

FoNTRA Year End Report (Dec 31, 2017)

SAHRA is an active member of The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of more than 30 member organizations that includes approximately 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. FoNTRA is very active at the Provincial and Municipal level on development, environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal issues. They have had a very busy and productive 16th year – the major issues are summarized below.

Neighbourhood Planning Forum with City Planning – a Forum was held on June 1 with focus on four topics: Neighbourhood Design Guidelines, Heritage Designation, the Davisville Zoning Study and Minor Variances.

<https://fontra.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Planning-Forum-Report-FoNTRA-June-28-2017.pdf>

Reform of the OMB – FoNTRA was actively involved in presenting issues of residents and supporting the many changes that would give residents a better voice. John Bossons in consultation with Mathias Schlaepfer authored our submission regarding Bill 139. FoNTRA representatives met with the Minister's Offices and staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Attorney-General in July to review comments on the Bill. FoNTRA organized a Forum on Oct 25 to discuss Bill 139 with presenters John Bossons, municipal planning law expert Dennis Wood, with Councillors Wong Tam and Matlow also providing their perspectives.

The Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act received Royal Assent on Dec 12, 2017. The government has initiated consultation regarding the transition arrangements. It is apparent that numerous applications have been made to the City in anticipation of the demise of the OMB and the development industry wishes for a late date. FoNTRA has requested that the legislation come into effect on the date of the Royal Assent to ensure that no appeals made after that date would be heard by the OMB.

Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) – The new TLAB, which replaced the OMB for appeals regarding minor variances and consents, began hearings in Sept, 2017. Member RAs have encountered issues with access and impacts. In the summer 2017, FoNTRA requested an opportunity to make a presentation about residents' needs at a TLAB Business Meeting but this was denied. The TLAB has since promised such a meeting in March or April, 2018.

Public Realm Issues – With increased intensification, the amount of public realm and how it is used becomes increasingly important. There are two City initiatives that directly impact the public realm: new **above grade Enbridge installations** in public areas such as sidewalks and public parks and **sidewalk clearway widths** as the new proposed guidelines for sidewalk cages also encroach on pedestrian use. FoNTRA will be following up on both these issues in 2018.

Secondary Plans – The FoNTRA RAs are interested in undertaking more Secondary plans in certain 'growth' areas in 2018.

Developing a new City Noise By-law – In response to 2016 activity on development of a new City Noise By-law, FoNTRA joined with several other organizations to form the Toronto Noise Coalition (TNC) to oppose the staff-proposed bylaw. Through 2017, FoNTRA reps actively participated in a working group

with “noise maker” (industry) reps, to advise City staff on appropriate By-law provisions. The TNC has submitted a 44 page report on concerns with the City’s draft outcomes report and the working committee process, proposing some new solutions. The Medical Officer of Health submitted a report in June stressing the health impacts of unwanted noise and will report further on a noise management action plan for the City. FoNTRA and the TNC will continue to monitor progress in 2018.

Uncapped sewer laterals – FoNTRA is supporting Debra Satok in pursuing the issue of uncapped sewer laterals with the City. The issue arises from the installation of new sewers for replacement houses without capping the old sewer connections. Public Works is to provide their report early in 2018.

Short-term rentals (AirBnB) – FoNTRA strongly supported the City’s regulation of short-term rental accommodation in order to protect the rental housing market and our residential neighbourhoods from the kind of instability that would result from an influx of transient visitors.