

FALL 2024  SOUTH ROSEDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
**NEWSLETTER**

**South Rosedale Residents Association**  
**Wednesday 27th November 2024**



At: Toronto Lawn Tennis Club

44 Price Street, M4W 1Z4

**6.15-7pm Member registration**

**7-7.30pm AGM** (SRRA members only)

**7.30pm Guest Speaker: Councillor Dianne Saxe**

(all residents welcome) City of Toronto Councillor Dianne Saxe, will speak to community issues for University-Rosedale and take questions from the floor

**Additional height on tower block  
“minor variance”**

Residents of Leaside were shocked when a developer announced he was increasing his tower block from 22 to 25 storeys. The Leaside Residents Association and the Broadway Area Residents Association had initially agreed with the Gupta Group on a 22-storey tower. However, the developer later applied for a “minor variance” to add five more storeys, and the city’s committee of adjustment approved an additional three storeys.

This tactic, of using the committee of adjustment to seek increased building heights after agreements have been made between city planners and residents is being seen more and more across our city. The committee of adjustment is traditionally used for rulings on minor changes to properties. Residents associations, like the SRRA argue that altering a building’s height is not a minor variance and there’s a dangerous undermining of the democratic processes with this trend, as developers seek to side-step agreements.

**Flood Damage in local Ravines**

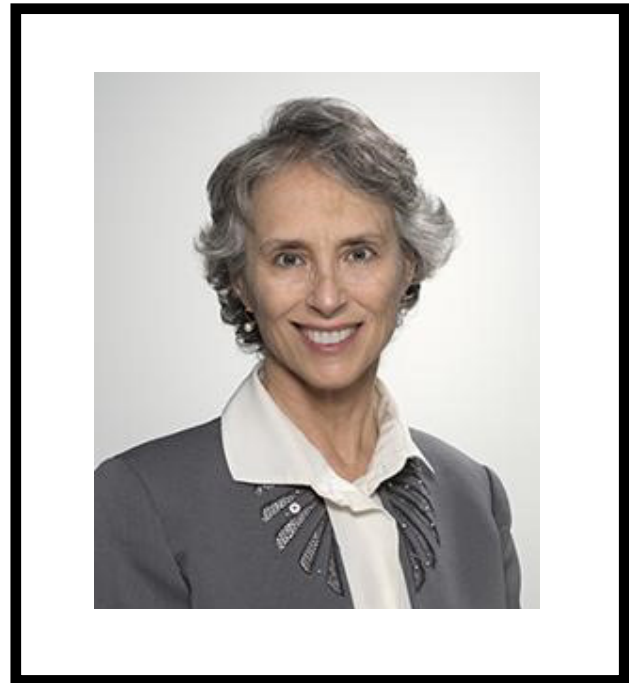
On July 16, Toronto experienced record-breaking rainfall of over 100mm, causing widespread flash flooding across the city.

Ravines, parks and green spaces which serve as our cities drainage system and flood plains, were overwhelmed, exposing weaknesses in both climate-change preparedness and their lack of maintenance.

**The Brickworks**

The devastation at Evergreen Brickworks was widely reported and is thankfully back to business and re-open for visitors with beavers and

*(continued on page3)*



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**Join SRRA/Renew your membership  
at: [www.southrosedale.org](http://www.southrosedale.org) .**

## Changes to Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Secondary Boundaries

As parents navigate secondary education for their children, Toronto offers many options: public, private, all girls, all boys, co-ed, French, English, etc. For those who choose to support public schools, a major change is coming that will affect students entering high school in 2025 and beyond.

In an update presented at a meeting of the Toronto District School Board's Planning and Priorities Committee on May 15, 2024, it was announced that the legacy technical and commercial boundaries in certain Toronto schools will be eliminated, starting with the admission process for September 2025. This decision was officially approved by the Board of Trustees on May 22, 2024.

These boundaries, established decades ago, originally dictated which students could attend specific schools based on geographic regions and whether they were enrolled in technical or commercial programs. Over time, these schools have evolved to offer a wide variety of academic and technological programs, making the original boundaries obsolete. Additionally, as of September 2024, all students will also be required to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit as part of their OSSD. Now that technological education is a mandatory part of the curriculum for all secondary schools these boundaries no longer serve their original purpose.

