

# what's up

## Who We Are!

The **Dufferin Grove Residents' Association (DGRA)** was formed in the fall of 2004, in response to the Doversquare Development. A few very concerned individuals, trying to get answers about this development, decided they might have more strength if they worked together. To attain party status at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) Hearing for the Doversquare Project, this group of individuals incorporated as the **DGRA**.

Since that time, the **DGRA** has:

1. established a Board of Directors and a constitution
2. defined its community (the area bounded Bloor, Ossington, College and Dufferin Streets)
3. expanded membership

4. broadened its activities to include a wide range of initiatives intended to protect and advance the community's interests and foster a sense of neighbourhood.

The DGRA has also become a member of The Confederation of Residents' and Ratepayers' Associations (CORRA), an umbrella group of Toronto neighbourhood associations that has been successful in lobbying all levels of government on behalf of the residents of the city.

This newsletter is intended to inform residents in the area of the achievements, current activities and

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Members of the DGRA executive from left: Chris Glover, Sheila Pin, Rachel Taylor, Robert Willson, Andrew Munger and Paul Walty • photo: jpwalty

## All Candidates MEETING

Tuesday November 7

Ward 19 & School Ward 9

All Candidates Debate

Wednesday November 8

Ward 18

Councillor Candidates

Debate

Dewson Public School

65 Concord Avenue

6 - 9 PM

This meeting is organized by the **DGRA**, the **Ward 10 Parent Council** and the **DTA** (The Doversquare Tenants Association).

## Doversquare UPDATE

As you know the DGRA took on party status at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing last fall. We argued for a smaller building than was presented in the latest plans. We also asked for Section 37 Community Benefits money to offset the impact a new building would have in the neighbourhood. In its decision, at conclusion of the hearing, the OMB set out parameters for a new building, specifying that it should be somewhat smaller in size than the one proposed and taking into consideration the needs of existing tenants. They also ordered the developer, Sterling Silver to pay \$40,000 in Section 37 money to Dufferin Grove Park to pave the walkways and provide some lighting along those walkways.

In June, the developer notified us, the City and the OMB that they couldn't build a building within the parameters set out by the Board's final decision and so were asking for a re-hearing. The City and the DGRA strongly objected to re-opening the case and the Board is now considering the developer's request and our submissions opposing a rehearing. A deadline for new plans has been set for December 1st so we should be hearing soon about whether or not we go back to for a rehearing. We'll keep you posted but in the meantime, if you would like to see any of the documents or drawings associated with this development, please feel free to e-mail Sheila Pin at [smpin@rogers.com](mailto:smpin@rogers.com).

# School Budget Cuts

As you have probably heard in the media, both Toronto Public and Catholic schools are facing a large round of cuts this year in order to balance their budgets. The provincial government is asking Toronto Public Schools to cut \$84 million, and Toronto Catholic Schools \$35 million in staff, programs and services. Proposals to balance the budget that are currently before the boards include, among other things: closing schools, cutting maintenance, cutting textbook spending and cutting education assistants.

Although the provincial government has restored some funding to cover some maintenance projects and to reduce primary class sizes, the funding to cover essential bills

such as utilities, salaries and maintenance is not forthcoming. The cuts necessitated by the shortfall would have a real impact on schools in our area. A number of the schools being considered for closure are within the Dufferin Grove Residents' Association area. Not all of these schools would be closed, but many will be considered for closure and possible sale. (A committee appointed by the provincial government is currently assessing the land value of Public and Catholic schools in Toronto.)

For more information please attend the candidates' debates mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter and see:

[www.campaignforpubliceducation.ca](http://www.campaignforpubliceducation.ca)  
[www.peopleforeducation.ca](http://www.peopleforeducation.ca)

## DGRA's Goals

At the Annual General Assembly, President Sheila Pin identified a number of goals the association has set for itself:

1. writing two newsletters a year
2. establishing relationships with the Business Improvement Association to improve Bloor Street
3. hosting political debates with municipal election nominees
4. liaising with 14 Division on safety issues
5. establishing an historical

6. joining Councillor Giambrone's Traffic Committee
7. increasing membership.

As you will know from this newsletter, many of these initiatives have already been undertaken. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the DGRA now is the last goal named: increasing membership and we are hoping you will help us with that!

Call Rachel at 416-535-4985

## Improving BLOOR STREET

The **DGRA** has joined the **Bloor Revitalization Strategy** – a newly formed group made up of local service agencies, the Business Improvement Associations along Bloor and resident's groups in the area. We will be working together on a long-term plan to improve the stretch of Bloor between Christie and Lansdowne.

The first project in the works is joining the **Toronto Social Purchasing Portal**.

