

BE INSPIRED: SUPPORT ART CITY



For the past 15 years, Art City has offered young children in St. James Town opportunities to cultivate their creative powers. Art City's mission is to foster these skills with youth who do not always have access to an arts education because of economic and social barriers.

The organization's programs are provided free of charge, along with snacks, field trips and opportunities to work with Toronto-based artists.



Art City has demonstrated a remarkable ability to provide youth with a sense of agency - a sense that they have the power to build something themselves, and an enduring idea that they can be active, engaged, productive members of their community. Moreover, art education is proven to improve creativity, focus, academic performance and decision-making skills.

Despite these benefits, the organization has encountered major funding hurdles. It has therefore launched a campaign to raise \$25,000, seeking individual contributions of \$25 or more. SRRA is a long term Art City supporter and donor.

To view a video that demonstrates how Art City positively impacts the lives of children, and to donate,

visit www.artcitytoronto.ca and
click on **FUNDRAISING**.

Or contact Jared Peters, Executive Director,
at 416-944-0315 | artcitytoronto@gmail.com.

CITY TO CONSULT ON GLEN ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The City has initiated consultations on repairing or replacing the Glen Road Pedestrian Bridge.

An environmental assessment, to begin in mid-February, will review alternative solutions with input from area residents, community groups and the SRRA. The bridge, constructed in 1973 to replace a bridge originally built in 1929, was extensively repaired in 2001 and underwent emergency structural repairs in 2014-15.

The bridge is designated as a heritage property within the South Rosedale Heritage Conservation District.

More information about the consultations and community meetings will be provided by the City and SRRA.



View from the past:
A car almost falls off the Glen Road Bridge

EVERGREEN EXPLORING CABLE CAR LINK TO BRICKWORKS

Evergreen is exploring a proposal to expand access to the Brick Works with a cable car link to Broadview Avenue.

Bullwheel International Cable Car Corp., Evergreen's partner in the project, is meeting with community representatives, including SRRA, to discuss the proposal. The City's Economic Development Committee approved a motion last year to examine the project's feasibility and to identify the process and approvals required.

The SRRA will provide more information on the proposal and any future consultations as it becomes available.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

David M. Townley - President and Director
Alex L. Murray - Vice President and Director
Mary Lamon - Treasurer and Director
Gina S. Brannan - Secretary and Director

Jacqueline Allen, Director
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VISIT WWW.SOUTHROSEDALE.ORG FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SRRA
AND NEWS ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

WINTER
20
16



SOUTH ROSEDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Directors of the SRRA looks forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") to be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 18th in the Philpott Room at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, which will in turn be followed by an informal Reception, where members can meet the Association's Directors and Executive Officers.

In keeping with a long-standing tradition of inviting speakers to the AGM to present on informative, relevant and topical subjects of interest to the South Rosedale community, we are extremely pleased to announce that Claire Kilgour Hervey and Henry Wiercinski, Co-Founders of "Rail Safety First," will attend this year's AGM. They will speak to the unsafe rail transportation of oil and other hazardous goods through Canadian communities and the requirement for increased government regulation and associated enforcement. Given the proximity of the mid-town CPR rail line to Rosedale and the fact that the tank cars involved in the Lac Megantic, Quebec disaster actually travelled along this route, we as residents should have a significant interest in the issue. We are most grateful that they have agreed to address our 2015 AGM and look forward to an excellent presentation and subsequent discussion period.

The Association's Board is committed to providing the South Rosedale community with a strong voice relative to the area's unique position as one of Toronto's most desirable residential communities. SRRA Board members on a volunteer basis, provide hundreds of hours of service to follow developing issues and to ensure that voice is heard. I personally welcome the contact of residents who may have any concern as it relates to our neighbourhood and look forward to seeing you at this year's AGM.

David M. Townley, CPA, CA, CF
President



The 100th anniversary of the North Toronto Railway Station, now the Summerhill LCBO, was celebrated last fall. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam praised the achievement of Paul Oberman, the former CEO of Woodcliffe Landmark Properties, in bringing the decrepit building back to life. A time capsule with items offering a glimpse of the city a century ago, was found in the building's foundation shortly before the anniversary event. Congratulations to the LCBO and Woodcliffe!

