



# DAVID SHINER'S Community News

*Councillor City of Toronto*

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Building a great city – together

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The City of Toronto holds public consultations as one way to engage residents in the life of their city. Toronto thrives on your great ideas and actions. We invite you to get involved.

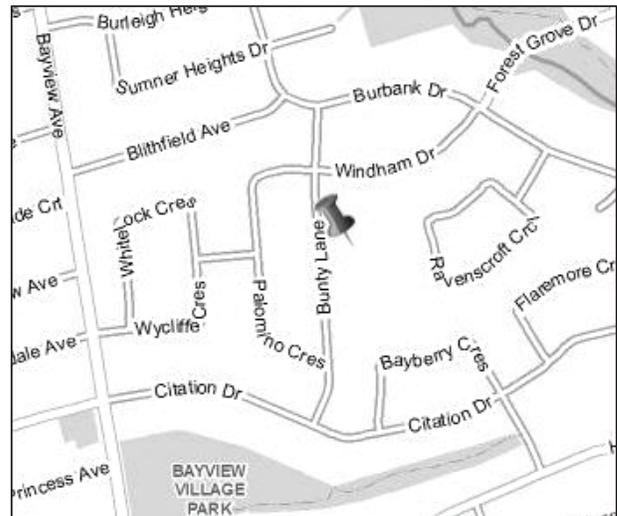
## Bessarion Community Recreation Centre and Park

### Public Update Meeting

City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff and Councillor David Shiner are hosting a public update meeting to:

- Present the design of the new community centre and the new park at 1001 Sheppard Avenue East (south of the Bessarion Subway station)
- Receive comment and input from the public
- Answer questions
- Discuss next steps

This new community centre will include community and recreation facilities, an aquatics centre, a Toronto Public Library branch and a child care centre. The park will include an artificial-turf field, a skating area which converts into a water-spray pad in the summer, public art, a dog park and green space for events, play and relaxation.



Meeting location map

Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2015  
**Pre-registration:** 6:45 p.m.  
**Meeting Time:** 7 to 9 p.m.  
**Location:** Bayview Middle School, Cafetorium  
 25 Bunty Lane (near Bayview Ave. and Blithfield Ave.)



Language interpretation services available with one week's advance notice.

For more information, please contact: Doug Giles, Sr. Project Co-ordinator, Parks Development and Capital Projects at 416-392-0989 or [dgiles@toronto.ca](mailto:dgiles@toronto.ca).

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

## DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

### Skymark Plaza

The Skymark Plaza at the corner of Don Mills and Finch Avenue E. had a proposal to replace the small plaza with a mixed use development, comprised of four condominium towers with heights ranging up to 34 storeys and some commercial space, overall much taller than the existing buildings. These plans would have had a significant impact on the thousands of neighbouring residents while obstructing the beautiful views and increasing traffic.

Over many meetings with residents, the developer and City staff, I expressed these concerns and worked against this development plan. Recently, the property owner withdrew their application for rezoning. This means that the files are closed and there is no request for changes to the plaza at this time.

### 5, 7, 9, 11 & 15 Kenaston Gardens and 577 Sheppard Avenue East

#### Ontario Municipal Board Hearing

This application was for a 12 storey mixed use building with 245 dwelling units and it required an official plan amendment, site plan approval and rezoning. The applicant appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). City Council refused the proposal and recommended a reduction in height and density.

I attended the hearing in opposition of the development along with the City's solicitor. At the time of writing a decision has not yet been released. Please email me if you are interested in more information regarding this application or the eventual decision from the OMB.

## PARKS & RECREATION UPDATES

### Cummer Park Community Centre

As many of you who use the centre may know, the aquatic centre is currently undergoing significant renovations and upgrades. The primary focus of these improvements is a new air handling unit which will improve air quality and moisture management inside the centre. There are also substantial upgrades to the change rooms including new lockers as well as the refurbishing of the pool deck area and much more. The pool is scheduled to open in late January 2015. Other smaller maintenance and improvements will be ongoing throughout the coming year.

### Finch Hydro Corridor Trail Update

City staff are continuing with their work on the section from Maxome Ave. towards Bayview Ave. and are cooperating with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to complete the final portions of that stretch for the upcoming spring. One of the final pieces to the project, the bridge, has already been fabricated and is being stored until the site is ready for installation. I have also asked City staff to explore options to find a safe way for trail users to cross at Willowdale Ave. and access the Finch Subway Station.

### Ravine Staircase at Pineway and Yatesbury

If you have travelled the makeshift walkway at this location then you know the slope conditions can be treacherous. To provide access down into the ravine, I requested a permanent staircase. City Parks staff proposed a wooden staircase; however in designing it they experienced difficulties with the stability and safety of the slope.

The City's Technical Services staff reviewed the matter, made recommendations and further identified the need to rehabilitate the pedestrian bridge off of Pineway Blvd. To reduce the cost, one consultant was hired to design and review both of these projects.

The consultant determined that a substantial concrete staircase was needed to allow safe and convenient access to and from the ravine. The bridge and staircase are ready to be constructed and this project will continue, weather permitting, in the spring.

### Sign Up for E-Updates

If you would like to receive information and updates about important local and City issues, or need assistance with a City matter, please email me at [councillor\\_shiner@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_shiner@toronto.ca) and advise that you wish to receive my emails.

## 3-1-1 – Toronto At Your Service

311 is the City of Toronto's information line which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can report your concerns regarding snow, parks, roadwork and other maintenance issues directly to 311 and, in most instances, obtain resolution of those concerns quickly and efficiently. If you experience difficulties with 311 service you can contact my office, but please, let us know the tracking number assigned to your call.

Call 311 to obtain information regarding bicycle paths, red light cameras, marriage licenses, tree care, parks programs, library and seniors services, and information about waste collection and bins, to name a few.

311 staff can speak to you in many languages and also offers service for the hearing impaired. 311 can be accessed by phone to 3-1-1, or by email to [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca). Visit the 311 website at [www.toronto.ca/311](http://www.toronto.ca/311) to find a wealth of information on a multitude of topics at your fingertips.

**If you have access to email and would like to receive information on community events or issues, please send an email to [councillor\\_shiner@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_shiner@toronto.ca)**