

Oct. 6, 2006

Air Rail Link Update – Mayoral Debate – Oct 19, 7 pm, Weston Collegiate Auditorium, 100 Pine St. (doors open 6:30)

On Oct 2, members of the Weston Community Coalition, on an invitation by former MPP Joe Cordiano, met with Provincial Minister of Transportation Donna Cansfield. She agreed with us that the present Environmental Assessment needs to fairly evaluate all possible options. In addition she is of the opinion that the transportation corridor through Weston is too important for spending considerable public money on a 'one-off' such as the Air-Rail Link, limiting options for real public transit. She is also of the view that overall coordination of the transit infrastructure through the GTA needs to be shepherded by the newly created Greater Toronto Transportation Authority, whose Chair and Co-Chair will be chosen shortly.

We were encouraged by the reception and her comments in general.

Meanwhile we have now had a response from the Mayor's office to our questions regarding his support for the Air-Rail Link (on our website at www.westoncommunitycoalition.ca). From his letter: "As you know, the mayor supports a rail link to the airport in principle, but is very concerned about the impact on neighbourhoods along the route and would like to see community concerns addressed. He has been very clear that a stop should be added at Weston and even seconded a Council resolution that no streets be cut to accommodate the increased rail capacity."

His unwavering opposition to the use of the Island Airport for commercial flights due to the disruption it will cause the downtown communities appears to be in contrast to his support for the air-rail link which could cause disruption to communities along the route.

The Weston Community Coalition will be co-sponsoring a Mayoral Debate on Thursday October 19, at Weston Collegiate, 100 Pine Street, in the Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 for a 7 pm debate. Mayor Miller, along with challengers Councillor Jane Pitfield, and Stephen Ledrew will be in attendance. Members of the Weston and Mount Dennis communities will be able to ask their own questions of the mayoral candidates, and hear the candidates' views on the concerns of our neighbourhoods. We hope many of you will attend. The Coalition will also be accepting some e-mailed questions at info@westoncommunitycoalition.ca.

And for those of you who wish to grill the candidates for Ward 11 councillor, the Mount Dennis Residents Association will be holding an all-candidate's debate at the Mount Dennis Legion, 1050 Weston Road, Wednesday November 1, 2006 at 6:30.

Mike Sullivan
Chair
Weston Community Coalition