



**GVCA**

1958-2026

# Guildwood Village **NEWS & VIEWS**

The official publication of the Guildwood Village Community Association

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*Photo Credit: Kam Leung*

# Contents

- 4 Guildwood Village Annual Tree and Shrub Giveaway
- 5 Garden Volunteers Needed!
- 6 Elizabeth Simcoe's Spring Into Summer Fun Fair
- 8 Expanded Recycling Program
- 11 Poplar Road Strawberry Festival
- 12 Guildwood's First Battle of the Bands Hits a High Note
- 14 Probus Guildwood Social Club
- 16 Keeping Our Safe Community, Safer
- 18 A Busy Summer Ahead at Guild Park
- 20 Ruby Throated Hummingbirds
- 23 Guildwood's Got Talent: Drummers of Sonneck Square
- 26 There's Nothing Like Summer at the Greek Theatre
- 27 Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko and Music Group
- 28 Running Routes
- 30 A Memorable Storm (We All Want to Forget)
- 32 What's on @ Guildwood Library
- 33 What's the Problem with Pesticides Used for Mosquito and Tick Control?
- 34 Paul Ainslie's Report - Councillor Scarborough-Guildwood and Deputy Mayor
- 35 Andrea Hazell, MPP Scarborough-Guildwood
- 36 Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park
- 37 Gary Anandasangaree, MP Scarborough-Guildwood-Rouge Park
- 38 Upcoming Events
- 39 Crossword - Answers at [www.guildwood.ca/blog](http://www.guildwood.ca/blog)

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# President's Message



**Jeff Garrah**  
 President, Guildwood Village Community Association  
[president@guildwood.ca](mailto:president@guildwood.ca)

## Spring Is in the Air in Guildwood

As the days grow longer, there's a renewed energy across Guildwood that's hard not to feel. Spring has always been a season of momentum in our community — and this year is no exception.

First, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the first annual Battle of the Bands. What an incredible afternoon. The talent, the turnout, and the community spirit on display were everything Guildwood is about. Events like this don't just entertain — they bring us together, strengthen local connections, support local charities and remind us how special this neighbourhood truly is. Thanks to our own Melissa Kitzaki for the idea, the execution and of course the many GVCA board members who volunteered to make the event such a great success. We're already looking forward to making this an even bigger tradition next year. Congrats as well to Fossil Fire for being the inaugural winner, and headliner Band for Guildwood Day.

As we move into spring, we're excited to kick off several important community initiatives and events:

### Guildwood Day

Planning is well underway for Guildwood Day, one of the highlights of our year. This is a celebration of everything that makes our community unique — from local talent and vendors to activities for kids and families. If you've never participated before, this is the year to get involved. We desperately need additional volunteers to help plan, but more importantly execute the day of. Without more help the event is at risk after 50+ years of success, as many of our volunteers have been doing this for decades, and are not able to volunteer with the same level of vigour that they used to and are looking to pass the torch!

### Important Community Updates

Beyond events, we continue to stay actively engaged on key developments that will shape Guildwood's future!

### Guildwood GO Transit-Oriented Community (TOC)

We remain deeply involved in ongoing discussions regarding the proposed TOC development. Our focus continues to be ensuring that community voices are heard and reflected — particularly around density, infrastructure, traffic, and overall fit within our neighbourhood. This is a complex and evolving process, and we will continue to advocate for thoughtful, responsible planning.

### Extendicare Expansion

We are also closely monitoring and participating in discussions surrounding the proposed 9-storey Extendicare expansion:

### A Call for Volunteers

Apologies for the repetition here, but I feel it is necessary to double dip. None of this work happens without people stepping forward.

Guildwood is fortunate to have a strong history of volunteerism — but to sustain and grow what we've built, we need more residents to get involved across all of our initiatives: events, advocacy, communications, and community programming.

Whether you have a few hours a month or want to take on a more active role, your contribution helps and matters. An engaged community is a resilient community — and the more voices and hands we have, the stronger Guildwood becomes. Please reach out to us at [secretary@guildwood.ca](mailto:secretary@guildwood.ca) if you have an interest in volunteering.

Spring is a time of renewal, and in Guildwood, it's also a time of action. Thank you for being part of what makes this community so special.

I look forward to seeing many of you out at upcoming events.

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# Guildwood Village Annual Tree and Shrub Giveaway June 13

Allison Murray

Celebrate Pollinator Week 2026 by planting a FREE native tree or shrub! Native trees and shrubs are critical to the survival of our birds, insects and wildlife, providing shelter and food throughout the seasons. They are equally important in helping us increase our tree canopy in Toronto, which improves the air quality and environment for all of us. Trees come in 1 - 2 gallon buckets and are small enough to carry on the TTC or sit in the back of a car.

This fantastic event comes to you courtesy of Friends of Guild Park, the Guildwood Butterflyway Project, the Guildwood Village Community Association, and the City of Toronto's Urban Forestry Department. Our native tree and shrub giveaway is open to all residents of Toronto. All trees and shrubs must be planted on private property within the City of Toronto boundaries.

All trees and shrubs must be **pre-ordered** by May 15th. All orders must be picked up on June 13th between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Guild Park.

For further information and to pre-order, please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page or scan the QR code to be taken to the Eventbrite page.



## GVCA Tree Giveaway - Student Volunteers Needed!

If you are a high school student looking for volunteer hours, this event is for you! To celebrate the start of Pollinator Week, the Guildwood Village Community Association and Friends of Guild Park are holding a native tree and shrub giveaway at Guild Park on June 13.

We are looking for student volunteers to greet customers, direct traffic, act as runners, and generally keep this very busy event moving along smoothly as hundreds of customers arrive to pick up their trees and shrubs.

**All student volunteers will earn 5 volunteer hours!**

If you are interested, please click on the link (or the QR code) for more information and to sign up:

<https://signup.com/go/MqiVWdy>



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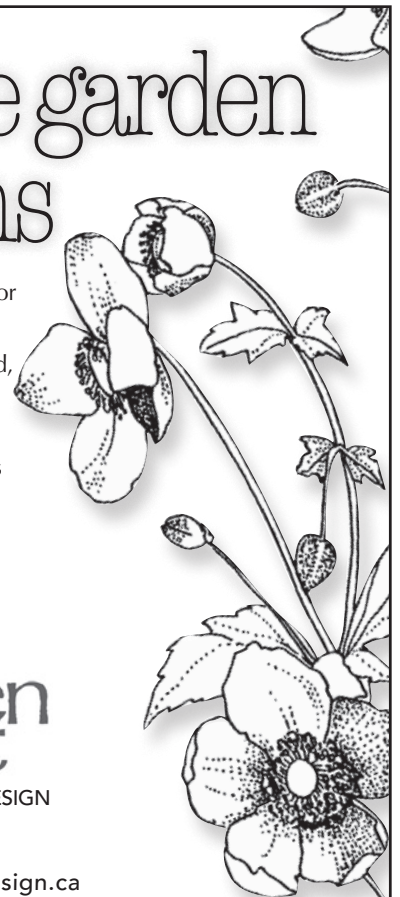
## Creative garden solutions

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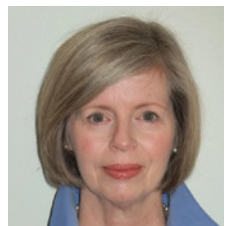


# Garden Volunteers Needed!



The Guildwood Butterflyway Project

Allison Murray



Are you interested in native plant gardening? Come and join our group of



lovely volunteers and become a steward of Guild Park's award-winning native pollinator garden! We garden on Friday mornings from May to October. The time commitment can be as little or as much as you want. While there is no obligation to attend every Friday, we do ask you to sign up for each date that you can join us. This allows us to communicate with you if the gardening session needs to be cancelled for any reason.

For further information, please contact Allison Murray at [allisonmurray0101@gmail.com](mailto:allisonmurray0101@gmail.com)

To sign up, please go to this link: [signup.com/go/dSxAXoD](https://signup.com/go/dSxAXoD)

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# Kick Off Summer at Elizabeth Simcoe's 2026 Spring Into Summer Fun Fair

Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. P.S. Presents

**SPRING** info  
**SUMMER**  
Fun Fair



Summer break is just around the corner, and there's no better way to celebrate than with one of our favourite community traditions. Elizabeth

Simcoe's **Spring Into Summer Fun Fair** returns on **Friday, May 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM**, bringing families together for an evening packed with fun, food, and memorable moments.

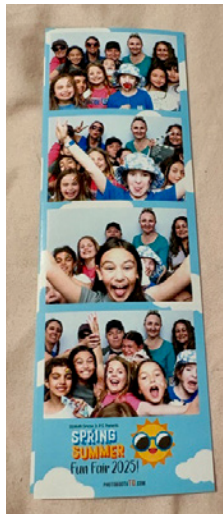
This much-loved annual event welcomes students, families, neighbours, and local businesses for a lively evening on the school grounds. With more than **1,500 people attending last year**, the Fun Fair has become a highlight of the season and a wonderful way to celebrate the start of summer together.

Beyond being a fun evening for families, the event is also **Elizabeth Simcoe's largest annual fundraising initiative**. Funds raised help support school improvements, learning resources, and technology that benefit all students.

## Event Highlights

This year's event features a mix of exciting attractions and beloved favourites, including:

- A **95-foot obstacle course** for friendly competition and high-energy fun
- A towering **22-foot inflatable slide** that's always a crowd favourite
- A classic **Dunk Tank**, featuring brave teachers, parents, and maybe even the principal again
- **Face Painting** with colourful designs for kids of all ages
- A **Photo Booth** to capture fun memories with friends and family
- A **Used Book Sale** perfect for stocking up on summer reading
- A **NEW Plant Sale**, featuring indoor and outdoor plants donated by our very own community green thumbs
- **Craft Rooms** for hands-on creativity
- A **Silent Auction** with exciting items and experiences
- The popular **Siren Zone**, where kids can explore emergency and utility vehicles up close
- **Vendor Alley**, showcasing local businesses, artisans, and **Jr. Makers**
- **Games and Activities** for all ages



## Food Worth the Trip Alone

No fair would be complete without great food, and this year's lineup promises plenty of delicious options. Visitors can enjoy classic favourites like pizza, cotton candy, popcorn, and ice cream, along with a rotating selection of food trucks offering a variety of tasty choices. There will also be a bake sale featuring homemade treats prepared by members of the school community.

## Introducing the NEW Community Plant Sale

One of the exciting additions to this year's Fun Fair is **Community Plant Sale**.

This special area will feature a variety of donated plants, plant clippings, seedlings, and divided garden plants available for purchase, with all proceeds supporting the school. Whether you're an experienced gardener or simply looking to bring home a new houseplant, there will be plenty of options to choose from.

To help make the Plant Room a success, the Fun Fair committee is inviting community members to donate plant clippings, seedlings, or divided plants from their homes or gardens. If you're propagating houseplants, splitting perennials this spring, or have extra herbs or garden plants to share, your donations would be greatly appreciated.

The Plant Sale is a wonderful way to encourage plant sharing, sustainability, and community connection, all while raising funds for the school.

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### Book Sale Donations Welcome

The Fun Fair's used book sale is another popular stop during the evening. Families can browse a wide selection of gently used books for children, teens, and adults - perfect for building summer reading lists.

Community members are encouraged to donate gently used books in good condition. If you have books at home that you've already enjoyed and are ready to pass along, consider donating them to the bins in the front foyer to support the sale.

### Volunteers and Sponsors Needed

Events of this size wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of volunteers and sponsors.


Community members who would like to help are invited to volunteer their time during, before or after the event. From helping run activity stations to assisting with setup or cleanup, every helping hand makes a difference.

