**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Springtime Greetings to Everyone:

It’s just about five years ago that I was elected a Director of the OPA, attended my first Board Meeting and shortly thereafter, was appointed to the Presidency by the Board of Directors. For me this has been a very rewarding period as I have had the opportunity of working together with a strong, creative team of Directors who have been instrumental in restoring and refreshing the OPA over that period. I would like to express my gratitude for the superb support and cooperation that team has given and continues to give to the association.

Some of our accomplishments in that time frame include the appointment of six new Directors including myself, significantly increasing the membership, reactivation of the defunct website (which is currently under major refurbishment), establishment of a direct line of communication with the Committee of Adjustment to be advised of each application in the Ward 22 area and the recent appointment of a dedicated Newsletter Editor.

As an ongoing activity, your association has worked closely with residents to ensure that bylaw variances applied for by individuals or developers are appropriate and reasonable for our area. In other sections of the Newsletter and, in particular on our website, you will find more detailed information about specific development issues and where they stand at the moment. These issues will always be an area of focus for the OPA.

There are, of course, still many challenges ahead such as the development of the Art Shoppe location and the TTC bus lands; we will diligently monitor these and such others as may come before us as we move forward into the future.

My sincere thanks to all of you who have supported us by joining the Oriole Park Association to help us work for your neighbourhood.

If you are not yet a member, we’re asking for your support and a very nominal annual fee. Included in this Newsletter is a Membership Application with full instructions; please take the time to fill out the form and forward it to our Treasurer.

If you have any specific questions or suggestions, feel free to contact myself or any of our Directors listed on the website. And enjoy your spring and summer!

Sincerely,

Bob Blake  
OPA President

**Ann MacIntosh Duff – 133 Imperial Street**

Ann MacIntosh Duff, an accomplished Canadian artist, has resided in the neighbourhood since 1954. Ann and her mother used to live on Cluny Drive in Rosedale until her father John MacIntosh Duff’s unexpected passing at an early age in 1952. The house on Cluny Drive was designed by the architect Douglas Kertland, a close family friend who is best known for his award winning design of the CNE automotive building. When the family decided to build a new home they selected Chaplin Estates, an area in ‘North Toronto’.

They purchased the only remaining lot on Imperial Street from family friends. It was a double lot and functioned as a rose garden at the time. They commissioned Douglas Kertland to design the house on Imperial Street and they wouldn’t have considered another architect since Doug and his wife Gladys were special family friends. In fact in the 1920’s Mr. Kertland designed many of the houses in the neighbourhood including almost every house on Imperial Street.

Ann was a promising young artist at this time and it was imperative that the new house have an artist’s studio. Ann was keen on having a “modern” design for the new custom house but Mr. Kertland influenced them to have something more in keeping with the existing architectural style of the neighbourhood. The house is a unique 1 ½ story Georgian style structure. The second story is an artist’s loft that features a skylight and lots of south facing windows for natural light. The existing door knocker and exterior light were from the original house on Cluny Drive.

Ann has resided in her home since 1954 and enjoys working in her studio and relaxing in the garden.

**Davisville Jr. Public School Redevelopment Discussion - Update**

The Davisville Jr. Public School working group, known as the Local School Construction Design Team, has held meetings and sessions with school officials and committees, for over two years, to discuss alternatives and evaluate ideas for redevelopment of the school property which would include a new elementary school. The construction of the new elementary school would be funded by the redevelopment project. Following more recent consultation with the parent school committee and representatives of the community, the initial 2011 proposal of a 30 storey tower on top of a new school, has been changed to two towers with heights of between 7 and 12 storeys on top of a new school. Among other aspects, consideration has also been given for traffic flow in and out of the school property and suitable playground space.

The Oriole Park Association has been participating at these meetings with OPA director Shelley Ortved as our representative. Recently, a draft Memorandum of Understanding in support of the proposal has been prepared by the Toronto District School Board, with input from the Local School Construction Design Team. At the April 15, 2013 meeting of the OPA board of directors, it was decided unanimously that the OPA cannot support the proposed MOU in its present form because the proposal does not conform to the planning rules for the site.

Following the April directors meeting, the OPA sent a letter to Shelley Laskin, school trustee, indicating that the OPA would like to see a proposal which adheres to planning principles of the City’s Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw. The school property is zoned low density residential and, therefore, anything greater than 4 storeys would need an Official Plan Amendment. The OPA feels that the proposed heights, from 7 to 12 storeys, would be wrong for the site and set a dangerous precedent for other developments in the area and, potentially, for other school properties and development sites adjacent to residential communities. Our concern has also been echoed by Councillor Josh Matlow and Tim Burkholder, senior planner for the City of Toronto. For Councillor Matlow's update on Davisville Jr. Public School, please see his website.

We will continue to be involved in the process in order to keep you informed of latest developments.

**Garden of The Year**

Members of the OPA Board of Directors will be scouting the neighbourhood for the best front garden design. In addition if you would like to submit your garden or a neighbour’s garden to the competition please contact Richard MacFarlane (rnmacfarlane@gmail.com) or Sue Toth (stoth@rogers.com) with your name address. The winner will be selected by two OPA Board members and two other residents in the community who have volunteered to help - Lauren Walker and Heather Harris. Judging will be done between mid June to mid July.

**T.A.N.G. - Toronto Aviation Noise Group**

In February 2012 NAV Canada, the federal agency that controls aircraft navigation in Canada, made a number of changes to air traffic patterns over the skies of Toronto. Specifically, changes made to the downwind leg of the approach path to runway 24 (Pearson’s “south complex”) have resulted in a greater concentration of flight traffic over specific neighbourhoods. The geographic coverage now includes: Spadina Rd. to the west, St. Clair Ave. to the south, York Mills Rd. to the north, and Leslie Ave. to the east.

As a result of these changes, which were made without proper public consultation, a number of resident’s associations have joined together to form T.A.N.G. - the Toronto Aviation Noise Group.

A petition is currently being circulated to ask NAV Canada to engage in effective dialogue with our federally elected representatives to resolve noise issues in our neighbourhoods, and to request Toronto City Council to ask NAV Canada to review this airspace re-design.

The OPA supports T.A.N.G. but does not fund the organization which is privately funded by members of the T.A.N.G. committee.

For more information about T.A.N.G. and this issue please go to the T.A.N.G. website at: <http://northtoronto.wordpress.com/about/>

**The OPA Board 2013**

President - Bob Blake  
Treasurer - Steven Sims  
Secretary - Richard MacFarlane

*Directors*  
Ana Maria Faria-Kerr  
Shelley Ortved  
Chris Sellors  
Jerome Sneiderman  
Sue Toth  
Allan Wexler

**LIKE A TREE IN YOUR BACKYARD?**

**LEAF – Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests  
Full Service Backyard Tree Planting Program**

LEAF is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the urban forest. Since 1996 LEAF has helped citizens plant over 16,000 native trees and shrubs in their gardens.

Their Backyard Tree Planting Program offers native trees and shrubs to homeowners at a subsidized cost through the contribution of our supporting partners. Their certified arborists will help you make an educated decision about the type of tree that best suits your property, and where it should be planted.

The service includes:

* 30-minute site consultation with our arborist
* 5 to 8 foot tall native tree
* Between $150 to $200 per tree
* Full planting service

Native shrubs are available for $25.

To book a consultation or to order shrubs visit [www.yourleaf.org](http://www.yourleaf.org/) or call 416.413.9244.