

ARTICLE --- POST ---- October 2009 --- Councillor Michael Walker

Upgrading Our Greenspaces

First of all, I am looking forward to the day when we Torontonians have a new mayor. After Mayor Miller's announcement that he will not be seeking re-election next year, I feel relieved that we have a real chance to get back on the road we need to be on to make Toronto a better city in the future, most particularly in the way of our City finances, meaningful improvement of our environmental sustainability (not just planting flowers) and building more subways not only streetcars.

I'd like to tell you about some of the improvements to our greenspaces that my office is working on:

Montclair Parkette (northeast corner of Montclair Ave. & Spadina Rd.): My Executive Assistant, Chris Sellors, has been working with the Forest Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA) and City staff to renew this well used parkette. The public consultation meeting held October 6th was well attended and everyone voiced their strong support for the project while giving suggestions on how to make it even better. The parkette will keep its trees; new "graffiti-proof" benches, tables, and sitting areas will be made along a wider brick pathway through the park; low-level accent lighting will be solar powered by panels on the site; and, a new "Forest Hill Village" sign will adorn the corner. Construction will start as soon as possible in 2010.

NEW PARKETTE – "Dunfield Parkette" (northeast corner of Soudan Ave. & Dunfield Ave.): This parkette will be a welcome addition to South Eglinton, which is park deficient. The City has been given this new land as part of the development approval of the new seniors residence on Dunfield Ave. City staff have been generating concepts that will be brought to a public consultation meeting in the next month or two. Currently, the concept includes a new accessible playground structure for children 2-6 years old; benches and sitting areas; a new retaining wall feature; security lighting and a water fountain; the existing trees will be kept and added to if possible. Since this is a new greenspace, we will need a name for it; we will be holding a public contest for a name in the coming months that I hope you and your neighbours will take part in.

Also in November, you and your neighbours will be receiving by mail my wardwide Newsletter with additional information on a range of issues. Feel free to contact my office anytime at councillor_walker@toronto.ca or 416.392.7906 and visit www.MichaelWalker.ca for the latest Ward and City Council news.