



E-newsletter 2 Aug. 2020

www.LPRO.wordpress.com

Lytton Park Residents' Organization (LPRO) is a group of volunteers who work together to make our strong community better. Recently, we have been focused on initiatives that directly impact residents in our community: COVID-19 Measures, Development Proposals, Community Health Concerns, Bike Lanes, Public Safety, and More! In this newsletter, you will see updates on these issues, in addition to other information. We encourage you to share this newsletter with friends and neighbours who may not have received it. Due to COVID 19 safety measures, a printed version of this newsletter will not be issued. We continue to meet virtually during these "interesting" times.

LPRO's E-Newsletter – Sign Up!

If you don't already receive the LPRO Newsletter and would like to receive it directly, please register your email address at www.LPRO.wordpress.com/subscribe-to-newsletters or send us an email to LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com.

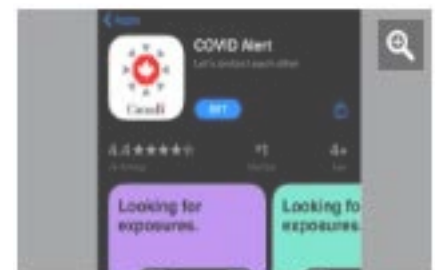
COVID-19: Toronto Enters Stage Three of the Recovery

The Ontario Government announced that Toronto will move to Stage 3 reopening on Friday, July 31. This decision was based on positive local trends of key public health indicators, including a lower transmission of COVID-19, ongoing hospital capacity, capacity for rapid case and contact management, and an increase in testing. In the City of Toronto, masks continue to be mandatory in all public indoor spaces as well as the common areas of residential buildings. For more information on what Stage 3 entails, please see the province's website [here](#).

As Toronto enters Stage 3 of recovery, let's do it carefully and responsibly. By avoiding indoor gatherings, continuing physical distancing, wearing masks where necessary, and keeping good hygiene, we can maintain our progress. We may be done with COVID-19, but it's not done with us.

Download the COVID-19 App

On July 31st Canada launched a COVID-19 tracking app — so far, only in Ontario. Visit www.ca.thrive.health to download it.



A government-released app for tracing COVID-19 exposure is pictured in this screen grab from Apple's app store Friday July 31, 2020.

Playgrounds and Libraries Opening!

A number of City facilities and amenities will reopen in Stage 3, including the City's more than 800 playgrounds and play structures, community and recreation centres, and libraries for all on-site services. City staff is now preparing for these additional openings, including inspecting and readying playgrounds and play structures. Following guidance from Toronto Public Health, outdoor playground equipment will not be sanitized. Updated signage with public health guidance will be posted.

Toronto Public Health has created [guidelines for parents and guardians](#) to help children play safely at reopened playgrounds.

Outdoor Green Space - Appreciating Eglinton Park

People need and crave green outdoor space; we know it's good for both our physical and mental health.

On a July Friday evening at Eglinton Park, more than 150 people could be seen enjoying the park from just one vantage point at the northeast corner. That evening the park meant so much to so many people - a place to kick or toss a ball, have a picnic, play frisbee, badminton, ride a bike, wander across the field, jog, walk along the trail, play at the playground, sit under a tree, sit on a bench and chat or read a book. Indeed, people need and appreciate open green space.



What a wonderful shared public park, an important part of our community both now and in the future.

Eglinton Park Redevelopment Update:

With the number of people using the park through these COVID-19 days, Councillor Colle has asked that the Park redevelopment plans be paused and reviewed:

"Given the unprecedented Public Health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Toronto's people and facilities over the last 6 months, and the possible future impacts of ongoing pandemic waves, it is essential that all future work and planning for the redevelopment of Eglinton Park undergo a review through a COVID-19 pandemic lens. The review needs to consider the need for physical distancing, new hygiene standards, and a high level of natural open space as priorities."

The Councillor has expressed support for moving ahead with the multi-use path proposed for the east side of the park as cycling is such an important part of our mobility and we are best served when separated from those who choose to walk.

