



DMRI NEWSLETTER- SUMMER 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

With summer upon us, it is time to reflect on what a busy year it has been for the DMRI, and where we are headed in the future.

As ever, development is top of our agenda to ensure that all construction benefits the community and is in keeping with the garden concept that Macklin Hancock envisioned several decades ago. We were a party to the Ontario Land Tribunal hearing concerning 895 Lawrence Ave. East (Congee Queen Plaza), where we had an opportunity to present how residents would navigate this proposed development and what the issues with it were. (More information on the tribunal's decision will follow in a future newsletter.) And, we have been involved in other development proposals involving zoning precedents and increased density. Frankly, it is a lot of work, not just going to meetings, but also to get to know all the new City and Provincial guidelines and official plans. However, not being engaged in monitoring development would have detrimental consequences to Don Mills. Needless to say, development is not glamorous, but a portfolio that definitely needs to be part of our commitment to you, our members.

Speaking of unglamorous, the board has been working to get public washrooms for the new Big Bear Park. This is especially important as the walk from the park to the not-yet-built community centre is far, especially for the very young. On other park and recreation news, we are also awaiting City plans to regenerate Macklin Hancock Park to make it less concrete-looking. Civitan Arena will be running next year, so that news will be a relief to all skaters.

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The funding crisis in public schools is all over the news, so it doesn't come as a surprise that the Toronto school boards, both public and Catholic, are appealing the City's Avenues Plan, which allows mid-rise buildings (from 6-14 stories) as of right, excepting school lands. Both school boards are currently run by the provincial government and if they win their appeal, school lands (fields, parking lots, playgrounds) could be sold for huge profits to pay off their deficits. Local communities would lose community spaces, including community green spaces. The DMRI is hoping to be a participant at the Ontario Land Tribunal hearing in September and we will keep you posted. If you would like to Tell Doug Ford & School Boards: No Development on School Lands, sign the petition at: <https://c.org/nXmmnLkbnD>.

Lastly, we are in the midst of moving our online operations to a new platform to make it easier to update our website and get our message out over social media. We hope to be ready by fall, so stay tuned! Again, we appreciate your membership, and encourage you to join or renew. Go to our website at: www.dmri.ca and if you are unsure if your membership has expired, then please contact: membership@dmri.ca.

Vanessa Quinn
DMRI President

2026 DMRI AGM

Don Mills Residents Inc. hosted its 2026 Annual General Meeting on May 27. The event, held at Donway Covenant United Church, was well attended as the membership was brought up to speed on DMRI happenings over the past 12 months and provided a look ahead to what's in store for the coming year.

In her annual report, DMRI President Vanessa Quinn highlighted the organization's on-going efforts to be more involved in community events as well as its usual focus on development issues in Don Mills.

In May, DMRI co-hosted a TTC Town Hall with Ward 16 Councillor Jon Burnside. This event was held due to the numerous bus route changes in Don Mills following the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. Three TTC staff members took copious notes and answered questions as attendees described transit difficulties after many bus routes were reoriented towards the LRT – at the expense of travel within the area.

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Many issues were also raised about the Don Mills LRT station itself. Hopefully, the transit authority heard these complaints and can ease travel concerns in Don Mills.

DMRI was also visible at Don Valley East MPP Dr. Adil Shamji's "ShamJam" last July. There we met a number of residents of the former Don Valley East residents' group who expressed an interest in joining DMRI in some capacity. At this year's ShamJam – Saturday, July 4th at Broadlands Park – we will be offering them associate memberships in DMRI.

DMRI has also taken the lead in the refreshment of Macklin Hancock Park at the corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Don Mills Road. This iconic Don Mills public space has fallen by the wayside over the last several years and is long overdue for refurbishment.

The long overdue overhaul of DMRI's website should be ready for unveiling later this year. Upgrades to our social media accounts and further work to our back-office system should increase our ability to communicate and engage with our membership.

As ever, DMRI continues to stay on top of the development front. Even though the province has limited DMRI's role in the development process, we maintain a presence at the Committee of Adjustment, City Council, the Ontario Land Tribunal and other aspects of the planning, zoning, and development issues in general.

Of note in 2026 and on-going, we represented Don Mills interests as development proposals for 123 Wynford Drive, 895 Lawrence Avenue East, and 8 Parmbelle Cres. were up for approval. Add in the Don Mills Regeneration Area Study and the City's Avenues Plan Policy and you can understand why development takes up so much of the DMRI board's resources.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and enjoy this great community of Don Mills.

