

The Lawrence Park Ratepayers Association

Spring Newsletter 2022

What's Happening in the Park



Photo from the LPRA Hosted May 17th All-Candidates Meeting

Hello Neighbours!

We hope that you enjoy reading this spring edition of the LPRA newsletter. Since publication of our last Newsletter (the Winter Newsletter), your association has been active on several fronts including the Neighbourhood Watch Program, intervening on behalf of affected property owners for several residential development applications in the neighbourhood and most importantly hosting an in-person All-Candidates Meeting for the provincial riding of Don Valley West (picture above).

Neighbourhood Watch

Didi Cameron, a LPRA board member and head of the Lawrence Park Neighbourhood Watch program, recently received a community safety award from the Ontario government for her efforts in promoting community safety. See below Didi displaying Neighbourhood Watch signs and stickers that homeowners can display to encourage safety awareness in the community. If you would like a Neighbourhood Watch sign or sticker for your home, please let us know.



Photo of Didi Cameron and Neighbourhood Watch

Highlights of the LPRA hosted All-Candidates Meeting

The key event of the spring organized and hosted by your LPRA was an All-Candidates Meeting (ACM) for the provincial riding of Don Valley West held on May 17th at the Lawrence Park Community Church. The ACM was both an in-person event as well as a live webcast. Over 100 people attended in-person and via the webcast.

The LPRA invited the following candidates campaigning for your vote: Stephanie Bowman/Liberal Party, Irwin Elman/New Democratic Party, Laurel Hobbs/New Blue Party, Mark Saunders/PC Party and Sheena Sharp/Green Party. All confirmed their attendance but there was some last-minute drama when Mark Saunders cancelled his participation. The debate went on without him.

It was an evening of thoughtful debate, moderated by Valentine Lovekin, chair of the LPRA board. All candidates were given the opportunity to make opening and closing statements. Otherwise, a total of eight questions were put to the candidates, all being submitted in writing by Lawrence Park residents.

Key topics discussed and debated by the candidates included:

- 1) housing densification and affordability
- 2) plans to improve provincial healthcare programs
- 3) gun control and
- 4) why as a candidate they would be the best person to represent Don Valley West at Queens Park.

Each candidate had an opportunity to address each of the topics brought forward by the moderator. As can be imagined each candidate provided a different perspective as to how their respective party would best address these important issues and topics.

The debate provided valuable insights and information to help those in attendance to cast an informed vote on June 2nd.

What characterized the evening was the tone of genuine respect that each candidate had for the others. This may be in part because there was no one to defend the government record. Irwin Elman from the NDP party took aim at the record of the Liberal party, which held the Ontario Legislature from 2003-2018. However, his criticisms stayed at the party level and were not personal, in large part because this is the Liberal candidate's first election campaign. Nonetheless, Stephanie Bowman from the Liberal party was well prepared and remained cool under fire.

The New Blue candidate, Laurel Hobbs, did not avoid sharing her personal experiences with the healthcare system as a mother; and Sheena Sharp from the Green party amazed the audience with the steps she took to reduce energy consumption and the results of those measures, while demonstrating an interest in other policy areas.

Join the LPRA Why and How to Join the LPRA

The mandate of the LPRA includes promoting a strong sense of community and providing a voice that represents the interests of all residents.

The LPRA has accomplished so much for the neighbourhood over the past years including:

- Representation and support for residents at Committee of Adjustment and Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings
- Lawrence Park Environmental Assessment Study
- Lawrence Park Road and Safety Initiative
- Newsletters and updates to residents on neighbourhood news
- Volunteer work, financial support for Cheltenham rink initiative
- The Neighbourhood Watch initiative in cooperation with local police
- Financial support for the Cheltenham Rink community initiative.

This work is possible only because of our volunteers and your support. LPRA depends on motivated volunteers and neighbours' generosity through donations and membership fees. LPRA has no other source of funding.

Please become a supporting member, or renew your annual supporting membership on-line using our secure PayPal server.

You can join using this link: <https://lpra.ca/membership/>

If you prefer, download and print the membership form and send it in with your cheque by mail. The cost is \$50 for one year or \$140 for three years

Thank you and we appreciate your support!

From the Board of Directors, Lawrence Park Ratepayers Association