Quiet Streets Update - Duplex Avenue

This shared space is designed to enable residents to maintain physical distancing within their communities as part of the City of Toronto's [ActiveTO](#) initiative.

Quiet Streets are expected to remain in place until October or November 2020.



Community Spirit Awards

The community spirit awards are presented each year to people who make a special contribution to the life of our neighbourhood.

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please email LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com. We would love to receive a couple of photos accompanying your nomination, if possible.

- **Great Garden Award**
- **Encouraging Signs in the 'Hood**
- **Best Street Party** - please let us know if your street is planning to hold or has held a socially-distanced street party, including the date and contact person(s)

We welcome suggestions for other Community Spirit Awards!

Please send them to LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com with "Community Spirit Awards" in the subject line.

2019 Best Street Party Winner: Craighust Avenue

2019 Garden Awards Winners: 130 Castlefield and 1 Ainsley



New Development Proposed for Avenue Road and Lawrence!



On June 9th, 2020, Developer First Capital submitted plans to the City of Toronto for a major redevelopment project at the northeast corner of Avenue Road and Lawrence. This development will be the largest undertaken to date for this section of Avenue Road.

Application Details & Initial Comments:

- The total site is 2.7 acres, encompassing seven existing properties, extending from the current medical building at 272 Lawrence, winding west around the corner of Avenue Road and Lawrence up to, but not including, Royal Lighting. 272 Lawrence West itself borders 250 Lawrence West, which is being re-developed as a nine-storey condominium development (29.9 metres tall and 179 units).
- First Capital's development application proposes two new condominium buildings referred to as "A" and "B", and consists of 455 residential units. Details of these buildings are:
 - **Building "B", at the corner of Avenue Rd and Lawrence**, replaces Starbucks, Fancy Franks, veterinary clinic, the car wash, small fifteen-unit rental apartment building, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, and CLLC Learning College. The proposal is for a **46.4-metre**-high condominium (15 floors) plus 4m of mechanical requirements: in comparison to other buildings on Avenue Road, the highest condominium to date, including the two under construction, is approximately 25 metres. As a further reference point for the proposed height, the building at 3018 Yonge Street on the southwest corner of Lawrence, is actually 4 metres less than First Capital's proposal. It is assumed that Pusateri's would be the second level retail tenant.
 - **Building "A"** is proposed at the current location of Pusateri's and would contain ten floors – **34.8 metres**. The first floor of this building will be approximately 7.6 meters tall.
 - Both buildings do not meet the required setbacks, step backs, and height as shown below with the **blue line** being City of Toronto Mid Rise guidelines and the **red line** being the Avenue Road Study reference. This results in excessive shadows being cast on the surrounding open space and the opposite side of Avenue Road.