Beginning in September 2025, admissions to the following schools will no longer be restricted by the legacy boundaries:

- Central Technical School
- Central Toronto Academy
- Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute
- Northern Secondary School
- Victoria Park Collegiate Institute
- Western Technical-Commercial School

The Board has also approved that four of these schools—Central Technical School, Central Toronto Academy, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, and Western Technical-Commercial School—become Secondary Schools Without a Boundary (SSWAB). Starting in the 2025-26 school year, any student living in Toronto will be eligible to apply for admission. The admissions process for the 2024-25 school year was unchanged, and current students will not be affected by these updates.

To put it in context for a Rosedale student, consider the following example of a student living on Chestnut Park Road. Up until this academic year, the way it worked is a student was eligible to choose between a Secondary School and a Technical School. An address on Chestnut Park Road would have had a choice between Jarvis Collegiate Institute and Northern Secondary School. Next year, however, that same student would no longer have a choice; they would attend Jarvis. You can find your zoned school at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/By-Home-Address> and look in the column titled "Secondary". At the time of writing, all South Rosedale addresses I checked were zoned for Jarvis as their Secondary School.

To apply to attend a school other than your designated school by address, students can submit an online application with one school choice in their application which may include one Secondary School without a Boundary. Students can also apply to Student Interest Programs including: Arts; Exceptional Athletes; Integrated Technology; International Baccalaureate; Leadership Pathway; and Math, Science and Technology. For example, nearby we have Rosedale Heights School of the Arts with an Arts special interest program and Jarvis has a Math, Science and Technology special interest program that students from anywhere in Toronto can apply to.

Making educational decisions for children is never easy. This change simplifies decision making for those who've committed to public school education.

## Preserving Rosedale's Heritage: The Heritage Grant Program

If you need to do any upgrades or renovations to your house in the near future, you'll want to look into Toronto's Heritage Grant Program. Toronto's architectural heritage is a cornerstone of its cultural identity and preserving historic structures is vital to maintaining the city's character. To support this, the City of Toronto offers the Heritage Grant Program, designed to assist owners of designated heritage properties with conservation efforts. The Toronto Heritage Grant Program has provided matching grant funds for eligible heritage



conservation work to owners of properties that are designated under Part IV or Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act since 1986.

The program provides grants covering up to 50% of the cost of eligible conservation work, with a maximum of \$20,000 for most properties. Eligible work includes the restoration and repair of key building elements that contribute to the property's heritage value. This includes: Masonry work, such as stone or brick restoration,

Window and door restoration to preserve historical details,

Roof repairs that maintain the building's structural and historical integrity, Restoration of architectural features like cornices, parapets, and moldings, and Structural repairs critical to the preservation of the property.

Properties may receive one Toronto Heritage Grant every five years, and owners of multiple properties are eligible to apply for only one property each year. This ensures that the program's benefits are distributed across a wide range of heritage sites throughout the city.

By offering financial assistance, the Heritage Grant Program encourages property owners to invest in the long-term preservation of Toronto's historical buildings, ensuring they remain integral parts of the urban landscape for future generations. Detailed application guidelines are available on the City of Toronto's website <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/heritage-preservation/tax-rebates-grants/heritage-grant-program/>.

Through this initiative, Toronto continues to celebrate and preserve its rich architectural history, keeping its past alive while shaping its future.

turtles all safe, although work and fundraising for remedial work continues behind the scenes. However other local ravines suffered equally and damage was particularly apparent along Yellow Creek in the Vale of Avoca and the ravine path from Chorley Park, known as Milkman's Lane.

### Milkman's Lane

Milkman's lane pathway, which connects Chorley Park with the Beltline was badly hit by the storm, with deep and dangerous channels opening in the pathway and compromising the protective fencing along its course. We're pleased to report that it was speedily repaired once the SRRA made Councillor Saxe aware of its erosion issues as can be seen below:

*Milkman's lane after flooding: (2 photos below)*



*Milkman's lane after flooding: (2 photos below)*



### Vale of Avoca

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) continues to advance 3 projects to address erosion concerns in Yellow Creek:

#### 1. Yellow Creek Channel Repairs below Summerhill Gardens:

Construction crews mobilized the site in August. Signage and fencing for tree protection, site security and access have been installed. Construction of channel repairs are planned to start within a week and finish in March 2025.