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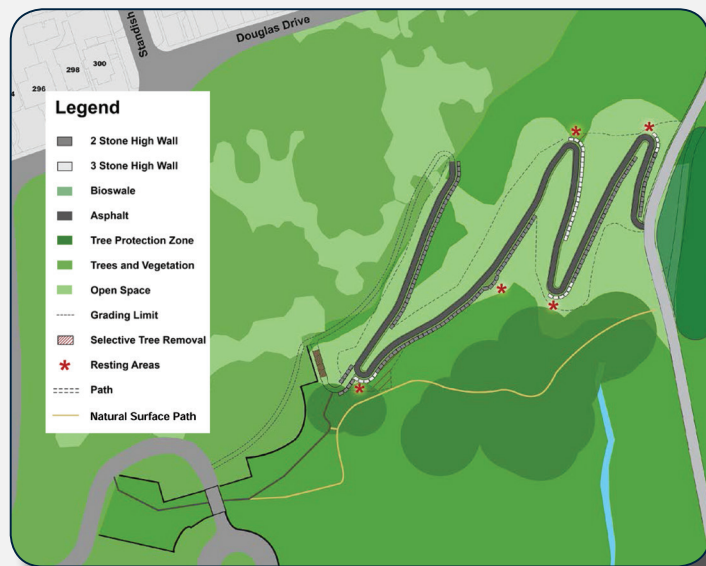
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CITY PRESENTS NEW CHORLEY PARK TRAIL CONCEPT

The City presented a “new Chorley Park Trail Connection Concept” in January. The revised concept came out of the Working Group process, which concluded in September, and a follow-up meeting between City staff and representatives of Friends of Chorley Park, SRRA and other residents’ associations in November.

The new trail concept is similar to the original May 2014 plan, but has been improved in various respects. The City says it cannot construct a path with a substantially reduced footprint because it must maximize accessibility, including for the disabled community.

The new trail concept has two components: A natural surface footpath for hiking in the forested area, similar to the existing foot trails; and an asphalt switchback with a gradual slope. The existing Chorley foot trails and wooden staircase in the forested area are to be eliminated.



Chorley Park Trail Connection Concept

The features of the asphalt switchback in the new trail concept are as follows:

- Starts at the northeast end of hilltop, near Astley Ave.
- Slope same as in the original plan – 6.1% average – to meet the City’s accessibility policy.
- Five rest areas, with seating where possible.
- Trail width of 2m (an improvement over the 3m width of the original plan).

- Retaining walls almost exclusively on the downward slope, where the City says they will be mostly hidden by vegetation (there were retaining walls along the entire upslope in the original plan).
- Fencing only where required by the Building Code, on about 15% of the trail (there was fencing along the entire trail in the original plan).
- Asphalt trail length of 375m (the original plan was 525m) – this is achieved by adding a “bioswale” at the bottom part of the Chorley hill and moving the Beltline Trail up onto it (without this change, the trail length would be about the same as in the original plan).
- Connection to the switchback entrance (at NE end of the hilltop) over the top of the park from the existing driveway to the start of the switchback.
- Steps near the iron staircase as a shortcut onto the switchback

The City will consider moving the hilltop start point to the southwest (as in the FOCF trail plan), closer to the iron fence. This would shorten the switchback, make the start point closer to the legacy driveway and eliminate the need for the staircase. The City will explore alternatives to armour stone for the retaining walls on the lower part of the hill, where they are more visible.

The City says it now plans to proceed with detailed design and construction in 2016/17.

For further information on the trail and/or contact details for City officials to voice concerns regarding the new concept, please contact SRRA Director Kathleen Hanly by email at info@southrosedale.org with the subject line “Chorley”.

More details and schematics for the new trail concept can be seen at www.toronto.ca/chorleytrail.

JOIN THE SRRA TODAY!

