GVCA

1958-2026

Guildwood Village NEWS & VIEWS

The official publication of the Guildwood Village Community Association

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Photo Credit: Ann Brokelman
Monarch butterfly with special BlūMorpho transmitter – weighs 0.06 grams

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Friends of Guild Park's Christmas Tree Lighting

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President's Message



Jeff Garrah
President, Guildwood Village Community Association
president@guildwood.ca

As the cooler days remind us that winter is just around the corner, it's a wonderful time to reflect on what makes our neighbourhood such a special place to call home. From our beautiful tree-lined streets and waterfront trails to the friendships and connections that bring us together, Guildwood continues to be a remarkable community.

While Guildwood Day is behind us for another year, planning for next year's celebration will soon begin. We sincerely thank Ashley Rycroft for her efforts since 2021 and what she's been able to do taking the reins on the execution of the event. As she is stepping away, we have big shoes to fill. We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help organize, coordinate, and bring fresh ideas to this cherished community tradition. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!

As we head into the quieter months, I encourage everyone to continue supporting our local businesses, participating in neighbourhood activities, and looking out for one another. It's these everyday connections that help maintain the welcoming village atmosphere we all value.

Advocating for Guildwood's Future
The GVCA has remained actively engaged in several significant development proposals that will shape our neighbourhood for generations to come.

The proposed Transit-Oriented Community (TOC) development at Guildwood GO Station continues to be a major focus. Despite extensive community engagement, detailed feedback, and repeated requests for meaningful dialogue, many of the concerns raised by residents and the GVCA remain unaddressed and unresolved at both the provincial level and with Infrastructure Ontario.

We are increasingly concerned that consultation has become more about gathering and lightly documenting feedback than demonstrating how it influences decisions. Residents have invested considerable time offering thoughtful suggestions about development scale, neighbourhood compatibility, traffic, infrastructure, and preserving Guildwood's unique character. They deserve more than assurances that their comments have been received.

To strengthen our advocacy, the GVCA is engaging an external consultant to provide independent professional advice and guidance on the TOC process. This expertise will help us better evaluate proposals, navigate the planning framework, and advocate effectively for our community's interests.

Extendicare and Meaningful Consultation
Unfortunately, similar concerns emerged through the City's approval of the Extendicare Guildwood expansion.

Despite the GVCA and residents raising legitimate questions and offering constructive suggestions, the development was approved without meaningful acknowledgment of, or response to, many of our community's concerns.

We recognize the importance of expanding long-term care capacity, just as we recognize the need for housing and transit investment. Our concern is not simply about development, but about ensuring that development is thoughtful, appropriately scaled, and responsive to the communities it affects.

Increasingly, we're witnessing a troubling pattern in which public consultation appears designed to placate residents rather than meaningfully incorporate their feedback. Community engagement should never be reduced to a box to check on the path to a predetermined outcome.

The GVCA will continue to advocate respectfully, persistently, and constructively for transparency, accountability, and genuine community participation. Better outcomes are possible when governments, agencies, developers, and residents work together as partners. As demonstrated by the recent VIA rail exercise, we showed that our collective voices can make a difference.

Looking Ahead to Winter
As we turn our attention toward winter, I hope everyone finds time to enjoy the many pleasures the season brings. Whether it's a peaceful walk along Guildwood's snow-covered trails, admiring neighbourhood holiday lights, gathering with friends and family, or simply enjoying a warm drink by the fire, there's something special about this time of year.

Winter also offers an opportunity to reconnect with neighbours, lend a helping hand to those who may need one, and appreciate the sense of belonging that makes Guildwood more than just a collection of homes.

On behalf of the GVCA executive and our dedicated volunteers, thank you for your continued engagement and support. Your voices, ideas, and participation are what keep our association effective and our community strong.

Wishing you and your families a safe, peaceful, and cozy winter, filled with warmth, friendship, and all the little moments that make this season memorable.

Lakeshore East Rail Corridor: Galloway Road — Grade Separation

Metrolinx

What is happening?
To support increased GO Transit service on the Lakeshore East corridor, Galloway Road needs to be separated from the railway. The road will be put beneath the tracks so trains can pass without delaying traffic. This is known as a 'grade separation'.

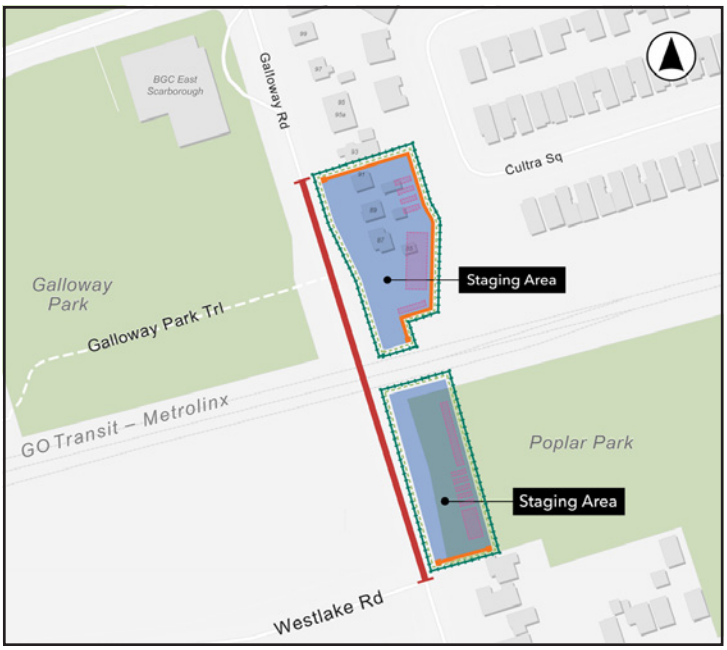
Currently, Galloway Road crosses the Lakeshore East rail corridor at street level, causing delays as traffic must stop and wait for passing trains.

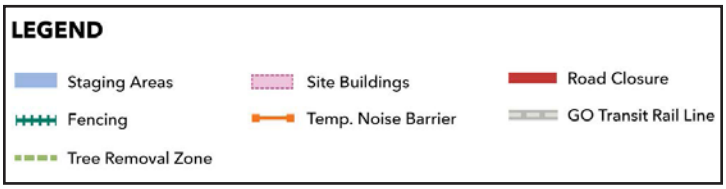
We are constructing a new road-under-rail underpass to separate the road from the railway, allowing vehicles to pass beneath without stopping.

The new roadway will feature a **multi-use path** on the east side and a **sidewalk** and **bike lane** on the west side. Please note, the image below is an example of an underpass and is not bespoke to the Galloway Road project.

Current site activities
Early works are underway at the Galloway Road site. The site has been set up and vegetation has been removed. We have also set up site trailers, investigated the groundwater and searched for existing underground utilities.







Construction – next steps
In the coming months, we will be carrying out works to redirect existing gas and watermains, before we close the road in Spring 2027. These works will be carried out in the areas shown on the map. Additional temporary areas will be needed as the works progress.

Once the road is closed, the main construction of the grade separation can begin. This will involve the following construction activities:

- Major excavation
- Grading and leveling
- Track removals and renewals
- Piling and drilling for structural and foundational supports
- Cable containment and upgrades to the drainage system

We will keep you informed of these activities before they begin and will update you in advance of activities that could be disruptive.

