

# Moore Park Residents' Association Newsletter

*Identifying, advocating and acting on neighbourhood concerns in order to enhance Moore Park*



## From the President

*A good neighbour – a found treasure.*

*(Chinese Proverb)*

I have been president of The Moore Park Residents' Association

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for almost four months, and the more deeply I delve into our neighbourhood, the more I realize there is so much for us to be proud of in Moore Park and there is so much we must protect.

Our boundaries of ravine and cemetery protect us from some incursions, but not all. Here is a sample of the MPRA's recent activity to enhance Moore Park. In this list lie some of the **reasons why you should become a member of the Association and/or why you should renew your membership**: we need your support for the good of the neighbourhood.

**C**urrently, we are facilitating dialogue between the **Moore Park Tennis Club** and neighbours to the park, as they debate the merits and desirability of a new lighting system.

**We** are taking a leadership position in guiding the **future of Moorevale Park**. Working with the Parks and Recreation Department, Councillor Kyle Rae's office and neighbours, we will have convened a committee to brainstorm about the possibilities and needs of this treasured space. Would you like to see more or fewer dogs in the park? More trees? An ice rink? Stay tuned and share your thoughts. (More on page 2 - Let's Get together.)

**T**hanks to the MPRA, concerned residents of Moore Avenue and Councillor Rae, it is now **illegal to make U-Turns on Moore Avenue, between Mt. Pleasant Road and Welland**. We hope this will help reduce the damage to property – and people – whose driveways were being used by turning cars. Also, in response to residents' concerns, we worked with the City to regularize parking hours allowed on Inglewood, north of St. Clair.

**We** have a respected voice at Councillor Rae's office. As an organization, we are in regular contact with Kyle and his very able Executive Assistant, Michael Robertson, who are very consultative and respectful of our stand (on most issues!) and who view ours as a stable neighbourhood. We appreciate how they are open to dialogue and will consider cooperative ventures.

**We** are keeping an active watch on proposed changes to **Jarvis Street**, which may be reconfigured with one fewer lane of car traffic. This busy thoroughfare is a key transportation route to many in Moore Park, and we will report to you on any developments.

(continued on page 2)

*Volume II Issue I*

*February 2005*

## Inside this issue:

MPRA President's Letter 1

Notice of Police Safety Meeting 1

President's Letter (cont'd) 2

Moorevale Park Let's Get Together ... 2

New Lighting for Moorevale Park Tennis Club 2

Miss Manners 3

How Moorevale Park Came to be ... 3

2005 Paving Schedule 3

MPRA Board Listing 4

FoNTRA Update 4

MPRA Membership Form 5

Community Contact Numbers 6

### Special points of interest:

- MPRA action on your behalf - President's Letter, page 1
- Your ideas and suggestions for enhancing Moorevale Park, page 2
- Discussion of new lighting for Moorevale Park Tennis Courts, page 2
- Miss Manners: 10 ways not to renovate, page 3
- FoNTRA sends an update, page 4

The Moore Park Residents' Association and 53 Division

invite you to:

**A Neighbourhood Police Safety Meeting**

**Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Rosedale United Church, Glen Rd.**

**Resident Associations Participating: North Rosedale, South Rosedale, Moore Park and Governor's Bridge**

**Police Participating: representatives from 53 Division**

including

**Staff Inspector Larry Sinclair**

**Please come and discuss safety and crime prevention issues with your neighbours and your local Police representatives.**

## MPRA President's Letter (cont'd)

We have good relations and often coordinate activities with the ratepayers' associations of North and South Rosedale. You will recall the all-candidates meetings we co-hosted with them for the mayoralty and federal elections; we will coordinate our approach as the City refurbishes the foot bridge over the Carstowe railway tracks (no more details are known at this time except that the bridge may close temporarily); as the Don Valley Transportation Master Plan unfolds, we will follow implications for Moore Park traffic flow and that into Rosedale; we have planned to coordinate activity on ravine preservation and Brickworks redevelopment, and we are co-hosting a meeting on crime and security in our neighbourhoods, Thursday, February 24, 2005 (see notice on page 1).

Last year, we published an updated version of *Historic Moore Park*, an historic walking tour of our neighbourhood, under the editorial leadership of Moore Park resident Beth Marley. We have now sold hundreds of copies and have been profiled in the *Toronto Sun* and *North Toronto Post*. We give special thanks to the wonderful people at **Summerhill Market**, who are selling the book on our behalf and who are remitting all proceeds directly to the MPRA: their community-mindedness is much appreciated.

