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SOUTH ROSEDALE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the date of our Annual General Meeting in November 2010, 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, as well as the redevelopment and re-launch of the SRRA website with improved user functionality. In that regard, I am pleased to announce that the website at [www.southrosedale.org](http://www.southrosedale.org) is now fully functional including the heritage information component as it relates to South Rosedale.

Additionally, the SRRA continues to:

- Focus on improving the environment; including the coordination of tree planting, financially supporting the improvement of the Rosedale Park Playground and providing input into the creation of new park space at the Rosedale Subway Station.
- Lead neighbourhood and ravine clean-up initiatives.
- Follow policing and security issues including the improvement of pedestrian safety on the Glen Road Footbridge through increased police presence and improved lighting.
- Monitor roads and traffic conditions.
- Carefully watch the proposed North St. Jamestown Re-development Project and potential implications it may have over the Rosedale Valley Road Ravine and South Rosedale.

In these and other issues relevant to our community, the SRRA Board of Directors communicates, consults and acts to represent South Rosedale's interests to City Council and City Staff through the offices of Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam as well as MPP Glen Murray where appropriate.

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. SRRA Board members on a volunteer basis, provide hundreds of hours of service 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 Spring 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



The early spring freeze-thaw cycle recently turned the ground around this huge oak in Craighigh Gardens into a skating rink.

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## Rosedale Park Playground Renewal Project Update



We are pleased to report that the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association ("NRRA") achieved an outstanding response to the fund-raising activities related to the Rosedale Park Playground Renewal Project and in that regard, raised over \$500,000 by the December 31, 2010 funding deadline, thus ensuring construction in 2011.

Included in the funds noted above was the contribution of \$25,000 by the SRRA in recognition of Rosedale Park's benefits and usage by all residents of Rosedale including South Rosedale.

The Project represents an ambitious initiative by the NRRA to create an exciting new play environment for children of all ages, as well as their parents and caregivers in Rosedale's major recreational park.

The design of the new Playground is in its final stages and with the requisite City approvals in place, it is anticipated that a ground-breaking event will occur in the Spring. Actual construction should commence in June with completion projected for the Fall of 2011.

## Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam: A New Representative at City Hall for South Rosedale



On October 25, 2010, Kristyn Wong-Tam won the closely-contested race to represent South Rosedale and Ward 27 as Councillor. Capturing 28.3% of Toronto Centre-Rosedale's vote, Ms. Wong-Tam took the office occupied for the previous 18 years by Kyle Rae.

Originally born in Hong Kong, Kristyn immigrated to Canada as a young child with her parents and settled in Toronto.

Growing up in Toronto, Kristyn has become a tireless community advocate and has championed the expansion of parks and green spaces, farmers markets and community gardens. She has also led efforts to improve the rights of tenants and the standards of rental housing.

Of particular note are her interests in the preservation and protection of heritage buildings and historical landscapes.

Prior to her election as Councillor for Ward 27, Kristyn had achieved considerable business success as a real estate professional, as a small business owner and as a principal in a contemporary fine art gallery, the XEXE Gallery on Richmond Street West.

While this City awaits changes under our new Mayor Rob Ford, we will look to our new Councillor for leadership and responsiveness to the needs of Ward 27, one of the most socially diverse and active areas in the entire city.

We look forward to working closely with Kristyn and her office, and developing the same sort of strong relationship we had enjoyed with her predecessor, Kyle Rae.

## MAYFAIR, May 14, 2011



Considered **the** date of the year as far as children are concerned, this year's Mayfair is to be held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Rosedale Park.

This year's theme is "**Mayfair in Space**" so get out the tinfoil, put on those Dr. Spock ears and look out for aliens, astronauts and Buzz Lightyear !

Mayfair has taken place annually in Rosedale Park since 1946. Commencing with a parade which collects Rosedale and Moorepark children along the way, things kick off at the Park at 9:00 AM sharp.

