

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

PO Box 25, 1531 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4G 4G8 www.moorepark.org

Fall 2008 Volume VII, Issue 2

## President's Message

It has been a busy year for the MPRA. Look what we have accomplished:

- We worked with City Forestry Staff to have the City conduct aerial spraying to fight the Gypsy Moth infestation. Thanks to Astrid Guttmann and Cindy Caron Thorburn for spearheading this.
- We lobbied the Province to return the governance of the MPGC to the public. We asked: How did this publicly created and funded institution go private? The Government may be poised to take action. Thanks to the ever-vigilant Margot Boyd.
- With the NRRA, we pushed the City to replace the deteriorating Carstowe bridge 3 years after the replacement was first scheduled!
- We brought back the old open air, natural ice rink in Moorevale Park thanks to Chris Thompson and a group of hardy volunteers.
- We monitored the applications of local residents for a dog leash-free zone in Moorevale park, thanks to Sandra Hamilton.
- We obtained the City's commitment to install a speed monitoring systems on Inglewood to remind local residents of the danger of cars speeding. Joanna Robertson, Betsy Putnam and Bill McCurdy deserve credit for this.
- We reviewed over 30 local Committee of Adjustment applications for variances; actively resisted some applications; counseled neighbours on others; and provided guidance when asked. Ellen Greenwood, Cynthia Henderson, Carol McNamara committed hours to this
- Produced a newsletter, keeping you informed of the myriad issues. Thanks Cindy Gareau.
- Responded to many small questions, daily concerns and other inquiries of our neighbours.

I owe huge thanks to the Board of Directors who helped accomplish this and more; especially as they did it all after family duties, work obligations and other volunteer roles. Many have been helping for years and a number are now retiring.

As the year comes to an end the Association needs new volunteers. Many hands make the light work and accomplish great things. Board duties are not daunting. We meet once a month from 7:30-9:00 pm. Every board member joins 1 of 6 subcommittee and helps with the projects du jour. We need your help to address upcoming issues such as:

- The proposed narrowing of Jarvis St from 5 to 4 lanes from Bloor south to Gerrard and ultimately Queen St.
- The ongoing development pressures being applied on the neighbourhood.
- The revitalization of the Ravine and its paths down towards the Evergreen location.
- City wide issues i.e. expansion of TTC services, construction; increased taxation from City Council.
- The revitalization of our website and the regular publication of newsletters to the community.

Please consider volunteering to help. To learn more about the MPRA Board of Directors or volunteering in general please contact me (T: 416-932-8648; Email: <a href="mailto:tim.j.costigan@gmail.com">tim.j.costigan@gmail.com</a>.). I look forward to hearing how you want to help.

I hope you and your family have a great Holiday Season!

Tim Costigan MPRA President

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## Mt. Pleasant Group of Cemeteries Update

In June 12, 2007 at our Town Hall meeting, we presented the history and governing statutes of Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries (MPGC) to the community and representatives from our MPPs – the Hon. George Smitherman, the Hon. Kathleen Wynne (Don Valley West) and the Office of the Attorney General (then the Hon. Michael Bryant).

Tim Costigan, MPRA President, highlighted the initial trust, created by Provincial statute in 1826; the amendment in 1849 which outlined how trustees were to be elected; and the Act of 1871 which vested the original trust, its assets, objectives, rights and obligations into a corporation. The cemetery was created by the legislature of Upper Canada and paid for by the inhabitants of Toronto. The MPGC marketing materials for the Visitation Centre declare that MPGC is a "commercial, privately owned cemetery." This contradicts the original statutes and history of the MPGC.

The MPRA has consistently asked how this publicly created and funded institution, which owns significant property, has allegedly gone private. We want to know if someone is benefitting from the private use of these publicly assets.

We are also challenging whether the current board of directors can speak legitimately on behalf of MPGC. The Act of 1849 mandates the publication of newly elected trustees in the Official Provincial *Gazette*. Once the names are published any householder in Toronto can object to a trustee and begin a process whereby new trustees are elected from the majority of householders attending a public meeting. Up until approximately 1976 the MPGC regularly published notice of newly elected directors as required. We have found no such notice announcing the election of the current directors. If these directors were not elected properly – and not subjected to the legislated public review process –they may have no standing to speak on MPGCs behalf.

