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SOUTH ROSEDALE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



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City Fast-Tracks Jarvis Street Bike Lanes



The City will proceed with plans to add bike lanes to Jarvis Street and reduce the number of vehicle lanes from five to four.

The bike lanes have been approved without additional environmental assessment or public input.

The project was approved despite opposition from many residents and community organizations, including SRRA.

President's Message

South Rosedale, like the rest of Toronto, experienced a very "dry" winter through most of January and February. Up to press time for this newsletter, we are fortunate not to have been faced with the significant snow removal issues of prior years.

Since the date of our Annual General Meeting in November 2009, the South Rosedale Ratepayer's Association ("SRRA" or the "Association") continues to be active on many issues that have the potential of impacting our neighbourhood. These include development/redevelopment matters including those with heritage implications, continued focus on our urban forestry strategy as it relates to South Rosedale's tree canopy, as well as the redevelopment and relaunch of the SRRA website with improved user functionality.

The 2010 year is shaping up to be a political one, particularly at the municipal level. Our own City Councillor Kyle Rae has announced his intended retirement, leaving that position open and of course, Mayor David Miller will not be seeking re-election. It will be inter-

esting to see what prospective candidates surface and how they develop their platforms and proposed solutions for Toronto's not insignificant financial and service issues as we approach the October election date.

The SRRA 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, SRRA Board members provide hundreds of hours of service on a volunteer basis to follow developing community issues and to ensure that our voice is heard at all levels of government, but most importantly, the City of Toronto. I would encourage all current SRRA members to renew their annual membership, which occurs coincident with the distribution of this Newsletter, as well as South Rosedale residents who may not currently be members of the SRRA, to consider joining the Association. Combined with hard work, your continued financial support and participation is crucial to the continued effectiveness of the SRRA.

David M. Townley, CA, CF
President

Councillor Kyle Rae an Ally to South Rosedale

On December 12, 2009, Councillor Kyle Rae announced that he would not seek re-election in the 2010 municipal election for the position of City Councillor in Ward 27-Toronto Centre-Rosedale which includes South Rosedale.

Kyle was first elected in 1991 and has been re-elected or acclaimed (2000) in subsequent municipal elections, thus serving the South Rosedale community for 19 years.

When first elected, it was initially believed that Kyle would focus his time and energy on that portion of the Ward located south of Bloor Street which presents not only a larger constituency, but also one facing and dealing with significant economic and social issues.

In fact, Kyle has provided an effective and



“...Kyle has provided an effective and sincere interest in not only South Rosedale, but all of Rosedale and has been a champion for established, low-density neighbourhoods”

sincere interest in not only South Rosedale, but all of Rosedale and has been a champion for established, low-density neighbourhoods. This is particularly evident in his assistance, determination and leadership in seeing South Rosedale designated as a

Heritage Conservation District which he led through his key membership on Toronto's Heritage Preservation Board.

While many have said of Kyle “that he never met a developer he didn't like”, he has in fact been entirely sensitive to development as it relates to South Rosedale, particularly large scale developments. Kyle has recognized that the City's new Official

Plan calls for not only the protection of neighbourhoods, but also the creation of new, high density communities with quality urban design where appropriate. Projects such as the development of the Summerhill Railway Lands, 18 Yorkville Avenue, the Four Seasons Hotel complex and the National Ballet/Radio City development have shown that great and functional urban design can be created as a result of community working groups.

Kyle has also been a champion of parkland, a key fabric of this City and South Rosedale. During his term as Councillor, he has been directly responsible for the creation of over 10 acres of new green and open space. One of his most recent initiatives has been to work with the TTC and adjoining ratepayers groups to see the open space (the bus turning loop) in front of the Rosedale Subway Station become a park addition to the existing Bud Sugarman Park. While still having working-group status, Kyle has been instrumental in developing a