Image 1: Building B- North to South Section

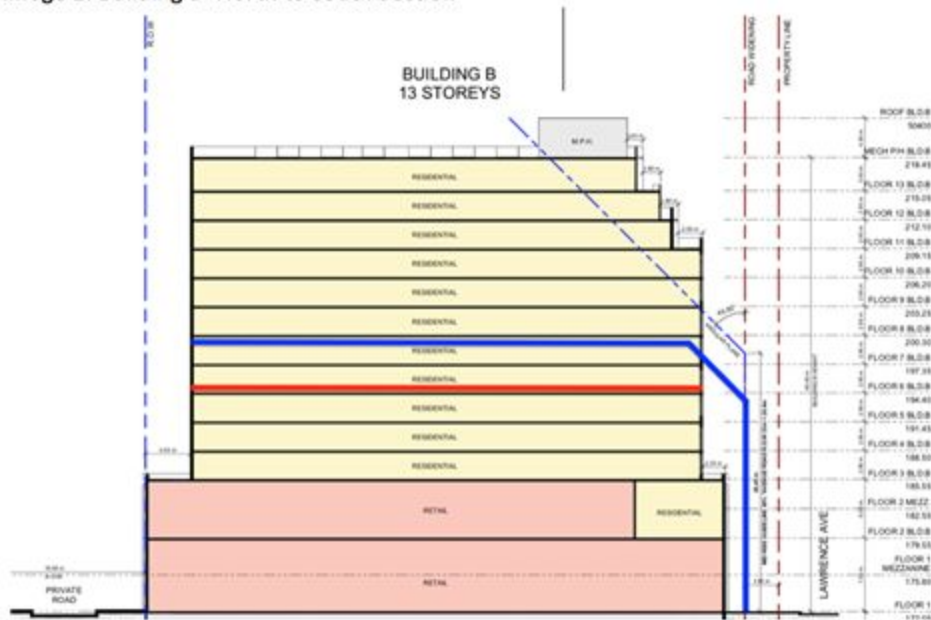
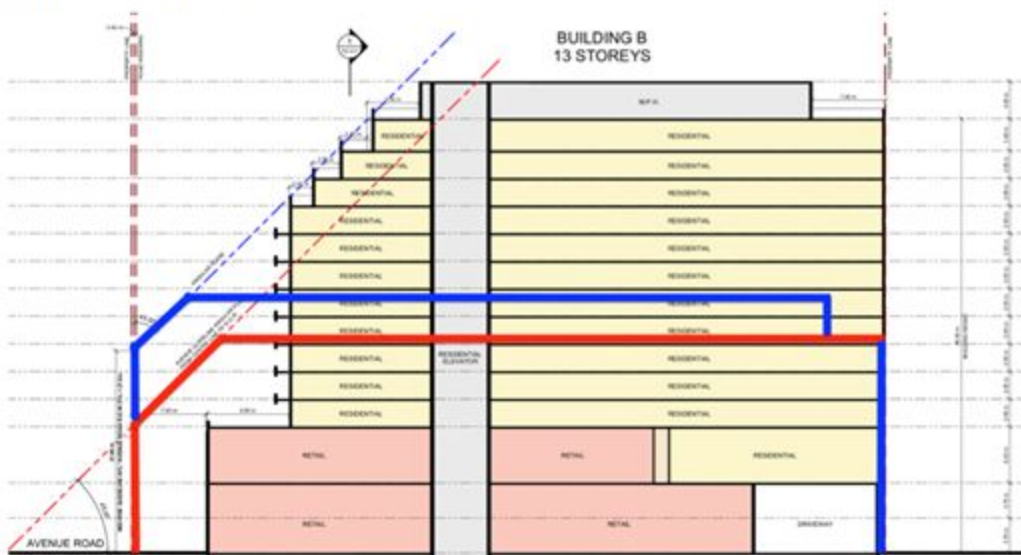


Image 2: Building B- West to East Section



- There is **no** public parkland dedication in the current proposal, as is required by the City.
- The proposal includes 605 parking spaces including retail and visitor parking. 600 of the parking spaces would be located in an underground garage.
- The transportation study completed by First Capital’s consultant (requirement of the planning application) indicates that the impact on local traffic would be minimal, in spite of the additional 455 residential units and the delivery trucks servicing retail.
- Access to the development would be by two private driveways that enter/exit off Avenue Road and Lawrence. Unsignalized left and right turns are proposed to be permitted onto both of these streets within a very short distance of the existing traffic light at Avenue Road and Lawrence.

All documents related to the Development Application submitted by First Capital are available for public perusal on the City of Toronto website [here](#). The file reference is 20 153975 NNY 08.

Resident Association strategy to review the First Capital Proposal and next steps:

The location of this development touches four Resident Associations. These are:

- Lytton Park Residents' Organization
- Bedford Park Residents Organization
- South Armour Heights Residents' Association
- Upper Avenue Community Association

The Resident Associations are collaborating to ensure the development application proceeds in a way that is appropriate and respectful of existing and future residents. We have requested a meeting with the City Planner for the application and Councillor Mike Colle to discuss our concerns. The City Planning process requires a public community consultation meeting. The Resident Associations will inform the community via our respective newsletters when this meeting is scheduled.