We're here for you.
Share your feedback or ask us about transit construction happening in your community.

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@GO Expansion

Mitigating impacts on residential communities

Noise and vibration

We will use white noise backup alarms on vehicles and machinery, monitor noise and vibration during construction and install temporary noise barriers on site fencing.

Dust and mud

We will use onsite dust control to keep mud off local roads.

Early and ongoing engagement

We continue to integrate community feedback into planning and construction through community events and outreach. During construction, we remain responsive to concerns with clear communication, updates, and dedicated support teams to address community concerns.

Construction traffic

We will use only designated access routes to site.

Site lighting

We will make sure to aim glare and site lighting away from local homes and businesses during overnight work.

Facilities and trailers

Site staff will use designated and authorized onsite facilities, including office trailers, portable washrooms, delineated work zones, break areas, and secure storage for equipment. These spaces ensure structure, safety, and minimal disruption for both workers and the community.

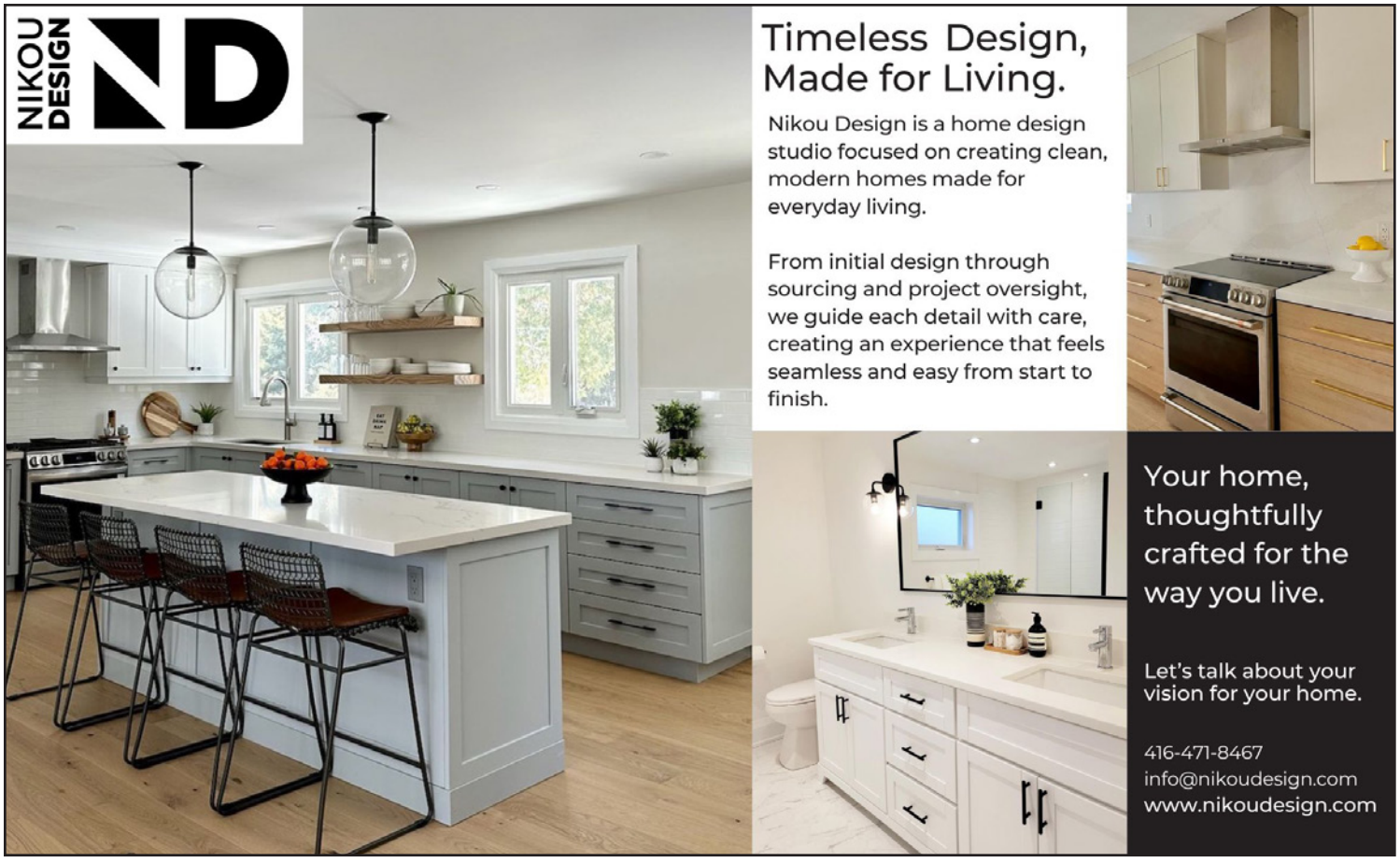
Parking and anti-idling of vehicles

To minimize disruptions to residences during construction, crews will follow parking and anti-idling protocols:

- Parking in designated spaces (within staging area)
- Limiting vehicle engine idling during deliveries
- Drive-in/drive-out site layout to increase safety and reduce reversing, where possible
- Broadband reversing alarms for quieter vehicle alerts
- No tailgate slamming during dump truck operations
- Regular equipment maintenance to prevent noise and emissions

Vegetation restoration

Tree and vegetation removals will be compensated in line with the Metrolinx Vegetation Guide, and restoration planning is already underway to support local renewal.



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Community Events

Marilyn Curtis, President, Probus Guildwood

Update from Probus Guildwood

Probus Guildwood is a social club that is comprised of retired and semi-retired seniors who join for fellowship, friendship and fun. Each time we get together there is a short meeting, a half hour refreshment break with time to socialize, followed by a guest speaker – each one with a different and interesting topic.

For more socializing time and fun, we have Lunch with Friends which is on the last Friday of each month where we go to different restaurants around Scarborough. We have two Book Clubs and a Movie Dinner Club that also meet monthly. We have just started Special Events that include excursions. Currently, we are trying to get a Euchre Club going. And, our Annual Christmas Lunch is in December but, you need to be a member to attend all of these events.

Our monthly meeting is the second Wednesday of each month except in July and August. Our meetings are held at the Guildwood Community Presbyterian Church at 140 Guildwood Parkway (at Livingston Road). Meetings are from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Guests are welcome for a $5 fee for up to two visits. For more information about membership and other questions, please contact us at probus-guildwood@outlook.com or see our website, probusguildwood.homesteadcloud.com, for more information.



We are pleased to announce our Winter lineup of speakers for January, February and March as follows:

Wednesday, January 13, 2027

Barbara Dickson – Author, Historian

Barbara's latest novel, "Courage and Grit: The Legacy of Canada's Bomb Girls" expands on the historical impact and legacy of these wartime workers.

February 10, 2027



Dale Johnson, Speaker and Radio Commentator

Dale speaks about automobile industry history in Toronto and emerging automobile trends. He keeps his presentation interesting for both men and women.

