



The voice
of our
community

DPRG Newsletter April 2021

Dear Members,

Happy Spring to all!

We want to make sure as many residents as possible are aware of and participate in a few important City meetings (details below):

- A virtual community consultation is being held on the proposed development at 49 Jackes Ave on **April 19**. Many residents have expressed serious concern to us about such a large building directly beside David A Balfour Park.
- Toronto-St. Paul's Virtual Summit to "Build Back Better" after the pandemic will be on **April 18**.

Participation is very important to make sure the City staff and our Councillor are aware of our community's concerns. The DPRG Board will participate but there is power in numbers!

Also, keep an eye out for our virtual AGM to be held this year on **Wednesday, June 2, at 6.30 p.m.** We are in discussions with Josh Matlow on his participation so we will be closer to a normal in-person AGM. We will be sending out details as soon as they are firmed up.

As always, be sure to pass on any comments or suggestions to info@deerparkresidents.ca.

Cynthia Crysler
President, DPRG



49 JACKES PUBLIC CONSULTATION: MONDAY APRIL 19, 6 pm – 7:30 pm

The City has received an application to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law to permit a 29-storey residential building with 217 dwelling units at 49 Jackes Avenue. This has received strong opposition from residents and the City. Join Councillor Mike Layton to learn more about the proposal at this meeting, which will include presentations and a Question and Answer portion providing local residents and stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

This meeting will be online and phone-in only. Residents are encouraged to pre-register and participate. Join by going to this website:
<http://www.toronto.ca/cpconsultations>

If you have any concerns whatsoever with the process please do not hesitate to contact Councillor Layton at: <https://mikelayton.to/2021/03/30/virtual-community-consultation-49-jackes-avenue/>



HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY AND FIGHT COVID-19

Mayor John Tory recently outlined steps you can take to accomplish this. Click on this link for full information and check your news outlets for any updates:

Get vaccinated now

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Area Planning Study for Deer Park Apartment Neighbourhoods – The area planning study, requested by Councillor Matlow when the 29 Pleasant application was made in 2019, will finally start soon. There is an urgent need for this study as there are now 3 applications in the area south of Pleasant Blvd. – 29 Pleasant (31 storey condo building), 49 Jackes (29 storey condo building) and now also 11 Jackes (14 story condo building).

Upcoming Councillor Matlow's Community Consultation on the Wittington application (the Yonge/Heath/Alvin St. Clair block excluding the towers on St. Clair). The application is now being revised to address the issues raised by the residents working group. The Councillor's meeting will be held mid-May, no date set. Watch for details on his web site www.joshmatlow.ca.

Construction management coordination – As there are a number of projects to be built over the next few years near Yonge and St. Clair, Councillor Matlow has agreed that there must be management and coordination of activities. The projects include the already approved 31 storey tower addition to Bretton Place, the Sunrise/Daniels assisted housing project at Yonge and Rosehill and One Delisle, and could also include more if approved, such as the 3 projects still under review noted above in the Apartment Neighbourhood.

Garden Suites survey –The City is undertaking a survey about permitting garden suites (small houses in backyards) in low density residential areas across the City. This is part of the intensification of the neighbourhoods ordered by the Provincial government. The study will look at where these should be allowed and under what conditions. Residents are encouraged to express their opinions in the City survey available with background information.

Take the Garden Suites survey

POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Toronto Police Services is reactivating the 53 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) by mid-April 2021. The CPLC is a community liaison committee with Toronto Police Services, sharing information on safety and statistics on crime within our Division. DPRG is a member of the Committee. They have provided the following crime statistics year to date:

Assaults: down -25%

Break & Enter: down -25%

Auto theft: up +47%

Robbery: -27%

Street Safety

Street safety is a key concern for our community, and we have heard from our members loud and clear in surveys, townhalls, public meetings, and at our AGMs. The DPRG Street Safety Committee is working on a number of key street safety initiatives, and we have updates this month!



Yonge Complete Street

Yonge is our main street. It is our home, it is our way to work, it is our high street for shopping, it is our community. But the current, outdated 1960s design isn't serving our community's changing needs.

