

FALL 20
25SOUTH ROSEDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

THE SRRA NEEDS YOU!

As you are aware the city is changing fast, and the demands put on your small but agile resident association are being challenged. On any given week there is a cacophony of issues that cross our desks. They range from a fire under the Glen Road Bridge to traffic chaos on one of our streets.

We know the issues we are tracking are of importance to our neighbours as seen by the overwhelming responses we have received on several of our campaigns and events.

What is holding us back from accomplishing or covering all the issues facing our neighbourhood, is your SRRA lacks the depth on our board, at the committee and volunteer level. Our goal in 2026 (earlier if possible) is to call out to our talented neighbours for their time to either join our board or take a lesser but equally important role on one of our committees: Heritage, Communications, Membership, Social, Parks and Ravines, or Development. Show your commitment to our great neighbourhood by volunteering your time and your experience.

The next missing part of the SRRA's future success is money. We are fortunate from past boards to have amassed a small cash reserve to launch professional defences against a few projects, but the lack of a sustainable stream of revenue to push back where required i.e. the over densification of our area. As you can imagine or have witnessed, there are cranes popping up all around Rosedale. Recent provincial regulations (EHON and MTSA) have all but rendered traditional resident association appeals null and void. No longer are resident associations able to write a letter to city hall or our councillor and get action or find an understanding ear. We are now realising we need to tap third party professionals to put together strategic plans to represent the interests of our neighbourhood's values and concerns; may that be to block or change a development or protect one of our parks or ravines.

Recently we conducted a survey about the city's proposed light at Sherbourne and Elm. Incredibly, we received over 60 submissions, with over 90% opposing the installation. We submitted this to our councillor and the project has been deferred indefinitely. The overwhelming response of this survey underlined our understanding that South Rosedale cares about its neighbourhood and the historic significance South Rosedale contributes to the heritage of Toronto. We know South Rosedale is not opposed to sensible changes but is dead set against unruly and unnecessary change.

We are currently studying a proposed development that will negatively impact the most southern tip of South Rosedale (in the Cluny Rd, Rosedale Rd, & Avondale Rd areas). To do so will need commitment and, of course, money. If the South Rosedale Residents Association wants to continue to represent the interests of the area, we also need your financial support. We are not recognised as a charity, but your support is necessary to hire 3rd party representatives on projects that undermine the heritage values or infringe on our beautiful parks and ravines of South Rosedale.

We need to plan ahead, in order to sustain the "Rosedalean" level of advocacy our neighbourhood deserves. Rosedale is our home and we need to support it through our time and/or paying dues.

If you have been thinking about getting involved on the board, a committee, just have some spare time to volunteer at one of our events, send us a note to info@southroosedale.org.

To pay your dues, you can:

- etransfer southroosedaleresidents@gmail.com,
- mail or drop off a cheque at 116 Crescent Road, M4W1T5
- pay by credit card on our website, <https://southroosedale.org/product/srra-membership/>.

Whichever way you choose, it's \$100/year or \$250/3 years.



AGM Reminder

Wednesday, October 19

at 7pm

Toronto Lawn

Tennis Club

44 Price St

Ravines Update:

Major Step Forward for the Vale of Avoca and Midtown’s Ravine Network

City Commits \$1.5 Million to a Comprehensive Master Plan

This summer, Toronto City Council took a major step toward restoring one of the city’s most beautiful and historically important ravines. In July 2025, Council approved \$1.5 million in funding to create a Master Plan for the Vale of Avoca, the green corridor running along Yellow Creek between St. Clair Avenue and Summerhill. The plan will address long-standing erosion problems, crumbling trails, and environmental degradation that have worsened over the past decade. The decision follows years of advocacy by the Midtown Ravines Group, working closely with Councillors Dianne Saxe and Josh Matlow and with the strong support of Mayor Olivia Chow. The South Rosedale Residents’ Association (SRRA) is an active member of the Midtown Ravines Group.

With this initiative, the first time in recent memory, the City will approach ravine rehabilitation in an integrated way rather than through isolated, piecemeal repairs. The process will involve staff from Parks & Recreation, Toronto Water, and Environment, Climate & Forestry, along with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, to ensure that engineering, ecology, and public access are considered together.



