



Councillor

Rachel Chernos Lin

Ward 15 – Don Valley West



Dear Neighbours,

As students return to classrooms and the familiar sights of fall mark the passing of summer, I'm struck by how quickly time has flown by since my election. We've accomplished a lot since November 2024, from ambitious new policy initiatives to exciting local projects, and I look forward to a productive year ahead.

Over the last weeks of summer, I toured the stunning, newly-renovated Locke Library, visited the Yonge Eglinton Community Centre to see first-hand some of its incredible programming for children, seniors and newcomers, and attended a number of local events. Whether it's music in R.V. Burgess Park or the Toronto Botanical Garden's summer concert series, there are so many great ways to experience art and culture in Don Valley West.

I also spent a few days in Ottawa representing the City of Toronto on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board for a series of meetings, followed by their Annual Conference. This was a great opportunity to connect with other municipalities to share experiences, learn from intergovernmental partners, and work together on advocating for our shared priorities. I look forward to bringing these insights and strengthened relationships back to my work at City Hall.

Since my election, I have been hosting regular **Coffee Chats** at locations throughout Ward 15 with my team. I will also be holding four **Town Halls** over the coming months, which will include a panel of senior City staff to answer questions, hear feedback, and address concerns. You can find more information about upcoming events, including my next **Community Environment Day**, on the back page of this newsletter.

For more frequent Ward 15 and City Hall updates, I encourage you to sign up for my monthly e-newsletter through my website. This is where you will find information on local events, new City policies and programs, engagement opportunities, and so much more.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me and my team via email or by phone with comments, questions, and suggestions!

Yours truly,

Rachel Chernos Lin

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City Councillor | Ward 15 - Don Valley West

Congestion Management Plan: Cracking Down on Road Occupancy

There is an unprecedented level of construction in our City - in July 2024, 18% of all road capacity was temporarily closed for construction. At the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) meeting this spring, Transportation staff presented an important update on Toronto's Congestion Management Plan, including new strategies to better manage developers and contractors occupying roads for construction projects.

To encourage faster project completion, the City replaced flat-rate Road Disruption Activity Reporting System (RoDARS) fees with daily charges as of April 1. In 2022, a utility contractor paid \$4,369 to close 4.5 km of a major arterial road for a month. Today, that same closure would cost the contractor \$287,326. We are seeing encouraging signs that the new fee structure is incentivizing applicants to complete projects faster and minimize disruption.

RoDARS fees help to recover the cost of managing increased congestion. Transportation staff are now exploring escalating surcharges for longer duration construction to help offset the cost of deferring City infrastructure

projects. In parallel, staff are investigating a Congestion Management Levy to be charged in addition to fees, further discouraging prolonged lane closures.



Jaye Robinson Park Naming Event

I was honoured to name the park south of the Locke Library after Councillor Jaye Robinson, who passed away last year. In June, we officially unveiled the new park signs with her family, husband Bill, and over 200 community members in attendance. Jaye was deeply loved in Don Valley West and a true champion of our city's parks, ravines, and tree canopy. With input from her family and City staff, this park was chosen as the ideal location to commemorate Jaye's leadership and incredible legacy of public service.



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For monthly updates, sign up for
my e-newsletter at:

RachelChernosLin.ca/sign-up



For service requests, call:



Protecting Our Tree Canopy

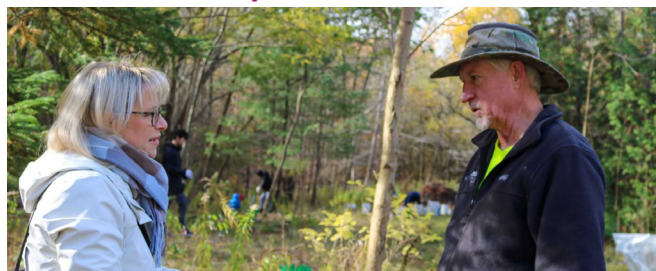
In June, residents across Ward 15 were shocked to learn about the illegal removal of a beloved 80-year old honey locust tree on a development site in Leaside. While this was not the first time a developer has disregarded Toronto's tree by-law, the incident was particularly egregious as City staff had worked with the applicant on a solution to protect the tree by allowing the building to be located closer to the street. The developer reneged on their commitments to the City by removing the tree, and has now applied for additional variances to the zoning by-law.

On the day of the removal, I worked quickly with staff to coordinate a response. The City is actively investigating, and if the contravention is proven, the offender may face a fine of up to \$100,000. Unfortunately, I was advised that there currently are no legal grounds on which the City can revoke building permits or prevent additional applications on the site because of a tree by-law violation, as it is not established as 'applicable law'.