In the last year we have walked and biked and patronized our local businesses more than ever before. And on other main streets in the city, like Danforth and Bloor, we saw a new European-style streetscape with attractive patios, beautiful planters and street furniture, and safe bike lanes, all animating the streets and revitalizing businesses.

[This year, we have an incredible opportunity](#) through the [City of Toronto's ActiveTO program](#) to bring a new [Complete Streets](#) approach to a pilot project on Yonge, between Bloor St and Davisville, to be installed this summer. This project will:

- Help local businesses recover by adding **patios** and investing in a beautiful new **streetscape**.
- Integrate formalized loading and pickup/dropoff zones and traffic calming measures
- Add continuous, safe **bike lanes** give people another safe, affordable and healthy transportation option to get around
- Reduce **speeding** and improve **street safety** for all users: people walking, driving, biking, and people with accessibility needs.

As we saw successfully last year on Bloor and Danforth, a temporary streetscape pilot project can be installed rapidly - and tweaked over time, serving as a testbed for new ideas.

This is why our Councillor Josh Matlow, Councillors Mike Colle and Mike Layton, with overwhelming support of Toronto Council, have asked to bring the same Complete Street approach to Yonge. The DPRG joins 13 other residents associations and community groups in Midtown in supporting this project.

Stakeholder consultations on the design of this project are underway, and the first public consultation is scheduled for **April 27th**. We will share more details as they become available. DPRG Board members are joining these consultations to ensure the many, and sometimes conflicting, needs and concerns of our members are being considered and balanced for the best outcome.

We look forward to making Yonge Street into a safer, more functional and attractive Main Street our community needs! Read more in the [Globe & Mail](#), [CBC News](#), and [CityTV](#).

Avenue Road

As a member of the [Avenue Road Safety Coalition](#), we have been advocating for improved pedestrian safety for schoolchildren and seniors on Avenue road, including wider sidewalks, reduced speeding and crashes.

We are disappointed that the City of Toronto currently is not planning any street safety pilot on Avenue in 2021, despite numerous motions at Toronto Council. However, the coalition is still actively working with the support of Councillors Matlow and Layton to win concrete changes in 2021, and a more comprehensive safety approach for this important street in the future.

In good news, later this spring the City of Toronto will be [installing an automated speed enforcement camera](#) on Avenue Rd near MacPherson Ave, at the train tracks, a site of frequent reckless speeding.

Sidewalk snow clearing

As this winter turns into spring, it is easy to forget about our challenges in keeping our neighbourhood streets safe and accessible in the winter. But we

have been advocating for years to improve the level of service of sidewalk snow clearing in Deer Park, extending the same City-provided snow plowing that most of the rest of Toronto receives to Deer Park and the rest of Toronto's downtown neighbourhoods.

Thanks to the strong support of Councillor Josh Matlow and countless residents groups in Midtown, [this January City Council approved a motion to expand winter snow clearing to all streets](#) next winter.

We look forward to working with Councillor Matlow and our coalition allies to see this project through to completion this coming year. Stay tuned!

A red banner for the Toronto-St. Paul's Virtual Summit. The text "TORONTO-ST. PAUL'S VIRTUAL SUMMIT" is in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below it, "BUILD BACK BETTER" is in a larger, bold, white font. Underneath that, "Sunday, April 18, 2021 @ 3:00 - 4:30 PM" is in a smaller white font. At the bottom, there are five headshots of participants, each with their name and title below it in white text.

TORONTO-ST. PAUL'S VIRTUAL SUMMIT
BUILD BACK BETTER
Sunday, April 18, 2021 @ 3:00 - 4:30 PM

				
Hon. Carolyn Bennett MP	Josh Matlow, City Councillor	Jill Andrew, MPP	Shelley Laskin, TDSB Trustee	Norm Di Pasquale, TCDSB Trustee

VIRTUAL SUMMIT

A Facebook Live Event | April 18 @ 3PM

Join Toronto-St. Paul's elected officials from all orders of government to discuss how we can work together as we continue to fight against COVID-19 and recover from this pandemic.

Email questions in advance to carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca.