Citizen Science and Biodiversity Tracking

Local residents are already helping to monitor the ravine’s ecological health through the Vale of Avoca project on iNaturalist, the citizen-science app used worldwide to document biodiversity. More than 130 volunteers have recorded nearly 400 species of plants, birds, and insects within the ravine’s boundaries.

These records are creating a detailed picture of the ravine’s current condition—showing where invasive species dominate and where native species still thrive. This data will help guide decisions about replanting and habitat restoration once the Master Plan is implemented. Residents are encouraged to join the project by downloading the iNaturalist app and logging their own sightings along the trail.

Community Leadership and Fundraising

While the City will lead the technical work, community participation will be crucial. The Midtown Ravines Group—a consortium of local residents’ associations including South Rosedale—has committed to raising private funds to supplement public investment. Early projections suggest total project costs could reach between \$20 million and \$35 million. The group expects to raise approximately \$15 to \$25 million from private donors once the Master Plan is finalized and costs are confirmed.

Why the Project Matters

Anyone who walks through David A. Balfour Park or along the Yellow Creek trail has seen the decline in recent years. Heavy rains have washed away sections of trail and undercut slopes. Invasive plants have crowded out native species, and creekbank erosion has widened the channel far beyond its natural course.

Without a coordinated restoration effort, the problems would continue to worsen and could eventually require the closure of key trail sections. The new plan represents a turning point: it acknowledges the Vale of Avoca as an essential piece of Toronto’s natural infrastructure and as a model for how other ravines can be restored across the city, from Rosedale Valley to Cudmore Creek and Mud Creek.

