



MARY FRAGEDAKIS

City Councillor, Ward 29



Chair, TTC Commission
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

C-1

January 29, 2014

Dear TTC Chair and Commissioners,

This letter is a request for the TTC to consider providing more service to Evergreen Brick Works, specifically from the nearby Broadview Station. Currently, the TTC offers Saturday bus service from Davisville station and high season Sunday service only.

With over 400,000 visitors annually, Evergreen Brick Works has become a booming success since opening in 2010. Year-over-year attendance continues to grow and this is in part a result of the incredible range of facilities and programs, including:

- the Evergreen Garden Market and a year round farmers market – expanding to include Sundays in spring 2014 (the Saturday market currently receives an average of 2,000 visitors each week);
- event, conference, and meeting space which can cumulatively accommodate up to 3,000 guests and is in a high demand; the Centre for Green Cities office complex home to about 12 organizations, mission- aligned, businesses and the City's Natural Heritage/Parks staff;
- Koerner Gardens - a showcase for sustainable urban greening, in the summer and a daily skating rink from December-March annually
- School visits hosted to the Toronto public and Catholic school boards and beyond – current capacity is approximately 90 visits and 3,000 students, per year and growing;
- Summer camps for approximately 500 children, a community bicycle shop, cooking workshops – to name a few programs;
- A destination for visitors to Toronto seeking a truly unique Toronto experience; and
- A strong commitment to ensuring the site is financially and physically accessible to surrounding and broader Toronto higher-needs communities.

Increased service would also provide access to Todmorden Mills and the other many wonderful environmental and educational facilities in the Don Valley like Cottonwood Flats. Plans are being developed to improve pedestrian and bicycle links from the Brick Works to neighbouring attractions. Service to the Brick Works would also be a service to the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games legacy project the Pan Am Path – a multi-use pathway from Brampton to the Rouge River – which will surely bring many more people to the Don Valley.

This new service could also serve the expected 50,000 new residents expected for south Bayview Avenue. The shuttle bus from Broadview Station provided 52,625 through the first 9 months of 2013. A pilot project during the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games would be an ideal opportunity to explore the possibilities.

Named one of the top 10 geotourism destinations in the world by National Geographic, the Evergreen Brick Works is also a gateway to a sustainable future. The story of the regeneration of the Don Valley highlights the importance of agencies like the TTC in building a sustainable Toronto and indeed planet.

Please determine how we can give this environmental gem a suitably planet-friendly link to the rest of Toronto. Please consider as an initial step putting up signage in the Broadview Subway Station showing the location of the shuttle bus stops.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Councillor Mary Fragedakis
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth

PRESENTED TO
THE COMMISSION

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