Local businesses also play an important role by sponsoring the Fun Fair. Sponsorship helps offset event costs while maximizing funds raised for the school, and it provides businesses with an opportunity to connect with hundreds of local families.

### Join Us!

Mark your calendars and join us for a fun-filled evening you won't want to miss.

 Friday, May 29, 2026

 5:00 – 8:00 PM

 Elizabeth Simcoe Junior Public School

For more details, wristband information, and event updates, please visit:

[elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca/funfair](http://elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca/funfair)

You can also follow @esjpscouncil on Instagram for the latest announcements.

Interested in donating plants, books or items for the Silent Auction, volunteering your time, or sponsoring the event?

Email the planning committee at [elizabethsimcoefunfair@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethsimcoefunfair@gmail.com).

We look forward to celebrating the start of summer with you!



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## Recyclable material list



Downloadable/printable pdf at [www.guildwood.ca/blog](http://www.guildwood.ca/blog)

Paper/fibre		What to know
	Cardboard boxes Pizza boxes, direct mail boxes, moving boxes, shoe boxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flatten. No larger than 60 x 60 cm.
	Boxboard Cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, rolls from toilet paper and paper towel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flatten. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty.
	Paper Any colour, including flour bags, prescription bags, paper produce bags.  Notepads, white or coloured loose paper, file folders, other printed materials.  Community newspapers, flyers, brochures and magazines.  Greeting cards and envelopes, gift boxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place shredded paper in a tied clear plastic bag. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate from plastic bags used to cover items, remove elastic bands. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove rope handle from bags. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include soft or hard covered books/novels.
	Paper laminate packaging Pet food bags, food service paper bags, and plates.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue.

Metal		What to know
	Metal Food cans, metal lids, cookie, coffee and tea tins, beverage cans.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.
	Aluminum (foils and trays) Aluminum foil, pie plates, frozen food trays.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ball up aluminum foil.
	Aerosol containers Food spray, hairspray, air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids on.

Glass		What to know
	Glass containers Clear and coloured glass. Food containers, jars and bottles, cosmetic containers, spice bottles, oil and vinegar bottles, non-alcoholic glass beverage containers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids off. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

Plastic		What to know
	Plastic containers Laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouth wash bottles, plastic beverage bottles.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.
	Food trays, salad, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, plastic cups, plastic tubs and lids.	
	Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes.	
	Small item packaging, hand sanitizer bottles, plant pots.	
	Flexible plastic packaging Bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers. Overwrap (paper towel & toilet paper, beverage containers). Coffee bags or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue.
	Foam packaging Meat trays, takeout containers, cups, plates, bowls, foam packaging for products.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays.

Cartons/containers		What to know
	Paper laminate containers Spiral cans, cookie dough package, ice cream containers, and hot and cold beverage cups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove lids.
	Cartons Beverage cartons, juice and milk cartons, coffee creamers, and sugar cartons, soup and sauce cartons.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty and free from food residue. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lids on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not include alcoholic beverage containers.

# Expanded Recycling Program

Josee Jauvin



Toronto's recycling system entered a new era on January 1, 2026, when responsibility for residential blue bin recycling officially shifted from the City of Toronto to **Circular Materials**, a producer-run organization operating under Ontario's Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21).

This regulation transfers both the financial and operational responsibility for blue box materials to the companies that create or sell packaging. To meet these obligations, producers rely on a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). In this case, Circular Materials runs the system on their behalf, including collection, processing, education, and compliance reporting. This marks the most significant structural change to Toronto's recycling program in decades, reshaping how materials are managed and who is accountable for them.

With the shift to full producer responsibility, Toronto now follows Ontario's province-wide recycling framework, which sets a single standardized list of accepted materials for every community in the province. Although the bins and collection schedules look the same, the rules, accepted materials, and service structure have changed significantly. Residents now contact Circular Materials, not the City, for missed pickups, bin issues, and recycling questions.

A new label was added to residents' blue boxes in 2026, displaying Circular Materials' contact number so people know where to direct recycling questions and service requests. Circular Materials' main customer-service contact is 1-877-667-2626, and residents can also reach them by email at [customerservice@circularmaterials.ca](mailto:customerservice@circularmaterials.ca).

## What Is Now Accepted in the Blue Box

These items were previously rejected in Toronto but are now accepted province-wide under Ontario's standardized 2026 Blue Box list:

- Coffee cups, including paper cups with plastic linings
- Keurig KCups pods
- Toothpaste and deodorant tubes (flexible plastic tubes)
- Black plastic containers
- Frozen juice containers (composite cardboard-and-metal cylinders)
- A broader range of foam packaging and containers: Toronto used to accept only clean, rigid protective foam from electronics and appliances. The provincial system now allows more types of rigid foam such as foam plates, bowls, cups, and takeout containers when they are clean and free of food residue
- A wider range of flexible plastics: Ontario's 2026 system expands beyond Toronto's previous focus on bags and overwrap to include more single-material films and soft plastics
- Composite paperboard items such as ice cream tubs and frozen juice containers

The Circular Materials chart of recyclable material can be found online at:

[www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario/](http://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario/)

## What Is Not Accepted

Despite the expanded list, several items remain non-recyclable in the Blue Box system:

- Food-soiled paper or cardboard
- Plastic cutlery
- Metalized, multi-layer packaging such as chip bags and laminated snack wrappers, which cannot be separated into recyclable components
- Batteries, electronics, and hazardous waste
- Clothing, textiles, toys, and household goods
- Diapers and sanitary products
- Contaminated Styrofoam food containers

These exclusions help prevent contamination and maintain the quality of recyclable materials.

## The Waste Wizard: Your Best Tool for "What Goes Where"

Even though recycling is no longer city-run, Toronto's **Waste Wizard** remains the most accurate and up-to-date online tool for figuring out where items belong. The City continues to maintain this database to help residents sort more than 2,000 items correctly.

The Waste Wizard is available online through the City of Toronto website and within the TOWaste mobile app, which also provides personalized collection schedules, service alerts, drop-off depot and donation-centre locations, and the full Waste Wizard search tool.

The TOWaste app is available on both the App Store and Google Play, offering residents a simple way to check how to dispose of any item and avoid contamination. This tool is especially valuable now that the recycling system has expanded and standardized, helping residents stay confident about what goes where.

## Recycling Matters

Although no recent information on the subject could be found, older media reports mentioned that roughly 70% of the material placed in the Blue Box is successfully recycled, while the remaining 30% ends up in landfill because it's contaminated or made of materials that can't actually be processed. Contamination happens when items like food-soiled paper, greasy containers, textiles, toys, or mixed-material packaging get tossed into the recycling stream. These items can spoil entire batches of otherwise good recyclables, forcing processors to send them to landfill instead of turning them into new products. For example, when a pizza box is greasy on the bottom, that soiled section can contaminate clean recyclables, so it's best to tear off the oily bottom and put it in the garbage, while placing the clean top half in the Blue Box.

- continued on next page

**Interesting fact:** According to the North American aluminum industry data into which Toronto's recycling system feeds directly, an aluminum drink can will complete a full "can-to-can" recycling loop and return to a store shelf in as little as **60 days**, making it one of the fastest and most efficient recycling cycles of any packaging material. Because aluminum is infinitely recyclable without losing quality, the same metal can circulate through this loop over and over again.

Other highly recyclable materials include: steel food cans, glass bottles and jars, clean paper and cardboard, all of which can be efficiently processed and turned back into new products when they're kept free of food residue and non-recyclable items.

**Remember:** Putting non-recyclable items in the Blue Box has real consequences and can spoil an entire batch of otherwise good recyclables, increase processing costs, and ultimately send more material to landfill instead of being turned into new products. Keeping non-recyclables out of the bin remains one of the most important ways residents can improve how much of their recycling is truly recycled.

*This article was developed with research and writing support from Microsoft Copilot.*



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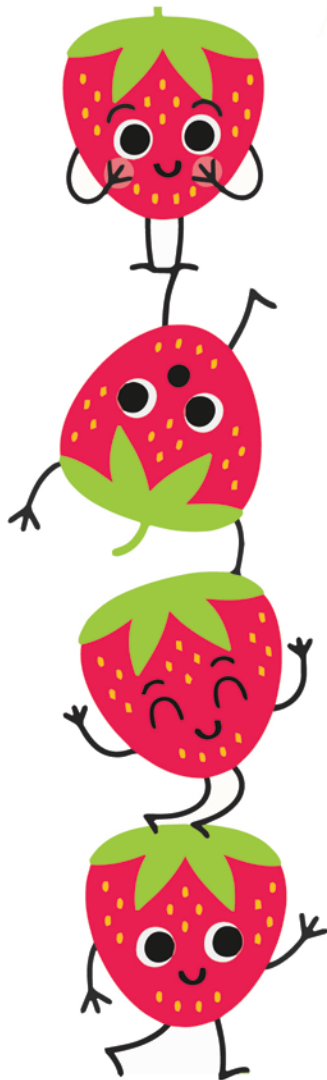
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# Guildwood's First Battle of the Bands Hits a High Note

Melissa Kitazaki



On Sunday, March 8, the Guildwood community gathered at the Guild Inn for the very first **Guildwood Battle of the Bands**—an afternoon filled with live music, community spirit, and support for local causes. The event brought neighbours together to celebrate local talent while raising funds for four charities that make a meaningful difference in our community.

The **Guildwood Village Community Association (GVCA)** hosted this inaugural event and it was my great pleasure, as both a GVCA board member and a local real estate agent, to organize the event. As a long-time Guildwood resident, I welcomed attendees and explained the inspiration behind the event: combining my passion for music with the community's tradition of live entertainment on Guildwood Day. The Battle of the Bands also helped the community choose a band for this year's Guildwood Day festivities—while raising funds for charity at the same time.



Event organizers (L-R): Clark Luby, Melissa Kitazaki and Basil D'Souza

Thanks to the GVCA and the Guild Inn, which generously waived the room rental fee, **100% of ticket proceeds** from the event went directly to four local charities listed below. We sold 305 tickets and all sale proceeds were equally split between our four non-profit initiatives:

- **5N2 – Food for All**, which rescues surplus food and turns it into nutritious meals for those facing food insecurity.
- **East Scarborough Storefront**, a community hub connecting thousands of residents each year to employment, legal aid, food programs, and other essential services.
- **The Guildwood Butterflyway Project**, a local initiative supporting biodiversity by encouraging residents to plant native gardens for pollinators.
- **Friends of Guild Park**, a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing Guild Park & Gardens.

## A Stage Full of Local Talent

Five bands took to the stage, each bringing their own style and energy to the ballroom.

The afternoon kicked off with **The Eh List**, a group of experienced musicians from Scarborough and Guildwood who delivered a crowd-pleasing set of classic rock with plenty of Canadian content.

Next up was **Fossil Fire**, a Toronto-based band united by their love of retro rock and pop from the '70s, '80s, and '90s. With members ranging from a teacher to a ceramic artist, the band combined everyday professions with a shared passion for music—delivering a performance that clearly resonated with the audience.

The third act, **Captains of Industry**, brought big rock energy to the stage, mixing genres and decades to keep the crowd dancing.

Guildwood roots returned to the spotlight with **Tipsy Falls**, whose lead singer Jeff grew up in the neighbourhood. Their gritty take on classic favourites kept the energy high.

Rounding out the lineup was **D'Skyz**, a lively cover band known for strong harmonies, guitar riffs, and harmonica solos that had the audience cheering.

## Community and Music Come Together

Throughout the afternoon, representatives from the four charities shared their work with attendees, highlighting the important initiatives happening across Scarborough—from food programs and community services to environmental stewardship and park preservation.

