

Special Announcement: LPRA Survey of Residents

Dramatic changes to the rural ambiance of our neighbourhood have been proposed by the City under its "Lawrence Park Neighbourhood Road & Stormwater Management Study"¹. As such, the LPRA believes it is essential to be able to accurately portray the position of affected residents on road expansion, road resurfacing, and on the addition and location of proposed sidewalks.

As a first step, the LPRA retained the services of a certified, professional arborist.² He provided an unbiased report documenting and assessing the impact of the City's proposed road and sewer reconstruction and sidewalk construction on the Lawrence Park tree canopy, its biodiversity, and on whether the current plans meet the City's stated environmental goals. The conclusions and recommendations from this report were conveyed to residents of Lawrence Park in our last Newsletter, dated July 20, 2016. In short, the arborist report was highly critical of the City's assessment of the environmental impact of its proposals. The report concluded:

"The tree impact presented in the plan does not seem consistent with the vision and spirit of Toronto's Strategic Forest Management Plan." and

"Road and sewer improvements in Lawrence Park present a unique opportunity for the City of Toronto to show leadership in maintaining the balance between the need for urban infrastructure reconstruction and minimizing the environmental, economic and safety impact of development, namely, the protection of mature canopy and monumental specimens. The community is engaged and stands ready to seek collaborative solutions with the City toward stewardship of an important public good."

The LPRA's position:

1. We support any work necessary to correct basement flooding issues;
2. We support a 7.2-meter road with one sidewalk on Mildenhall; and
3. We believe a comprehensive survey of residents must to be undertaken before any further response is made to the City's proposals.

Upcoming Survey: The LPRA has retained the professional survey firm, FORUM Research, to survey all affected residents of Lawrence Park. The survey will take about 5 minutes and be conducted door-to-door. Interviewers will carry identification and knock on your door in the days immediately following Labour Day.

We encourage everyone to participate to ensure that the results accurately represent the views of affected residents. The more affected residents we survey, the more confidence we have in the results. Please take five minutes to complete the survey to make sure your opinion is heard.

Thank you to all who have already provided monetary support toward the cost of the arborist report and the FORUM survey. If you have not yet donated, please consider donating \$100 to help defray the survey costs. If you are not already a member of the LPRA, please consider joining.³ Contact Rick Hutcheon at rhutcheon@sympatico.ca for more information.

¹ The City's complete presentation is available at www.toronto.ca/lawrencepark

² Jose Rubio Lazo, Certified Arborist Inc., 446 Davisville Ave. Toronto, M4S 1H8

³ Membership form is available online at: <http://lpra.ca/membership/>