Mayfair is an all-day event with midway rides for all ages, games and prizes, races, bingo, home baking, a climbing wall, a marketplace of treasures, an art tent, face painting, live bands, the Steam Whistle Brewery Beer Garden and great food at the Food Court.

In addition, this year there will be a "Mayfair's Eve Preview" on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM which will let families come out for an early taste of Saturday's main event. The Preview will allow adults and families to visit Rosedale Park on Friday evening to check out the rides and have some barbecued food and a drink.

**Admission to Rosedale Park:** Free.

**Ride Bracelets:** May be purchased in advance at Mooredale House or Summerhill Market for unlimited rides on Friday and Saturday.

**Tickets:** On sale in Rosedale Park for rides, games, food and drink.

Mayfair could not happen without 1,000 volunteers to make it possible. If you would like to help out, please contact the Volunteer Hotline at (416) 922-3714 Ext 310 or email the Volunteer Liaison, Jalyn Anderson at: [volunteer@mooredale.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@mooredale.on.ca)

## **Assistance to Those in Need: SRRRA Donation to Wellesley Street East Fire Victims**

Last September 24th, hundreds of assisted-housing tenants were forced out of their residences as a result of a major fire in an apartment building at 200 Wellesley Street East, between Sherbourne and Parliament Streets. All of the displaced residents were economically disadvantaged and many were also impacted by physical and mental handicaps. While they were deprived of their homes, those affected were given temporary shelter in the Wellesley Street Community Centre on Sherbourne Street and thereafter in other interim accommodation. This displacement from their homes would ultimately impact over 1200 residents for a number of months during the remediation/renovation process.

In response to a public plea for aid, your South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association Board donated \$5,000.00 toward the purchase of food for those displaced by the fire. At our request, the local Food Basics store on Wellesley Street discounted the SRRRA food order by 5%, resulting in an extra \$250.00 worth of canned meat and fish, bread, rice, soup and frozen fruit and vegetables as part of our donation on behalf of South Rosedale residents. The Yonge Street Mission took delivery of the food, served meals and distributed food to the dislodged residents.

The Board then contacted a number of other food suppliers in an effort to enhance the food supply for the fire victims. Smucker Foods of Canada Co. responded to our request in a significant way. Smuckers donated two tractor-trailer loads of its Europe's Best brand of frozen fruits and vegetables. Each trailerload comprised over 1,700 cases, with each case containing 12 bags of food product providing approximately 4 servings per bag. In total, the Smucker's donation presented the residents with close to 170,000 servings of fruit and vegetables. The deliveries were split between Yonge Street Mission and Daily Bread Food Bank, each of which attended to the needs of the residents.

In addition, Uncle Ben's, a division of Mars Canada, donated a 4 cubic foot palette of instant rice products. Although the specific number of servings was not available, one can imagine how many mouths that volume of rice could feed. Mars was kind enough to add a number of chocolate gifts to the donation, to help brighten the circumstances of the displaced.

The SRRRA Board is of the view that lending assistance to those in need is a responsibility within its mandate and the expectations of its constituents. Accordingly, the Board intends to remain active in the area of the promotion of the donation of food to established collection and distribution organizations in Toronto, particularly those that serve the less fortunate neighbourhoods in close proximity to South Rosedale. In that spirit, we encourage residents of South Rosedale to give generously to Yonge Street Mission and the Daily Food Bank.

## **Closing In Around Us: Large Developments Planned for Bloor Street East**

As you walk and drive in and around South Rosedale, or gaze through the windows of your home, you may notice the changing skyline to the south, west and north. New buildings are visible from recent developments on Sherbourne Street, south of Bloor Street, Yonge Street south of Eglinton Avenue and from within the Yorkville area. Although they are each new to our view, they appear distant enough not to be immediately imposing. Two large developments have been proposed to the south, and much closer to us, that would have a more noticeable visual impact on South Rosedale.