Businesses, service agencies and community groups sign on to buy their bulk purchases from local businesses. For example, the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre, which provides breakfast programs in the area would join the 12 other social service agencies in the area to spend their food budget at one grocer on Bloor St. rather than each agency purchasing outside the neighbourhood.

Consequently, the more business grows, the more jobs are created and the more prosperous our neighbourhood becomes. The Social Purchasing Portal started in Vancouver 3 years ago and has had tremendous success.

For more info go to:  
[www.sppcanada.org](http://www.sppcanada.org).

We'll keep you posted on new Bloor Revitalization ideas and projects to come.

# Sylvan Havelock U P D A T E

The old apartment building on the corner of Sylvan and Havelock has been purchased by a local developer who wants to tear the building down, put up a building that would be a 3.5 storey building in front with a 3 story building in back. It would include 50 stacked townhouse condos and underground parking with the parking entrance on Havelock Street.

A local Working Group was set up with the developer Manuel DaCosta, local residents, Councillor Adam Giambrone, City Planning and Heritage staff, and **DGRA** representatives. Unfortunately, the working group was unable to come up with a building that everyone could live with and so the developer has appealed to the OMB.

The OMB pre-hearing happened on October 10. The pre-hearing determines who the parties and participants are and what the contested issues will be. A group of residents in the immediate vicinity of the building, The Bloor Dufferin Residents Committee Ltd. (BDRC) is taking party status to represent those individuals. Jim Rawling, another neighbour to the building and Ward 18 Councillor candidate, is also taking on party status. The **DGRA** will take

on participant status. Party status means the party is able to bring forward expert witnesses, cross-examine other party witnesses and have access to all documents submitted as part of the proceedings. Participants carry less weight than Parties but have an opportunity to make planning arguments before the board once the Parties have finished presenting their cases.

The **DGRA** has decided to take on participant instead of party status as all the issues with the development are already being argued by both the City and the BDRC.

The city is primarily arguing that the building should be no more than 3 stories and should not have a second building in the back. They are also addressing the Heritage status of the building.

The OMB hearing has been scheduled to run from March 27 – April 13, 2007. An evening session will be set aside for those people wishing to make a statement at the proceedings.

If you would like more information about the issues being discussed, please contact Sheila Pin at: [smpin@rogers.com](mailto:smpin@rogers.com).

our website

[www.thedgra.org](http://www.thedgra.org)

# Improving the Planning Process

Last year the City's Planning and Transportation Committee undertook a project called "**Improving the Planning Process**". They held community meetings across the city and listened to ideas about how residents can have a better voice in the planning process. Given our experience with Doversquare (there was no community meeting held until two) years after the application was filed) we decided this was a good project for us to become involved in.

Primarily we argued for an improved online system, requesting that all applicants' materials

be available online for community viewing. At present, the city won't make copies of documents such as engineer's reports and diagrams for citizens. Interested individuals have to make an appointment to look at the reports in City Planning Offices and are not allowed to make copies.

We argued that this was hardly an example of the "open and accessible" planning process as laid out in the City Official Plan. We also argued for a pre-application. That is, instead of the developer and city planners engaging in a number of private meetings to work out what the city would accept

prior to the application being filed and a public meeting held, the developer would have to file an application first, a public meeting would then be held to determine what the community would accept, after which the city planners and developer could hold their meetings to discuss the out the details.

The Toronto East York Community Council agreed with the DGRA's suggestions and recommended that Toronto City Council do the same. Go to the DGRA's website for further information at: [www.thedgra.org](http://www.thedgra.org)

## Who We Are!

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goals of the **DGRA** and to encourage everyone become a member.

### Board of Directors

At the May AGM the following DGRA Board of Directors was elected for 2006-2007:

Sheila Pin – President,  
Yves Bonnardeaux – Vice President  
Robert Willson – Treasurer  
Rachel Taylor – Membership  
Karen Laurence – Secretary  
/Communications  
Andrew Munger – Past-President  
Chris Glover, Joanna Tanner, Paul Walty and Dean Perlmutter.

Elections will be held for the 2007 –

2008 year in May 2007 and any member in good standing is welcome to stand for office.

### Neighbourhood Survey

As a part of the OMB hearing process, the **DGRA** developed and conducted a neighbourhood survey to ask residents **what they thought were the services in our community that most needed some financial help**. The top two concerns expressed by respondents were improvements to Bloor Street and improvements to Dufferin Grove Park.

The **DGRA** met with Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and Councillor

Adam Giambrone to discuss the results of the survey and to learn how we can begin to address these issues. One recent development is **DGRA's** participation in the Bloor Revitalization Project. To view the detailed results of the survey, please go to our website at: [www.thedgra.org](http://www.thedgra.org).

Interested  
in joining  
the DGRA  
Call Rachel  
416-535-4985