

E-Newsletter 14 April 2023

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization ("LPRO") is an incorporated non-profit association, representing residents living in the area bounded by Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue. We care about protecting and advancing the community's interests and fostering a sense of neighbourhood in our area. We work together to make our community stronger, sharing information about our community issues and events.

"Together we DO make a difference!"

Help us phase out paper newsletters. Forward your email address to lyttonparkresidentsorg@gmail.com

In this Issue:

Annual Chatsworth Ravine Cleanup
Annual Community Yard Sale
Development Updates
Community Environment Day
Construction Plan for the Capitol Theatre Site
Update on Gasbusters
Eglinton Park Master Plan Update
Alliance for a Liveable Ontario
Gardiner East Update
Lytton Park History - Volume 3
Book Review by Mel D'Sousa

Chatsworth Ravine Clean-up, April 22, 10 am-noon!

For over 20 years LPRO has organized the clean-up of the Chatsworth/Otter Creek Ravine as part of the City of Toronto's "Clean Toronto Together" spring cleanup. The event, held every year on a city-designated Saturday in April, is a wonderful opportunity to help keep our community sparkling by helping clean up litter such as small plastics, cans, bottles, and other waste. It's also a great way to meet your neighbours, and if you are a high school student, earn community service hours!



This year's cleanup will take place Saturday, April 22nd between 10:00 am and noon. We will meet at the East end of the Glenview School playing field. LPRO will provide gloves and garbage bags, but you can also bring your own. All you need to do is join in the fun!

Annual Community Yard Sale Saturday, June 3, 8 a.m. - Noon

LPRO's Annual Community Yard Sale is one of our most successful, community-building events. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to participate. When you register we deliver your sign to you and include you on the sellers' map, updated daily in the days leading up to the sale. When the sale is over, we pick up the sign to reuse in subsequent years. The sale is posted on Facebook, Marketplace, Craigslist, Kijiji and other sites so be prepared for a busy morning! morning!



The 2023 Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 3rd, 8:00 a.m. to noon, rain or shine.** Registration is now open on our website: <https://lyttonparkro.ca>

Development Updates

2908 Yonge Street

A settlement between LPRO, the City of Toronto and the developer was approved by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in 2021. Since that time the owner of the property has been performing work to remediate the soil. The land had been contaminated by the previous gas station use which spanned 90 years. The contamination of the soil must be addressed before construction can begin. The developer has not fulfilled the conditions imposed through the approved settlement which would enable the project to move forward. Construction of the condominium building is not expected to begin in the near term.

41 Chatsworth Drive

A settlement between LPRO, Developing Areas Responsibly in Toronto (DART), the City of Toronto and the developer was approved by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in 2021. The developer filed a revised site plan application with the City of Toronto in January 2023. The plans have not substantially changed since the settlement. The developer is working towards final approval. No building permits have been applied for at this time.

Community Environment Day, Tuesday, June 6, 4-8 pm

North Toronto Memorial Arena parking lot, 174 Orchardview Blvd



Drop off for recycling or proper disposal:

- [Electronic Waste](#)
- [Household Hazardous Waste](#)

Donate items for reuse:

- Sporting goods
- Books (excluding textbooks)
- Cameras, CDs, DVDs and Blu-rays
- Dress-up clothing and costume jewellery
- Clothing, footwear, accessories, linens, etc.
- Small household items
- Musical instruments, board games
- Eyeglasses, walking aids, hearing aids, etc.
- Non-perishable food for donation

Capitol Theatre Site (2500 Yonge Street Ltd.) Construction Plan

The City of Toronto has mandated that the developer of this site, 2500 Yonge St Ltd, which is owned by the Madison Group, work with local residents and businesses in the staging areas required during construction of the 14-storey mixed-use condominium building. LPRO has been liaising with the



developer regarding the completion of the pedestrian walkway and their cooperation has been appreciated. The details of the City's requirements, construction timelines and a visual map can be found [here](#)

The expectation is for LPRO and the Uptown Yonge BIA to have regular meetings with 2500 Yonge St Ltd. as part of this City-mandated plan to mitigate disruption to the neighbourhood during the construction period. We hope to resolve any issues that may arise through the next several years. Your feedback is welcome and we will keep you informed of our progress.