Wednesday, March 10, 2027



Kat Follis – Investor Engagement Specialist, Ontario Securities Commission

Kat partners with community groups and organizations to deliver fraud prevention, scam, and financial information sessions.

Our speaker's list and much more are available on our website. Search "Probus Guildwood". We hope you will join us for one or all our meetings and events.



What's on @ Guildwood Library

Matthew Parish, Guildwood Library, 416-396-8872

Monday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Thursday	12:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Saturday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday	12:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Friday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Sunday	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm				

Programs

EarlyON Baby Time - Babies in Playland
Ages – Newborn to 18 months
Children and their caregivers enjoy stories, songs and rhymes.
Drop in. Space is limited.
Contact the branch for exact date and times.

Family Story Time
Ages – Newborn to 5 Years
Enjoy fun activities, stories, songs and rhymes at a staff-led story time for the entire family. For children 0-5 years with their parents and caregivers.
Drop in. Space is limited.
Contact the branch for exact date and times.

Thursday Night Tech Night Support Drop In
Have questions about your tablet, phone, laptop, email or an app? Need help with eBooks or other online library services? Please bring your personal device and any questions you may have. No registration required. This is a drop-in event, come to the library to get one-on-one tech support!
First Thursday of each month 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Space is limited.

Guildwood Discussion Group
Ages - Adult
Come to the library to discuss current events.
Every third Tuesday each month from 2 – 3 p.m.
Drop In. Space is limited.

Silent Book Club
Ages 13 and up
Come bring a book you are reading. We read for a few minutes and then everyone talks about what they have read or what book they would recommend to read. This is a drop in program.
We meet the second Thursday of every month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Monday Kids Social
Ages 6 to 12
Explore the technology available for use including Snap Circuits, Dash and Dot and Sphero robots! Explore new crafts and board games. Drop in. Space is limited. Access and use of equipment will be on a first come, first serve basis.
Every Monday 4:00-5:00 pm.

Tuesday Cards and Chitchat
Come to the library for a casual drop-in gathering designed for adults to meet new people, play traditional cards or board games, checkers, chess and chat in a welcoming, relaxed community space.
Every Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Wednesday Seniors Social
A welcoming, free space for older adults to connect and chat! A regular gathering featuring casual conversations over tea, board games, card games or light crafts.
Every Wednesday from 2:00 – 3:30 pm.

Friday Teen Social
Ages 13 - 18
The ultimate Friday after-school hangout spot! Connect with friends, play video games, cards, or work on a craft project. Free, casual, and just for teens.
Drop in. No registration needed.

More program information is available on our website www.tpl.ca



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Recommended Books from Guildwood Staff

Matthew recommends:
***Horns* by Joe Hill**
In the aftermath of his girlfriend's mysterious death, a young man awakens to strange horns sprouting from his temples, giving him the power to read everyone's darkest secrets and fantasies.

Courtney recommends:
***Yesteryear: A Novel* by Caro Claire Burke**
A beautiful wife and mother who sells her pioneer lifestyle of raw milk and farm-fresh eggs to her millions of social media followers, suddenly awakens cold, filthy, and terrified in the brutal reality of 1855—where she must unravel whether this is a living nightmare.

Corida recommends:
***Whistler: A Novel* by Ann Patchett**
With a chance encounter in a museum. Daphne Fuller crosses paths with the man who was her stepfather for one of the most impactful years of her life—more than four decades earlier, when she was nine.

Sophia recommends:
***The Midnight Train: A Novel* by Matt Haig**
When your life flashes before your eyes, where would you stop? No one can change the past, but the Midnight Train can take you there. The chance to re-live the moments that meant most.

Regina recommends:
***The Young Will Remember* by Eve J. Chung**
A sweeping novel about a correspondent trapped behind enemy lines during the Korean War, and the women who help her find her way home.

Lamia recommends:
***Mad Mabel: A Novel* by Sally Hepworth**
Meet Elsie Mabel Fitzpatrick: eighty-one years old, gloriously grumpy, fiercely independent, and never without a hot cup of tea—or a cutting remark. She minds her own business in her quiet Melbourne suburb, until a neighbor turns up dead and the whispers start flying.

Sapna recommends:
***My Friends* by Fredrik Backman**
A novel about a group of four teenagers whose friendship is forged over one remarkable summer, creating a bond so powerful that it changes a stranger's life twenty-five years later.

Jen recommends:
***Land: A Novel* by Maggie O'Farrell**
A historical novel set in Ireland in the years before and after the Blight. On a windswept peninsula stretching out into the Atlantic, Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam, are working for the great Ordnance Survey project to map the whole of Ireland.

Raushan recommends:
***Wildwood: A Novel* by Elinor Florence**
Broke and desperate, Molly Bannister accepts the ironclad condition laid down in her great-aunt's will: to receive her inheritance, Molly must spend one year in an abandoned, off-the-grid farmhouse in the remote backwoods of northern Alberta.

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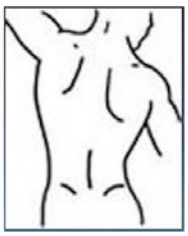
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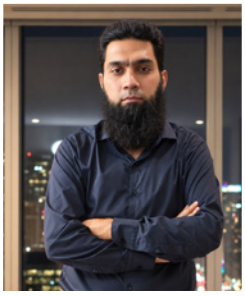


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Inviting Family to Canada?

Five things a host should understand before writing a visitor-visa invitation letter



Usman Khalil, Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant

When a family member or friend needs a visitor visa to come to Canada, the visitor is the applicant, but a person in Canada may support the application with a letter of invitation. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) says an invitation letter can help confirm the purpose of the visit. It can also explain the relationship to the host, where the visitor will stay, how long the visit is expected to last and how expenses will be handled. It is supporting evidence, not the application itself.

For many Canadian families, an invitation letter feels like the most personal part of a visitor-visa application. A parent, sibling or friend may be coming for a wedding, a birth, a holiday or simply time together. The host wants to help — and may feel pressure to make the letter sound as strong as possible.

IRCC's current guidance is straightforward. An invitation letter can support a visitor-visa application, but it does not guarantee approval. The visa officer assesses the applicant under Canadian immigration law. That makes accuracy and consistency more useful than dramatic language.

1. Understand what the invitation letter can – and cannot – do
IRCC says a person in Canada may provide an invitation letter to support a family member or friend who needs a visitor visa. The letter can help explain the purpose of the visit and the arrangements in Canada, but the decision remains with the visa officer.

A host should therefore avoid treating the letter as a guarantee or as a substitute for the applicant's own evidence. The applicant still has to meet the applicable visitor-visa requirements and provide the documents requested for the application.

2. Describe the visit truthfully and specifically
IRCC's invitation-letter guidance asks for practical details about the person being invited: their name, date of birth, relationship to the host, purpose of the trip, intended length of stay, where they will stay, how expenses will be paid and when they plan to leave Canada.

Those details should reflect the real plan. A short family visit should not be described as something else simply because someone believes different wording sounds stronger. A clear explanation is easier to reconcile with the applicant's forms, travel dates, financial records and supporting documents.

3. Be clear about money and accommodation
The invitation letter should explain where the visitor will stay and how the visit will be funded. A host may offer accommodation or financial help, but the letter should not create a financial story that conflicts with the rest of the application.

