



The Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc. (KPRI) Newsletter

Representing the Sunnylea & Kingsway Areas

Spring 2002 Issue

Wider and Uglier for the Next 50 Years!



It has been acknowledged that the bridge on Royal York Road over Mimico Creek (at Glen Roy) was widened in anticipation of the design for the reconstruction of Royal York Road between Mimico Creek and Dundas Street West.

The KPRI reiterated concerns to Councillor Peter Milczyn that the bridge not be widened. However, despite early requests and warnings, the construction proceeded and the road width was widened without notification to residents from the Councillor's office. (Councillor Milczyn supports narrowing roadways and we look forward to working with him on this important neighbourhood issue.) This widening was the first piece of major investment, whose wider dimensions could drive the parameters for the road design of Royal York Road. A wider, faster road will eliminate local resident wishes to restore the original grassy boulevards replete with viable trees both north and south of Bloor Street.

Continued on Page 4

Log Onto the KPRI Web Site!
www.kingswayratepayers.com

KPRI Annual General Meeting

All Sunnylea & Kingsway Residents Welcome!

Tuesday May 28, 2002—7:30 p.m.

The Montgomery Inn

4709 Dundas St. West (Dundas & Islington)

Special Guest: Steve Lindley

Director, Environment, SNC-Lavalin Engineers and Constructors Inc.

B.Sc. Biology, M.Sc. Rural (Regional) Planning.

Over 20 years experience in environmental consulting.

Your local Councillor and the KPRI Board of Directors will be available to address your concerns and answer your questions.

The KPRI Represents.....

Residents from Dundas St. W. to Berry Rd. & from Mimico Creek/Royal York Rd./Montgomery Rd. to the Humber River.

To become a member see page 5 or call 416-232-2243.



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President's Overview

By: Mary L. Campbell

Royal York Road Reconstruction

The KPRI received Community Council endorsement for their request: ONE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS ONLY for Royal York Road's reconstruction from Mimico Creek to Dundas Street West.

The KPRI has requested that Councillor Milczyn hold a community meeting early Fall, 2002 for all neighborhood constituents. A preliminary discussion of road design issues must take place. The KPRI continues to support the design preference presented in the Fall, 2001 newsletter:

- 28 feet curb-face to curb-face
- Curbs and gutters exactly the same as the successful Prince Edward Drive South design.

Zanini Town Home Project at The Berry Plaza

Local residents have filed to The Ontario Municipal Board. Updates are posted on the KPRI web site.

Bloor Street Urban Design (East of Prince Edward Drive)

No meeting has taken place yet. An update will be provided on the KPRI website and in the KPRI newsletter when the working group has met. If you would like to join the working group, please email campbell@the-wire.com.

Heritage Designation for The Kingsway Park District

The Heritage Designation motion did not pass Community Council in the early spring.

Traffic Calming

The KPRI has been unable to confirm whether or not local side streets without curbs and gutters will qualify for speed humps. This would be ludicrous as Etobicoke's local streets are renowned for their country-like lanes and ditches minus the environmentally damaging urban concrete. The KPRI is pursuing this issue directly with Mr. Dominic Gulli, Traffic Department.

Email Alert Information Service

Send an email message to campbell@the-wire.com, and the KPRI will keep you updated regarding local meetings and events via email.

Do you Want to Voice Your Opinion?

Paid members may attend the KPRI monthly meetings for the first ½ hour. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Call Mary Campbell at 416-231-0180 for the location.



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Berry Road Plaza Relocation Notices

Dominion Cleaners (416-253-1593) is now at 888 The Queensway at Ladysmith.

AGA's Catering (416-253-2288) is now at 2481A Lakeshore Boulevard West. Hours are 10.am – 9pm.



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Spring Delight!

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We can't wait to join in all the social events the Activities Co-ordinator has planned for us; the shopping sprees on our own bus, movie nights and fitness classes will surely be a delight!”



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4251 Dundas St. W. (at Royal York), Etobicoke

Definition of Widening

Engineers in the Works Department who construct our roadways define widening as: "Adding another traffic lane".

We taxpayers define widening as: "Providing a wider road surface for that single lane of traffic, from 12 ft. to 16 ft. in width".



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Wider and Uglier: continued from Page 1

The continuing practice of passing cars on the right-hand side is dangerous. Passing a car (that is trying to turn left) on the right-hand side means that there is never an opportunity for a break in traffic flow. With a constant flow of traffic that never needs to stop, the traffic moves faster and more dangerously. This is hazardous and deadly for all road users and pedestrians. Many a time when a pedestrian has been trying to use the crosswalk, one car stops and another whips by on the right. **Prince Edward Drive South's successful design has addressed this issue** and serves as the ideal design template for Royal York Road.

