



## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**Your source for the latest news and updates about our neighbourhood.**

Autumn is here and your Residents' Group has been working a number of initiatives for our community - continuing to advocate for better development and now for minimizing construction impacts, to push for needed improvements to our Vale of Avoca Ravine, and to improve street safety through membership with the Avenue Road Safety Coalition and improvements to your deteriorating Yonge and St. Clair intersection, as well as to push for a quieter City by reducing unnecessary noise. New this year is a heritage tour of Heath Street, helping us enjoy our neighbourhood through better understanding and appreciation of our history.

Your Board, even with the great new members you elected last spring, still has some vacancies. We are looking for more tenant members, given tenants are in the majority here in our community. But we also welcome others with an interest in contributing skills and interests. For more information, please emailing us at [info@deerparkresidents.ca](mailto:info@deerparkresidents.ca).

Cathie Macdonald, President

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**We know development is of keen interest to all of you as our Deer Park is slowly changing. Here is our latest update:**

**Projects under construction** - We now have 3 projects under construction - One Delisle, Amica on Avenue Road and the new tower and amenity building at Bretton Place. Residents complained about construction trucks using Delisle and Heath and hopefully this has now stopped.

**Projects appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal** - Two projects are now appealed to with hearing dates next year - 49 Jackes and the Medical Arts building at Yonge and Balmoral. Likely there will be more, 1233 Yonge on the south side of Jackes. The DPRG will be involved in these hearings but at the mediation stage only and not at the actual hearing. This is recent Provincial legislation now permits costs to be awarded if we lose while in the past it was considered our democratic right to voice our concerns.

**Recent Public Consultations** - 1233 Yonge was subject of the public consultation on September 27, where many objections were raised and City Planners advised they were not supporting it at 50 storeys. Another consultation was held on October 4 or a new proposal for the site at the northeast corner of Yonge and Rosehill where a 17 storey assisted living project had been approved. The new proposal is also for 50 storeys with many issues raised at the meeting re the building height, size and relationship with the lane that is highly used by pedestrians as well as cars.

**Nothing happening?** - A number of other projects have been approved but are not yet proceeding to the construction stage, similar to many across the city. Other applications appear to be dormant.

The DPRG, with the support of Councillor Matlow, has worked with developers in the past to help make their projects fit better into our community but the Province has so shortened the permitted application approval time that the City is looking for new ways to ensure planning objectives and the City's requirements are met. Having our voices heard in the application review process other than at a single virtual meeting is not enough.

## **RAVINES AND PARKS**

Toronto's ravine system is a critical environmental feature of our City. It extends more than 300 kilometres, covering 11,000 hectares and constitutes more than 17% of the city's land area. More than half of the city's ravine system is public parkland. The Vale of Avoca/Yellow Creek is the steepest part of the ravine system which brings some unique challenges. The DPRG is part of the Midtown Ravine Group. The MRG is currently seeking to develop a multi-year plan which allows for a private/public

partnership and also continues to work with City Departments and local Councillors to:

- **Address erosion in a systematic way** – Erosion is an important concerns on Inglewood Drive just south of St Clair and Summerhill Gardens.
- **Deal with invasive species** - Japanese knotweed, burdock, garlic mustard, dog-strangling vine - to name but a few.
- **Ensure that infrastructure and points of access are maintained** - so that our growing population has access to safe and healthy recreation. The access from the north side of St Clair to the Vale has been closed for a number of years, the sole remaining pedestrian bridge on the south side of the ravine at the bottom of the Avoca slope is very deteriorated. Additionally, the stairs up from the south side of the are at best rickety and the handholds are unstable.



***Deteriorated accesses to Yellow Creek / Vale of Avoca at Heath St E and on the north side of St Clair***

The lawn at David Balfour Park is also currently part of our ongoing conversation with Councillor Saxe. We are seeking remediation of the site as it is not possible for it to be used for group sports as we originally envisioned. We are advised that a plan has been developed which will unfold throughout 2024 and are seeking details.



