

### **Safety Concerns Regarding Devonshire Ave Parking Bylaw**

Could the council please take the time to read our concerns regarding the parking bylaw on Devonshire Ave.

#### **Safety**

Our primary concern is safety of the residents on Devonshire Ave. Devonshire has two retail businesses – The Beer Store (Drive through) and Source for Sports – at the end of the street. These businesses create significantly larger amount of traffic travelling through Devonshire Ave. With parking allowed on both sides of the street, it creates a traffic calming effect and cars are forced to slow down, thus making this busy street safer for pedestrians.

Devonshire Ave was widened in 2008, and since then the speed of traffic has increased, implementing a no parking bylaw to one side of the street provides drivers the ability to more easily speed down Devonshire Ave. The population of Old South is gradually becoming a younger demographic, which means more children in the area. With the high traffic on this street the children are at risk - creating a safety issue that this bylaw is not taking into consideration.

We have witnessed multiple drivers drinking alcohol (from The Beer Store) while driving down Devonshire Ave. We are mentioning this because the drivers that are willing to drink alcohol while driving are less likely to obey the law – including the speed limit.

#### **Survey**

We also have some concerns about the original survey. It was handed out to us in the beginning of December and was due the first week in January. This is a very busy time for people and likely accounts for the low response rate (54%).

The original survey was given to us without stating the reason for the proposed change. As residents, in order to make an informed decision/vote, we should be presented with all the necessary information.

Only 54% of the residents of this street returned their vote. Of the 21 residents who responded back to the survey, only 12 residents voted in favour of the proposed change (9 voted against it). A bylaw should not be passed because 12/39 people have voted a particular way. This is in no way a majority. If council decides we would be candidates for a re-vote, we would be willing to go door to door to ensure all of the residents on the street vote, to get a true idea of what the residents want.

#### **Traffic Calming Measures**

If the parking bylaw is implemented, we would like to apply to the City of London to have traffic calming measures implemented. If studies show that Devonshire Ave is a candidate for traffic calming measures post bylaw implementation – this will be a costly expense for tax payers. Meanwhile keeping parking on both sides of road organically calms traffic at no cost.