



TORONTO

Councillor Joe Mihevc

Toronto City Hall
St. Paul's West
Ward 21

WYCHWOOD BARN PROGRESS REPORT

Fall 2001

Dear Friend,

Good things have been happening this summer on the redevelopment of the Wychwood Car Barns Site into greenspace and community space, and there's more to come over the fall and winter. While the City's immense financial woes mean the Parks and Recreation, and Arts & Culture Divisions have no capital money to devote to the project in the near future, we have still made some significant progress. If you take a walk by the site you'll see the overhead wires and supporting poles have been removed. Fundraising is underway, and the process for planning the use of buildings has been initiated.

2001 is the Wychwood planning year. By early 2002, we expect to have a plan with detail on how many and which barns will be saved, as well as how the park space will be developed. We'll have a diagram of the new Wychwood site we can show to City Council, funders, and the community. We are looking at a phased project, allowing some improvements to take place in the short term, while fundraising continues:

Phase 1: Clear overhead wires, remove tracks, install sidewalk & curb along Wychwood Ave. Create green space on east and south.	Phase 2: Renovation of the historic Car Barn(s).	Phase 3: Development of the park space on the Christie side of the site, once the barn renovations are finished.
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Phase 1 looks very good, with some work already completed and some funding on the horizon. ***Parks and Recreation has promised \$100,000 for development of park greenspace in 2002, if the community can raise \$30,000!***

A ***Community Reference Group*** is acting as a support and reference for the process. This group has already had an initial meeting with the city park planner assigned to the Wychwood Site. We've received many suggestions for the park, ranging from a wooded area and pond to playing fields to play equipment for younger children and more. All ideas will be respectfully worked through. As plans develop, I'll host public meetings for community review and comment.

Artscape, an innovative, city-sponsored, non-profit agency that redevelops and manages surplus properties to provide affordable arts-oriented space is helping get the redevelopment of the buildings underway. Annie Hillis of Artscape is facilitating a feasibility study on possible uses and design of the barns. Artists' studios, community meeting space, performance and gallery space, work-live areas, an indoor/outdoor space suitable for a farmer's market and other events, and indoor recreational space will all be considered in the Artscape study. A survey is currently in circulation and a meeting for interested groups and individuals will take place. Call our office if you or a group that you are with has an interest in renting or using part of the Barns.

A research study revealed the soil is in relatively good shape. One spot, west of the buildings on the Christie Street side, was contaminated by a leather tannery in the early 1900s and needs about \$100,000 of remedial work. Given what ***could have been found***, this is very good news. An architectural and heritage study concluded the barns are in good condition and from a heritage perspective, worthy of as much preservation as possible. This, too, is good news, as it opens the door to fundraising heritage money.

FUNDRAISING, FUNDRAISING, FUNDRAISING

To realize the dream of the park, the community will have to bring money and resources to the table through creative and energetic fundraising. City Staff is committed to continued support and guidance. Of course, I am very committed, doing everything I can to facilitate fundraising efforts. *How much money is needed?* For the park development, staff's initial estimate is \$1.9 million to create the green space. The very rough estimate to bring barns into active use is \$1 million each.

The Wychwood Fundraising Committee has been struck and is at work. Your participation and ideas are very welcome. Perhaps your school, association or company would be interested in sponsoring a fundraiser for the Wychwood Barns project. We can find a way to acknowledge your work and support! And please book February 16, 2002 for **Sweet on the Park**, the Wychwood Fundraising Dinner.

I've set up a designated reserve fund at the City for donations to the Wychwood Barns project. Donors will receive income tax receipts. Taddlewood Heritage Association has also set up a special account and should be issuing charitable receipts in the near future.

BRICKS FOR SALE!

Bricks are available for sale at \$1 a brick. Granite, red clay and blue clay bricks date back to the early 1900s and make lovely walkways and patios. To purchase bricks, simply dig out your bricks and then drop by the community office at 686 St. Clair Ave. West to pay. All monies raised will be directed into the designated Wychwood reserve fund account. If you've already taken bricks, I request that you do the honourable thing and come by to pay.

TADDELEWOOD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Taddlewood Heritage Association has been very active in promoting the goal of park and public uses for the site. As a local community-based organization, they have proved invaluable in providing input and advocating at City Hall. They are committed to the project and have organized the Winterfests, and more events to come. If you're interested in joining the organization, contact Paolina Fasula at 416-658-4958.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

- *Undertake a fundraising project* with a group you belong to. You can raise funds and community awareness of the need for financial support for the project.
- *Join our Fundraising Committee* and work on planned activities and events including the February 2002 dinner, as well as foundation applications and direct mail. Call our office at 392-7460 for information on the next meeting.
- *Join Taddlewood Heritage Association* and work on the events below and others.
- *Attend upcoming community meetings* to provide input and keep informed design

Garage Sale & Corn Roast



Sat. Sep. 29, Wychwood Site, 10am -
2 pm (rain date Sunday)
Start baking! Clean out your attic,
basement, garage! Drop donations off
at the site 9am Sat. morning or call
Carol Ritchie at 656-3060 or Carol
McLaughlin at 651-7734.

♥ Sweet on the Park ♥

- ♥ Valentine's Day ♥
Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, Feb. 16, 2002
A fabulous semi-formal!

To book tickets or help out, phone our
community office at 416.392-7460 or
Paolina Fasula at 416.658-4958.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH! To receive regular updates on this project and other issues, forward your email address to councillor_mihvec@city.toronto.on.ca or mail the form below to Councillor Joe Mihvec, 686 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON, M6C 1B1.

NAME:
ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

Send in your ideas, comments and suggestions about the future of the Wychwood Site.