



# The Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc. (KPRI) Newsletter

Representing the Sunnylea & Kingsway Areas

[www.kingswayratepayers.com](http://www.kingswayratepayers.com)

## Compromise Achieved: Good News For Residents

**By: The Kingsway Directors**

On April 27 2005 the Works Committee approved a compromise of 9.1m (29 feet 10 inches) for the curb face to curb face width in the reconstruction of Royal York Road, scheduled for the summer of 2005. Council meets May 17th 2005 to approve the design. A white line at the 1.25 metres mark inside the curb line to indicate a bicycle route will be decided upon at that time.

The debate regarding Royal York Road commenced the moment Prince Edward Drive South was concluded. It was clear that these two major bisecting roads influenced the unique appearance of the district and required sensitive and careful design parameters. In 2001 The KPRI requested that Councillor Milczyn revise the bike plan to reflect a bike route designation for Royal York Road from Mimico Creek north to Dundas. This was adopted by City Council. Subsequently, we requested that the design process be treated as one plan to create a visually continuous design from Mimico Creek to Dundas (no wider paved surface south of Bloor for example- or narrower boulevards). This was also agreed to by Council. Finally, the ratepayer organization actively promoted a petition throughout the district, gathering over two thousand signatures under the



inspired leadership of Tom Gough and Dick Thompson. Each issue of the biannual newsletter, and the email alerts circulated regularly used superimposed photography to demonstrate how attractive the narrower road would be, with new trees, boulevards etc. Public meetings were also scheduled at ratepayer expense to ensure the widest

possible distribution of information.

We are pleased that the concerns of the district were finally recognized downtown. Our thanks go out to all the neighbours who took the time and made the effort to bring this matter to a happy conclusion. The neighbourhood is a handsomer place because of your work.

### **KPRI Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005**

**Registration: 6:30 Meeting: 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church  
2850 Bloor St. W.**

**(NE corner of Bloor St. and Prince Edward Dr. N.)**

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
SUPERINTENDENT EDWIN HOEY**

Note: Entrance is the East door located off the Church parking lot. The meeting will be held in the gymnasium, located on the lower level.



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## KPRI Traffic And Roads

By: Paul Badics

KPRI Director of Traffic

### Traffic Lights On Royal York Road

Residents successfully stopped plans for unnecessary traffic controls at KINGSGROVE and ROYAL YORK, while similar plans for the intersection at GLENROY have been postponed. Safety improvements to the GLENROY intersection and the KINGSGROVE Pedestrian Crossing will be implemented as part of Royal York reconstruction project.

### Usher-Kingsway Traffic Island

Residents at this intersection have expressed outrage and opposition to any plan that removes or reconfigures the intersection. Councillor Peter Milczyn supports removing the island in favour of creating a standard T-intersection which would facilitate the installation of another STOP sign on The Kingsway. The planted-with-greenery island is one of the many "little features" which makes The Kingsway unique. Residents like to plant it themselves and in fact the one at The Kingsway and King George's won a Garden Award due to the dedicated work of Penny Moles. Let's keep it! Please let us know how you feel about this: e-mail [kpri@sympatico.ca](mailto:kpri@sympatico.ca).

### Traffic Calming – The Kingsway

Residents on THE KINGSWAY are also voting on SPEED HUMPS. As this street is classified a COLLECTOR ROAD for the neighbourhood, residents on streets where traffic might potentially divert (KING GEORGE, STRATH, KINGSGROVE and GOVERNMENT RD.) have expressed concern to the KPRI. As part of the Environmental Assessment process, residents from other affected streets in the neighbourhood can voice their opinion about this collector road by writing: Ms Jacqueline White, Manager, Traffic Operations, South District, City of Toronto, 55 John St, Metro Hall, Toronto, Ont. M5V 3C6.

### Traffic Calming – Sunnylea

Residents on 'local residential roads'; GLENROY AVE, MEADOWVALE DR and EDGEMORE DR are currently voting (street by street) for an AREA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN that includes SPEED HUMPS. On each street 50% must respond, and 60% must be in favour for the proposal to pass for that street.