The MPRA has been steadily pursuing the Provincial Government to respond to our questions:

- "How did MPGC turn into a private corporation?"
- "Do the current "directors" of MPGC actually have authority to act on behalf of the cemetery?"
- "What action does the Government plan to take to return MPGC, a substantial public asset base, back to the citizens?"

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, during the Provincial election campaign, the Hon. George Smitherman stated publicly that he recognized there were "accountability and transparency issues" related to the MPGC. Mr. Smitherman promised, should he be re-elected, that a meeting would occur, within 30 days of the election, between the MPRA and the new Minister of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS). While this meeting never occurred, we believe Mr.

Smitherman is advocating within Cabinet on the community's behalf.

In February 2008, the MPRA sent invitations by registered mail to Premier McGuinty and the Minister of Government and Community Services ("MGCS"), the Hon. Mr. McMeekin, inviting them to a meeting with a group of representations from various Toronto ridings to discuss the MPGC governance issues. According to a bureaucrat for Mr. McMeekin, as no policy decision was reached, he felt it was inappropriate to meet with us. We had no response from the Premier's Office.

Upon searching the Office of Integrity Commission of Ontario website, we were surprised to learn the MPGC's lobbyist Paul Pelligrini of the Sussex Strategy Group, was granted an audience to discuss the MPGC's governance with the Provincial Government. Mr. Pelligrini was registered as having visited the Office of the Premier and Cabinet; the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services; and the Ministry of the Attorney General—all of who would not meet with us.

At this point, the MPRA decided the Province's ongoing silence was unacceptable and that an "Open Letter" would be placed in a Toronto daily newspaper outlining the facts and asking the Premier what actions would be taken to repatriate MPGC back to the citizenry for whom the trust was originally created.

Once we gave the Province a polite "heads up" about this pending letter, the Ministry of Government and Community Services invited the MPRA to produce a set of recommendations on how to reform the Mount Pleasant Cemetery's governance to make it transparent and accountable to the community, as was originally intended.

The MPRA struck a Task Force (consisting mainly of lawyers) to draw up recommendations for a governance structure that would both meet modern day governance standards and restore the administration of the trust to the citizenry. These recommendations (which included such basics the formation of a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee) were provided to government in final written form on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we were then informed of a Ministerial shuffle. Although the bureaucrats we had been dealing with were to remain assigned to this issue, they were being moved to a new ministry, the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services (MSBCS). A new Minister would have to be briefed and we were asked to be patient during the transition. We reiterated we were reasonable people who would accept a meaningful resolution in a reasonable amount of time.

We were recently informed that MPGC communicated to the Province through their law firm, McMillan Binch, that they saw no reason to accept any of our governance recommendations.

A year and a half after the Province was informed of the situation at the Town Hall Meeting, we have yet to be informed of any policy decision or "clear resolution" as was promised. The MPRA informed the Province we intended to proceed with the publication of the open letter to the Premier outlining the apparent seizure of a public asset and the Government's continued inaction.

Upon informing the Province of the decision to once again proceed with the media plan, we were once again assured by the Ministry of Government Services that the matter is a "top priority" and the Province was "taking the matter very seriously." We were informed on October 9th that there was now a policy decision and that a "process has been "signed off on" by Minister Takhar. We were also informed that the

Government had asked the Mount Pleasant Cemetery to clarify its response to the governance issues raised.

However, as of writing this newsletter article, we believe the MPGC has not responded to the Government. We have not yet been informed of any formal Government policy or proposed resolution. We must wait for "official channels of the government" to make the decision public. We have had funds donated for the publication of the open newspaper letter and if we do not hear back from the Government in the near future, we will take steps to publish the letter.

All further developments, and hopefully, the Province's policy decision will be presented at the MPRA Annual General Meeting on November 24, 2008. We encourage you to attend the AGM and learn about what the Province is planning. We welcome your further input.

