions about the future of public transit in Toronto.

For Ward 22 residents, the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, which will run underground between Black Creek Drive and Laird Drive, will be of great assistance to those of us who are frustrated with the current state of congestion on Eglinton Avenue today. The Crosstown line is already under construction, with tunnelling scheduled to begin this summer, will eventually run from Jane Street to Kennedy Road (a distance of 25km) and is scheduled to be completed in 2020. I am currently advocating that this line be extended to Toronto Pearson International Airport.

It's unfortunate that Mayor Ford failed to present a fiscally-responsible, realistic plan for subways to City Council. Transit planning must be based on sound ridership projections and sourced funding mechanisms—not empty slogans. I will continue to advocate for a Downtown-Relief subway line to alleviate current overcrowding on the Yonge-University-Spadina line.

To help us achieve our transit goals, I've brought forward a motion to City Council to ensure Toronto is part of a regional approach to both plan, and realistically fund, transit improvement and expansion. My motion, "Moving Forward: Improving Public Transit and Relieving Traffic Congestion through a Regional Funding Strategy," is intended to help move us away from the unpredictable one-time, ad hoc transit funding we've come to rely upon in recent years, and allow us to make proactive, evidence-based and fiscally responsible plans to build transit for generations to come. I'll be sure to update you as this initiative progresses.

## Need help? Have questions about city services?

Visit my website [www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca) to find out more information on issues such as:

- Building permits
- Parking issues (front-pad or on-street)
- Traffic and safety concerns
- Committee of adjustment
- Zoning issues
- Local road & sidewalk work
- And many other issues

## Sign Up for my Ward 22 E-Newsletter

Keeping you engaged and informed is a priority for me. To stay up to date on City Hall and Ward 22 public meetings, events and news, please visit my website at [www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca) and register for my e-newsletter. Alternatively, email me at [councillor\\_matlow@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_matlow@toronto.ca) and request to be added to our distribution list.



Not sure how to report a pothole, graffiti or illegal posting? Need to order or exchange a Garbage, Recycling or Green Bin? Looking for a program at your local community centre? You can call 311 where customer service representatives are available to assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are making a service request they will provide you with a tracking number so you can follow-up on the status of your request.

More than just a phone number, 311 Toronto also provides access to a wide range of online services, including self-service requests and tracking at [www.toronto.ca/311](http://www.toronto.ca/311).

## Announcing Ward 22's first community farmers' market!

I'm delighted to announce the arrival of our community farmers' market, AppleTree's *Davisville Village Farmers' Market*, that will run June through October at June Rowlands (Davisville) Park every Tuesday between 3-7pm. This season will be a trial and I'll work closely with local residents to ensure this initiative is a success for all. I look forward to seeing you there!

## Participatory Budgeting for Oriole Park and the Kay Gardner Beltline Trail

Earlier this year, I was able to secure funding for improvements to Oriole Park and the adjacent portion of the Kay Gardner Beltline Trail.

In April of this year, I worked with users of Oriole Park on a participatory budgeting exercise to determine future spending priorities for their local green space. This innovative process involved proposals that were voted on by the local community. I chose to use participatory budgeting for this process to ensure more equitable public spending, a higher quality of life, and increased levels of public participation. It was a very successful evening that I will be bringing to other communities soon.

I have consistently heard that residents want their local park to be more than just a patch of grass. Parks have the potential to foster congregation and strengthen relationships through community activity and leisure spaces. Who better to shape those places than the community themselves?

## Building an age friendly city

When I first arrived at city hall, I successfully moved that the City of Toronto create a comprehensive strategy for seniors and late last year, I was elected Chair of the Seniors Strategy Subcommittee. This new subcommittee is focused on providing advice and input on the development of a strategy to create an accessible, age-friendly city for our aging population. This initiative will be coming before City Council this fall or early next year.

Since December, I have been working closely with my colleagues on the subcommittee, as well as with City Staff and non-profit organizations focused on seniors' issues, including SPRINT, and this spring I co-hosted a Town Hall meeting on how the City of Toronto can support its growing senior population here in Midtown and across the city.



Josh with Charlotte Maher, founder of Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto (SPRINT).

## Buy local. Support small businesses.

City Councillor  
**Josh Matlow's BEST OF MIDTOWN**

These slogans are becoming increasingly prevalent as large retail companies have taken up more real estate on our main streets. But is there substance behind the sayings? Does shopping at midtown's independent stores have any real benefits?

