



Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough East – Ward 43



GUILD INN UPDATE

May 2007

Dear Ward 43 Residents:

In June 2005, Toronto City Council gave authority to enter into a Letter of Intent with Windmill to commence negotiation of a tri-party sublease for the redevelopment and revitalization of the Guild Inn site.

After more than three years of intense work Windmill Developments has not been able to bring a hotel operator into their partnership group. The most recent boutique hotel operator who was contemplating becoming an equity partner in the project ultimately did not feel that there was sufficient market for a five star hotel in this location. Windmill Developments has always firmly believed they could not make the Guild Inn project work without a partnership with an appropriate hotel operator. In their opinion it was the lynch-pin which made all the other components of their plan viable. As a result of this most recent development, they have decided not to proceed with the project. They have however committed to provide their due diligence work and studies to the City for use in any future planning efforts.

Our community has been waiting anxiously for this project to get off the ground and see this revitalization come to fruition. I the members of the Guild Renaissance Group, the Guildwood Village Community Association, and City staff are committed to the economic and cultural restoration of the Guild Inn site and will continue to pursue the redevelopment of the Guild Inn site as a significant heritage component of Scarborough and Toronto's broader cultural history.

It is now time that we reflect on the redevelopment project and look at options for development, and potentially create a variation to the original vision for the site that is sensitive to its cultural heritage and is fiscally sustainable in the long term.

I have already instructed Economic Development staff to start following up on inquiries they received from other potential proponents that have expressed interest about the Guild Inn. In the interim, I welcome any input from the community you feel would contribute to a positive outcome for this important site.

The Guild Inn Restoration Project is and will remain my number one priority as your City Councillor. The project has been very dear to me as I enjoyed the grounds as a child, and later was very pleased to be part of the negotiations to restore the Inn. The Guild and its collection of artifacts is an incredible site which deserves our best thinking with respect to future redevelopment.

For further information on this project or any other concern you may have, please contact my office at 416-392-4008 or email me at councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca. I also have a monthly eNews which I send out with regular updates on the Guild Inn as well as news from throughout Ward 43 and City Hall. If you would like to subscribe, please let my office know by phone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Ainslie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul Ainslie, City Councillor
Ward 43, Scarborough East