

**Friday, May 23, 2008**

**Impact of Medical Building disintegration greater than Leslieville's:  
75 The Donway West an irreplaceable facility for Don Mills**

Once again, the proposed retail development at Eastern Avenue and Leslie Street is making headlines as the developer's application is brought before the OMB. For details, see this [article](#) in the Toronto Star, as well as [Christopher's Hume column](#) on the topic. One can't help but continue to wonder why the redevelopment of the Don Mills Centre was not given the same type of publicity by City officials and major media, even though its impact on the community--the PEOPLE whose LIVES are affected by it--was and is far greater than the impact of the Leslieville development on the people who live there.

Even the planned conversion of our Medical Building at 75 The Donway West would have a far more devastating effect on the community. There are voices in the community--voices who claim to speak in the best interest of the residents--who say that the building was never designed to be a medical building and should therefore not be referred to as such. One can't help but wonder whose interest these voices REALLY have at heart. A spokesperson for the patients at 75 TDW established a count of 18 physicians and surgeons, 8 types of medical services providers such as laboratory and X-ray, 4 dentists, an optometrist, and a chiroprapist at 75 The Donway West. These practitioners serve thousands of patients in the area. When you ask any cab driver for a ride to "the Medical Building," they know where to take you.

It does not matter whether the building was "designed" as a medical building or not, it has become that and it functions as such! Anyone who claims otherwise must have their head stuck in the sand.

And it is clear that general medical practitioners like the ones who are currently tenants at 75 TDW will not be able to afford the new "premium" office space that Cadillac Fairview says it will offer them.

The other statements repeatedly voiced say that the conversion of 75 TDW is an allowed use and that therefore Cadillac Fairview is within their right to proceed with these plans. Here again, one can't help but wonder why, when the use is allowed, Cadillac Fairview owes nothing to the community, but when the use is not allowed (the excessive condo heights) we owe them and we must give them what they want. Where is the fair deal here? If we are negotiating for an unspecified, far-in-the-future community centre in return for allowing hugely excessive condo heights, why can't we throw 75 TDW into the negotiations? Why are we always asked to give but never dare to ask? (See previous post, [How Much More Can We Give?](#))

The potential impact of the planned disintegration of the medical services currently offered at 75 TDW is disastrous. The very idea is revolting.

No developer, whether "within their rights" or not, should ever be allowed to do this to a community.

Let our friends at City Hall know how you feel about this atrocity. Contact details appear below. If they can fight for Leslieville, let them fight for Don Mills!

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