The South Rosedale Residents’ Association is your voice in your community.

The SRRA represents its members in development and planning issues, heritage preservation, parks and other matters impacting households and the community at large. Members receive regular updates on topical issues and community events in newsletters and emails, and on our website.

The annual membership fee is \$75 per household. Join today online at www.southrosedale.org – click on the membership link on the right hand side.

Or email us at: treasurer@southrosedale.org.

Government Pressed on Rail Safety Commitments



Organizations advocating

for improved rail safety are pressing the federal government to honour its commitments on the issue.

A Nov. 13, 2015 mandate letter issued by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Transport Minister Marc Garneau includes a “review of rail safety regulations.” This is consistent with the Sept. 18 response by Liberal Party President Anna Gainey to a request by Safe Rail Communities for details on the Liberals’ rail safety policy. Gainey stated:

“There is no question that it is the government’s responsibility to protect the safety of Canadians who travel on the rails, live near railway tracks, and those who operate railways... A Liberal government will prioritize Canadians’ public safety. We will increase government regulation and enforcement for the transportation of dangerous substances over rail and provide Transport Canada with the necessary funding and resources to hire and train an adequate number of dangerous goods and rail safety inspectors to ensure proper oversight of the rail industry.”

Safe Rail Communities and Rail Safety First, a national coalition of concerned citizens groups and resident associations to which SRRA belongs, are both working with the federal government to ensure its commitments are fulfilled. The groups’ concerns reflect the risks posed by the increasing volume of dangerous goods being transported through Canadian neighbourhoods, including Rosedale, by rail. Those risks came to the forefront with the 2013 Lac Mégantic disaster and subsequent explosions caused by derailments of tankers carrying highly flammable oil.

The sole CP track connecting Canada east-to-west traverses Rosedale. As such, unsafe oil by rail transportation poses a direct potential threat to South Rosedale residents, especially those living within 1 km of the tracks.

The issues – and proposed solutions – were highlighted at the SRRA Annual General Meeting on Feb. 18 in a presentation by Rail Safety First co-founders Claire Kilgour Hervey and Henry Wiercinski.

Zoning By-law Frustration and the City’s Inability to Respond Appropriately

Residents on Rosedale Road have been repeatedly annoyed by late night activities at a house adjacent to their properties where the owner has periodically rented the location as an “event location” or “party place” through the Airbnb.ca website.

Neighbours have been subjected to behaviours at all hours of the night which are very similar to those which might be otherwise found in the Entertainment District. While the writer will allow you to use your imagination, suffice it to say they are off the Richter scale as it relates to residential living in South Rosedale.

Despite repeated visits by Toronto Police, calls to 311 regarding noise complaints and the request of the local Councillor to take and/or direct decisive action by the City, the outcome has only been a single noise by-law charge against the property owner. This is currently before the Courts.

The Municipal Licensing & Standards Department and Councillor Wong-Tam’s office appear to be unable to respond and correct a situation which clearly is an illegal use of the property within a neighbourhood zoned residential.

Despite the appeals of both residents and the SRRA for assistance, the best that has been achieved is an acknowledgement that our frustration has been noted.

Similar to the licensed taxi/Uber debate, the City’s Legal Department is apparently wrestling with how to handle the situation noted above. This is in contrast to many condominium corporations where there are clear prohibitions to short term Airbnb rentals.

Clearly the system is being “played” and on behalf of those impacted neighbours, we can only hope for future relief as quickly as possible.

CALL FOR NEW SRRA DIRECTORS

The South Rosedale Residents’ Association (“SRRA”) seeks residents who are interested in serving the South Rosedale community to consider joining the organization’s Board of Directors.

New directors are required periodically to fill vacancies created by the expiry of current directors’ terms of service or changes in personal circumstances.

The SRRA protects and enhances the neighbourhood in several ways: real estate development matters; road and traffic issues; trees, parks and greenspaces; security and policing; and built heritage preservation under the neighbourhood’s Heritage District designation.

If you would like to get involved, please contact SRRA President David M. Townley at president@southrosedale.org.