

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

NEWSLETTER

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

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I became president of the MPRA, just over two years ago, the job description was both clear and vague: help preserve and enhance the character of our neighbourhood; lead the board as it handled such portfolios as police liaison, traffic management, and the health of local trees; and assume responsibility if anything major landed on the community's doorstep.

Moore Park was a relatively sleepy hollow until Mount Pleasant Cemetery proposed to build its 24,000 square foot visitation centre, with paved parking for 80 cars, in our backyard and in the space considered the backyard of thousands of Torontonians who enjoy the Belt Line trails that connect in the cemetery. In May of 2005, Moore Parkers looked to the MPRA for leadership on this issue, and your board hasn't looked back.

Paid MPRA membership went from several dozen to over four hundred households. And an interesting phenomenon ensued: many in our neighbourhood then became engaged in the residents' association in a new way. People volunteered for Traffic and Park committee

work; they asked the association more often about local issues; and apparently, they turned to our new web site (www. moorepark.org) as a vehicle for information and to make their voice heard.

Many people are responsible for the good work being done in our community, and as the campaign to save the green space of Mount Pleasant Cemetery gained momentum, it was clear it was not just the MPRA Board that was doing the heavy lifting. Directors Margot Boyd, Martha Rogers, Chris Thompson and I, the "Cemetery Committee," have had the honour of seeing Moore Parkers' hundreds of letters, their heart-felt deputations at City Hall, and the passion with which they have brought their legal and other skills to this fight.

Likewise, neighbours have expressed concern for the renovation standards and variances to by-laws requested as homes in the neighbourhood are rebuilt or just modified. In this newsletter, you will see the standards for MPRA involvement in these situations. Articulated by our committee of Gary Miller, Tim Costigan, Heather Gardiner, Ellen Greeenwood,

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Notice of Annual General Meeting Moore Park Residents' Association

All members of the community are welcome!

Date: Monday, October 16, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 1 1/2 Garfield Avenue - NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!

Agenda items include:

- Meet Municipal Election Candidates
- Election, MPRA Board of Directors
- Updates on Crime in Moore Park
- Moorevale Park

- Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Visitation Centre
- Renovation standards
- The health of our trees

and **Martha Reeve**, these protocols will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting. Further, Martha Reeve is leading the MPRA investigation of possible Heritage Conservation District standards for our community.

We continue to monitor and engage in larger-picture planning issues and governance matters affecting our community and Toronto as a whole through the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FONTRA). Board member Ellen Greenwood has been particularly active in this regard. As Toronto evolves into a relatively "Strong Mayor" governance model, many implications flow through for communities such as ours, and we have made deputations at City Hall urging strong Community Councils and other means of ensuring a voice for neighbourhoods. Thanks to Ellen and **Chris Thompson** for work in this regard. They know us at City Hall!

Indeed, the work of the MPRA has many facets, and I cannot do justice, here, to all the human hours invested into trees, environmental quality, new stop signs and even such seemingly mundane activities as flyer delivery (**Alison Stanley**, what would we have done without you and the wonderdog, Copper?). But there are a few people who must be mentioned.

Vice President **Brian Dourley** is a constant source of prudent advice and I so appreciate the hours of counsel and friendship he has given to me. Also, we

all owe thanks to retiring MPRA directors Alex Hahn, Bill Hepburn, Bob Marley (on for thirty years!) and those who have stepped off since our last Annual General Meeting: Karen MacPherson and Jennifer Warren.

I must also thank Councillor Kyle Rae, who really came through for us at Community Council and City Council this month, when the cemetery was on the agenda. His firm resolutions gave the political clout we need to take this fight to the next level, and he helped, in an essential way, to make sure that other councillors were aware of the issues. It was the icing on the cake to your hundreds of letters and phone calls. Also, his executive staff, Michael Robertson, Ryan Lahr and Joyce Scheurwater are so prompt and professional when it comes to requests of all sorts.

