

Trade Accelerator Grant for Entrepreneurs: Accepting Applications until July 29

The City of Toronto is now accepting applications for the **Starter Company Plus Grant** – Trade Accelerator Stream. This initiative supports Toronto-based businesses aiming to expand into international markets by offering targeted resources to boost their export readiness. This could be an opportunity for progressive small business members of our BIA who aim to take their business global!

Selected participants will benefit from hands-on training, one-on-one mentorship from industry experts, and a \$5,000 micro-grant to support their growth journey.

The application deadline is Tuesday, July 29, at 4:30 p.m.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF): Supporting Strategic Expansion for Ontario Businesses

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Discover DUKE Photo Contest Kicks Off August 1, 2025

Bites, Beats & Good Vibes: DUKE Eats Festival 2025 Recap

Protect Your Business from POS Terminal Refund Thefts

Telus #StandWithOwners Small Business Contest is Open

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

Schedule a Savings Discussion - DUKE Heights BIA

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

Members Get 4 Weeks of Complimentary Digital Billboard Advertising

Enhance Your Digital

The Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF) is now accepting applications from businesses seeking to enhance their interprovincial market presence.

Designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the program provides financial assistance for near-term investments that strengthen local production capacity, improve trade resilience, and enable successful expansion into new Canadian markets.

This initiative aligns with Ontario's broader economic objectives by fostering business growth, competitiveness, and sustainable supply chains within the province.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



Discover DUKE Photo Contest Kicks Off August 1, 2025

DUKE Heights BIA is pleased to announce the return of its annual photo contest, taking place from August 1 to August 31, 2025.

The contest invites photographers of all experience levels to participate — from casual enthusiasts to seasoned professionals. Participants are encouraged to capture compelling images that reflect the vibrancy, character, and unique spirit of our DUKE Heights community.

The top 10 submissions will be awarded prizes, and selected photographs will be showcased on the BIA's website, social media platforms, and in a local newspaper. Business owners and their staff within the DUKE Heights area are also warmly invited to join the competition as well.

Stay tuned! Official contest rules and further details will be announced shortly.



Presence with BIA-Supported Advertising

Free Accounting Consultation for BIA Members

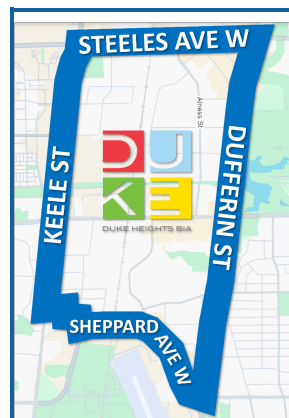
Get Your Vacant Property Listed for Free – Members Only

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.



City of Toronto News Releases & Other Resources

Latest news releases and

Bites, Beats & Good Vibes: DUKE Eats Festival 2025 Recap

On Friday, June 27, 2025 — right before the Canada Day long weekend — Fountainhead Park came alive with energy and excitement. Located at the intersection of Finch Avenue and Sentinel Road, the park drew in hundreds of families and residents from across the city for the DUKE Eats Festival, a vibrant celebration of culinary delights and cultural diversity.

The event featured-

-  Toronto's Favourite Food Trucks
-  BIA Food Vendors
-  Carnival games
-  DJ Music
-  Caricatures Drawing
-  Face painting
-  Canvas Painting
-  Interactive Lego
-  Free giveaways

Our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event a standout success! [...]

[Read More](#)

ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES FROM TORONTO POLICE SERVICES ON PREVENTING POS TERMINAL THEFT



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 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.

updates from the City of
Toronto: [www.toronto.ca/
news](https://www.toronto.ca/news)



Free 1/2 hour

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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/.

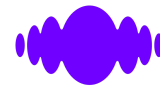
DentalX

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/.



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

[Download the Brochure](#)



Telus #StandWithOwners Small Business Contest is Open

#StandWithOwners, Canada's biggest small business contest, is back. The contest offers entrepreneurs the chance to win \$200,000 in funding, technology, and exposure to help take their businesses to the next level.

In 2025, the campaign celebrates entrepreneurs who have "Made it in Canada", those who have built their businesses locally and are driving meaningful impact across communities, both at home and abroad. A total of 35 owners will be recognized through the following:

- 5 grand prize winner packages (each valued at \$200,000)
- 15 additional winner packages (each valued at \$20,000)
- 15 owner spotlights, receiving exposure through TELUS Business social media channels

The contest runs from June 3, 2025, to September 3, 2025. Full details are available at: telus.com/StandWithOwners.

[Apply now](#)



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 and click on the "Add Your Business" tab to submit your new or revised information.

[Business Directory](#)

store locations.

For more local offers and specials, visit 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.

