

## THE MIRROR

## rden Path

acts lead you in right  
tes Marilyn Pomer

## Readers' choice

North Yorkers vote for the  
best in local business

Page 9



## Ready, aim...

Revolutionary war comes  
to life at pioneer village

Page 3

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

www.northyorkmirror.com

# Tenants worry about future of medical building

75 The Donway purchased by Cadillac Fairview

FANNIE SUNSHINE

fsunshine@insidetoronto.com

Slow maintenance repairs and a short-term lease renewal for 75 The Donway have raised concerns the medical building at Don Mills Road and Lawrence Avenue might be next on the chopping block.

The medical building, which was recently purchased by Cadillac Fairview, the corporation which is tearing down the Don Mills Centre to make way for an outdoor shopping mall, was virtually shut down for several days last month when an air conditioner broke, forcing many practitioners to close their doors as temperatures reached 40 degrees Celsius.

A petition signed by 20 tenants at 75 The Donway who demanded Cadillac Fairview immediately fix the problem and reimburse business owners for lost business all but fell on deaf ears, according to one tenant who wished to remain anonymous.

Cadillac Fairview spokesman Neil Murphy was not available for comment by *The Mirror's* deadline.

The tenant acknowledged a replacement air conditioning system was installed, but said many tenants were upset with the manner Cadillac

Fairview handled the situation.

"Cadillac Fairview basically said attack your insurance company, tough luck," said the tenant, adding X-ray machines and computers would not function in the extreme heat.

'OVER 100 DEGREES'

"We were trying to appeal to their sense of fair play. Put yourself in our position. There should be some good will. It was over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and it was a danger to seniors, to infants, to staff, to everyone. I think the problem people had was the attitude Cadillac Fairview had toward dealing with us. It's a professional building and people come here for care and for treatment and the conditions were intolerable. They (Cadillac Fairview) might have been listening but they weren't understanding."

Another issue tenants at 75 The Donway recently faced was a lease renewal contract, which only extends until 2010.

"Usually with the lease, we get five years plus an option on another five years," said the tenant. "This time there wasn't an option."

When asked if the tenant took

that to mean Cadillac Fairview was looking to tear down 75 The Donway in four years' time, the tenant was noncommittal.

"I wouldn't recommend to anyone in this building to do huge renovations because the space is only available for four years," the tenant said.

The Don Mills Centre shut its doors May 31 to make way for construction of an outdoor shopping centre, which is expected to be completed in August 2008.

Once that is complete, Cadillac Fairview is planning to build condominiums on the site in coming years.

"It's sad to see many small stores go but in the long run something had to be done," said the tenant. "If condos go up, people will need health care services and that will be good for business."

Don Mills resident Simone Gabbay, who spearheaded a petition to retain a covered shopping centre in the community, was concerned residents might lose the medical facility many in the community rely on.