Guests also had a chance to mingle, enjoy food and drinks, and vote for their favourite band. Alongside two judges scoring musicianship, stage presence, creativity, and crowd engagement, the audience served as the third judge by casting votes via an online poll.

While votes were tallied, Guildwood resident and storyteller **Leslie Hetherington** entertained the crowd with humour and stories about upcoming local comedy events.

## A Community Effort

The success of the inaugural Battle of the Bands was made possible thanks to the many volunteers and organizers behind the scenes—from event planners and ticket coordinators to marketing support and technical production.

With enthusiastic crowds, strong community support, and an impressive lineup of local talent, the first Guildwood Battle of the Bands struck exactly the right chord.

If the applause in the ballroom was any indication, the community will be ready to rock again next year.

**And the Winner Is...**

After a lively afternoon of performances, **Fossil Fire** was crowned the winner of Guildwood's first Battle of the Bands. The band will now take the stage at this year's **Guildwood Day**, continuing the tradition of community music that inspired the event in the first place. They will also receive payment for the event in the amount of \$1000, sponsored by Melissa Kitazaki (Bosley Real Estate).

*Fossil Fire  
(winners of the  
competition)*



*Captains of Industry*



*Tipsy Falls*



*D'Skyz*



*The Eh List*



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B R O K E R

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## Community Events

Marilyn Curtis, President, Probus Guildwood



Your local Probus Guildwood Social Club is a diverse group of retired and semi-retired seniors. Our goal is to develop *Fellowship, Friendships, and to have Fun*. Visitors are always welcome! Join us the **second Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.** at **Guildwood**

**Community Presbyterian Church, 140 Guildwood Pkwy** (at Livingston Road). We meet from January to June, then again in September to November. December is our annual Christmas Lunch. There are no July and August meetings. At each monthly meeting, there is an opportunity to socialize, share some refreshments, then listen to our interesting speakers.

**May 13, 2026**, Writer, Jerry Amernic discusses his book, *SLEEPWOKING* which is about "Woke revisionism". Contemporary fallacies about history such as the truth about Sir John A. MacDonald, Egerton Ryerson and Henry Dundas are discussed. If you missed this, please look at our website (listed below) for our June Newsletter which will review his presentation.

**June 10, 2026**, Peter Jennings explores *Andorra (a Microstate)*. What is it like to live in a tiny country that nobody has heard of? Peter is the Webmaster for Probus Global which connects 4,500 PROBUS Clubs with 300,000 members worldwide.

## Probus Guildwood Social Club

We enjoy gathering the last Friday of the month for our "**Lunch with Friends**" at various local restaurants; a different one each month. Upcoming locations are Gabby's at Guildwood Plaza, Hibachi – Japanese Teppanyaki, Boston Pizza, and Markham Station. We have two **Book Clubs** and both are different in that we do not all read the same book. We read our own book and discuss it with the group. You get to learn about different books and authors. We meet once a month. One of the clubs meets the first Monday of the month and the other on the third Monday of the month. Both are from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. The **Movie Club** is at the Cineplex Morningside and is on the third Sunday of the month. Members choose the movies they would like to see, then we vote on the winner. The time is dictated by the start time of the winning movie. All of these groups run for 12 months of the year. You must be a member to join these clubs.

Our monthly meeting admission fee for Visitors is \$5. For annual membership, there is a *one-time* Initiation Fee of \$25 then an Annual Membership Fee of \$25.

At Probus Guildwood, we look forward to meeting you soon. Bring a friend.

For more information explore our website: <https://probusguildwood.homesteadcloud.com>  
For inquiries, Contact Us by email [probus-guildwood@outlook.com](mailto:probus-guildwood@outlook.com)



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# Keeping Our Safe Community, Safer

Patrick McGovern



Do you know that your insurance company might pay you to install an anti-theft device in your vehicle? Come to think of it, do you know if the car in your driveway is on the Top 3 most targeted list in this neighbourhood?

These are just a couple of the intriguing public safety topics covered in a keynote presentation by representatives of 43 Division at the GVCA Annual General Meeting on March 24th.

To relieve the suspense: the Top 3 hit list for the Guildwood neighbourhood specifically is (in order): Honda CRV, RAV 4, and Toyota Highlander. But don't be too alarmed! While it's good to be alert and informed, Guildwood is in fact a relatively safe neighbourhood.

Armed with the latest statistics comparing Guildwood to the city as a whole, Superintendent and Unit Commander Paul Krawczyk (left below), and Crime Prevention Officer Blaise Kurucz (right below), both from 43 Division of the Toronto Police Service, shared their public safety advice and experience.



Between 2024 and 2025, auto thefts in Guildwood decreased by more than half, from 17 occurrences in 2024, down to eight in 2025. So far, 2026 has seen just one incident—in which two perpetrators were caught in the act and arrested. Superintendent Krawczyk noted, however, that this stat does not include the portion of the GO station lot north of the tracks, since it's not within the boundaries of Guildwood; although that lot is a prime zone for this activity.

Another outstanding fact presented by Superintendent Krawczyk is that the Guildwood neighbourhood holds the distinction of the lowest homicide rate, city-wide, over the last 50 years.

Break and enter crimes in our neighbourhood decreased by 60% year-over-year, and robberies by 33%. The only significant increase has been in assaults, which went from

30 in 2024, to a total of 34 in 2025 (+13%). Year-to-date in 2026 there have been 12 assaults handled by 43 Division, compared to eight by this time last year. Although the reason for the increase is not clear, Superintendent Krawczyk noted that "90% of these are people known to each other."

Officer Kurucz then spoke about "distraction theft," which is another public safety issue of growing concern.

As an example, he said, you may find yourself looking at apples in the grocery store, when someone comes up beside you and makes a comment to get your attention. Meanwhile, they, or their accomplice, are pulling your wallet out of the purse sitting in your grocery cart. It's important to stay aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas.

Here are a few of the pearls of safety advice the two offered:

- Placing outdoor cameras around your house to monitor activity and identify intruders. (It may not stop the crime being committed on YOUR property, but it could prevent the next crime, because the perpetrators can be apprehended.)
- Be aware of the non-emergency numbers you can call that don't tie up the 9-1-1 lines.
- Call on a non-emergency line if you observe any suspicious activity. If you have video, you may not even need to come in, you can upload the video yourself from home.
- When outside in public places, be aware of "distraction theft." Be cautious when approached by strangers, keep your belongings close and zipped up.
- Put an air tag on your car (it does help the chances of getting it back).
- Any GPS is good, but be aware that the less expensive ones will only pick up a signal if scanned. If you want to go to the next step, you can find tags that beep constantly.
- The Club may not stop them (they cut through the steering wheel), but it might slow them down or make them look for an easier opportunity.
- The best thing to do is to speak to your insurance company.

Officer Kurucz talked about the "Make the Right Call" awareness campaign, and the steps being taken to improve both the 9-1-1 and non-emergency phone services. He mentioned that he had spent two days at the 9-1-1 call center with his policing students the previous week, and noted that the frequency of 9-1-1 calls was down. In 2026 year-to-date, the average wait time was only 3 seconds.

Superintendent Krawczyk stated that Toronto Police Service hired 90 new Communications Operators in 2025, with plans to hire 90 more in 2026. The first group of 30 of those is already in training. To further enhance efficiency, AI tools are being employed to improve response times on the non-emergency calls.

Officer Kurucz made a special point of inviting all Guildwood residents to the 18th Annual 43 Division Open House Picnic, which he declared is, "The biggest annual organized Open House Picnic in the city." This year it takes place on Saturday May 30th, 2026, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at 4331 Lawrence Ave E.

At the end of the presentation, Councillor Paul Ainslie, who was in attendance, rose to say, "The men & women at 43 Division, I think they're the best. We should do what we can to keep them."

With regard to the Make the Right Call campaign and the non-emergency numbers, he made the point that "Those calls get compiled, and they look at how many calls are coming in to each division, and it affects the staffing and budget allocations."

Yet another reason to be proactive in keeping our constabulary informed, and our community safe.

## Make the Right Call to Get the Right Help

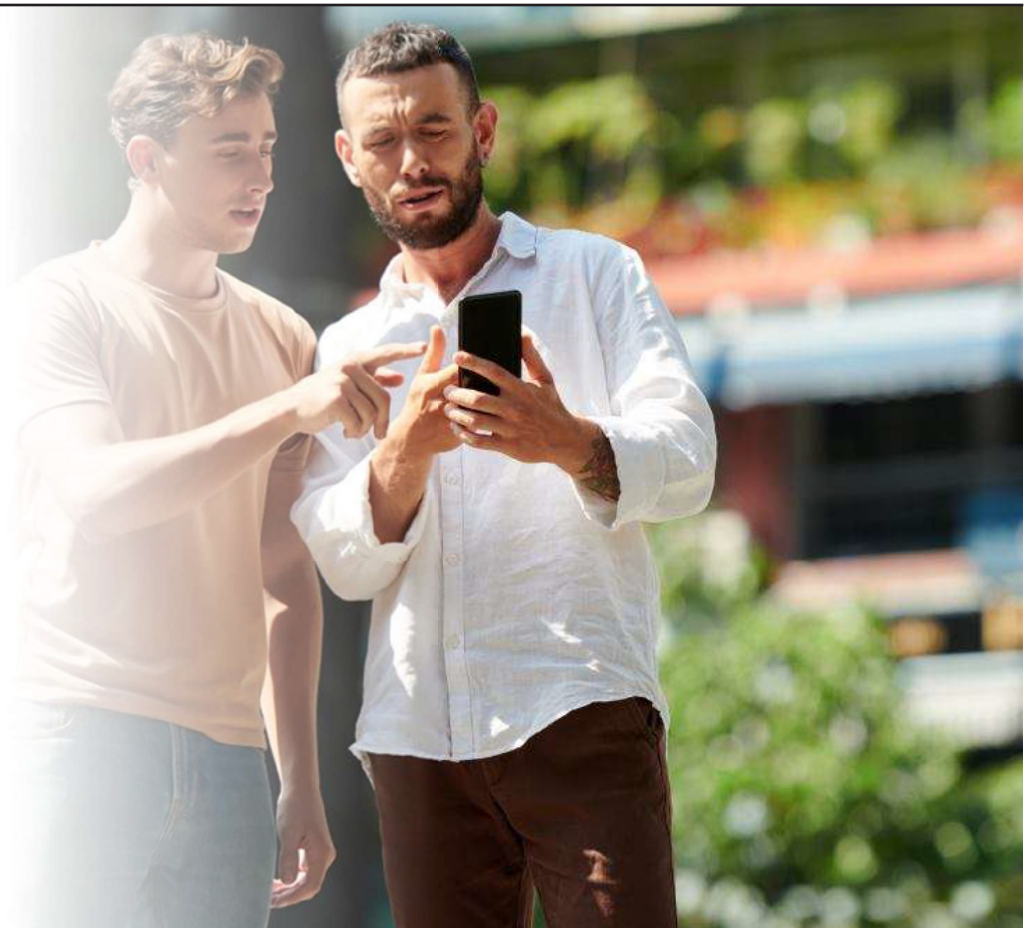
- 2-1-1 - Community-based services: Mental health supports, substance use.
- 3-1-1 - City Services: Damaged sidewalk, waste collection.
- 416-808-2222 - Non-emergency police: non-urgent crime, break & enter, disputes
- \*877 (or \*TPS) - Non-emergency from a mobile phone
- [TPS.ca/report](https://www.tps.ca/report) Online: Theft, fraud under \$5,000, parking.
- 9-1-1 - For all emergencies: Crimes in progress, medical, fire.

