



January 2002

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT HEARINGS  
PARKS AND SIDEWALKS  
GLEN ROAD BRIDGE GRAFFITI  
SUMMERHILL AVENUE HYDRO-ONE REPLANTING  
PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS  
RAVINE BY-LAWS  
FILMING  
NOISE BY-LAWS  
FEDERAL ALL CANDIDATES MEETING AND DEBATE  
MEMBERSHIP

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2002

This past year your association established a website as part of our ongoing effort to provide members with useful community information and updates on emerging issues and developments. With more and more of our members now "wired," the Internet will be our fastest and most cost effective way of communicating with our members.

The site provides the most current information available on North Rosedale Ratepayers Association matters, and also includes useful links to community and government resources. At a time when phone numbers, names, and e-mail addresses can all change quickly, the site will always have the most current contacts. It is the surest way to connect with your Association volunteers by e-mail

Examples of some of the information on our website are:

- Building permits – what are they?
- Metropolitan Toronto Property Assessment Values 1999 for Rosedale

We welcome contributions and suggestions as to content. We do, however, reserve the right of editorial control over what is posted. Please visit us and send your comments on the website. We think you will find it is worth a bookmark. In addition, please let us know if we may contact you by e-mail in future with any late breaking news. Members that do not have access to the NRRRA website may telephone for a printed copy of a desired article.

### COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT HEARINGS

There has been a significant increase in property development and renovation in North Rosedale over the past few years and this continued in 2001. In response to requests for assistance from a number of residents, the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association assumed a leadership role on a number of development proposals in our area that required approval of the Committee of Adjustment at Toronto City Hall. In one instance, the matter in question subsequently went before the Ontario Municipal Board. We are pleased to say that most such matters were resolved to our satisfaction.

### PARKS AND SIDEWALKS

In order to improve the appearance of our parks and sidewalks, we worked with the City to increase the number of refuse bins in our neighborhood, particularly around bus stops. There may still be work to be done in this area. There have been some complaints about the advertising on the bins. See our website for an explanation of this issue - click on "New

Garbage Containers vs. Advertising."

The City has asked all merchants in our area to do their best to uphold the appearance of sidewalks adjacent to their businesses. Residents, as well as merchants, can help in keeping our community clean.

A number of residents have expressed concerns about loose or off-lease dogs on sidewalks and parks in North Rosedale. Those dogs in question are no doubt owned by a very small minority. However, we should all be aware that loose dogs can be a danger to themselves, to other smaller dogs, and can cause anxiety for those of us who may not be "dog people". See our website for "Pooch Etiquette or Rosedale Dog Ownership 101."

### **GLEN ROAD BRIDGE GRAFFITI**

Your Association was also in frequent contact with the City concerning the need to remove graffiti that appeared on the Glen Road Bridge during the summer. The City responded in a reasonably prompt manner. Residents can also assist in keeping the bridge free of graffiti by telephoning Councillor Kyle Rae's office (416-392-7903) when graffiti appears on the bridge. We hope that the prompt removal of graffiti will discourage graffiti writers.

### **SUMMERHILL AVENUE HYDRO-ONE REPLANTING**

In early October Hydro-One sent the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association the plans for their landscape design proposal for the north side of Summerhill, between Mount Pleasant and McLennan, with a request for comments on the proposal. Hydro-One's constant cropping of the existing trees in order to prevent them encroaching on overhead hydro lines will eventually severely impact the trees' effective use as a screen. The proposal included the removal of trees, replanting the area, and installing benches.

The North Rosedale Ratepayers Association then held a public meeting on October 11 during which the Association invited people that expressed concern about the proposal to form a committee. Hydro-One is open to suggestions and no redevelopment will be undertaken without our concurrence. A Working Committee, chaired by Andrea Meynell, a member of the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association Board of Directors, and consisting of officials from Hydro-One, the City of Toronto, and a number of residents has been formed. The purpose of the committee is to address some of the concerns raised at the meeting and to find a compromise between meeting Hydro-One's safety requirements and maintaining the character of the neighbourhood, while saving as many of the desirable large trees as possible.

The first committee meeting was held on October 28. The meeting began on Summerhill where everyone took a close look at the trees, the state of the land, and the views along the street. A view from the top of the ramp also gave some perspective on the slack in the cables and the real distance between the trees and the cables. With this common view and an understanding of the street, the meeting moved indoors. Once the issues were identified, the next steps involved getting more information and an outside opinion before the committee could approach Hydro to discuss alternatives.