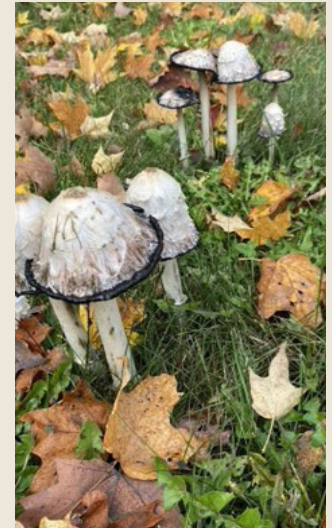
#### 2. Yellow Creek near Heath St. Slope Stabilization and Staircase Replacement:

## Leave the Leaves this Fall

Clearing leaves has become a habitual gardening practice that disrupts critical habitat for overwintering pollinators. Not only that, but if you use leaf-blowers, then you're also polluting the environment with 2 stroke engine emissions and creating unwanted noise for your neighbours.

Brown, dead leaves are Earth's insect nurseries. They're home to butterfly larvae and shelter insects, microbes and worms. Leaving plant litter on your flower borders and green spaces will increase backyard biodiversity and boost pollinator communities that will support your garden in the spring. Rocks and woody debris, such as old logs, tree stumps or loose bark will also provide space to hibernate for countless invertebrate species.

If you're worried that fall leaves matted down by snow or rain will negatively impact your perennials, fear not! A thick layer of leaves provides added insulation against bitter cold weather and can protect newly planted perennials when frost-heave may expose tender roots. Once the weather warms and sheltered pollinators have emerged to start foraging, compost your yard waste.



Detailed design work continues and designs are now 60% complete for slope stabilization work and 30% complete for the staircase replacement. Design is expected to be 100% complete in early 2025 in preparation for construction to start in spring 2025.

*Channel erosion is extensive along Yellow Creek (2 photos below)*



## Meet Your Board!

As the AGM approaches, we'd like to take the opportunity to introduce a few of our South Rosedale Residents Association board members. Each newsletter we will introduce you to a couple more. We hope it gives you a flavour of the interesting mix of personalities on our board and the varied and rewarding work we get involved with. We'd love you to be part of our team, whether it's at Board level or as part of a subcommittee. If you would be interested, please contact us at southrosedaleresidents@gmail.

### Colm O'Shea, our newest board member!

I'm Colm O'Shea and I have been a south Rosedale resident since 2018. My wife Cathy and our family enjoy every minute we have in Rosedale. We love its central location, our neighbours and its great walking paths.

At the South Rosedale Residents Association AGM in 2023 I approached Janice Lo, their co-president, and asked if I could get involved. I formally joined the SRRA's board in January 2024.

I was asked to join the Development, Communication and Heritage teams. In addition, I volunteered to represent SRRA on the FONTRA association (Federation of North Toronto Residents Association) which brings together all our local residents associations to share ideas and information.

You might ask yourself, what would you do if you joined the SRRA? Well, I asked myself the same question and realised the answer was "a lot". I don't mean volume of work; I mean variety of work. We sometimes discuss the mundane (speed bumps vs humps) but more often discuss issues like crime and safety. Our city is always changing and being on the SRRA gives you first knowledge of what changes the city is proposing, while being able to mitigate or finesse the impact on our community.

There have been many wins for our SRRA team and South Rosedale. In the Spring we managed to halt the Roxborough/Avenue road barrier, which would eliminate our connection to the Annex and we were able to discourage a tent encampment in Craigleith Park. Most recently we expedited repairs to the Milkman's lane path (see the article on erosion for more details).

Being a part of the SRRA, gives you a great balance of camaraderie and civic concern.



*Colm and wife Cathy at the SRRA's Spring Litter Clean up!*

### Umesh Jain loves his CFC community

My name is Umesh Jain, and I am the co-president of the South Rosedale Residents Association along with Dr. Janice Lo. I've lived in South Rosedale since 1994, after moving from Nova Scotia, where I grew up and trained. I'm now semi-retired as a child/adolescent psychiatrist and live on Castle Frank Crescent (CFC), which I refer to as the appendix of South Rosedale. It was split off of Castle Frank Road with the construction of the Prince Edward Viaduct.

