



DMRI NEWSLETTER- Fall 2025

In This Issue

- **President's Message**
- **New Community Safety Hub opens in Don Mills**
- **Crime Safety Town Hall**
- **Macklin Hancock Park**
- **The Purple Bakeshop**
- **DMRI Booth at Shamjam (Picture)**
- **Notices**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Fall 2025 NEWSLETTER

As we are approaching Fall, after our extended summer weather, it is time for all of us to give thanks and to think of those less fortunate, who are struggling to make ends meet due to high food prices. The Community Share Food Bank at 33 Overland Drive, behind the Church of the Ascension, provides food security to over 450 families in the Don Mills area on Wednesdays. The food bank is always looking for volunteers and donations. It can even help you to organize a food drive! To find out more, visit: <https://www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/> .

Our co-op student from Conestoga College has finished her work on identifying areas of improvement for our website and our Instagram and Facebook pages. Ama has done a lot of work to help us be more effective for the community. The board is looking at her report and we will take steps to make appropriate changes, so members can have a better way of accessing information.

Safety has been an ever increasing concern in Don Mills. The Shops at Don Mills seems to be a target for car thefts, robberies, and distraction thefts. Residents living in houses around central Don Mills have seen increased house break-ins and car thefts. 33 Division, our local police, are taking all of these incidents seriously. They are asking all community members to report all crime, no matter how minor, as information equips the police with the means to identify criminals and make arrests. The DMRI was planning a safety town hall this month, which we have rescheduled for November, due to MPP Shamji and Councillor Burnside's recent town hall. Our safety town hall will focus on personal safety and will be led by Constable Joel Roberts, our community police officer. We will send out an email blast with more details soon.

You will have noticed the email blast with 'News in Brief' containing a list of events happening in the community. If you belong to a community group in Don Mills that is planning a public event, please let us know. One of our steps to improvement at the DMRI is to better inform residents of social events in Don Mills.

Continued on the next page



Lastly, a reminder that membership fees have increased to \$30 per year to keep up with costs.

I hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving! Let's hope the postal strike ends soon!

Vanessa Quinn
DMRI President

New Community Safety Hub opens in Don Mills

Last month, Toronto Police Services' Division 33 opened its second Community Safety Hub, and this one is in the heart of Don Mills.

The Community Safety Hub, located at the CF Shops at Don Mills at Don Mills Road and Lawrence Avenue East, was opened on September 26 with Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow on hand to assist with the ribbon cutting. The first hub was opened in January at Fairview Mall. Also attending the opening were TPS Chief Superintendent Kelly Skinner, Police Service Board Chair Shelley Carroll, Don Valley East MPP Adil Shamji, and Ward 16 City Councillor Jon Burnside.

The Don Mills hub is easily visible; located on the north side of the green space at the Shops at Don Mills. The hub, which will operate for community programs and events, is not a police station. Its objective is to serve as a direct means for the community to connect with police officers and share their concerns in their own local area. It will also serve as a forum to talk about crime prevention.

The hub is clearly marked. It is a space where crime prevention officers, neighbourhood officers, and other officers and volunteers can host community events and discuss neighbourhood policing and safety concerns. According to TPS, "Community safety hubs serve as accessible, localized centers where law enforcement and the community can interact, collaborate, and access services. These hubs are designed to build trust, improve safety and promote transparency."

Kevin Skinner



Crime Safety Town Hall

On October 1, Don Valley East MPP Adil Shamji held a town hall focussing on crime and policing with Toronto Police 33 Division and Ward 16 City Councillor Jon Burnside. 33 Division covers a large area from Steeles south to Eglinton and Bayview east to Victoria Park. Superintendent Donovan Locke informed the crowd that the police are looking for new and innovative methods for residents to contact the police and have their diversity of needs met. The Community Safety Hub, now open at the Shops at Don Mills is a walk-in office where residents can ask for guidance, report concerns and find resources. Emails sent to the superintendent, community police officers, and the Division office are dealt with in a timely manner and are an efficient way to contact police (<https://www.tps.ca/my-neighbourhood/33-division/>). And, the police website, now re-vamped, offers residents the opportunity to fill in a report online, without having to wait for an officer to copy down details. (<https://www.tps.ca/services/online-reporting/>). Of course, emergencies should always be dealt with by 911.

Councillor Burnside explained how the City is working at reducing 911 wait times, and although not optimum, wait times have been reduced from 25 minutes to about 12 minutes. Dr. Shamji spoke on how issues like bail reform fall within the federal jurisdiction, but once the legislature opens, MPs will be focusing on issues surrounding crime. Finally, it was good to hear that due, in a large part to the community who worked with police, the suspect responsible for breaking into multiple houses in the northeast quadrant has been caught, reinforcing the police's advice that all crime, no matter how minor, should be reported, as all evidence is helpful in solving crime. At the DMRI, we are hearing a lot about crime and, lately, distraction thefts, where victims are distracted by a person or group of people and have their jewelry or wallets stolen. We are working to organize a Personal Safety Town Hall, tentatively in November, to address these increasing thefts at malls and on the streets.