Want a handy printed version of this list? Drop by 43 Division at 4331 Lawrence Ave E., and they can give you a "Make the Right Call" card suitable for mounting on your fridge or family bulletin board. You can also pick up a brochure on how to reduce the risk of Distraction Theft. And be sure to thank them for the community support while you're there!

# Distraction theft

## Common Scenarios

- Requesting directions while another steals wallet or purse.
- Spilling something on victim and pretending to help clean up.
- Jewelry scams: swapping real jewelry for fake during 'gifting'.
- Parking lot distraction: fake damage or dropped cash trick.



# A Busy Summer Ahead at Guild Park



*John P. Mason, President,  
Friends of Guild Park*

Guild Park's 2026 season is shaping up to be one of the most vibrant ones yet — bringing together history, nature, performance, and community celebration in one of Toronto's most unique cultural landscapes — all happening at the heart of Guildwood Village.

From public tours and theatre performances to art festivals and music events, Guild Park will once again come alive with activity throughout the summer months.

One of the major highlights is **Doors Open Toronto weekend**, taking place Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24. As part of this city-wide celebration of architecture and heritage, Friends of Guild Park will offer guided neighbourhood walks titled "*The World at Guild Park.*" These tours explore the remarkable international collection of architectural fragments preserved in the park, along with its connections to art, performance, and community history. Tours will take place both days at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

While attending Doors Open weekend at Guild Park, everyone is encouraged to explore the creative spaces inside the Clark Centre for the Arts.

Another major highlight of the summer will be the return of **Nagata Shachu**, Toronto's renowned Japanese taiko drumming ensemble. This popular group will perform at the Greek Theatre on **Saturday, July 4**, bringing their powerful rhythms and high-energy performance style to Guild Park once again.

The evening includes both a hands-on workshop and a full concert performance. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy an unforgettable evening of music under the open sky. Nagata Shachu performances have become a favourite summer tradition at Guild Park and regularly draw enthusiastic audiences.

July also marks the beginning of **Family Fest**, presented by Guild Festival Theatre in partnership with Toronto's Arts in the Parks program. Beginning July 10, this weekend festival offers performances, creative activities, and arts programming designed especially for families and younger audiences. Details about the program can be found at [guildfestivaltheatre.ca](http://guildfestivaltheatre.ca).

Family Fest signals the start of **Guild Festival Theatre's summer performance season**, when the historic Greek Theatre becomes one of Toronto's most atmospheric outdoor stages. This year's productions form part of the theatre company's "Gothic Girl Summer," celebrating the

literary lives and creative worlds of the Brontë sisters and Jane Austen. Performances continue throughout July and August.

Later in July, the park will host another major cultural event: **Guild Alive with Culture**, taking place Saturday July 25 and Sunday July 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This vibrant art festival transforms the park into a showcase of creative energy, featuring visual artists, artisan vendors, live performances, and interactive experiences. The event is presented with the support of Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie and Guild Festival Theatre and continues to grow as one of Scarborough's most popular summer arts gatherings.

In addition to these major events, Friends of Guild Park will continue offering guided heritage walks and community programs throughout the season. These tours explore the fascinating stories behind the park's architectural fragments, sculptures, and artistic legacy — from the early days of the Guild of All Arts to the park's continuing role as a cultural gathering place for the community.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are active in stewardship efforts across the park, including weekly gardening and environmental care activities that run from spring through the fall months.

Visitors may also notice a new pilot initiative taking place this summer at the historic Guild Inn. Beginning in early June, **Summer Patio Nights** will take place on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month through August. These evenings offer live music and a relaxed patio atmosphere overlooking the gardens.

Friends of Guild Park encourages residents to stay connected throughout the season. New tours, programs, and community activities are regularly announced through the organization's website and newsletter.

Guild Park has long been one of Scarborough's most remarkable public spaces — a historic place where art meets nature in a setting unlike any other in the city.

This summer promises to continue that tradition.

For the latest updates on tours, events, and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.friendsofguildpark.com](http://www.friendsofguildpark.com).

## Selected Summer Events at Guild Park

### Doors Open Toronto – “The World at Guild Park”

Saturday May 23 & Sunday May 24

Tours at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. both days

The meeting point is the Sculptor’s Cabin. Free, pre-registration required.

Discover Guild Park’s “Worlds” of nature, architecture and the performing arts. Part of the city-wide weekend celebration. Guided neighbourhood walks hosted by Friends of Guild Park. Stay and explore the award-winning design of the Clark Centre for the Arts.



### Summer Patio Evenings at Guild Inn Estate

Beginning Wednesday June 3

First and third Wednesdays through August

5:30–9:30 PM

Enjoy live music, casual dining, and a licensed patio atmosphere overlooking the gardens of the historic inn. Operated by Guild Inn Estate.

### Nagata Shachu – Japanese Taiko Drummers

Saturday July 4

Greek Theatre – Workshop and Concert beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Guild Park’s popular summer event returns. The acclaimed Japanese taiko drumming ensemble performs in the park’s dramatic open-air setting. A Toronto Arts in the Parks event; Community Partner: Friends of Guild Park

### Family Fest at Guild Park

July 10–12

A festival of family-friendly arts, performances, and creative activities presented by Guild Festival Theatre in partnership with Toronto Arts in the Parks. Details at <https://www.guildfestivaltheatre.ca/familyfest2026>

### Guild Festival Theatre Summer Season

Ticketed performances throughout July–August

The Greek Theatre lights up with live outdoor performances starting July 16. Guild Festival Theatre presents its “Gothic Girl Summer” with productions about the literary lives of the Brontë sisters and Jane Austen. Ticketed performances. Details at <https://www.guildfestivaltheatre.ca/season>.

### Guild Alive with Culture

Saturday July 25 & Sunday July 26

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A vibrant arts festival featuring artists, artisan vendors, music, performances, and interactive cultural experiences.

### Heritage Toronto Tours

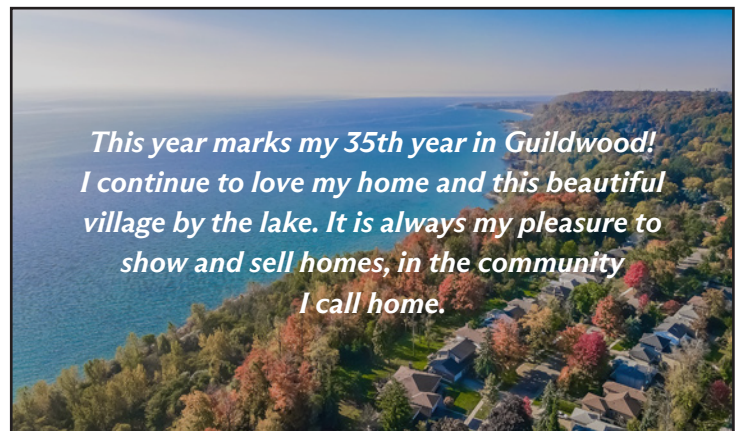
Sunday July 19 and Saturday August 15. Both tours start at Guild Park’s Sculptor’s Cabin (near park flagpole).

Times: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Fragments of a City: Architecture, Memory and Place at Guild Park

Participants discover how Guild Park offers a rare opportunity to reflect on Toronto’s changing architectural landscape, how fragments from the past shape our understanding of the city’s history and identity. Two Heritage Toronto plaques help anchor the narrative. Tours by Friends of Guild Park, in partnership with Heritage Toronto. Preregistration and ticketed admission required at <https://www.heritagetoronto.org>.

All events are free, unless ticketed admission is indicated. Events subject to change. For updates visit [www.friendsofguildpark.com](http://www.friendsofguildpark.com)





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# Ruby Throated Hummingbirds

Ann Brokelman



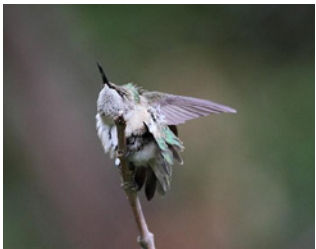
After a long winter, the return of spring birds is always something I look forward to. While I enjoy seeing all of the migrating birds, I especially miss the colours of the Baltimore Orioles, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Warblers, and Indigo Buntings.

Today's story is about a special visitor that arrived last year even before my usual favourites. I was outside setting up my feeders for the impending migration when a streak of green flashed by, followed by the faint hum of tiny wings beating 50 to 80 times per second. A beautiful



Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) landed on a nearby twig and paused there for a few moments. I couldn't believe my luck. Not only did I get to see her up close, but she actually perched for me.

Think of all the times you've seen a hummingbird and ask yourself: when was the last time you saw one that wasn't flying. Even when feeding they usually hover, so this was a notable moment for me. I watched her stretch, flaring her tail feathers on both sides, lifting and rotating her wings, and rhythmically extending and bobbing her head.



Despite measuring only about 7.5 to 9 cm (3 to 5 inches) from beak to tail tip, this tiny bird seemed larger than life. I think she was trying to study me with as much curiosity as I was trying to study her. While I tried to stand perfectly still, she made rapid squeaky chirps and flew toward me, stopping briefly to hover only inches from my face. I had never seen one this close before.

Perhaps she was concerned about my presence in her territory. Whatever the reason, I sat there in complete amazement. Sadly, before I could fully take in the moment, the hummingbird vanished in a flash, glittering in the sunlight like a tiny jewel. The encounter probably lasted less than a minute, but luckily I had my camera ready and

managed to capture a few photographs before she flew away.



I have had many amazing hummingbird encounters over the years, but I'd like to share another experience that was especially memorable. A few years ago, my friend Sheila actually brought me a baby hummingbird she had found lying on the road. Most of the time when someone finds a baby animal it is a squirrel, a robin, or another common backyard species, but neither of us had ever seen a baby hummingbird before.

Considering how small baby birds already are, you might be wondering how we could identify a little hummingbird. Well, this one already had the shape, and almost had the body size of an adult. More importantly, it had the distinct bill shape that makes hummingbirds unique. I would guess that this one was about 3-4 weeks old and was probably trying to fledge from its nest a few days too early.

With most wildlife centres closed at the time, I called Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge to ask for care instructions. Following their advice, I kept the tiny bird warm in a small knit



nest made by a friend, Regina Doose, and placed a hand warmer beneath it for heat. Through the night I tried to feed the hummingbird every 15 to 20 minutes until transport could be arranged in the morning.

Once the bird was brought to the centre, it made a full recovery and was eventually released back into the wild. If you ever find an injured hummingbird, please contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre for help. These birds require an extremely specialized diet. Nectar alone is not enough, and protein is actually a critical part of their nutrition.

When feeding hummingbirds, I use simple feeders filled with sugar water made from one cup of sugar to four cups of water. The mixture is boiled and then refrigerated before use. I usually set my feeders out in early April and keep them up until late October, changing the nectar daily during the hot summer months. To keep things clean, I rotate two feeders so that one can be washed while the other is out. I also never add red colouring to the nectar, as it can harm hummingbirds. I don't know where that idea of using artificial colouring came from, but natural food sources are always best.



Many garden plants are especially attractive to hummingbirds, and many of them are pretty easy to grow in your yard. Bee Balm, Columbine, Phlox, Trumpeter Vine, and Fuchsia are all excellent choices, (just check the sun vs shade requirements for your own property), and there are many other flowering plants that will bring these tiny visitors to your yard.



A few facts about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird: as mentioned above, they grow to be 7.5-9 cm. Their average weight is just one-eighth of an ounce, or three grams (a typical cell phone weighs 4-5 ounces). The oldest known hummingbird is nine years old, but their average age is seven years old for females, and just five for the males. Their most unique feature is their wings, which can not only beat at incredible speeds, but can also rotate almost 180 degrees, making the hummingbird the only bird that can fly backwards. They make many sounds, such as a 'tik, tik, tik, tik, tik' noise, rapid chirps, and of course the humming sound that comes from their wings.

