



SOUTH ROSEDALE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter has finally returned to South Rosedale in February after an unseasonably mild Holiday Season.

With this Newsletter you will find an invoice as it relates to membership in the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association ("SRRA" or the "Association"). We welcome existing members to renew their membership and of course encourage all residents of South Rosedale to consider joining the Association if they are not members already.

As a community organization the SRRA enjoys excellent membership participation relative to similar groups. This is reflective of the fact that the SRRA has a long history of being recognized (and respected) as truly representing the best interests of the South Rosedale neighbourhood.

Whether it be representing the area to various levels of government or focusing on relevant topics and issues such as development, security and policing, roads and traffic, trees parks and ravines and of course the special heritage aspects of South Rosedale, the SRRA is both proactive and responsive on all fronts.

In addition, the SRRA works closely with our neighbouring ratepayer groups where matters of common interest have been identified.

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 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.

David M. Townley, C.A.
President



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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THE BRICKWORKS - EVERGREEN UPDATE
NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW
OR JOIN!**

**2007 MEMBERSHIP FEES
INVOICE ENCLOSED**

AGM SPEAKER URGES A PROACTIVE COMMUNITY VISION

At the Annual General Meeting on 27 November, 2006 the world renowned architect and urban planner Ken Greenberg challenged the residents of South Rosedale to take charge of their own future.

He stressed that a city is perpetually unfinished. Thus one has to expect periodic and even constant change.

Intensification is very much a part of Toronto's future. If communities want to influence that future, a proactive stance makes sense. Figure out what kind of change you want, then work for it. Become not a NIMBY but a YIMBY community: YES IN MY BACKYARD.

Some of the principles and illustrations/guidelines that need to be explored and clarified:

- Make the public realm the starting place - Yonge Street sidewalk, crosswalks, public spaces on and off street, trails and connections.
- Social concerns - housing for whom, services, community amenities for increased population.
- Economic possibilities - jobs, shopping, mixed use, business development.
- Transportation - multi-modal, traffic calming and diversion, street and front yard parking, short and long term.
- Builtform - scale, transitions, footprints, views and vistas.
- Heritage resources - buildings and streetscapes.
- Preserve fine grain of uses on Yonge Street.

Methodologies for community engagement or "how to get started": There is no magic bullet or best model that can be confidently adopted. Cities as different as New York and Ottawa have developed methods and organizational structures that empower the City's neighbourhoods, create tools to creatively manage change and adopt a new more proactive stance.

Greenberg urged the SRRA to take the lead in developing a consensus with its neighbours on guidelines for the development of this area. The goal should be to have a community vision that, while focused, is not just numbers but has qualitative, place related descriptions.



Ken Greenberg

Entrepreneurs and developers will have a template on which to base proposals and residents will have benchmarks against which to evaluate proposals.

The SRRA Board of Directors is exploring ways to link up with ratepayer groups to the north, south and west, with Kyle Rae, and with City staff in several departments and divisions to begin this process.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2007?

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
MARCH		
12-16	March Break most schools	Relevant school
APRIL		
21	Mayor's Clean-up Day	dhogarth@sympatico.ca
MAY		
12	Mooredale May Fair	info@mooredale.on.ca
NOVEMBER		
26	SRRA Annual General Meeting	info@southrosedale.org

MEMBERSHIP FEES NOTICE

Enclosed with the mailing of this Newsletter is an invoice for the 2007 annual SRRA membership fee, which is being kept at \$75.00 for individual households this year. For current members, we thank you for renewing your membership and your ongoing support. To those householders considering joining the SRRA, we would welcome you!

As with most volunteer community organizations, annual membership fees are used to cover the normal operating expenses of the Association, as well as to help defray the cost of professional fees which we incur from time to time when the Association is called upon to take a position on local by-law, zoning or development issues.

In addition to submitting their annual fees, approximately 25% to 30% of renewing householders include an extra contribution or donation. These voluntary contributions have become a key part of the SRRA's revenues and have been relied upon to meet non-recurring expenses as noted above. The historical generosity of our members is greatly appreciated.

While normally our revenue (membership fees plus the voluntary contributions) is sufficient to cover our total costs, last year was an exception. The Association incurred significant extraordinary costs in the form of professional fees paid to various experts, who were hired in connection with the SRRA's review of the proposed Scrivener Square development. While the Association continues to be in excellent financial condition, extra contributions and issue-specific donations are an important part of maintaining that position. We respectfully ask you to consider including an "extra" when submitting your annual membership fee.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK AND WIN AN SRRA MEMBERSHIP

The SRRA is changing its e-mail address with immediate effect. The new address is info@southrosedale.org

This change aligns our e-mail address with our website domain name for seamless communication and improved use of SRRA resources.