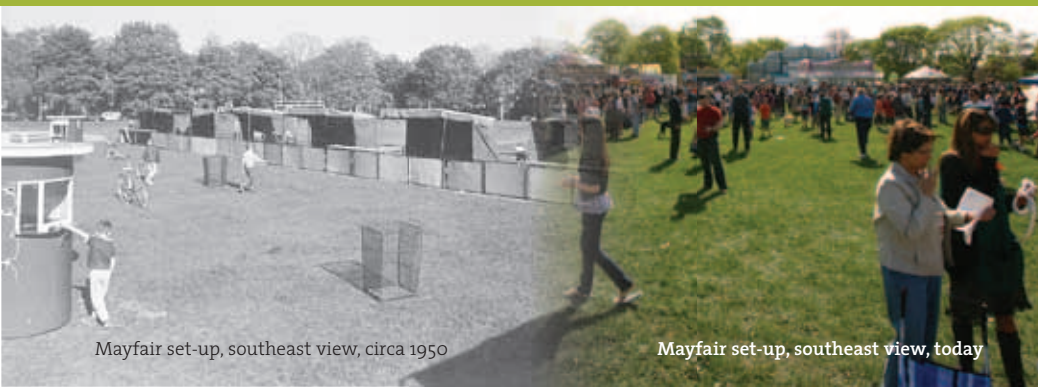


common focus in what might otherwise be divergent stakeholders.

In the larger City picture, Kyle as Chair of the Economic Development and Culture Committee has brought his signature commitment to promoting Toronto's investment opportunities at an international level to identify and enhance Toronto's creative industry sector.

Kyle is one of Canada's leading gay rights advocates and in that regard, he has been instrumental in ensuring that City Council's policies reflect the diverse needs of Toronto's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Kyle has been at the forefront of equality debates in Canada, including same-sex partner benefits, the right of partners to receive pension benefits, the right for same-sex marriage and the continuing fight against HIV/AIDS.

While October 2010 is some time away, South Rosedale (and the entire City of Toronto) will miss him when he is no longer our Councillor. We have been extremely fortunate for his hard work, leadership and commitment to our community and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. His replacement as Councillor will have very large shoes to fill.



Mayfair set-up, southeast view, circa 1950

Mayfair set-up, southeast view, today

Mayfair – 1000 Volunteers Build Community Spirit

Mayfair in Rosedale Park is always one of the first signs of spring. It is also one of the neighbourhood's oldest traditions, with the first Mayfair having been held in 1946. That year, the fair was a homespun event, featuring costumes, music, dancing, a flea market, and tents with games and home baking. Each year, the event gets bigger and brasher, but at its core, Mayfair is still a neighbourhood celebration, put on thanks to the hard work of an incredible number of hard-working and loyal volunteers!

While Mayfair may be known for big carnival rides, midway games and the beer garden, the event is also the primary fundraising vehicle for an important local registered charity. The funds raised at Mayfair contribute significantly to the capital repairs and improvements of Mooredale House, the home of Rosedale's non-profit community centre. The house, at 146 Crescent Road, was built in 1902 by architects Sproatt and Rolph as a residence for Frank W. Baillie. The property was later expropriated as part of the Mount Pleasant Road extension, and the elegant house and outbuildings were in danger of demolition. Fortunately, they were taken over by the local area in the late 1940s and turned into a hub of the community.

Today, the Rosedale – Moore Park Association, which makes Mooredale House its home, has 8,000 members and offers a wide range of children's sports, creative programs, adult

activities, pool, sailing and tennis clubs, and a full range of licensed early childhood education programs. The extent to which generations of local residents have participated in Mooredale programs helps explain how Mayfair is able to draw on the support of around 1,000 volunteers each year. In the process, Mayfair has become an expression of community, shared by longer-term and newer residents alike.

With a nod to the Olympics recently hosted in Vancouver, this year's Mayfair will be a

celebration of sports: "Mayfair 2010 – Get in the Game!" On Saturday, May 8th, Rosedale Park will be filled with residents proudly wearing team jerseys, enjoying appearances by sports celebrities, trying out

new rides and attractions, as well as visiting the old favourites... some of today's parents might even recognize the old Fish Pond as the very same game they were taken to as children!

The Chair of Mayfair this year is Joanne Pauli and she warmly invites SRRRA members who have photos or memorabilia from the early days of Mayfair to share them with the Mayfair Committee and the Mooredale archives. Please contact her at joanne.pauli@rogers.com or through the Mooredale office at 416-922-3714, ext. 103.