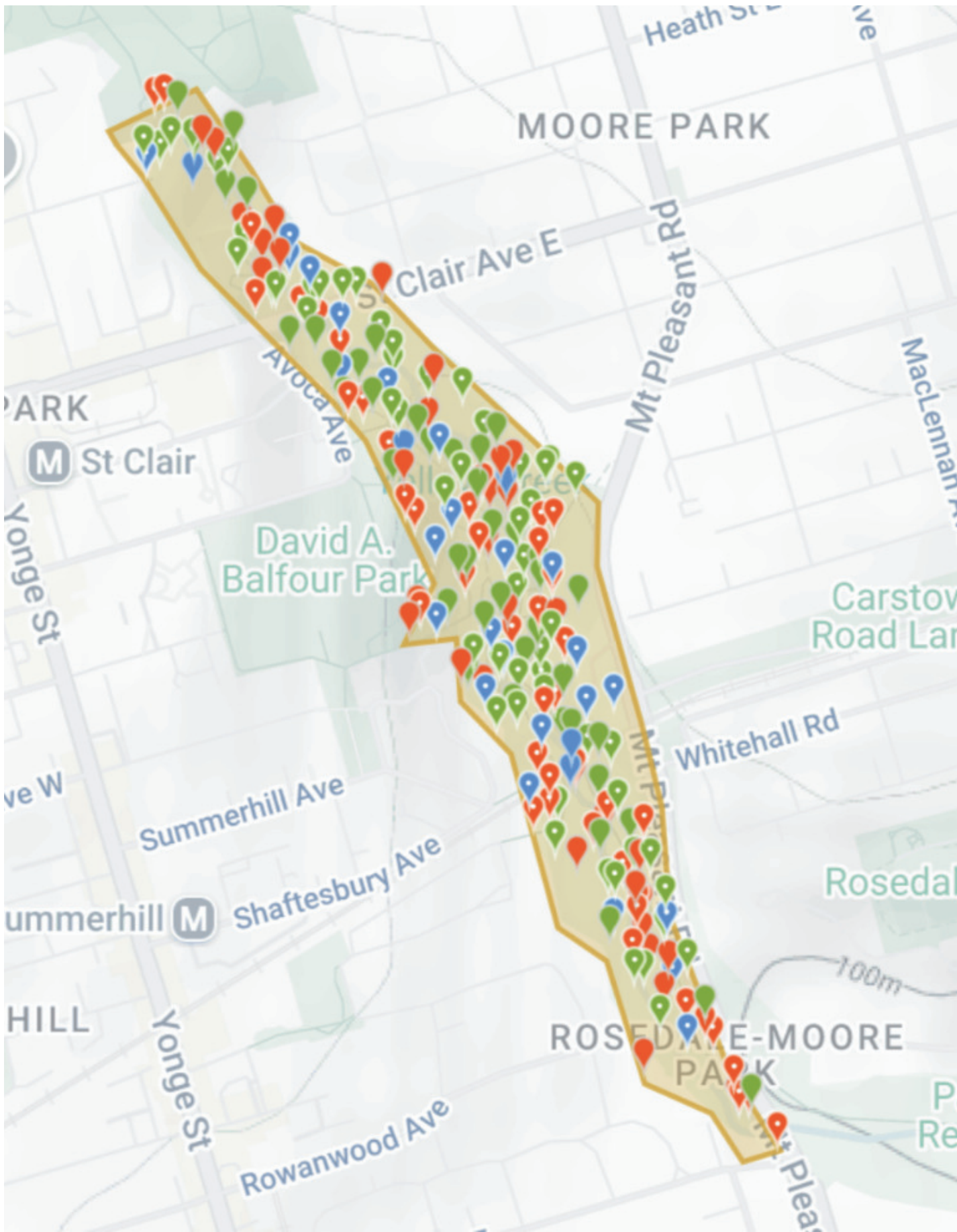
Ravines Group

The Midtown Ravines Group is consulting with Evergreen and the Toronto Foundation to structure its fundraising and to establish governance for long-term stewardship. The group has also applied for charitable status, which would allow it to issue tax-creditable receipts once approved.

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The reasoning is practical, even though the numbers anticipated are astronomical. The City faces a large backlog of infrastructure projects, many involving at-risk sewers or stormwater systems. Because the Vale of Avoca has no immediate utility threat, it has not been near the top of the City’s capital list. Without private fundraising, major restoration work might not take place for another decade. Getting to this massive fundraising target is the major challenge for the Midtown



Beyond the Vale of Avoca

The spirit of restoration is spreading beyond Yellow Creek. In June 2025, the City completed the Cudmore Creek Wetland and Trailhead Project, turning an overlooked section of the ravine network into a thriving wetland and trail hub that connects with Crothers Woods.

Closer to home, the new Morley Callaghan Bridge, linking Glen Road south to Rosedale Valley Road and the Sherbourne subway station, will reopen in September 2025 following a full reconstruction. Looking ahead, the Rosedale Valley Road Multi-Use Trail upgrade project is expected to begin in 2026, improving accessibility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Water Quality Monitoring in Yellow Creek

To better understand the environmental health of the creek, the organization Water Rangers, a Canadian nonprofit that promotes citizen-led water monitoring, has partnered with the Midtown Ravines Group to install new water sensors throughout Yellow Creek. The sensors measure water clarity and temperature at high frequency, providing data that helps identify the effects of rainfall, runoff, and construction activity on the creek. This technology, which until recently was used mainly in large research programs, will give Toronto its first continuous dataset on the small urban stream that flows through the Vale of Avoca. The results will inform restoration priorities and serve as a baseline for measuring improvements after erosion and stormwater work is completed.

Looking Ahead

The Vale of Avoca Master Plan is not the end of the story, but it is a crucial beginning. For the first time, the City will have a detailed, costed, and engineered roadmap for restoring one of its most iconic ravines. Success will depend on strong cooperation between government, community groups, and private donors.

Residents of South Rosedale are encouraged to stay informed through the Midtown Ravines Group at midtownravinesgroup.ca and to participate in upcoming consultations. The Vale of Avoca is part of the natural heart of our neighbourhood—its renewal will stand as a model for ravine restoration across the city and a legacy for future generations.

Neighbourhood Involvement

Public engagement has already begun. On July 26, 2025, the Toronto Field Naturalists co-led a guided walk of the Vale of Avoca with the Midtown Ravines Group. Twenty participants explored the ravine’s natural history, its native and invasive plants, and the visible impact of erosion. Future community events will include tree walks, clean-up days, and a fall Bioblitz to map biodiversity in more detail. Event listings are posted at valeofavoca.ca.

The Midtown Ravines Group also welcomes volunteers to help with communications, fundraising, and outreach to landowners along the ravine edge. Participation from neighbourhood associations, including South Rosedale, will be essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring residents’ voices shape the final plan.