To learn more about the Ruby-throated Hummingbird try visiting the Ontario Hummingbird Project at [ontariohummingbirds.ca](http://ontariohummingbirds.ca). You can see maps of the path that they take for migration, learn about the nesting and mating behaviours, and much, much more. You can also input when you see your first and last hummingbird of the season to help the Project make sure the species remains healthy.

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# Guildwood's Got Talent



## Presenting: Paul Bailie (in his own words)

A Seabreeze turntable, a pair of sticks, a box, and three Disney vinyl record soundtracks, and I was hooked! I was 10 years old.

By the time I was twelve (in 1968) I had convinced my Dad to finance my first drumset – a Blue Sparkle Raven 5 Piece kit! It cost \$99 and I paid

12 installments with my paper route money. Every week I received a \$1 allowance and I would go to the record store and buy the most popular 45 rpm single. I would practice with those records until I figured out the beat. I wore those records out!

In grade 10 I met a guitar player, then a bass player and they loaded their amplifiers over to the “drummers house”. It was the ‘70’s - rock bands were the rage! We rocked hard for all our remaining high school years - gigs, rehearsals, lessons and girls!

We loved it so much that once we finished high school, instead of continuing on with post-secondary education, we hit the road. Our parents weren’t impressed but they still co-signed our equipment loans.



First up was a two-year residency at an Ontario ski resort. There we had to play all styles of music including pop, rock, disco and country.

Next we toured the bar scene in Ontario, Quebec, and the East Coast as a Top 40 five-piece band for three years. The music business can be cruel. It was the late ‘70s and we couldn’t survive the circuit without becoming a Disco Showband. We went bankrupt. But I knew I had to keep drumming in my life.

I spent the next 10 years (1980-1990) working in drum shop retail. I connected with the best drummers in Toronto and the top touring International drummers. I studied retail store management, attended bi-annual tradeshow and started to collect vintage drums. It was truly a dream job.

# Drummers of Sonneck Square

It was 1990, I was 40 years old and I was listening to different music than the pop, rock, new wave sound of the 80’s. I needed a change. A sabbatical to Africa to study music and culture inspired new opportunities. Upon my return I partnered and opened up Soul Drums - a drum and percussion retail and education centre. (<https://www.instagram.com/souldrumsLtd>)



Doug Sole, Charlie Watts and Paul Bailie

Through the ‘90’s I started to perform and record again which lead to a Juno in 1998 with the late, great Willie P. Bennet.

From 2006- 2010, we provided an annual trip to Cuba to study drumming, dance and culture - an incredible opportunity for any rhythm enthusiast!

Selling vintage drums has become a key component of our retail offerings; so much so, that it caught the attention of Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones. In 2013, we were able to meet and sell him a large amount of our vintage drum supply and add to his collection!

And then from 2020-2022 we have been honoured to sell off assorted drums, cymbals and accessories from Neil Peart’s tour and recording archives.

I continue to perform with the amazing Sonic Square pop dance band that began right here in Guildwood. I also play with the “Circs” which is a high energy dance band that plays monthly on the Danforth.

Having your own business comes with challenges and rewards. Our staff: the teamwork, and passion for what we do, allows us to deal with the challenges. The rewards? Supporting our drumming community with the opportunities of making drumming a part of their musical journey.

It has been 60 years of drumming!  
Retirement?

What else would I do?

The beat goes on....

-continued on next page

# Guildwood's Got Talent

continued



## Presenting: Max Trefler (in his own words)

When I was young, my parents owned a record shop and happened to buy a drum set from a customer; an old Japanese Stewart kit that I wish I still had. After a while, I must have shown an interest, setting up the drums and experimenting. They put me in lessons with a teacher, Don Pham, who I ended up studying with until I went to college for music.

Music was always a communal thing, and playing with friends, whether covering our favourite songs or writing our own, was the most magical part of learning an instrument. I played in every school band I could and had a fantastic music teacher at Bayview Secondary School, Mr. Horner. From there, I studied at Humber College and went on to play in a number of touring and recording bands. I now regularly tour internationally and record for many different artists, either at my home studio or in studios around Toronto. I also manage a drumline, Hitmen Drumline, with which I've performed for the Toronto Blue Jays, Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Kygo, and many other large sporting and corporate events.



It's likely that I chose to play drums as my preferred instrument because I thought it was cool (which it absolutely is!). I remember watching music videos late at night in the attic of the house I grew up in. There was a show called Much Loud that featured rock music videos of the time. The song "Judith" by A Perfect Circle has an incredible video with some amazing shots of one of my favourite drummers, Josh Freese, playing. I distinctly

remember watching that and thinking, "That is the coolest thing I've ever seen."

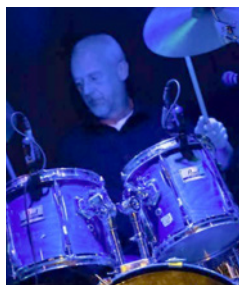
What I love most about being a drummer are the dynamics of the drums. They can shape a song and create a strong emotional response. I always try to support the storytelling arc of whatever I'm playing on, and the drums play a major role in shaping the feel and dynamics. More broadly, I love being a musician, not just a drummer. Collaborating with artists to create something bigger than yourself, and then performing that in front of people, is an incredible feeling that I'm grateful to experience.



I've had some really memorable experiences; playing the same festival as Soundgarden, performing in front of 100,000 people with Kygo, and touring parts of the world I likely wouldn't have seen otherwise. But the biggest accomplishment is being able to do this for a living. I feel fortunate every day that I get to do what I love and support my family through it.

To anyone who might be interested in learning to play, I know it sounds simple, but it comes down to practice and dedication. Beyond simply developing your skills, playing with other people is the most important thing. There's definitely a trend of "Instagram musicians" who are incredibly talented but don't have experience playing in a band. Music isn't a sport, it's about real connection. The more you play with others, the more fulfilling it becomes. Not everyone needs to be a professional or the best. Music is about connection, and that can happen at any level. Find people who play, ask them to jam, and create something together.

I've lived in Guildwood for about four years now and am a big fan of the area. I have a young family, and the community is very supportive and welcoming. Another spotlight artist, Paul Bailie, was instrumental in introducing me to the area, and I'm very glad we get to call it home. You can find more about my work at [maxtrefler.com](http://maxtrefler.com) or on Instagram at @maxtrefler.



### Presenting: Andrew DeWeert (in his own words)

It all started with upside down pots and pans, using utensils, pens and pencils for drum sticks when I was about eight years old. I then received a toy drum set (from Consumer's Distributing) for my 9th birthday. At 10 years old, I started taking drum

lessons and progressed to a rented drum set. After six months of renting that drum set and attending all of my lessons enthusiastically, my mom bought me my first drum set which I still have in my possession (45 years later).

I started playing in a local/neighbourhood band when I was 12 years old. I also played in a stage band, jazz band & orchestra starting in Grade 7 and then throughout my school years. I have continued to play in many bands over the years and I currently play in two; one which plays all original music and the other which plays all cover music. Although I never made drumming a professional career, I have always enjoyed drumming as a focused hobby.

There was never any doubt that drums were my instrument of choice. I tried playing a chord on the guitar when I was about 10 years old and it took me about five minutes just to get my fingers placed on the proper notes/strings. That ended my guitar career and any possibility of playing another stringed instrument which simply reinforced my original desire to play only the drums.



There are so many things I love about being a drummer! Selfishly, it provides me with rhythmic, artistic, mathematical and physical challenges and benefits amongst others. Unselfishly, and more importantly, I love sharing my passion for playing the drums with other people. Playing drums live allows me to share everything that I've practiced or learned with others and it allows me to express myself rhythmically, artistically, abstractedly, dexterously and emotionally.

In terms of my greatest drumming accomplishments, I would say playing the Bandshell on the Exhibition grounds on the same night the Rolling Stones were playing the Grandstand when I was 19 years old was an incredible thrill! Otherwise, playing many of the most popular venues around Toronto including The Horseshoe Tavern, Gasworks, Lee's Palace, The Opera House, Silver Dollar, Rivoli & Smokeshow BBQ & Grill (the old Chicken Deli) amongst so many others were all highlights. I've recorded a few CD's as well – I loved my time in the studio!

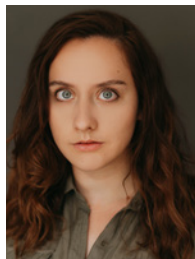


My advice for anyone who might be interested in learning how to play this instrument is that it simply requires a desire, enthusiasm and some tenacity. I've had many people tell me over the years it would be too challenging for them to learn how to play drums and each and every time I told them that they could if they wanted to. Like many other things in life, the key requisites are desire and practice.

I've lived in Guildwood for 18 ½ years, after moving from East York. I love our neighbourhood and have no intention of leaving any time in the near future! And it is a surprisingly small world...I first met Paul Bailie over 40 years ago at a drum shop where he worked. When I moved to Sonneck Square and saw Paul walking his dog, I immediately recognized him and introduced myself, letting him know that we had previously met. I also let him know that I had a drum set in my basement that I had bought from him 20 years prior!

# There's Nothing Like Summer at the Greek Theatre

Bonnie Duff, Artistic Associate



With the summer just around the corner, we're eager to get back to Guild Park for another incredible season. Is there anything more quintessentially summer in Guildwood than feeling a warm breeze off the lake as the sun sets behind the theatre and a fantastic show unfolds on stage? This summer is Guild Festival Theatre's 15th season and we couldn't

be more excited! So get ready to mark your calendars...

The season kicks off with a thunderous opening on July 4th as we host the **Nagata Shachu Taiko drummers** at the Greek Theatre. Come early for the workshop and learn to drum and dance along!



GFT's annual celebration of arts for young audiences returns for its fifth summer in the park! With a focus on international and multicultural stories, this year's **Family Fest** features performances in a variety of art forms along with hands-on activities in music, literacy, and more. From **July 10-12**, Family Fest invites children from toddlers to teens to explore their creativity and offers families a free fun-filled festival where kids can learn, play, and discover the joy of performing arts.



Jordi Mand's powerful play, **Brontë: The World Without**, is a glimpse into the lives of the three famous sisters, presenting an intimate look at their relationships, artistic struggles, the pressure of family responsibilities, and the sisterhood that helped them achieve greatness. A must-see for Brontë fans,



*Brontë: The World Without* is an unflinching portrayal of family, artistry, and what it means to strive for success in a world that often denies women the right to dream. **On stage starting July 16th.**

Our second play of the season is Jane Austen's satire of the Gothic craze, *Northanger Abbey*, playing from **August 6th**. In Jane Austen's **Northanger Abbey** Catherine Morland lets her imagination run wild, finding Gothic mystery in the most mundane corners of England.

As the clichés of the Horrid Novels spill into her reality, Catherine's simple holiday is transformed into a personal adventure filled with mischief and romance. We're especially thrilled to be reuniting the team that brought you last year's hit, *The 39 Steps*, for this hilarious whirlwind production!



And extending beyond the summer, Guild Festival Theatre is partnering with the Stratford Festival on a remount of **The Veil** in association with Thought For Food Productions! After rave reviews (and plenty of chills) at the premiere last fall, it's wonderful to be able to share this play with an even wider audience. A key value at Guild Festival Theatre is to bring the world to Scarborough and Scarborough to the world, so we're proud to be taking this homegrown production and sharing it at the biggest theatre in the country. This kind of success is a testament to the power and dedication of the Guildwood community.