Please update your address book accordingly and at the same time, why not drop us a line?

We'd love to hear from you and would appreciate being able to correspond with South Rosedale residents via e-mail on key issues.

With your permission, we will add your e-mail address to our distribution list. Those wishing to be added to our list will also be entered in a draw to win an SRRA membership*

Please note that the SRRA does not sell or rent e-mail addresses to other organizations.

The SRRA may generate e-mail for the following types of member communication: Notification e-mail for events or issues affecting the South Rosedale community, and correspondence from the SRRA Board as a result of a communication initiated by a member.

Good luck and thank you for supporting the SRRA through either your continued, or new membership.

* Prize is a one household SRRA membership for the 2007 calendar year (value approx. \$75.00). This prize is not transferable.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

Please let us know if you are moving. We try to keep our addresses up to date, but the only way we know you are moving is if you tell us. Also, please forward the names of new homeowners so the SRRA can welcome them to the neighbourhood. Send us a note to info@southrosedale.org

UPDATE: SCRIVENER SQUARE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

As detailed in the last SRRA Newsletter, City Council recently rejected the development application submitted for the above site, which would have included a 26 story condominium tower. Since that time, there have not been any further developments. However, the SRRA has heard that the developer may be submitting a revised plan and a new application to the City in the near future. If that occurs, the SRRA as a key stakeholder will review any such proposal, in the same way as before. Unfortunately this is an expensive exercise. The specialized legal, planning, transportation and urban design advice which the SRRA obtained in connection with the previous application cost the Association in excess of \$60,000.

We will keep members and the South Rosedale neighbourhood advised of any new application and in that regard, may need to organize a special fundraising campaign, as the aforementioned costs have depleted the “Marathon Special Fund” which had previously been set up for these purposes.

In the meantime, although the overall financial position of the SRRA remains strong, any supplemental membership contributions, over and above the basic annual membership dues, are gratefully appreciated.

SRRA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Parks, development and the Don Valley bus plan top respondents’ concerns

Respondents to the recent informal survey of SRRA members put the safeguarding of parks and green spaces, development/home renovation zoning issues and the Don Valley Transportation Master Plan at the top of their lists of concerns for the South Rosedale area.

A majority of the respondents also named the proposed Scrivener Square development as a key issue, while almost half tagged heritage building protection and front pad parking as priorities. Five residents added additional concerns: traffic “cutting” through Rosedale; noise from renovations; safety on the Glen Road footbridge; taxes; and access to park space for children’s sports.

The survey, sent to all members in the Fall 2006 SRRA newsletter, showed that respondents are relatively like-minded when it comes to issues affecting the area and the Association’s activities.

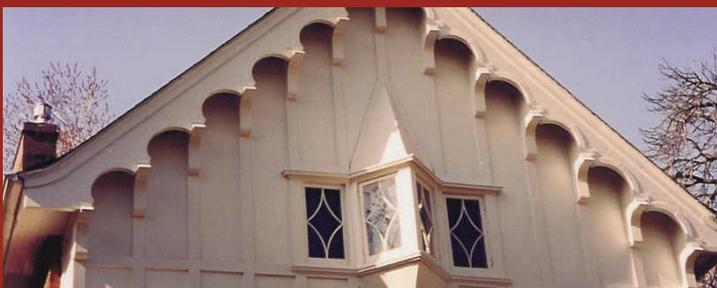
All respondents indicated they feel the SRRA does a good job representing the interests of South Rosedale. On the communications side, it was also unanimous that the SRRA Newsletter is a good source of information about the South Rosedale community, however it was near-unanimous that respondents almost never visit the Association’s website.

Thank you to all members who took the time to respond. Your opinions are helpful in guiding the SRRA board’s activities and priorities. Rest assured that specific comments will be carefully considered by the SRRA Board for follow-up action.

WHERE IS IT?



88 Crescent



163 Crescent

SRRA NEW EMAIL TO GO HERE

SRRA'S ROLE AT THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT: A CASE STUDY

The SRRA Board of Directors has become aware of some criticism of its opposition to an application to the Committee of Adjustment for a "Minor Variance". The variance requested is for the widening of an existing driveway in order to create a circular driveway with a new curb cut.

Over ten years ago, the SRRA, asked for a zoning by-law that would prohibit the widening of driveways to prevent the illegal creation of front yard parking pads. Since that time, the enforcement of the by-law by the City's Municipal Licensing Services has been "appalling", according to Councilor Rae but the Committee of Adjustment could be depended upon to generally refuse applications for variances to the by-law.