Finally, I thank my husband and children for putting up with scores of meetings and phone calls that have come into our home during my presidency. As I step down, I reflect that they have made their contribution to Moore Park by putting up with my busy schedule. At the height of the cemetery fight, I tried to convince them that orange juice was really good on breakfast cereal. (In fact, we had run out of milk.) That they poured on the juice says it all.

Our community is worth serving. We are so lucky to live in Moore Park. Thank you, all, for the privilege. Please vote in

the municipal elections on November 13 – the best way to serve a community and your own best interest – and please stay engaged with the MPRA. I will.

Cindy Caron Thorburn

Cemetery Update

As we go to press with this newsletter, Community Council and City Council have voted – overwhelmingly – to refuse the Visitation Centre site plan, save the trees slated for felling, defend this position at the Ontario Municipal Board and review the property as a heritage site. Regardless, the Ontario Municipal Board is slated to review the site plan on October 25 and 26.

Further, a number of local funeral homes are taking the related zoning issue to Ontario's Superior Court, in January. The funeral homes have their own concern: what they deem unfair competition, since the visitation centre would sit on tax-exempt land and since it is a not-for-profit trust.

Community action changes focus, now. The main thrust is in the hands of the lawyers and professional planners and we are working behind the scenes to make sure our interests are represented.

Please see our web site, www.moorepark.org, for more details. We will post a copy of the City's resolution and other updates as soon as possible.

Proposed Slate of Directors, Moore Park Residents' Association, 2006 -2007

For election at the Annual General Meeting of The Moore Park Residents' Association, October 16, 2006

- 1. Greg Bingaman, Inglewood Drive
- 2. Harriet Binkley, Hudson Drive
- 3. Margot Boyd, Moore Avenue
- 4. Cindy Caron Thorburn, Hudson Drive
- 5. Tim Costigan, Rosedale Heights Drive
- 6. Brian Dourley, Inglewood Drive
- 7. Ellen Greenwood, Inglewood Drive
- Astrid Guttmann, Rose Park Drive
 Sandra Hamilton, Rose Park Drive
- 10. Cynthia Henderson, Rose Park Drive
- 11. Mark MacDonald, Ridge Drive
- 12. Bill McCurdy, Hudson Drive
- 13. Ivan McFarlane, St. Clair Avenue East
- 14. Gary Miller, Moore Avenue
- 15. Martha Reeve, Cornish Road

- 16. Martha Rogers, Hudson Drive
- 17. Chris Thompson, Moore Avenue
- 18. Charles Zimmerman, Moore Avenue

Note: If at any time after the delivery of this publication calling the Annual General Meeting, fifteen (15) or more voting members desire to nominate another member for election as director, they shall sign or deliver to the President (Cindy Caron Thorburn), at least three (3) days before such meeting, a written nomination of such member together with his/her consent to accept office if elected. A notice of each such additional

nomination, giving the name or names of the members or members so nominated, shall be made available at the Annual General Meeting.

The Nominating Committee Cindy Caron Thorburn (president@moorepark.org), Brian Dourley, Ivan McFarlane



Moore Park Miscellania

- · The Toronto Transit Commission, now hard at work on the designated street car lane on St. Clair, advises that the tracks being stored on St. Clair, between Inglewood and Pt. Pleasant, should be depleted and deployed by the end of November. They advise that while they do endeavour to "pull" the stored stacks during their afternoon shifts, there will be times when night crews are doing the work — and "noise is inherent of this specific activity."
- Thanks to an inquiring resident and a push from Councillor Rae's office, the lights on Carstowe Bridge will be on in the evening. You may recall the bridge was to have been rebuilt this sum-

- mer, but this capital project has been deferred one year.
- A request has been made for "No U-Turns" in the immediate vicinity of Whitney Public School, on Rosedale Heights. While it will take a while to make this new restriction official and enforceable, please remember to drive especially carefully around the neighbourhood's schools. Parents and caregivers can be the worst offenders when rushing children to school or in a hurried pick-up, but we all can be more aware of how our driving patterns affect affect the community.