For example, the application should not simultaneously suggest that the visitor is entirely self-funded and that the host will pay every expense without explaining the arrangement. The key is not choosing one formula; it is making sure the documents tell the same factual story.

4. Include accurate information about the host
IRCC's current invitation-letter page asks the host to include identifying and contact information, their address and telephone number in Canada, job title, immigration status in Canada and proof of that status. It also asks for information about the host's family.

The host should use current information. An old address, outdated employment information or an incorrect description of status can create avoidable questions, especially when other documents show something different.

5. Remember that the visitor remains the applicant
A Canadian host can help assemble documents, explain the family relationship and provide an invitation. But the visitor is the person applying for the visa, and IRCC assesses that person's application.

IRCC also states that writing an invitation letter does not make the host legally responsible for the visitor after arrival. The host should nevertheless write the letter in good faith, tell the truth and intend to keep the promises made in it.

A useful final check
Before the visitor submits the application, compare the invitation letter with the forms and key supporting records. Are the travel dates consistent? Is the purpose of travel described the same way? Does the funding arrangement make sense? Does the host information match current documents?

An invitation letter is strongest when it is not trying to "win" the application. Its job is simpler: provide truthful, useful context about the visit and the person in Canada who is extending the invitation.

About the author
Usman Khalil is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC R709592) and Chartered Professional Accountant with MAK Canadian Immigration Services, which has a Canadian office in Scarborough. This article provides general educational information and is not case-specific immigration advice.

Signs of the Times: Finding Our Way Around Guild Park



John P. Mason, President, Friends of Guild Park

Imagine coming to Guild Park & Gardens for the first time. You walk past the main gates of stone topped with antique lights.



Ahead are four imposing stone columns that look like they came from an ancient temple.
Nearby there's a black triangular monolith along with a group of sculpted giants.



Immediately, you can tell this is no ordinary park… and you've just arrived.



Driveways and pathways lead in several directions, some along gardens, some disappearing into the woods. There's a small wooden cabin, an old-fashioned stucco structure and a modern, three-storey arts centre.

Why Wayfinding?
It all looks intriguing. But where should you go? What are you looking at? Where do those paths lead? And how do you find everything else waiting to be discovered in this 88-acre park along the Scarborough Bluffs?

Those questions explain why **wayfinding** at Guild Park is important.

Wayfinding simply means finding your way in a place. It's about helping people know where they are, where they want to go and how to get there. In a major destination park such as Guild Park — with formal gardens, forests, trails, heritage features, public art, cultural facilities, parking areas and waterfront connections — wayfinding means much more than putting up a few directional arrows.

Effective wayfinding requires an integrated system of signs – well located and easily understood. The time has come for Guild Park — and its tens of thousands of annual visitors — to benefit from a professionally designed set of signs that make it easier to explore the park.



A mock-up of one of the City's wayfinding designs proposed for Guild Park. It incorporates a detailed map identifying park trails and features by name. Adapted from Guild Park and Gardens Wayfinding Sign Locations, City of Toronto, April 2026.

The City of Toronto is now developing just such a system for Guild Park as part of its broader Toronto Parks & Trails Wayfinding program.

The City's approach is intended to help people of different abilities identify, explore and navigate parks more easily while reducing unnecessary sign clutter.

For Guild Park, the current proposal includes signs of six different types throughout the grounds — including park identification, pedestrian and vehicle directions, natural-area markers and park maps.

Two of the proposed sign designs incorporate specially prepared maps showing park areas with trails, landmarks and public facilities. For visitors, the benefits are very practical.

- Someone arriving for the first time should be able to find the Greek Theatre or Clark Centre for the Arts without having to ask for directions.
- A person considering a forest trail should be able to know where it goes and, where appropriate, approximately how far or how long the walk might be.
- Someone arriving from the increasingly popular, but still largely undeveloped, Scarborough Waterfront Trail should be able to recognize that they've arrived at Guild Park and can find a welcoming route toward the park's major destinations.

Even those of us who know Guild Park well can benefit from having clear, consistent information available 24/7.

What park visitors say

Friends of Guild Park volunteers have spent years talking with people as they explore the park. Questions about directions are common, particularly among first-time visitors trying to locate major destinations or determine where an unfamiliar trail leads.

This year we received an interesting additional perspective when a second-year class of Arts Management students from the University of Toronto Scarborough visited Guild Park. The students looked at the park with fresh eyes, and raised questions about signage, interpretation, accessibility and opportunities to use QR codes and other digital resources. Some specifically commented on the difficulty of understanding where artworks were located and the significance of what they were seeing.

Their observations reinforce an important point: Guild Park already has an extraordinary collection of things to discover and experience. Effective wayfinding helps people actually find them.

A new, authoritative Guild Park map would accurately show park entrances, roads, established pathways and trails, parking areas, major facilities and landmarks, natural areas, accessibility information and connections to the waterfront.

- continued on next page

A tale of two park maps

Perhaps the best way to see the opportunity ahead is to compare two maps.

High Park is one of Toronto's major destination parks where City wayfinding signs are already installed. Those signs include a detailed wayfinding map showing High Park's pathways, destinations, facilities and other information that visitors need to plan their visit.

Guild Park doesn't yet have an equivalent official City-produced map for visitors. To help fill that gap, Friends of Guild Park created its own illustrated visitor map several years ago and has continued updating it. It shows a portion of the park and identifies 11 of the site's better-known attractions.

This community-produced map has proved useful for tours and visitors, but it was never intended to do the work of a comprehensive park map prepared by professional cartographers. The City's new wayfinding initiative provides an important opportunity to create one.





Left: City of Toronto wayfinding map for High Park. Right: Friends of Guild Park's current visitor map.

Getting the map right also means getting the names right. Some Guild Park pathways, trails, parking areas and destinations have acquired different formal or informal names over time. Some features don't have names at all.

Before those names appear on permanent wayfinding signs and maps, there's an opportunity to make sure the information is accurate and consistent — and appropriately reflects both the park's current assets and its legacy.

Designing for today — and tomorrow
The current City project is primarily about wayfinding. It isn't intended to provide a comprehensive interpretation of Guild Park's remarkable art, history, architecture and natural environment. But good planning today can leave room to add that information tomorrow.



How a proposed wayfinding sign can replace existing sign clutter at Guild Park. Adapted from Guild Park and Gardens Wayfinding Sign Locations, City of Toronto, April 2026.

For example, future interpretive information could make greater use of QR codes or other digital resources without requiring a proliferation of additional signs. That possibility was most recently raised independently by the UTSC students.

There are other practical details worth considering: identifying important entrances and trail junctions, providing useful information at selected trailheads and perhaps incorporating simple locator numbers or codes that correspond to locations on the park map.

The objective isn't more signs. It's better information, in the right places, as part of one coherent system.

What happens next?
There's no announced timetable yet for installing Guild Park's new wayfinding system. Friends of Guild Park provided its recommendations, along with input collected from park visitors, to the City's wayfinding team in August.

The City's plans for Guild Park signs are still being developed. Officials tell us they expect a further review with park stakeholders before sign locations, maps and content are finalized.

