

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Some Shops at Don Mills set to open

Wednesday, April 22, marks the official opening of The Shops at Don Mills on the site where the old Don Mills Centre mall stood until it was razed almost three years ago. Various media reports have focused on the event, including articles in the [Town Crier](#), the [North York Mirror](#), and the [National Post](#).

The question we're being asked most often is whether, with the new stores about to open, we have changed our mind about the desirability of an outdoor mall on the Don Mills Centre. The answer is that, while we very much welcome the new merchants and are looking forward to having somewhere to walk and shop again, our position remains the same: we would have preferred to retain an at least partial indoor mall, along with the many merchants who served us for three generations and who have had to relocate and/or gone out of business. The new stores will no doubt be attractive, but a climate-controlled, car-free environment would have been safer and far more convenient for everyone, especially for our seniors, disabled friends, and families with young children.

As is evident from the articles referenced above, Cadillac Fairview seems to have interesting ideas about who their customers are, as they state that the "average household income of the centre's customer base is \$180,000" ([North York Mirror](#)). Clearly, they must be thinking of people living in the Bridle Path/Post Road area or elsewhere, rather than the typical Don Mills household.

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