In the past few years, we have become more and more active as a member of **FoNTRA, the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations**. Their activity on municipal and provincial levels aims to preserve neighbourhoods within the City by advocating for reform of the Ontario Municipal Board and clarification on the Official Plan that guides development in Toronto.

It is a privilege to lead your hardworking board of twenty MPRA directors: we are busy people! I hope you will get involved with the work we do and share your expertise with us: human resources and your input – financial and otherwise – are key to the work we do and all we hope to achieve for the quality of life in Moore Park.

**Cindy Carol Thorburn**

Volume II Issue I

## Moorevale Park's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Let's Get Together and Make it Even Better...

This being the eightieth anniversary of Moorevale Park, we think it appropriate to get together and talk about how we can have even more enjoyment from the park in the future. And, there are a variety of interesting (and sometimes wacky) suggestions and ideas that residents have come up with over the past year and a half to make Moorevale better than ever.

Some of these are:

Enforcing the leash laws or creating a special fenced area for dogs to run free, fencing in the children's play area to enhance their safety, changing the Monday to Friday wading pool into a splash pad that runs all week, placing children's soccer nets in the open field, revitalizing the playground equipment, expanding the summer time children's programs, considering alternative uses for the lawn bowling space, putting a pub or a café in the clubhouse (who wouldn't like that!).

Other neighbourhoods in Toronto have taken some of their own thoughts and ideas and made them a reality by pooling funding from the City of Toronto, local businesses and local residents. Why can't we?

The Moore Park Residents' Association would like to invite you to share your wild (and not so wild) ideas on how we could improve the park. If you are interested in sharing your ideas and being part of the revitalization, please contact Tim Costigan via email at [costigan@butterfield.com](mailto:costigan@butterfield.com) or leave a voice mail message at 416-824-2670 by February 28<sup>th</sup>; and plan to attend the first meeting in early March. Location and time to be determined based on numbers.

**Tim Costigan**

## New Lighting for the Tennis Courts in Moorevale Park

As we mark the 80<sup>th</sup> year of enjoyment of Moorevale Park, lighting for the tennis courts is again under consideration. Here is an update on progress to the present and the direction the discussions are taking. On your behalf, the MPRA has been involved in facilitating the exchange of views.

The main issues are the demand for good night lighting by tennis court users and, equally important, the concerns of the residents in the immediate area that their needs be protected. MPRA played a similar role in the mid-70's, mid-80's and the mid-90's.

This time, MPRA suggested that it might be beneficial to all concerned if a lighting consultant were retained. Ken Loach of Lighting Solutions, who has undertaken work throughout North America, was engaged and has spent considerable time proposing new light fixtures based on a computer generated solution.

The tennis club executive have undertaken to provide further demonstrations and light measurements over the next few months and the MPRA will continue to facilitate dialogue among all parties. In any case, it is anticipated that general park lighting will remain "as is".

**Bob Marley**

## Miss Manners

Dear Miss Manners:

My street has had so many renovations on it that I've heard it referred to as "The Projects". One after another, each house is being gutted then renovated...each time I see a "For Sale" sign, I get anxious. The noise, the trucks...will I ever get my quiet street back? Can you help?

Miffed in Moore Park.

Dear "Miffed",

Frankly, I'm miffed too, but so is all of Toronto. There just seems to be an inexplicable trend among purchasers of older homes like ours to re-do the entire thing and make a personal statement. With tongue firmly in cheek, here are our Top 10 Ways to Irritate One's Neighbours During a Renovation:

1. Don't even consider consulting your neighbours on anything...don't tell them when the start and finish date is and never, ever talk to them about your plans.
2. Make sure you encourage the catering truck with its lovely little horn to come by as many times as possible.
3. When the construction workers have done something nasty to the neighbours' property, make sure you don't acknowledge it, don't apologize for it and never ever ease their pain with a bottle of wine or fruit basket.
4. Make sure your architect designs your house in a style completely out of sync with the neighbourhood. Why go traditional Georgian or Arts and Crafts when you can incorporate something completely inconsistent with the style of the neighbourhood?

5. If your new home has historic value, make sure you disregard it. Who needs reminders of days gone by when a lovely smattering of stucco can cover up all that nasty history?

6. Why settle for renovating only one home? Buy more than one and renovate them all!

7. Go way over the city's allowable renovation limit. Get lots of lawyers involved and make sure your neighbours have to take time out to fight you on this at city hall.