Find out more about the summer season at [www.guildfestivaltheatre.ca/2026](http://www.guildfestivaltheatre.ca/2026)

# Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko and Music Group



Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko and Music Group will present “Celebrate Japan in Scarborough!” concerts – part of Arts in The Parks 2026 ([torontoartsfoundation.org/programs/arts-in-the-parks/](https://torontoartsfoundation.org/programs/arts-in-the-parks/)). Our performances will feature a hands-on taiko drumming / movement workshop and taiko drumming concerts in four Scarborough parks:

- Sunday, June 28 Prairie Drive Park at 2 pm (rain date Sunday, August 9)
- Sunday, June 28 Cedarbrook Park at 2 pm (rain date Sunday, August 9)
- Sunday, July 5 Alexmuir Park 6:30 pm (rain date Sunday, August 16)
- Saturday, July 4 Guild Park at 6:30 pm (rain date Sunday, July 5)

The 30-minute interactive workshops will be facilitated by Nagata Shachu member and Taiko Instructor Tatsuki Shimoda, and assisted by the rest of the ensemble. Associate Director Aki Takahashi will once again design the workshop in which participants will learn Japanese rhythms with choreographed movement using “uchiwa taiko” (fan drums played with sticks). These instruments were purchased as part of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we received in 2017, where we engaged 10,000 students over three years at TDSB and TCDSB schools in priority and underserved neighbourhoods. Workshop participants will also have a casual and informal environment to ask questions about the music and to interact with the musicians.

Following a short break (approx. 15 minutes), Nagata Shachu will then take the stage presenting a 60-minute concert which will feature several new works that were developed for our most recent concert seasons (we celebrated our 28th Anniversary this season). The energetic performances of taiko drumming will be displayed with the highest levels of musicianship and discipline that Nagata Shachu has become renowned for. In addition to our thunderous taiko drums, the concerts will feature Japanese bamboo flutes, the three-stringed shamisen, and singing. Nagata Shachu’s primal and heartfelt drumbeats transcend all boundaries and strike a chord with people from all walks of life. In ancient Japan, village boundaries would be determined by the furthest distance that one could hear the

taiko which was set up in the middle of town. In the same spirit, it is our desire to expand boundaries and include new communities through the sound of our drums.

For the summer 2026 season, we are looking for 12 local Scarborough youth from middle and/or high school schools (approx. 12 to 16 years of age). We are looking for three participants in and around each park to represent their park and neighbourhood! Youth players do not need to have any previous musical or taiko experience to participate. All material is taught through example and repetition. **Ability to read music is NOT a requirement.**

Youth participants will have the opportunity to learn the basics of taiko drumming through (3) one-hour sessions at the Nagata Shachu studio (Hymus Road @ Warden) in the late spring - early summer of 2026. Through the support of the Toronto Arts Council, we are offering participants:

- \$100 Honorarium (upon completion of 3 rehearsals and performances)
- Nagata Shachu T-Shirt
- TTC / Transportation costs provided for rehearsals and performances

Youth participants will perform a 5 minute piece at each of the 4 park locations, opening each Arts in The Park performance following the workshop session.

For more information, check us out at [www.NagataShachu.com](http://www.NagataShachu.com)

Instagram: @NagataShachu

YouTube: @NagataShachu

Call us with questions! (416) 651-4227

Apply by Friday, May 29, email: [taiko@nagatashachu.com](mailto:taiko@nagatashachu.com)  
(Subject: Youth Player: Celebrate Japan in Scarborough)

Tell us a bit about yourself:

- Age, grade, and what school you go to
- Which park you are close to
- Why you would like to learn taiko drumming

# Running Routes



Sean Quartermain



**Trailheads:** Galloway Rd., Bellehaven Cres., Sylvan Park

**Distance:** ~10K

**Predominant Surface:** Paved Pathway

**Description:** Flat terrain, modest shade, following lakefront, steep hill access points

One of the best aspects of living in the Guildwood is the access to Lake Ontario waterfront. But it is easy to forget it's there because we live on top of the bluffs and access to the waterfront takes a bit of effort.

Introducing the best and most consistently beautiful running route in our neighbourhood: the waterfront trail between Galloway Road to the east and the Doris McCarthy trail to the west. Over the years, the city has used old construction material, mainly bricks, to reclaim the shore along this corrosion-sensitive area. The result is a flat, well-maintained path that runs the entire shore and is approximately 5kms in length. This makes it the perfect out-and-back 10km route! Access to the path is limited which is part of its "nature within the city" charm. There are three access points:

1. The bottom of Galloway to the east provides seasonal parking, and during the off-season, I either run there from home or park at the Guild Inn.
2. Doris McCarthy trail to the west has limited street parking, but is a beautiful access trail; worth a drive when you are looking for a special run. Just save some energy for the steep 1 km hill back up at the end of the run.
3. Sylvan Park right in the heart of Guildwood has limited street parking and is best for those who can handle about 1km of trail running to access the Doris McCarthy path.

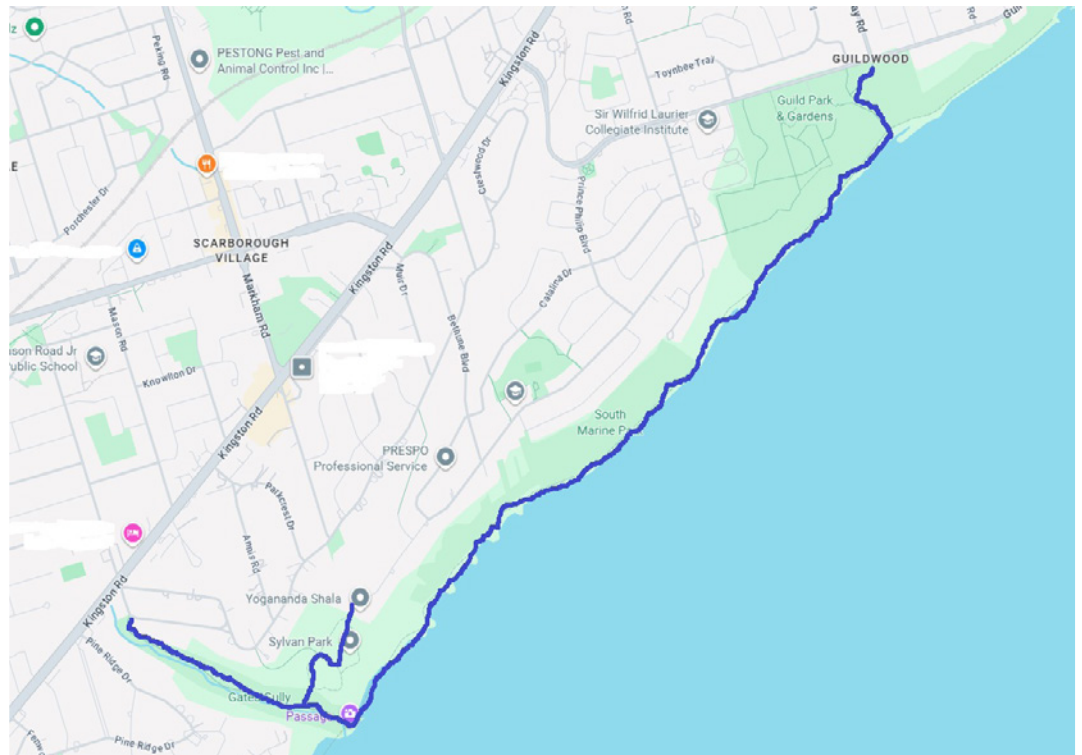
The orientation of the lakefront path is NE-SW and is at its nicest when there is a southerly wind direction. This provides the amazing sound and sight of

waves lapping against the shore. It also brings cool air off the water for warmer days and blows midges (lake flies) off the shoreline and into the bush. Midges gather in massive swarms near the water typically in May and last about two weeks. They are harmless and a sign of a healthy ecosystem, but they are annoying and to be avoided when considering this route. (Or at least wearing a nice head scarf/bandana to prevent inhaling them is recommended!)

The swath of mixed forest between the path and the bluffs is a wildlife corridor. You can often expect to see deer and coyotes. I have never had an issue with coyotes as they are solo hunters and have no interest in a sweaty runner. This is also a very popular dog walking route. There are long sight lines on the path and responsible owners have lots of notice to leash up their pets as you pass by.

Here are a few helpful tips. This is a route with partial shade and a southern exposure. Sunscreen and sunglasses are required. It's exposed to the wind, so dress appropriately especially if there is precipitation in the mix. Lastly, you can extend the run to the east and to the west by about 1km each if you are looking for something closer to a 12km loop. This is absolutely worth doing since both end in beautiful vistas.

Whether you are a recreational or competitive runner, this route has something for everyone. It's worth the extra effort to get to one of the access points!





# **Guildwood Physiotherapy**

## Full Service

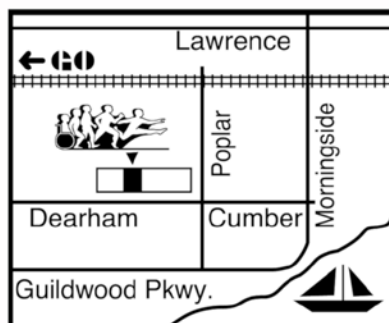
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Ultrasound, Infrared LASER, Sonodynator with suction, Myopulse/Electro-Acuscope (Computer controlled microcurrent), Acuhealth, Acustim, TENS, EMS, Cupping, Acupuncture, (Traditional Chinese and Anatomical) Manual Therapy, Mobilization, Hot Paraffin, Moist Heat, Cupping, Ice, Cryocuff, Spinal and Cervical Traction on our new, state of the art Traction table.

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**[www.guildwood.net](http://www.guildwood.net)**

# A Memorable Storm (We All Want to Forget)

Josee Jauvin



The winter storm that struck Guildwood on January 25 2026 will be remembered as an intense and disruptive weather event; comparable to the December 2013 ice storm, when days of freezing rain coated the neighbourhood in thick ice and left many homes without power

for days. Guildwood was hit especially hard during that event because its mature trees and above-ground power lines snapped under the weight of the ice. While the 2013 outage remains one of the neighbourhood's most difficult experiences, the scale of this snowfall also recalls the January 1999 snowstorm, when repeated rounds of snowfall buried the newly amalgamated City of Toronto under nearly 110 cm of snow. Our then-Mayor Mel Lastman famously called in the Canadian military to help dig out the city. Scarborough, including Guildwood, was among the areas that struggled the most during that particular event.

And then came the most recent storm which unfolded with remarkable speed and intensity. The storm began before midnight on January 24, starting as light snow that quickly intensified as the night progressed. By the early morning hours, Guildwood had already accumulated more than 30 cm, and the heaviest bands were still moving through. Streets became nearly unrecognizable as cars disappeared beneath growing drifts, driveways vanished, and sidewalks turned into narrow trenches carved through waist-high snow. According to CP24, Scarborough South ultimately received 65 cm, placing Guildwood directly within the storm's most severe zone. Environment Canada had initially predicted 20 to 40 cm, but the system intensified rapidly as it moved along Lake Ontario. While Toronto Pearson Airport broke its all-time single-day snowfall record with 46 cm, neighbourhoods in Scarborough South, including Guildwood, saw far more.

The Toronto District School Board's decision to close schools and cancel all their buses helped reduce traffic and prevented what could have been far more severe congestion across Scarborough. Transit still struggled, and Guildwood GO Station experienced delays consistent with the rest of the network. Many residents found themselves unable to leave their homes until well into the next day.

Despite the disruption, the neighbourhood's response was immediate and generous. Residents helped dig each other out, cleared walkways for seniors, and shared snowblowers and shovels. Local Facebook groups were especially active, filling with offers of snow-removal help, from neighbours with equipment to teens offering to shovel driveways. Even in the face of a record-breaking storm, Guildwood's sense of community was unmistakable. The storm left behind a dramatic and almost surreal winter landscape — deep, silent expanses of snow covering parks, tree-lined streets, and open spaces — beautiful to look at, but challenging to navigate.

