




Comments on “Porter: Bureaucratic meddling puts park's magic at risk” article

Feb 20

[comment](#)

 <p>Lekkertree</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Not Equal</p> <p>The quote by Bromley that "Tino does a good job but that's the case across the city" is a perfect representation of how the bureaucrats don't get it. If every employee did as good a job as Tino, Dufferin Grove would not be the exception but the rule. But I guess that is the line the union has to take. Everyone is the same, there is no difference in ability or talent etc. Dufferin Grove should be copied across the city but I highly doubt this will happen. Reason: Tino was one in a thousand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree 1• • Disagree• • ! Alert a Moderator
 <p>wklis</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 3:08 PM</p>	<p>Do not micro-manage</p> <p>When the bureaucratic micro-managing occurs, like those new food carts, expect it to deteriorate to the point where the public are not welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree 2• • Disagree• • ! Alert a Moderator
 <p>MMan</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 11:06 AM</p>	<p>So what happens...</p> <p>... when Tino DeCastro retires? Does the community mobilize and have a consttutional ammendment passed that allows us to force him to work there until he dies? The city is exactly right, the park can't be dependant on one man. I do agree that they should move a series of staff into the park, hopefully apprenticing with Tino so that there is continuing understanding about how and why the park works. The reason you don't see parks like this everywhere is exactly because most neighbours in most communities don't want to get involved like this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree 2

- |
- Disagree 5
- |
- ! Alert a Moderator



[Droplit](#)

Feb 20, 2010
10:58 AM

Where do the park managers live?

The reason the dufferin park is such a success is because people have taken ownership and treat it like a part of our family. We pick up litter and take care of the park. The city staff think that one park is interchangeable with another. Change is not good if there is no reason for it. Why should the next park manager re-invent the wheel? Tino loves his job and is loved and respected for his work and what he's created. Isn't this what we want? Doesn't every study say that people who love their jobs do better? Move people around because they do? What does this mean? This park should be studied and copied elsewhere for what works there and not dismantled by some lame suburban bureaucrats that just don't get it.

- Agree 8
- |
- Disagree
- |
- ! Alert a Moderator



[Gleebster](#)

Feb 20, 2010
10:57 AM

Great spot, but it's not a panic yet

Let's read the whole story. Sure there's a natural and very valid reason to be wary of city bureaucrats. Whenever they get involved, things usually get worse. But so far, no one is talking about changes to programs at Dufferin Grove, are they? Maybe this is an opportunity for Tino to bring to another community what he did to Dufferin. Porter mentions, then de-emphasises, that Dufferin's programs were community-driven. Tino going somewhere else will give another community the chance to become more involved and it will give the city employee that replaces him a chance to see a model that works and can be expanded. I hope the city bureaucrats see it this way.

- Agree 5
- |
- Disagree 1
- |
- ! Alert a Moderator



This Is A Well-Written Column With A Clear Message...

The writer should be commended for putting together a column that speaks to the heart of a successful community. From the article, in reference to Tino DeCastro: "He's a rarity in any bureaucracy. A guy who says, 'Let's make it work,' when others would say,

<p>Larry Perlman</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 10:40 AM</p>	<p>'It's not permitted by city policy.'" The same should also be said of City management, members of Council and even the Ombudsman. In the latter case I have written and spoken to her on many occasions and have stated clearly that it is far easier to find a reason NOT to do something than find a solution (it does not appear to be working). Excuses can only go so far...and communities suffer in the long run...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree 8 • • Disagree • • ! Alert a Moderator
<p>justmyview</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 10:24 AM</p>	<p>In support of neighbourhood vs zone planning</p> <p>This article really strikes at the heart of what did make Toronto great but has been tragically eroded by administrators who just don't get it. I was raised with tales of a certain Cal Pasternak, a city employee who ran McCormick Playground in the 1920-40's, who kept depression-era boys busy with sports, nurtured lifelong friendships by discouraging gang-style bullies, and who who cared enough to later keep track of where each boy was fighting (& dying) through the long years of WWII. Though we'd never met the man, his positive influence on my Parkdale-raised father resonated down the generations. Back then the city at least put on a face of caring for citizens. 'Rotating' staff? More like spinning wheels which is all this government seems to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree 9 • • Disagree • • ! Alert a Moderator
<p>Maxbear</p> <p>Feb 20, 2010 10:23 AM</p>	<p>If it ain't broke why try to fix it.</p> <p>Some typical beaurocratic thinking at work here. I guess the thinking is to give someone more experience by moving him around to other parts of the city and then let him takes months to get established with no thought to the locals in either area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree 9 • • Disagree • • ! Alert a Moderator