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SOUTH ROSEDALE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a fabulous summer of sunshine, South Rosedale's canopy of colourful leaves falls from the trees as the seasons change.

Since our last newsletter, the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association (SRRA) has been active on many issues that could affect our neighbourhood.

I am particularly pleased to announce the re-launch of the SRRA website at www.southrosedale.org. After much hard work by SRRA Directors Yvonne Catty, Mary Lamon and Barb McGregor, the first phase of the website is up and running. The second phase, which will focus on South Rosedale's District Heritage Designation, will follow shortly. We trust that both SRRA members and South Rosedale residents will find the information on the website to be topical and informative. The website also provides residents with links to contact the Association directly.

Safety and security matters in the South Rosedale area continue to be foremost in the minds of residents. The Association is working closely with Toronto Police Services (TPS) to ensure the neighbourhood, and particularly the Glen Road footbridge, is adequately patrolled. Through the TPS, we seek to stay informed of individual and collective actions that will deter and prevent criminal activity.

I urge all South Rosedale Residents to get out and vote in the October 25th municipal elections. Toronto will elect a new Mayor, while South Rosedale looks to a new Ward 27 Councillor to replace the retiring Kyle Rae.

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. In that regard, Board members provide hundreds of hours of volunteer service to follow developing issues and to ensure that the Association's voice is heard. I personally welcome contact from you about any neighbourhood matters of concern.

In closing, the Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you at the SRRA's Annual General Meeting on November 17th.

David M. Townley, CA, CF
President



SRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SRRA's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 17th at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, 44 Price St.

Featured Speaker: Architect and award-winning heritage expert Catherine Nasmith will speak about South Rosedale's heritage district plan and living in a heritage conservation district (see p. 6 for more information).

The newly elected Ward 27 Councillor will also be invited to address the AGM.

The meeting will be followed by an informal reception where members can meet SRRA directors.

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Municipal Election Make sure you vote!!

On October 25, 2010, there will be a Municipal election where Torontonians will be asked to go to the polls and elect a new Mayor, Ward Councillor, and Ward School Trustee.

In Ward 27, our incumbent Councillor Kyle Rae has decided not to seek another term in office, so for the first time in over a decade, we will have a new Councillor representing our Ward.

At time of writing, no fewer than 17 candidates are competing for the position of Councillor in Ward 27. The SRRRA felt that with this many candidates running, it would be difficult for the SRRRA members to get a clear feeling of what these candidates were like and what they stood for in terms of their approach to the position.

During the Summer months, SRRRA Directors David Townley, Jon Venutti and Sheldon Hellin met with 7 of the candidates that were thought to be the most qualified contenders for our Ward. Our basis for selecting these particular candidates was based on an assessment of their campaign organization including establishment of a formal campaign office, preliminary fundraising and early media reaction.

In no particular order, the candidates we met with included: Kristyn Wong-Tam, Simon Wookey, Ken Chan, Joel Dick, Chris Tindal, Robert Meynell, Ella Rebanks.

On the evening of Thursday, September 16, 2010 there was a Candidates Debate held at the Rosedale United Church. Organized by the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association, the event included the above noted candidates and was well attended.

The candidates were first asked to respond to questions from the respective Ratepayer Association Presidents, and then were asked questions that were written in by the audience and asked by the Debate Moderator. The topics raised included city services, roads, public transit, fiscal responsibility, parks and bike lanes. In that regard, the question and answer forum provided an excellent opportunity to consider the strengths of the participating candidates.

Of note, when asked if they could work with Rob Ford if he became Mayor, they all responded positively that they could. At the conclusion of the meeting, they were asked, "Why should I vote for you?"

Their responses are summarized as follows:

Wookey: Roads, water and transit are his priorities. He insists that the city does *not* have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. He would work in a very transparent manner and would kill 'back room' deals.

Wong-Tam: She reviewed her credentials in response to the question, said she was a consensus builder and wants more affordable housing and to beautify the city.

Chan: He reviewed his credentials, says he loves the city and will make it a better place.

Dick: He will preserve and protect what is unique in the city and will invest in transit and affordable housing.

Tindal: He will represent the entire ward on an equal basis. He is not party affiliated and wants to restore confidence in the TTC and City Hall.

Meynell: He is a neighbor who wants to give back to the community. He has no party affiliations and will strive for fiscal responsibility, to build parks and build the TTC.

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Rebanks: She wants to be more responsible in how she conducts the affairs of Councillor and wants to reduce waste.

