



MOORE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

IDENTIFYING, ADVOCATING AND ACTING ON NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCERNS
IN ORDER TO ENHANCE MOORE PARK.

NEWSLETTER



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you will know, the hot topic in Moore Park is whether, where and how Mt. Pleasant Cemetery will build either a Visitation Centre or full-service Funeral Home in our neighbourhood. Preliminary plans indicate a significant building on the north side of Moore Avenue, just east of Welland.

Our concerns are several-fold:

- Moore Park is zoned as a residential neighbourhood and this commercial venture is not in keeping with the context of our community.
- Moore Avenue is already seriously overburdened by traffic, and the addition of a parking lot that accommodates up to 100 cars, the vehicular access required by that parking lot, and the regular stream of cars that would accompany a funeral or just general access to the centre, would be disastrous.
- Environmentally, there could be significant impact as trees are removed, sewage needs are addressed and the ravine and beltway access are compromised.

On June 2, cemetery management presented comprehensive plans and analysis to several of the Moore Park and Bennington Heights executive. I am

impressed by the environmental planning they have undertaken and after hearing some of our concerns, they will look into the possibility of routing all traffic off of Mt. Pleasant or other, existing access points, and not off of Moore Avenue. We are working closely with MPP George Smitherman's office and that of Councillor Kyle Rae to understand whether this structure can be built in the first place, however, and whether Mt. Pleasant's assertion that it is "an associated use" of their mandate can prevail. We are studying the implications of the provincial Bill 209 (The Ontario Funeral Burial and Cremation Services Act) and the regulations now being developed for it, to see what direction it, and/or municipal zoning by-laws, indicate.

Our Councillor, Kyle Rae, has assured us he opposes the development as it was originally described and that the cemetery will have to follow a very public process in order to build their Visitation Centre/Funeral Home on Moore Avenue. Please visit our web site at www.moorepark.org for up-to-date developments. We undertake (pun intended) to keep you informed and to engage the community in action – as necessary – as the process unfolds.

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MOORE PARK TENNIS CLUB

Please note that hours of operation have changed for the Moore Park Tennis Club. Located in Moorevale Park, this club is independently run but serves as a key feature within our neighbourhood. For more information, please consult the club's website at www.mooretennis.com.



Club Hours of Play

Members Only

Monday to Saturday: 8 am - 11 pm
Sunday: 8 am - 6 pm

Public Hours

Sunday only: 6 pm - 10 pm

Clubhouse Hours

Monday to Friday: 5 pm - 9:30 pm
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 10 am - 5 pm

Letter from the President

Continued from page 1

To that point, yes we have a web site! We thank Rosedale resident Nicole Olds for getting us up and running. We hope to use this site as a vehicle for time-sensitive updates to the community and to promote the MPRA and the work it does. Visit us at www.moorepark.org for community information, important links and a way of contacting us. And if anyone is interested in helping us maintain or enhance this site, please contact me.

One wet Saturday in April, MPRA directors Bev MacLean and Karen MacPherson led a team to clean up Moorevale Park. Joined by neighbours and friends, we managed to fill quite a number of special yellow garbage bags. Thanks to all who turned out, donned work gloves and picked up items that ranged from bottle caps to a broken fishing rod.

Sales of our local history have been booming! Edited by Moore Park resident

MISS MANNERS

Dear Miss Manners:

The other day my blood ran cold as I witnessed the following: Four or five boys, approximately 8 or 9 years old, careening down a little hill on their skateboards. Needless to say, they were not only without helmets but lying on their stomachs and going right through a stop sign. There were no parents to be seen. I'm worried about the safety of these boys. What can be done?

- Concerned in Moore Park

Dear Concerned:

I often wonder what exact criteria parents use when they decide their children no longer need to be supervised. Rather than a diligent and rigid assessment of the child's understanding of safety and their level of maturity, I wager it is quite the opposite.

One must understand that all children are born with an unceasing, single-minded, unrelenting need to ask for everything. They have no choice in this...they will get kicked out of the kid club if they don't. Go ahead, test your little tyke with

Beth Marley, this baby has been flying off the shelves at Summerhill Market (which kindly sells it at cost for us), via our own initiatives, and through Mooredale House, which we thank for promoting and selling this work. Lots of copies remain and we hear that at \$10, this picture-laden monograph makes a marvelous hostess gift, welcome-to-the-neighbourhood gift and a pleasant and enlightening read. See the membership page of this newsletter to order yours.

