

November 2006

Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the Cardinal Creek Community Association, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations on your recent mayoral victory. As representatives of area residents along the Trim Road corridor, including the neighbourhoods of Spring Ridge, Oak Ridge Gate, East Village, Kings Pointe, Queens Pointe and Cardinal Trail, we continue to strive to enhance the quality of life in our community.

The lack of parks and recreation facilities for our children remains our highest priority issue. Springridge, to date, has only **one** park to serve its entire community (approximately 500 homes) and Oak Ridge Gate and East Village (approximately 700 homes) have **none** ! In recent years, childhood obesity and low levels of physical activity have emerged as important issues facing Canadian children. One in three children today is obese. On October 6, 2005, Education Minister Gerard Kennedy announced that every elementary student would take part in a minimum of 20 minutes of daily physical activity as part of the government's Healthy Schools Program. As a physical health educator, I can honour this role, but as a parent raising three young children in the Oak Ridge Gate community, I do not even have access to a park area, let alone a playground. Our schools have taken necessary steps to increase opportunities for active healthy living. Shouldn't OUR CITY, through each and EVERY ONE of its communities, share this responsibility ?

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Louise Cerveney, project manager with the Community and Protective Services Department, presented, to a room full of people, a sketch of the future Valin Park. **A mere one fifth** of the \$300 000 budget is going to be allotted for the purchase of **playground equipment** and **an outrageous one sixth for a bridge**. We were left speechless to say the least. What happened to foregoing paving pathways and **ensuring the builder assumes the grading costs (Clean and Green Obligations)** to free up some additional funds for more elaborate play structures ? As a community association, we are being fiscally responsible by not demanding that more funds be allotted for play structures. We are simply asking the City to *redistribute the existing funds* to increase the amount for play structures. Having researched playground equipment and after contacting several companies, the \$60 000 amount the City's Community and Protective Services Department has set aside will not purchase worthwhile equipment for our children. It is for this reason that we, the representatives of our community, deem any amount under \$100 000 for play structures, unacceptable.

Having personally canvassed my neighbourhood last summer, I can, without a doubt, state that the majority of residents (250 signatures) of East Village and Oak Ridge Gate support our efforts and urge the City to ensure that the children of our community have a safe and **enjoyable** area to play. Our streets remain unsafe. Let us not wait for an accident to occur !

Regards,

André Paroyan  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Cardinal Creek Community Association