Another question that was relevant to our community was, "If elected what would you do about Jarvis Street"?

Wookey: Would reinstate centre car lane.

Wong-Tam: Would leave things status quo.

Chan: Would reinstate centre car lane and have police directing traffic during busy times.

Dick: Supports bike lanes and wants to install plaques and beautify Jarvis as per Kyle Rae's original idea.

Tindal: Supports bike lanes and complete streets.

Meynell: Would restore centre car lane.

Rebanks: Would restore centre car lane.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that the Ratepayers Associations are going to try to coordinate a Mayoralty Debate sometime prior to the election.

Do you know that Rosedale has one of the worst voter turnouts in the City? It's time to get out and vote for the candidate you want to represent our area.

By now all South Rosedale residents should have received the large black and white brochure from Elections Toronto outlining everything you need to know about voting. Please note in the brochure that there are new identification requirements.

If you are new to South Rosedale, or did not receive this brochure you can get all of the information you need at: www.toronto.ca/elections

Bougainvillea Planters Bring an Exotic Splash of Colour to Yonge Street



Flowers brighten up Yonge Street

New planters on Yonge Street, overflowing with glorious, over-the-top bougainvillea, made a great backdrop for shoppers, strollers and commuters this summer.

Planted by the Rosedale Main Street Business Improvement Association, the planters graced both sides of Yonge Street from Crescent Rd. to Woodlawn Ave. The plants were watered and shaped by caring and dedicated landscapers.

Congratulations and thanks to the Rosedale Main Street BIA!

People Plan Toronto: A Great Planning and Development Information Resource

For SRRA members interested in planning and development – how it does and doesn't get done – a great resource is available at www.peopleplantoronto.org. The website contains a wealth of information as well as blogs and a Facebook page where you can exchange ideas and comments on these processes.

Although some contributions are pragmatic and even technical, most never stray far from the recognition that planning is a political activity, and thus must be interwoven with the democratic political process. **So, take a look!**

Leaf Blowers: A Reminder for Gardeners

As a community that prides itself on our heritage, and is committed to environmental conservation, the residents of South Rosedale can make a difference to the air quality of our neighbourhood.

Most, if not all, lawn care companies use old, polluting gas-powered leaf blowers that contaminate our neighbourhood with noise and pollution.

If you use a lawn care company, why not make your dollars work for the environment and simply ask them not to use gas-powered leaf blowers at all.

Mayoral Candidates Debate Heritage Preservation in Toronto

In late August, six mayoral candidates were invited to a meeting in the historic Saint Lawrence Hall to present their views and policies on Toronto's heritage preservation system.

There was a standing-room-only crowd in the large, elegant ball room, which for many years was the National Ballet's major practice and teaching space. Two of your directors attended to get an overview of how our next mayor will approach the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and costs of conserving our built and landscape environment. For South Rosedale, this is particularly important because we live in one of Toronto's few Heritage Conservation Districts.

All of the candidates promised to strengthen the by-laws and regulations to prevent "demolition by neglect", a strategy employed by a few landlords to rid themselves of designated or listed buildings which, if replaced, might create greater revenue.

When confronted with the facts of a decline in the number and size of awards under The Toronto Heritage Grant Program, only George Smitherman seemed inclined to restore those depleted funds.

Most of the candidates stressed the importance of encouraging heritage conservation, though none promised to increase financial support. Indeed, Rob Ford hardly addressed heritage issues at all. Instead he repeatedly stressed the need to reduce taxes and fees.

The meeting's large turnout demonstrated that there are many voters who see heritage conservation as an important election issue. Especially significant is that the audience was not predominantly older; many appeared to be in their twenties and thirties. This augurs well for heritage preservation in Toronto.

Expanded information on heritage in South Rosedale will soon be available at www.southrosedale.org.

Faster, Greener Electronic Communications With South Rosedale Residents

To enhance the speed and reduce the cost and environmental impact of communicating with SRRA members and residents, the SRRA is expanding the use of e-mail communication.

Here are the sorts of e-mail communications that the SRRA would be sending out to its members:

- Our periodic newsletters;
- Notices of upcoming events or matters of interest to you;
- Replies to your e-mails to us; and
- E-mails relating to joining the SRRA or renewing your membership.

SRRA will not provide your e-mail address to anyone.

Please send an e-mail to treasurer@southrosedale.org to provide us with your e-mail address for our electronic mailing list.

