



Letter from a Concerned Resident

Dear RA:

Heat Island is a concern!

For some background check out the attached article from June 13th's Globe & mail:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-cities-heatwaves-climate-change/>

Also this check out, in particular the the maps (you can zoom in and focus on particular neighbourhoods)

<http://www.urbananalysis.ca/urban-heat-island-effect>

The bottom line is that the Official Plan for Toronto, and for Kingston Road in particular, threatens our health. KR, with the proposed contiguous 11 storey ++ walls of concrete and glass will create what will essentially be the furnace the Globe article references. AND they want to eliminate a huge canopy of trees at Windy Ridge/Ravine/KR (again, look at the maps).

Personal note: About 15 years ago (i.e. before the climate crisis is what it is now), we had a convertible. We drove from our friends' house in south Etobicoke (7 blocks from the lake and a couple km from the Gardiner). When we drove over the Gardiner we were blasted with a wall of heat, which continued as we drove North. That is what will happen to KR with the virtual parabolic heat and light reflector effect of these 11++ walls of glass. It is not just the immediate neighbourhood's issue -- developments that build on and under, and hard-surface, every square foot of the available space, such as what is proposed for 3291 KR and what has already been built down the road, are demonstrably hazardous to the health of the inhabitants, and everyone else.

Some quotes from the article:

<<Land surface temperature data reveal many such divisions within Canada's largest cities. They also suggest that how we plan and build often fails to give due consideration to heat. Through our municipal codes, architecture, zoning laws and construction materials, we continue propagating heat-absorbing cityscapes that will be with us for decades, even centuries. Those choices help determine which neighbourhoods are destined to become uninhabitable, as opposed to merely more uncomfortable.>>

<<The 19th-century American minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker called cities "the fireplaces of civilization, whence light

and heat radiated out into the dark." Land surface temperature data reveal that this is literally true: Cities are hotter than surrounding suburban and rural landscapes owing to a well-understood phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. Some researchers have found the difference is as much as six degrees.>>

<<Concrete, asphalt and other heat-absorbing materials obviously bear much of the blame. Cities typically also have fewer trees, resulting in less shade and evaporative cooling. More densely populated neighbourhoods typically have more of the former, less of the latter.>>

<<The people who designed and built Vancouver's SROs, and maybe also Toronto's 1980s apartment buildings, can perhaps be excused for failing to foresee 21st-century heat. But it would be a mistake to assume their successors are doing better.

In the midst of last summer's heat dome event, BC Hydro warned that many inhabitants of "glass castles" - the very symbol of residential modernity - could expect soaring electricity bills because of the inefficient, portable air conditioners so many of them had purchased. "Condos made of glass are poor insulators that allow cool air to easily escape and reflect hot air into the building, making it difficult to keep temperatures stable inside," its bulletin noted.>>

Sincerely,
Concerned Resident