Why doesn't the SRRA support individual applications? Because the presence of new frontyard parking within the Heritage District of South Rosedale creates certain distinctly unbecoming situations: 1. Trees and the streetscape are altered to provide vehicular space; 2. Hard pavement in place of greenspace increases runoff; 3. Additional curbcuts reduce available streetparking for other residents .

The SRRA continues to be active in working through the issue of proposed front yard parking in South Rosedale. At City Council, Community Council, and within our neighbourhood itself, the existence of front yard parking, both old and new, puzzles our residents with queries as to what constitutes "legal" versus "illegal" front yard parking pad use. We have summarized recent changes to the regulations in previous newsletters.

Thus the opposition of the SRRA in this recent case was entirely in keeping with past policy. There was nothing exceptional about the circumstances behind the application for a variance that would warrant an exception from the default position that the by-laws should be obeyed.

DON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN STATUS

Excerpted from the City of Toronto website – see http://www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/don_mills/index.htm

In September 2006, a revised Draft Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR) and Staff Report (dated August 15, 2006) was submitted to City of Toronto Planning & Transportation Committee and City Council, seeking endorsement to proceed with completion of the ToR and submission to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). The ToR will ultimately serve as the framework for the preparation and review of the Environmental Assessment for this project.

The Committee and City Council resolved to proceed with the ToR with certain amendments to the Staff Report recommendations. Details can be found within the Consolidated Clause in Planning and Transportation Committee Report 6, which was considered by City Council on September 25, 26 and 27, 2006.

As a result of the Council resolution, an updated ToR is being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for official review and approval. Once the revised ToR is submitted:

- the document will be available for a minimum 30-day public review during which time written comments on the ToR may be provided to the MOE and project team.
- further details on where you may review the document and submit comments will be provided to the public on the website noted above. Notices will also be placed in community newspapers, and mailed to individuals and groups on the project mailing list.

If you wish to be added to the DVTMP project mailing list, please e-mail donmillstransitea@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4312. This will ensure that as a concerned resident, you are made aware of the developments and consultations as they happen.

BRICKWORKS IN MY BACKYARD

Whether you are a dog-walker, bird lover, urban explorer, or heritage buff, the Don Valley Brick Works undoubtedly holds a special place in your heart. The 16.4 hectare site is comprised of The Brick Works Park and Weston Quarry Garden (11.5 hectares) and industrial pad (4.9 hectares). While the Park and Weston Quarry Garden exemplify the importance of urban renaturalization and community stewardship, funding constraints have left a majority of the site's industrial buildings and artifacts to deteriorate. Evergreen, along with the numerous partners it has engaged, is gearing up to help the site realize its full potential as both a public park and a centre for demonstrating how a stronger relationship between nature, culture and community can make our cities more livable.

PROJECT MILESTONES OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS

- Evergreen selected two Toronto-based firms, Joe Lobko Architect Inc. and du Toit Allsopp Hillier to lead the detailed design process with Joe Lobko as the prime architect and John Hillier as the lead landscape architect. The integrated team also includes Claude Cormier Architectes Paysagistes Inc., Diamond + Schmitt Architects Inc. and E.R.A. Architects Inc.
- The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area, will invest up to \$20 million towards the \$55 million capital campaign to help build the economically sustainable social enterprise. The Ontario's Ministry of Culture announced a \$10 million contribution to preserve the existing buildings and trail system at the site in June 2005.
- The capital campaign cabinet has been divided into three subcommittees: Real Estate and Developers, chaired by Ken Tanenbaum; Industry and Finance, chaired by Shawn Cooper; and, Communities and Families, chaired by Nancy McFadyen. The goal for the private sector is \$25 million, of which Founding Patron, David and Robin Young, have generously donated \$3 million.

- The design team has refined aspects of the original Master Plan to incorporate additional heritage conservation, adaptive reuse, and are expanding on an earlier commitment to achieve LEED Gold (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a Green Building Rating System)
- Evergreen is planning a series of public meetings to update community members on the progress made to date and will be seeking approvals from various agencies in the coming months.
- Spring, Summer and Fall on-site events will include a farmers' market, native plant nursery, Doors Open Celebration and a Harvest Family Fun Day, just to name a few.

Evergreen is a 15-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring natural and cultural landscapes in urban and urbanizing communities across Canada. If you would like more information about Evergreen, please contact Lynsey Kissane at (416) 596-1495 (Extension: 263) or at lynsey@evergreen.ca. Or visit Evergreen on the web at www.evergreen.ca



Image courtesy of Ferruccio Sardella