



ARECA
(Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association)
www.areca.info

**RIOCAN – YONGE EGLINTON
CRYSTAL PALACE, “NOT NEGOTIABLE”**

There was an interesting slate of guest speakers at the ARECA Annual General Meeting, held at the NTMCC on November 9. Malcolm Martini a former Councillor and recent coordinator of planning for the Bahamas and Terry Mills B.Arch RPP MCIP spoke about the current application from RioCan to build over the existing open courtyard at the North West corner of Yonge Eglinton and to extend the height of their two towers. They spoke about the need to ensure that any development at this corner should provide for a feeling of openness and allow for ample pedestrian space. It should also make for easy transition from Subway and Busses. They warned that whatever is allowed to occur at this North West corner will affect what happens at the other three corners. The other three corners are currently dreadful and this major intersection at the heart of North Toronto is precedent-setting. A Charrette (workshop) was held on November 14 – the idea was to generate ideas and options for the development of all four corners at Yonge Eglinton. Unfortunately, RioCan opened the proceedings with an announcement that the “footprint” of the new “Crystal Palace” development was not up for discussion. Effectively, putting an end to the open space at Yonge Eglinton.

The Honorable Joe Volpe, M.P. Eglinton Lawrence, attended our AGM and praised ARECA for its involvement in community issues and developments. He spoke highly of ARECA’s involvement in the years of negotiations over the development and later opening of Marshall McLuhan Catholic High School on Avenue Road.

Mike Colle, M.P.P. Eglinton-Lawrence, talked about the proposed Eglinton Light Rail Rapid Transit Line which will extend from Kennedy Station in the East to Pearson Airport in the West, approximately 33 km in length. The section between Laird Drive and Weston Road will be underground. Construction is estimated to begin in 2010 and to take approximately 6 years.

Karen Stintz, Councillor Ward 16, mentioned that the roadway reconstruction work on Yonge Street was almost finished. She asked for support for stores on Yonge Street as they have had to endure several years of work which has had an effect on business. Until the parking meters are replaced she pointed out that parking was free.

Howard Goodman, TDSB Trustee, confirmed that the Soccer Dome at Chaplin will not be built. The synthetic turf is still a possibility, but there is currently no proposal for this. North Toronto is not a target for the All-Day Kindergarten project. This will be

concentrated rather on poorly serviced areas of the city. The TDSB is looking into installing parking meters in school parking lots which have considerable overnight parking. North Prep and Allenby are currently being considered. Meters could be installed this winter.

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 join your community association. To join send a cheque for \$20 (\$10 seniors) for your 2010 membership, along with your name, address and phone number to Avenue Road Eglinton Community Association, c/o Membership Secretary 23 Elwood Boulevard, Toronto M4R 1B8. Note if you wish to receive fax or email updates from ARECA please include these with your membership details or email us at information@areca.info.