

December 2008, Letter from Brian V. Ralph

Don Mills Centre Redevelopment

The North York Mirror's lead editorial on Wed, Dec 17, 2008, discusses the issues of community planning with a particular reference to Downsview Park. It would appear there are many other examples in North York, such as the Phase 2 of the Cadillac Fairview redevelopment of the Don Mills Centre. Not only must we wonder how the Civitan arena site is given up to acquire an insignificant height reduction for building towers in excess of a city secondary plan, we must also question the disingenuousness of offering the dislocated health and medical services space in new locations. Somehow Cadillac Fairview does not get the concept of city and community. They have a mindset disconnect. Moreover, the obsessive tendencies of the OMB to side with well-funded legal arguments by developer reps becomes an issue as well as the possibility of litigation pursuits against dissenters ([click here](#) to read a note from FUN [Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods]). The challenges in Toronto seem much greater than the opportunities, given the province's reluctance to kill the OMB and allow Toronto by itself to make better planning processes for Toronto.