It is essential that we continue this work - that is why I moved a motion at City Council in July calling for:



- This motion passed with overwhelming support at Council, and while it cannot undo the damage already done, I am hopeful that these initiatives will contribute to stronger protection for trees across Toronto moving forward. On a related note, staff are undertaking public consultation on updates to the City's tree by-laws until September 24, 2025. These updates will contribute to Toronto's ongoing goal of reaching 40% tree canopy cover by 2050. To learn more about the consultation, visit: toronto.ca/tree-by-law-review.



The George H. Locke Memorial Branch of the Toronto Public Library is turning a new page this year following an extensive renovation. Located at 3083 Yonge Street (steps away from the new Jaye Robinson Park), the Locke Branch has undergone major construction to modernize the facility while preserving its rich heritage. Changes include significant accessibility upgrades, refreshed shelving and seating, and revitalized children and teen areas. In addition, all 100 Toronto Public Library branches will offer Sunday hours starting on October 19, thanks to investments from the City's 2025 Budget. Visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/locke for more details.



The main entrance and bus terminal at Lawrence Station reopened this August - marking a major milestone in the TTC's ongoing Easier Access project. Upgrades are scheduled to be completed in mid-2026 and include:

- Bus routes 52 Lawrence West, 124 Sunnybrook, 162 Lawrence-Donway, and 952 Lawrence West Express have resumed regular service, picking up and dropping off passengers inside the terminal. The escalator inside the station is now also operational.

A woman with blonde hair and glasses is speaking at a podium. She is holding a piece of paper and a pen. A microphone is positioned in front of her. The background is blurred, showing an indoor setting with a staircase.

Last February, I joined Mayor Chow to announce new investments in the 2025 Budget to help feed an additional 13,500 students. When combined with funding approved by City Council in December 2024, 21,500 more students will have access to healthy meals and snacks this year. Currently, School Food programs serve over 243,000 students in 643 school communities.

A Universal School Food Program is not something that the City can deliver alone – we need the other levels of government to come to the table. That’s why I moved a motion at the CSBAC calling for more intergovernmental support. With 1 in 10 Torontonians accessing food banks and growing food insecurity, School Food programs are more important than ever.

This spring, the Planning and Housing Committee (PHC) advanced proposed zoning by-law updates aimed at addressing the impacts of infill and small-scale residential development on Toronto's tree canopy. These updates underwent community consultation in September and staff plan to present their final recommendations to PHC later this year.

Iceberg houses reduce permeable soil, affecting drainage, ground water, and stormwater management. They can accelerate erosion and create foundation issues for the house itself, as well as those nearby. Limited soil depth also makes it difficult to plant and sustain healthy trees.

I am pleased to see progress on this important issue and will be advocating for enhanced safeguards to preserve our urban forest and limit environmental harm.

Earlier this year, the City approved the installation of seven new School Safety Zones in Don Valley West, bringing the total in the ward to 26. As part of the City's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, these areas feature signs with flashing beacons, pavement stencils, permanent Watch Your Speed signs, and zebra markings at crosswalks. Because they are also designated Community Safety Zones, the City is able to install Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras and double all fines for traffic violations.



After City Council doubled the ASE program in December, Ward 15 received three extra speed cameras. The devices are mobile and rotate every 6-12 months. In October, two cameras will move to Yonge Street (near Wanless Avenue) and Park Lane Circle. Cameras also remain on Bayview Avenue (permanent), Blythwood Road, Ranleigh Avenue, and Thorncliffe Park Drive. For more information, visit: toronto.ca/visionzero.

Beginning in 2026, the City will no longer collect your recycling due to new Provincial regulations. City-owned blue bins at residential properties have been sold to a new Recycling System Administrator called "Circular Materials". This allows residents to continue to use the same bins, ensuring continuity of service.

Circular Materials began placing stickers on residential blue bins in May 2025. As of August 27, approximately 250,000 bins have been stickered - roughly 50% of the total bins in the City of Toronto. The new sticker covers the City of Toronto logo and provides customer service contact information for Circular Materials, which will be active as of January 1, 2026.

If you still need stickers for your bins, please contact 311. Residents can continue to contact 311 Toronto for assistance with their blue bins until the end of 2026, after which point, you must contact Circular Materials. For more information, visit: toronto.ca/epr.

In April, City Council voted to install safety barriers on the Leaside Bridge, also known as the Millwood Overpass Bridge. City Council selected a firm to proceed immediately with the required design work to fast-track the delivery of this critical project.

At the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on April 9, I moved a motion asking staff to implement interim safety measures until the project is complete and called on the Province to help fund suicide prevention infrastructure in Toronto.

Important Note: If you or someone you know is at risk of suicide, call 9-8-8 for free, 24/7, and confidential support or 211 to be connected to mental health resources. In an emergency, please call 911.