Currently, various committee members are also gathering information to help answer some of the questions that came out of the discussion. Mr. Shelton, the landscape architect for Hydro-One, will be providing more information, and is, in principle, willing to consider a phased-in approach.

We are very fortunate that Mr. Jack Radecki, a professional consulting arbourist, has generously agreed to provide one free consultation for the committee. He has not seen the street, or the plans to date, but he will provide a professional, unbiased opinion on the situation at our next meeting. We look forward to his input.

The Committee hopes to have some proposals ready in the new year, and we would like to come back to the community in late February, early March to share our findings. Our deadline to come to some agreement, or get back to Hydro-One, is late March.

For further information you will find regular updates on the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association's website.

### **PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

Members had expressed great concern about the impact of the latest round of property assessments on property taxes in North Rosedale. As a result, we made a list of assessments for each street in our neighborhood available to residents in the hope that this would prove useful to them in determining the fairness of such assessments.

Working with Toronto City Councillor Kyle Rae, we also convened a public meeting for the purpose of providing further information regarding property appeal procedures and strategies. In order to provide further service to those in need, we also suggested the use of a real estate firm to provide property valuations on residents' request. We would like to thank all those additional firms and agents that also provided this service.

### **RAVINE BY-LAWS**

Certain residents of North Rosedale recently sought leave to appeal an Ontario Municipal Board decision to allow development of a property within the Binscarth Ravine to the Supreme Court of Canada. The North Rosedale Ratepayers Association strongly supported this action and expressed its disappointment when leave to appeal was not granted. We hope that other remedies will be obtained. We will continue to provide our assistance and support.

### **FILMING**

We have received a number of complaints from residents regarding traffic congestion and other inconveniences that are a result of filming in North Rosedale. Your association will be working with the City in order to effect improvements in the amount of neighbourhood disruption.

By-law No. 170-1999 "To Regulate the Use of City Property for Location Filming," "Filming Guidelines: Guidelines for Filming on Streets Under the Jurisdiction of the City of Toronto," and "Code of Conduct for Cast and Crew" will be posted on our website shortly.

### **NOISE BY-LAWS**

Legislation to harmonize the noise by-laws in the former City of Toronto and its various boroughs will be tabled shortly. This will not bring significant change to the noise by-laws that currently apply to North Rosedale, with the possible exception that construction activity can now occur between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., rather than to 6:00 P.M. There will also be a prohibition on construction activity on Sundays.

Your Association will post the new noise by-laws on our website when they are enacted.

### **FEDERAL ALL CANDIDATES MEETING AND DEBATE**

Along with our neighbours in South Rosedale and Moore Park, the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association sponsored a Federal Election All-Candidates meeting at the Rosedale United Church. The meeting was both well attended and lively.

The Association's plan for a similar meeting for the last municipal election was cancelled when the position of councillor for our area was acclaimed.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association continues to grow. The Association was formed in 1947 and today about 53% of all households in our neighborhood are now paying members.

We seek to maintain a high quality of life in our area, but we need your support! For an investment of \$30 per household per annum, you can help us maintain those things about North Rosedale that make it a premier neighborhood in the City of Toronto.

Memberships for 2002 are now due. Please send your renewals or new memberships together with the membership fee, your name address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any) to the Secretary-Treasurer at 6 Edgar Avenue, Toronto, M4W 2A9.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

For more information about the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association and its activities or to express your concerns about the North Rosedale area, please call:

**Douglas Greaves, President**, at 416-922-2111

**Bill Deacon, Vice-President**, at 416-961-7604

**David Harrison, Vice-President**, at 416-967-9398  
**Jean Weihs, Secretary-Treasurer**, at 416-925-2037  
or Directors:  
**Pat Howe**, at 416-929-7700  
**Erik Mathiesen**, at 416-324-9897  
**Andrea Meynell**, at 416-944-1893  
**Bill Perdue**, at 416-964-0113  
**Rodney Pryde**, at 416-487-8211  
**Sophie Radziuk**,  
**Geoff Shaw**, at 416-924-5555  
**Ralph Scane**, at 416-925-6936  
**Sheila Shaw**, at 416-962-7191  
**Joan Vitalis**, at 416-922-8610