Update from the Gasbusters Organizing Committee

Toronto City Council: Councillor Dianne Saxe tabled a request earlier this year to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee that the City Manager report by the end of April 2023, with a plan to implement a ban on the use of two-stroke engine leaf blowers, lawnmowers, and other small-engine equipment. Councillors Bravo, Carroll, Colle, Matlow, Moise, Perks, and Robinson have all indicated to us that they support our initiative. Important Committee and Council reviews on Toronto's Noise Bylaw and on gas-blower use have been tabled for this year. Gasbusters will keep you informed as to how to influence these deliberations.



© The Globe and Mail, Nov 2022

The Toronto District School Board released its [Climate Action Annual Report, 2022](#) in December. The action of particular interest to us is #14 on page 28. We are very pleased that its Facilities Services and Planning Group intends to convert from gas to electric as a power source for its property-maintenance equipment. TDSB will evaluate equipment sources and options throughout this year, and has indicated that they will keep Gasbusters informed of their progress. Kudos to TDSB for showing leadership in protecting employees, bystanders, and the environment.

Mayoral Candidates: Once the list of mayoral candidates is finalised, Gasbusters will canvass them on their positions regarding a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and related garden equipment, and will publicise the results so that you can factor this information into your voting decision.

Eglinton Park Master Plan Update

The second and final meeting for Phase I plan was held recently and a couple of changes have been made to the plan. Most notably, Parks have decided to keep the baseball diamond in the south location so that two diamonds will stay in place and no outfield fence will need to be added. As a result of this decision the Skate Park will be moved from its original suggested location to just off Eglinton by the new main park entrance. Noise was another factor considered in the move.

Phase I will now include: North/South paved path on the west side (completed), a central spine walkway from Eglinton to the centre of the park with Indigenous gardens and shade structures, Skateboarding Spot, Dog Park, West side replacement of stairs. Construction is scheduled for Spring 2024.

The city will be updating their website soon and the link can be found [here](#)

The Alliance for a Liveable Ontario (ALO)

The [Alliance for a Liveable Ontario \(ALO\)](#) is a recently developed - and growing - broad-based "big tent" of community organizations and individuals across the Province of Ontario who want to see

governments uphold policy priorities that will benefit the welfare of Ontario's citizens. These policy priorities include affordable housing, good planning, responsible environmental and infrastructure decisions, and the protection of farmland and natural areas.

Getting the Gardiner Right: Moving Forward with a New Study on Better Options for the Gardiner East

At the City Council meeting on March 29, Agenda Item *MM5.33 - Getting the Gardiner Right: Moving Forward with a New Study on Better Options for the Gardiner East*, was deferred.



A Member's Motion requested a temporary pause, before the City committed to new contracts, so that the feasibility of a better option for this section of the Gardiner East and its connection to the Don Valley Parkway could be realized. There is time for the City to evaluate options that would cost less to build and would cost much less to maintain into the future, options that could free up land for

housing.

Contracts not signed and construction years away: A number of contracts for this work have not yet been signed; no new construction is scheduled to begin until 2026. Construction costs date from many years ago and do not include inflation, nor lifecycle maintenance costs.

City-owned land for housing: According to a report done by Colliers for the Globe & Mail, a new configuration could open up over 5 acres of City land with a value of \$450M with enough space to build 8,000 homes for 15,000 people.

Cost Savings of a ground-level vs an elevated roadway: Council was asked to explore the feasibility of a plan that could maintain the connection between the DVP and Gardiner with a new road at ground-level, or in another configuration, that could save hundreds of millions of dollars.

Content from the North Toronto Historical Society: Lytton Park: History of a Community, 1886-WWII Volume 3: Alexandra Gardens pm



Snider House (744 Duplex Avenue), 1923.
Toronto Public Library Digital Archive.

In 1811, Loyalist Martin Snider purchased land on the west side of Yonge St. between present-day Eglinton and Lawrence Avenues. After his death, two of his sons divided the property. About 1828 William Snider built the house we know as 744 Duplex Ave. (Snider House) on the north half of his father's farm. The William Snider

farm was eventually purchased by banker Edward B. Stockdale. His subdivision plan was approved in 1910. The anchoring streets of the development were Alexandra and Lytton Blvds. The new subdivision was named “Alexandra Gardens.”

The 50 foot lots were marketed to Toronto businessmen as a quiet retreat from the bustle of the city. An enticement was the North Toronto Bowling Club, a passion of Stockdale's. Stockdale built the Tudor Revival house at 40 Alexandra Blvd. for himself in 1911. 99 Alexandra Blvd. (corner Heather) was built for North Toronto Mayor Alonzo Brown (1909-1912). Brown negotiated the annexation of North Toronto to the City in 1912. His house has been a triplex since the 1930s.