An Application has been made to the City of Toronto for the construction of a 42-storey mixed use building at 395-403 Bloor Street East, along the south side of Bloor just west of Sherbourne Street. The building would comprise a 2 storey podium and a 40 storey tower. The podium would house commercial space and the tower would contain 386 residential units. The Application is to be referred to the public for consultation and, in its current form, is not supported by the City's Planning Department. A number of issues with the proposed development have been identified. The Planning Division Staff Report may be accessed at <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/te/bgrd>.

Even closer to home, an Application has been filed with the City for a very intensive development of most of the parcel of land bounded by Sherbourne Street, Bloor Street East, Parliament Street and Howard Street (the street running east/west just south of Bloor, between Parliament and Sherbourne). The proposed development entails the construction of four residential hi-rise buildings, one near the corner of Sherbourne and Howard and three within the triangular land parcel bounded by Bloor, Parliament and Howard. The residential towers proposed have heights of 46, 50, 53 and 56 stories, respectively. Also included in the development would be a 5 storey residential building, semi-detached row housing, a low-rise mixed-use

building and retail uses along Howard Street, east of Sherbourne. The residential buildings would in aggregate accommodate 1,840 units. The heritage designation of a number of buildings currently on Glen Road north of Howard would be taken into account as part of the design of the development. City Staff has listed quite a number of issues it has with the proposal and has indicated that the Application, as submitted, is not supportable. The proposal is under review and will eventually be referred to a public consultation process. The most recent Staff Report may be viewed among others at the same site. The most recent Staff Report may be viewed among others at the same website noted above.

The SRRRA Board is following each of these proposals and City Staff has been made aware of our strong interest and plan to be included in the community consultative process.

The City's North St. Jamestown Community Consultation is on Tuesday April 5, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Wellesley Community Centre.

**South Rosedale  
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## Parkette Named In Honour Of SRRA Director Alex Murray

On November 30, 2010, former Ward 27 Councillor Kyle Rae joined Alex Murray, the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association and local community members at a sign unveiling for the parkette at 107 Crescent Road named in honour of Alex Murray.

Educated as an urban historian, Alex Murray founded the Urban Studies Program and co-founded the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. He has lived in the South Rosedale community since 1963 and has been instrumental in shaping various elements of his community. As a long-time board member of the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association, he has played a key role in establishing Toronto's first District Heritage Designation for South Rosedale, and was prominently involved in negotiations for the redevelopment of the Canadian Pacific Railway Lands, now Scrivener Square and Mathersfield Drive. He has served as Chairman of the Toronto Chapter of the Community Planning Association of Canada and the National Housing Subcommittee of the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Mr. Murray is in his 81st year and is still an active member of the SRRA, serving on its Board of Directors as Vice President. The naming of this parkette is a tribute to all he has achieved through his many hours of service to his South Rosedale community.



David Townley, Alex Murray, and Kyle Rae in Alex Murray Parkette

Alex Murray's Comments at Parkette Naming Ceremony on November 30, 2010 -

"I cannot deny that I am pleased to have my name attached to this little piece of South Rosedale."

I have worked long, hard and most of the time effectively to sustain and improve the very special environment that is South Rosedale.

A skeptic might assert that it was pretty easy to sustain those special qualities. Rosedale is full of rich powerful people with connections in city hall, the courts and on Bay Street who can get what they want. To some degree that is true but continually there has to be a significant cluster of residents who have an enthusiasm for what South Rosedale is and a vision of what it could continue to be.

In 1962, when my wife Laura and I moved to Toronto, that vision of South Rosedale was not commonly agreed on.

Perched on the edge of downtown highrise development, riddled with carved up mansions, rooming houses and sneaky ravine filling multi-story apartment buildings, South Rosedale, through the lens of conventional economic models, was ripe for drastic redevelopment.

When he learned that we had bought a house in South Rosedale, a well meaning business school economist said to me: "That is not a good buy. The market forces will rule and you will be surrounded by messy redevelopment."