### **Parks**



#### ICE RINK

As the weather gets colder it is time to turn thoughts to outdoor skating. Last year there was a keen group of local residents who volunteered to create and maintain a natural ice rink in Moorevale Park. It was partially successful despite the challenges of excessive snow and then intermittent thawing. This year we are hoping for better conditions and the group is going to try again! The ice rink is just one more way of bringing our community together during the cold winter months. If you are interested in assisting or have some constructive ideas please contact Chris Thompson (Home) 488-8913 or (E-mail) chris@christhompson.com.

#### DOGS IN THE MOOREVALE PARK

The City of Toronto has a process whereby local communities can apply for an off leash free area for dogs. The process involves an initial application by interested citizens; an assessment by city staff to determine whether the proposed area meets established City's criteria for a leash-free area; a series of public meetings to gather community feedback; and a final approval process. For more information on this new City of Toronto policy, visit the City website at: <a href="http://www.toronto.ca/parks/pdf/off">http://www.toronto.ca/parks/pdf/off</a> leashpolicy dec2007.pdf.

A Moore Park resident initiated an application with the City of Toronto to create a leash-free dog zone area in Moorevale Park. The City staff rejected the application at the initial assessment stage, as it found the proposed area was not appropriate for a leash-free zone. Locally, there has been an application that is proceeding to the public consultation process for a leash free zone in the park near the St. Clair Reservoir. Again, contact the City for additional information.

#### MOORE PARK RAVINE

Jeff Cape, Director of Evergreen, has asked for community suggestions and input on how to improve the Moore Park Ravine. He has already begun to have discussions with the City on investment opportunities for the Ravine as a way to encourage local residents to visit Evergreen at the old Brickworks – which can be accessed via the ravine. MPRA's Chris Thompson has forwarded some preliminary suggestions on ways to improve and preserve the integrity of the ravine. If you have ideas or concerns please forward them to Jeff Cape at Evergreen (<a href="mailto:info@evergreen.ca">info@evergreen.ca</a>). Please be sure to copy the MPRA at <a href="mailto:president@moorepark.org">president@moorepark.org</a> so that we can carefully monitor the situation.

### City Planning & Heritage



#### WHAT DOES THE MPRA PLANNING COMMITTEE DO?

The MPRA Planning Committee receives notice of all neighbourhood Committee of Adjustment (COA) applications for minor variances, as well as Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) applications. Committee volunteers try to be available to offer assistance and/or to take an official position on these applications. We are committed to encouraging and facilitating amicable resolutions of issues between neighbours. In addition, we make every effort to represent community interests when development proposals that undermine the character of our neighbourhood are before the COA or the OMB. At times we are asked to

get involved if proposals appear to have a detrimental impact on neighbours. We review applications and consult, as appropriate, with the applicant, neighbours, City staff and the Councillor's office. A few years ago, to ensure consistency in our decisions and to assist our community, the MPRA developed guidelines that were approved by our membership to assist in assessing how we would respond to building and renovation applications. To better serve our community, we are in the process of updating the guidelines.

In addition to the guidelines, the MPRA have developed templates of letters to send to applicants and/or adjacent neighbours to inform all interested parties of the application and the process around COA applications. We welcome input and feedback on our materials. Information on the COA application process and the templates for letters will be posted on the MPRA website shortly. The guidelines are currently available. We also plan on providing the relevant text noted in the Official City Plan to assist our community when deciding how to respond to an application or serve as a resource when preparing formal responses.

When reviewing COA applications, note that the MRPA Planning Committee considers the following:

- Is the variance minor?
- Is the variance desirable for the appropriate development of the land?
- Is the variance consistent with the general intent and purpose of the official plan?
- Is the variance consistent with the general intent and purpose of the zoning bylaw?

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD HISTORICAL DESIGNATION**

Moore Park is special with a distinct character and charm. Yet many of us are concerned we are being undermined by inappropriate new development. Homes reflecting our neighbourhood history are being torn down and often replaced by large, out of place structures. There is a fear we could experience a Lawrence Park-like mega development. While these are valid concerns, our current tools to deal with these issues are limited. Many current renovations, demolitions and new builds fall within the City's current bylaws and codes and therefore do not require special approval.

