

Future Priorities for Mount Dennis

(a working draft)

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

Make the Eco-Neighbourhood vision a reality

- See separate presentation

Protect and enhance green spaces

- Protect and improve existing parks and other greenspace
- Replace rail corridor losses, encourage more tree planting
- Work to limit front-yard paving (& reduce flooding)
- Encourage community gardens, planting for bees, food & pleasure
- Create more sports / play opportunities for local residents
- Create “green corners”, restore forgotten spaces
- Maintain & promote annual community clean-ups
- Promote pride in “Toronto’s Greenest Neighbourhood”

Revitalize Weston Road

- Increase foot traffic to support retailers, attract more
- Encourage the right amount of retail space
- Maintain & improve flowers, signs etc. after Metrolinx moves on
- Widen sidewalks, enhance pedestrian experiences, add bike lanes
- Maintain / increase parking opportunities
- Try to minimize other nearby retail opportunities
- Do more to connect local residents & retailers
- Make Weston Road a destination for the wider community

Maintain Diversity & Encourage Community

- Work to connect diverse ages, ethnicities, languages etc.
- Encourage and support our First Nations population
- Work with and help strengthen our schools
- Support and promote our institutions: Rec. Centre, Library, LEF, MDNC, Foodshare, Urban Arts, West Tor. Support Services, West Park, faith communities etc.
- Promote a common purpose in “Strengthening Mount Dennis”

Provide Options for the Vulnerable

- “A rising tide should raise ALL boats”!
- Push to ensure options for all who want to stay here
- Push for Community Benefit jobs etc.
- Work with schools and support organizations (e.g. St.Albans Boys & Girls Clubs),
- Work with property developers, including Options for Homes and Toronto Housing, to ensure new homes are not just for the affluent
- Push for local training opportunities
- Encourage retailers, constructors etc. to “hire diverse”

Protecting “special” buildings, views, etc.

- As a historically poor community with a working class history, Mount Dennis has few striking buildings, or ones of great architectural merit
- Our heritage buildings: Kodak, Scotiabank, St.Mary & Martha, core of Dennis Ave. School (?), Baptist Church, Salvation Army, historic farmhouses, etc.
- Our “angle buildings”
- Our view corridors & focal points
- Our neighbourhood streetscapes

Enhancing pedestrian, cycling and transit options

- Metrolinx & TTC have not done enough re “last mile” connections for Mount Dennis Station
- MDCA is on-record with a proposed new bus route
- MDCA will advocate for bike lanes, wider sidewalks and more customer parking on Weston Road
- Harbord (Spadina to Grace) can be our model for Weston (Jane to Lambton). Traffic and transit volumes are similar, and Weston’s R.O.W. is wider. We can make it happen!

Making New Development Work for ALL

- Work to ensure new development proposals bring positive improvements
- Work to prevent the potential negatives of planned changes
- Ensure new residential development caters to a wide range of income levels
- Ensure the community and would-be developers are on the same page