However, as an urban historian, I had studied examples in Europe and the United States where residents, particularly if they were wealthy, educated and connected, turned back the so called market forces through land use planning and zoning regulations to sustain and enhance, desirable neighbourhoods. I thought South Rosedale was such a place, so I had every reason to contribute to the process.

Over those forty years, there has been a changing of issues but much continuity and repetition. The most singular theme that impresses and stays with me is the dedication and hard work of the board of the South Rosedale Ratepayers Association and especially the presidents.

It has been a most remarkable example of both stewardship and democracy.

## Community Cleanup Day

South Rosedale wants you!! ... For Community Cleanup Day.

The SRRA is calling for and once again organizing volunteers for the annual Spring clean-up of our South Rosedale community's parks and ravines. Past efforts have resulted in the clean-up of many bags of litter and debris that accumulate each Winter.

Please join us this year – we count on your help.

When: Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. – noon

Where: Two locations – Rosedale Ravine (at the Rosedale Subway Station) and Craighleigh Gardens Park

The SRRA will supply latex gloves and garbage bags. Or alternatively, feel free to bring your own.

## Security

The safety and security of South Rosedale residents continues to receive priority attention by the Board of Directors of the South Rosedale Ratepayers Association.

Among other efforts in the Board's attention to safety and security, a member of the SRRA Board sits on the Community Police Liaison Committee ("CLPC") hosted by Toronto Police Services 53 Division. The CLPC is comprised of leadership within the Division and by a representative of many of the residents' groups within the Division. The Committee meets quarterly, sharing information, issues and initiatives pertinent to policing in the community. Please contact the Board with any question or concern you wish to be put to the Committee or to Police Services.

Toronto Police Services records disclose a reduction in reported break-and-enters in South Rosedale. Thefts from parked motor vehicles continue to be prevalent. We are requested by Police Services to report all attempts and suspicious activity in addition to actual break-ins and thefts. The police can react only to what is brought to their attention.

53 Division issues a monthly Bulletin that includes news releases about crimes, public safety alerts and crime prevention tips. One of the crime prevention tips from the February Bulletin relates to the warming of motor vehicles during cold weather. Those who warm their vehicles are reminded that thieves often target unattended running vehicles. Some remote control units allow the vehicle to be driven without a key. Police ask that we be sure that our vehicles are locked and secure at all times, particularly while they are warming. On the topic of home security during winter months, if you plan to be absent from your residence for vacation or other travel, consider making arrangements for snow removal from walkways, driveways and parked vehicles, in addition to the postponement or retrieval of newspaper and mail delivery. Lock your residence doors and windows with quality hardware and utilize your home security alarm system if you have one. If you are interested in receiving the Police Services Bulletin you may register for email delivery by accessing the bulletin link on the 53 Division website.

Toronto Police Services also offers a notification program, called TPS Links, by which relevant information is disseminated to the public. Users of the program are alerted about evacuations, emergencies, missing persons, safety issues, road closures and community events. For more particulars and to register for the program, please access the Toronto Police Services website [www.torontopolice.on.ca](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca) and click on the TPSlinks icon. Hardcopy registration forms are also available at 53 Division offices on Eglinton Avenue at Duplex.

Your suggestions and/or comments on enforcement, safety and security in our South Rosedale neighbourhood are welcomed. Click on "Security" on the "Initiatives" page on the SRRA website at [www.southrosedale.org](http://www.southrosedale.org).

## Mysteries Abound in Historic South Rosedale

Did you know that the disappearance of a South Rosedale resident who lived on Glen Road was dubbed with the distinction "Crime of the Century?"

On December 2, 1919, Canadian theatre tycoon and Glen Road resident, Ambrose Small received a cheque for one million dollars, after which he vanished in the streets of downtown Toronto, leaving his money behind him.

