



## QUICK NEWS

- Major proposals for new additions to **West Park** with latest plans showing loss of green space. See below.
- Important MDCA public meeting with local school board trustees on Mar 27<sup>th</sup>. See page 2 for details.
- Mount Dennis Library re-opens, and it's brighter and altogether better – check it out!

## NEWS & LOCAL UPDATES

### ✚ COMMUNITY BENEFITS MEETING ON FAMILY DAY

The Eglinton-Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) will create a maintenance and storage yard for LRT cars and storage facilities on the former Kodak Lands in the heart of Mount Dennis. The Mount Dennis Weston Network has been working with Metrolinx and others to create "Community Benefits" (CB) as part of this project so people in this area get something positive from its development. These may include a percentage of the construction and operations jobs going to local residents, training provided to ensure employment, procurement from local businesses where possible, support for innovation and transport-related business and training space for community businesses.

These issues were discussed on Family Day as local residents shared a meal at the Legion and explored the opportunities offered through CB. Other areas benefiting from CB negotiations have included Vancouver, where inner city residents got 100 construction jobs, and California where 1,000 locals got job training and placements through construction of the Alameda light rail system.

### ✚ CAN THEY KEEP THE "PARK" IN WEST PARK?

There are many changes at West Park Health Centre including a big new hospital building, demolition of several smaller buildings, and - at the east end of the site - a new "village" of apartment buildings (4-18 storeys high) for seniors and people with disabilities.

Access to West Park will be improved by extending the dead-end service road off Emmett Ave. through to Charlton Settlement. This will become the main access road to and from West Park, taking pressure off nearby neighbourhood streets. Key to its success will be new stop lights on Eglinton at Emmett, to be installed this summer. Thanks to Councillor Nunziata's efforts, with strong support from area residents including the MDCA, City Council overruled staff to approve these lights. West Park plans to put up a very large electronic sign on Eglinton, reinforcing this southern gateway to its campus.

A major concern for many residents is the loss of proposed underground hospital parking (removed from the plan when West Park found its provincial funds could not be used for this purpose). Although the new apartments will come with their own below-grade parking, all hospital parking will now be at-grade. Most existing parking spaces will be used for new buildings and the new road, and the expanded hospital will need significantly more than its current 545 parking spaces. But above image shows less parking than is on the site today. Rather than what is shown, it is likely that the hospital will end up surrounded by a sea of parking – much like most other suburban hospitals. It will be a loss for the broader community if the most obvious *park* at West Park is a sign showing where to leave your car!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Jays are common in our area, but did you know their feathers are not actually blue? Each feather's unique inner structure reflects light and gives the illusion of being blue!



MDCA works hard to stay on top of all the issues affecting Mount Dennis, including the Eglinton LRT, future of the Kodak lands, West parks redevelopment and changes to the rail corridor. Let us know if there are concerns you want us to work on.



### DID YOU KNOW?

That Topham Pond in the Eglinton Flats is actually man-made? It was created in the 1960's in an effort to restore the area after the devastation of Hurricane Hazel.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEET YOUR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

Join us at the Mount Dennis Legion (1050 Weston Road) on Wed, Mar 27 from 7PM – 9PM for a MDCA public meeting with Public and Catholic school board Trustees Chris Tonks and Frank D'Amico.

We will be discussing issues affecting schools and how schools affect the community. There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to ask questions and raise concerns with the trustees.

### APRIL SPRING LITTER CLEAN-UP

Join us at 10am to clean-up various areas around Mount Dennis on the following dates:

- Mon, April 1<sup>st</sup> (Weston & Jane): Meet by the 711 Convenience Store
- Sat, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Lambton & Astoria): Meet by Jane and Lambton
- Sun, April 7<sup>th</sup> (NW corner of Fergy Brown Park): Meet at the end of Bartonville by Jane
- Sat, April 13<sup>th</sup> (Emmett): Meet at Emmett Ave and Verona Ave
- Sat, April 20<sup>th</sup> (Glenvalley/Sunnybrae/Somerville): Meet at ravine end of Glenvalley Drive

Gloves and equipment will be provided. Just show up ready to do some spring cleaning.

## GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

If you need to contact our hard-working representatives from government, here is their contact information:

For municipal, Ward 11 – City Councillor Frances Nunziata:

[councillor\\_nunziata@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca) or 416-392-4091

For provincial, York South—Weston MPP Laura Albanese:

[lalbanese.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:lalbanese.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org) or 416-243-7984

For federal, York South—Weston MP Mike Sullivan:

[mike.sullivan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mike.sullivan@parl.gc.ca) or 416-656-2526



The hair care industry in the Mount Dennis area has grown significantly in the past eight years. Mount Dennis has the highest concentration of salons in Ontario and is becoming known as the *Salon Corridor*. There are a total of 26 hair care, beauty salons, and barbershops along Weston Rd between Lambton and Jane.

The shops along Weston Road are as multicultural as the community itself; people travel from Brampton, Mississauga and further for the hair services being offered and also to partake in the social environment that exists on Weston Rd. One thing is certain, if you're having a bad hair day, this is definitely be the place to be! The "Salon Corridor" is alive and thriving in our community.

Listen on-line to last fall's CBC Metro Morning story on the Salon Corridor at <http://www.cbc.ca/video/news/audioplayer.html?clipid=2289692927>

## OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions, concerns or want to volunteer with the MDCA.



[mdca@mountdennis.ca](mailto:mdca@mountdennis.ca)



[www.mounddennis.ca](http://www.mounddennis.ca)



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