

DPRG NEWS

THE VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY 🌿



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Deer Park, we on the Board hope you all had a lovely summer – early September is certainly treating us well.

Our Board has been quiet over the summer, getting ready to get back to business. However, we have been keeping track of a few key development applications, in particular 49 Jackes Ave. which borders David Balfour Park that is near and dear to many of us. Both the Summerhill Residents Association and the DPRG have been extremely concerned about this application (as is the City whose staff have recommended it not be approved without major changes). We will be taking steps to be involved in the upcoming hearing of the applicant's appeal as the City failed to approve the application. Please see our Development Update and/or website for more information as it becomes available.

This newsletter, I will start a series introducing our board members to the members at large. In June, three new members joined our group of dedicated community enthusiasts on the Board. To start with, here are short bios for our long-time board member Cathie MacDonald and myself:

Cathie Macdonald is currently the Chair of the Development Committee, which includes both Board members and other DPRG members. The Development Committee involves interested residents in working groups for particular applications. She is also Co-Chair of the Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations. A long time Deer Park resident, she is an architect and urban planner who has held various senior positions at the City of Toronto in planning and development matters. She is also a long time Past President of the DPRG.

Cynthia Crysler is currently the President and Chair of the Board of the DPRG, a position she has held for 2 years. Previously she was secretary of the Board, with a keen interest in the local Ravine issues. Cynthia has lived in Deer Park for 16 years with her family and is a lawyer by profession.

It is with mixed emotions that I sign off on this newsletter as it will be my last as President (for now). As I have taken on another significant volunteer role, I will be stepping down as President at our September Board meeting (but I will remain on the Board and contribute as much as possible!). Being President has been a very satisfying experience as during the last few years we have been able to work with our councilor and residents to achieve good results for the community – in terms of making developments more community-friendly, increasing street safety, bringing attention and funding to the ravine, and protecting heritage homes just to name a few. I encourage anyone with a passion for community issues to reach out to us – the community will be better for it!

Until next time,

Cynthia Cryslar

President



YONGE STREET ACTIVETO & CAFETO

We're thrilled to welcome the new ACTIVETO pilot project to Yonge Street this summer! The project makes Yonge into a more welcoming place for our entire community, including beautiful patios and attractive street furniture to help our businesses recover, protected bike lanes and traffic calming to create a safer street for all, dedicated loading and parking zones and public art.

The project includes a significant data collection and monitoring component, as well as tweaks and adjustments to find optimal configurations. Find out more at the City's Yonge Midtown ACTIVETO project website.



MISSING SIDEWALKS FILLED IN ON LASCELLES BLVD!

Another one of our long-standing street safety asks was just completed, with new sidewalks laid down on Lascelles Blvd. After sidewalks were installed on Brentdale Drive just to the south, this provides a safe path for people walking along this well used pedestrian route. Only a few streets still remain in our neighbourhood without proper sidewalks.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE - SEPT. 24TH

29-39 Pleasant Boulevard 32 storey condo building - public meeting October 14

The Toronto and East York Community Council will be holding the official Public Meeting for this application for a 32 storey condo building on October 14. The space between the building and the parking garage is to be a park link to the south. For further information, email the Planner, David Driedger at david.driedger@toronto.ca.

49 Jackes 29 storey condo application appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (formerly called the Ontario Municipal Board and Local Planning Appeal Tribunal)

This application will be subject of a Tribunal hearing in October, 2022. The Deer Park Residents Group, the Summerhill Residents Association, and new Friends of David Balfour Park as well as the condos at 9 and 33 Jackes will be parties objecting to the application, as well as City Planning. There are also 27 approved individual Participants for the hearing. All agree that the proposed development is far too large for this site, given its located beside David Balfour Park and the Escarpment. Rather than work with residents and the City to resolve issues like other applicants have done in our area, this

applicant just submitted an appeal following the April public consultation meeting, where many objections were raised by the attendees.

Wittington site revised application coming

The Deer Park Working Group was able to achieve many of the improvements for the application that includes the block bounded by Yonge, Heath, Alvin and St. Clair. The servicing access is now on Alvin, not Heath East, there is more open space, a larger park, and the tower heights have been substantially reduced, but still high. More neighbourhood friendly street facades are being developed. Hopefully, the Library will be relocated to this site. We look forward to seeing the revised application incorporating the changes.