If you have never visited Mayfair before, please join the party this year. You will be sure to meet friends and neighbours and renew old acquaintances.

"Mayfair 2010 – Get in the Game!" On Saturday, May 8th..."

Ward 27 Toronto Centre - Rosedale 2010 Marks Change at Three Levels of Government

As noted in the recent press and for all who have seen the lawn signs, our local MPP, George Smitherman, officially stepped down from his provincial seat in order to focus his attention on the Toronto mayoral race. In doing so, he created an opportunity for several candidates to place their names on the ballot of the by-election held on February 4, 2010. Glen Murray, former Mayor of Winnipeg, Head of the Canadian Urban Institute, and a promising city builder won the seat. We look forward to hearing more from him.

Kyle Rae announced his decision to leave municipal politics in December and in doing so would not stand for reelection as City Councillor (see additional article in this Newsletter).

As of this date, the following candidates have announced their intention to run for the position of Councillor in Ward 27 in the October 2010 municipal election:

- Susan Gapka
- Chris Tindal
- Enza Anderson
- Paul Spence
- Simon Wookey
- Ken Chan.

We encourage all residents of our South Rosedale community to take the time to inform themselves as to the platforms and interests of these candidates as the daily lives of SRRRA members are in many ways most affected by municipal politics and associated decision-making in matters of traffic, intensification, municipal services, development, by-law enforcement and police services.

Add to the mix a change of Mayor with a very exciting slate of candidates already declared, and surely more to add their names. We look forward to learning more of the policies and platforms of these candidates. Former MPP George Smitherman has been identified as the early leader and the residents of Toronto Center – Rosedale are already familiar with his track record, unlike that of Rocco Rossi, Georgio Mammoliti, or Joe Pantalone. We look forward to hearing their positions on the many critical issues facing Toronto over the coming years.

Three Storey Houses Threatened by New Zoning By-Law

After amalgamation, Toronto City Council ordered City Planning Staff to consolidate the zoning by-laws of all six municipalities. This consolidation process is just now being completed.

'Consolidated' can mean harmonious, uniform, homogenous, consistent, rigid, and cookie cutter. One of the consistencies that emerged was that the two-storey house with attic would become the default detached house form for the City. Any application to build a new house and/or renovate an existing one with three floors would now be required to apply to the Committee of Adjustment for a Minor Variance.

The City Planning Staff recently recognized through concerns raised by the SRRA and others, that a by-law with this intent was inconsistent with the existing built form of both North and South Rosedale. Through Councillor Kyle Rae's office, they informed the respective ratepayers associations that the concern had been acknowledged and invited them to a discussion of this and some related matters.

On behalf of the SRRA, Alex Murray and David Townley met on January 8, 2010 with Joe D'Abramo, Director of Zoning and Environmental Planning for the City, his staff, Mark Wilson of Councillor Rae's office, and Jan Ruby, Director and Vice President of the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association.

Out of the meeting came agreement that the proposed by-law should permit three-storey houses with a peaked roof, but not permit three-storey houses with a flat roof in North and South Rosedale. The specific details still have to be nailed down through a continuing consultative process. SRRA will keep members informed of those details as they become available.



The story of a young Upper Canada was written in its taverns. Everything that mattered in life was conducted within the walls of local hostleries: post offices, political meetings, even school lessons and church services.

The traditional tavern was a place to gather and exchange news, catch up with neighbours, meet travelers, enjoy an honest meal and quench an outdoor thirst. And it was, in our neck of the woods, a place to plot revolution.

A gathering of farmers and firebrands at Montgomery's Tavern in 1837 marched into history as the "Upper Canada Rebellion". Virtually unarmed and seriously outnumbered, the rebels faced the King's forces, led by Sheriff Jarvis, in several battles on Yonge Street between Eglinton Avenue and Bloor Street. Some paid with

their lives, sentenced to hanging from the gallows at the old Court House at present-day King and Jarvis Streets.

The Rebel House, one of our neighbourhood watering holes and a place of cheer for the South Rosedale community for over 20 years, is named in honour of the spirit and independence of these pioneer fighters.

