

Neville Park condo submits new plans

JOANNA LAVOIE
jlavoie@insidetoronto.com

The developer of the controversial Neville Park condominium submitted its revised design plans to the City of Toronto earlier this week.

The subject of much scrutiny – notably from the Beach Lakefront Neighbourhood Association (BLNA) – the project's design has since been modified to fit better within the city's 1986 Zoning Bylaw and eliminate the need to amend the City of Toronto's new Official Plan.

Some of the major changes include:

- Reducing the condo's height from five to four storeys.
- Reducing the building's number of units from 16 to 10.
- Removing only three or four trees, half of the original estimated number, and planting new trees as well numerous landscaping improvements.
- Reconfiguring the building's south-facing façade to maintain two large red oak trees, and reducing and refining the building's mass.

"A lot of thought has been put into how to ensure this development is positive for the neighbourhood... The design changes and the new information being made available should reassure residents about the positive impact of this development on the community," said Dermot Sweeny of Sweeny Sterling, Finlayson and Co. Architects in a release.

"It was important for us to listen

to the community and revise the design to respond directly to the comments made and the issues raised. We feel the revised proposal accomplishes all of that."

Sweeny is collaborating on the project with partners George Kaiser and Neheel Suleman.

For Sweeny, revising design plans for proposed developments is nothing new.

"It's a process that always happens. We present the idea, have consultations, review it and move forward," he said back in October when the plan to change the high-end condo's design was announced.

NEWS TO RESIDENTS' GROUP

Harold Tabone, BLNA's spokesperson, said that the official revised design plans are news to his organization.

Tabone wrote in an e-mail response that he hadn't even heard that the developer had resubmitted them to the city until *The Mirror* approached the BLNA for comment.

"If the developer were genuinely interested in discussing changes with the community, we would have expected (him) to seek a meeting with the community to discuss the proposed changes to determine whether they actually responded to the genuine concerns expressed during the public meeting in September 2007," he wrote in the e-mail.

Mirror file photo/BRENT LEWIN

GUEST OF HONOUR: The Easter Bunny waves to spectators on Queen Street during the Beaches Lions annual Easter Parade last year. This year's parade is set for Easter Sunday, March 23.

Beach prepares for annual Easter parade

Hundreds of marchers of the two-legged and four-legged variety take to Queen Street East on Sunday, March 23 for the 41st annual Beaches Lions Easter Parade.

This year's event will once again begin at 2 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

The parade, which will feature 10 marching bands, will run along Queen Street East from Victoria Park Avenue westward to Woodbine

Avenue. This year, organizers are welcoming a samba band as well as a Bollywood-inspired band this year.

This year's grand marshals are Jim Caruk, star of *Real Renos*, and Beach realtor John Helfrich, who recently completed a climb to the summit of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds and awareness about colorectal cancer.

Breakfast with Easter Bunny on Saturday

The Easter Bunny is set to pay a visit to Community Centre 55 this Saturday, March 8, for the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event.

The meal, which will feature pancakes, coffee or juice, will run from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and costs only \$2.

It will also include an Easter egg hunt as well as visits with the Easter Bunny and Hamper the Reindeer.

Community Centre 55 is located at 97 Main St., near Gerrard Street East.

Call Liam or Evonne at 416-691-1113 for more details.