If, at any time, you wish to remove your e-mail address from our mailing list, you can do so by sending an e-mail to info@southrosedale.org

Ancroft Place

Toronto has few 75-year old residential housing projects like Ancroft Place. The property was developed in 1926, in order to create housing from a large, old estate with a minimal frontage on the east side of North Sherbourne Street above Bloor Street.

Ancroft Place is comprised of 21 houses grouped into three blocks, with five dwellings facing Sherbourne Street, while the remaining 16 are on Ancroft Place, a side street close to the south edge of the property. The units vary in size and cleverly there exists a laneway leading to the back entrances and heated, private garages.



Ancroft Place

The architects for the complex, Shepard and Calvin of Toronto, succeeded brilliantly in creating an informal pattern of clustered residences in the English cottage style, where none looks directly into the windows of a near neighbour. While appearing as separate dwellings, the houses are in fact a single ownership. In 1973, the City of Toronto listed the entire property as a heritage site.

Over the past year there has been a change to this well-established residential grouping of charming rental units. The Ancroft Place property has been made available to purchase as condominium units through a conversion project being managed by Canlight Realty.

One benefit to the South Rosedale community of this conversion is the maintenance of the building in its current condition in perpetuity, something that will be supported by a condominium fund.

Thanks to Stephen Otto for his contribution to the historical background of this property, as taken from his book, East-West.

New "Route of Heroes" Passes Through South Rosedale



Route of Heroes sign on DVP

South Rosedale is on the path of a new ceremonial route in Toronto honouring Canada's fallen soldiers.

The new Route of Heroes, announced in June, is the final leg of the Highway of Heroes, which runs west along Highway 401 from CFB Trenton, where the remains of soldiers are repatriated to Canada.

The route runs south on the Don Valley Parkway ("DVP") to Bloor Street, west to Bay Street, then to the Coroner's Office downtown. It skirts the southern edge of South Rosedale along the exit road to Castle Frank Subway Station and along Bloor Street.

Directional signs from the DVP are now emblazoned with red poppies signifying the route and paying permanent tribute to Canadian soldiers who have lost their lives abroad. Special street signs inscribed with "Route of Heroes" mark the path on City streets.

Crowds have lined Highway 401 overpasses since 2002 to pay their respects to fallen soldiers returned from Afghanistan.



Road sign on Route of Heroes

SRRA UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association is pleased to present a new and redesigned website. Building on the previous community interest in our original website, the new website features a contemporary layout with improved navigation, features and content. We hope it provides all of our members with meaningful information throughout the year.

Visit the SRRA website at <http://www.southrosedale.org>

Summer Forestry Project Puts More Trees in the Ground

A Summer forestry project spearheaded by the SRRA has helped to fill gaps in South Rosedale's tree canopy.

The Association hired a forestry student to survey the neighbourhood and to encourage residents to fill identified gaps with new trees. The student, Sean MacDonald, also identified "hazard" trees requiring removal or pruning, especially when they were found to be unsafe.

The survey identified and recorded numerous potential planting sites on public rights of way and private properties. This provided a baseline inventory for follow-up and future tree planting projects.



More trees in South Rosedale

More than 30 hazard trees were found on rights of way, and notification was sent to the City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation department requesting removal or pruning.

The next phase of the project was to go door-to-door during evenings and weekends to promote tree plantings on private and adjoining public lands. Sean provided information and advice to South Rosedale residents, and obtained signed City permission forms to plant 35 trees on rights of way at various locations. He also obtained many "warm leads" for follow-up. Notably, only two homeowners declined trees outright.

Sean also provided information, including brochures and additional assistance from the organization LEAF (www.yourleaf.org) for private property plantings.

At least one attempt was made to meet with each homeowner at all potential planting sites identified in the survey. As few residents were at home during the G20 Summit and then summer vacations, a decision was made to defer further door-to-door visits until residents returned.

The project continues the process of closing gaps in South Rosedale's street tree canopy while encouraging residents to keep our area green and maintain its historic beauty.

Evergreen Brick Works Grand Opening

As part of the Community Advisory Board, the SRRA had the pleasure of attending a private tour of the Evergreen Brick Works facility ahead of the Sept. 25-26 grand opening.

Anyone who visits the site will see impressive progress. However, even after the opening events, work will continue on what may be an "ever-evolving" facility.