For the 22 years I've lived here, I've realised what a gem of a community I live in. I started as a street organiser, setting up a quarterly newsletter, introducing myself to new neighbours and sometimes called upon to help problem-solve neighbours' complaints.

Over the years, with small donations, I've bought utensils, chairs, tables, speaker systems etc that I lend to neighbours for parties. But, more importantly, so we can have a street gathering at any time.

We've had epic street events. One of my most memorable was a Mexican-themed party where everyone dressed up. The tequilas were flowing and a Mariachi Band marched up the street. We've had an Italian throw-down where neighbours compete to make the best Italian dishes with our kids as servers. Our Halloween parties are a sight to behold. We once closed off the street and had a party with 350 people, five live bands and two food trucks.

Potluck street parties are held regularly and attract most of our neighbours.. It's a great way to mingle. Sometimes I invite someone from the city to give a short talk for a half hour before we let loose. We've had city councillors, municipal officials, the local Police commissioner and Mayor Tory attend. When the SRRA's past President, Don Hogarth, was invited to one of our parties, he wouldn't go home! He couldn't believe that neighbours could have this much fun. Perhaps that's why he invited me to be on the board of the SRRA? That was nine years ago and I'm now the co-president!

Many people on CFC have lived here their entire lives. Harry, our honorary street mayor, is 82 years old and was born in the house he lives in now. That's not unusual. People love living here, and once you are a part of the CFC community you either don't leave or you constantly come back to visit. It's because we look out for each other. It creates an aura of safety and spirit. When I joined the SRRA, I wanted others to experience the feeling of a genuinely connected community. It's a great feeling. I want to share it.



*Umesh getting ready for his CFC Halloween street party!*

### Gail Graham values SRRA's connection and learning opportunities

I joined the board 5 years ago with responsibilities for parks, ravines and environment. I'm an environmentalist and believe that truly great Cities have truly great parks and greenspaces and should value and invest in these essential assets. Locally, I was particularly concerned by the neglect of our yellow creek ravine, and through the SRRA soon became connected with other resident and interest groups who were too.



*A Christmas Day walk in the ravine is a family tradition*

I've really enjoyed connecting with like minded people and organisations through the SRRA, particularly in my environmental role. I've also enjoyed learning how our city works (or doesn't!) and it's always inspiring to connect with passionate volunteers that have made a difference to their community and the wider city. I've noticed how it's often the quietly determined characters, who work patiently and doggedly behind the scenes who are the ones that make things happen.

Over the years my role on the board has expanded to responsibility for producing the newsletter and organizing walking tours. And like everyone else on the board, we're all unofficially responsible for many other things that crop up! That's what I like about our

board, as those with the time and energy will step up to take on ad hoc projects as and when needed. It makes for a supportive working environment.

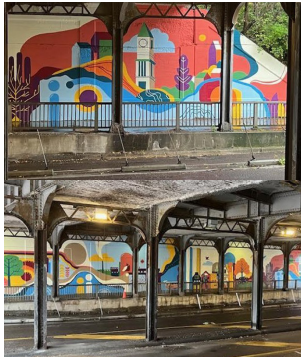
We are facing a challenging time as a downtown residents association, with the pressures of a cash-strapped City that is in accelerated growth mode. We must embrace change but with protections being stripped away from communities, it is now more important than ever that we have a focussed, hardworking board, with good momentum. I would encourage anyone with an interest in contributing to their community to join our board.

### Andrew Monkhouse mourns the loss of the Rosedale Diner

Rosedale residents lost the local Rosedale Diner at the start of 2024. SRRA Board member Andrew Monkhouse, like many in our community, is still mourning its loss. He was moved to write this tribute poem:

**For forty-five years, beneath the trees,  
The Rosedale Diner served with ease.  
On Yonge it stood, a beacon bright,  
A cosy spot, a neighbour's light.  
With hummus rich and ribs so fine,  
Each dish a story, each meal divine.  
A mix of flavours, new and old,  
In every bite, a tale was told.  
The tables filled with laughter's sound,  
First dates, proposals, joy unbound.  
Through birthdays, weddings,  
tearful goodbyes,**

**The diner witnessed countless skies.  
But now the doors are closing tight,  
The final meal, the final night.  
Dubi and Esti, it's time to rest,  
You've given Toronto your very best.  
Though bricks may crumble and lights fadedim,  
The memories here will never grow thin.  
For Rosedale's heart will always beat,  
In every laugh, in every seat.  
Goodbye, dear diner, and all you've been—  
A place where friends and dreams begin.**



## Mural at Scrivener Square

The mural on the west side of Yonge street underpass at Scrivener Square is complete! Local artist Zuna Amir's work was celebrated with an official ribbon cutting event on October 2nd.