Send your questions to southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com
with any questions you have about the neighbourhood or the SRRA

The Rosedale Digital Neighborhood Watch group has been up and running since October 2019! Are you signed up?

It's the most efficient way to stay informed about crime and safety in Rosedale while working in partnership with many communities in Toronto and 53 Police Division to stay connected and vigilant. The online forum is used to discuss neighbourhood security, advice on local criminal incidents or suspected criminal activity, and crime prevention measures.

300 Rosedale residences have already registered for this great safety initiative. To join the group, please send your email address and street address to: rosedaletorontowatch@gmail.com (along with any email addresses of interested household or family members who would like to be added). Your email address will be kept private and not displayed to the group. Once added, you'll receive timely news of suspicious activity and crime incidents in our neighbourhood.

If you become aware of any suspicious or criminal activity (no matter how small), please advise the group immediately. Pictures and videos are encouraged along with descriptions of any suspicious persons. Note down the make, model, colour, and license number of any strange vehicles. Be safe, be aware and communicate!



Celebrating the New Morley Callaghan Bridge



South Rosedale and BENA came together to mark the completion of the wider bridge, rebuilt tunnel, and new walkway from Bloor Street East. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the bridge this September, turning into a lively family event with food, refreshments, and entertainment.

Special guests included Councillors Diane Saxe and Chris Moise, MPPs Jessica Bell and Kristyn Wong-Tam, and several City officials, along with descendants of renowned Canadian writer Morley Callaghan. His son, Barry Callaghan, delivered a memorable and entertaining speech that reflected on South Rosedale's rich history.

Transportation Services has confirmed that three monitored security cameras will be installed on the bridge and are expected to be operational by early 2026 - further enhancing safety for all who use this important neighbourhood connection.

Successful South Rosedale Walking Tours

Architectural historian and Heaps Estrin real estate agent, Alex Corey, once again did a fantastic job leading this year’s walking tour, which began in Craigleigh Gardens and highlighted the eastern areas of our beautiful neighbourhood.

The June tour was so popular that a second tour was added in August to accommodate the strong community interest - both were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Make the Right Call - Star 877

Toronto Police has launched a new mobile Non-emergency number: ***877**. Those who are calling from a landline or having trouble connecting through the new number are asked to use the **416-808-2222** non-emergency number. 911 should still be used for emergencies.

This new service makes it easier for residents to connect with police services, personnel, and programs. It is also the right place to report crimes that are not, or are no longer, an emergency—for example, if your home has been broken into but the suspect is no longer on your property.

Toronto Police will take all reports of crime over the non-emergency line, but for faster service you are encouraged to use the online reporting system at **tps.ca/report** for:

- Illegal parking
- Theft under \$5,000
- Damage to property under \$5,000
- Damage to vehicle under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Graffiti vandalism on private property
- Theft of gas (from a gas station)
- Fraud under \$5,000

