

Message from BVA incoming president Harold Rosenfeld

We have an incredibly talented group of people who are dedicating a lot of their time to be of service to this community. However we do have challenges. Our community is changing. Many of the long time residents have moved out and we have many new homes being built and a changing demographic. Our membership has been declining for a number of years and we need to change with the times to remain viable. To this end we plan on putting out a survey to all residents to ask what they would expect from the BVA and what they feel would make them want to be part of this organization. We also plan on moving into the digital age. Our website is old and difficult to work with. Our directories are printed and hand delivered to homes. We could do so much more, and be much more effective in communicating with more modern tools. I am also asking now if anyone with a marketing background would please consider volunteering for a committee to deal with this modernization. I am also calling out to young people to become involved with this change, as they are generally the most comfortable and experienced with digital technology. If you are a resident, or have any sons, daughters living with you who could help out with this project, and perhaps get school credits please have them contact me. Communicating with our community is key.

I would also like to talk about what your expectations should be from the BVA committees. Remember we are a volunteer organization, and we are a small group. A number of the executive and committee members are still working day jobs and are still doing an amazing job of addressing the issues of this community. We cannot expect them to be spending countless hours every week addressing everyone's issues.

Therefore I ask that you understand what you can expect from this committee. Our roles are to continue making this community a great, safe and fun place to live. We deal with the big issues that affect the whole community. To this end we are currently actively involved in the following large projects:

Municipal and Government Affairs (MAGA) – under the leadership of the chair of this committee Victoria Joly, the major item currently and for the next number of years is the development of the Bayview Village shopping centre. We have joined with the residents of the condo towers along Sheppard avenue to form a group called BSNA (Bayview Sheppard neighbourhood alliance). There is strength in numbers and the city and the developers of this site will likely listen to larger unified groups rather than many small groups. Victoria Joly is front and centre with this group and she is also on a working group set up by the city to deal with this expansion. There are many years of negotiating still to happen with this development, but we are focused on not only dealing with the density of this project, and its impact on our infrastructure, but also on getting the developers to give something back to the residents, like parkland, walking space, community space etc.

MAGA also monitor any legislation that may be impacting the community such as Airbnb rules, vacancy rules, changes to OMB etc. We will communicate these to the residents

MAGA is also creating a resident survey to understand what the residents priorities are. There will also be candidates debates organized for upcoming municipal elections.

While we are very willing to advise residents on how to proceed with committee of adjustment challenges or appeals, we will not actively get involved with this for individual homes going up next to your residences, or with issues you may have with developers on site, or landscaping companies or

uncut grass, or any neighbour disputes. Between MAGA and our Neighbourhood Watch committee we will most certainly advise you how to proceed, but expectations are that you the residents will deal with it, be it notifying our councillor, 311, talking to your neighbours etc. and letting us know the results.

Neighbourhood Watch – under the leadership of Frank Anastasiadis this committee is currently dealing with the city on homeless encampments found in our ravine. These present fire issues as the camps have propane tanks and BBQ's and lots of paper and garbage. Sue Wires, Frank Anastasiadis and Gary James have shown the sites to officers from the city who should be removing the sites. I am also a member of CPLC (community police liaison committee) for division 33. In this regard we get representation on this committee to be part of a group that deals directly with the police superintendent of our division and his officers and we have a voice in filing our issues with them. There are many changes happening with the police units and our division 33 is being merged with 32 division. Making sure we have assigned officers to our community is important. This group has also been involved with getting added police patrols to some of our parks where drugs have been found. We have also had seminars for the community on emergency preparedness and CPTED. We encourage residents to report any suspicious behaviour observed or any attempted car or house break ins to the police so they become aware of potential crime issues. Please also notify Neighbourhood Watch in these cases. NW is also currently dealing with dumping of garbage in our parks, and Gary has notified the mayor and councillor and 311 about this.

Environment – under the leadership of Monty McDonald and Sharon Johnson, with assistance from Gary James, this committee has been active in dealing with the erosion of our ravines and fixing the bridge in the ravine that has been deemed unsafe and closed. They have done walkthroughs with city officials and Gary has emailed many of these people to get moving on this and to give us their plan. There has been very little progress and these problems exist throughout the whole city. However, with the efforts that these 3 people have given to this, we will hopefully move higher up the list. Monty is also involved with trying to get the city to understand the dangers in the dust coming from the stone cutting from the new homes coming up, and to enforce the health and safety legislation for workers and residents exposed to this dust. Monty is also dealing with the city on the issues of water pollution, and the failure to enforce the downspout disconnection rule. Monty does a ravine cleanup each spring with residents.

Residents should realize that dealing with the city on these issues I have mentioned is extremely painful. There are many people to deal with and often the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. We are constantly bombarding the city with our issues, as are other resident associations. As residents you will have an opportunity to voice your support or displeasure for the job they are doing at the upcoming municipal election. Please think about your community concerns before the candidates come knocking on your door in the fall.

BVA is not just about dealing with issues. We also want everyone to come out to our events and have fun and meet your neighbours. Our events committee under the leadership of Jan Siegel hosted a successful Canada 150 party last summer, and we have had several events from lunches to cooking classes at Loblaws, Price Harry and Meghan's wedding and others to come. Please come out to these

and have some fun. They are listed on the website and you will get reminders in upcoming news letters and e-blasts.

I would like to also mention and give a big thank you to the chairs of our Membership committee Jim Tyl, our Communications chair Judi Codd and our webmaster Ken Kurkowski, and our Volunteer committee chair Jean Probyn. Also, a special thank you to Jane Robertson and Gary James for all your hours and dedication. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

To our residents, I hope you realize that your \$25 membership fee covers a lot and is a bargain. We would love for you to volunteer for some of our committees. If you are not yet a member I would encourage you to now consider becoming one.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting many of you, and to continue building this wonderful organization.