Like the taverns of old, The Rebel House offers its patrons a place to meet neighbours and newcomers in a relaxed and clubby setting. Since its opening, people have organized their own teams and leagues in The Rebel House: men's and women's hockey, baseball, darts, Trivial Pursuit, bridge, golf, even crokinole and cricket to name a few.

While based on honest farmhouse cooking of the past, the menu also acknowledges today's tastes. The owners have reinterpreted tradi-

tional recipes from historical sources to appeal to the modern palate and reflect current nutritional values.

But it is perhaps on the liquid side that The Rebel House has lived up to its name. As a point of some pride, they patriotically serve only Ontario microbreweries on tap and Canadian beer and ale in bottles. They are also building their wine cellar to reflect the increasing prestige garnered by Ontario vintners.

The Rebel House has a fine tradition of reflecting the heritage of the street, and the conflicts and excitement that brewed on the very street many years ago.

Thanks to Dave Logan and Bruce Roberts, the original and current proprietors, for supplying info on this local gem and welcoming South Rosedale patrons for generations to this establishment.

Evergreen Brick Works was named as one of the eight finalists at the American National Geographic Geotourism Challenge for 2009. They competed against 600 other entries from around the world.



Rosedale Subway Station Greenspace and Bud Sugarman Park Redevelopment Strategy



The City of Toronto, in partnership with the Toronto Transit Commission (“TTC”) and the Crosstown Parks Association (of which the SRRA is a member), is currently studying the feasibility of expanding the greenspace which exists in front of the existing TTC station, incorporating the Rosedale Subway Station Bus Loop Area. The goal would be to create an expanded and continuous park along the east side of Yonge Street and Aylmer Avenue and Crescent Road, and enhance the area across the road in Ramsden Park, to create a newly conceptualized and contiguous greenspace, at one of the main street entrances into South Rosedale, representing the only place on Yonge Street that is flanked by greenspace on both sides between Lake Ontario and York Mills.

“The success of this project would be to permanently “green” an area which has long been considered as a potential development site...”

In that regard, the City under the auspices of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department, hosted a design workshop and public consultation on Monday, February 22, 2010 between 7:00 and 9:30 PM at the Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Auditorium, 789 Yonge Street.

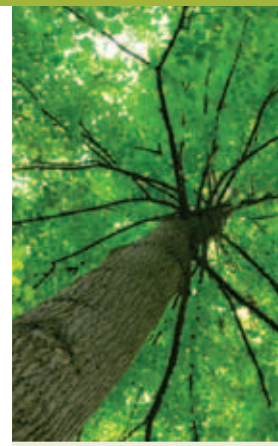
The workshop explored design possibilities for the expanded park and included presentations to review the background for the site, and group discussion. This included views on optimization of the site, the Rosedale Subway Station site, and exploring the historical, natural, and heritage context of this important zone of Yonge Street.

The ultimate intent of this is to assist the City in providing the design parameters for a request for proposals.

The success of this project would be to permanently “green” an area which has long been considered as a potential development site where on at least two occasions, the surrounding community including South Rosedale has successfully defeated significant building proposals.

The building proposals were rejected due to the potential elimination of the open space (designated in Toronto’s Official Plan), and built over the Rosedale Subway Station, one of the original unadulterated examples of John Parkin’s modern design.

The SRRA through its membership in the Crosstown Parks Association is taking an active and initiating role in this project and will keep the South Rosedale community updated as to next steps.



SRRA to Build on Forest Canopy Program

The SRRA is set to launch a new initiative to protect and enhance South Rosedale’s forest canopy.

Good progress has been made in the canopy program over the past few years, however, more needs to be done to fill new gaps in the forest cover as older trees die.

With that in mind, the Association is now seeking to retain a graduate forestry student for the Spring. The student would conduct a new, detailed street-by-street survey of South Rosedale’s canopy. This would identify new gaps on both public and private properties.

The student would then contact homeowners to seek permission for the City to plant trees on public lands adjoining their properties. Plantings on private lands will also be encouraged in association with LEAF, a non-profit organization that provides tree planting services and education programs to homeowners.

This follows a campaign last fall in which SRRA contacted South Rosedale homeowners, urging them to allow the planting of new canopy trees on adjoining boulevards and public rights of way. The targeted properties were identified in a 2007 area tree survey, conducted for SRRA by the City Forestry Department, to identify gaps in the canopy.