Park Updates

Kirkwood Park and Mossgrove Park Improvements

Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation process for upgrades to Kirkwood Park and Mossgrove Park. Your feedback will help shape the future of these cherished green spaces near Leslie Street and York Mills Road. City staff are now reviewing the results from the survey and pop-up event to develop a final design based on your feedback. For project updates, visit: toronto.ca/kirkwoodmossgrove.

Redpath Avenue Parkette is Nearly Complete

Exciting news - Redpath Avenue Parkette is set to reopen this fall! Construction has progressed well, with underground work and key features now in place. Once complete, the parkette will offer inclusive play spaces for children of all ages and abilities. Stay tuned for an official opening date soon!

Sherwood Park Improvements

The City is undertaking short-term repairs and long-term capital improvements at Sherwood

Park. From July 28 to September 7, parts of the boardwalk and lower trail in the off-leash area (OLA) were closed for maintenance. In addition, capital improvements for the park are in the early stages, which will include upgrades to the pathway and a comprehensive rehabilitation of the existing OLA, as well as improvements to the boardwalk, fencing, trail surfacing, and seating areas. Site analysis is currently underway, with design development planned next year. During the 2025 Budget process, I worked with the Mayor’s office to secure funding for this important revitalization project. Investing in our local parks and green spaces is a top priority for me at City Hall.

New Parks Coming to Broadway and Brentcliffe

Two new parks are opening soon! At 100 Broadway Avenue, the new green space will feature sculptural seating, gardens, picnic areas, and tree plantings. Meanwhile, a larger park at 939 Eglinton Avenue East will celebrate Leaside’s history with a heritage hub, amphitheatre, accessible play area, and rain garden. Both parks are nearing completion and expected to open this fall.

Dunlace Park Playground Upgrades

Construction is underway on new, inclusive playground improvements to Dunlace Park as part of the City’s Playground Enhancement Program. Based on community input, the redesign will include accessible play structures, improved safety surfacing, new seating, shade areas, and upgraded pathways. The playground and pathway from Dunlace Drive to the tennis courts will be closed during construction, but the rest of the park remains open. Work is expected to be completed this fall.

Howard Talbot Park Tennis Courts

As part of a City-wide tennis and pickleball court improvements project, the outdoor tennis courts in Howard Talbot Park are receiving new asphalt, fencing, line painting and two dedicated pickleball courts. Construction is anticipated to begin in late September 2025, with completion in late October 2025.

Subscribe to my e-newsletter for more updates on parks projects in Ward 15: RachelChernosLin.ca/sign-up

Out and About



Ontario Line Town Hall Q+A

Thank you to everyone who attended the Ontario Line Town Hall that I co-hosted with MPP Stephanie Bowman. Metrolinx and City staff have prepared a Q+A document responding to questions raised during the meeting. Visit RachelChernosLin.ca/ontarioline to see the full document and meeting materials.



Development Updates

2654-2668 Bayview Ave

This application was submitted in April 2025 and proposes a 7-storey residential building containing 168 units. A community consultation meeting for this application will be scheduled in the coming months.

299 and 305 Roehampton Ave

This application was submitted in July 2025 and proposes two 59-storey residential towers containing 1,519 residential units, including 218 rental replacement units, with a shared 10-storey podium. A community consultation meeting is scheduled for October 28.

245 Eglinton Ave E

This application was submitted in July 2025 and proposes 65-storey and 60-storey residential towers containing 1,278 residential units connected by a shared podium with commercial uses at grade. A community consultation meeting will be scheduled in the coming months.

544-552 Eglinton Ave E and 12-14 Bruce Park Ave

This application was submitted in July 2025 and proposes a 25-storey tower containing 256 residential units and commercial uses at grade. A community consultation meeting is coming up on September 24.

For more updates on active development applications and upcoming consultation meetings, visit RachelChernosLin.ca/development

Upcoming Events

In addition to my monthly coffee chats, I will also be holding four Town Halls which will rotate throughout Ward 15. Keep this poster to save the dates! To register, visit: [RachelChernosLin.ca/events](https://rachelchernoslin.ca/events).



Ward 15 Town Halls

October 23, 2025

Thorncliffe Park Community Hub
45 Overlea Boulevard
6:30pm

November 25, 2025

Leaside Memorial Community Gardens
1073 Millwood Road
6:30pm

February 24, 2026

Virtual Meeting
6:30pm

May 14, 2026

To Be Determined



September 27, 2025

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Sunnyview Junior and Senior Public School
450 Blythwood Rd., North York



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Drop off household items for reuse, recycling, safe disposal or donation.

You can also:

- Pick up FREE leaf compost while supplies last (limit of two bags per household)
- Purchase kitchen containers for organics (\$7 each, cash only)



For a list of items you can and cannot bring to Community Environment Days, please visit: toronto.ca/environment_days

