

**NICOLE BRYKSA SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE
CORONATION PARK COMMUNITY TO REQUEST
THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER THE “REGENT FAMILY
PARK AND WALKING TRAILS” CONCEPT AS THE
PREFERRED OPTION FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF
THE REGENT PARK PAR 3 GOLF COURSE SITE**

**A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO MY PARTNER, LAUREN, AND I
MOVED TO OUR HOUSE ON KING STREET IN CORONATION
PARK.**

**INITIALLY WE HAD BEEN LOOKING TO BUY IN OTHER PARTS
OF THE CITY UNTIL WE CAME ACROSS OUR NEW HOME.**

**WE WEREN'T SURE WHAT THE AREA WAS LIKE AT THE TIME
BUT WE'VE SINCE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH OUR HOUSE AND
OUR NEIGHBOURS.**

**MY FIRST IMPRESSION WAS THAT I LOVE THE EVERGREEN
TREE IN OUR FRONT YARD.**

IT IS MASSIVE AND STUNNING.

**ONLY IN THIS TYPE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COULD WE BE SO
LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND ESTABLISHED
TREE IN OUR FRONT YARD.**

**DUE TO BRILLIANT TREES LIKE THIS WE ARE ALSO LUCKY
AND THANKFUL TO HAVE A VIEW AND ENJOY A VARIETY OF**

BIRDS THAT INHABIT THESE TREES FROM BLUE JAYS TO WRENS AND THEIR BABIES, SPARROWS, WOODPECKERS, FINCHES, BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS, ROBINS AND OTHER SONGBIRDS I DON'T RECOGNIZE.

WE LIVE A BLOCK FROM THE REGENT PARK PAR 3 GOLF COURSE AND ITS OVER 300 MATURE AND ESTABLISHED TREES.

ONE OF OUR NEIGHBOURS ACROSS THE STREET, DICK, SHARED WITH ME HOW HE HELPED TO PLANT ALL OF THE TREES IN THE PARK OVER 60 YEARS AGO AND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE CITY CHOPPING THEM DOWN TO PUT UP BUILDINGS.

HE WATCHES EVERY DAY HOPING THE CITY LEAVES THE TREES ALONE.

THE ONLY THING ABOUT THE SPACE IS THAT IT IS ALL FENCED OFF AND CLOSED TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

LAUREN AND I, ALONG WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF OUR NEIGHBOURS, LOVE OUR DOGS DEARLY.

WHEN WE GO WALKING WITH OUR DOG, GIBSON, THERE ARE NO PARKS OR GREEN SPACES TO WALK THROUGH AND ENJOY.

WE WEAVE DOWN OUR STREET, THEN DOWN AN ALLEY, THEN DOWN ANOTHER STREET, AND THEN DOWN ANOTHER ALLEY TO GET TO MCKINLEY STREET.

WE HAVE TO WALK DOWN MCKINLEY WITH THE TRAIN TRACKS ON ONE SIDE AND THE BEAUTIFUL FENCED-IN AND INACCESSIBLE PARK ON THE OTHER.

WE LOOK AT THE PARK SPACE AND THEN AT EACH OTHER WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND SAY "IF ONLY WE COULD GO IN THERE."

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THE 500 CHILDREN IN THE AREA WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 14 WISH FOR WHEN THEY WALK BY.

WHEN WE FOUND OUT THAT PLANS WERE BEING MADE TO OPEN UP THE PARK I WAS VERY EXCITED.

THE GOLF COURSE HAS HAD ITS TIME - BEING A PROGRAMMED SPACE FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ALLOWED TO USE IT.

NOW IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL THAT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAN ENJOY EITHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WITH FRIENDS, WITH THEIR PETS, OR ALONE.

OPENING UP THIS GREEN SPACE IS OPENING UP THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A NEW IMAGE FOR OUR CITY.

PEOPLE HAVE MANY STEREOTYPES AND MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING PEOPLE IN OUR ZONE OF THE CITY – MISCONCEPTIONS OF A COMMUNITY THAT THE CITY HAS A CHANCE TO RESHAPE.

THE OPTION FOR REDEVELOPING THE GOLF COURSE THAT THE CITY DID NOT PRESENT TO US, THE “REGENT FAMILY PARK AND WALKING TRAILS” CONCEPT WOULD BE THE MOST BENEFIT TO ALL FOR GROWING OUR COMMUNITY.

IT IS THE ONLY OPTION THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME.

THE CITY CANNOT MAKE ABSOLUTE PROMISES ABOUT THE OPERATION OF BUILDINGS WITHIN THE PARK ONCE THE LAND IS SOLD.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY IT CAN ENSURE THE PROPER TREATMENT AND SAFETY OF CITIZENS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ONCE A PRIVATIZED BUILDING IS BUILDING TAKES UP THE LAND.

THE HOUSING MARKET IS SATURATED AND THERE ARE ALREADY HIGH VACANCY RATES IN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSING.

WE DO NOT NEED MORE HOUSING!

WHAT WE DO NEED IS A MORE ABUNDANCE OF SPACE FOR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN TO PLAY IN, BE ENERGETIC, AND ENJOY.

IT IS THEIR HUMAN RIGHT TO HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PARK IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO BE PART OF THEIR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

RIGHT NOW SOME OF THE CHILDREN'S MORE POPULAR PLACES FOR PLAY INCLUDE A STORM CHANNEL CULVERT, A PARKING LOT BEHIND A MALL, AND MOST OFTEN, ON THE STREETS.

CHILDREN IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS.

THEY DESERVE TO KNOW THAT THEIR CITY SUPPORTS THEM AND NURTURES THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

HELP US CREATE A MAGICAL SPACE FOR THEM – ONE WITH MAJESTIC TREES, MAGNIFICENT BIRDS, NEW PLAY STRUCTURES, AREAS TO PICNIC AND BARBEQUE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WALKING PATHS, AND OFF-LEASH AREAS FOR OUR DOGS.

LET'S BE THE PEOPLE WHO ESTABLISHED A RECREATIONAL SPACE THAT WE CAN ALL LOOK BACK AT AND BE PROUD OF IN THE FUTURE.