More and more, Moore Park residents are asked to allow exceptions to existing by-laws, in order to accommodate renovations, rebuilds and additions to/of houses in the neighbourhood. In an effort to preserve the character of Moore Park, your board has set up a committee to look at such proposed exceptions. We respect the right of homeowners to change their property to some degree, but please note we are working with the community as a whole to monitor development and, in some cases, where we feel undue and extreme precedents are being set, to get involved. We are

a walk past a candy counter...see what I mean? It is pre-ordained behaviour! So now that they are out of diapers and looking for a bit of freedom, they begin to ask for more. Now, after 10 or so years of this asking, most parents are worn down and looking for a break, that's when the "careening down the hill on their bellies" stuff starts to happen.

What to do? I have a magical word for each parent; it is "no". If a child is asking to do something unsupervised at an inappropriate age or asking you to do something that is not safe, say no. Yes, of course they will whine their little heads off and stomp off in a rage...they have to, remember it's innate! And if you think saying no to a 10 year old is difficult, try saying it to a 17 year old. Start now, the headaches will just get bigger if you don't.

Please remember, it is the right thing to do, this is your child, they are your responsibility. And one last thing, all that "I hate you" business will go away quick as a wink the next time they want something.

looking at how North Rosedale did a survey of all properties in that neighbourhood and they are now in the final throes of obtaining Heritage Designation. We will keep you posted on any further steps we take in this direction.

I wish to thank Karen MacPherson and Alex Hahn for leading the board so successfully in the recent membership drive that took our numbers up over 300%. If you have not yet joined the MPRA, please complete the membership form attached to this newsletter. Your dues pay for the small expenses we incur on newsletter production and other such projects. Your board of directors volunteer time and other resources and we would appreciate your financial support of \$25.

Cindy Caron Thorburn
President
Moore Park Residents' Association
caronthorburn@sympatico.ca.



HOLD THIS DATE

**Wednesday evening,
September 28, 2005,
Moore Park
Residents' Association
will hold it's
Annual General Meeting.**

Location to be confirmed.

LOCAL GRIPES.

The MPRA has received complaints about the following:

- Neighbours who leave empty recycling and garbage bins on the curb for DAYS after garbage collection. Please arrange for a friend to tuck bins away if you will be out of town and can't deal with them yourself.

For more information on garbage collection, please visit the Moore Park Residents' Association website:
www.moorepark.org.

- Residents who plant basketball nets on the street and leave them there. These are a traffic hazard and an eyesore: please put them back on your property once you have had your fun.

Any other complaints you'd like addressed in future newsletters? Send us an e-mail at caronthorburn@sympatico.ca

NEWS FROM THE 'HOOD

MOORE PARK CLEAN UP DAY, APRIL 2005



MOORE PARK LEADERSHIP KEY TO FONTRA AWARDS

The Moore Park Residents' Association took a leadership role in launching the inaugural "Inspire Toronto Awards" of the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FONTRA). MPRA president Cindy Caron Thorburn and former-president Ellen Greenwood were among those to spearhead the awards, which were presented on April 27, 2005.

Accepting the 2005 Inspire Toronto Awards were:

The York & Capitol Theatres (Commercial Redevelopment Award); Neighbours of 56 Blythwood (Heritage Housing Award); Ken Shular, former editor of the Town Crier community newspapers (Journalism Award); Richard Ubbens, Toronto City Forester (2005 Green Spaces Award); and John Sewell, journalist, visionary and former Toronto mayor (City Planning Award).

"We hope that this Award program will highlight the passion of Toronto citizenry: for preserving the beauty of heritage housing, for the long-term viability of the urban forest, for the value of neighbourhoods and for smart development that will, once again, make Toronto the envy of other cities," says FONTRA co-chair George Milbrandt. The Inspire Toronto Awards help to highlight positive contributions in an environment where public dissatisfaction and complaint usually get the most press coverage.