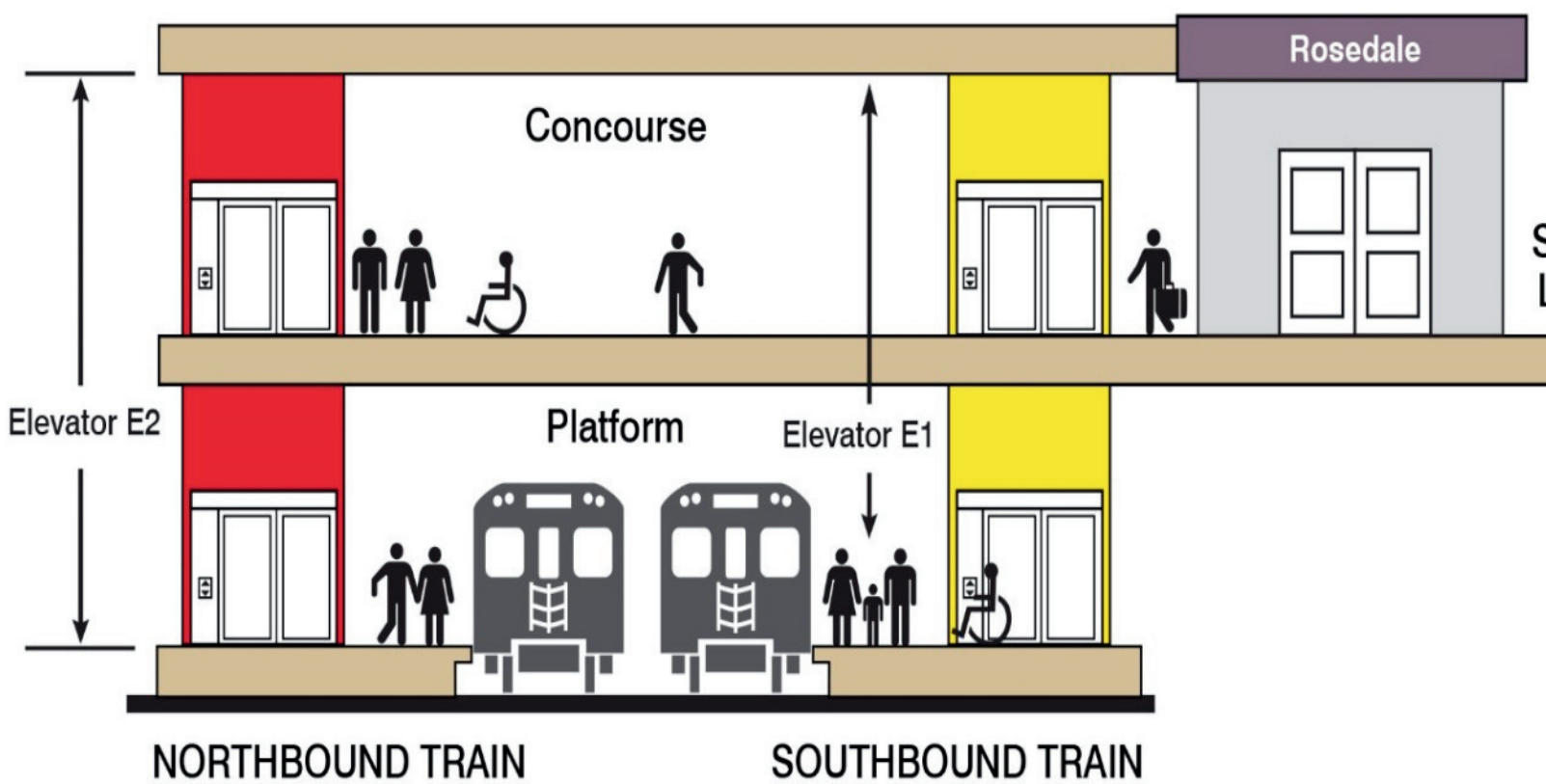


You can also use ***877** to report dangerous driving or unsafe driving behaviours.

Rosedale Station Easier Access Project

Rosedale Station has become the 59th accessible station. The elevators are in service and ready for public use.

In addition to the elevators, other accessible features such as tactiles strips were installed at the top of 4 staircases, and the curb cut at the bus platform was completed. Minor works will continue at the station.



Traffic Chaos and Overdevelopment Threaten South Rosedale

It has been a busy summer for the SRRA Development and Heritage Committee. With relatively few building restrictions in place, we are now facing critical encroachment on our community. Living in the heart of the City brings many benefits, but it also increases pressure for overdevelopment. We have retained legal counsel and the expertise of a City Planner to help us with a proposed 31-storey tower at 40 Park Road which poses serious threats to the South Rosedale community, raising concerns about traffic, heritage, and the local environment. We have met with other residential groups affected by this tower, we are well organized and we are working together to have an impact on the decision. The following are our concerns:

Zoning and Precedent Issues
Currently zoned residential, the developer is attempting to rezone 40 Park Road as mixed-use in order to allow this project. Allowing such a large development in a residential and heritage-sensitive area would set a dangerous precedent for future overdevelopment.

What Residents Can Do
This project impacts traffic safety, heritage preservation, and the environment. Community engagement is critical—residents are encouraged to attend consultations, provide feedback to City Council, and ensure their voices are heard.