That means there are still opportunities to bring local knowledge into the City's process.

- Are there places in Guild Park that are particularly difficult to find?
- Are there pathways or landmarks whose names are confusing?
- Are there sensitive areas where signs could help visitors stay on appropriate routes?
- Is there information you wish you had when you first explored the park?

Those are useful questions to ask now. Because whether you've lived in Guildwood Village for decades or are discovering Guild Park for the very first time, good wayfinding should accomplish something wonderfully simple:

Help you spend less time wondering where to go — and more time discovering what is already here in a unique park where art meets nature.

Have a thought or two about wayfinding or other aspects of Guild Park? Share your comments with Friends of Guild Park at friends@guildpark.ca or visit guildpark.ca. You can also learn more about our not-for-profit organization, including ways to join or support our work.




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Amazing Migration Of Monarch Butterflies

Ann Brokelman

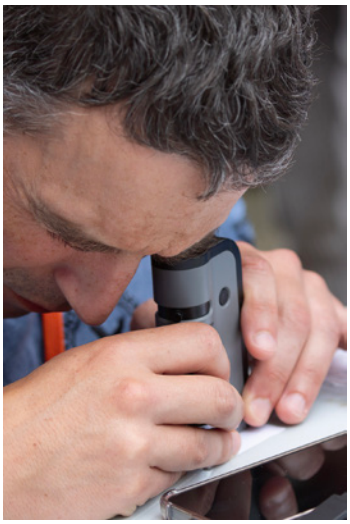


Even after all my years of watching and counting Monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) at Rosetta McClain Gardens, I still find myself learning new things about them. I've become a bit of a pro at helping raise them from the egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, to adult stages, (and I've helped many others learn to do the same), I've recently become interested in their migration behaviour and how we track them. Their journey to Mexico is a marvel, and if you've never seen the images of them, in the millions, congregating in places like the El Rosario or Sierra Chincua sanctuaries, you need to search for images asap!

On September 1st, I was given the opportunity to observe a Monarch with a special tracking transmitter that allows me to follow its journey across the continent. I don't know if my little traveler, named RMT26002, will make the full journey to Mexico, but I am completely hooked on following him (using the free Project Monarch app on my phone). As of writing this article, this incredible little butterfly has traveled 1,150 kilometers in just eleven days. By the time this article reaches you, I hope he will be well past the 1,500-kilometer mark!

To tell you a bit more about this whole experience, I must go back and introduce you to Betty McCulloch, of the Scarborough Rosetta Gardens Monarch Taggers (a wonderful local group of citizen scientists). I've known her for years and she's taught me so much about different butterflies. Betty was contacted by Dr. Greg Mitchell and Ana Diaz Bohorquez, from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), about a special tracking project. When they arrived at Rosetta McClain Gardens this September 1st, they showed the Monarch Taggers how to safely attach a new type of transmitter.

The device, actually called a BlūMorpho tag, weighs just 0.06 grams. It is completely solar-powered, without any battery at all, and is designed to track a butterfly's daily flight using solar radio transmitter technology. The BlūMorpho has been in use since 2023-2024 after a successful pilot program. I was lucky enough to join Betty and the others for that special demonstration, and I actually managed to catch the very first Monarch of the day! I also had a front-row seat to watch Greg and Ana demonstrate the proper technique of safely handling the butterflies and attaching the transmitter.



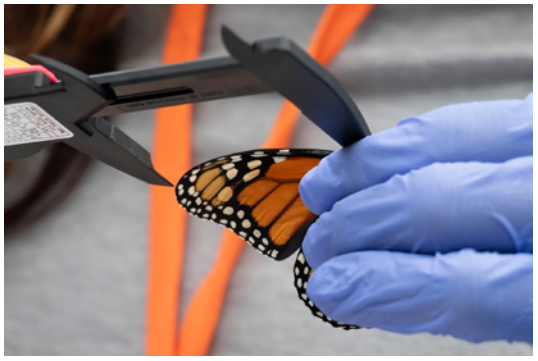


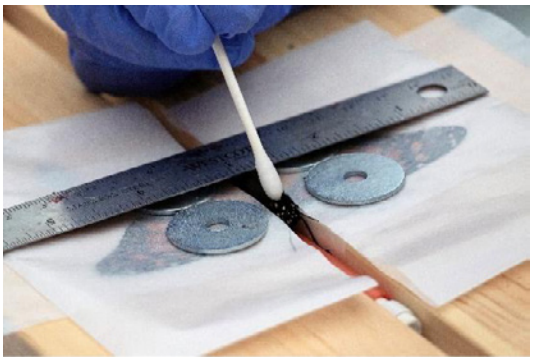
Dr. Greg Mitchell Checking for OE and Ana Diaz Bohorquez ready to put on transmitter

Photo credits on this page: Ann Brokelman

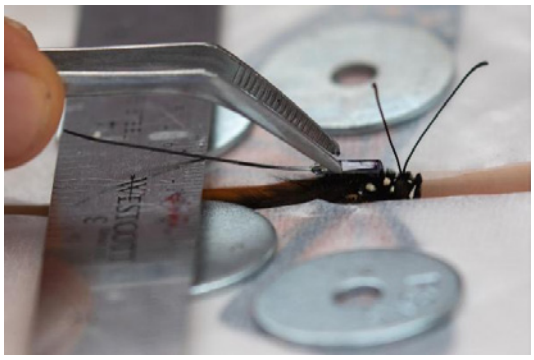


Each Monarch is weighed and its wings are measured





Testing for Ophryocystis elektroscirrha



Putting a transmitter on the back with eylash glue

If you're curious, the key steps included: measuring the wings, identifying whether the Monarch was male or female, weighing it, and checking for *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (a common parasite). Once those checks

were done, the transmitter was gently secured using ordinary eyelash glue. After the tag was attached, the butterfly was placed in a large mesh container for about 5 minutes, where it could be observed while it tested its wings. This was followed by Dr. Greg passing me the butterfly, me wishing it a safe flight, and the monarch taking off to continue its 4,000+km journey.



If I'm making the process sound simple, trust me when I say that it involved many precise, somewhat nerve-wracking, steps. These little creatures are so delicate that it would be easy to do them irreparable harm. Luckily, Ana and Greg patiently guided us through the entire process as we successfully tagged 33 Monarchs over two days.

Releasing the first monarch in Toronto with transmitter
Photo credit: Gary James



If you're interested in learning more or wondering how you can follow along with this at home, it's so simple! All you need to do is download the Project Monarch app Free on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

Once you open the app, head over to the data tab where you can look up specific butterflies to see their real-time migration details. If you want to follow the exact Monarchs the Rosetta McClain Gardens team tagged, search for tags RMT26002 through RMT26033.