In his keynote address entitled "Challenges Ahead for the Active Citizen," John Sewell noted how neighbourhood organizational structures face huge challenges in addressing the bigger issues affecting the city, and individual citizens can lose their appetite for activism when they feel their voice is ignored. He stressed that Toronto does not have the legislative and administrative power it needs, that globalization distracts commercial interests from the well-being of the city, and that there are overwhelming, large-scale planning issues that seriously limit the effectiveness of citizens' movements. He

expressed his overall hope for the future, however, challenging urban activists to apply a whole bunch of different experiences to see what will work. He also challenged the media to overcome their inherent cynicism and to promote and give voice to the citizens who have vision and who speak-up for a better community.

FONTRA is a non-profit, volunteer organization that comprises twenty-one member organizations (including The Moore Park Residents' Association). Its members, all residents associations, include at least 125,000 Toronto citizens within their boundaries.

The twenty-one residents associations that make up FONTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not whether Toronto will grow, but how. FONTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.



Above Photo, from left to right:

Back row: Peter Baker (FONTRA Co-Chair); Eric Melis (Friends of 56 Blythwood); John Sewell (City Planning Award); Richard Ubbens (Chief Forester) and; George Milbrandt (FONTRA Co-Chair).

Front row: Cindy Caron Thorburn (Chair, "Inspire Toronto Awards"); Ken Shular (Journalism Award); Glenda Henniger (Friends of 56 Blythwood) and; Gary Eisen (The York & Capitol Theatres).

FONTRA AWARDS

Photo Below::

Former MPRA President Ellen Greenwood and former Toronto Mayor, John Sewell, at the "Inspire Toronto Awards" ceremony.



POLICE COLUMN

*From Police Constable Rick Langstone,
53 Division Crime Prevention Office*

53 Division, located at 75 Eglinton Avenue W., is responsible for policing the residents of Moore Park. As of June 1, 2004, 53 Division now covers an area from Lawrence Avenue in the north to Bloor Street in the south. The eastern boundary is the Don River, the western boundary in the north is Bathurst Street and in the south, Spadina Road. The Division is divided up into four zones and Moore Park is in Zone 4, with a small portion north of Heath Street being in Zone 2.

Some of the main calls for service in both of these zones are for break & enters, attempted break & enters and break & enters in progress. From January 1st up until May 1st 2005, there were 115 calls in total for all three categories in Zone 2 and 102 in Zone 4. Theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles are one of the main calls for service. Zone 2 had 41 vehicles stolen and three thefts from vehicle over the same time period. Zone 4 had 115 vehicles stolen and three thefts from vehicle.

As Moore Park is mainly residential, home security is very important. Here are a few tips to help prevent break & enters:

- Report any suspicious activity you see happening around your home or business to the police, at 416-808-2222 or Crime Stoppers at 416-222-8477 (TIPS). If you see a crime being committed, call 9-1-1.
- Make sure all of your doors and windows are locked before leaving for work or retiring for the night.
- Make sure your garage door is locked.
- Use your alarm system even if you are home for the night.
- Leave outside lights on during the night and have interior lights on timers.
- Make sure windows and doors are not blocked by overgrown shrubs.
- Install good quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Lock up extension ladders.
- Put all garden utensils away so that they cannot be used as break-in instruments.
- When buying high value items such as TVs, computers etc., cut up and turn

their boxes inside out before you throw them into the garbage or recycle. Don't advertise what you have just purchased.

- Let your neighbours know if you are going away on vacation and suspend mail and newspaper delivery during your absence.

- Do not leave your car keys by the front door or in the kitchen. In the event of a break & enter, they are a hot item along with the family car.

Neighbours Night Out

Neighbours Night Out is an annual event organized by Crime Concern. This year it will be held on Tuesday June 21 between 7 & 9 pm. You can either register with Crime Concern (www.crimeconcern.org) or at 53 Division. The purpose of this event is to get to know your neighbours by organizing some type of outside event. Each event will also be visited by the 53 Division Crime Prevention Officer.

Auto Theft Scam

Transport Canada has just sent me info on a new auto theft scam. The thieves will approach your vehicle while it is parked in a parking lot. They will place a piece of paper in the middle of your rear window, hoping that you will not see it. Once the owner enters the vehicle, starts it and looks in the rear-view mirror to back up, he notices the paper. When the owner puts the vehicle in park and gets out to remove the paper, the thieves appear from nowhere, jump into the vehicle and take off. Make sure you check your vehicle and who's around before getting in.