Cindy Caron Thorburn



AUTO-DIALER CONSENT FORM

my name to/from "AUTO-DIALER"

Residence ____ Business ____

ADDRESS: ______ |

Moore Park Police Report

Neighbourhood Contacts at 53 Division

The 53 Division CRU had recently instituted a neighbourhood officer program whereby each of the 4 zones within the division has been assigned specific neighbourhood officers to respond to calls and concerns. For zone 4, which includes Moore Park, the phone number is 416-808-5319, and the officers are:

Name Badge Number PC Joseph Ho 99438 PC Ab Coovadia 874

Reporting Minor Occurances

A number of minor occurances such and having your car broken into, cell phone stolen etc., occur within the division each month. Despite what you may feel is minor loss or inconvenience, it is important to immediately report all such incidences to the police. While the chance of recovery is slim, these statistics assist the police in establishing patterns which may ultimately lead to an arrest.

Robberies Involving Youth

One of the few areas in which crime is up in 53 Division is robberies, and one of the more common forms involves youthon-youth robbery. Again, these occurrences often go unreported as the victim is reluctant to come forward. One of the more common schemes involves a teen-

ager being lured into a park or school grounds in the evening by a stranger offering to sell them pot. There is no pot, and the victim ends up having his/her money, cell phone etc. stolen. While this may be an embarrassing set of circumstances for the victims, they did not commit any crime. Again, in order to assist the police in establishing patterns, it is important that these crimes get reported in a timely fashion.

Auto-dialer System

The "AUTO-DIALER" system allows the police to alert residents of crime in the neighbourhoods within 53 Division. To receive messages concerning crime, missing people and home safety you must sign and return the attached form allowing your name and phone number to be added to the system. Informed people are more aware of what is going on around them and are more assistance to the police in preventing crime and catching suspects.



_____ I PHONE:_____ Bill McCurdy, MPRA Police Liaison Mail or deliver to: **Toronto Police Services** 53 Division Crime Prevention Office 75 Eglinton Avenue Toronto, Ontario M4R 2G9 Page 3

Please:

Change

Delete

Add

Committee of Adjustments & Variances to By-laws Report

As an established Residents' Association, the MPRA is notified by the city of all requested variances associated with proposed building and renovation projects, and it is given formal opportunity to take a stand on them. In order to deal with the ever-increasing requests for variance, the MPRA has established a committee – consisting of members who are planners, lawyers, architects and developers – to review Committee of Adjustment (COA) proposals in Moore Park.

In keeping with the MPRA's tradition, the committee remains dedicated to maintaining the general character of the neighborhood and its streetscape by respecting the intent and purpose of the official plan designation and the applicable zoning by-laws.

Recently the committee amended its guidelines for reviewing COA variance proposals. What follows is a summary of the Association's position. We will present these guidelines to the MPRA Annual General Meeting on October 16, 2006.

The Moore Park Resident's Association will:

Attempt to provide the MPRA position

- on a timely basis, in the context of the time availability of our volunteers.
- Circulate its position to the applicant and immediately adjacent neighbors and to act as a resource to explain the process and procedures to interested parties.
- Be open to receiving feedback from the neighbors, where applicable, and, where appropriate, may facilitate communication between neighbors to encourage an effective and courteous dialogue focused on substantive issues.
- Oppose certain variances regardless of the applicants' or neighbors' position if it does not conform to our guidelines.

Our criteria are:

 Density variances will be reviewed in the context of the current densities of houses in the surrounding block and street. We will review each application on a case by case basis but will typically oppose any application which will take the density to over .8 times coverage or in excess of the houses in the surrounding block and street.

- Preserving the streetscape is very important to the association. We will support applications for a Front Setback variance only when it does not spoil the quality of the existing streetscape.
- Consideration regarding Rear Setback is given to the view of the neighbors and is influential to our position.
- Any Side Yard Setback / Encroachment variance which disturbs a neighbor's enjoyment of existing light to their property or negatively affects the streetscape will be opposed.
- Our view will be governed by the length of the lot in the context of the current by-law. As well, height issues will also be governed by the current by-law.