For more local offers and specials, visit 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/.



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; Address: 61 Alness St.

For more local offers and specials, visit dukeheights.ca/perks/.

[Do you have](#)



CONSULT A SAVINGS SPECIALIST FREE OF COST

COURTESY OF DUKE HEIGHTS BIA

Schedule a Savings Discussion - DUKE Heights BIA

Looking to reduce your everyday business operating expenses? Speak with a Savings Specialist free of charge, courtesy of DUKE Heights BIA. Explore how you can cut expenses by up to 50%.

Expense Defence offers a free, no-obligation savings analysis across six key expense categories, including Payment Processing, Telecom (Mobile & Landline), Internet, Cable, and Monitored Security. Their experts are available to help you identify cost-saving opportunities tailored to your unique needs.

Book a 15-minute consultation today and receive your detailed Savings Analysis and Benchmark Report within just a week. Don't miss this chance to uncover real savings for your business!

[Click Here to Schedule Your Appointment](#)

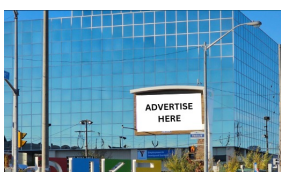


FREE SECURITY SERVICES FOR BIA MEMBERS

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

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/ 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](https://311.toronto.ca/), online at toronto.ca/311, or by calling 311.

To learn more, visit the City website at [Potholes – City of Toronto](https://toronto.ca/potholes).



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](#)



SCHEDULE A FREE
ACCOUNTING
CONSULTATION

Free Accounting Consultation for Members

Introduced with the goal to assist businesses in financial planning and applying for government support programs, this BIA service offers members a FREE consultation with a registered accounting firm to guide them in resolving any finance or funding questions.

[Schedule a Free Consultation Now](#)



LIST AND SEARCH
VACANT PROPERTIES
IN

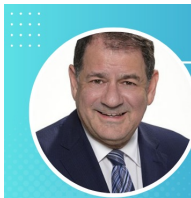


DUKE HEIGHTS BIA

Get Your Vacant Property Listed for Free – Members Only!

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.

[Find out More](#)



JAMES PASTERNAK
CITY COUNCILLOR
WARD 6 - YORK CENTRE

James Pasternak

Toronto City Councillor – Ward 6 York Centre

I hope everyone had a wonderful Canada Day Celebration earlier this week. Here are a few updates that I wish to share.

Recently, I arranged an important meeting with Jason Thorne, City of Toronto Chief Planner, DUKE Heights Business Improvement Area, and Councillor Anthony Perruzza discussing opportunities for localized planning studies within the BIA boundaries and provincial policy changes to employment sectors. Mitigating the potential economic and employment impact of Bill 97 and Official Plan Amendment 804 remain as high priority items for our office. We will continue to share ongoing updates on these policies. [...]

[Read More](#)



COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

ANTHONY PERRUZZA
CITY COUNCILLOR
WARD 7 - HUMBER RIVER—BLACK CREEK

Anthony Perruzza

Toronto City Councillor – Ward 7 Humber River- Black Creek

I hope you had a safe and joyous Canada Day. Once again, it was a

pleasure to celebrate this occasion with an annual Movie Night at Fountainhead Park. A great big thank you to the DUKE Heights BIA and CUPE 416 for another amazing night of "DUKE Eats and Movie Night" at Fountainhead Park.

At our last City Council meeting, Toronto's Vision Zero Strategy was discussed. I advocated for a review of the Automated Speed Enforcement program to create a fairer, more meaningful way to slow down traffic, after hearing from many residents that they feel unfairly penalized by the speed enforcement cameras, as they are currently located without adequate signage or visibility. Scan the QR code to watch my interview with CP24. [...]

[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: Phontip Sananikone

Photo Title: Inbound

Photo Location: Finch West subway station



eCommerce 101: What, why, and how. - Webinar by Digital Main Street

July 22, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Hiring 101: Building Inclusive Teams & Setting Up for Success - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
July 23, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Accounting for Non-Profits: Understanding Financial Statements - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
July 24, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Incubators: How CGLCC Can Help Your Business - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
July 25, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[The Importance of Paid Advertising in a Digital Space - Webinar by Digital Main Street](#)
July 29, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Balancing Your Balance Sheet - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
July 30, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Financial Survival for Entrepreneurs - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
July 31, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[How to Write a Business Plan Workshop Series, Part 1 of 3 - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
August 6, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. [Register here](#)



[Understanding Financial Statements for Small Business Owners - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
August 7, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[T1 General Small Business Tax Literacy - Webinar by Toronto Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)
August 8, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)



[Email Marketing - Webinar by Digital Main Street](#)
August 12, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)



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Forward



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