Email Scam

Identity theft has also been on the increase. A new email scam for identity theft has recently been brought to my attention. The spoof email reads as if it is from Citibank or other major companies. They ask you to link to another site to confirm your banking information. Don't. All this email is doing is collecting information on you so that someone can assume your identity. These types of spoof emails are looking for your password or pin number, account numbers, ATM or credit card numbers and your SIN. They will then use this information to take over your identity. Also, never give out any personal information about

yourself to anyone over the phone you do not know. When throwing out the garbage, shred any bills, banking statements or any other documents that contain personal information about you.

Vandalism

It was recently brought to my attention that there has been a rash of vandalism involving youngsters throwing eggs at houses and parked vehicles. Please report any and all incidents of this sort to the police at (416) 808-2222.

If you have any questions or concerns or wish to have a home inspection, please feel free to contact me, Police Constable Rick Langstone #6281 at 416-808-5337.

EVERGREEN COMMONS AT THE BRICK WORKS

Evergreen is currently developing an innovative project that will reclaim a derelict industrial site and transform it into an environmental and cultural community centre. The Don Valley Brick Works is the future site of "Evergreen Commons at the Brick Works," a place for demonstrating the benefits of bringing nature back to cities. Evergreen Commons will be home to a native plant nursery, visitors' discovery centre, Jamie Kennedy Kitchen's 'café-on-the-green,' as well as office and program space for non-profit organizations and socially responsible businesses. In addition, the site will act as a gateway to Toronto's ravine and trail system where wilderness can be enjoyed and respected. This visionary project will provide stewardship over a unique urban park and heritage site while operating a cultural centre showcasing how nature can make cities thrive.

This project has been met with great enthusiasm, wide public support, diverse participation and the on-going encouragement of many Canadians. The \$40 million capital campaign is well under way. Thus far, a commitment from the City of Toronto and Toronto Region Conservation to contribute the property and related buildings has been secured. On June 2, the Ontario Ministry of Culture announced a \$10 million contribution for Evergreen Commons at the Brick Works. Strong momentum is build-

Brick Works

Continued from page 5

ing toward the acquisition of the same amount from the Federal government. The next stages are fast approaching and the Brick Works Capital Campaign is actively seeking the financial support to make this project a reality.

Evergreen is a national organization dedicated to bringing nature back to cities. For the last sixteen years Evergreen has worked with communities across Canada to create natural areas in public parks on school grounds and on the home landscape. What began as a small tree planting operation has grown into a national organization that provides the tools and support people need to transform urban areas. Please visit the Brick Works website at www.brickworks.ca and take a virtual tour, or learn more about Evergreen's work in school's and public spaces at www.evergreen.ca.

- Evergreen Management

WHITNEY PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

From the Principal

I am happy to report (knock wood) that security issues at Whitney have been less of a problem since our neighbourhood campaign last spring. Our recurring problems with graffiti that defaces the school, smashed glass windows and doors and the remains of teenagers who use the school yard to party on weekends are much less prevalent than they were a year ago.

Whitney's Security Committee brought in officers from 53 Division to do a security audit of our premises and this led to improved lighting and other measures to protect our property. The deterrent of brighter lights and a neighbourhood watch program have been key to our success. We thank school neighbours and passers-by who have called for help

at the first sign of trouble.

To keep our initiatives on track, please:

- Carry a cell phone when you walk around the neighbourhood and call police if you see anything untoward happening on school premises. (For non-emergencies, call 416-808-2222. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.)
- Contact the school and tell us what you have seen and when (we keep a log book of all incidents).

We thank you for your vigilance!

Jennie Cho
416-393-9380

OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF MOORE PARK

The thoughts expressed below represent the launch of a new column: Opinions and Views of Moore Park. Do you have an opinion on something that affects life in Moore Park? Do you have an historic anecdote to share? Please send it, along with your name, phone number and e-mail address to the MPRA post office box or to caronthorburn@sympatico.ca and we will consider publishing it in a future edition.

10 OR SO YEARS DOWN THE ROAD: My personal take on the shape of Moore Park.

Tower developments to the north of us, to the west of us at Yonge Street and at Avenue Road; towers to the south at the Yonge Street edge of Rosedale.

When will they arise in Moore Park? It's likely never. But, then again, other forms of development or intensification may occur, I believe that the stretch of St. Clair Avenue, from Avoca Vale to Mt. Pleasant Road, offers some interesting development possibilities. St. Clair's role as a transit route through the neighbourhood reduces the value of the residential properties along this stretch, AND development pressures would arise if the economic conditions were propitious.

