

SAHRA Information – June 16, 2016

Metrolinx proposal to “clear cut and bulldoze” part of Eglinton Park

As residents in the South Armour Heights area, we have all likely visited the Eglinton Park at some time. Please help oppose the “take over” of a portion of this park by Metrolinx...

On June 15th, Tom Cohen of Eglinton Park Residents Association had a conference call with Brian Patterson and Jonathan Kent of Ward 16 Councillor Carmichael Greb’s office regarding the planned “take over” of the portion of Eglinton Park on the north side of Eglinton Park by Metrolinx. The intention is to “clear-cut and bulldoze” the area to use as a staging ground for construction. This would include the destruction of some 35 trees.

Just a few short blocks east sit the vacant TTC Bus Bay lands decommissioned more than 10 years ago. Why are they not using it instead of planning to destroy our heavily treed and well used public park? Was the TTC land not talked about in the past and earmarked as a staging ground for construction of the Crosstown?

Ward 16 staff confirmed their opposition to the bulldozing of the south edge of Eglinton Park and explained recent conversations with city staff (Parks, Legal). Tom was told that Metrolinx, via its agreements with the City, has an upper hand here but that they would do their utmost to make Metrolinx back off.

They have also reached out for help from our MPP Mike Colle. Mr. Cohen was told that Metrolinx wants to start work on **July 1st (Canada Day)**! We need to act immediately. There is a meeting on Thursday at the Art Barn, where the BIA and its allies want their concerns addressed.

The Councillor has arranged a meeting to inform the community of the Metrolinx proposal next Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, Multipurpose Room (A) at 7:00pm.

The Councillor wants to be very clear that she is adamantly opposed to using Eglinton Park for any staging or storage of construction materials for the Eglinton Crosstown project. We will be inviting both Metrolinx and Crosslinx to attend in order to speak to their proposal. Please see details below and share with your neighbours and other interested parties. Everyone needs to come out and oppose the plan to destroy this park.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 7:00 pm

North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, Multipurpose Room (A).