

August 21, 2008

A few items of interest:

1) "Condo-tower ruling sends 'strong message'"

For those of you who may have missed the August 19 Toronto Star article regarding the rejection by the OMB of a developer's plans to construct a controversial 21-storey condo tower in Mississauga, you can read it [here](#). In the article, Mississauga Councillor Carmen Corbasson is quoted as saying, "If a developer is hoping to parachute in unreasonable heights or densities into an established community, this decision will send a strong message that it is not going to happen."

Certainly, the heights of the condos planned on the Don Mills Centre site are excessive and contravene the [Central Don Mills Secondary Plan](#), which stipulates that "...no building or structure will exceed 8 storeys." The Mississauga decision should provide a strong precedent and platform from which to reject the plans. Even the reduced heights (from 32 to 26 storeys) "negotiated" by the DMRI are excessive and contravene the Secondary Plan. According to [Councillor Cliff Jenkins' Summer 2008 newsletter](#), the DMRI has conducted a community survey "to determine whether it has the community's support in the process and outcome of the discussions." It is said that "well over 1,000 households have responded and, of those expressing an opinion, more than 96% endorse the DMRI position."

Some of us never received this survey, and one can't help but wonder how it could represent an accurate assessment of community support. Further, the phrase "of those expressing an opinion" avoids the actual indication of the number of people who expressed such an opinion. So, even though more than 1,000 people responded (about the number of households represented by the DMRI), we don't know how many of those people expressed an opinion. Therefore, it appears unclear how many supporters there actually are. It is intriguing that such an unspecified number would be brought forth to support the DMRI's position and give it a mandate to negotiate with Cadillac Fairview. Less than two years ago, when a member of Don Mills Friends repeatedly appealed to Cadillac Fairview on the basis of the more than 5,000 signatures we had collected, he was told that 5,000+ was not a significant-enough number to be representative of the community. One can't help but question the math here.

2) 75 The Donway West

The Don Mills Friends position on 75 The Donway West has been clear and is outlined [here](#). Additional letters from community members on the subject can be read [here](#). It is greatly appreciated that former Health Minister Dennis Timbrell has taken an interest in this important situation and has written a letter to the North York Mirror outlining his thoughts and suggestions. If you've missed the letter, you can read it [here](#). Mr. Timbrell's proposal is supported by a letter from community advocate Jeanetta Vickers which also appeared in the North York Mirror. It can be read [here](#).

3) What does Don Mills mean to you?

An intriguing question appeared in a couple of recent issues of the North York Mirror, requesting readers' response to the question, "What does Don Mills mean to you?" You can read the small article [here](#). One can't help but wonder who's asking this question and why.

We hope everyone in the Don Mills community and surrounding neighbourhoods is having a good summer.

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