A celebration of the past, a nod to the present, and an inspiration for the future - this mural design visually narrates our area's rich history and dynamic evolution. It honours both the natural history and landmarks of the area.

The design includes iconic landmarks and highlights the natural ravines and green spaces vital to indigenous heritage. Abstract winding roads reflect the neighbourhood's unique street design, while the architectural styles showcase its residential charm. The mural's split design symbolizes the gradual transition from nature-centric indigenous roots to a historically rich, modern community. Using geometric shapes and a vibrant colours, it celebrates this community's energetic spirit and historical significance, blending past and present into a cohesive, inspiring, and optimistic future.

## Flood-proof Your Home

South Rosedale is one of Toronto's most charming and historic neighborhoods. While the beauty of living in a heritage home nestled in the heart of Toronto is undeniable, it does come with its challenges. One of the key concerns for homeowners in this area is flooding and specifically basement flooding, which has become more prevalent due to both the age of the homes and the increased frequency of severe weather events. The floods this summer served as a stark reminder that protecting against basement flooding is something residents need to be proactive about. With climate change upon us, now is the time to invest in protecting your home and staying one step ahead of the next big storm.

Flooding can cause serious damage to a home's foundation, lead to costly repairs, and ruin personal property. Fortunately, there are several steps homeowners can take to help waterproof their basements and reduce the risk of flooding.

### Extend Eavestrough Drains Away from the Foundation

One of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent basement flooding is by ensuring that rainwater is being directed away from your home's foundation. Most older homes in South Rosedale have eavestroughs that drain directly beside the foundation which can result in water pooling around the house during heavy rainfalls. This increases the likelihood of water seeping into the basement. By extending your downspouts at least 6 to 10 feet away from your house, you can prevent water from collecting near your foundation. Plastic extenders, which are inexpensive and easy to install, can be a quick fix for directing water further away. These days you can easily pick up an "eavestrough downspout extension" from Amazon or local stores like Home Depot for about \$40.

### Install or Upgrade Your Sump Pump

Sump pumps play a crucial role in keeping basements dry. If your home doesn't already have a sump pump installed, this is one of the most important investments you can make to protect your basement. A sump pump works by collecting water that has accumulated in a sump basin, typically found in the basement, and pumping it out and away from your home.

Given the frequent power outages that often accompany severe storms, it's also worth considering a battery backup for your sump pump. This way, even if the electricity goes out, your pump will still be able to function, keeping your basement dry at critical times. In South Rosedale, where many homes are older, updating or maintaining your sump pump can mean the difference between a dry basement and thousands of dollars in flood damage.

### Have an Emergency Wet Vac on Hand

An emergency wet vacuum is an essential tool for homeowners in flood-prone areas. A wet vac can help remove water from your basement in the event of a leak or minor flood much faster than a mop or other methods. For those who want to take extra precautions, some wet vacs come with automatic drainage features, meaning

that in the event of a water emergency, the vac can pump water outside without requiring manual intervention. It's also a good idea to keep your wet vac and other flood-related supplies, such as fans and dehumidifiers, in an easily accessible location. This ensures that if water starts entering your basement, you can act quickly to minimize damage.

### Maintain Permeable Space Around Your Home

Another common issue in urban areas like South Rosedale is the loss of permeable surfaces around homes. Certain materials such as flower beds, grass, soil, and stone cover absorb water and are permeable whereas driveways, cement, and some types of artificial grass are non-permeable. Over time, green spaces are sometimes replaced with concrete, paving, or other impermeable surfaces, which can increase the risk of flooding. Hard surfaces don't absorb water, causing it to flow directly toward the foundation or overwhelm drainage systems. To mitigate this risk, ensure that you have sufficient grass, soil, or other permeable materials around your home. These materials allow water to be absorbed into the ground naturally, reducing the risk of flooding. If your property is already heavily paved, consider replacing some of that area with permeable paving options or installing raingardens, which are designed to manage rainwater runoff.