We welcome your questions, comments, and input on this proposed development. Email us at LyttonParkResidentsOrg@Gmail.com.

55-65 Broadway & Roehampton Shelters – Update

In late April of this year, the City of Toronto opened two transitional homeless shelters in two empty apartment buildings awaiting redevelopment, 55 and 65 Broadway Avenue, just east of Yonge Street. Under emergency legislation passed by the City, 160 homeless people were moved in without the prior knowledge of the surrounding community. The purpose of these temporary shelters - part of a City-wide program - is to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 among the homeless living in outdoor encampments and on the street, and to assist this population in transitioning to permanent housing. Staff from the City of Toronto's Social Security Housing Administration (SSHA) is managing the day-to-day operations of the facility, and shelter clients are accessing a variety of mental health, addiction, harm reduction, and other support services from private and public service providers while they await housing placements. According to the SSHA to date, none of the residents or staff has tested positive for COVID-19. In early July, a third transitional shelter, at the former Roehampton Hotel, was opened and 175 residents were moved in.

These initiatives have been controversial with residents and local businesses. [The Republic Residents' Association](#), [TDSB Trustee Shelly Laskin and Trustee Rachel Chernos-Lin](#), and the [Uptown Yonge Business Improvement Area](#) enumerated the many problems they have experienced since these shelters in letters to the SSHA, local Councillors and the Mayor to address their concerns. Closer to home, residents and businesses in LPRO's area west of Yonge are also reporting some of the same problems.

In response, the SSHA introduced new security measures in and around the three sites but these appear to have had little impact. Increased community pressure has now prompted the Mayor to request additional police presence in the neighbourhood, and enhanced security and support services at all three sites. Mayor Tory's July 29, 2020 letter to the Mt. Pleasant Village BIA can be read [here](#).

The two Broadway locations, originally intended to operate until November 2020, are now expected to close by September 7, 2020. The Roehampton site is expected to operate as a shelter for two, possibly three years, based on the lease the City has negotiated with the owner-developer.

If you want to learn more about the Roehampton shelter, a **virtual public meeting is being held on August 19, 2020**, from 6 to 8 pm. More details on the **public consultation** and an opportunity to **provide feedback** regarding the shelter at the Roehampton Residence are available [here](#).

We have tried to present the facts surrounding this very challenging and sensitive situation to the LPRO community as accurately and objectively as possible. If you are concerned about any aspect of this, such as the location of the shelters in close proximity to each other and within a few blocks of 2 high schools, 3 elementary schools, several daycare facilities and a seniors' residence, the management of the facilities by the SSHA, the support services that are being offered to this struggling population, or if you have any questions, we encourage you to contact our [Councillor Mike Colle](#), [Mayor John Tory](#), and the [SSHA](#) (their email addresses can be found in the letters sent by the four parties referred to earlier and on their websites).

The Midtown Gap

The response by the City of Toronto's [ActiveTO](#) initiative to provide a safe alternative for TTC subway users in the downtown area has been nothing short of miraculous. The extended temporary protected cycling path along Bloor from Runnymede in the west to Woodbine on The Danforth to the east, plus University to the south has been enthusiastically welcomed by those looking for a safe alternative to their commute during the current pandemic.

There is however a major gap that still needs to be filled: Midtown.

For commuters, shoppers, and students returning to school the option to use the subway is far from ideal from a safety perspective. ActiveTO needs to provide us with similar great options like they have downtown.

Bike lanes along Yonge Street are the best option to relieve ridership congestion on Line 1, North America's busiest subway line. During post-COVID-19 recovery, they would provide a good transportation alternative for many TTC riders. Yonge Street connects some of the densest, transit-dependent neighbourhoods in Toronto: Eglinton, Davisville, St Clair, and Bloor. There is growing strong support from the communities along its length.

