



**ARECA**  
**(Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association)**  
[www.areca.info](http://www.areca.info)



***Celebrating 20 years working on behalf of the community 1988-2008.***

ARECA has been functioning since the 1970s, but was incorporated in 1988.

**WHAT NEXT? 3 ½ STOREY DOME PROPOSED FOR MEMORIAL PARK**

The Councillor, the City and School Trustees see it as improved facilities for Memorial Park located at Chaplin Crescent, north of Eglinton Avenue West. Residents however have more questions than there are answers.

On May 27th, a meeting was held at Forest Hill Collegiate hosted by TDSB School Trustees Josh Matlow and Howard Goodman and, City Councillor Karen Stintz.

The purpose of the meeting was to make the community aware of the proposal being considered by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the City and the North Toronto Soccer Club to lay artificial turf at Memorial Park and install a 3 ½ storey inflated dome over the playing field. Discussions had already been held with Forest Hill Collegiate and North Preparatory Junior Public School.

The football field is utilized by Forest Hill Collegiate and North Preparatory Junior School. It is Permitted by the City of Toronto after school hours and on weekends. The TDSB owns the property and the City of Toronto maintains it.

A follow up meeting was held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. There was considerable concern raised by community members at both meetings, including parking, noise, safety/security (particularly after-dark), the "unsightliness" of the dome, environmental issues, costs for heating and lighting, garbage, how it will be paid for, who will be allowed to use the proposed facility, hours of operation and traffic impacts. Most, if not all, of these questions remain unanswered.

The support for the facility came primarily from the 2 schools and those involved with soccer. However one ARECA director and soccer coach, states that soccer is seen more as a seasonal game by most of the kids as they prefer to sign up for hockey and skiing in the winter season. He fails to see the need for artificial turf and a dome. In fact he has never had a game cancelled due to conditions on that playing field.

ARECA has discovered that the temperature of the "turf" could reach temperatures exceeding 140 degrees and needs to be cooled with water. The field currently does not have an irrigation system. One of the reasons cited for switching to artificial turf is to avoid the expense of an irrigation system.

Currently the playing field is in poor repair. According to US studies artificial turf maintenance costs far exceed those of natural turf. Also the costs of maintenance and security of the dome have to be met by the City of Toronto yet they have been unable to find the funds to adequately maintain the current playing field.

ARECA is of the opinion that this proposal is lacking. There is no business case, no financial data, no thought given to how and where to store the dome in the summer season and no answers to many of the residents' concerns.

#### **ALLENBY SCHOOL TRAFFIC STUDY**

ARECA has only just discovered that a traffic scheme, developed in October 2007 and which has not yet been approved by the City, proposes to eliminate all resident parking from the streets surrounding Allenby Public School at St Clements and Castlefield Avenues. If approved, this will effectively mean that in order that Allenby pupils can be dropped off and picked up, the residents around Allenby will not be allowed parking on their streets during the day. Family, visitors, trades people and deliveries will also be subject to traffic tickets. Although the plan was devised in October 2007, to date there has been no consultation with the surrounding residents regarding this removal of their parking rights.

*ARECA is a volunteer community association representing the views of residents in matters that affect our community in North Toronto. ARECA represents the area bounded by Eglinton Avenue West, Yonge Street, Roselawn Avenue, Avenue Road, St Clements Avenue and Chaplin Road. If you live in the ARECA area please contribute to your community association. To donate, send a cheque for \$20 (\$10 seniors) for 2008, along with your name, address and phone number to Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association, c/o 23 Elwood Boulevard, Toronto M4R 1B8. Note if you wish to receive fax or email updates from ARECA please include these with your details or email us at [information@areca.info](mailto:information@areca.info).*