The best way to prevent these projects from taking over is to work towards designating Moore Park as a historical district. Many Toronto neighbourhoods have done just that – and seen their home values increase! South Rosedale is an example of a community where this exercise was successful. To obtain a historical designation, there must be an official neighbourhood "study". This study examines every home in the designated area - its design and history - and indicates whether it is worthy of protection. Once deemed protected, any future building on the site must preserve the historical design and form of the current home. Many communities are applying for this designation. To date the City of Toronto has received so many requests for historical designation studies, it is not accepting new applications.

The MPRA is requesting help from interested residents' to help move this issue along by lobbying the City to get our application on their list, and by educating the community on the process and what can be expected if we achieve a community historical designation. Those interested should contact any director or the general email address.

The MPRA Planning Committee includes a volunteer architect, planner and lawyer but we need your help! The more community members who get involved, the more we can accomplish. To help on a board level or as a committee member, please contact Ellen Greenwood at <u>ellengreenwood@roger.com</u> or 416-322-7174.

### City Proposes to Narrow Jarvis St.



Councillor Rae's office is leading a City initiative to redevelop Jarvis St. between Bloor St. E. & Gerrard St. E. The intent is to:

- Have an attractive streetscape for the Jarvis St. community;
- Widen and upgrade sidewalks to make them more user-friendly; particularly for those with disabilities; and
- Make it less of a north-south commuter route.

To create this residential-friendly environment several options are being considered. *The preferred solution calls for eliminating the reversible middle lane; widening of the sidewalks on either side of the street; and placing new trees and plantings along the roadside.* There will be no bike lane added and <u>875</u> parking spots on Jarvis will be eliminated. There is no published cost estimate for this long-term project, but we estimate that a project of this size will cost millions of dollars, perhaps in excess of \$40M. The project is well down the City approvals path, with a traffic study completed in 2005 and an Environmental Assessment in 2008.

The traffic study concludes there will be no adverse impact on traffic flow and the commuter time by eliminating the middle lane. The study also concluded there will be no net traffic increase in Toronto or the Jarvis St. corridor in the next five years. There is no independent assessment to validate the traffic study.

The City will present their recommendations at a final public meeting during the week of January 20. Councillor Rae and City Staff hope to present the project for approval at the February 2009 Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting. If approved, it would go in front of the March City Council meeting for final approval. Without opposition or participation by Toronto residents, the final approval for this project is imminent!

#### The Challenge

Jarvis is a main north-south thoroughfare. Proposed lane reductions will increase commute times for drivers. The traffic study provided by the City suggests traffic flow will divert to Church and Sherbourne and not cause slowdowns on Jarvis. We believe that is unrealistic. Any temporary reduction of a lane on Jarvis St during rush hour causes major back-ups right now!! Traffic does not simply divert to Church and Sherbourne as there is limited access to turn on to these streets. Permanently closing one lane will be a disaster! It will bring traffic to a standstill every rush hour.

As the road gets narrowed the City will have to repave the entire road so that it properly drains water to the sides. This will impact services running <u>under</u> Jarvis. The project could create unforeseen work when utility services are disturbed. Construction on Jarvis could be a multi-year project with a larger traffic impact—before the lane is removed!

#### **Chronology of Events**

This project was conceived years ago when the City approved to expand the Rogers buildings (Bloor & Jarvis). The City allowed the destruction of a designated historical building and permitted a number of zoning changes. Rogers contributed \$800,000 under Section 37 of the Planning Act. Minutes of the COA state the funds are to be used to redevelop Jarvis St. Since then, the City has conducted a traffic study in 2005 and developed five options for redevelopment (refer to <a href="www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/jarvis/index.htm">www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/jarvis/index.htm</a>.)