Vanessa Quinn





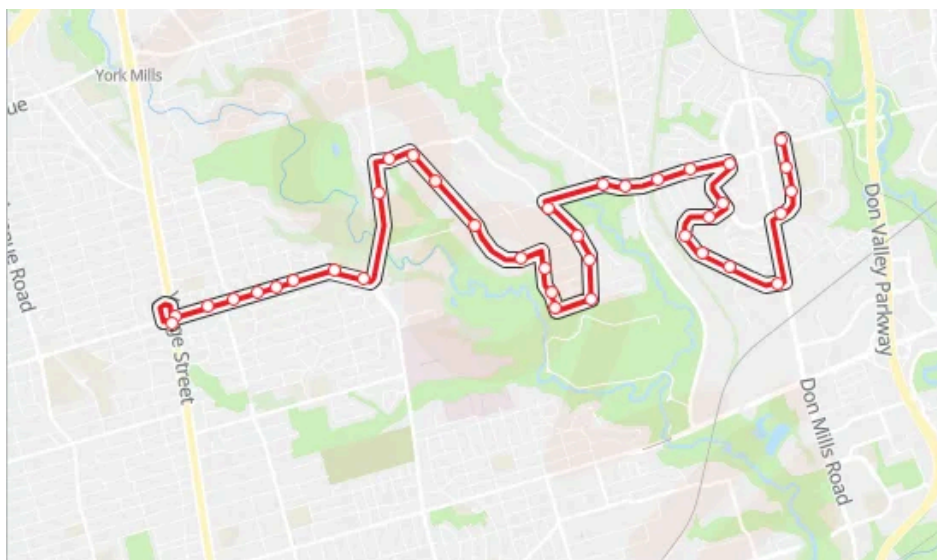
Transit News

After years of construction, Lawrence Station has finally reopened; however, the new elevator is still not operational. Riders taking the 162 Lawrence-Donway East will have noticed confusing bus numbers on the posts throughout The Donway. Once the Eglinton LRT opens, there will be a rerouting of TTC buses in central Don Mills. The 25/925 Don Mills buses will now be routed through Don Valley (formerly Science Centre) station. The 54 Lawrence bus will turn south on Don Mills Road to go to this station and will no longer service Lawrence between Don Mills and Leslie nor Leslie Street. Instead, the 162 Lawrence-Donway East will travel along Lawrence to The Donway East, then turn south, and then follow its current route. A Leslie bus from Don Valley station will travel up Leslie, turn onto Lawrence and follow the northern Donway route of the 162. This bus will then turn back onto Lawrence at The Donway East (near the school) to head back west. So, riders who took the 162 bus on the northern part of The Donway will no longer have this service. The TTC dutifully changed all their post signage to fit the supposed opening of the LRT this summer, which is now inaccurate.

Despite all this confusion, the 162 Lawrence-Donway bus is much emptier than the 54 Lawrence, and is an option to accessing the Yonge (line 1) line. However, this bus does travel on Bayview which is congested at rush hour, so the afternoon rush hour schedule is often greatly behind schedule.

To see an interesting video and first impression of the 162 Lawrence-Donway bus route, you may wish to visit “Toronto’s Weirdest Bus Routes: 162 Lawrence-Donway” at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IWcdNhnFj8>.

Vanessa Quinn

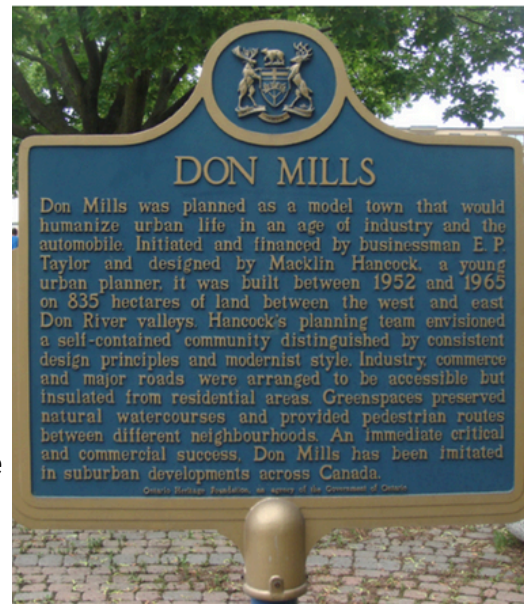




Macklin Hancock Park

On July 10, the Macklin Hancock Park subcommittee met with Councillor Jon Burnside and the Parks Department to further discuss upgrades to the park. To date, the park has seen a refurbished sign on Don Mills Road, healthier trees due to pruning, the addition of two park benches, and movement of the heritage sign to make it easier to read. The subcommittee is working towards making the park safer by introducing barriers to protect users from busy traffic and by introducing a more ‘garden focused’ design. Since park upgrades must be made in consultation with the City, the process to regenerate the park will take some time.