The infamous case was never solved, even though clairvoyants, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, and a \$50,000 reward were offered up to help. In Canada, the mystery continued to capture headlines as late as 1965 when Toronto Police detectives inspected a possible grave site in Rosedale Valley.

The reputedly unscrupulous Small left behind his socialite wife, Teresa, the wealthy heiress to a brewing fortune, a group of angry gamblers and string of mistresses. Teresa Small was interrogated several times about her husband's disappearance but was deemed innocent. After her death, she donated her entire estate to the Catholic Church.

Small's death has reached mythic proportions as people have reportedly witnessed his ghost at one of his former properties, the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario.

So next time you're out for a stroll in our wonderful neighbourhood, think about the stories hidden beneath the brick and mortar in some of our old, beautiful houses. If only walls could talk....

If you are interested in delving into this mystery further, see:

[http://torontoist.com/2010/02/historicist\\_gone\\_but\\_not\\_forgotten.php](http://torontoist.com/2010/02/historicist_gone_but_not_forgotten.php)



51 Glen Road

## The Use of Salt in a Toronto Winter: Both a Blessing and Curse

If you've ever seen a neighbour carrying their dog in Winter, just look down and you'll see the reason why: excessive salt on the sidewalk.

This is a problem that goes far beyond South Rosedale and concerns not just dog owners. Excessive salt poisons waterways and wildlife, kills grass and other plants (think of the brown strips bordering sidewalks in spring, and dead evergreens along many highways), damages soil and, over time, accelerates the need for costly road and sidewalk repairs. These problems are well-documented in numerous research studies, though perhaps it is dogs and, through them, their owners, who most keenly feel the effects of excess salt applications.

For dog walkers in Craighigh Gardens, excess salt is a perennial winter topic of conversation. How to navigate man's best friend through often literally inch-thick salt piles?

Sometimes after a big snowfall, those piles seem like they're everywhere. But in reality, they usually crop up in the same places – most often in front of bus stops, some condos and apartments, City-cleared walkways and some private residences. Eventually all of that salt dissolves in water and washes off the sidewalk into our soils and waterways via the catch basins connected to the storm sewer system.

The solution to these problems is simple: use less salt and, whenever possible, none at all. This can be achieved without compromising walking or driving safety. How?

- Shovel snow before it gets compressed into an icy layer.
- Use salt alternatives such as sand, Ecotraction or even grippy substances such as kitty litter or fertilizer.
- Or if salt is preferred, use it sparingly.



The City, which uses 130,000 to 150,000 tonnes of salt annually, is making efforts to minimize the impact. Transportation Services has developed a comprehensive Salt Management Plan that includes an annual audit of salt spreading practices to identify areas for improvement.

At the time of publication, we are near the end of sidewalk salt season. However, please do keep the tips above in mind for next Winter.

Additional information may be found at:

City of Toronto:

<http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/snow/salt.htm>

City Salt Management Plan:

<http://www.toronto.ca/transportation/snow/pdf/02smp.pdf>

Toronto Star article:

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/fixer/article/747317—city-should-consider-cutting-back-on-salt>

Government of Canada study:

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/roadsalt/reports/ParkingLot/EN/parkinglot\\_E.pdf](http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/roadsalt/reports/ParkingLot/EN/parkinglot_E.pdf)

## FASTER, GREENER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH SOUTH ROSEDALE RESIDENTS

To enhance the speed and reduce the cost and environmental impact of communicating with SRRA members (including any members who reside in multi-family buildings), 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.

Please send an e-mail to [treasurer@southrosedale.org](mailto:treasurer@southrosedale.org) to provide us with your e-mail address for our electronic mailing list.

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

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](mailto:info@southrosedale.org).

### WANTED: Your Opinion

What comments do you have on this newsletter?

What topics would you like to see in upcoming newsletters?

Please send us an e-mail to [newsletter@southrosedale.org](mailto:newsletter@southrosedale.org)

### SRRA Board of Directors & Officers 2010/2011

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