

New Mixed-Income Community Coming to Queen/Coxwell

Revitalization Update

On the evening of October 28, 2019, tenants of 1555 and 1575 Queen St. E., filled the Community Recreation Room in 1555 Queen to hear a much anticipated announcement about the Don Summerville revitalization, and learn more about relocation.

The announcement was made public that morning at East End Community Health Centre by Mayor John Tory, Councillor Paula Fletcher, Toronto Community Housing President and CEO Kevin Marshman and Dionne Samuels, a tenant from Don Summerville. Dionne gave a moving speech on how excited she was about the revitalization and how important it was to her and her fellow tenants and gave a tour of her home to CTV News.

A major highlight of the media announcement included the unveiling of an improved proposal that includes a broader mix of housing types. The new project will replace the existing 120 rentgeared-to-income (RGI) units on site and add 100 affordable rental apartments, 180 rental apartments and 350 condominium units.

Applegrove Community Complex's Susanne Burkhardt facilitated the tenant meeting where revitalization, relocation and development staff explained the tentative revitalization schedule, the relocation process and next steps. Tenants were also able to get a firsthand look at some of the renderings for the Queen Coxwell revitalization.



Councillor Fletcher attended the meeting and let tenants know she is fully committed to the community throughout the revitalization process, and is excited about the future redevelopment of the site.

By the end of the meeting, when asked how she felt about the updates, Don Summerville tenant Jan told TCHC staff the revitalization seemed, "less nervewracking". Jan and other tenants now have a better sense of what to expect in the coming months and are aware of the supports in place to help them with the relocation process.



Key Revitalization Dates

The following timeline is tentative and subject to change.

- 2019 2020 Planning Approvals
- 2020 Relocation
- 2020-2023 Demolition and Construction
- 2023 Return

Community Engagement

In the coming months, TCHC will be engaging with tenants regularly to provide updates and gather feedback on the revitalization. There are a number of ways to get involved:

- Tenant Advisory Group
- Relocation 101 Meeting (Nov 20)
- Community Update Meetings
- Lobby Intercepts (Info Sessions)
- Community Events

Interested in joining the Tenant Advisory Group?

Please contact Raven Williams: Raven.Williams@torontohousing.ca or (647) 269-1459

Halloween Lobby Intercept

The Don Summerville Revitalization Team, in partnership with Applegrove Community Complex, held a Halloween bash in the lobby of 1555 Queen St. East on October 30, 2019, for all Don Summerville tenants. Children decorated mini pumpkins and designed masks, while TCHC staff from Revitalization, Development and Relocation engaged with tenants about the coming revitalization and the relocation process in both building lobbies. The children also received awesome snack bags in preparation for Halloween.

Ready, Set, Go: Don Summerville Revitalization Update

On the evening of Wednesday September 25, 2019, tenants of Don Summerville filled the 1555 Queen St. E., community recreation room to learn more about the revitalization taking place in their community. The meeting was also attended by the local Councillor Paula Fletcher, and staff from Applegrove Community Complex, Context Development Inc., and TCHC. The meeting was led by Susanne Burkhardt, the Executive Director of Applegrove CC.



Ms. Burkhardt provided a brief introduction to the community services offered by Applegrove, which is a multi-service community centre that mainly operates out of Duke of Connaught Public School and has been a staple in the community for 40 years. Applegrove will continue to support tenants of Don Summerville during and after redevelopment.



Councillor Paula Fletcher shared a few words on her vision for the site—which includes greater opportunities for affordable housing. Councillor Fletcher championed this new mixed housing revitalization model supporting a more inclusive and mixed income community.

Kelly Skeith, the Senior Development Director for TCHC, answered some general questions about relocation, and let tenants know that future meetings will delve deeper into the revitalization plan, the relocation process, and community benefits.

At the end of the meeting, the floor was open for tenants who had questions and for those who were interested in learning more about ways they can get involved.



When asked what she gained from this community meeting, spoken word artist Dionne replied, "It was interesting. It was very helpful to learn more about the relocation options."

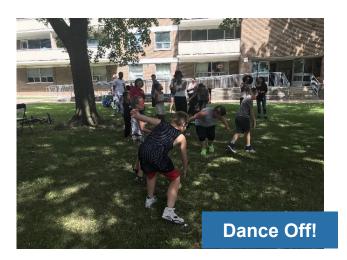
Tenants are looking forward to attending the coming meetings and are optimistic about the future of Don Summerville.

Grilling Up the Fun – Don Summerville's Annual Community Barbecue and Backpack Giveaway

The savoury smell of BBQ filled the air and the sounds of children laughing mixed with the latest dance hits echoed from the courtyard of 1555 and 1575 Queen Street East. A sunny afternoon in August, exciting activities and tasty food were all the ingredients necessary for a fun-filled Community Barbecue in Don Summerville.

Several tables were set up in a circle with staff from Applegrove Community Complex making gooey slime in fun colours for the kids, while staff from East End Community Health Centre gave tenants information on senior safety and TCHC staff talked about revitalization and engagement. Backpacks were handed out to the kids, there was a table for food and the DJ, as well as a station for face/body painting for all.

Jermal, a Community Services
Coordinator with TCHC, announced
there was going to be a dance-off
and that Don Summerville tenant
Dionne would be judging it. There
were two Canadian National
Exhibition children's admission
tickets up for grabs so all the kids
and adults surrounded the DJ booth.



Despite the pretty tight competition, Dionne was able to select two lucky winners who had all the smooth Fortnite inspired moves. Sorai, a Don Summerville youth said, "Two things about the Barbecue I liked were the face painting and slime!"



And from what we can see in the picture, her fierce tiger face painting is pretty awesome.

"I'm having fun! I got a snake painted on my arm!" said Austin, another youth tenant. Face and body painting was a definite highlight of the event.

Revitalization staff and animators were also able to hand out more than 30 backpacks to kids in the community, allowing them to start the school year with 'super cool' supplies.

When tenant Jan Kinney was asked what her favourite part about the event was she replied, "The music was good for scooter dancing."

It is safe to say the Don Summerville Community Barbecue was a success and tenants are eagerly anticipating next year's event!

Coming Events

Regular Office Hours for the Relocation and Revitalization Office: Tuesdays 11a.m. to 7 p.m. (Revitalization hours)
Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Relocation hours)

November 20, 2019 – 6 to 8 p.m. – Relocation 101 Meeting November 21, 2019 – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. – Don Summerville Designs Lobby Intercept

Key contacts

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Relocation Questions: 416-981-5277

Client Care Centre: (For maintenance and repair requests) (416) 981-5500

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