The only forms of passive and responsible traffic calming open for the reconstruction of Royal York Road are a narrower but reasonable road width. At 28 feet, with curbs/gutters and treed boulevards side friction will address issues that have been raised. (Side Friction is what you feel when construction crews on the highway erect the 3 foot high concrete walls to guide traffic around their work—the concrete walls make you want to slow down and pay closer attention.) Boulevards and trees reflect the neighborhood character and add a "buffer" between the roadway and the pedestrian. Pedestrians are important. We need to get out of our cars and walk to **shop locally**. A sensitive road design on Royal York Road (being a minor arterial road) will ensure people "walk it" and leave their cars at home.

Berry Road To Be Widened

The KPRI anticipates that the City Transportation Department plans to widen Berry Road in Spring 2003-2005. This will encourage more high-speed traffic and increased heavy truck traffic on Parklawn Road, Berry Road, Prince Edward Drive, and throughout the entire neighbourhood.

The KPRI has requested Community Council to only approve a reconstruction of Berry Road from Prince Edward Drive to Parklawn Road at 26 feet "curb-face to curb-face" with all of the EXACT same successful design specifications as the recently reconstructed Prince Edward Drive South (including the restoration of the original boulevards and new tree plantings) as both roads are of the same character, carrying the same traffic loads.

Note: Both sections of road should include BIKE ROUTE designation, but should NOT be widened by 10 ft. to include bike lanes.

The KPRI would also like your views on a traffic island at Berry Road and Parklawn Road as part of the design for the Berry Road reconstruction. This would add a beautiful design element.

VOICE YOUR OPINION:

c/o KPRI

39 Meadowvale Drive, Etobicoke ON M8Y 2P1

Tel: 416-231-0180 Fax: 416-232-9138

Email: campbell@the-wire.com

You Should Become a KPRI Member!

Do you remember the day when you moved into the neighbourhood? Once the truck had left you with your possessions, you could hardly wait to put up the curtains, put pots of flowers on the porch and make the house look like you'd lived there forever.

The next order of business was to grab your spouse for evening walks to admire the neighborhood you spent so much money to join. Every garden was scrutinized: handsome redecorating or clever architectural modification was critically assessed. You made pleasant overtures towards the neighbors and went to see the shopping amenities, the schools, garage sales and street events. Once you got a handle on garbage and recycling days, you were pretty much integrated.

Having children in the local school system is the primary social access for most of us, followed by the local churches, and the neighborhood parks. Most people want to connect and protect their neighborhood- it's their chosen village in the literal sense of the word. The Ratepayer Association completes the good neighbor picture by watching what municipal government departments have in mind for our homes. The Ratepayer newsletter brings to your attention changes that may not be welcome by the time you notice the bulldozers widening the

road, or when the school closing is a done deal, or the local plaza is razed to make way for a multi-storied apartment building that glares right into YOUR backyard. We let you know about the great teams of neighbors who donate free time to restore parks, improve schools, run church events, and keep the shopping district vital. SHOP LOCALLY or lose the opportunity forever when those investors sadly shut their doors and move away. When we hear of interesting developments we can send you details via email if you send us an email requesting notification to campbell@the-wire.com. Updates are on www.kingswayratepayers.com. Twice a year a newsletter is published that highlights the past six months, and looks to the future.

There are monthly meetings that are sociable, unstructured, and highly informative: to attend call 416-231-0180. Faithful ratepayer members help the municipal Councillor keep this neighbourhood the fantastic place YOU CHOSE when you shopped the city and decided to bring your money and your family HERE.

To keep the area elegant and steadily improving, we need members who pay their \$20.00 a year to defray the cost of the newsletter.

NOTE: Advertising does not cover the cost of this newsletter—memberships do.

We all need to be kept updated. **JOIN THE KPRI TODAY!**

Cut Here

Cut Here

KPRI Membership Form (June 2002 — June 2003)

Renewal

New Member

Name: _____ Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax#: _____

Email: _____

Membership Fee: \$20.00/year—Make cheques payable to: The Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc.

Mail to: KPRI c/o Mary L. Campbell, 39 Meadowvale Drive, Etobicoke, ON M8Y 2P1.

Can You Volunteer Some of Your Time?

EFRRA Representative

Member of the Executive

Roads & Traffic

Development & Overbuilding

Other _____

For more information, please call Fiona Campbell at 232-2243.

Renovation Updates!

Repairing Staircases or Extending a Staircase Into a New Addition

To have a stair handrail copied exactly, call David Houle at 1-519-571-7492. He is a wood carver as well for unique decorative elements you may want to have created.

To have spindles and newel posts copied exactly, call Dave Gillies at 1-519-621-0079.

These projects are costly because the woods used in our older homes such as cherry, walnut, or mahogany are now considered exotic. By purchasing a metal profiling gauge (available at Lee Valley Tools 416-746-0850) you can make an outline of your wood trim, elaborate mouldings, newel post, or spindle contours.

Please let us know about your master craftsman and the work that he/she does. We like to promote gifted technical expertise. Our articles provide information leads because finding quality custom artisans is time consuming.

Always ask for references!

