

Demolition a nasty business

I think it is very nasty of Neil Murphy, spokesman for Cadillac Fairview, to state that the petition to keep the Don Mills Centre open is "incredibly misleading and makes nasty statements about putting people out of work" ("Last-ditch petition to save mall," April).

Has Neil Murphy even bothered to ask the operators and employees of the many stores at the Don Mills Centre where they will generate their next income once the closure occurs? Does he think it is nasty that most of the employees are middle-aged and working in entry-level occupations and that it will not be easy to get hired again?

Does he think it is nasty that the small business owners will not be able to afford to relocate? Does he think it is nasty that the elderly and disabled who have utilized the mall for their social/recreational needs will now lose their enjoyment? Does Cadillac Fairview not realize that studies have shown that mall designs like the one they are developing only attract more crime to the community?

The residents of this community expect more than a free ride to Fairview Mall. They expect to have steady jobs and a safe and accessible place to shop. Cadillac Fairview needs to think more about the community in which its members keep them in business, yet the only need that they are apparently serving is their own.

Randolph Ouimet
Don Mills Road

Disgusted by arrogance

I read with great interest and disappointment about the decision to tear down the Don Mills Centre, which up until now stands to be the oldest mall in Canada.

I have enjoyed shopping at the mall for the last ten years, dealing with the merchants that offer unique products and services unlike most typical malls.

I live in the Avenue Rd. and Eglinton area and have recommended many of my neighbours to shop at the mall. I am originally from the west end of Toronto and have stopped shopping at Sherway Gardens because of its elite pretentious stores that now have some of the priciest retailers in North America in their mall. Nobody can really afford shopping at this mall unless you make at least six figures, which I do. I still refuse to shop there.

I read the article and was disgusted by the arrogance and hypocrisy of Cadillac Fairview who insists its new condo project serves the best interest of the community, when clearly it does not. Why are we using taxpayers' money to present this public circus at the taxpayers' expense when the decision has been

made without public approval? Why has the city of Toronto allowed this, when clearly the reason is profit?

I will have no reason to shop or travel in the Don Mills area once the mall is torn. I have told many people in my area that the mall is being torn down. Nobody is happy about this major change, which will change the area to a more luxury condo residential community.

But then Cadillac Fairview does not care, and neither does the city of Toronto. Please stop wasting taxpayers' money with the silly hypocritical meetings that do not serve the public interest.

Josie Erent
Small business owner