

## Upcoming Streetscape Improvements Along Finch Avenue West – August to December 2025

DUKE Heights BIA will be undertaking Streetscape Improvement work along both the south and north sides of Finch Avenue West, beginning August 2025 through December 2025. On the south side, construction will take place heading east from Tangiers Road to Alexdon Road, Alexdon Road to the CN Rail line, Chesswood Drive to Champagne Drive, and Champagne Drive to Dufferin Street. On the north side, work will proceed westbound from Dufferin Street to Alness Street and Alness Street to 1130 Finch Avenue West.

This project includes the installation of new pavers, bumper curbs, concrete benches, gateway trellises, wildlife figures, and landscaping with shrub plantings in designated areas, enhancing the overall public realm in accordance with the approved plans. Please share this notice with property owners, business owners, and tenants who may be impacted during the construction period.

[Download Construction Notice](#)

## Upcoming Streetscape Improvements Along Finch Avenue West – August to December 2025

**Reminder: DUKE Heights  
Photo Contest Closes  
August 31!**

**Be Part of this Year's  
Soupalicious Event on  
September 28!**

**Building a Safer Future:  
A Community-Driven  
Initiative to Eliminate  
Water Safety Inequities**

**The End of the De  
Minimis  
Exemption: What It  
Means for Canadian  
Small Businesses and  
How to Prepare**

**Calling DUKE Heights  
Restaurants – Apply Now  
for Winterlicious 2026!**

**City of Toronto Launches  
Red Tape Hotline for  
Businesses**

**Protect Your Business  
from POS Terminal  
Refund Thefts**

**Is Your Business Listed in  
the DUKE Heights BIA  
Business Directory?**

**Schedule a Savings  
Discussion - DUKE**

## Reminder: DUKE Heights Photo Contest Closes

**August 31!**

The DUKE Heights BIA Annual Photo Contest is currently underway and will run until August 31, 2025.

Open to photographers of all experience levels, the contest celebrates the vibrancy, character, and unique spirit of the DUKE Heights community. Submissions from local business owners and their staff are also welcome.

The top 10 entries will receive prizes, and selected photographs will be featured on the DUKE Heights BIA website, social media, and in a local newspaper. Click below to find more and take part in the photo contest!

[Photo Submission Portal](#)



## Be Part of this Year's Soupalicious Event on September 28!

Join us for Soupalicious DUKE Heights, our annual community harvest event on September 28, 2025, at the Champagne Centre's northwest parking lot. This lively celebration will transform the space into a festive hub filled with delicious soups, fresh corn, and other seasonal treats. Guests will enjoy live music, face painting, and arts & crafts for kids — plus, the first 100 families will receive a free pumpkin to take home!

We're inviting local DUKE Heights restaurants to participate in this exciting community event — especially those interested in serving up their signature soups! This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your culinary talents, engage with the community, and be part of a vibrant local celebration.

Interested in participating? Email us at [info@dukeheights.ca](mailto:info@dukeheights.ca) to reserve your spot!



## Heights BIA

**BIA's Exclusive Security Services – At No Cost to Members**

**Members Get 4 Weeks of Complimentary Digital Billboard Advertising**

**Enhance Your Digital Presence with BIA-Supported Advertising**

**Get Your Vacant Property Listed for Free!**

**Councillor's Corner: James Pasternak**

**Councillor's Corner: Anthony Perruzza**

**Photo of the Month**

**Upcoming Events and Webinars**



DUKE Heights BIA, spanning Dufferin to Keele and Steeles to Sheppard, supports businesses with a vision to drive growth, attract investment, and advocate for the local business community.

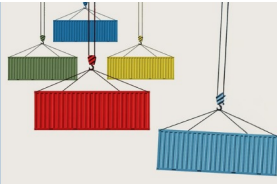


## Building a Safer Future: A Community-Driven Initiative to Eliminate Water Safety Inequities

The Safe Futures Initiative is a bold and transformative program developed to close the critical water safety gap affecting vulnerable populations across Canada. In a country where water is both a beloved recreational resource and a serious safety hazard, many children—particularly those from low-income, Indigenous, and immigrant communities—do not possess the basic survival swimming skills required to stay safe in aquatic environments. [...]

[Read More](#)

THE END OF  
THE DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION  
ARE YOU READY?



## The End of the De Minimis Exemption: What It Means for Canadian Small Businesses and How to Prepare

The U.S. government is moving to eliminate the de minimis exemption - a trade rule that has allowed Canadian businesses to send low-value shipments (under US\$800) to American customers without paying duties or dealing with complex customs paperwork.

This rule has been a major advantage for Canadian entrepreneurs, especially in e-commerce where it has allowed Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs to compete evenly with American firms as it helped to, sped up deliveries, and reduce the complexity of cross-border trade. [...]