*The condition of the lawn at David Balfour Park*

## **NOISE AND POLLUTION**

**Your DPRG Board is monitoring two important City initiatives and will provide comments and updates.**

- The City is now reviewing Noise Bylaw - Recommendations that are to be at the November 28th Economic and Community Development Committee meeting. The report will be available the week before on the Toronto Meeting Information System (to access updates just Google this name). As well as tightening up noise regulations, consultations to date included the need to greatly improve enforcement procedures. See [www.torontonoisecoalition.ca](http://www.torontonoisecoalition.ca) for an overview of proposals and comments from consultations to date. The DPRG has advised the City that it supports the changes listed these and others and will make comments on the final recommendations in the City report expected in late November.
- City Council agreed last spring to ban gas powered leaf blowers and similar 2 stroke garden equipment and there will be a report on the steps to do this next spring.
- The City “Night Economy” review is now underway and the report will be at both the November Planning and Housing Committee meeting on November 30 and at same ECDC meeting November 28 as the Noise Bylaw Review. The

Night Economy review will be recommending recommend new zoning bylaw provision to allow entertainment uses in new areas across the City. Maybe in Deer Park? Noise and disruption are big issues where these uses are permitted now so we need to monitor this initiative closely to ensure that needed regulations are in place to address excessive noise from bars and night clubs etc.

The Toronto District School Board released its Climate Action Annual Report in December of last year. We are very pleased that its Facilities Services and Planning Group intends to convert from gas to electric as a power source for its property maintenance equipment. Kudos to TDSB for showing leadership in protecting employees, students, and the environment!

# STREET SAFETY

## **Avenue Road Public Consultation**

The DPRG is a member of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition, which was formed to address safety concerns on Avenue Road south of St. Clair, our western boundary. Many of our members regularly drive on this road and use its sidewalks and our children use them to walk to school. The City has now come out with a series of proposals it developed to address the safety issues and the Board is looking at those proposals and way to address issues we see.

The City is studying Avenue Road from St. Clair Avenue West to Bloor Street West. The objectives of the study are to:

- Develop a vision for the future of the road to make it safer for all road users
- Identify interim actions that can be taken to move toward the vision, in advance of full road reconstruction

City Council directed staff to undertake the Avenue Road Study to address concerns from many residents about Avenue Road, including the speed of traffic, the narrow widths of many sections of sidewalk, and the lack of bikeways.

## **Yonge and St. Clair Intersection**

Many of you saw the presentation by Louroz Mercader, Executive Director of the BIA at our AGM in June about their many activities. We are continuing to work with the BIA to make the Yonge and St. Clair intersection safer and an attractive centre of our community. Hopefully, the lack of streetcars over the next year will provide an opportunity to start on the needed changes.

# DEER PARK HISTORICAL WALK

On Saturday, October 14, a local resident and member of DPRG, Lynne Kurylo, led an historical tour of Deer Park describing the community's origins and the evolution of notable aspects of the built environment. Thirteen members joined Lynne despite the blustery weather. It was a great success with many questions (answered) and people expressed interest in future walks. So watch for the next one!

Lynne Kurylo is an experienced guide with a background in social history and the history of education. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Enoch Turner

Schoolhouse Foundation and for those who wish to contribute something in respect of the walk, Lynne would like it to go to the Foundation. The website is <https://enochturnerschoolhouse.ca> In 2023, the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation and Ontario Heritage Trust celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Schoolhouse and the role it played in the development of a provincially supported free school system. If you wish to contact Lynne and to inquire about other walks that Lynne conducts, her email is [lynnekurylo@enochturnerschoolhouse.ca](mailto:lynnekurylo@enochturnerschoolhouse.ca)

## **HELP YOUR COMMUNITY, HELP YOURSELF**

### **Calling all volunteers!**

Volunteer your time and expertise with DPRG! Some of the areas where you could share your skills, such as in website design and maintenance, graphic design and event planning.

If you are interested in helping out your community, please send an email to: [info@deerparkresidents.ca](mailto:info@deerparkresidents.ca)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Help grow the DPRG**

DPRG is a volunteer-based group but we do have operating expenses. You are receiving this newsletter as you are a paid member of the DPRG. We hope you will continue to support our work through an annual membership of \$20 per household. Our next membership drive will be in the spring.

Please pass this Newsletter on to neighbours and friends who may be interested in joining. See our website <https://deerparkresidents.ca> for membership information and forms.

## **HELPING OUR LONG-TIME COUNCILLOR**

As you know, Josh ran for Mayor this spring. While he didn't win, the rest of Toronto discovered an honest, facts-based advocate, who is trying to make Toronto a better place for all residents. Josh has always been there for us.

But a city-wide campaign is expensive and Josh has been left with unpaid bills. If you are able, you may want to consider helping close his campaign by going to <https://www.votematlow.ca/donate>

Each donation is eligible for a rebate of up to 75% from the City of Toronto. For example, a contributing \$200 gets a rebate of \$150, and \$500 gets a rebate of \$325. The limit is \$2,500 per candidate and not more than a combined total of \$5,000 to multiple candidates on the same Council.



The voice  
of our  
community