Visit facebook.com/carolyn.bennett.stpauls/live on April 18 at 3:00pm to watch the Summit Live. You do not need a Facebook account to view the broadcast. A recording of the event will be posted to our website.

TORONTO
SENIORS'
FORUM
...MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

**TORONTO SENIORS' FORUM – SHOW US
THAT YOU CARE**

The Toronto Seniors' Forum (TSF) is a community based advisory group to the Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care department at the City of Toronto. *Show Us That You Care* is a recently launched campaign focusing on three main demands from our Provincial and Federal governments.

Among their demands from the *Ontario government* are:

- *Aging in Place* and needs-based home care for older adults
- Senior services in the community
- Reversing the Public Health cuts of 2018

Their demands from the *Federal government* include:

- Federal funding for high-quality Long-Term Care
- High standards for safety and care
- Consultation with older adults regarding effective management of government expenditures
- Highly qualified health care providers and staff, who shall be guaranteed full time employment, equitable and adequate pay and benefits, and good and safe working conditions.

From both levels of government the TSF demands legislation to implement employment and wage equity for health care workers who are predominantly female and racialized.

To date the *Show Us That You Care* campaign has been endorsed by many local organizations and hundreds of individuals. For further information, and to show your support contact Janet Maher Chair TSF, at Janet.Maher2007@gmail.com or call (416) 782-0698 (voice); (416) 735-0698 (text and messages).

MIDTOWN RAVINE REPORT

Seeds to Saplings is a Midtown Ravine Group initiative that has grown to seven participating schools in our area. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness among students about Toronto's degraded ravines and the importance of native species, to provide a safe, sustainable and scalable supply of locally sourced native trees to revitalize our tree canopy.

Unfortunately when Covid hit some activities in schools were put on hold. However work to develop a program for school participation has continued. It aims to give budding scientists hands on experience growing their own saplings from acorns and will be more aligned to the academic year. To date over 1,600 acorns from old growth local oaks have been distributed to local schools, the project is expanding to more schools and to individual and community nurseries to supplement the number and variety of saplings.

We are happy to announce the launch of the S2S website which includes project background, written and video instructions and additional resources for

both teachers and students. We are giving them the information now so that they can include it in their plans for the beginning of the school year in September 2021.

Toronto Nature Stewards was formed by a group of concerned citizens to help supplement City efforts to restore natural habitats in the ravines, and has been officially sanctioned by City Council.

It is aiming to develop a framework for more community involvement, because the increasing degradation caused by invasive species is crowding out the native species that is the habitat for local flora and fauna.

It was inspired by the successful stewardship programs in other North American cities where citizen volunteers have made have made positive impacts on local environments. A pilot project is planned for this spring.

Pollinator Gardens: The MRG is hoping to bring pollinator gardens into local ravines. These are envisioned to be primarily community funded and maintained as part of the larger Toronto Nature Stewards initiative. The MRG applied for a grant to the City to help fund pollinator gardens that would be considered in the ravines. Unfortunately this was declined. They had so many applications and focussed funding to other higher priority areas. MRG intends to pursue pollinator gardens in our ravines by raising community funding and more work is ongoing to explore possibilities. The MRG has incorporated as a non-profit organisation to facilitate fund raising.



Councillor Josh Matlow at DPRG Townhall

On February 17, 2021, the DPRG and Josh Matlow hosted a virtual Town Hall. Josh gave us a quick update on the many issues affecting our area, including key developments and the snow-clearing pilot which has been extended to cover many of our streets. City staff provided updates on a transportation study of our area. This will help us pursue street safety measures that will benefit all road and sidewalk users - pedestrians, bicycle-users, and drivers. City staff also discussed the development policies and trends affecting our area. If you want to listen to the Virtual Town Hall, use this link:

<https://toronto.webex.com/recording/service/sites/toronto/recording/fdb908bf7a5d4dd882a54f70f920a39b/playback>

DPRG AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Deer Park Residents Group will once again be a virtual event. Please note the date and time: **Wednesday, June 2nd, 6.30 p.m.** Further information will follow.

Copyright (C) 2021 Deer Park Residents Group. All rights reserved.