Traffic Congestion and Safety Risks
Construction on Park Road could temporarily reduce the street to one lane, forcing drivers to divert through Rosedale and creating gridlock throughout the neighbourhood. The already congested drop-off and pick-up zones at Branksome Junior School will face unprecedented pressure, creating unsafe and unmanageable conditions for students, parents, and pedestrians. With only 31 tenant and four visitor parking spots planned, additional vehicles will potentially spill into residential streets, further worsening congestion and increasing risk for everyone.

Heritage and Environmental Impact
This development threatens the architectural integrity of two local landmarks: the DTH Building and the Lawren Harris Studio, a Canadian National Historic Site. Replacing the current 7-storey building with a 31-storey tower will dominate the skyline, cast deep shadows, and permanently alter the historic character and charm of our neighbourhood. The tower will be encroaching on the green space and could have significant impact by damaging nearby ravines and parklands, threatening Toronto’s delicate urban ecosystem.

South Rosedale encourages growth that respects its heritage, safety, and green spaces. This development, in its current form, poses a threat to all three.

Community Pushback Grows Against Pricefield Park Redesign

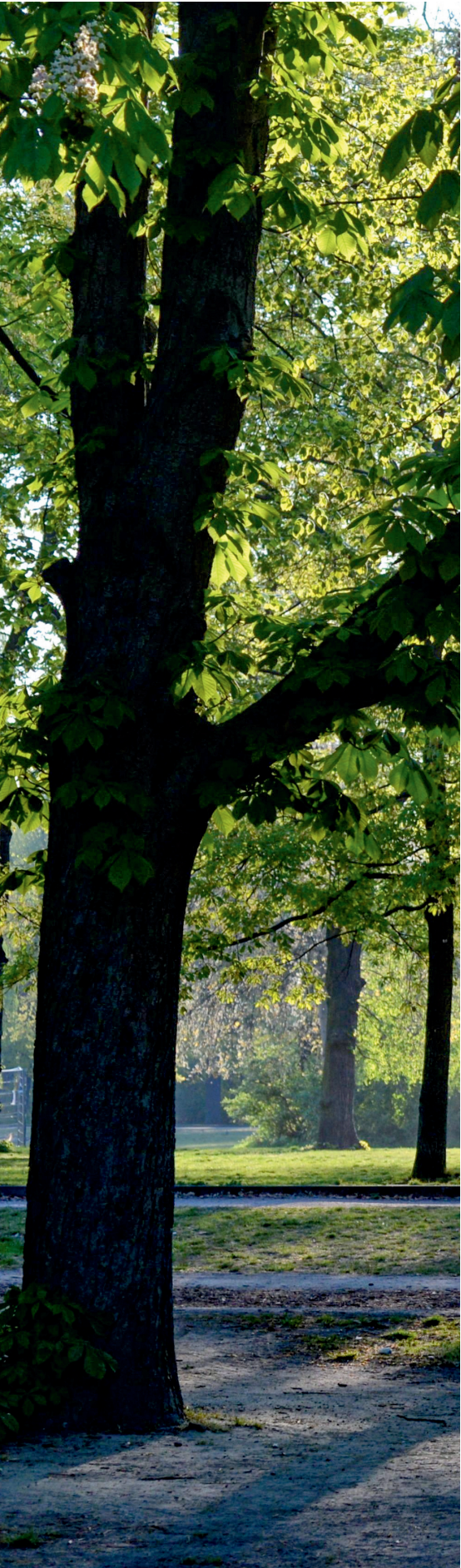
Neighbourhood opposition to the proposed changes at Pricefield Road Playground was clear throughout the summer. During Phase 2 of the City’s Community Engagement Process, a large number of residents participated in the June community consultation to review the draft park designs. The City describes its proposed redesign as a way to improve Pricefield Road Playground by adding new pathways, seating, signage, lighting, trees, planting, a water feature, and several upgrades to the existing playground. However, many residents view these changes as unnecessary and disruptive to the park’s current character. A follow-up survey conducted in July confirmed this sentiment.

The results revealed broad opposition to a major redesign:

- 19% of respondents were satisfied with the new designs,
- 22% were somewhat satisfied,
- 13% were somewhat dissatisfied, and
- 36% were very dissatisfied.

In total, nearly half of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed plans. The majority of residents said they enjoy the park as it is, preferring only minor improvements rather than a large-scale overhaul.