Throughout the day, many residents relied on the City of Toronto's **PlowTO** map to understand when their streets might be cleared. The tool, which shows the real-time location and progress of snow-clearing vehicles, became essential for tracking which routes had been serviced and where plows were heading next. For many, it offered a small measure of clarity during an overwhelming weather event.

As we look ahead, none of us can predict what the winter of 2027 has in store. What we *can* do is be ready. Guildwood has always met wild weather with preparation, resilience, and a good sense of humour, and that combination will carry us through whatever comes next. For practical tips, checklists, and city resources, Toronto's **Be Winter Ready** guide at [toronto.ca/winter](https://toronto.ca/winter) is a great place to start. Since this article is coming out in spring, feel free to read it on a patio, - just maybe keep your snow brush handy, you know... for luck.

## Author's Note

*This article was written with the assistance of AI to help organize information, refine wording, and ensure clarity.*



Photo credit: Mike Murray



Photo credit: Faiza Siddiqui

Photo credit: Bobbie King

Lily Streicher and Kaia Tadiboyina

Photo credit: Heather Easingwood

With 65 cm of snow reported in Scarborough South, the January 25 storm stands as a defining winter event for Guildwood. It was dramatic, exhausting, and, for many, something they hope not to experience again anytime soon. It was a powerful reminder of nature's unpredictability and the strength of a community that faces it together.



## Timeless Design, Made for Living.

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# What's on @ Guildwood Library



Matthew Parish, Guildwood Library, 416-396-8872

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

### Guildwood After School Club

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 served basis. Suitable for ages 6 and up.

### Tuesday 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! Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Please contact the branch for specific dates.  
Space is limited.

### Guildwood Discussion Group

Ages - Adult  
Come to the library to discuss current events. Every third Friday each month from 2 – 3 p.m. Please contact the branch to register. Space is limited.

### Silent Book Club

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 drop in program is available to anyone 13 and up! We meet the second Thursday of every month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

### Sunday Family Club

Will you colour your favourite characters, do a craft or show off your building skills with LEGO and KEVA? Maybe it will be Snap Circuits or Board Games? Every Sunday come in for a surprise from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

### Book a Librarian

Get free one-on-one expert help.  
Book a free 30 to 60 minute appointment with a staff member who can help you research any topic or help you:

- Find great reads
- Basic computer help
- Setting up your new tablet
- Browse and borrow library digital download content (e-books, e-magazines, e-movies and e-music)

More program information is available on our website [www.tpl.ca](http://www.tpl.ca)

## Recommended Books from Guildwood Staff

Matthew recommends:

**The Smiling Land – All Around the Circle in My Newfoundland and Labrador** by Alan Doyle

Ellie recommends:

**On Isabella Street** by Genevieve Graham

Regina recommends:

**Alchemised** by SenLinYu

Shaista recommends:

**Atmosphere: A Love Story** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Jenn recommends:

**Wild Dark Shore** by Charlotte McConaghy

Sapna recommends:

**The Widow** by John Grisham

Raushan recommends:

**Gone Before Goodbye** by Harlan Coben

# What's the Problem with Pesticides Used for Mosquito and Tick Control?

- Most mosquito and tick control services spray **pyrethroids**, which are synthetic derivatives of pyrethrins (a naturally occurring insecticide derived from *Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium*).
- Just because it's "natural" **doesn't mean it's safe** for people, pets, and the environment.
- Pyrethroids are highly toxic to all insects, including pollinator species.<sup>1</sup>
- There's growing concern that pyrethroid exposure may be **harmful to humans**, especially to pregnant women and children, as studies have shown that there is a probable association between pyrethroid exposure and neurodevelopmental issues, including behaviour and cognitive development.<sup>2 3</sup>
- Pets are sensitive to pyrethroids, particularly cats, who may be **seriously poisoned** by contact with pyrethroids.<sup>4</sup>
- Because pyrethroids do not break down as quickly in the environment as pyrethrins, repeated spraying can result in **accumulation in the environment**.<sup>5</sup>
- Contaminated runoff from pyrethroid application near bodies of water poses a significant risk to **aquatic species**, and the risk is exacerbated by **bio-accumulation** of pyrethroids in sediment.<sup>6</sup>
- When mosquito and tick control services fog an area with pesticide, the **majority of the pesticide spray goes into the air**, creating harmful air pollution that can be

inhaled by anyone nearby or downwind, including children or pets who might be playing in a neighbouring yard.

- If someone has a **window or door open while this spraying occurs** in the area, that air pollution can come indoors and concentrate there.

## Use These Safe and Effective Methods Instead

**Mosquitoes breed in standing water.** Make sure to **remove all sources of standing water** from your yard. Check trays underneath pots, eavestroughs, empty containers, wheelbarrows—everywhere that water can accumulate. **This simple measure goes a long way to preventing mosquito infestations.**

Place a few buckets of water with dissolved **Mosquito Dunks** (available from hardware stores) around your yard. Mosquito Dunks are small pucks containing Bti, a natural soil bacterium that kills mosquito larvae and breaks mosquitoes' breeding cycle. **This is a safe and effective way to reduce the mosquito population in an area without harming people, pets, and pollinators.**

For step-by-step instructions on using Mosquito Dunks, see Homegrown National Park's "Bucket Challenge": [homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/](http://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/)

1 Siegfried BD. Comparative toxicity of pyrethroid insecticides to terrestrial and aquatic insects. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, Volume 12, Issue 9, 1 September 1993, Pages 1683–1689, doi.org/10.1002/etc.5620120917

2 Andersen HR, David A, Freire C, et al. Pyrethroids and developmental neurotoxicity - A critical review of epidemiological studies and supporting mechanistic evidence. *Environ Res.* 2022;214(Pt 2):113935. doi:10.1016/j.envres.2022.113935

3 Ntantu Nkinsa P, Fisher M, Muckle G, et al. Childhood exposure to pyrethroids and neurodevelopment in Canadian preschoolers. *Neurotoxicology.* 2023;99:120-128. doi:10.1016/j.neuro.2023.10.001

4 Pyrethroids and your pets. Australian Poisons Helpline. Published June 8, 2023. Accessed November 2, 2025. [www.animalpoisons.com.au/news/pyrethroids-and-your-pets](http://www.animalpoisons.com.au/news/pyrethroids-and-your-pets)

5 Li H, Cheng F, Wei Y, Lydy MJ, You J. Global occurrence of pyrethroid insecticides in sediment and the associated toxicological effects on benthic invertebrates: An overview. *J Hazard Mater.* 2017;324(Pt B):258-271. doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2016.10.056

6 Li H, Cheng F, Wei Y, Lydy MJ, You J. Global occurrence of pyrethroid insecticides in sediment and the associated toxicological effects on benthic invertebrates: An overview. *J Hazard Mater.* 2017;324(Pt B):258-271. doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2016.10.056



photo credit: Dorte Windmuller





Deputy Mayor  
**PAUL AINSLIE**  
 CITY OF TORONTO - COUNCILLOR  
 WARD 24 SCARBOROUGH-GUILDWOOD

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150 BOROUGH DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR  
 COUNCILLOR\_AINSLIE\_CO@TORONTO.CA  
 416-396-7222

CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
 CHAIR, SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
 CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO  
 NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

**Dear Guildwood Village Neighbours,**

With the warmer days upon us, please remember to stay hydrated and prioritize your well-being.

The spring and summer calendar has several opportunities to connect. I will be hosting Environment Days on June 20 and July 18, to dispose of unwanted items and pick up compost for the garden. I am also looking forward to seeing you at the highly anticipated Guild Alive with Culture Art Festival on July 25 and July 26!

Visit [www.paulainslie.ca](http://www.paulainslie.ca) to view the calendar and Community updates.

**Guild Park and Gardens Improvements**

I am continuing to work closely with the Guild Park and Gardens Resource Group (Friends of Guild Park, GVCA and City Staff). New benches have been installed along the West Trail; seating is being added at the Sculptor's Cabin. Improvements to trail entrances and protective fencing installed to shield sensitive natural areas. Work is advancing with heritage conservation, public art and the new public washrooms and service yard. Park directional signs (wayfinding plan) is underway, as is the design work for the "Switchback" trail replacement, with construction slated for 2027. I remain committed to improving community access and programming on-site and keeping you informed as this work progresses.

Visit my website for the latest news and updates  
[www.paulainslie.com](http://www.paulainslie.com)

**Stay Updated & Get Involved!**

Scan this QR code if you would like to subscribe to my community updates, monthly eNewsletters, submit feedback on City services, and volunteer in my office.



**Provincial Guildwood GO Transit Oriented Community(TOC)** The province is working through their proposal at the Guildwood GO. This project bypasses standard City rezoning, requiring only a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO), the city holds an advisory role only. Current plans suggest six residential towers (30–60 storeys) totaling ~2,534 units. I have raised significant concerns with the project including height, density, and traffic among others, and I will continue to advocate, on behalf of the residents, against the project in its current form

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
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 Supported by: Guild Festival Theatre, Parks & Recreation,  
 Arts & Culture Services.



**Live Performances**

Schedule  
 Coming  
 Soon

**Children's Zone Stage**

Schedule  
 Coming  
 Soon

**SATURDAY JULY 25, 2026 10AM-5PM**  
**SUNDAY JULY 26, 2026 10AM-5PM**

GUILD PARK AND GARDENS  
 201 GUILDWOOD PARKWAY, SCARBOROUGH

- ART EXHIBITS
- ARTIST'S MARKET
- HERITAGE EXHIBITS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- TASTE OF THE GUILD AND BEER GARDEN BY THE OLDE STONE COTTAGE PUB

[WWW.GUILDALIVewithCULTURE.CA](http://WWW.GUILDALIVewithCULTURE.CA) [guildalive@guildalivewithculture.ca](mailto:guildalive@guildalivewithculture.ca) [@GUILD\\_ALIVE](https://twitter.com/GUILD_ALIVE) [GUILDALIVE](https://www.instagram.com/GUILDALIVE) [@TheGuildAliveWithCultureArtsFestival](https://www.facebook.com/TheGuildAliveWithCultureArtsFestival)

**WWW.GUILDALIVewithCULTURE.CA**

Are you looking to **volunteer** or need **school volunteer hours**?  
 Come out and join the Guild Alive with Culture Arts Festival!  
**Contact Guild Alive volunteer coordinator:**  
 Jennifer.Paredes@toronto.ca 416-396-7222



# ANDREA HAZELL

MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, SCARBOROUGH-GUILDWOOD  
THIRD DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
SECOND VICE-CHAIR, STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY

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Toronto (ON) M7A 1A4  
416-325-1207

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## An Update From Andrea Hazell, MPP Scarborough-Guildwood

Dear Scarborough-Guildwood Neighbours!

As we return to the Legislature, I am fired up to speak on the issues in Scarborough-Guildwood. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent Scarborough-Guildwood in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. During the break from the Legislature, I was in the community hearing firsthand the pressure people in our riding and across Ontario are under, and the lack of support they're getting from this government.

While the Ford government continues to cut funding to essential programs, healthcare, and housing during this affordability crisis, the Ontario Liberal Caucus and I remain focused on advocating for the people of Ontario, not just in words, but in action.

Together, we can keep building a stronger, more inclusive, and a more connected Scarborough-Guildwood. I look forward to returning to the House and continuing to be your voice.

### Over The Break

While the Legislature was on the break for 102 days, the work continued, at Queen's Park in Scarborough-Guildwood, Scarborough, and Northern Ontario.

