

**Deputation by Simone Gabbay on behalf of Don Mills Friends
North York Community Council Meeting, May 1, 2007**

The profound, character-altering changes proposed for the Don Mills Centre site, which would completely change forever the very concept of Don Mills and the way in which it has functioned and was designed to function, will have enormous implications for the Don Mills community. It is crucial, therefore, that any public consultation process involve a much larger and broader group of residents.

Along with the councillors for Wards 25 and 34, Ward 26 Councillor John Parker must be included in the consulting process and in any public meeting and consultation group, much as the previous councillor for this ward, Jane Pitfield, was included and was actively involved in the process for phase one. Ward 26 residents should be represented in any study group that is formed, as the future of the Don Mills Centre affects this area as well. In fact, in view of the significance of Don Mills as an Ontario heritage area, we would welcome the participation of other North York Councillors.

Point 2 in the Recommendations of the Staff Report suggests that notice for the community consultation meeting be given to landowners and residents within 120 metres of the site. This is definitely inadequate, and the circle must be widened considerably.

As far as the community planning group is concerned, the many seniors living in Don Mills deserve to have wider representation. The Don Mills Foundation for Seniors is only one group of seniors—there are many others. For instance, there should be representatives from Greenview Lodge on Lawrence Avenue near the Library and the Lifestyles residences on the east side of Don Mills, along with people from the other apartment buildings on that side of Don Mills.

The many disabled people who live in Don Mills deserve representation as much as anyone else. Some of the members of our group are disabled folks living in the assisted residences on The Donway East. They have told us that they feel discriminated against—the effects of phase one have been devastating for them, with the little bit of independence they enjoyed having been taken away.

Representatives should be brought in from the condominiums on The Donway West north of Lawrence, as well as from the condominiums on Wynford Drive and Concorde Gate; also the O'Connor Hill Ratepayers' group and Victoria Village Community Association --- all of these people are also affected.

If there are currently no established pathways to these groups, Don Mills Friends will take the necessary steps to contact them. It is in the best interest of all Don Mills residents that this becomes a more open and transparent process, involving as many groups from the community as possible.

The Don Mills redevelopment affects thousands of residents, and the plans we have been shown are monstrous. It is absolutely imperative that the community be given a stronger voice and greater representation in this process.