Bike lanes along Yonge Street would provide more equitable and balanced mobility choices for residents of all ages and abilities and offer viable alternatives for commuters and shoppers, while creating neighbourhoods that are good for all people to live well now and into the future. Bike lanes along Yonge Street would bring many more customers to support the many small businesses along its length. Other cities around the world are creating temporary bike lanes on the fly.

Attachment 1:
Cycling Network Plan Installations: Bloor West Bikeway Extension and ActiveTO Map



Those responsible are acknowledging that, in an emergency, it is not necessary to dot our i's and cross our t's. Toronto has a history of undertaking many carefully developed studies. But the ActiveTO program is a short-term response to a crisis. It is meant to implement stopgap, temporary, expeditious measures — in other words, its nature is the very opposite of traditional planning processes.

The pandemic surely demands that we act quickly in order to successfully grapple with a rapidly transforming transportation situation. Installing temporary, safe bike lanes on Yonge is the best solution.

LPRO sent a letter to the Mayor and Councillors supporting bike lanes on Yonge Street - [find it here](#).

City Council Votes to fight Bill 184 in Court

From Councillor Matlow's Newsletter:

"I am pleased to report that City Council voted overwhelmingly in favour to stand up for Toronto tenants by sending City Legal staff to fight Bill 184 in court. The ironically titled *Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020* would make it easier for Landlords to evict tenants in Landlord-Tenant Board proceedings.

Read more about this issue [on the Councillor's website](#) and/or [take action here](#).

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery: Update

Friends of Mount Pleasant Cemetery are petitioning the Provincial Government to update legislation to protect the cemetery as a public trust: www.friendstpc.org/petition.html.

Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries (MPGC) was established as a public trust by the Ontario Legislature in the 1800s and operated with public participation for over 150 years until the 1980s. The trust was funded 100% by the Ontario public, who continue to subsidize it through the forgiveness of all taxation.

In the mid-2000s, the MPGC board began without reason to claim that it was their "commercial, privately owned cemetery" and that there was no public trust. The board declared it was accountable to

no one, despite the public's investment that had grown to an approximately \$3 billion dollar asset encompassing 1,222 acres in the Greater Toronto Area and enjoying ongoing public subsidy.

In order to protect the Trust, and due to a vacuum in Provincial leadership and oversight, the Friends of Toronto Public Cemeteries applied to the Courts to interpret and enforce the Province's own legislation. Although 'Friends'



won the case in Superior Court, the Court of Appeal reversed the judge’s decision and... delivered the cemetery assets in private hands.

Mount Pleasant can now lock the gates and restrict access to the cemetery, as we've seen recently, or do something worse - such as sell cemetery land to a foreign-owned multinational cemetery corporation.

The Court of Appeal, however, confirmed that the Trust was created by the provincial Legislature which can re-legislate as it sees fit.

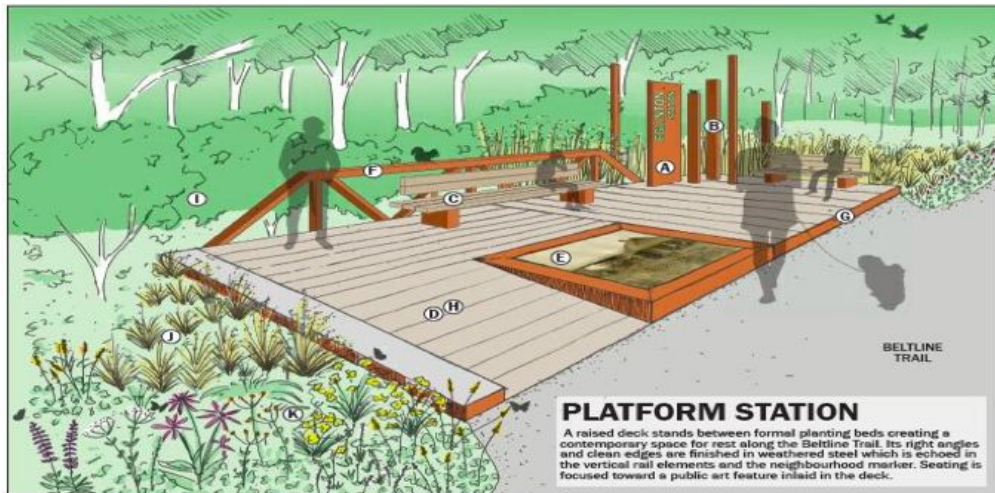
The Government of Ontario must act to update the legislation to protect our Public Trust, or we will lose it forever!