Phase 3 of community engagement is planned for November and will include another virtual public meeting, online survey, and an in-person workshop. The outcome from this phase will determine the final design. In preparation, concerned residents have formed an informal committee to review the new designs and coordinate community input. With Pricefield Park’s close proximity to Scrivener Square and homes along Pricefield and Mathersfield, many are particularly worried about the potential addition of pop-up pickleball courts and other features that could increase noise and traffic. City officials, including Councillor Dianne Saxe, are listening to the community feedback, so it is important for everyone, whether you are for or against these changes, to participate in these public meetings and surveys.



Jessica Bell, MPP

As your Member of Provincial Parliament, my job is to represent your interests at Queen's Park on a whole range of topics, from housing, to safety, to support from municipalities.

That's why I think the Auditor General's reports, released earlier this month, are something we should all know more about.

Ontario's Auditor General Shelley Spence has released four major reports — on Skills Development, Climate, Childcare, and Housing. I attended the media briefing on the day of the release, and was struck by what I heard. Every report has a story to tell, and these aren't just policy papers. These are issues that affect millions of Ontarians every day, and they're worth a closer look.

Let's dive in: First up - Skills Development. Ontario's Skills Development Fund should have been giving employers, unions, municipalities, non-profits and colleges funding to train people looking for work, especially at a time when so many people are worried about their job. The Auditor General found that this \$2.5 billion program was being mismanaged — with political staff awarding the majority of large grants to companies with close ties to the government, while rejecting applicants who were far more qualified. In her report, she described the program as “not fair, transparent, or accountable”. A nightclub owner with connections to Premier Ford and his family got almost \$10 million. The wife of a former cabinet minister was granted \$2 million. You can bet that reporters, myself and my Official Opposition NDP colleagues, and the Auditor General are going to be digging deep into this program.

Next - Climate and the Environment. The Ford government has abandoned its responsibility to fight climate change, and the province is not on track to meet its 2030 targets and has no plan beyond that. They've even stopped publishing their progress on reducing emissions entirely. In fact, that's part of the reason why the Auditor General wrote this report to provide the public with fresh information, with none coming directly from the government on this crucial issue.

When it comes to Childcare, the Auditor General paints a picture that worries me greatly as a parent myself. Put simply, Ontario's affordable childcare program is at serious risk. The Ford government has failed to create enough spaces or hire enough workers to make childcare a reality for parents across the province. The program needs nearly \$2 billion in new funding just to stay afloat — and the Ford government has mismanaged money set aside for it. The province has spent five years worth of federal government funding in four years - which represents 98% of the program's budget. With almost all of the money so far having come from the federal government, it's unclear where future funding will come from. That puts parents in an almost impossible position, wondering if the money doesn't come, what's going to happen to the program and their child's affordable care spot? And because not enough spaces have been created, low-income families are today far less likely to find an affordable childcare spot because they cannot compete with the increased demand for the limited number that are available. Ontario needs to bring in strong policy fixes so that those families most in need of affordable childcare can secure a spot for their kids.

Meet Jessica Bell at
our AGM,
November 19th at
the Toronto Lawn
Tennis Club



Now let's talk about housing. Purchasing a home is likely to be the biggest financial decision you'll ever make. It's the job of the Home Construction Regulatory Authority (HCRA) to make sure buyers of new homes aren't ripped off by developers.

But too often, we hear stories from people who have spent thousands fixing up poorly built homes, or who have lost their deposit when a developer goes bankrupt. The Auditor General has found that the HCRA is failing to protect homebuyers. According to her report, the HCRA is greenlighting developers with active complaints and financial red flags, exposing buyers to a wild west sales environment. Not only is the HCRA failing to investigate complaints by consumers, it is also letting bad actors with poor track records continue to build homes. Buyers across Ontario deserve better oversight, accountability, and protection when it comes to purchasing a home.

You might ask, after the Auditor General has reported what happens next? Once the reports are released, my job begins. That's because I'm on the public accounts committee, working with my NDP, Liberal and Conservative MPP colleagues at Queen's Park and the Auditor General to improve the performance of the departments investigated in each report. We question heads of departments, we question ministers, and we write reports ourselves, before then raising these issues in the legislature.