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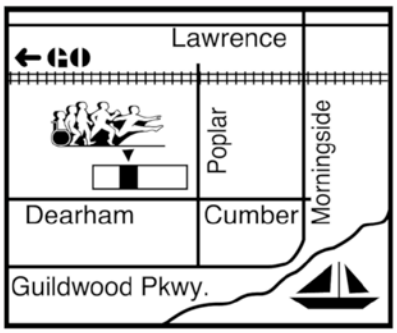
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Guildwood's Got Talent

Sheila McGovern



Imagine there's a major new TV show named for your city, and you get to be on-screen in the opening episode! Yes, that was really me you saw in the first episode of Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent. Well … my profile at least … wearing the orange cocktail dress … in the midst of a milling crowd at the Toronto Islands' famous Royal Canadian Yacht Club … for a fraction of a second before the scene changed. That is to say, you would have seen me if you didn't blink. Somehow it seemed worth the 2:00 a.m. call-time, the long wait on a blustery August day, and the late ferry ride back to the mainland around 10:00 p.m.

There is something thrilling about being on set for a big production and to go behind the scenes of these shows; but you have to be prepared to sit around and wait a lot!

After retiring from a lengthy career in healthcare marketing in 2022, I wanted to find ways to keep busy, at least part-time, while having some fun and making a little extra pocket money. My childhood dream of exploring the world of acting, abandoned for the business route, inspired me to sign up with a couple of local agencies that specialize in recruiting people to appear on film or TV sets as background actors ("BGs"). I received my first assignment a few weeks later.

My introductory on-set experience was in the aforementioned inaugural episode of the newly-created Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent series. Over the next three years I worked on a variety of shows including The Boys (Season 5), Vought Rising (a spin-off of The Boys), Memory of a Killer (Season 1), and Ginny & Georgia (Season 4). I also had speaking roles in a couple of social media commercials for Viasox and an RV company called Good Sam.

One benefit of this type of work is that it can lead to instant friendships with other "BGs" – the "older" people tending to gravitate to each other. So I asked a couple of our younger Guildwoodians to talk about their experiences with this type of employment and this is what they had to say ….

How to Have "Extra" Fun While Staying in the Background



Presenting Charly Galt
I've always been into acting, especially musical theatre, and thought background work would be a great way to gain new experiences while earning some money on the side. Background work is a lot of work but truly worth it for me every time.

How long have you been doing background work?
I started doing background work in TV and film about 5 years ago when I was in Grade 10. It's been a very fun and cool journey so far. I've really enjoyed getting to experience what happens behind the scenes of productions.

What shows or movies have you been on?
I've had the opportunity to work as a background actor on several different productions. Some of my main productions include Thanksgiving, Trap, The Testaments (a spin-off of the Handmaid's Tale), and Ginny & Georgia Season 4. Each set has been a different experience, and it's been interesting to see how different productions and crews operate.

What do you see as the good and bad points about the background acting world?
Background work is so rewarding to me with one of the best parts getting to see how a movie or TV show is actually made. You get to be around so many different departments and see how much work goes into creating even a short scene. It takes a village just to put together one scene. I also enjoy meeting new people and being part of a large team. I've made so many friends through something I truly enjoy. It can be exciting knowing that you're contributing to a production that people will eventually watch.

The downside is that background work can involve a lot of waiting and long days/nights. You might spend hours on set and only appear briefly in the final production, or sometimes your scene may not make it in at all. The hours can also be long, and you have to be comfortable being flexible with your schedule. It can be super early mornings or extremely late nights. Most of the time you don't find out your call time until the day before. I've had 4:00 a.m. call times where I don't leave the set until 7:00 p.m., or some early afternoon call times where I don't leave till almost 4:00 a.m.! Background work requires you to give up your entire day because you truly never know when your day will start and end.

What advice would you give to other kids or people who want to try working on sets?
My biggest advice would be to be patient, listen carefully, and always follow directions. There are a lot of moving parts on a film set, so being respectful and paying attention is really important. I'd also say to go into it with an open mind. You might spend a lot of time waiting around, but there are still lots of things to learn by watching the people around you. It's a great way to get an introduction to the film industry without needing previous experience.

Anything else you'd like to mention?
One thing I've learned from doing background work is how important teamwork is on a set. There are so many people working together, both in front of and behind the camera, to create one final product. It has also taught me how to take direction, be adaptable, and stay professional in different environments. Overall, I'm really grateful for the experiences I've had and would definitely recommend trying it if you're interested in film and television.



A scene showing BGs on the set of The Testataments



Presenting: Aiden Milroy
The background acting opportunity on the movie set of "Frankenstein" came to me as a fluke, for the most part. I recently graduated from the Image Arts: Photography program at TMU which runs in tandem with the school's film program. I received a casting call email because of this and decided to submit a photo of myself in the off chance they would consider me. Sure enough, I received an email back from the production studio confirming my role as a "medical student in the 1800s".

In February 2024, I was called in for a wardrobe fitting. I met with a woman named Jay who took my measurements and fitted me in different costume combinations. Jay was essentially acting as a writer - mixing and matching pieces to inform who the character I was playing would be – a wool vest for a wealthy student; a slick black coat for a partygoer – and all of these decisions were made for a nameless character that would appear on screen for less than a minute. I returned to set one last time before shooting to discuss facial hair where I was promptly told to shave.

Production began in March 2024 where I spent four days on set with my fellow extras (five of whom I am still friends with to this day). We were barred access to our phones* and spent most of the time talking and playing cards. The set was a massive circular lecture hall built on a soundstage. We entered as a group of five to a section we were sure would get us on camera. We briefly spoke to the director Guillermo Del Toro who split us up, leaving only me and my friend Niko in that section.

We spent the remainder of the four days witnessing a scene where Dr. Frankenstein (Oscar Issac) demonstrates his ability to resurrect a dead corpse in front of the university administration. Although standing around waiting on set can be tedious, rehearsal and shooting periods were often redeemed by moments of levity. On the second day, Oscar Issac's family paid the actor a visit. The puppeteers manning the Corpse animatronic entertained his kids with a game of peekaboo in costume. These moments were not few and far between, whether it be Christoph Waltz greeting the extras after taking a redeye from the Oscars the previous night or Jacob Elordi arriving with his camera to take photos of the set. The most rewarding of these interactions came a year and a half later seeing the scene in theatres and understanding all of the work behind it.

As for my photography practice, I recently exhibited a project entitled Polygraph at the historic 401 Richmond building with Artspace TMU. The project consists of my family's snapshot collection spanning from 1969 to 1982, altered and transformed with AI image editing tools that have called into question photography's relationship to the truth. I used these images as the materials for a conceptual lie detector, creating variants of each image as part of an interactive digital projection and a collection of wall prints, allowing viewers to attempt to distinguish between the real and fabricated narratives on display. The exhibition was open from February 12 to March 14 of this year and featured an opening reception and artist talk themed around issues of image veracity. I am currently working on a new project for exhibition as well as maintaining my freelance photo practice working with businesses around Toronto. Please feel free to browse my photographs at aidenmilroy.com.

*cameras on phones are often "disabled" on set in order to prevent early "leaks" of any on-set activities that might reveal a show's plot line.

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Before You Clear the House: Part two in preparing a home for its next chapter

Elizabeth Darbyshire



In my last article, I wrote about the emotional side of selling a home you may have lived in for a long time. It is where family dinners happened, children grew up, and collections of stuff appeared in every room.