In a word, yes. For starters, significantly more money stays local when you buy at locally owned businesses. A recent study shows that locally owned businesses generate a premium in enhanced economic impact. For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 goes right back into the community, compared to only \$14 at a chain store.

Locally owned businesses are more likely to hire architects, tradespeople, accountants and other ancillary service providers from the neighbourhood, as opposed to chain stores which generally keep those functions in house.

Torontonians come from all across the city to visit the Eglinton Way, Forest Hill Village and Mt. Pleasant BIAs because of unique destinations such as *The Mad Bean*, *The Little Dollhouse Company*, *Five Doors North*, *Zen Beginnings* and Forest Hill's art galleries. To recognize the important contribution that local, small and independent business owners make to our quality of life, I started a "Best of Midtown" award to honour their contributions to our community.



Josh with Mira, Lazar, and Miki Bunda of Bread and Butter

## Keeping You Informed and Engaged

It is very important to me that you are provided with the best possible information to access City services, protect your rights as a tenant or homeowner and have an informed opinion on important City-wide issues. I provide regular updates through my website, Facebook and Twitter. I have also held a series of Town Hall meetings throughout the ward on various issues including:

- The Future of Public Transit Planning
- Seniors Strategy: Preparing for the Demographic Shift
- Tenants' Forum: Know Your Rights!
- Budget 2011 and 2012 briefings
- Garbage privatization debate moderated by TVO's Steve Paiken
- Dozens of street or neighbourhood town hall meetings on specific local priorities

## Standing up for Tenants

I've heard from many of you that being a renter in Toronto is becoming increasingly difficult and it feels like every month your budget is being squeezed tighter. High guideline rent increases, coupled with Above the Guideline Increases (AGIs) for basic upkeep and repairs have pushed rents that were already steep into the unaffordable range. In addition, the low vacancy rate has made it near impossible to find lower-cost alternatives elsewhere.

Earlier this year, I hosted a Town Hall meeting for tenants. We had representatives from the Metro Toronto Federation of Tenants' Associations, the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board, the Advocacy Centre for Tenants - Ontario, the City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, and the Greater Toronto Apartment Association. Renters told us that they want the provincial government to return to real rent control and put tighter restrictions on AGIs. I'm here to advocate for you - I will continue to bring these concerns to Queen's Park.

## Know your rights!

Knowing your rights as a tenant and how to protect them can be a challenging process. Various aspects of being a tenant and your relationship with your landlord are governed by different levels of government. I hope that you find the list of community resources below helpful.

## Important Resources for Tenants

**ACE (Advocacy Centre for the Elderly)** – (416) 598-2656

- Supports senior tenants with issues related to their apartment, tenancy agreement and mobility

**Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation** – (416) 944-0087

- Provides support for individuals who have been subject to discriminatory tenant selection practices due to age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or other

**Federation of Metro Toronto Tenants' Associations Hotline** – (416) 921-9494

- Provides information, workshops, and outreach & organizing services for tenants. Focused on assisting tenants in disputing Above Guideline Rent Increases (AGI), and also helps fight demolitions or conversions, provide general workshops on tenants' rights, as well as useful referrals

**Landlord and Tenant Board** – (416) 645-8080

- Provides information about the *Residential Tenancies Act* (RTA) and resolves disputes between most residential landlords and tenants.

**Legal Aid Ontario** – 1-800-668-8258

- Point of contact to find legal representation for Landlord and Tenant Board hearings

**Toronto Public Health** – (416) 338-7600

- Responsible for the City's bed bug strategy

## Development Updates

As your city councillor, I see my role as being your advocate—to protect the fabric and character of our neighbourhoods while achieving the best results for residents. And, while we discuss height, density, and built form, beautiful design must always be a priority. I have made it a policy in my office to always invite a representative of a neighbourhood residents' association to any meeting I accept with developers. I feel very strongly that the voices of the local neighbourhood are listened to, and that there is a commitment to transparency, early in the development application process. I enjoy working closely with these local groups and would encourage you to get involved with your local residents association. It is a wonderful way for communities to organize themselves on important neighbourhood issues and work together on common goals.