On January 22, I joined MPP Adil Shamji to speak directly to the public at a press conference addressing the reality of the delays of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, what that means for Scarborough, and to demand a public inquiry into the spending and cost overruns on Ontario's massive transit projects. I worked with Shana McCalla, founder of Find Ontario Missing Boys, to raise awareness of the ongoing crisis of GTHA Black boys lured into drug trafficking, including an interview on CBC.

On March 6, I stood alongside students at Queen's Park as the Ontario Young Liberals organized a rally calling on the government to Fix OSAP ASAP, because students are the future of Ontario. They deserve access to affordable education, not a system designed to shut them out.

As the Critic for Transportation, I travelled to Thunder Bay to hear directly from those who rely on Highways 11 and 17 every day. Their experiences are exactly why I tabled Bill 70, the Supporting Mobility, Affordability and Reliable Transportation in Ontario Act, to push for safer, more reliable infrastructure across our province. There have been too many preventable deaths, and the North deserves real change.

### Community Work

My work in the community is just as important as my work in Queen's Park. Our New Year's Levee showed the strength of Scarborough-Guildwood when we come together, and started our year with blessings of community. I attended the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, an important milestone, but accountability is still needed, and I am calling for a full public inquiry into the cost overruns.

In February, I had the honour of celebrating Black History Month across the riding, including with Tropicana Community Organization, and the West Hill Community Association, as well as hosting a celebration with the Ontario Liberal Caucus. The legacies of the trailblazers who came before us was alive and powerful not just all month, but every day.

I joined Lunar New Year celebrations at STC, the Chinese Cultural Centre, and with the Ontario Liberal Caucus, celebrating culture through performances, art, and community. I always say that diversity is what makes this province strong, and I'm blessed to have celebrated our different cultures this month.

### Reach Out to Us!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to connect with my constituency office. We are here to provide guidance and support with any provincial or community-related matters. If you need a space to host a meeting or have a conversation, please reach out. We would be pleased to discuss your needs, explore how we can assist you, and help arrange the next steps.

# Update from Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park



I hope you and your families are doing well as we move into our spring season! Now that a new year has begun, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the work and progress our government has undertaken so far for the community.

## Eglinton LRT Officially Opens

It was great to join the grand opening of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT ahead of its official opening. This is a major milestone for Scarborough and for commuters across Toronto.

Our government made a clear commitment to expand transit and reduce gridlock, and this project delivers real results for families, workers, and businesses in our community. Spanning 19 kilometres with 25 new stations from Kennedy Station to Mount Dennis Station, Line 5 will make it faster and easier to get across the city.

For Scarborough residents, this means stronger connections to jobs, schools, and essential services. Operated by the TTC, Line 5 links riders to three subway lines, two GO stations, and more than 50 bus routes. And with the One Fare program, transfers between the TTC, GO, and regional transit are free, making commuting more affordable and seamless!



*Line 5 Eglinton Crosstown: 19 km of track, 25 brand-new stations, and up to an hour saved on your commute. From Kennedy to Mount Dennis, the city is now more connected.*

## Primary Care Action Plan

For more than a year, our government has been moving forward with the \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan to strengthen local health care across Ontario. This plan is already making a difference by helping more residents access primary care close to home and when they need it. So far, more than 275,000 people have been connected to a family doctor.

Our goal is simple, to make sure everyone in Ontario has access to a family doctor by 2029. The progress we are making shows we are well on our way.

## Unveiling Design for New Ontario Science Centre at Ontario Place

I am pleased to announce that our government has unveiled the final design and awarded the contract to build and maintain the new Ontario Science Centre, the next step in the province's plan to transform Ontario Place into a year-round and world class destination. This new state-of-the-art 400,000 square-foot facility will include an integrated pod complex, interactive exhibits and revitalized Cinesphere, with more space dedicated to programming than the previous site.

Once completed, as early as 2029, the new Science Centre will support more than 5,700 jobs, contributing \$420 million to Ontario's GDP during construction and welcoming nearly six million visitors annually. For Scarborough, the expansion at this waterfront destination will connect residents to the new Ontario Line at Exhibition Station simply by grabbing the GO train at Guildwood GO, which will further connect families to conveniently enjoy the Science Centre and explore Ontario Place.

We are building an Ontario Place for everyone to create year-round memories and experiences that will last a lifetime

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our office at 8130 Sheppard Ave. East Unit 105, by email at [vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org](mailto:vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org), or give us a call at 416-283-8448.

Hon. Vijay Thanigasalam,  
MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V. Vijayadithyan".

# Update from Gary Anandasangaree, MP Scarborough-Guildwood-Rouge Park



Dear Residents of Guildwood,

With spring in full bloom and summer around the corner, I'm excited to share some of the work we are doing to serve Canadians and support our community.

## Making Groceries and Essentials More Affordable

Our government remains focused on strengthening the economy and easing the cost of living. A key measure is the new **Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit**, which will replace the GST Credit. This benefit includes a **25 per cent increase for five years** beginning in July 2026, along with a **one-time 50 per cent boost** this year.

For many families, this will provide meaningful support. A family of four could receive up to \$1,890 this year, and approximately \$1,400 annually over the following four years. A single individual could receive up to \$950 this year, and about \$700 per year thereafter.

## New Electric Vehicle Incentives for Canadians

As the automotive industry continues to shift toward electric, our federal government is making the transition more affordable through the new **EV Affordability Program (EVAP)**.

This program provides financial incentives for eligible vehicles purchased or leased on or after February 16, 2026. Applications opened on **March 31, 2026**. Incentives include up to **\$5,000** for battery-electric and fuel cell vehicles, and up to **\$2,500** for plug-in hybrids.

Incentive amounts will gradually decrease over time, making early purchasing more advantageous. The program will run until **March 31, 2031**, and applies to vehicles valued at **\$50,000** or less, with no price cap for vehicles manufactured in Canada.

To qualify, vehicles must be made in Canada or in a country that has a free-trade agreement with Canada.



Clockwise from top left: MP Gary Anandasangaree with local grocery store owner; Visit to Charlie's West Indian Foods store; Meeting with Toronto Police Service; Visit to the East Preston Early Learning Centre in Nova Scotia.

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# Guildwood Village **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**15  
MAY** **Tree Giveaway Deadline**  
see page 4 for details  
Pick up on June 13, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**23,24  
MAY** **Doors Open Toronto**  
Walking tours by Friends of Guild Park:  
"The World at Guild Park."  
10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. both days

**29  
MAY** **Elizabeth Simcoe J.P.S. Fun Fair**  
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
[elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca/funfair](http://elizabethsimcoeschoolcouncil.ca/funfair)

**30  
MAY** **Guildwood Garage Sale Day**  
Sell your treasures or buy new ones!  
Starting at 9:00 a.m.  
**Throughout Guildwood Village**

**3  
JUNE** **Summer Patio Nights, 1st & 3rd  
Wednesdays, June to August**  
5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Guild Inn Estate, back patio

**6  
JUNE** **Guildwood Day**

**12  
JUNE** **Poplar Road J.P.S. Strawberry Festival**  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
[poplarsf.com](http://poplarsf.com)

**25,26  
JULY** **Guild Alive With Culture**  
see page 34 for details  
Guild Park & Gardens



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# Crossword

Don Briggs



Answers at

[www.guildwood.ca/blog](http://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			
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		56			57					58			
59	60							61					
62				63		64	65					66	67
68				69						70			
71					72					73			

**Across:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Falls, Ontario
- 7. Aluminum \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Give shelter to
- 15. Set of three
- 16. Charges
- 17. Brought up
- 18. Defensive ditch
- 19. Race car sound
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_ Lanka
- 22. Hard, dark, enamel-like varnish (who knew?)
- 24. GVCA's is held in late March (abbr)
- 27. Dog's nose
- 29. Takes no notice of
- 32. Atom \_\_\_\_\_, 1960's cartoon superhero
- 33. \_\_\_\_\_ up!
- 34. Important body part (2 wds)
- 37. Consumes

- 38. Fuss or commotion
- 39. Wind direction (abbr)
- 41. Types of knots
- 45. Decay
- 46. A Bo Derek movie
- 48. Tide of minimum height
- 49. Story of heroic adventure
- 52. Millar and Fleming
- 55. Word sounds like the 18th letter
- 56. Walking through Guildwood Park & Gardens \_\_\_\_\_
- 59. Fundamental
- 61. Often a wintertime necessity

- 62. Jar \_\_\_\_\_
- 63. In these tough times \_\_\_\_\_ with what little I have
- 68. Lyric poem of exalted style
- 69. Type of legal document
- 70. "For the love of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 71. Oolong and Sencha are types of \_\_\_\_\_
- 72. Type of musical instrument
- 73. What standardbred horses do when they race

**Down:**

- 1. Levellers
- 2. Large estates
- 3. Confer holy orders on
- 4. Brief biography of the deceased (abbr)
- 5. For example, list of chapters in a book (abbr)
- 6. Small shelter
- 7. Hulk Hogan was one (2 wds)
- 8. Popular cookie
- 9. Froth formed in liquid
- 10. An evergreen conifer
- 11. Former U.S. president's nickname
- 12. A small amount
- 14. Abbreviation that can be a noun or a verb, per the host's usage
- 20. Guildwood is a great place to \_\_\_\_\_ a family

- 22. Anne Murray has won 26
- 23. Certify validity of
- 24. A passion of the Clarks
- 25. \_\_\_\_\_ whiz!
- 26. Use it to find general information and current events (abbr)
- 28. Cereal grain
- 30. Canada is a member
- 31. Bean or Welles
- 34. There's one at Gabby's
- 35. Many have exchanged them at the two Guildwood churches
- 36. Eureka, I've \_\_\_\_\_
- 40. Mike \_\_\_\_\_, Canadian golfing great
- 42. Found in coastal areas off northern British Columbia (2 wds)

- 43. "Duke of \_\_\_\_\_", sung by Gene Chandler
- 44. Hurried
- 47. Bother persistently
- 50. Precious stone
- 51. \_\_\_\_\_ oneself of
- 53. Settled in
- 54. It's a guy thing!
- 57. A famous elephant
- 58. Took a nap
- 59. Devise secretly
- 60. The RCMP's Musical \_\_\_\_\_
- 64. A middle eastern country (abbr)
- 65. A wind direction (abbr)
- 66. Popular Canadian rock band (abbr)
- 67. Not \_\_\_\_\_!

INTO THE WILD

# GUILDWOOD DAY

JUNE 6, 2026

#GUILDWOODDAY

- 8:30am: Pancake Breakfast (Guildwood Presbyterian Church)
- 8:45am: Mas Camp (Parade decoration pop-up hosted by NYAD on the property of the Church of the Holy Trinity)
- 10am: Parade on the Parkway
- 10am–2pm: Community Marketplace, Raffle and Children’s Games (Sir Wilfrid Laurier school grounds)
- 11am-2 pm: BBQ Lunch hosted by the Holy Trinity, Guildwood Anglican Church
- 5pm–8pm: Evening BBQ & live music at Guild Park. Local resident and wildlife photographer, Ann Brokelman, will host a wildlife showcase table.

Help support this great event!

- Student volunteers: [jmalcolmg.gilchrist@gmail.com](mailto:jmalcolmg.gilchrist@gmail.com)
- Adult volunteers: [guildwoodday@gmail.com](mailto:guildwoodday@gmail.com)
- Sponsorships, prize donations & general inquiries: [guildwoodday@gmail.com](mailto:guildwoodday@gmail.com)
- Vendors: [guildwoodday@gmail.com](mailto:guildwoodday@gmail.com)
- Parade participation: [melissa@bosleyrealestate.com](mailto:melissa@bosleyrealestate.com)