Previously on average, just 43 percent of the Auditor General's recommendations from reports have been implemented. That's a problem, because this is about trust. Ontarians expect the government to deliver efficient programs that help people across our province, not their well-connected friends.

I want to get that implementation number up to 80 percent, and I believe it's important to do this to hold the government to account. I think we can do it, and I'm ready to get to work. Our office is here to help, and you're always welcome to contact us to arrange a meeting, invite us to an event, or to get in touch if you need assistance. Jessica Bell is the MPP for University-Rosedale and the Shadow Minister for Finance and the Treasury Board. You can reach her office at jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca or 416-535-7206.



If you love reading the newsletter, maybe you'd like to help with the next edition. We welcome your help with writing articles, photography or layout. If you're interested, contact southrosedaleresidents@gmail.com to get involved!

Meet an SRRA Board Member: Doc von Lichtenberg

My name is Doc von Lichtenberg. I've been in the area since 1977. I bought my haunted house at 10 North Sherbourne Street 24 years ago.

I've been on the board for about six years. We have a lot of talented and successful people in South Rosedale. As a result, we are generally pretty good at identifying our neighbourhood's concerns and responding with creative solutions.

I've been involved in the issue of parking problems with the residents of Elm St. vs Branksome Hall. Trust me, solutions don't always come easily. Politicians and corporate executives have many ways to wrap residents in red tape. I'm supportive of Janice L's great work on community safety. On two occasions I've introduced myself to known trespassers (whose faces and actions have been caught on video and distributed). I let those two gents know that their faces have been sent digitally throughout the neighbourhood and that we and the cops are watching them. That wasn't part of my SRRA duties. Just call it a hobby.

One of our members donated two stone pillars to us (at our entry east off Yonge St., just north of the Rosedale Subway). A car smashed into one and there was no witness. But there was \$20,000.00 in damages. I contacted the city because they were on city property. However, they belonged to us. The city was going to tear down the damaged one (due to liability concerns) and bill us for it. After a year of negotiations, phone calls, emails and no support from the councillors office, I went ahead and got 13 estimates. The previous SRRA boards had never put insurance coverage on the pillars. After the repairs were finally completed I interviewed 3 insurance companies to get a policy and coverage for the pillars. All in all, it took about 18 months. Most recently two of us from the board went to cut down weeds, branches and remove construction debris from the above mentioned pillars. A neighbour came out of her home to express her distress with the overgrown mess. I gave her permission to join in the clean up anytime. Sometimes people just need an invitation to get involved.

There was the time that Umesh and I went on a comprehensive scavenger hunt of storage facilities to track down boxes of documents, board minutes, and corporate papers dating back to 1936.

Often a board member (or volunteer) has to pick up on a loose end and just run with it. If you are persistent and can be a "squeaky wheel"... there's always a project available. You don't have to commit to being a board member. There are lots of opportunities and many ways that you (and your family) can get involved. My days of distributing newsletters are over.

A good start is to get to know your neighbours. I always drop a note into the homes that border mine with my phone number and email contact. I tell them when I'm heading out of town and remind them that I'll keep an eye on their places when I'm around. I also tell them about the SRRA.

You can be sure that issues that are a concern to you are probably a concern to them as well.

Contact us anytime. We're a friendly group.



Helping Toronto Homeowners Go Green: BetterHomesTO

As part of Toronto's journey toward net zero emissions by 2040, the City is making it easier for residents to take climate action at home. The BetterHomesTO program provides homeowners with trusted information, practical tools, and financial incentives to make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable year-round.

Through the BetterHomesTO website, residents can explore 31 different home energy upgrades—from improved insulation, high-efficiency windows, and air sealing to heat pumps, solar panels, and electric vehicle chargers. The site also connects homeowners to available rebates, loans, and expert advice offered by the City of Toronto and its partners.

BetterHomesTO is a collaborative initiative led by the City's Environment, Climate, and Forestry Division, working alongside organizations such as Enbridge Gas, Toronto Hydro, Clean Air Partnership, and the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) to promote practical, scalable home retrofits.

For homeowners in South Rosedale, even modest upgrades—like switching to a smart thermostat, sealing window drafts, or improving attic insulation—can reduce both energy costs and emissions while enhancing comfort in all seasons.

betterhomesontario.ca/programs/betterhomes-toronto