This time, I want to tackle the question that stops people from moving forward: “What are we going to do with all of the stuff?” The silver cutlery in its felt case. The china used for holidays. The teak furniture that was purchased when it was new (my mom’s is circa 1965). The heavy sofa bed in the basement, family photographs, lamps, tools, linens and dishes. All of that can feel like a lot to face but it does not need to be overwhelming. We can put a plan in place that finds a home for everything – from too much stuff to dated furniture.

After more than 15 years of helping people prepare homes for sale, I have learned that the same questions come up again and again. What needs to be done before the home goes on the market? What should the family keep? What can be sold, donated or removed?

Here are three lessons that help families make a plan without unnecessary work or rushed decisions.

Lesson One: The house may be ready to sell sooner than you think
A home does not need to be emptied before we can show it well. Furniture and belongings often help it feel warm and welcoming to buyers. When I come over, we will decide what needs to be done before listing – very often, it is not much. A little decluttering, editing of a room or two, and a good cleaning may be all that is needed.

In many cases, it makes more sense to sell the home first. Once there is a sale and a moving timeline, we can deal with the contents without rushing.

Lesson Two: Do not start to clear too quickly
Before we bring in anyone else, family members should have the opportunity to choose the personal things they truly want to keep. This includes photographs, papers, jewellery, heirlooms and items that are special to them. I will be taking my mom’s teak set, no ifs, ands, or buts! The goal is not for everyone to take things out of guilt. It is to make sure the things that matter go to those who really want them.

Lesson Three: There is more than one way to deal with what remains
I encourage families to pause before cleaning everything out. We have a few options available to help clear the contents of the home. The right choice depends on the home and its contents.

If there is a good mix of clean furniture, decor, kitchen items, tools and household pieces, an online auction can be a good option. The auction company photographs and lists the items online while they remain in the home. Buyers bid, then come on one organized pickup day after the sale is complete. This can often all be done in about two weeks.

Why an auction? You do not have to list what you think is valuable on Kijiji or Marketplace, photograph every item, answer messages, or arrange for people to come to the home one at a time. The auction company manages the entire process.

That old sofa in the basement may not be what your children want, but it may be perfect for a student moving into a first apartment. Sometimes the items that create the most interest are not what anyone expects. I have seen an auctioneer get excited over unused Christmas wrapping paper from the 1970s tucked away in a closet or a set of old clay poker chips. I am always surprised by what takes off in an auction.

For some homes, we may decide that an estate sale is the better choice. An estate sale company prices all the contents in the home, promotes the sale, and manages shoppers coming through the home over a weekend. Buyers purchase their items and take them away, usually right then and there.

Neither option is about making a fortune. The proceeds may help reduce the cost of clearing the home afterwards. If there are specific items that you think might be worth something, we will do the research and have them dealt with separately.

Finally, whether we choose a sale or not, donation, recycling and removal of broken or unsellable items will be arranged. Some donation centres provide a tax receipt, offer free pickup, or make sure suitable furniture is donated directly to people who need it.

All of these options will be discussed before you throw anything out. The goal is a home left clean and tidy for its new owners, and a clear plan instead of a houseful of decisions.

If you have questions, please reach out anytime at 905-391-5521, even if you simply want to bounce around some ideas. To be included in my newsletter, use the QR code or email me at hello@elizabethdarbyshire.ca.

If QR codes are not your thing, call me and I will gladly send you the information you need.

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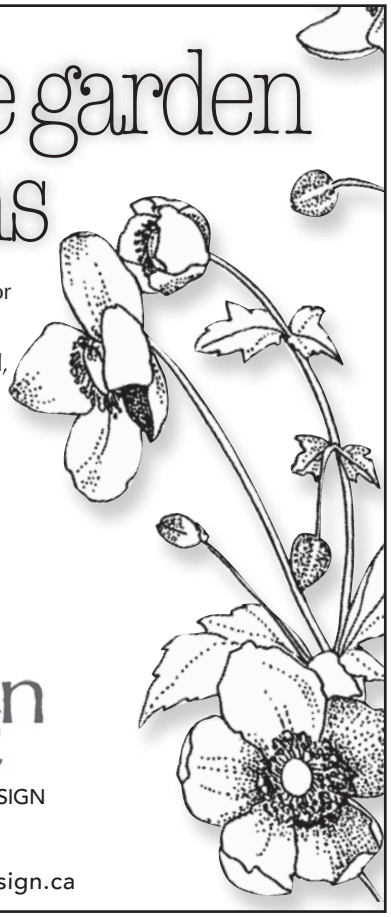
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Update from Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park



Dear friends,

I hope you and your families are having a wonderful autumn season.

It has been an exciting few months across Scarborough–Rouge Park, with vibrant local events, important investments in transit and health care, and new opportunities for our community.



It has also been an exciting time personally, as I was recently honoured to be appointed Ontario's first-ever Associate Minister of Artificial Intelligence Adoption by Premier Doug Ford. I am humbled to take on this new responsibility and look forward to bringing this work forward while continuing to serve the residents of Scarborough–Rouge Park.

Below are a few key updates on what's happening.

Annual 2026 Community BBQ at Canmore Park
It was wonderful seeing so many residents at our annual Community BBQ! Events like this remind us what makes Scarborough–Rouge Park such a special place to call home.

- **Thank You to Our Volunteers & Vendors:** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who dedicated their time to make this year's BBQ a resounding success.
- **Connecting with You:** I truly enjoyed chatting with families, hearing about the issues that matter most to you, and sharing good food and conversation.

Missed this year's BBQ? We missed you too! We look forward to seeing you at our next community gathering.



Breaking Ground on Scarborough Health Network's New Centenary Emergency Department
We reached a major healthcare milestone for Scarborough–Rouge Park as construction officially began on Scarborough Health Network's (SHN) new Emergency Department at Centenary Hospital.

This expansion is something our community and local healthcare professionals have advocated for over many years, and I am proud to help deliver this crucial investment.

Key Project Highlights:
- $82+ Million Provincial Investment: Funding a modern, state-of-the-art emergency facility.
- Massive Expansion: Adding over 36,000 square feet to increase overall capacity for our growing population.
- Economic Impact: Supporting approximately 400 good-paying local jobs during construction.

This expansion takes an important step forward in connecting local families to the world-class emergency care they deserve for generations to come.

Scarborough Subway Extension Moves Forward
Work is progressing rapidly on the Scarborough Subway Extension, extending Line 2 north from Kennedy Station to Sheppard Avenue and McCowan Road.

This project will transform transit in Scarborough by reducing travel times and improving access to jobs, schools, and medical services.

What This Means for Our Community:
- New Lawrence & McCowan Station: Includes a dedicated bus terminal to make transferring between express bus routes and the subway seamless.
- Better Access: Brings 38,000 residents within walking distance of rapid transit.
- Job Creation: Supports roughly 3,000 workers annually throughout construction.

This extension, alongside the Ontario Line, Eglinton Crosstown West, and Yonge North projects, is part of the largest subway expansion program in Canadian history, providing Scarborough with shorter commutes and stronger regional connectivity.

We're Here to Help
If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance with provincial services, please do not hesitate to contact our constituency office:

Address: 8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 105
Email: vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org
Phone: 416-283-8448

Warm regards,
Vijay Thanigasalam,
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

Festive Events



All are welcome!