### Consider Installing Backwater Valves

For homeowners who have experienced sewer backups during heavy rainfall, installing backwater valves is a smart choice. Backwater valves are designed to prevent sewage from flowing back into your home by automatically closing when water starts to flow in the wrong direction.

While installing a backwater valve can require some upfront investment, it provides peace of mind by protecting your home from one of the most unpleasant forms of flooding—sewage backups. This is particularly important in older homes in South Rosedale, where the sewage systems may be more prone to backup during intense rainstorms.

### Regularly Inspect and Maintain Foundation Cracks

Older homes in South Rosedale often have foundations that may develop cracks overtime. These cracks can be a major entry point for water during a heavy downpour. Regularly inspecting your foundation for any visible cracks is crucial, as sealing these cracks early on can prevent costly repairs down the line. There are a variety of sealants and waterproofing materials available on the market that can be used to patch small cracks in your foundation. However, if you notice significant damage, it's best to consult with a professional who can assess whether more extensive repairs are needed.

### Upgrade Window Wells

If your basement has windows that sit below ground level, these can be a major vulnerability during a flood. Window wells are designed to keep water out, but if they are not properly maintained or equipped with covers, water can pool in them and eventually leak into your basement. Make sure your window wells are clear of debris and consider installing window well covers to prevent water from accumulating during a storm. A clear, heavy-duty plastic cover can be an affordable and effective way to keep water out.

Hello Neighbours,

I'm proud to be delivering so many improvements constituents have requested across the Ward, such as the new mural being painted on the Summerhill underpass, new bike lanes on Avenue Road, and construction on the Spadina streetcar, and Bloor Street between Avenue and Spadina, and on University southbound from College to Queen. Construction will start soon on pedestrian safety upgrades on Avenue Road between Dupont and Davenport, on upgraded water mains and cycle tracks on Hoskin/ Harbord, and on University northbound from Queen to College. Furthermore, consultation will soon commence on the supportive housing project I have helped bring to Kensington Market, and on long-awaited upgrades to Dupont Street.

Of course, better infrastructure is essential but not enough. For walkers and cyclists to move safely around our ward, we need dramatic improvements in traffic law enforcement. As many of you will be aware, a young cyclist was tragically killed on Bloor Street in July close to a construction bin that blocked the bike lane without a permit. This event has shocked the conscience of our community and should never happen again. City staff responded by issuing startlingly inadequate tickets to the accused companies for as little as \$200. I was horrified to discover that this happened because Toronto City Council has never used its decades-old authority to set meaningful fines for serious violations of the Municipal Code.

I have therefore submitted a motion to the next Council meeting asking staff to propose serious maximum fines (hopefully \$100,000 each) for serious breaches of the Municipal Code, including substantial fines against corporate officers and directors in appropriate cases. I have also asked staff to shorten the turning lane, to increase the clarity of road markings, and to boost inspections of this high-risk area.

Off-leash dog parks are not matters of life and death, but they are deeply important to many people. This fall, Council will consider the staff's recommendation for a Dog Master Plan, including criteria for which dog parks should be open to licenced commercial dog walkers with four dogs or more. People who live next to a park must put up with some disturbances from park users, but those disturbances should not be unlimited. Right now, commercial dog walkers are welcome in about 2/3 of Toronto's off-leash dog parks, especially parks with buffers around them and/or limited hours, and are generally barred from off-leash areas next to homes downtown. Ramsden Park was the major exception in my Ward, an anomaly that I closed (for now) at the request of the ABC Residents' Association.

I know this has caused inconvenience for some commercial dog walkers and their clients. Toronto already has too few areas where dogs can play, including my own beloved pet; that's why Council asked for clear criteria and a Dog Master Plan. Meanwhile (subject to dangerous dog orders):

- Leashed can walk dogs through almost all parks outside off-leash areas.
- Anyone walking their own pet can go to any off-leash dog park, including Ramsden.
- Anyone walking three or fewer dogs can take them to any off-leash dog park, including Ramsden.
- 49 off-leash dog parks are open to commercial dog walkers with four to six dogs, including some not far from Ramsden Park by transit.