[Read More](#)

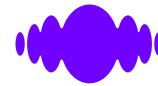
WINTERLICIOUS 2025

APPLY BY  
AUGUST 21, 2025

**Calling DUKE Heights Restaurants – Apply Now for Winterlicious 2026!**

## City of Toronto News Releases & Other Resources

Latest news releases and updates from the City of Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/news](http://www.toronto.ca/news)



**Hear CANADA**

**FREE Hearing Tests + Save up to \$1,350 on a pair of premium hearing aids.**

BETTER HEARING STARTS HERE.  
Take charge of your hearing health – start with a free hearing test.\*  
Need hearing aids? Save up to \$1,350 on a pair of premium hearing aids.+  
Please visit our website for store locations.

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](http://dukeheights.ca/perks/).

**DentalX**

**Free Electric Toothbrush**

Free Electric Toothbrush for All New Patients following the initial full check up.  
Offer Exclusions: Not completing the initial exam

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](http://dukeheights.ca/perks/).



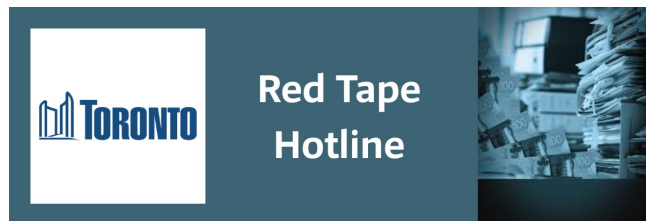
**Pay no tax on all Canadian-made seating!**

Discount valid only on Canadian-made collections and merchandise.  
Please visit our website for store locations.

Planning for Winterlicious 2026 is underway, and now is the time for full-service (table-service) restaurants to get involved. Interested full-service restaurants in the DUKE Heights BIA are requested to submit their eligibility application by August 21, 2025.

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your culinary talent on one of Toronto's biggest dining stages! For more, please click the button below.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



## City of Toronto Launches Red Tape Hotline for Businesses

Toronto businesses can now report red tape and regulatory burdens such as permitting delays, outdated by-laws or cumbersome municipal processes through a new Red Tape Hotline. This four-month pilot supports efforts to modernize regulations and streamline services under Toronto's Economic Action Plan. Businesses are encouraged to share their experiences. Submissions are open until Sunday, November 30.

[Find Details](#)



## Protect Your Business from POS Terminal Refund Thefts

Several main street businesses in Toronto have recently been targeted by refund thefts involving Point of Sale (POS) terminals, resulting in significant financial losses. These incidents have occurred during business hours and in the presence of staff.

To mitigate risk, employee awareness and strict adherence to payment protocols are essential.

**Key Protocol:** In the event of a declined transaction, only authorized staff should reprogram the POS terminal. Customers

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](https://dukeheights.ca/perks/).



**Free 1/2 hour**

**Phone**

**Discovery Call**

360-degree Speed & Recovery for hockey, soccer players, corporate executives, chronic injuries, concussion management, functional medicine coaching.

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](https://dukeheights.ca/perks/).



**Save \$2,400 on**

**Your Plan -**

**Limited Time**

**Offer!**

This offer is only valid for contracts with a duration of one year or more. Phone: (647) 259-7759; Email: [info@sleeplessatrest.com](mailto:info@sleeplessatrest.com); Address: 61 Alness St.

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](https://dukeheights.ca/perks/).



**Family**

**Physicians**

**Accepting New**

**Patients**

Family Physicians Accepting New Patients. Call 416-222-6160 ext. 220/221 to schedule an appointment.

For more local offers and specials, visit [dukeheights.ca/perks/](https://dukeheights.ca/perks/).

should never be permitted to operate the terminal, except to enter their PIN.

For further guidance, please refer to the attached brochure from Toronto Police Services, which outlines best practices for preventing POS terminal theft.

We encourage you to circulate this information among your staff members.

[Download the Brochure](#)



### Is Your Business Listed in the DUKE Heights BIA Business Directory?

If your business is new to the area, not yet listed, or if your current listing needs an update in the DUKE Heights BIA Business Directory, please visit [dukeheights.ca/explore](http://dukeheights.ca/explore) and click on the "Add Your Business" tab to submit your new or revised information.

[Business Directory](#)



CONSULT  
A SAVINGS SPECIALIST  
FREE OF COST

COURTESY OF DUKE HEIGHTS BIA

### Schedule a Savings Discussion - DUKE Heights BIA

Looking to lower your operating expenses? DUKE Heights BIA is offering a free, no-obligation savings analysis through Expense Defence. Their specialists review key cost areas like payment processing, telecom, internet, cable, and security to find savings tailored to your business.

Book a 15-minute call and get your personalized Savings Analysis & Benchmark Report within a week.

### Do you have a Perk?

Do you want to promote your business to fellow members and their employees? Provide an exclusive offer at [dukeheights.ca/submit-perk-form/](http://dukeheights.ca/submit-perk-form/) by filling out a short form!



