



ARECA
(Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association)
www.areca.info

Councillor Stintz votes to close in open space at Yonge/Eglinton against the wishes of all local Resident's Associations.

The North York Community Council has approved the RioCan application to enclose the remaining open space on the North West corner of Yonge and Eglinton. Councillor Karen Stintz moved to have the application accepted. The 'Crystal Palace' proposal intends to replace the open space with a 3 storey glass retail addition. The open space, which was a requirement of a previous building application, has now been moved from ground level to the roof top. City staff does not know what hours the open space will be accessible to the public. Dorothy Smyth, President of Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association states that, "we have an abundance of retail, cinemas, and fast food outlets in North Toronto but we are lacking in open space. This massive RioCan expansion could be troubling for the smaller independent retailers on Eglinton and Yonge."

Chris Sellors made a submission on behalf of Councillor Michael Walker. "The Yonge Eglinton northwest corner and the open space is very important to residents of the community. Councillor Walker implores you to consider this vote very carefully. The planning report is deficient and inconsistent. We have over twice the provincial population target, 900 residents per hectare. The planning report did not mention this. Councillor Walker wants to tell you this open space should not be lost. The residents' associations were unanimous in their opinion and that was to keep this open space at grade. The planning report disregards their input. This open space serves almost everyone. There are also a number of community benefits."

Josh Matlow, Trustee, Toronto District School Board also spoke opposing the application. "Yonge/Eglinton is a vibrant part of the City of Toronto. But it suffers from a troubling deficit of open space. We have an opportunity to enhance this open space, to have some creative design and with it, vision. If we create a great open space, you will be attracting business to the retailers, and there will be more business. Once this space is lost, it is lost forever."

ARECA is concerned that planning in North Toronto is suffering and biased towards big property owners. The ARECA area in North Toronto is slated for intensification but community input does not appear to be appreciated. The noise and light from the RioCan buildings remain a problem. We continue to remind RioCan that we all share the neighbourhood and they should repair the noisy mechanicals and tone down the signage on top of their building. The problem has persisted now for a number of years.

ARECA is a volunteer community association representing the views of residents in matters that affect our community in North Toronto. ARECA represents the area bounded by Eglinton Avenue West, Yonge Street, Roselawn Avenue, Avenue Road, St Clements Avenue and Chaplin Road. If you live in the ARECA area please join your community association. To join send a cheque for \$20 (\$10 seniors) for your 2010 membership, along with your name, address and phone number to Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association, c/o Membership Secretary 23 Elwood Boulevard, Toronto M4R 1B8. Note if you wish to receive fax or email updates from ARECA please include these with your membership details or email us at information@areca.info.