



Councillor Shawn Lewis

Ward 2

2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER

DEAR NEIGHBOURS,

It is hard to believe it's already the final year of this term of Council, and later this year we will have municipal elections and a new council by year's end (as well as a provincial election in the late spring).

Of course with COVID-19, this has hardly been what I anticipated back in 2018 when I put my name on the ballot for Ward 2. But despite the pandemic challenges, it has been a privilege to represent the Argyle neighbourhood at City Hall.

Of course we aren't out of the COVID situation just yet, but as I write this we are looking forward to the Ontario Government removing most restrictions by March 1st, and hopefully we will see all restrictions come to an end in the not too distant future. I know every one of us has made sacrifices during these past two years. For some those sacrifices have been personal, losing out on family functions and special milestones in life. For others it has been professional sacrifices at work or a loss of business or employment. And of course for others, especially our healthcare workers, it has been a sacrifice of long, long hours and extra duties and stress. However this has impacted you, you are not alone. If you need help reach out. If someone needs help, offer support if you can. And please know I am grateful to everyone for doing their part to help us all get through this.

And despite it all, together we've made a lot of progress on getting attention, and action, on the issues in our area. A number of major investments and a number of major projects have happened. We were finally able to get the East Lions Community Centre opened. A significant amount of work has gone into rebuilding roads across Ward 2; Calgary St, Jena Cres, Spruce St, Frobisher & Champlain Cres, and Seaforth Court, as well as parts of Dundas and Marconi. We've had new playgrounds installed in Kiwanis Park, as well as Bonaventure and Lord Nelson school yards. We've had new crosswalks and new advanced green turn lights installed to help move people around. Good things are happening in Argyle!

But the work is not done and I'm taking the opportunity in this edition of my newsletter to highlight some of the upcoming infrastructure work for 2022 so you know what to expect later this year. And I will continue to work hard for you to deliver results for Ward 2.

Joyce Larsh Named to Mayor's Honours List

One of Ward 2's amazing residents, Joyce Larsh, was named to the 2022 Mayor's Honours List this year in the category of Distinguished London, for her decades of community involvement and neighbourhood building.

Joyce is has been a long time force for good in east London. She helped establish the Argyle Seniors Association and organized the "Seniors Lunch Bunch" monthly social outings.

Since 2019 Joyce has been the Chairperson of the Argyle Community Association and partnered to help with Adopt-A-Park clean-up efforts, Movie in the Park nights, and Family Day Free Public Skating. She has also been a leader in building communication with area schools and other neighbourhood associations to work on common goals to enrich our area.

It's a pleasure to call Joyce a friend and a partner in getting results for the Argyle area and to congratulate her on this special recognition.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WARD 2 RESIDENTS

With most COVID-19 Restrictions set to be lifted on March 1st 2022 in Ontario, I'm looking forward to being able to attend and host community events again. And with March break coming up, I want to provide a chance for both the young and young at heart Ward 2 residents to enjoy our community spaces again.

Check my website or my Facebook page for more details on these two FREE events:

TUESDAY MARCH 15TH
SHAWN'S
MARCH BREAK SWIM
@
EAST LIONS
COMMUNITY CENTRE
6:30-8:00 pm



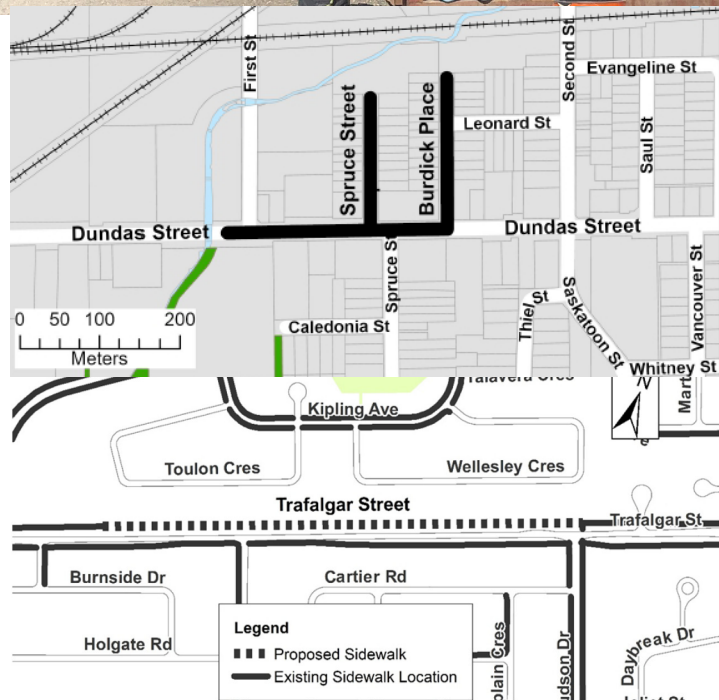
FRIDAY MARCH 18TH
MARCH BREAK FREE
SKATE
@
ARGYLE ARENA
2:00-4:00 pm



UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE IN WARD 2

As we look forward to the arrival of spring, it will of course bring with it another construction season as well. There are more major road, water & sewer rebuilds for Ward 2 this year:

- Manitoba St., just like Calgary St. last year, will be undergoing a complete rebuild from the underground infrastructure to curbs, gutters and a new road surface.
- Railton Ave will also have some underground work this year and a road resurfacing once that is complete.
- Dundas St. from the Pottersburg Bridge at First St. to Burdick Place will also be undergoing some intense rehabilitation of sewer & water as well as road surfaces as well as structural work on the bridge.
- Sidewalk infill on Trafalgar St. on the north side will finally fill in the gap between the Circle K plaza and Hudson Dr./Lem Gardens, to provide walkable access to transit stops.



Thank You Volunteers!

This winter we were able to enjoy an outdoor rink for the first time in East Lions Park!

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the staff who helped get it set-up, the firefighters who helped fill it, and the dedicated volunteers who kept it shovelled and flooded as best as we were able (there were some bone chilling nights out there).



Brothers Dylan & Darcy Dewachter helping me maintain the rink at East Lions

FINISHING INCOMPLETE PROJECTS

A number of projects started in 2021 were not able to be completed before the winter season shut down work on them. From supply chain problems and back ordered materials to labour shortages, or days lost to weather conditions, there were a variety of challenges behind these delays, however work will be resuming as soon as possible to get them complete including:

- Installing a new playground structure in Nelson Park, including the addition of an accessible swing to the swingset area, following the removal of the old structure last fall.
- Completing the shoreline erosion mitigation and removal of materials in Pottersburg Creek in Kiwanis Park North and the planting of new trees to replace those lost to construction.

BRYDGES & WAVELL ST. BIKE LANE PROJECT

A number of questions and concerns have been raised, and some misinformation has been circulating regarding the new bike lane project that is underway on Brydges & Wavell. This is another project that had several delays that led to it being left incomplete as winter weather set in. The incomplete status of the project has only made it more problematic for residents--living on Wavell I know that first hand--but work will resume in the spring on this project. I wanted to share with you some key facts about this project.

- When complete route will connect 2 elementary schools (+ 2 more nearby), Kiwanis Park, the skateboard park, East Lions Community Centre, CRSS, and Argyle Mall and the transit hub there,
- When complete turning lanes in all 4 directions at Hale & Brydges will be restored as will turning lane to Saskatoon from Wavell,
- When students & parents asked, #1 reason for not biking to school was Wavell is unsafe
- Originally approved in 2016 as part of city's Cycling Master Plan, happening a couple of years ahead of schedule as the Federal government advanced funding, multiple public meetings were held,
- The highest source of speeding complaints for many years is Wavell, including many accidents. Road narrowing is a proven method of traffic calming. East/West bound arterial roads in Ward 2 are Dundas & Trafalgar, NOT Wavell.

Your questions and comments are always welcome, connect with me at:

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