

April 8, 2008

**It's mud or dust on The Donway...**

**...and how long will Don Mills residents breathe polluted air?**

These days, a walk along The Donway West is not for the faint-hearted. Not only do you need to be on the alert to dodge trucks and debris from the Don Mills Centre construction site, but you also need a mask just to be able to breathe the air that is thick with dust and tar fumes. The ubiquitous mud-sauce on The Donway that made walking hazardous in March, and which was the subject of a [Toronto Star article last week](#), has dried up and turned to dust in April. With construction underway for the retail portion of the redevelopment and several years of condominium construction in the plans, it could easily be a decade before the dust storms subside and Don Mills residents can expect to breathe fresh air again.

But how clean will the fresh air be? The considerable increase in traffic that will result from the redevelopment, both the commercial and residential portions, will ensure continued air pollution. Not far from the Don Mills Centre, on Wynford Drive, construction will soon begin on the Aga Khan's museum and international spiritual/cultural centre. As Christopher Hume writes in his recent [Toronto Star article](#), this centre "will be a full-fledged international destination, a place for all." How are our already congested roads going to support thousands of additional car trips to and from this planned international destination and the new retail and residential facilities on the Don Mills Centre? Where is the traffic study that has thoroughly analyzed each situation individually, as well as the dynamics of interplay between both?

Mayor David Miller and City Council have decried the Eastern Avenue development that has been the subject of some of Christopher Hume's recent articles in the Toronto Star, such as [this article](#). Is it not mind-boggling that our mayor has been so vocal about an inappropriate development downtown, but was completely silent when we begged him to take action to stop an equally inappropriate development in Don Mills? Could he not have done for Don Mills what he is doing for Eastern Avenue?

David Miller has also launched a new initiative, an online petition to ban handguns, but he steadfastly ignored a 5,000-signature-strong petition from Don Mills residents. [Click here](#) to read a letter written by a Don Mills resident who is disturbed by the mayor's lack of action for Don Mills. This [letter to the](#)

[editor](#) of a community newspaper shows what another resident thinks of the redevelopment.

If you wish to add your voice as well, below are contact details for the mayor and the Don Mills councillors. Ask them to act now to stop the insanity of monstrous highrises on the Don Mills Centre site, and ask them to ensure that a thorough traffic study is done for the area that takes into account not only traffic generated by the Don Mills Centre redevelopment, but also the additional traffic that will arise from the Aga Khan's new international museum and community centre.

**City of Toronto Mayor David Miller:**

**E-mail:** [mayor\\_miller@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_miller@toronto.ca)

**Mail:** Toronto City Hall, 2nd Floor, 100 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2N2

**Phone:** 416-397-CITY (2489)

**Fax:** 416-696-3687

**Don Mills Councillors:**

- **Cliff Jenkins, Ward 25, Don Valley West**

100 Queen Street West, Suite A12

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Phone: 416-395-6408

Fax: 416-395-6439

[councillor\\_jenkins@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_jenkins@toronto.ca)

- **John Parker, Ward 26, Don Valley West**

**City Hall:**

100 Queen Street West, Suite A13

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Phone: 416-392-0215

Fax: 416-392-7427

**Neighbourhood office:**

150 Laird Dr., Suite 101

Toronto, ON M4G 3V7

Phone: 416-423-1434

[councillor\\_parker@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_parker@toronto.ca)

- **Denzil Minnan-Wong, Ward 34, Don Valley East**

**City Hall:**

100 Queen Street West, Suite C55

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Phone: 416-397-9256

Fax: 416-397-4100

[councillor\\_minnan-wong@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_minnan-wong@toronto.ca)