Wishing everyone a happy October, and be sure to enjoy the fall colours!



**JESSICA  
BELL**  
University-Rosedale

## Queen's Park Roundup

**It's a privilege to be your elected representative at Queen's Park, working to advocate for a liveable and affordable city and province.**

**I'd like to share a summary of two issues that are affecting residents in our riding.**

### Auto-theft and community safety

Thank you to the residents who organized the community safety meeting at Rosedale United Church in May. It was sobering meeting. Residents spoke of having their homes being broken into and having their car keys stolen while they were sleeping in their home. Many residents felt angry, betrayed, scared, and worried for their safety, inside and outside their home.

The police statistics presented by Toronto Police Service's 53 Division at the townhall were sobering. Canada is experiencing its worst wave of auto-theft on record. In Ontario alone, auto theft claims costs increased by 524% between 2018 and 2023.

Everyone in Ontario should be safe. That's my goal.

Solving the issue of auto-theft will require a coordinated approach from all three levels of government, from an accountable and proactive policing response on the city level to a comprehensive approach to apprehending the shipment of stolen vehicles out of Canada's international ports.

I am advocating for Ontario to do its part in addressing auto-theft by ensuring all Service Ontario stores are verifying a vehicle's VIN number when vehicle ownership is transferred so stolen vehicles are resold in Ontario.

Each vehicle has a 17-digit serial number, called a VIN, which is intended to help governments, police and insurers link a vehicle to its owner. Unlike other provinces, Ontario does not have a system in place to investigate and verify VIN numbers. News reports show that thieves continue to explore the weaknesses in Ontario's VIN verification system. Curbing the resale of illegal vehicles could have a sizeable impact on auto theft because police now estimate nearly one-third of stolen vehicles are being resold in Canada. I am also calling on Ontario to hire staff and increase funding to address the significant staffing shortages and judges in the provincial court system to ensure timely and impartial justice. The legal community has expressed significant concern about court rooms sitting empty and criminal cases are being thrown out because of excessive delays.

In Ontario, charges against an accused individual can be stayed, or thrown out, if they are not tried within 18 months of being charged. That should never happen in Ontario. To ensure justice, policing must be twinned with an effective and responsive court system.

### We can solve homelessness

As rent and food prices skyrocket, Ontario is experiencing an increase in homelessness. Thousands of Ontarians are living in ravines, on friend's couches, and in encampments in towns and cities across our province.

The Conservative government doesn't even have a handle on how many people are homelessness, nor do they have a good plan to address this complex social problem. Ontario has built just 1067 affordable homes in six years. That's woefully short of what is needed to house people in need.

Let's be clear. It is more cost-effective to provide permanent housing to people so they can live good lives, work and raise families, than it is for them to struggle with homelessness. It's also doable. Other countries, such as Finland, have solved the homelessness crisis, and if they can do it, so can we.

To address homelessness, Ontario should increase social assistance rates so people can afford rent, bring in strong rent control to stop people from being priced out of their home, provide help for people struggling with addiction and mental health challenges, and move forward with an ambitious plan to build thousands of affordable homes on public land.

Just last month, Toronto announced their plan to build 59 supportive modular housing units on a parking lot in Kensington. We already have the solutions, we just need to scale them up.

Please reach out to our office via 416 535 7206 or [Jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:Jbell-co@ndp.on.ca) if you have feedback, want to join our email list, or need help.

Jessica Bell



**FOR SALE**

**1 HAWTHORN AVENUE, *South Rosedale***  
Offered at \$6,600,000



**JAMES STRATHY WARREN\* & ALEX OBRADOVICH\*\***  
SALES REPRESENTATIVES

\*Chairman's Award Winner 2023 | \*\*Vice-Chairman's Award 2023

James@jameswarren.ca | 416.520.5704 | Alex@chestnutpark.com | 416.803.4140

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## E Bike Q&A

More people are discovering the fun and convenience of electric bikes. While for some they're the scourge of the bike lanes, for others they're a game changer for getting around the city quickly and easily. Try our fun quiz to find out how much you know about this new type of transport.