#### Public Forums, Project Details and Studies

- The City held two public forums. On April 24, 2008, there was an open house at Jarvis Collegiate to get student input. On May 10, 2008 the second consultation involved a walking tour, led by Kyle Rae where local residents and the public noted the locations needing improvement and how to best highlight Jarvis St. heritage.
- In November 2007, the City started a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to develop streetscape improvement plans and traffic lane modifications. The study reviewed ways to improve and establish Jarvis St. as a corridor emphasizing historical significance and enhanced pedestrian environment. The City is currently completing the EA Phase 2. The Project Team (includes iTrans Consulting (traffic consultants) and Brookn McIlroyn/Pace Architects) developed a preferred solution which calls for eliminating the reversible middle lane and widening sidewalks.
- A comprehensive transportation study was completed in January 2005. This study assessed existing and future traffic conditions on Jarvis and adjacent streets. It recommended removing the reversible centre lane. The physical feasibility of this idea is being assessed. Widening sidewalks and boulevards on Jarvis will reduce available traffic capacity on Jarvis by 30% during rush hour. There has been no independent review of the study results.

#### **Transportation Alternatives**

The project does not provide any new public transit initiatives to alleviate the all ready high volumes of transit riders on Yonge and Boor subway lines. It is not reasonable for Councillor Rae to simply call on residents north of Bloor to leave their cars at home and take the transit – as he has done. We note there is no pedestrian congestion on Jarvis St; sidewalks can easily accommodate the modest volumes of pedestrian traffic. The current sidewalks are as wide, if not wider, than comparable sidewalks along Mt. Pleasant, Yonge, St. Clair and other nearby streets.

#### **MPRA Position**

The Moore Park Residents' Association has only recently learned of the imminent approval of this project. We want to urgently educate Moore Park residents about this project and the short approval timeline. Given the potential traffic impact, the MPRA is not in support of this project. We need your help to oppose it and are rallying the support of other residents' associations. In a City where budgets are stretched to the limit, the need for a non-essential public works project is difficult to justify and the benefits are not clear. Many of the project's objectives can achieved without reducing capacity of this major commuter artery. We do not understand the urgent need to spend millions of dollars of taxpayers dollars on this project — when public pools are closing and other municipal services being cut back!

#### Call to Action

.To get involved, and voice your opinion on this plan, please take the following actions:

- 1. Go to the Jarvis Street Streetscape Improvement Plan web site and sign-up to be notified of hearing dates and access studies and the schedule at: http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/jarvis/index.htm.
- 2. Attend the public meeting in January. Details will be on the City of Toronto website listed above.
- 3. Send an email or letter to Mayor Miller, copying Kyle Rae and MPRA (<u>president@moorepark.org</u>):

His Honour Mayor David Miller, Toronto City Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) 100 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5H-2N2 Email: mayor miller@toronto.ca Kyle Rae, Councillor, Toronto City Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) 100 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario M5H-2N2 Email: councillor\_rae@toronto.ca

- 4. If you want to help with is this fight, email <u>president@moorepark.org</u>. .
- 5. Tell your friends who live north of Bloor and use the Mt. Pleasant/Jarvis corridor to commute. We need help of people from many different communities especially responses from different City Councillors.
- 6. Donate money (i.e. \$250) to fund our traffic study so we can resist this project in a professional, formal way.

### Gypsy Moth, 0; Moore Park, 1

Toronto Urban Forestry claims victory over the Gypsy Moth in Moore Park. After a couple of devastating years, our trees have bounced back, and moth counts are down significantly. Many took action to scrape egg masses last winter, band their trees against the caterpillars, mount pheromone traps; and hire private tree companies to remove egg masses in the giant oaks and other trees where the moth is fond. Most significantly the City of Toronto took significant action by spraying the neighbourhood. Thanks to all who joined in the cause of tree care. But this does not mean we can get complacent!

#### **STEPS TO KEEP THIS PEST IN ABEYANCE:**

- When the leaves fall, look for fresh egg masses in the trees (even garages, sheds and other structures). Old egg masses, which won't produce caterpillars, may still be around and are spongy to the touch and lighter in colour than the fresh ones. Scrape or vacuum the fresh egg masses and thoroughly dispose of them.
- Call Urban Forestry (416-338-8733) if you see egg masses. (They also will test once the leaves fall.)
- Check the City's web site to learn more about the moth: www.toronto.ca/trees.
- Consider paying the City's voluntary fee of \$55, to defray the spraying cost, completed late spring. Urban Forestry gave us great attention this year. Their work saved trees worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to our property values. Private tree companies would have charged hundreds of dollars per household.
- Do your rain dance: the trees loved our wet summer!