### Royal York: Usher to Ashley Blvd. Will Change

Plans to redesign the 4 and 6 lane sections of Royal York north and south of Dundas will proceed as a separate design process at the request of Councilor Gloria Lindsay Luby. This 'expressway like' section is not only unsightly and unfriendly for pedestrians, but it also contributes greatly to speeds all along Royal York, and makes exiting local streets and driveways dangerous. City staff are preparing plans for public viewing that will see significant lane reductions, shortening of access ramps, Stop signs, improved pedestrian and cyclist access, and significant plantings of trees and grass, as well as new center median boulevards. Support Councilor Luby in her efforts to beautify this section of Royal York and reconnect Kingsway Park with The Humber Valley neighbourhood to the north. Councilor [lindsay\\_luby@Toronto.ca](mailto:lindsay_luby@Toronto.ca).



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## Cutting Water Bills

You'd water less often if you dug into your flowerbeds those slimy leaves you just raked off the lawn. Flowers and trees don't thrive on a bucket of Well-Gro and water alone: they need rotting vegetation incorporated into their soils to hold water, release nutrients slowly and cool root systems. It's even more critical for big old trees as well as new baby ones. They urgently need humus - it's the natural condition of the forest floor... Think nature. Do right for the future.

## Roof-Top Patios In The Kingsway

By: Mary L. Campbell  
KPRI President

Because of an application by The Crooked Cue last spring, an interim bylaw was passed to prohibit roof-top patios for one year pending a report by city staff. There were no regulations or specific bylaws to prohibit roof-top patios or to address noise and privacy issues. City staff have now released their report, which includes a 40 metre set back requirement from residential property lines. This precludes roof-top patios in the district except on the north side of Bloor where there are rear parking lots. The set back requirement in Bloor West Village, established by 'old' City of Toronto bylaw, is 10 metres.

The KPRI received support in favour of roof-top patios from its membership in the area. Many residents argued that the proximity to such Bloor St. activities is why they like this neighbourhood. To balance these interests with the very valid concerns of residents closest to Bloor St., the KPRI Board asked for and supported new stringent noise and privacy barriers recommended, but not a 40 metre set back. However, on a motion by Councilor Milczyn, Community Council approved the staff report, which included the 40 metre set back. The issue has been before City Council and the report has passed. The issue could be filed (appealed) to The Ontario Municipal Board.

## KPRI Traffic Report

By: Mary L. Campbell & Paul Badics  
KPRI President & KPRI Director of Traffic

### Surprise! Parklawn Rd. To Be Rebuilt From Queensway to Kingslea Blvd. This Summer!

In the Autumn 2004 newsletter (distributed to 5000 homes in the district), it was reported that Councilor Milczyn's office had assured local residents that the article appearing in the Spring newsletter was way ahead of it's time and that reconstruction would not occur in the foreseeable future. The office thought reconstruction might be as much as 6 to 8 years away. City staff had indicated to the KPRI, but never confirmed, that the road could be rebuilt as soon as 2005. We are now informed that PARKLAWN will be reconstructed THIS YEAR! This provides little time to present alternative designs. The first public meeting was held April 27 with a poor turnout as many residents did not receive the notice of public meeting. The design presented by Works Dept. is generally supportable as it meets basic requirements. It describes a 8.5 metre width north of Berry Rd., and a 9.4 metre road width south to Queensway. This permits significant reclamation of planted boulevards as well as calming traffic and reducing right hand passing. Curb radii at Berry, Queensway etc. will be narrowed for safety reasons. Staff have been asked to reduce the width of the Parklawn entrance at Queensway by considering a planted CENTER MEDIAN BOULEVARD WITH TREES. This idea was very well received, and staff have promised to look into it. A centre median would be a spectacular introduction to the district, enhancing safety concerns and property value. Residents (especially those on Parklawn), need to create petitions and lobby all neighbours for signatures immediately as the project will begin in a few months. Personal e-mails of support can be sent to [KPRI@sympatico.ca](mailto:KPRI@sympatico.ca).