The MPRA encourages all residents undertaking building and renovation projects to consider their neighbors, discuss proposals with them, and gather a consensus of opinion before requesting a variance.

Gary Miller (Committee Chair), Martha Reeve, Heather Gardiner, Tim Costigan, Ellen Greenwood

Moore Park Heritage

Many of us feel strongly about our beautiful neighbourhood, its homes and streetscapes and would like to make sure that the Moore Park character is not diminished by overbuilding or destruction of old homes. Mature neighbourhoods like ours are unique and rare in large cities. With that in mind, the MPRA has been looking into the viability of obtaining Heritage Conservation District status for Moore Park or some smaller part thereof. Several Toronto neighbourhoods have attained this designation throughout the City, among them are; North and South Rosedale, nearly of all of Cabbagetown, Blythwood Road and the East Annex (Bedford to Avenue Road). Several more areas are in various stages of progress.

What is a Heritage Conservation District (HCD)?

tion and alterations to building facades are reviewed against a set of guidelines aimed at preserving the unique historic character of a district. Restrictions apply to facades and rooflines only. They do not apply to interiors or to any features that cannot be seen from the street.

We are still in the initial phases of considering HCD status for Moore Park, and a great deal of community consultation must – and will – happen before we take any concrete steps. Indeed, strong community support and a large number of volunteers are required to go forward in the HCD process. If you are interested in these issues, please contact me at marthareeve@sympatico.ca.

Martha Reeve, Heritage Committee



In an HCD, demolition, new construc-

Pesticide Update

Speaking of Pests and Pesticides – it's Me again – here to talk to you about gardening healthfully and organically.

Many times we forget that the poisons we put on our lawns and gardens affect other people. Unfortunately, these toxins not only disrupt the nearby eco systems we are trying (paradoxically) to beautify, but they negatively impact the quality of our water and the health of people, especially children, who are especially vulnerable to their affects.

People also make an understandable mistake in thinking that "Health Canada keeps me safe. Why wouldn't they have banned these chemicals if they are harmful?" Unfortunately, time and again, Health Canada proves itself a follower, not a leader. The large chemical companies have proven they have deep pockets when it comes to lobbying Health Canada - and even legally threatening them based on NAFTA agreements! See url: http://www.headlice.org/lindane/new/2005/secondcoming.htm for details of just one scary example...

And, for those of you who buy the argument that toxic pesticides are harmful – here's more bad news that you might not know about: Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries has quietly been spraying pesticides since the pesticide by-law was originally passed April 1st, 2004, due to a last minute negotiation of an exemption. In July they were caught spraying a lethal combination of pesticides called "Par III" (pronounced Par 3).

In a report filed by Public Health, the inspector (called by yours truly) noted that MPGC had not been practicing proper plant care, which had necessitated a "quick fix." The "Call to Action" for all us Moore Parker budding activists? Phone calls to MPGC demanding that they take better care of the living by practicing good lawn care methods to avoid the use of pesticides. The Grounds' Manager, lan Young's phone number: 416-485-9129.

[For fact sheets on the effects of Par III, see url: www.pesticide.org, click on "Pesticides and Publications" from the home page, and scroll down to the

"Pesticide Fact Sheets." You will have to select three separate fact sheets: 2, 4-D, (a known carcinogen for children), Mecroprop (the last form of which was actually banned in Canada) and Dicamba. It's not pretty – but I encourage you to take a moment to look. You can also save the pesticide.org as a bookmark, as it makes for a handy quick reference quide.]

My parting shot: the City of Toronto website has some excellent information on it from their gardening people. If you would like to check it out, here's the url: http://www.toronto.ca/health/pesticides/go natural factsheets.htm

I wish you happy and healthy gardening.