Kevin Skinner



Updates on the Don Mills Family Health Team

The Don Mills Family Health Team (DMFHT) recently received additional funding and is hiring more Nurse Practitioners and Interdisciplinary Health Providers to support its growing patient population and assist physicians in attaching more patients to primary care providers. Located at 20 Wynford Drive, one block east of Don Mills Road, the Team continues to grow and is currently accepting new patients, particularly individuals who do not have a family physician and would like to register with the Team. Since April 2025, the Team has rostered more than 2,700 new patients. In addition, the Team has expanded its space at 20 Wynford Drive over the past year.

The Team will also be working with the North Toronto Ontario Health Team (OHT) and East Toronto OHT to support staffing at Welcare Health Centre, Magenta Health Center, and the new Generations Medical Centre. Generations, in partnership with the Islamic Centre, will provide services to residents in the new building on Raymond Moriyama Way, which is expected to open later this year. The centre has secured six physicians to launch the initiative. Approval was granted following the submission of more than 70 letters of support and commitment from partner organizations, community agencies, physicians, MPPs, and City Councillors.

The Don Mills Family Health Team is one of the few Family Health Teams in Ontario governed by a Board composed primarily of community members rather than physicians. Jonathan Mousley serves as Board Chair, and I am one of the Board Directors. Their phone number is 416-444-6161.

Allan Mckellar

Billy Bishop Airport Expansion

The DMRI Board is encouraging all our residents to participate in the survey (link below) launched by the Federal Government as a part of the public consultation process. Make your opinion to be heard!

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/corporate-services/consultations/public-consultation-future-billy-bishop-toronto-city-airport>



2026 DMRI Safety Town Hall

PC Joel Roberts was on hand as Don Mills Residents Inc. hosted a safety town hall meeting recently. PC Roberts, the Crime Prevention Officer of Toronto Police Services 33 Division, led a multi-media presentation on the topic of fraud and scams at Donway Covenant United Church.

The well-attended event offered DMRI members and the broader Don Mills community a chance to learn about the sophisticated tricks fraudsters will use to entice you to part with your money. Of particular interest to those assembled were:

- romance scams
- online marketplace scams
- cryptocurrency scams
- Canada Revenue Agency scams
- distraction theft
- taxi scams

Artificial intelligence has found its way into criminals' bag of tricks as ways have been developed to emulate the voices of people you know. This provides a false sense of security as you think you are talking to a loved one (and call display may even show their phone number!). Your best source for safety is as PC Roberts said "Listen to your gut. If it sounds too good it probably is."

It is strongly recommended that readers obtain a copy of the 33 Division Crime Prevention Toolkit. It comes packed with information to help you prevent a wide variety of property and personal crimes.

Saturday, September 12 is the date for 33 Division's Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is always a high point of the summer as the division, located at 50 Upjohn Road, opens its doors and offers an insider's view of the police facility. Games, tours, and plenty of free food will highlight the event.

Kevin Skinner



Food Bank from the Board of Community Share Food Bank

Community Share Food Bank has been responding to individuals and families who live in the Don Mills area and who experience food insecurity since 2004. They are open for distribution in the Parish Hall of Church of the Ascension every Wednesday between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Clients may come to the food bank every two weeks.

Unfortunately our numbers have increased significantly, especially since COVID, and they are now averaging over 200 households and more than 800 individuals per week.

Community Share receives no direct government funding. They get food from North York Harvest and Second Harvest, but we would not be able to provide the milk, eggs and produce that clients receive every visit without monetary donations from corporations, foundations and our generous neighbours in Don Mills and beyond. If you would like to support our work, please go to our website where you will be linked to Canada Helps [https:// www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/make-a-donation.html](https://www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/make-a-donation.html) . If you can help by organizing a food drive, please email us at contact@communitysharefoodbank.ca or leave a telephone message at **416- 441-3209**.

As Community Share only has one full-time paid employee, volunteers are the backbone of our organization. If you would like to become a volunteer, please complete and submit the application form at [https:// www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/volunteer.html](https://www.communitysharefoodbank.ca/volunteer.html) and someone will contact you when we next need new volunteers.

Community Share Food Bank is committed to welcoming all those who come through our door. However, we couldn't do that without the generosity of people like you. Thank you for giving a hand up to our neighbours in need.