### **Letter from the City about the Garbage Bins**

We are receiving a large number of phone calls to report a variety of problems associated with the rollout of the new blue/grey bin program. The main problem is that bins, and in some cases blue bins, have not been received.

The contractor distributing the garbage bins on the City's behalf has fallen behind and in many cases cannot deliver the bins because the supply of certain sizes has run dry temporarily — mostly medium size bins. Since using bins or bag tags are the only methods accepted by Solid Waste Staff, the City was to distribute pink tags for residents to place on their garbage bags until the bin arrived. Reports from residents are that tags have not been delivered to all houses that have not received bins. Anyone who has not received a garbage bin or pink bag tags should contact Target 70 staff by email at <a href="mailto:target70@toronto.ca">target70@toronto.ca</a> to ensure an order for a garbage bin is on record and to request pink tags. If an order is not on record, bag tags must be purchased until a garbage bin order is fulfilled. Yellow tags are available in packages of 5 for \$15.50 at Home Hardware stores.

For those who have not received their blue bin, contact Target 70 to confirm an order is on record. Once an order is on record, the bin will arrive; but likely not in the near future as the company distributing the bins is focusing on garbage bins until January. Use the old blue boxes or clear plastic bags in the interim.

Should there be cases that do not fit the circumstances above, I can try and assist. Please email me at mwilson5@toronto.ca. If you experience problems on collection day related to the absence of bag tags, or use of blue bins or clear bags, please contact me and I will resolve the matter with the area collections supervisor.

Thank you for your patience.

Mark

Mark Wilson
Executive Assistant to
Councillor Kyle Rae
Ward 27, Toronto Centre – Rosedale



### A Community Pool at Deer Park School

By Dr. Laurie McNelles <u>drlauriemcnelles@rogers.com</u> & Jennifer Frew <u>Jennifer.frew@rogers.com</u> Pool Co-captains, Deer Park School

It's official - the Toronto District School Board is out of the pool business. Effective June 2009, the TDSB will close the pool at Deer Park School <u>UNLESS</u> there is a viable plan to secure its future.

Parents of Deer Park School are working with the Toronto Sports Council – Aquatics Working Group (www.torontosportscouncil.com) to deliver an plan by March 31, 2009. The Aquatics Working Group is under the leadership of Mr. David Crombie and, in the inaugural meeting of the working group, Mr. Crombie suggested that communities examine the needs within their neighbourhoods, secure the resources they require, and tender a plan to meet those community needs.

This presents the Deer Park community with the opportunity to develop the Deer Park School

Pool as a community pool. Making this an opportunity happen for the students at Deer Park, as well as potential community users, requires the mobilization of all community resources.

There is considerable talent in our community and we encourage you to share your talents as an investment in maintaining the swim program at Deer Park School and contributing to the future pool initiatives in the community. We ask all members of the community (parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbours) to make a communal effort. If you are interested in supporting our community efforts, please contact myself or Jennifer Frew (email addresses listed above). We will ensure your ideas, interests, and talents are shared with the broader community.

We look forward to hearing from you!

[ed. Comment: maybe the City should take the money it wants to spend on narrowing Jarvis and spend it on pools!]

### **Traffic and Emergency Services**



#### SPEEDING

The traffic committee continues to raise speeding as an issue of neighbourhood concern. To help address this issue, the police will be installing a temporary "Speed Sign" on Inglewood, between Sighthill and St. Clair, in early winter, to alert drivers to the speed they are traveling.

Please slow down for children and other pedestrians!

#### No RIGHT HAND TURN

A few people have contacted the traffic committee to ask about the "No Right Hand Turn" sign at the corner of Welland and Moore which restricts turns between the hours of 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. We would like to hear your views on this restriction. Please contact us with any comments.

#### THE CARSTOWE - CPR FOOT BRIDGE

The work is now complete. They were a week behind in completion due to the excessive rain in the summer. By being complete in the second week of September there was minimal disruption to the children trying to get to and from school. The railings took a bit longer to finish, as they did not order enough of the special paint required. The good news is that in the end we finally had the bridge replaced! (It was falling apart – in case you didn't know).

