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## LETTERS

# Save the Don Mills Centre

My family has lived in the Don Mills area for more than 50 years. We were one of the first families to live in the area and every generation since has remained.

The main reason is the structure of the Don Mills area, as it was the first pre-planned neighbourhood in Ontario and every pre-planned neighbourhood since has been based on the historical Don Mills layout.

The neighbourhood centre, where the community could do its shopping and have its meeting areas, has always been the Don Mills Centre. This way the community is not forced to shop downtown and can still have the luxuries of living in the area.

The overall destruction and lack of care or concern for the residents from Cadillac Fairview is appalling. The organization claims the revenue dip from the mid-'90s is what influenced the decision to destroy the mall. The Don Mills Centre, before Cadillac Fairview laid claim to it, was extremely prosperous.

When Cadillac Fairview removed the centre fountain, redesigned the parking lot to make it more difficult to manoeuvre, removed the indoor trees, sealed the open airway windows and then pushed out the small-business owners who were not willing to leave, it caused the decline in revenue as seniors, teenagers, families and the physically challenged and physically ill could not breathe because Cadillac Fairview destroyed the natural air flow, thus the resulting decline of said revenue.

Cadillac Fairview's own arrogance in saying they are doing what is best for the community is the biggest crock.

They cannot honestly expect that the citizens with long established roots and ties to the community are going to allow the destruction of their neighbourhood.

The proposed condos are against the Don Mills height restrictions, which were established as per the community development team and have remained in effect ever since.

The division of the mall will, in fact, cause a backup onto the main intersections and arteries resulting in an increase of traffic accidents.

With the forced removal of the centre for two to five years, Cadillac Fairview expects residents to shop at Fairview Mall. This is a great error on their part.

For a large number of seniors, Fairview is not an option as they have to take the bus or, worse yet, be dependant on others. This is not fair for the community as a whole. The centre was designed to make shopping easy and accessible, but now it will be a nightmare.

Has any one ever considered the high school students? The absence of a local eatery close to the school that allows students the freedom to choose their lunches and not be late getting back to school will be near impossible. If our government has a backbone, they will halt this project.

Marj, Kimberly and Amy Sanderson  
Jimmy Jarvis

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