### Can you ride your e-bike as fast as you like?

To those who've had close encounters with speeding e bikes in cycle lanes, it might seem like there aren't any speed restrictions! But in reality Ontario dictates an upper speed limit of 32 km/hr, although some trails and paths may have lower posted speeds for cyclists.

### Can you ride an e bike anywhere that a bicycle can ride?

Typically, yes. However they can be specifically prohibited if deemed necessary.

### Can anyone ride an e-bike?

No. The legal minimum age for riding an e bike is 16 years.

### Do e-bikes need a license?

There are rules governing the weight, speed and motor size of e bikes in Ontario. If your ebike satisfies these, then you do not need a license. If any of these are breached it is not considered an ebike and would be classified as a motor vehicle requiring a license, insurance and registration as per Ontario laws governing motorcycles and mopeds.

### Do e-bikers need a helmet?

Absolutely! Ontario law requires you to wear a bicycle or motorcycle helmet at all times when riding.

We're a group of concerned Toronto residents determined to create a safer, cleaner and quieter city for all.

We're on a mission  
to transition Toronto away  
from gas-powered  
leaf blowers

**GASBUSTERS**

www.gasbusters.ca

## Membership Matters!

The SRRA works hard to protect and enhance South Rosedale as a great place to live. Through actions large and small, we protect the heritage and character of our neighbourhood, enhance its parks and ravines, manage traffic, parking and security issues, and much more.

To do all this, we need your financial support. You can help us by ensuring you take out or renew your annual membership of \$100 or \$250 for 3 years.

To join or to pay your dues, please visit our website [www.southrosedale.org](http://www.southrosedale.org) and click on "SRRA Annual Membership". Credit Card payment welcome!

### Calling All Web Designers!

Are you skilled in website design and maintenance, or know somebody that is? The SRRA is looking for a dedicated web master, and that could be you!

- Updating the website, posting info and pictures
- Posting news stories relevant to the neighbourhood
- Maintaining a mailing list and keeping up with social media

Time commitment is in the range of 4-5 hours per month and the other volunteers on our board will be there to support you all the way! We work well as a team! Please email [southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com](mailto:southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com) if you are interested or know somebody that is.

## Walking Tour's happy coincidence!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Historical Walking Tour of South Rosedale. The tour was a huge success with record crowds participating. Local history enthusiast and Heaps Estrin real estate agent, Alex Corey led us on a thoroughly entertaining, informative and engaging tour and impressed all with his depth of knowledge.

The tour was dedicated to the memory of Alex Murray who worked so hard to make South Rosedale a designated heritage conservation area. It started in the parkette named after him, opposite his home and by happy coincidence, was held on the same day as his Celebration of Life. It was made even more special by an impromptu visit from a close family member who wanted everyone to know how much Alex would have loved seeing the enthusiasm generated in the community for a historical tour.

The SRRA would like to thank Heaps Estrin, our generous partners for the tour who hosted a delicious cheese and wine reception after. By popular request we will be organising another one next year. Stay tuned for announcements on timing. To be notified of the next tour, you can contact us by email at [southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com](mailto:southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com) or go to our website: [southrosedale.org](http://southrosedale.org) and subscribe to our mailing list to ensure you don't miss any updates and alerts relevant to our South Rosedale community.



*Alex entertains the crowds on our Historical Walking Tour*

## Earth Day: SRRA Community Clean-Up

A big thank you to everyone who turned up to clear litter from South Rosedale's parks and ravines on 22nd & 23rd April. Volunteer spirits and enthusiasm was not dampened by the wet weather and they received encouragement and thanks from passers-by who appreciated the effort, especially given the challenges of the mud and rain.



## Thank you Severn Creek Nature Stewards!

Local volunteers celebrated their ravine stewardship with a potluck picnic to mark the end of their gardening season. Thank you to their leader, Finnbar O'Callahan and all the volunteers who have worked all summer to remove the non-indigenous plants that have invaded Severn Creek ravine. Their methodical weekly work means that our ravine is slowly changing back to a healthy, resilient woodland that supports biodiversity and helps guard against erosion from rainstorms. To sign up to help continue these efforts next year, follow volunteer links on the Toronto Nature Stewards website: <https://torontonaturestewards.org/>