101-103 Heath St. West Committee of Adjustment hearing to be scheduled

The application includes the recently designated house at 103 and a new very long apartment building addition. Neighbours and the Deer Park Residents Group representatives were successful in getting the application deferred to a future Committee meeting so that the project can be revised to reduce impacts on abutting properties and mature trees. Revisions to date appear to be inadequate.

Ongoing consultations on next steps for approved projects: Nearby residents have been reviewing the construction management plans for Bretton Place, the detailed landscaping and other construction next to neighbours at the new Amica development at Balmoral and Avenue Road, and the façade design for the Daniels long term care home at Yonge and Rosehill.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The mandate of the DPRG is to represent all residents in our neighbourhood, both home owners and tenants.

This year we wanted to reach out to everyone so we did a mail drop of a flyer to every house, apartment, and condo. The flyer included a DPRG membership application. To date, we have welcomed 169 new members. The DPRG advocates in many areas of concern for us all with the many changes occurring. We keep you informed with quarterly newsletters.

We are gratified with the response to our campaign. If you are not yet a member, or have a neighbour that would be interested, please consider joining.



SPEED HUMPS ON LAWTON BLVD.

One of our longest standing street safety asks is finally here! In the last few weeks road crews installed speed humps on Lawton Blvd to reduce dangerous speeding on this busy pedestrian street.

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY ON DECRIMINALIZING DRUGS

Toronto Public Health (TPH) and Toronto Police are together looking at different approaches to addressing the current drug overdose crisis in Toronto. The Service has taken the position that it is imperative to strike the appropriate balance between public health and public safety, in a manner that improves quality of life and well-being for all of our communities. As a result, TPH has initiated a process for an exemption request to Health Canada, under section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, to permit the possession of all drugs for personal use. TPH believes that this method of decriminalization, in conjunction with other public health and harm reduction initiatives, such as safe supply programs and access to rapid evidence-based substance use treatments, supports a comprehensive approach that fulfils the objectives set out by the Toronto Board of Health.

As part of the process, TPH is seeking input from a wide-range of stakeholders. It is vital to ensure that our community voices have had the opportunity to be heard.

Fill out the survey before September 30th:

[Fill Out Survey](#)



YONGE + ST CLAIR PATIO

Over the past 2 months, the Yonge + St Clair BIA repurposed the small parking lot at Yonge & Delisle south of a Shoppers Drug Mart as a pop-up community patio, with food delivery service from nearby restaurants! The full-serve patio is now closed, but the patio tables and mural remain. Board member Diana Midwinter was engaged in the community consultations around it, and we hope it returns next year!

NOISE POLLUTION

Deer Park Residence Group is happy to announce the recent addition to our website Noise and Pollution - found under Resources.

Please visit our site for more information and help protect our community from environmental, health and safety hazards. Our current project “Join The Gas Busters” is seeking local resident’s support to ban the use of noisy gas powered leaf blowers.

Our health and environment is the #1 issue facing our lives.

[Click Here to Join](#)



COMMUNITY FOOD TABLES AT ORIOLE PARK ORGANIZED BY MPP JILL ANDREW

Our MPP Jill Andrew is organizing weekly community food tables at Oriole Park - like a food bank, but outdoors! People experiencing food insecurity can pick up much needed healthy food. They're looking for donations (like a food bank), volunteers, and for us to direct people in need to the food tables too.

Interested in donating or volunteering? Meet at the Oriole Park Community Garden, at the south end of Oriole Park

[Register to Volunteer](#)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, BIA'S & COUNCILLORS

The incidents of vehicles being stolen within 53 Division have continued to be at high levels for nearly a year. Some people have been victimized by this crime several times! Despite proactive countermeasures of patrol and investigation, these incidents of theft continue to occur almost daily, some days more than once. As your Community Safety

Officer, I ask that you seriously consider taking the extra measures we suggest, to protect your vehicles.

Please refer to the attached public safety alert. These added protective measures can deter a car thief immediately upon them noticing the existence of this anti-theft hardware. The extra time required to remove these security features simply isn't worth it, they move on to other targets.

Working together is the absolute best way to prevent these crimes. Talk to your neighbours, watch out for each other, join a Neighbourhood Watch Group and report suspicious people or vehicles to Police.

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