

September 16, 2009

A resident's letter to the Toronto Star

A 30-year resident of Don Mills has asked us to share a letter he submitted to the editor of the Toronto Star in response to the article that appeared this morning at <http://www.thestar.com:80/news/gta/article/696383>. He commented that he wrote the letter because he felt "incensed enough by Councillor Jenkins' motion to accept the proposal" and encourages others to write a letter to the Star editor (lettertoed@thestar.ca) as well.

A copy of his letter appears below.

We have since learned that at yesterday's North York Community Council Meeting, upon being questioned by Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, the president of the DMR1 conceded that the survey had gone out to only 1,300 Don Mills residents, not the entire community, as he had stated earlier in the meeting. This certainly calls into question the integrity of the survey, which many of us never received. Further, according to 2006 population statistics posted on Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Mills, Don Mills' population is 25,435. This puts the figure of 1,300 survey respondents mentioned in the Star article at a mere 5% of the total Don Mills population.

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Letter sent by a longtime Don Mills resident to the Toronto Star editor:

We have had one disgrace foisted upon our Don Mills community by Cadillac Fairview, a second must be halted.

The Council Meeting held yesterday, to hear a proposal to build 26 storey towers in exchange for a new community centre is nothing short of bribery.

Our social community centre was destroyed 3 years ago to be replaced by a non-functional Miami style, open air super-boutique that does not serve the Don Mills demographic of the last 50 years. Neither does it serve us now nor in our anticipated future, a home we wish to provide to similar generations and families.

Yes, we long for a facility to run, skate, play, learn, meet, celebrate for all age and ability levels, 12 months of the year. It is a long overdue replacement for our current aging and limited structure.

But, rather than bribe us with condo towers why can we not get this centre as a donation, in whole or in part from the developer that has taken our facilities away? The cost of a new centre is pocket change to them and would surely make amends for all that we have lost.

I urge our city councillors to review the proposal before them with critical eye - all councillors please, not just the five who were left sitting at the meeting. Don Mills is a unique and successful community in the centre of our city, one conceived and created over 50 years ago and a magnet to the wonderful people I have chosen to live with and raise my children with. It is a community that works.

The "silent majorities" that were referred to at the meeting do have opinions. They are not flattered of the new centre because it does not represent them. Once again, council, use your creativity and skills to polish our "jewel" into something we can wear proudly. Denounce, vote down the developer's proposal. Give us the Don Mills centre we all want.

George Tuck

30-year resident of the Silver Hills community of Don Mills.

Resident of the original community 1959-60.