

## Locals fear medical office could be next to go

(Posted Date: Friday, July 21, 2006)

By Jen White

Don Mills residents are worried the corporation that's demolishing their beloved local mall is also planning to destroy the neighbourhood medical office.

Last year, Cadillac Fairview, owner of the recently defunct Don Mills Shopping Centre, bought an adjacent property on 75 The Donway occupied mainly by medical offices. Cadillac's extensive reconstruction plans for the area coupled with their recent apparent disregard for the condition of the medical building has some believing the medical offices will be the next to go.

Several tenants of the offices have complained Cadillac has been slow to make repairs on essential utilities, like a broken air conditioner. Cadillac has also not been extending tenant leases past 2010.

"They did exactly the same thing with the mall: they didn't renew leases, they didn't give them longterm leases, they didn't offer new tenants," said Simone Gabbay, a concerned Don Mills resident. "It looks like a repeat situation."

Gabbay is not a client of the medical building but has become a spokesperson for the thousands of seniors in the area who have been outraged with Cadillac's plan for the neighbourhood. Cadillac is building a new outdoor mall to replace the Don Mills Shopping Centre and also plans to build condominiums and homes on the property.

The corporation now owns most of the Don Mills Centre's site area, which is bounded by Lawrence Ave., Don Mills Rd. and The Donway West. When it acquired the 14-storey office building at 75 The Donway, located on the southern tip of the mall lot, it left only two properties on the lot under different ownership.

Gabbay said residents in the area have told her of their fears of losing their local doctors and dentists.

But Cadillac spokesperson Felicia Shiu said that's not the case.

"(Cadillac Fairview) currently has no plans for 75 The Donway," she said. She also put to rest rumours that Cadillac had purchased a nearby post office.

"As far as I understand it, they have not purchased the post office," she said.

Shiu refused to comment on tenant leases because of privacy issues but said as far as the air conditioner goes, Cadillac did what they could to fix the problem. “They fixed it faster than normal, than they would ever do for most buildings,” she said.

Attorney Mel Aronoff, a tenant in the building, said otherwise.

“They said certain things would be done by certain dates, and they weren’t done by those dates,” he said. “We were left virtually without a tolerable situation for two weeks’ time.”

Mary Ampagoumian, a patient of one of the doctors in the building, has approached the Ministry of Health about her concerns that people in the community will develop health problems with the amount of stress this worry is placing on them.

“Cadillac Fairview could be named a man-made tsunami,” she said, explaining that the corporation is turning everything in its path upside down.

Gabbay said she hopes Cadillac is being honest and won’t tear down the medical building for the sake of the seniors in the community.

“They’ve just lost their mall and now to lose the medical building...” she said.

“People are really scared. I know of some elderly people that are really, really sick over this. I know of one disabled woman who has both her doctor and her dentist in there. She said to me, ‘I can afford a taxi to go to the doctor there, but I won’t be able to afford a taxi to go to a doctor elsewhere.’”

**This article also found in:**  
[Bayview Mills](#)

---

Posted Date: Friday, July 21, 2006

Story Location: <http://www.towncrieronline.ca/main/main.php?direction=viewstory&storyid=5578>