There is one design issue that has been raised by the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association. They are asking for a change to be made.

The footbridge design of the south ramp of the footbridge is one long span with no obstructions. The Summerhill Avenue exit/entrance to this ramp is located at both the street level and by a covered bus stop. We have had many concerns voiced by North Rosedale and Moore Park residents about the speed which bicycles, roller-bladers and skateboarders are coming off of this south ramp risking injury or accident to people waiting at the bus stop, walking along Summerhill Avenue or oncoming automobile traffic.

By comparison, the old footbridge had barriers forcing people to weave through the barriers, thus significantly slowing their speed down and exiting the ramp. The new ramp has no such speed barriers. While the old design was not a particularly elegant design, it was effective. The North Rosedale association has asked the city to consider if there are newer, better designed or more effective speed calming solutions (e.g.: speed bumps).

The MPRA is interested in obtaining your feedback on this issue. Send us an email to our email address: president@moorepark.org

#### RAILWAY BRIDGE ON MT. PLEASANT

This work is now complete and all lanes back open.

#### WATER MAIN WORKS ON MT. PLEASANT

Just when all lanes of traffic are now open again on Mt. Pleasant and it is easier to get back home on time --- yes it is time to talk about closing the lanes again. Starting in April 2009 a major new water main will be placed under Mt. Pleasant; running from the pumping station – just north of the railway tracks – up Mt. Pleasant to just north of Eglinton. The work on Mt. Pleasant is estimated to take over a year. The work from the pumping station to the edge of the cemetery may take four months, although we are still waiting for final confirmation of the schedule from the City.

## Membership

Membership to the MPRA is open to residents of Moore Park. **New Price:** Fees are <u>\$30</u> per household per year and are effective from January to December. Simply complete the attached membership form!

Members receive regular newsletter and e-mailed bulletins; invitations to community events; and are eligible to speak and vote at the Annual General Meeting held each fall.

You are invited to take an active role in the community through volunteer opportunities. Join the board of directors; work on a committee; or assist with a specific project. It is a great way to stay informed; contribute to your community; have a say in what happens in your neighbourhood; and meet interesting people. Donations supporting MPRA efforts are always appreciated (tax receipts cannot be issued).

Contact us if you want to volunteer, or want more information.

#### We want to hear from you!

- Notify us of any change of contact information
- Share your ideas, comments and suggestions about the community
- Tell us how we can best serve your needs.

E-mail us; visit our Website; or mail us a note!

**\*Please note:** This year MPRA members will receive e-mail "bulletins" with timely updates and community highlights. Sign-up as a member now – and include an email address - to ensure you have the most up to date community information.

Be part of the Solution and support the MPRA!

### **Break & Enters**

There has been an increase of break & enters during the daytime. Extra officers have been assigned to patrol the residential areas. The police are also requesting your assistance to help prevent theses entries. Check your doors or windows and make sure they are locked before leaving for the day. If you have an alarm system, please make sure it is activated. Do not leave ladders or garden utensils in your backyard as they can be used as break & enter instruments. If you see any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighbourhood, please call police at 416-808-2222. If you see a crime being committed, please call 911. The police will also do a home security inspection. Contact the 53 Division Crime Prevention Officer at 416-808-5337.

The Police allocate resources based on phone calls/incident reports they receive. If you don't call to report a crime we won't get help!

#### **Local Contacts**

**53 Division Toronto Police Services** 75 Eglinton Av. W., Toronto, ON, M4R 2G9

T: 416-808-5300 F: 416-808-5302 www.torontopolice.on.ca/d53.

#### Kyle Rae (Ward 27)

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Suite A5, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

T: 416-392-7903 F: 416-696-4300 councillor rae@toronto.ca

#### Hon. George Smitherman (Toronto Centre - Rosedale)

Community Action Centre

120 Carlton Street, Suite 413, Toronto, ON, M5A 4K2

T: 416-972-7683 F: 416-972-7686

TTY: 416-972-972-9674

gsmitherman.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

#### **Bob Rae** (Toronto Centre – Rosedale)

House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

T: 613-992-5234 F:613-996-9607

Rae.B@parl.gc.ca



### **MPRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

November 24, 2008 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Whitney Public School – Upstairs Gym

Learn what your community association is doing for you.