If you have had the benefit of enjoying the Saturday farmers market at the Brick Works, you will know that there is lots to see, taste and experience. It's not only the spectacular fries created by son of famous chef Susur Lee, but also a garden centre and market for meat and local produce, a children's craft and activities centre, and much more.

With the unveiling of what is being called the "international centre", Evergreen will have a nearly-completed multipurpose building. It will house not-for-profit businesses, learning rooms for children that will also be used for the camp piloted this past summer, as well as a visitors' centre.

As construction progresses, interest is building among many groups who envision using the site for festivals and other entertainment. The space itself is massive, as is its potential.

Please see below for some dates of interest at this urban facility or visit their website at:

<http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/calendar/all-events>

- Oct 21st: **Movie Night** – come join Evergreen under the stars for a movie and some healthy treats, 6:00 PM.
- Oct 21st: **Canning Workshops** with: Chef Emerie Brine from Bernardin, 6:30 – 8:30PM. \$50
- **THE** (Technology, Health and Environment) speaker Series- Evergreen will be hosting a variety of speakers looking to investigate various issues
- Dec 18th: **Skating Rink Grand Opening**



Welcome to Evergreen Brick Works

Built Heritage Expert Catherine Nasmith to Speak at AGM



Architect Catherine Nasmith, a leading expert on built heritage, will be the featured speaker at this year's SRRRA Annual General Meeting.

Catherine, President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and a past chair of the Toronto Preservation Board, will describe what it means to live in a Heritage

Conservation District in Toronto. Her remarks will focus on the special characteristics of South Rosedale's heritage district plan.

A specialist in heritage research and restoration, heritage conservation district planning as well as urban design and custom residences, Catherine is a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her work in support of Ontario's heritage. In 2005 the Ontario Association of Architects awarded her the Order of da Vinci Medal for service to the community and the profession.

Safety & Security

The safety and security of South Rosedale residents remains foremost in the minds of the Board of Directors of SRRRA.

This Summer, the focus of the Board was the Glen Road Pedestrian Bridge. The bridge extends from the south end of Glen Road, over the Rosedale Valley ravine to Bloor Street and the Sherbourne Subway Station. A number of residents had complained that the bridge was the scene of choice for those participating in drug dealing. It was also feared that the bridge was serving as a conduit for those intent upon stealing property in South Rosedale, often to fund the drug deals being transacted on and in the vicinity of the bridge.

The Board has had extensive contact with members of 53 Division of Toronto Police Services on the issues pertaining to the bridge and a formal complaint was filed by the SRRRA with the Division. As a result, police presence on and around the bridge has increased dramatically, and the bridge is definitely on the police radar. Police Services has added additional bicycle patrols, during the daylight hours, and has scheduled more frequent patrolling at each end of the bridge after dark. A request has been made by Police Services to the City for improved lighting at the tunnel at the south end of the bridge and for new lighting at the north end. A member of 53 Division reports to a SRRRA Board member on police deployment on a regular basis. The Board will monitor these efforts and will look for other ways to deter and control criminal activity around the bridge and the use of the bridge by those considering theft from our homes and vehicles.

Meanwhile, Toronto Police Services records far fewer reported break-and-enters in South Rosedale. We are reminded by Police Services to report all break-ins, attempts and suspicious activity. The police can react only to what is brought to their attention.

A member of the SRRRA Board has joined the Community Police Liaison Committee ("CPLC") hosted by 53 Division. The CPLC is comprised of leadership within the Division and by a representative of each of the residents' groups within the Division. The Committee meets at least quarterly, and more frequently through its subcommittees. The Committee affords a sharing of information, issues, concerns and initiatives among Police Services and the community. Please contact the Board with any question or concern you wish to be put to the Committee or to Police Services.



Glen Road Bridge in South Rosedale

The Board is considering methods by which it may further assure more consistent enforcement presence in our community. Your suggestions as to how the SRRRA could support Police Services and accommodate improved safety and security in our neighbourhood would be most welcome. Click on "Safety & Security" on the "Initiatives" page on the SRRRA website at www.southrosedale.org.

Toronto Police Services offers a new notification program, called TPS Links, by which information may be transmitted to the public in an effective manner. Users of the program are alerted about evacuations, emergencies, missing persons and safety issues and may receive direction about these and other occurrences, like road closures or community events. For more particulars and to register for the program, please access the Toronto Police Services website at www.torontopolice.on.ca and click on the TPSlinks icon. Hardcopy registration forms are available at 53 Division offices on Eglinton Avenue at Duplex.



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