

About the Mount Dennis Community Association

Presentation to Urban Land Institute Community Imagineering Program
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Mount Dennis Community Association

Beginnings

- The Mount Dennis Community Association (MDCA for short) came into being in the early 1970s (exact date unknown)
- It was incorporated in 1976 by three people: Alan Tonks (school teacher), Marjorie Sutton (legal secretary) and Donna Roberts (housewife)
- Tonks was prominent but his MDCA involvement was brief. He had run Provincially for the Liberals in 1975 finishing third to NDP leader Donald McDonald, and by 1978 he was serving on York Council's Board of Control.

MDCA in the 1900s

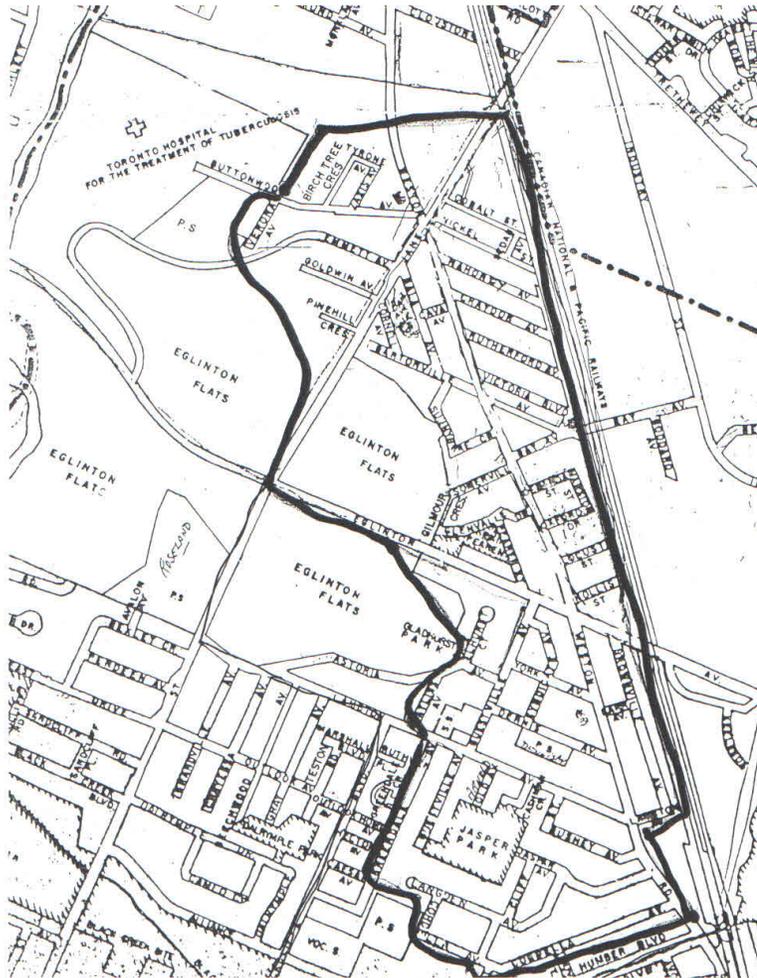
- Marjorie Sutton soon became President of MDCA, and was a formidable presence in local affairs until the early 2000s
- The extremely capable Charlcie Stickley became Secretary-Treasurer, and the two of them ran MDCA effectively for decades, with a succession of other Board members
- At incorporation, MDCA's "**Objects**" were stated as:
 - (a) To work towards improving the quality of life in our community by maintaining close co-operation with elected officials and special services boards of the municipal, provincial and federal authorities;

MDCA in the 1900s - continued

- (b) To represent the community in any matters affecting the quality of life as it affects our community;
- (c) To promote co-operation between residents, either owners or tenants in our community and any other groups;
- (d) To assist, where desirable, any other groups such as Home and School associations, businessmen's associations and similar groups.

These Objects have never been changed, though the AREA represented by MDCA is considerably larger today.

Original and Current MDCA areas



How MDCA Operated in the 1900s

- Paid membership dues; very formal rules and procedures
- An annual community yard sale to raise funds
- Involvement in all current issues, especially the redevelopment of the former Levy Auto Parts Scrapyard lands (Sidney Belsey area)
- Worked to ensure Hollis Fire Station saved and restored as a community centre
- Participated heavily in plans for a new “York Centre” development planned for Black Creek & Eglinton at a stop on the 1994 Eglinton Subway (cancelled in 1995)

Mount Dennis Residents' Association

- By 2004 MDCA was dormant
- MDRA came into being with encouragement from Councillor Nunziata and without knowing about MDCA
- In Fall 2004 MDRA refused a proposal from Marjorie & Charlcie that its members simply join MDCA
- In Fall 2005, after MDRA's very successful first year (with monthly public meetings & a Community Safety Audit), Marjorie & Charlcie invited its Executive Board and members to simply take over MDCA. But MDCA must continue to represent businesses as well as residents. This gave MDRA corporate status and a bank account, and allowed the two eighty-somethings to retire gracefully!

Cleaning, Greening and More! 2006-7

- Jean Boutot, MDCA's "energizer bunny" President
- Well publicized Community Clean-ups
- A new Green Corner at Jane & Lambton
- Saving the Kodak Employees' Building
- Involvement with CPLC - A Young Anglers Club
- New Rec Centre Planning Process - Plans for Blue 22
- All Candidates Meetings - Events in the Flats
- Working with A.N.C. - Neighbours Night Out

Kodak Lands, LRT & more in 2008-12

- President Barb Stone: steady guidance on difficult issues
- Weston Hill redevelopment plans - MDUC community kitchen
- Mount Dennis-Weston Network - Metrus' Mall Proposal
- Employment & economic growth - Street Fairs
- Clean Train Coalition - TTC's at-grade LRT Proposal
- Emmett Community Garden - Bus Garage - Year-end recognitions
- Web-site - Pearen Rink (Marabelle) - W. Park Redevelopment plans
- Agreement to support Rail Yard - Newsletter (Jules)

Crosstown Plans, UPX issues etc.: 2013-14

- President Marabelle McTavish steps into the breach
- Green the ARL - Noise Walls - Vibration mats - saving trees
- Adding local business ads to newsletters
- Saving the Scotiabank building - Community Benefits (Rick)
- “Special Six” planning process - Bartonville landscaping
- Guidelines for Good Shepherd site - Jane’s Walks (Mike)
- Pushing for community use of Kodak Building

Smart-Track & the Eco-hood: 2015-present

- President Jules Kerlinger ('15-'16) brings youth and new approach
- President Mike Mattos ('17 – now) leads re environmental issues
- Opposing SmartTrack West - The Mayoral Debate
- Eco-Neighbourhood Initiative - Stopping the Gas Plant
- Input on Ward Boundaries - involving First Nations
- Renaming Railway Lane (to be revitalized) - Humberfest
- Addressing the Floods issue - TRCA collaboration
- Working with groups to the south
- Pedestrian Safety & Cycling Committee involvement

Ongoing MDCA Initiatives

- Spring Clean-ups (annual) - Community Rink (weather permitting)
- Jane's Walks (annual) - Party-by-the-Pond (annual)
- Participate in Weston Santa Claus Parade (annual)
- Newsletters (3 per year) & e-blasts
- Neighbourhood Improvement Area meetings
- Community Police Liaison Committee meetings
- Liaise with politicians, agencies (LEF, MDNC, UrbanArts etc.)
- Monitor proposals for development and other changes
- All Candidate Meetings