Those efforts have produced numerous plantings. However, with so many of the area’s mature trees at, or near the end of their lives, the need for additional action grows.

In the meantime, the SRRA continues to encourage residents to contact the City directly for a free tree (for boulevards and rights of way) at: www.toronto.ca/trees/pdfs/FreeTree_Final.pdf or (416) 338-TREE (8733).

For plantings on private residential properties, LEAF can be contacted at www.leafortoronto.org or 416-413-9244.

Continued action will help not only to protect South Rosedale’s forest cover, but to maintain the unique character of our area.

Zero Pollution

South Rosedale Leading by Education and Example

Waiting for Spring in South Rosedale: Waiting for tulips and forsythia, robins and blue jays, sunshine and leaf blowers. Leaf blowers? Yes, those machines with their ear piercing noise, foul smell of burning gasoline and oil, and clouds of dust and debris. Leaf blowers will be back in South Rosedale from Spring until Fall.

Leaf blowers can be gasoline or electric powered. Gas-powered units are almost exclusively two-stroke engines mostly used by professional landscapers. They contribute to noise and air pollution with effects on human health and the environment.

More and more jurisdictions are banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers altogether. Currently, Toronto is consulting with homeowners and landscapers on banning the use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment. Their final report is due in April 2010. For more information, or to submit your ideas go to:

www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/2strokes/index.htm

Take action

As a community that prides itself in our heritage, and is committed to environmental conservation, the residents of South Rosedale can make a difference to the air quality of our neighbourhood and set an example for our City. Most, if not all, of our lawn care companies use old, polluting gas-powered blowers that contaminate our neighbourhood. Why not make our lawn care dollars work for the environment and simply ask our landscaping and maintenance contractors not to use gas-powered leaf blowers at all. We hope that lawn companies will join with us in preserving our air quality in South Rosedale. Working together, we can make it happen.

For those who cannot contemplate gardening without a leaf blower, electric models are considerably cheaper, quieter and far less polluting than gas-powered. A review in Consumer Reports (September, 2007) said that the electric-powered models are more powerful than most handheld gas-powered leaf blowers, are lighter, quieter, and clean-running.

The City of Toronto is taking the lead to green its own operations. You can help by retiring your old two-stroke gas mower, trimmer, leaf blower or chainsaw. Just bring your equipment to a Community Environment Day and the City will take it off your hands to dismantle and recycle. For more information go to:

www.toronto.ca/environment_days/cutitout.htm

Community Associations have a Province-Wide Organization

The South Rosedale Ratepayers Association is an active member of the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (Ontario) (F.U.N.). Founded in 2001, F.U.N. is an important resource for community associations like SRRA and represents them on key, shared issues.

The objectives of F.U.N. are to promote awareness of urban issues, enhance the quality of life for urban residents, establish a resource base for information, share expertise, represent the common interests of member organizations before public and private bodies, and encourage citizens to actively participate in and become informed about community and civic affairs.

Local associations deal with complex issues every day, including housing, transportation, industrial and economic development, land use planning, zoning bylaws, the environment, health care, taxation and more.

According to Gloria McGinn-McTeer, first President of the Federation, "The new governance environment resulting in municipalities being granted more responsibility and powers affects neighbourhoods in an ever-widening manner. The learning curve for new community associations is very steep. It's critical we

support each other and spend our most valuable resource - time - encouraging an imaginative but hardheaded form of civic participation rather than each group re-inventing the wheel."

F.U.N. provides an organizational structure to ensure the voices of local residents are heard by all levels of government. Issues that F.U.N. has lobbied for include changes to the Ontario Municipal Board, improvements in the Municipal Elections Act, legislation to ban SLAPP's (strategic lawsuits against citizen participation), the elimination of corporate and trade union

contributions to candidates at the provincial and municipal government levels, environmental, forest and watershed protection, public transportation improvements and the protection of farm land.

William Phillips, representing the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association, recently completed a four-year term as F.U.N.'s president. F.U.N.'s current membership includes more than 60 community organizations from Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Milton, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Waterloo.

For more information, visit F.U.N.'s website at www.urbanneighbourhoods.ca.



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