8. Make sure you disregard all the 100-year-old trees on your property. They only house those horrible songbirds, and give us boring old oxygen, right?

9. Make sure your contractor hires incompetent and surly tradesmen who like to swear and throw cigarette butts on the street.

10. And for heaven's sake, make sure your contractor puts the "Johnny on the spot" on the front lawn...never in the back where we can't see it.

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### **Paving Schedule for Moore Park**

**The City has announced that Rose Park Drive, from Inglewood to Welland, will be re-paved in 2005.**

**No other paving is planned for the neighbourhood in the official schedule announced by Toronto.**

## **How Moorevale Park Came To Be...**

(An excerpt from MPRA's *Historic Moore Park*)

Long before the acquisition of Moorevale Park, interested residents of Moore Park had been in regular discussions in the hope of having the City purchase a site for a community park. A five acre site had already been identified. It was owned by Sir John Eaton and extended from Welland Avenue almost to Mt. Pleasant Road and from Heath Street East to Moore Avenue.

Sir John Eaton held this land with the idea of using it as an athletic field for his employees, but it was never used as such to any great extent due to lack of transportation. The Moore Park Ratepayers' \*Association approached Sir John seeking to have the land transferred to the City for park purposes. He apparently agreed to part with it for a moderate sum. However, the City let this opportunity slip by, feeling there was no urgency—the First World War was on and the area was still only sparsely populated.

Before anything was done, Sir John Eaton died and the plans for a community park almost died with him. The executors of his estate authorized the sale of the land and it was quickly sold for building lots. The five acres were rapidly reduced to three acres, and a street, Pinehurst Avenue, was laid through it. Mrs. E.T.Cooper, a local resident, then urgently took up the cause for a community park. She urged that the City buy the remaining land, which was now held by a real estate firm and valued at \$65,000. She repeatedly carried the issue to City Council and the subject became a controversial one.

Finally, on Monday, January 26, 1925, the purchase was approved by Council, which passed it 23 to 4. The park was opened in May 1925 with a carnival and games, sponsored by the Moore Park Ratepayers\* Association.

\*Since changed to *Residents*

**Beth Marley**

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**FoNTRA: An Update on its Growth, Goals and Activities on Behalf of Toronto Residents' Associations**

We have received this information from FoNTRA (Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations) which outlines its continuing expansion and its position regarding improved planning and better development, "the key messages" it says, for OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) reform now underway.

On January 20, 2005 FoNTRA announced that two new residents' organizations - York Mills and Tarragon Village had joined. This brings the number of residents' associations within FoNTRA to twenty-one. The two new organizations combined bring over 100,000 residents to FoNTRA ranks.

Fontra points out that both Toronto and Ontario "continue to cite poorly defined notions of intensification, justify mega-developments and stall serious OMB reform".

"The absence of clarity and practicality in their notions of intensification creates serious problems. Planning by both governments provides

few principles or assessment criteria regarding the effects of intensification upon Toronto's environment, fiscal position, heritage preservation, infrastructure usage and transportation needs".

It goes on to say:

"FoNTRA's OMB reform proposals are based on the principles of accountability, balance, effectiveness, legitimacy, fairness and predictability." Key messages for OMB reform include:

- ◆ Restore accountability and democracy by making the OMB a true appeal body. Elected representatives on municipal councils throughout Ontario should have the right to override an OMB decision by a 60% majority.
- ◆ The "buck stops at the municipal council" regarding development decisions. Municipal councils must become the focus for development decision-making. The OMB should only be allowed to hear evidence previously presented at municipal council
- ◆ Development cannot be considered in "splendid" isolation. Municipal councils and the OMB

must consider the city-wide impacts as well as the precedents of proposed developments.

- ◆ Restore competence and integrity of OMB members by choosing members because of what they know rather than whom they know.  
FoNTRA contends: "planning for Toronto, and Ontario as a whole, needs to better recognize that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, heritage preservation, infrastructure investment and social renewal. Sustainability objectives need to be clearly set out and well quantified, especially those goals and rules with respect to intensification. In turn, there must be strong enforcement of these rules."  
Put simply, FoNTRA believes strongly that both Toronto's and Ontario's planning must distinguish between unbalanced expansion and sustainable development. As Jane Jacobs has written: "Development is qualitative change. Expansion is quantitative change. The two are closely linked, but they aren't the same thing."

**Ellen Greenwood**