Vanessa Quinn



THE PURPLE BAKESHOP: A Sweet Addition to The Shops at Don Mills

Don Mills, get ready to experience a whole new world of deliciousness and colour!

The Purple Bakeshop, a vibrant new bakery, offers a delightful selection of Filipino desserts and is a highly recommended visit at The Shops at Don Mills.

The story of The Purple Bakeshop is a wonderful example of family business success. Timothy Solis, Community Liaison and son of the owners, explains that his parents established a restaurant in Mississauga in 2001 after immigrating from the Philippines. When his oldest sister became a pastry chef, they decided to open a dedicated cake and pastry shop, thus creating The Purple Bakeshop. Their expansion to The Shops at Don Mills marks their first Toronto location. It is an opportunity they eagerly embraced due to the neighbourhood’s vibrant community.

The bakery’s name is a direct nod to their star ingredient: ube (pronounced OO-beh). Ube is a purple yam native to the Philippines. For those who have never tried it, ube can be described as having a creamy, nutty, and almost vanilla-like flavour. This ingredient is central to many traditional and modern Filipino desserts, and The Purple Bakeshop uses it masterfully.



Timothy describes Filipino baking as having Spanish influences, focusing on root ingredients like ube, cassava, and tropical fruits to create exquisite sweet or savory desserts. Additionally, Filipino baking often emphasizes steaming over traditional baking.

The best way to navigate bakeshop its menu is to follow the colour purple! The Ube Cream Cheese Loaf and the Ube Dessert Box are must-haves. The latter is an excellent way to get an introduction to a variety of sweets, as the box offers a mix of crinkle cookies, macaroons, and cheesecake bars.

Timothy also suggests that first-time visitors try the Filipino-style empanadas - flaky pastries with chicken, pork, or beef filling. To complete your order, he recommends the calamansi iced tea, a refreshing palate cleanser perfect for sipping while you explore the mall.

Their signature offering is Halo-Halo, a classic Filipino dessert that blends sweet beans, jelly, flan, and ice cream. Their Ube Overload takes Halo-Halo to a whole new level by introducing non-traditional ingredients such as cookie crinkles, tapioca, coconut jelly, a cheesebar, and ube flan, all crowned with ube cream.

Be sure to check out the Bakeshop the next time you're at the Shops. It's the happiest place to be purple!

Richard Ng - A very well-fed and satisfied customer





DMRI Booth At MPP Adil Shamji's Shamjam



Notices

Committee of Adjustment Participation Handbook

City Planning Division released the new Committee of Adjustment Participation Handbook.

This handbook was developed to make it easier for applicants, neighbours, and the public to understand and participate in the Committee of Adjustment (CoA) process. The handbook explains how to apply for a minor variance or consent, respond to a Public Hearing Notice, prepare for a public hearing, and understand everyone's roles and responsibilities. The handbook also includes tips, examples, FAQs, and links to related resources.

The handbook can viewed here: Committee of Adjustment Participation Handbook

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/committee-of-adjustment/about-the-committee-of-adjustment-and-rules-of-procedure/>



Donate to The DMRI

Member Support enables the DMRI to achieve our objectives and to maintain Don Mills as one of the best places to live in the City of Toronto. Member are encouraged to participate in the Annual General Meeting. The membership runs from the date of joining.

Membership fees are \$30.00 per household per year. Please also consider adding a donation when you join or renew your membership with the DMRI. Your support helps to pay for the legal and other costs associated with representing Don Mills and all its residents at the municipal and provincial level.

There are two ways to join Don Mills Residents Inc.

Payment via Canada Post

Return the membership form along with a cheque to:

DMRI P.O. Box 47528, Don Mills ON M3C 3S7

Online Payment

www.dmri.ca/become_a_dmri_member

Complete the form on the membership page.

Select and pay by credit card. If you'd like to make

a donation, please do so at the same time.

You can also scan this QR code with your cell phone and the web page will load automatically for you.



Note that the DMRI is not a registered charity, therefore, tax receipts are not provided.

If you have any questions, please contact membership@dmri.ca

DMRI Application/Renewal

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Phone # (____) _____ Email Address _____

☐ Annual Membership \$25.00 ☐ Donation \$ _____ Total Amount \$ _____ Date: _____

Please Note: The DMRI is not a registered charity. Tax receipts are not provided.

Comments: _____

The Newsletter is sent by Email to save costs.

DMRI P.O. Box 47528, Don Mills ON M3C 3S7

Or pay electronically via the DMRI website