Margot Boyd, Pests & Pesticides

New and Renewing Members Since May 2006

Welcome (and welcome back) to MPRA members who have joined the Association since our last newsletter was published.

John and Sue Clyma, John and Susan Maynard, Lilian M.and Gordon Wells, Vesna Bajic, Wolf Paunic, Parent-D'amours, Debbie Babington, Andrew Steen, Anneliese O'Malley, Marilyn, Jeff and Asner Weiss, Peter and Sue Cameron, Mary Tomlinson, John and Catherine Grant, Shaun Goodman, Peter Collibee, Maryse Roy, Kathy Brown, Margaret Phelan, Wallace Quan, Larry and Barbara Ann Hynes, Mrs. C. Fox, Zuzana and Brad Pederson, Jonathan Grant, Suzanne Clapp, Carla and Ben Joyce, Randy and Carol Jones, Dr. Russell Tate, Ms. Ruth Evans, Geoff and Jill Spidle, Urmas Vilmanson, Tasha Ayilrod, Paul Miller, Janneen Bowes, Sunny Edmunds, David Cobhold, James Beid, Leslie Clave, Brian Sewell, Liisa Savijarvi, Wendy Cameron, Irwin Rotenberg, Ann Leese, Denise Fujiwara, John M. Campbell, Lisa and Michal Lang, Cindy and Michael Hansen, William and Sarah Woods, George and Joan Finlayson, Edward Paterson, Kathryn Hucal, Katie Isbister, Sidda Whitmore, Rita Burak, Peter Barnes, Scott and Zazie Chandler, Mary and Jim Russell, Linda and Martin Vaughan, Anne and Pat LeFeuvre, Sid and Janet Lindsay, Helen and Victor Wong, Ivor and Jill Quaggin, Debra O'Rourke, Paul Curley, Peter Jewett, Robin Campbell, Mark Wiseman, Marcia Moffatt, Greg and Susan Guichon, Janet Finlay, Karen and Doug Farrand, Robert and Beverley Richardson, Leslie and John Tuer, Tim and Vicky Coristine, Jim and Nancy Kemp, Barbara Fraser, Lyz Sayer, Scott and Alice Taylor, Cathleen Morrison, Tina and Dominic Doull, Ian Bain, Irena Orlowski, John Davidson, Mrs. Norman S. Robertson, Haydn and Eva Davies, Beth Ben-David, Bob Hutchison, Carolyn Kearns, Julie Keegan, John Turnbull, Karen Leonard, Michael Klubal, James and Jane McMyn, Barbara Hatch, Pat McQuaid, Jim Harbell, J. Peter and Carol Foster, David Roland, Peter

Gardiner, Rani and Doug Jamieson, Deb Cowman, Jim and Karin Scott, James Estey, Harry and Toby Phillips, Mary and Jamie Keating, Ian and Kathy Baker, Rob Hall, Vera and Richard Mraz, Karen Jones, Pat French, Patricia Garnett-Smith, Karen and Steve Sheriff, Janne Gaby, Svea and Peeter Einola, Lisa Goodfellow, Alain Strati.

Joanna Robertson, Membership Chair



Lawn Bowling Club and Moore Park Residents' Association Open House and BBQ

On June 10, 2006, the Moorevale Lawn Bowling Club and the MPRA co-hosted a community social event. Attendees were able to try lawn bowling -- which many did for the first time. Special thanks to key MPRA organizers Sandra Hamilton and Chris Thompson.





Organizers Sandra Hamilton & Chris Thompson



MPRA Newsletter Fall/Winter 2006

Park Committee Update

The Park Committee has been on hold since the spring of 2006. We are now back up and working, but actively looking for volunteers.

Meetings: We will be meeting the last Monday of every month. If you are interested in attending please email Tim Costigan: costigan@butterfield.com or leave him a message on his home phone: (416) 932-8648.