A sketch of what the center median could look like is below.



Left: Existing Parklawn Road

Below: Computer enhancement of exactly the same photo image as above.



### Advertise in the KPRI Newsletter!

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### Interested in the KPRI's E-mail Updates?

If you are not currently receiving our e-mail alerts and wish to be kept up-to-date by e-mail with the issues and developments of your neighbourhood, simply send an e-mail to [kpri@sympatico.ca](mailto:kpri@sympatico.ca) with your name, address, telephone and the subject line.

**Be The First To Know!**

## Dundas Street Avenue Study

An Avenue Study is being undertaken for Dundas Street bordering The Kingsway neighbourhood. The study was requested by local residents and Councillor Peter Milczyn. There have been several public meetings, group meetings between the city, the consultant, the resident groups and developers and land/storeowners.

The intention was for good planning, improved streetscape with trees, relocating parking behind the buildings and intensification for the area, which includes the Rona-Lansing lands.

There are few details available at this time as a Staff report is being prepared. After reviewing the report the KPRI will make comment in the autumn newsletter after advising KPRI members by e-mail. Please ensure we have your e-mail address if you wish to be updated on this and other current issues.

The KPRI prefers a maximum of 5 or 6 storeys along the south side of Dundas Street (this is the current zoning requirement) with a 45-degree angular plane. The angular plane softens the impact on residential homes. The KPRI does not believe that "insisting" on retail at the bottom of condominium buildings is necessary and it provides no incentive to the developer. The Montgomery at Bloor and Montgomery Road is more complimentary to the area without retail establishments at street level. However, there must be a balance between retail and residential requirements on Dundas Street.

For further information or concern, please contact:

Mary L. Campbell  
KPRI President

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Director: Jane Pal-French

## Tall Fences Not Permitted On City Property

**By: Paul Badics**

KPRI Director of Traffic

The City of Toronto Bylaw Enforcement staff has recently upheld its Bylaws governing the installation of fences by residents on City owned right of way. Residents should be aware that if they wish to erect a fence on the city land in front of their home, they must first obtain permission in the form of an 'encroachment agreement' from the Bylaw Dept. that has to be presented to, and passed by, Community Council. As part of this process, residents who live within 200 metres of the proposed fence will be surveyed by the Bylaw staff on their opinion, which will be taken into consideration in any staff report recommendations. Other residents of the neighbourhood can also make deputations to councilors regarding such proposals.

As a rule, the city rarely approves a fence that does not conform with the existing Fence Bylaws. This bylaw stipulates that 'closed board' fences are no higher than 3 feet. A higher fence must be of an 'open board' variety. Exceptions include rebuilding an existing 'grandfathered' fence at the same location. In the encroachment agreement the city can also impose aesthetic rules concerning type of material used, quality of construction, and requirements for planting of greenery. Proper consideration for protection of existing public tree roots also has to be adhered to in construction, as residents can be held accountable for damaging city owned trees.

The standard 6-foot closed board cedar fence common in the area is permitted on or behind the property lines to permit back yard privacy. All these bylaws are in place to ensure neighbourhoods such as Sunnylea retain their 'open and green' character, and so that views and the beauty of public land is not harmed or encroached upon by individual property owners.

## Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) Report

**By: Wayne Hughes**

KPRI Director and CPLC Representative

Police Week begins on Sunday May 15, 2005. The Annual Police Open House takes place on Sunday, May 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at LAMP Community Centre, 185 Fifth Street, Toronto. This is an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy a visit and meet with your Police Officers, Fire and Ambulance services personnel, and static displays of vehicles of all descriptions; Uniforms, badges of Police services from around the world. Entertainment will be provided by the ROCK and Roll Band from Durham Regional Police Service. There will be a barbecue and soft drinks at reasonable prices as well as the Caldwell Banker kids 15-foot inflatable jumping game. There will be other activities and fun for the whole family.

