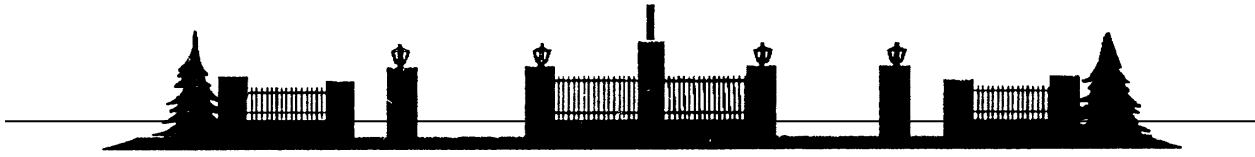


Guildwood Village Community Association



Box 11001, 105 Guildwood Parkway, Toronto, Ontario M1E 5G5

Dec. 5, 2024

To members of the City of Toronto Executive Committee:

The Guildwood Village Community Association (GVCA) strongly supports the initiative by our local Councillor, Paul Ainslie, to establish a new and ongoing funding process for Guild Park & Gardens.

Guild Park is at the heart of Guildwood Village. Our community takes its name from the historic Guild of All Arts, founded in 1932 on the site of today's 88-acre park.

The GVCA and the 10,000 residents of Guildwood Village take a keen interest in Guild Park. People from our community use this park daily. We also know the site has the potential to again be a major Toronto destination, attracting visitors interested in Guild Park's nature, art, culture and history.

The GVCA, along with other organizations active at Guild Park, have long collaborated with City officials to have Guild Park restored as a place renowned for its:

- historic architectural features,
- international arts events and live performances,
- unique gardens, Carolinian forest and shoreline, and
- the inspiring vistas of Lake Ontario from the Scarborough Bluffs.

Unfortunately, the site's current infrastructure prevents visitors from enjoying Guild Park's potential. The GVCA experiences this at our popular community festival each June. We host about 1,000 people for an evening of food and fun at Guild Park's landmark Greek Theatre. There are no signs or maps directing people in the park; the trails aren't easily navigated (especially by GVCA's senior members); and there aren't enough public washrooms to serve such a crowd.

These same conditions are faced by the more than 200,000 visitors who now come to Guild Park year-round. Many are first-time visitors who tell us they're disappointed that Guild Park doesn't have public facilities comparable to those available at other parks in Toronto.

GVCA members and other park volunteers have met with City officials for years to discuss PFR's existing plans to improve Guild Park. These plans include more accessible trails, better maintained public attractions; added facilities for outdoor performances; appropriate washrooms, park signage and benches; even a scenic lookout over the bluffs. We've learned that none of these projects are possible until funding is available for Guild Park.

The GVCA recognizes Councillor Ainslie's proposal is a solution. With his plan, the City reinvests the revenue it earns from the long-term sublease agreement with Guild Park's private events facility, Guild Inn Estate. This new, self-financing revenue stream will immediately benefit Guild Park. The more park visitors who rent event space on-site, the more funding is available to improve Guild Park – all without adding to the City's current financial pressures.

The GVCA strongly supports Councillor Ainslie's approach. It ensures Guild Park can better serve the local community and the City of Toronto as a world-renowned destination, where art meets nature. Our members would be pleased to provide their ongoing support to help City officials implement this approach as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. D'Addario', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert D'Addario,
President, GVCA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Garrah', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Garrah
Vice-President, GVCA