Sat. November 21 @ 10 am - 2 pm:
Christmas Bazaar & Café
Silent Auction • Baking • Raffle • Jewellery • Festive & Other Crafts • Top Shelf Books • Kid's Corner • Santa's Visit (Noon) • & more

Sun. December 13 @ 4 pm:
2026 Christmas Concert
presented with ***Myron de Souza***
includes performances with the church choir, Music Director *Marilyn Lind* & Sunday School

Thurs. December 24 @ 7 pm:
Christmas Eve Service

Fri. December 25 @ 10:30 am:
Christmas Day Service

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Wednesday to Saturday 11:30-8:30
NEW: Slice Sunday 11:30-4:30

MARK'S Pizza's
@marks_pizzas @markspizzas
371 Old Kingston Rd. Unit A, Highland Creek

Crossword

Don Briggs



Answers at
www.guildwood.ca/blog

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12
13					■	14				■	15		
16					17					■	18		
19							■	20		21			
■	■	■	22				23	■	■	24			
25	26	27	■	28				29	30		■	■	■
31			32			■	33				34	35	36
37					■	38							
■	39				■	40			■	41			
■	■	■	42		43			■	44				
45	46	47	■	48			■	49					■
50			51			■	52			■	■	■	■
53				■	54	55				56	57	58	59
60				■	61				■	62			
63				■	64				■	65			
66				■	67				■	68			

Across:

1. Enthusiastically declare one's achievements
6. Kids' summer container
10. TV station with pledge breaks (abbr)
13. _____ dressing
14. Archaic spelling of word used to evoke nostalgia
15. You make one by sitting
16. Inducement
18. _____ mode
19. Guild Festival _____
20. _____ fingers
22. Musical instrument
24. Troublesome situation
25. Summer in Quebec
28. The guy at the bar _____ _____ _____ stool
31. "Bye for now" (2 wds)
33. An almond browned in boiling sugar
37. State of uncertainty
38. Capital city of South Africa
39. _____ cloth
40. Those who work for others (abbr)
41. My Three _____, 1960's sit-com
42. _____ Fox
44. Al _____
45. You can get one at Gabby's
48. An umpire's call
49. Severe
50. Ferris Bueller took one (2 wds)
52. Noisy disturbance
53. A thing
54. What a bad musician might produce (2 wds)
60. Food shop
61. Dryer _____
62. Container
63. _____ _____ stands...
64. Radio station 102.1, is known as The _____
65. Another option
66. Measures to which people are judged (abbr)
67. One who accomplishes things
68. _____ sign

Down:

1. Ill-behaved child
2. Solemn declaration
3. Poker game stake
4. Waste
5. _____ _____ _____ ___ your business
6. Strong
7. _____ MacGraw
8. Exchanges at the altar (2 wds)
9. It begins on Ash Wednesday
10. Rossini _____, a nice street in Guildwood
11. Hesitates
12. Neuters
17. Small city in Alaska
21. "___ ___ _____", by the Beatles
23. A bird of prey
25. Course for new Canadians (abbr)
26. Work hard
27. Sesame Street character
29. Natural rocks containing valuable minerals
30. _____ King Cole
32. Short tribute for deceased (abbr)
34. Specific golf clubs
35. One of Beethoven's symphonies
36. Slacken
38. Impudent or sassy
43. Feathers can be _____
44. Early morning
45. Big name in athletic apparel
46. Most recent
47. Body part
49. It is _____ at the Equator, than at the Arctic Circle
51. Leaves out
52. Scope
55. A Kingston Rd. Motel
56. Kitchen appliance
57. _____ of woe
58. Gas station close to Guildwood
59. Witnessed

Create a butterfly factory in your garden!

Allison Murray, Guildwood Butterflyway Project



How did your garden grow in 2026? Do you ever wonder why some gardens have more butterflies than others? All butterflies and moths need two kinds of plants: nectar plants and larval host plants (or host plants for short). These are the plants that butterflies and moths lay their eggs on. The eggs hatch into caterpillars who need to eat the leaves of the host plant until they are big enough to form a chrysalis (in the case of butterflies) or cocoon (in the case of moths). Host plants are critical to the survival of all butterflies and moths. While they get eaten by caterpillars and can look pretty raggedy during this phase of the life cycle, the reward comes after the butterflies have emerged as adults and begin to feed on the nectar plants you've provided. The host plants recover from the caterpillar feeding frenzy and go on to bloom.

Nectar plants are also important. It's always better to plant native plants because these generally provide better quality nectar than non-native plants (such as the popular Buddleia or Butterfly Bush) whose nectar is equivalent to junk food for butterflies. With nectar plants, make sure you have something in bloom from spring through fall to feed the insect universe in your garden.

In some cases, as with Monarch butterflies, there is only one species of host plant that the butterfly can lay its eggs on. Monarchs are 100% dependent on milkweed and without it, they will not survive. Until 2015, milkweed was on Ontario's list of noxious weeds, and it is our vigilance in eliminating milkweed across all of North America that has contributed to the precipitous decline in the Monarch population. Fortunately, with more awareness of the close connection between Monarchs and milkweed, we are beginning to see a small but fragile recovery in the Monarch population as gardeners across the continent have been adding milkweed and nectar plants to their gardens and as pollinator pathways have been created across farmlands and transportation routes in both Canada and the USA.

Other butterflies, such as the Black Swallowtail, will lay their eggs on a variety of related plants such as members of the carrot family which includes carrots, dill, parsley, fennel and Queen Anne's Lace as well as the native Golden Alexander. Watch for their tiny black caterpillars when you are clipping a bunch of parsley for your dinner. Better yet, just grow the parsley for the Black Swallowtails!

The connections between butterflies and moths and their host plants evolved over millennia, so if you are interested in supporting butterflies and seeing more in your garden, you can do a few things:

1. Plant a variety of native host plants as well as nectar plants that will bloom across all seasons. Imported non-native plants do not act as host plants for native butterflies and moths.
2. Don't use chemicals of any kind, including lawn chemicals.
3. Leave the leaf litter in your garden beds to shelter butterflies and moths in various life stages over the winter.
4. Don't cut back stems in the fall as they may have tiny eggs or caterpillars on them. Leave the seed heads up to feed the birds all winter and the stems to provide nesting sites for native bees.
5. Select native plants for your garden based on which butterflies you want to see!

For a list of native plants and some pictures of the butterflies and moths that they support, please visit the Guildwood Butterflyway website resources page gwbutterflyway.ca/resources/.

When you are planning your 2027 garden this winter, consider planting some host plants as well as nectar plants in order to create a butterfly paradise in your garden.



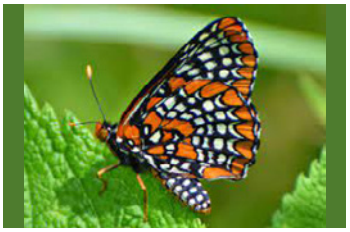
Common Buckeye = Blue Vervain



Black Swallowtail = Golden Alexander



Great Spangled Fritillary = Violets



Baltimore Checkerspot = Wild Turtlehead