Your CPLC has started fund raising campaign to raise \$20,000 to purchase an ELECTRONIC SIGN that will be used by our Division 22 Traffic Police to warn drivers of excessive speeding and will be moved about the division on a daily basis in an effort to improve traffic calming. Donations may be made out to Division 22 CPLC with special designation to Electronic Sign Fund and delivered to or mailed to Division 22.

Your CPLC committee is active in Graffiti Removal and is focusing its efforts at this time in South Etobicoke where graffiti is rampant. Community support is welcome for this effort and contact can be made through Division 22.

Overall crime continues to decrease in our community and across Toronto. However in our community, there are vehicles and homes being broken into, resulting in vehicle and property theft. Superintendent Edwin Hoey, 22 Division, reminds you that vehicles should not be left open; keys and property should be removed from vehicles. A neighbour, friend or relative should monitor your home if you are going to be absent for some time. Lights and timers should be used at night to give your home the appearance that someone is at home. Allow neighbours to park in you driveway and have your home checked daily when away. Jim Flynn reports vehicle and house breakins and property theft and this information can be viewed in the KPRI website [www.kingswayratepayers.com](http://www.kingswayratepayers.com).

Superintendent Edwin Hoey will be speaking at our KPRI Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 1, 2005, 7:00 pm All Saints Anglican Church, Bloor & Prince Edward Drive.

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## What Do You Get For Being A KPRI Member?

The Kingsway Park Ratepayers Inc. is a volunteer organization committed to preserving the amenities and the appeal of The Kingsway and Sunnylea district. On your behalf, we watch for bad city policy or residents who would improve their own personal space at your expense. When you have a problem, you get access to the resources and experience of the Ratepayer organization, which goes back in various forms about 50 years. For example, if there are any building issues that affect you, we can provide information to help you file an objection and/or appear before the Committee of Adjustment or file to the Ontario Municipal Board. If you want our help, we ask that you send an e-mail to [kpri@sympatico.ca](mailto:kpri@sympatico.ca), or write us a letter outlining the problem so we can review with the Board of Directors. As a KPRI member, you are always welcome to attend the first half-hour of our monthly Board of Directors meetings.

Your membership fee is critical in helping us keep you updated: we prepare street-design options, make posters, provide the Annual Wine and Cheese Party, create and distribute your KPRI Newsletter and hold meetings, including the Annual General Meeting. GOOD VALUE for \$20.00! Discounts for 5 years or more!

## Gardening Tip: Too Many Leaves?

Hide pesky old leaves and twigs by jamming them into the bottom of your flowerpots instead of pebbles and broken pottery. A spadeful of garden earth (complete with worms and good bugs), plus a top dressing of immaculate potting mix and your annuals equals a big pot of ready to use compost come autumn. The bigger the pot, the more you can hide!

For those interested in keeping up on heritage issue, a free newsletter from Catherine Nasmith, architect and Heritage advocate <http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/cnarchitect-heritage>

Toronto is launching a new campaign to reduce pesticide use called "Go Natural". [http://www.toronto.ca/health/pesticides/go\\_natural\\_info.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/health/pesticides/go_natural_info.htm)

**KPRI Executive** e-mail us: [kpri@sympatico.ca](mailto:kpri@sympatico.ca)

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Director	Steve Rankine	416-236-4950		7 Montgomery Road

## KPRI Membership Form (June 05—June 06)

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## Useful Telephone Numbers

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Committee of Adjustment: 416-394-8060  
Municipal Licensing & Standards: 416-394-2535  
Councilor Peter Milczyn: 416-392-4040  
Etobicoke Guardian Newspaper: 416-675-4390  
Catholic School Trustee (Ann Andrachuk): 416-512-3402  
Public School Trustee (Bruce Davis): 416-393-1972  
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## Useful Websites

KPRI <http://www.kingswayratepayers.com>  
City of Toronto Web Site <http://www.city.toronto.on.ca>  
TOCA <http://www.toca.ca/default.htm>  
Etobicoke Guardian <http://www.mirror-guardian.com>  
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