Area of Special Streetscape Identity

The KPRI will be requesting that the overall district be designated as an Area of Special Identity for **streetscaping purposes** in the new Toronto Official Plan.

This designation would NOT encroach on bylaws for housing development. This would strictly preserve and maintain our special streetscape features: stone bridges under driveways that are built over ditches, trees, grassy boulevards, natural drainage, and country like lanes, as well as shrubs and flowers by the roadside.

Amalgamation and new city policies have thrown all neighborhoods into the same “pot” without considering unique features. The KPRI feels it is imperative that a planning document highlights the differences between Sunnylea and The Kingsway and downtown Toronto.

Should you have any comments, please contact Mary Campbell at 416-231-0180. The KPRI will update residents via email, the KPRI web site (www.kingswayratepayers.com), and the bi-annual newsletter.

Roofing

By Peter and Greg Contracting Inc.

Why is your roof so important?

Your home is probably the largest investment you'll ever make, and you want to protect that investment. That's why ensuring that you have a quality roof is so important.

Peter and Greg Walker Contracting Inc. has been handling the residential roofing needs of Etobicoke homeowners since 1981, building a reputation for quality workmanship and long-lasting reliability.

Some of the architectural shingles used even carry a lifetime warranty.

When you deal with Peter and Greg Walker Contracting Inc., you're dealing with the company's principles—as a result, the level of customer service is second-to-none.

Some of the areas where quality is most noticeable on a Walker-installed roof are:

- Metal valleys, which will outlast the roof. Typical two-ply shingled valleys can be damaged by falling branches, weather or raccoons, and are not covered by manufacturer's warranty.
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- Your property will be protected with tarps and plywood sheets, and you can expect a thorough clean-up after the work is completed.

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Royal York Road Reconstruction Meeting Highlights

On April 11, 2002 Councillor Peter Milczyn held a Community Meeting regarding a city report dealing with various traffic issues on Royal York Road, from Bloor Street to Dundas/Eglinton. There were approximately 65 attendees.

Some residents north of Bloor and on Royal York Road were invited. Residents south of Bloor and not living on Royal York Road were not invited (other than residents who provided the KPRI with their e-mail addresses for automatic updating on community issues). Not inviting the wider community was an oversight by the councillor's office, and the KPRI have expressly requested written notification of all community meetings regarding the neighborhood in general and Royal York Road in particular in the future. The residents of The Kingsway, Sunnylea, and Thompson Orchard Community Association (TOCA) need to know what is planned for their neighborhood.

Mr. Dominic Gulli of the Etobicoke Works Dept. explained the findings of the report. The audience was very clear about their concerns, and stressed the importance of speeding and dangerous driving not only from a road traffic operation perspective but from a resident's point of view.

There was consensus that the grassed boulevards that have been incrementally overpaved with asphalt have resulted in a wider road surface. This permits vehicles to pass on the right and is the "key" problem. The **right-hand passing** eliminates the opportunity for any break in traffic flow which is required to allow area residents to enter/exit their driveway and cross the road in a safe and appropriate manner.

A desire to remove the asphalt from the boulevards from encroaching up to the very trunks of mature trees, to restore the grassed areas as buffers behind curbs for safety and the planting of new trees, was also of paramount concern.

It was agreed that curbs and gutters for the new road design would be reasonable and desirable. It was noted that Prince Edward Drive South at 26 feet and with curbs, gutters and an abundance of new tree plantings is a great success. All in attendance agreed that **Prince Edward Drive South was a suitable design template for Royal York Road** between Mimico Creek and Dundas Street.

Guests were informed that The Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc. (KPRI) had requested and received Etobicoke Community Council's endorsement for **one public process for the**

design of the roadway between Mimico Creek and Dundas Street West. Councillor Peter Milczyn also supported this request and will attend the Works Committee meeting in May, 2002. The Works Committee has been asked to comment in writing. Mr. Gulli could not confirm as to when the reconstruction would/could take place. Road reconstruction could commence as early as 2003, or as late as 2005. Given the unpredictable nature of the municipal Budget Process, the KPRI is being proactive in an effort to ensure timely community participation and notification on the issue. The road is an enormous part of how this neighbourhood looks. It has to be handled in a way that lends style and distinction. It is possible to do this without spending any more than a conventional road design. Councillor Milczyn requested that the underpass at Dundas Street be reconfigured as it is, in essence, a dangerous funnel of a 4-lane speedway leading to a narrow residential two lane street. Mr. Gulli agreed to address the issue. Mr. Gulli confirmed that white lines and reflector sticks will be installed on Royal York Road between Mimico Creek and Dundas Street Spring/Summer 2002. This has been useful in the past in re-establishing a motorist's sense of where they should be in relation to the center line. Reflector sticks will help prevent cars passing on the right over the boulevards.

The issue will be updated as events occur. Please forward your support to campbell@the-wire.com.

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Councillor Peter Milczyn: 416-392-4040
Councillor Milczyn's
Executive Assistant (Ian MacEachern): 416-392-4039

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