Meet your neighbours; ask questions; elect your board of directors and stay in tuned with relevant issues.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE USE THE ATTACHED PROXY FORM (see page 10 of the newsletter)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name / Resident(s):	
Street Address:	
Postal Code:	Home Telephone:
E-mail:	

<u>NEW PRICE</u>: Membership fees are <u>\$30</u> per household and are based on the calendar year. Members must reside in Moore Park. MPRA is a not-for- profit association. Fees fund newsletters; administration; annual and community meetings; and support the ongoing efforts to represent community issues. Donations to support the MPRA efforts are appreciated. Tax receipts cannot be issued.

#### "HISTORIC MOORE PARK"

MPRA volunteers utilized archival data, maps, photos and personal recollections of residents and their relatives to create this informative and must-have history of Moore Park. The booklet costs <u>\$10</u>. Proceeds contribute to MPRA initiatives. It is a valuable resource to those living in the area and makes a great gift!

#### **PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Attached is fees for annual members (\$30 per household)	\$
I would like copies of "Historic Moore Park" @ \$10 each	\$
Attached is my donation to the MPRA	\$
TOTAL:	\$
Send a cheque payable to "Moore Park Residents' Association" to POB. 25, 1531 Bayview Ave. Toronto, ON M4G 4G8	
Direct your inquiries to membership@moorepark.org.	

## Volunteer Opportunities

#### BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Work with your neighbours and friends; government officials and staff; and other organizations, on key initiatives.

Committee	Interested	Committee	Interested
<u>Cemetery</u> – block captains, media, letter campaigns, communications, meetings, hearings		Park – services, appearance and uses	
City Planning & Heritage – codes, development, maintenance, and the visual appeal and integrity of area		<u>Pests, Pesticides, Trees and Ravines</u> – environment, usage, policies, maintenance, preservation,	
<u>Communications</u> –  Website, newsletter, member/committee communications, external communications		<u>Traffic and Emergency Services</u> – partnerships, local crime, prevention flow, signage, speed, volume of traffic	
External Relations – City of Toronto policies, FONTRA		Governance – By-laws, meetings and minutes	



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

### **PROXY**

	dersigned member of the Moore Park Residents' Association (the "Corporation") hereby irrevocably constitutes and
	ts Tim Costigan, President of the Corporation, or failing him, Cindy Caron Thorburn, Past-President of the
Corpora	ation, or, as proxy of the undersigned to attend, act and vote in the name of the
	gned in all matters presented before the members at the annual meeting of the members of the Corporation to be
	Whitney Public School, 119 Rosedale Heights, Toronto on Monday, November 24, 2008, at the hour of 7:00
o'clock	in the evening (Toronto time) and any and all adjournments thereof.
	It limiting the generality of the power hereby conferred, the undersigned hereby directs the said proxyholder to vote res represented by this form of proxy in the following manner:
1.	□ FOR or □ WITHHOLD FROM VOTING FOR an ordinary resolution electing a number of directors of the Corporation for a two year term;
2.	$\Box$ FOR or $\Box$ WITHHOLD FROM VOTING FOR an ordinary resolution accepting the financial statements presented by the Corporation;
3.	$\Box$ FOR or $\Box$ AGAINST an ordinary resolution approving the minutes of last year's annual general meeting; and
4.	At the discretion of the said proxyholder, upon any amendment or variation of the above matters or any other matter that may be properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.
DATE	<b>D</b> at , the day of , 2008.
	Signature:
	Print Name:

FILE ONE (1) COPY OF THIS PROXY FORM WITH THE MPRA BY SENDING IT:

**By Post**: to P.O. Box 25, 1531 Bayview Ave. Toronto, ON M4G 4G8 **by email:** scanned copy by email to membership@moorepark.org. **by dropping it person to:** Tim Costigan at 17 Rosedale Heights Drive.