TTC Town Hall

Once the Eglinton LRT opened in February, years behind schedule, residents felt that finally we were moving forward. However, for many riders, especially those who rely on buses, the change of virtually all the Don Mills bus routes and the inaccessibility of Don Valley Station have left riders frustrated and isolated. Councillor Burnside suggested a joint TTC town hall with the DMRI to try and resolve some of the questions and frustrations of riders. On May 25, the TTC sent 3 representatives from their Corporate Office to hear our concerns, offer solutions, and forward unresolved issues back to the TTC. During this discussion, we learned that 3 corporations run the LRT – Metrolinx (who owns the infrastructure), the TTC (who runs the service and assists riders) and Crosslinx Transit Solutions, subcontracted by the Province (who does the maintenance).

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With 3 corporations running the transit system in Don Mills, it is no wonder that issues take a long time to resolve and that urgent safety matters are not dealt with in a timely manner. The DMRI has made it clear to TTC staff that dividing our community by Don Mills Road by cutting the bus service between Don Mills and Leslie is detrimental to our social interaction and community cohesiveness.

The DMRI has been the first residents' group to hold a town hall with the TTC to help solve issues with the opening of the Eglinton LRT. The DMRI is working closely with the TTC concerning the inaccessibility of Don Valley Station (out of order elevator to bus bays, steep tunnel with no railings, slippery floors and poor signage) and the changes to bus routes, actually making some more inaccessible for riders. We are especially concerned with the fact there is no bus service along Lawrence west of Don Mills to Leslie, severely reduced service to Vicora Linkway, and the lack of a bus stop at Lawrence and Underhill for the 191. We have made the TTC aware of the problem of the similarly coloured palette and letter signage at Leaside/Laird Stations preventing a visually impaired person from differentiating between the stations. The TTC is bringing this to the attention of Metrolinx, as this is in violation of Accessibility Ontario regulations.

We are hoping to coordinate another town hall to focus on the 403 Community Bus, which is open to all ages and can be flagged down enroute, and which is a virtually unknown service, preventing its expansion due to poor ridership. In summary, the TTC Corporate Office is very interested in keeping the lines of communication open to the DMRI and working together with us to improve transit.

Transit Notes

#1 What is the fastest way to get downtown?. If you live within walking distance of the LRT, then the LRT is the fastest way. Take the LRT west to Eglinton or Cedarvale (Eglinton West), then south on the Line 1 subway.

#2. If you don't live within walking distance of the LRT: - Take the 25/925 or 100 bus to Broadview Station. Then take the Line 2 subway. - If you are not near Don Mills Road, then transfer from the 54, 191, or 162 bus at Barber Greene, so you are at an express stop. From the 51 bus, you do not have an express bus option. Even with multiple transfers, you save 15-30 minutes. ** Note: During bad weather, or the rush hour crunch, buses often fall behind schedule, so using the LRT may be the better option in those circumstances.

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What is the most accessible way to get downtown?

#1. If you live within walking distance of the LRT, but find the walk too much, then take a bus to Broadview Station (which has elevators to the subway platform) or transfer at Eglinton, right outside the front of Don Valley Station, to access escalators or elevators to the LRT platform. Go west and transfer at Eglinton or Cedarvale* to the Line 1 subway.

****Do not take a bus that ends up at the bus terminal at the LRT – Don Valley Station has no accessible option to transfer from the bus bays to the train platform. The underground tunnel is very steep with no hand rails and is often wet and slippery. There are a high number of falls in this tunnel, so avoid it.**

*****If you by accident end up at the bus terminal, take the 72 Pape bus to Eglinton at the front entrance of Don Valley Station, which is accessible to the trains.**

#2. Take the 25/925 or 100 bus to Broadview as suggested above. (This may mean taking another bus to a Don Mills bus stop.) However, the bus will lower to allow you to board more easily. There are working escalators and elevators at Broadview, Yonge-Bloor, and St George Stations.

#3. Take the 25/925 bus to the stop outside the main entrance of Don Valley Station. There are escalators and elevators to get you onto the LRT platform going west. Then transfer at Eglinton/ Cedarvale* which have elevators to the Line 1 subway platform.

*Note: The elevators at Spadina on the Line 1 subway are out of order due to construction.

Vanessa Quinn



DMRI Booth at ShamJam

It was wonderful to meet and greet so many Don Mills community members at MPP Adil Shamji's 2026 ShamJam. This was the second time we served chai and like last time- it was a hit! Thank you to all those that stopped by our booth and signed up as new members. we look forward to your engagement to make Don Mills even better!



Upcoming Event

FONTRA's 25th Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 pm

Granite Brewery, 245 Eglinton East

For more info and registration: <https://fontra.com/25th-anniversary-celebration/>



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 \$30.00 ☐ 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