One could argue that a block of mid-sized towers (seven or eight storeys) along this major artery offered protection to the hinterland from any serious attempts to change the character of the

rest of the neighbourhood.

Further east of Mt. Pleasant where the price of property is much higher, and the talk turns to "stable property values", change would come as new wealth settled in Moore Park rather than Rosedale or Forest Hill, and then proceeded to do major house renovations and/or erect monster houses.

Of course, I'm guessing here, and none of this may ever materialize. And there are several good reasons for this, a few of which bear some consideration. First is traffic. We who live on or near St. Clair Avenue, Moore Avenue and Mt. Pleasant suffer greatly from the noise, pollution and general nuisance caused by the slow corteges that clog our streets twice a day.

But this annoyance could yet become an asset. It traffic continues to crawl along those arteries, drivers (travelling from the north and east of Moore Park to the



downtown area) would be forced to make rational decisions about the most efficient, cost effective and timely routes to the office.

In a sane world those routes would NOT traverse Moore Park. Let's count on that. A second reason is that Moore Park is stable. It will remain stable with little or no perceptible changes. And, as a bonus, it is just possible that SUV drivers, unable to negotiate the old mutual driveways, won't move in.

We could play a "wait and see" game, or we could stand ready to support City Hall in its fight against on-street parking, parking pads on lawns, street widening (street repairs, yes), and anything that would ease traffic through "the 'hood."

Ivan McFarlane, St. Clair Avenue resident.

**MOORE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004 – 2005**

Let us know if you're interested in joining the slate.

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MPRA Members

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our resident's association is growing by leaps and bounds, with our membership now at 221 households. Thank you to all of you who have joined, and to those who have purchased our recently published "Historic Moore Park". It makes for enjoyable reading as those warm summer evenings are finally upon us!

If you have yet to join the MPRA, we invite you to do so. MPRA offers you a chance to make a difference in our neighbourhood. Should you wish to be come an active member, we have many portfolios of interest, including Traffic Issues, City Planning, Pests and Pesticides, Parks, Trees and Ravines and Police Liaison. We also publish our quarterly newsletter, have recently developed our website and have facilitated a variety of interesting and informative community meetings. There are many ways to become involved, either as a board member, committee member, or in a helping capacity to a committee that captures your interest.

Membership is based on a calendar year at a cost of \$25.00 per household. We are a not-for-profit association, and our fees cover our newsletters, paper, postage/delivery, and annual and community meetings.

Our membership application is attached. We encourage you to join now and "Be Part of the Solution".

*Karen MacPherson & Alex Hahn
Membership Co-Chairs*

WHAT I LEARNED FROM DELIVERING THE MPRA NEWSLETTER IN FEBRUARY

By Davis Wong, Age 9

- Lots of people don't have mailboxes!
- If you stick your hand in a mail slot without removing your glove, it can disappear.
- You can meet great neighbours when they are shovelling snow!
- Some dogs bark loudly AND eat newsletters.
- Cat's eyes look scary in the dark.
- The neighbourhood is bigger than it seems when you're going door to door.
- It's hard work being a delivery boy (and it is nice when my mom and sister help!)



**MOORE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (MPRA)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Date: _____

Name/Resident(s): _____
 Street Address: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Tel: (H): _____ (B): _____
 E-mail: _____

Membership is based on a calendar year at a cost of \$25.00 per household. (MPRA is a not-for-profit association and fees cover newsletters, paper, postage/delivery, annual and community meetings.)

Through MPRA you may also purchase the recently published
 "Historic Moore Park" (retail \$10.00) A great gift idea!

Attached is my cheque for annual membership (\$25): \$ _____

I would like ___ copies of Historic Moore Park @ \$10 each: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

The following are committees comprised of interested MPRA members
 who strive to better our community.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining
 or being contacted by any of the committees for further information:

COMMITTEE	Wish to Join	Wish to be Contacted
Parks		
Trees/Ravines		
Pests/Pesticides		
City Planning		
Police		
Traffic Issues		
Membership		

Please send cheque payable to:
Moore Park Residents' Association
P.O. Box 25, 1531 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4G 4G8

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!