**To keep you informed, I've created a page on my website with the status of every development application in Ward 22. You can find this page by visiting my website at [www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca) and clicking on Planning & Development.**

**Below are a few of several applications being made for sites in our ward:**

### 281-289 Avenue Road Community Consultation Meeting.

An initial Rezoning application was made to construct a new 11-storey residential condominium building containing 75 dwelling units, and 83 parking spaces within three levels of below grade parking. The proposed overall height was 38.3 m and the total gross floor area (GFA) was 7,763 m<sup>2</sup>. A revised submission was made which reduced the height to 9-storeys (27.15 m), the GFA to 6,784 m<sup>2</sup>, and the number of units and parking spaces to 62 dwelling units, and 76 parking spaces, respectively.

Planning held its community consultation meeting on May 7th 2012. Many local residents attended to share their concerns about this development proposal. I will not be supporting this application in its current form. I have suggested to the applicant that they need to address concerns with regards to traffic safety, parking, the impact on local trees both on City Property and Private Property, front and side setbacks, and shadowing on Sidney Street in order for this to be considered an appropriate way for our Avenue Road main street to be developed.

For more information please see the following document: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-39983.pdf>

### 87-107 Davisville Avenue and 108-128 Balliol Street

Rezoning application to permit the redevelopment of the sites municipally known as 87-107 Davisville Ave and 108-128 Balliol Street for the purposes of a 12 storey apartment building containing 176 units fronting onto the south side of Davisville Avenue (the 'north building') and a 29-storey apartment building containing 324 units fronting onto the north side of Balliol Street (the 'south building'). The proposed development contains a combined total of 500 units. The existing 21 townhouse rental apartment units located on the sites would be demolished to accommodate the proposal.

## COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY



Josh with TDSB Trustee Shelley Laskin and Ms. Sherman's grade 2/3 class at Maurice Cody Public School.

Please be assured that this is not a "done deal" and that I am opposed to the demolition of the townhouses and the construction of towers, facing existing towers, that would end up looking like a large box.

For more information please see the following document: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-45408.pdf>

### 213-223 St Clair Avenue West

The City has received a Rezoning Application to permit the construction of a new 11-storey mixed-use building with 172 residential units, and both at-grade and 4 levels of below grade parking consisting of 170 parking spaces and 136 bicycle parking spaces.

For more information please see the following website: [http://www.toronto.ca/planning/213-221\\_stclair.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/planning/213-221_stclair.htm)

## Ward 22 Residents' Associations

- Deer Park Residents' Group
- Forest Hill Homeowners' Association
- Foxbar Neighbourhood Association
- Oriole Park Association
- Rathnelly Area Residents' Association (RARA)
- Sherwood Park Residents' and Ratepayers' Association
- South Eglinton Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (SERRA)
- South Hill Homeowners' Association

If you are a member of an association that has not been listed please contact me. For more information on the areas represented by these associations please visit my website [www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca).

## FREE TORONTO FROM THE OMB

The Ontario Municipal Board is a quasi-judicial, un-elected and un-accountable, provincially-appointed body that has the final say on all planning decisions in Ontario. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and I introduced a motion at City Council to remove Toronto from the jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Subsequent to City Council's approval of this motion, I had a meeting with Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, along with my colleagues, Councillors Peter Milczyn (Chair, Planning and Growth Committee) and Kristyn Wong-Tam to discuss the next steps forward. I believe it was a productive discussion about reasonable requests for reform and I will continue to update you on the progress of this important initiative as information becomes available. Please register for my e-newsletter at [www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca) for updates.

## CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS



Josh Speaking to seniors at Dunfield Retirement Residence.

# Delivering results at City Council

## • Stopping Rush Hour Curb Hogs

Relieving traffic congestion is a high priority for my residents. Last fall, I proposed an increase in fines for motorists and delivery vehicles that obstruct traffic by stopping or parking illegally during rush hour periods. In February, City Council adopted my initiative to increase fines from \$40 to \$150 per infraction and to increase enforcement.

## • Traffic Signal Synchronization

Last fall, I brought the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee a request for a staff report on traffic signal synchronization. Traffic signal synchronization can provide significant direct and indirect benefits, including decreased travel time, reduction of traffic on residential streets, and reduced vehicle emissions. I am hopeful that this report will be completed in the coming weeks.