### Report a Pothole

Please notify the City of Toronto of any existing or potential hazard from road damage in or around your area via the [311 Toronto mobile app](http://311.toronto.ca/mobile-app/), online at [toronto.ca/311](http://toronto.ca/311), or by calling 311. To learn more, visit the City website at [Potholes - City of Toronto](http://Potholes-CityofToronto).

[Click Here to Schedule Your Appointment](#)



FREE SECURITY  
SERVICES  
FOR BIA MEMBERS

### **BIA's Exclusive Security Services – At No Cost to Members**

Businesses within the DUKE Heights BIA are invited to take advantage of exclusive, complimentary security services provided by Best Guard Security under the supervision of the BIA team. To learn more and enroll, members are encouraged to complete the Security Signup Form. <https://dukeheights.ca/security-services/>.

[Security Signup Form](#)



EXCLUSIVE  
FREE BILLBOARD AD  
FOR MEMBERS

### **Members Get 4 Weeks of Complimentary Digital Billboard Advertising**

Looking to increase your business visibility? Secure a free slot in a shared spot on Pattison's Outdoor Digital Billboard at the Dufferin St and Finch Ave W intersection. You'll share a spot with fellow BIA businesses and Your ad will be displayed multiple times each day for 4 weeks, reaching thousands of commuters. Reserve your space by filling out the Expression of Interest Form below.

[Expression of Interest Form](#)



FREE DIGITAL AD  
FOR MEMBERS

### **Enhance Your Digital Presence with BIA-Supported Advertising**

Whether you're new to online advertising or looking to boost your business's online visibility, DUKE Heights BIA has a program

tailored for members. Get up to 4 weeks of complimentary online and social media advertising. Use the link below to complete the Expression of Interest Form and reserve your spot.

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

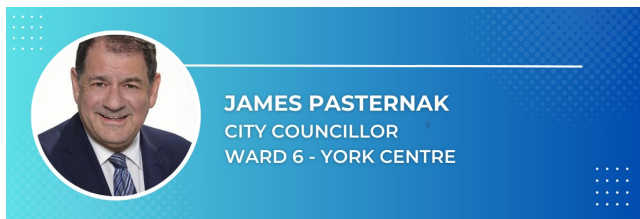


LIST AND SEARCH  
VACANT PROPERTIES  
IN  
DUKE HEIGHTS BIA

### Get Your Vacant Property Listed for Free!

Properties available for sale or lease within the DUKE Heights BIA are listed on the BIA website. BIA members looking to showcase their vacant properties at no charge on the listing are encouraged to get in touch with us. Please reach out via email at [info@dukeheights.ca](mailto:info@dukeheights.ca).

[Find out More](#)



### James Pasternak

#### Toronto City Councillor – Ward 6 York Centre

Our office takes the noise levels and other neighbourhood disruptions related to the new concert venue in Downsview very seriously. We have been working with Live Nation, Northcrest Developments, and City of Toronto divisions to ensure that all bylaws are adhered to and local businesses and residents are respected. We continue to make adjustments in order to reduce the impact of the partial lane closure on Wilson Avenue, monitor noise levels, increase security, and ease traffic congestion. [...]

[Read More](#)



**Anthony Perruzza**

**Toronto City Councillor – Ward 7 Humber River-Black Creek**

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. My office has been hosting multiple events this summer to connect with the community.

Our Fun Fair at Elm Park was a great time. Residents got to enjoy free ice cream, swag giveaways, activities for kids and designing their own custom buttons! Thank you to all who joined me for a day of fun in the sun. [...]

[Read More](#)



**Discover DUKE: Photo of the Month**

The photograph above is one of the finalists from the Discover DUKE 2024 Photo Contest, held in August 2024.

Photographer: Sharon Yu

Photo Title: Sunset at Finch Hydro Corridor

Photo Location: Finch Hydro Corridor





**[Foundation Is Set - Webinar by Digital Main Street](#)**

August 19, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[The Money Side of Business: Tools & Techniques for Managing Your Financials - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)**

August 21, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[Business Law 101 - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)**

August 21, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. [Register here](#)



**[Social Media for Small Business - Webinar by Digital Main Street](#)**

August 26, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[Service Canada: Free Hiring Platform & Other Supports for Small Businesses](#)**

August 27, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [Register here](#)



**[Not-for-Profit Information Session - Webinar by York Entrepreneurship Development Institute \(YEDI\)](#)**

August 28, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Register here](#)



**[Getting Money: What Lenders & Investors Want - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)**

August 28, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[eCommerce 101: What, Why, and How - Webinar by Digital Main Street](#)**

September 2, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[Maximizing Your Business: How to Manage Your Cash - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)**

September 4, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



**[Service Canada: Free Hiring Platform & Other Supports for Small Businesses](#)**

September 10, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [Register here](#)



**[Health & Safety Basics for Small Businesses - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)**

September 11, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)





Tweet



Forward



Share



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