Issues: The issues that are on the agenda for this fall/winter session are:

Dogs: The City Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division has been working for over a year to create a new strategy regarding dogs in public parks. They've had input from the City Parks' people, By-law Officers, Animal Services, dog walkers, interested groups and veterinarians. At the core of this strategy is the fact that the City wants to facilitate the creation of peaceful co-existence between dog owners and people who use the public parks. New by-laws will focus on letting local community groups and residents determine the policy at the local parks.

After the by-law is passed, the City will work with local residents to create a group that represents the interest of all people in the local community to create the policy for the local park. We will help lead our community discussion.

Splash Pad: We are considering upgrades to the current wading pool to a) prolong its current life; and b) consider creating a splash pad.

Ice Rink: We want to get the historic outdoor ice rink working again at the park. The City provides a hose, instructions and a storage area. We need to provide the volunteers to make it work. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the daily maintenance. If you want to help, send an email to Chris Thomson: chris@christhompson.com

Picnic Benches: Two new picnic benches from the city have arrived. One is beside the tennis club and the other is by the wading pool.

Bulletin Board: A new community

bulletin board can be found on the club house. We are hoping to use it notify the community of events/issues that affect Moore Park.

Children's Equipment: a) Soccer nets – We are hoping to get new children's soccer nets in place for next spring. We want to work with the tennis club to see if we arrange a 'check-out' system so that any residents can use the nets.

b) We are considering other upgrades/ improvements to the current equipment to create a better park environment for the community.

Club House: We are most excited about the idea of getting the community to work together to try and renovate the current club house. We believe that by working together with the Tennis Club, the Lawn Bowling Club and the Residents' Association that we might be able to rejuvenate and upgrade the facility to make it a mini-community centre. We believe that higher usage of the centre would assist the membership drives of both clubs. Obviously any plans could only be done with the full co-operation and partnership

with the current clubs and in respect of their needs related to the space.

This project was delayed due to overall work on other Residents' Association issues. We hope to rekindle conversation and brainstorming this fall/winter.

Events: We would love to work together to try and create some fun community events in the park. This spring the Residents' Association helped host a great "Open House" with the Lawn Bowling club in the spring. This was a great success. We would love to consider a winter carnival event sometime in the New Year --- hopefully when there is a lot of snow and a working ice rink.

None of these things can happen without more help. I hope you can come out and join us on the last Monday of every month.

Tim Costigan, Park Committee



MAYORAL CANDIDATES DAVID MILLER AND JANE PITFIELD TO DISCUSS URBAN PLANNING

October 17, 2006 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

In the Auditoriumm at Upper Canada College Upper School, Laidlaw Hall, 200 Lonsdale Road

All FoNTRA member associations and residents who live within those geographic areas are invited to attend this meeting with mayoral candidates David Miller and Jane Pitfield. It is not the intention that this event be an all-candidates meeting, but rather a follow-up to earlier invitations to meet separately with the two candidates.

The format for the evening will include opening remarks by each candidate followed by a series of five FoNTRA-developed questions on planning and related development issues in Toronto. Time will be allocated for questions from the audience.

MOORE PARK RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION (MPRA) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 2006-2007

Special Offer: Join or renew now and validate your membership through the end of December 2007!

Name/Resident	t(s):			
Street Address	:			
- Ostai Oode				
Home Telephoi	ne:			
Email:				
Don	on and fees cover newsletters ations to futher our work are a	also accepted, howeve	r tax receipts cannot be	e issued.
Attached is my	cheque for annual membership (\$25):	_	
Attached is my	donation to the MPRA:		_	
I would like	copies of Historic Moore Park	@ \$10.00 each	_	
TOTAL:			_	
•	re committees comprised of inte f you are interested in joining or			_
	COMMITTEE	Wish to join	Wish to be contact	ed
	Parks			
	Trees/Ravines			
	Pests/Pesticides			
	City Planning			

Please send cheque payable to: Moore Park Residents' Association P.O. Box 25, 1531 Bayview Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M4G 4G8

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

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LTR/HMP	MEMB		

Police

Traffic Issues
Membership