

## **POST – Councillor Walker’s article – Dec 2006**

Thank you for returning me to City Hall for the honour of representing you and fighting for your interests. I will endeavour to work with the incoming Council for progressive solutions to the landmark decisions the City is facing right now to protect our quality of life.

The out-of-control spending habits of the last Council need to be reined in; the deficiencies in the City’s new Official Plan need to be fixed by including envelopes for development; the persistent shadow of influence of the unelected Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) needs to be removed; the persistence of unfair and unpredictable property taxation needs to be fixed by eliminating Current Value Assessment and implementing a cap on reassessment increases; the lack of a sustainable garbage plan seems to forever loom without us trying new, clean technologies that may help the City generate energy; and we need to create an inclusive, comprehensive vision for extending our public transit system making it a smart, intuitive system that connects in loops, better integrates surface and subway transit, and does not foul-up our roads – all of these issues are atop my mind and inspire me to no end.

I will be also be pushing at the first Council meeting to finally enact the new election campaign finance rules which prohibit corporations and unions from donating, as well as restrict campaign spending limits and prevent carry-over of campaign surpluses.

Presently, the City’s Planning Department and I still do not have the same perspective on responsible, sustainable intensification of St. Paul’s. For example, I am currently aiding the North Hill ratepayers oppose a development proposal for 282 St. Clair Avenue West. The developer is requesting to increase by 250% the existing low rise, seniors’ retirement apartment building; this proposal would block sunlight and views from the residents on Shorncliffe Avenue and produce a building that would compromise the streetscape by not respecting any of the setbacks required, among other issues. At the moment, City Planning does not have many problems with this proposal much to our chagrin.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at [councillor\\_walker@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_walker@toronto.ca) or 416-392-7906 or [www.michaelwalker.ca](http://www.michaelwalker.ca).