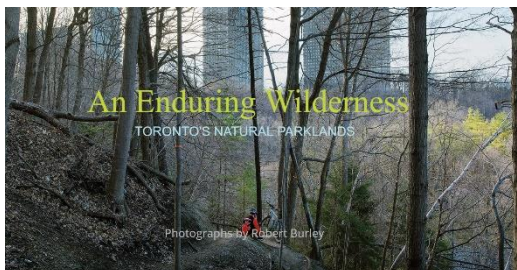
In 1921 Edward Stockdale commissioned architect W.F. Sparling to build the Mediterranean style house at 184 Alexandra Blvd., beside his beloved bowling club.



Lytton Park, 1932. City of Toronto Archives.

The North Toronto Bowling Club was founded in 1912. The field house was built in 1932 as a Depression relief project, and still stands. Beside the bowling club we see Edward Stockdale’s house at 184 Alexandra Blvd.

LPRO BOOK REVIEW by Mel D’Souza
An Enduring Wilderness: Toronto’s Natural Parklands
by Robert Burley. 2017



Given the enactment of *Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and the effect on Toronto’s Greenbelt, reviewing the 264-page coffee-table book, *An Enduring Wilderness*, seemed appropriate, especially as the book was commissioned by the City of Toronto, so confined to city limits, with the foreword written by former Mayor John Tory. The landscape photography is a sheer visual delight covering the Lake

Ontario waterfront shoreline of Scarborough Bluffs, beaches, and the Toronto Islands, the Humber River Valley and various parks, creeks and ravines, the Don River Valley and trails as well as the Rouge River Valley and Highland Creek. There is a brief history of the parklands, as well as appendices of natural features, key habitats and key species in the parks and ravines. The book lacks an index though this is a minor inconvenience when viewed against its rich content.

Connecting neighbourhoods and communities to nature through parklands and wilderness increases Toronto's livability, especially as the city's population grows, increasing urban intensification. Environmentally protecting and restoring the beauty and diversity of parklands, as well as ensuring the benefits that wildlife and ecosystems provide to inhabitants while increasing public access to these parklands for people to play, relax, exercise and socialize remains a challenge. To ensure that our parklands may be enjoyed by future generations, we need to protect these green spaces, and this book will certainly motivate readers to cherish these landscapes and ensure their continued existence.

Now for a side note; readers of past book reviews may wonder as to the extent of rhyme or reason or the pattern and logic of these reviews. In initially contemplating these three-paragraph quarterly reviews, the intent was, and remains, to provide a high-level literature review on urban planning in Toronto. The focus is on broad themes and debates on the challenges and opportunities to make Toronto's neighbourhoods a better place to live, using books written by authoritative sources to provide glimpses into urban planning elements including buildings, communal spaces, roads, transportation, and the environment. Perhaps these short reviews may encourage you to borrow these books from your library and motivate you to join the effort to increase the livability of your community.

Eglinton St. Georges United Church Jumble Sale
April 15, 10 am to 1 pm



Spring Time Rummage Sale at Saturday April 15 at 10:00 am

Join us for our annual Spring Rummage Sale happening this upcoming Saturday. Come to the sale to shop for used goods including toys, jewellery, housewares and clothing.

Lytton Park Residents' Organization
Annual Membership \$30.00 per household
Join or Renew for 2023

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 neighbourhood's interests and fostering a sense of community in our area.

Your support helps us vigorously represent our shared neighbourhood interests. There are approximately 3,500 households in the Lytton Park area. Our collective voice has an impressive impact on matters affecting our community.

It's time to join or renew for 2023! Thank you in advance for supporting your community.

How to Join or Renew:

- 1) **Online via Credit Card/PayPal:** visit <http://www.lyttonparkro.ca/join-volunteer-donate> Please complete the online membership form.
- 2) **NEW: Interac e-transfer:** etransfer@lyttonparkro.ca Please include your email, name and address in the message box so we know who it's from!
- 3) **By cheque** payable to Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc. Cheques with the completed form (below) can be mailed to: **Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc., PO Box 1348, 2708 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4P 3J4**

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2023 Membership Form - Membership Type: **New** or **Renewal**

Last Name: _____ Date: _____

First Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Partner Name: _____ Other Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address 1: _____

Email Address 2: _____

I would like more information about the LPRO: I am available as a community volunteer:

I would like to help with: _____

Comments: _____