## • Improving Public Transit and Reducing Congestion Through a Regional Funding Strategy

In order to improve and expand Toronto's public transit infrastructure and to reduce congestion, the City needs to have consistent and predictable funding rather than continuing to rely upon one-time provincial funding. I recently brought forward a motion to Council to ensure that the City is proactive in engaging in conversations about funding options with relevant provincial bodies, such as Metrolinx, and other municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

## • Establishing a Toronto School Boards Working Group

There are many public issues that the City of Toronto and our city's school boards share in common, including school pools, field and park permitting, land use, nutrition programs, school traffic zones, etc. However, aside from ad hoc meetings between bureaucrats, there's currently no formal way for our respective institutions to problem-solve together for our common constituency: Toronto. Therefore, I brought a motion to the May 2012 City Council meeting for consideration to establish a formal City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Working Group. I will continue working to see this initiative through to fruition.

## • A New Parkette at Dunfield Avenue and Soudan Avenue

As spring brings us more consistently warm weather, we will welcome a new park to Ward 22 for our residents to enjoy. Complete with a brand new playground, the Dunfield Parkette should officially open in the coming weeks. As this is a brand new park, we would like to ask for your help in naming this new addition to the neighbourhood.

## • An Eco-Park for the Upper Annex

Since I took office in 2010, I've been actively supporting local efforts to establish the new *Upper Annex* community in the former industrial lands north of the railway, east of Spadina. One initiative, creating an Eco-Park on a strip of the hydro corridor on the south side of Macpherson, at Madison, Ave, is making progress. When completed, this park will include solar panels, a dog run and new greenspace for area residents.

## • Republic of Rathnelly Street signs

I recently secured funding for Republic of Rathnelly street signs. Rathnelly, established in 1967, is a distinctive neighbourhood situated at the bottom of the Avenue Road Hill that is home to a large number of artists, academics, writers, and journalists. The new signs will help strengthen this already vibrant community.

## • Helping, and responding to, Ward 22 residents' needs and priorities every day

Please always feel welcome to contact me if I can be of assistance to you. Providing leadership on City policy is an important part of being a member of City Council, however, the most important part of my job is working for my residents to problem-solve and to improve the quality of life in our community.



Councillor Josh Matlow and City of Toronto

# COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAY

Thursday, September 6, 2012  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Toronto Memorial Arena  
174 Orchard View Blvd.  
(off Yonge St., north of Eglinton Ave. W.)

### Drop off for recycling/disposal



cell phones



small electronics



printers & fax machines



household hazardous waste



fluorescent bulbs



computer components



small TVs



unused medications



oils, solvents, pesticides



propane tanks



inkjet & laser cartridges

### Products Available - Fees may apply

- Backyard Composter
- Green Bin
- Kitchen Container

### Pick up for FREE

- Leaf Compost (limit one cubic metre per household)
- Green Bins and Kitchen Containers
  - Bring damaged bins for exchange
  - Get new bins, bring proof of residence in the last 90 days

Note: You can recycle plastic shopping bags, foam polystyrene, empty paint and empty aerosol cans in your regular Blue Bin.

Visit the Toronto Water info tent to learn more about programs that will help you use water wisely in and around your home!

Please do not bring: Construction waste, gasoline, garbage, wood, cassette and videotapes, commercial/industrial hazardous waste and scrap metal.

### Donate to schools for reuse

- Art supplies (e.g. pencils, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Buttons, keys, and collectors' coins and stamps
- CDs and cases
- Children's books, clipboards, corkboards
- Costume jewellery including broken/old watches, dress-up clothing
- Fabric pieces and yarn
- 35 mm cameras and equipment

### Donate to Goodwill for reuse

- Sporting goods (e.g. skates, hockey equipment, bikes, rackets, etc.)
- Books (excluding school/university curriculum books)
- Medical equipment in good condition (e.g. eyeglasses, walking aids, hearing aids, etc.)
- Small household items (e.g. dishes, ornaments, kitchen utensils, artistic drawings, games, etc.)
- Textiles in good condition (e.g. clothing, linens, etc.)
- Non-perishable foods will be donated to a food bank

All donated items must be in very good condition

In partnership with



Call 311

Visit [toronto.ca/environment\\_days](http://toronto.ca/environment_days)



## Contact Us - We're Here to Help!

Either I or my staff are available to discuss any questions, comments or concerns you may have about city services or bylaws. We'd also love to hear your ideas on how we can work together to help improve our community. Please do not hesitate to give us a call or send us an email.



Jamie, Blake, Chloe, Josh, Andrew, and Andy

# Councillor Josh Matlow WARD 22 ST. PAUL'S

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