Please consider filling out the Friends of Toronto Public Cemeteries petition: www.friendstpc.org/petition.html.

Beltline Trail's Lost Stations Initiative: Update

From Councillor Matlow’s newsletter:

“Work has now begun on constructing the “Lost Stations” on the Beltline Trail! We’re making improvements to our beloved linear park, creating age-friendly places to rest while celebrating the story of the railroad that once had stations throughout our midtown neighborhoods.”



Virtual Community Safety Forums

The City of Toronto invites you to attend the Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit’s 5th Annual Community Safety Forum. This year’s theme is *Transformative Healing and Recovery*.

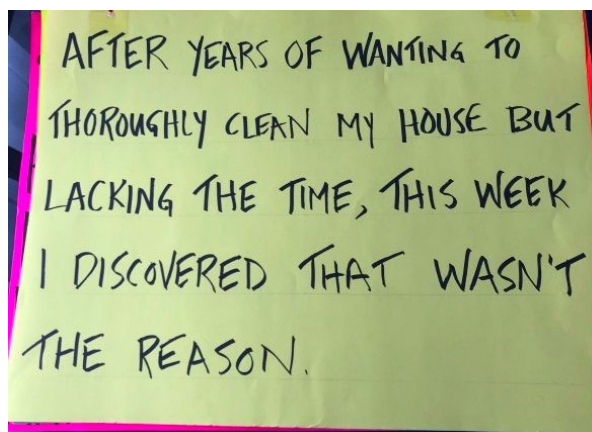
The Community Safety Forum will look different from previous years, given the COVID-19 pandemic and important physical distancing measures put in place. As such, the Forum will occur virtually and be delivered through a variety of online sessions, panel discussions, and workshops. The goal is to create a safe online space for resident groups, grassroots organizations, and service providers to collaboratively address issues of community safety, impacts of/exposure to violence, and identify ways to collectively heal and recover.

Upcoming sessions cover the following topics:

1. Transformative Healing and Recovery: A Collaborative Approach for Grassroots Organizations and Agencies – August 7th, 2020
2. City of Toronto Responsiveness – August 14th, 2020

To attend, register here: www.virtualsafetyforum.eventbrite.ca.

Porch Signs in the 'Hood



Lytton Park Residents' Organization
Annual Membership \$30.00 per household
Join or Renew For 2020!

We encourage you to become a member or to renew your membership with Lytton Park Residents' Organization, especially if you care about protecting and advancing the community's interests and fostering a sense of neighbourhood in our area.

LPRO's membership year extends from January to December, so it is time to renew your membership for 2020. Your support helps us vigorously represent our shared neighbourhood interests. Our collective voice has an impressive impact and effectiveness in matters affecting our community. Thank you for your continued membership support. It is pivotal for our representative credibility and funding needs. There are approximately 3,000 households in the Lytton Park area. Thank you in advance for supporting your community.

Ways to Join or Renew: 1) MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc. and mail it with the completed form below to "Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc., **NEW MAILING ADDRESS** PO Box 1348, 2708 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4P 3J4", 2) or even easier - donate via **Credit Card/PayPal**: visit <https://lpro.wordpress.com> & select "MEMBERSHIP". 3) Cheques with this form can also be dropped off at 235 Glenview Avenue.

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2020 Membership Form - Membership Type: New / Renewal

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address 1: _____

Other Phone: _____

Email Address 2: _____

I would like more information about the LPRO: Yes/No

I am available as a community volunteer: Yes/No

I would like to help in the following areas: _____

Comments: _____

Questions? Email us at LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com
Together, we **DO** make a difference!