

Danforth East Update

Danforth East Community Association (DECA)

Qs & As

We've had some requests for answers to some basic questions about DECA. These will be posted on the website at www.danfortheast.ca and updated periodically. If you have a question you can e-mail us at contact@danfortheast.ca or you can post it to our blog – which you can also find on our website. New to blogs? If you sign up for the e-mail subscription on the right-hand side (the only info you have to give is your e-mail address) then you will receive timely bits of news and juicy neighbourhood gossip delivered straight to your inbox.

Q What is DECA?

The Danforth East Community Association is a bunch of neighbours who formed an association in Spring 2007 to improve our little pocket of the city and get to know one another better. Our boundaries are Coxwell to Main, Mortimer/Lumsden to the train tracks south of Danforth. We believe that engaged neighbours make for a stronger, more vibrant community.

Q What have you done to date?

Since we launched last April, we've incorporated, launched a website, started up a regular newsletter for members detailing events/concerns in our community, hosted an all-candidate's debate for the provincial election, organized a number of community parties, hosted a home safety workshop for members by the Toronto Police, ordered more than a dozen trees for the boulevards along our streets and sponsored a competition among Danforth shop owners to green their flower boxes.

Q How many members are there?

More than 110 paid members. A voting membership is \$10/family/year.

Q What does my \$10 get me?

Mostly a voice. It will give you the ability to vote at DECA meetings. And it will give DECA a stronger voice -- before city council or other agencies. A paid membership is essential for establishing credibility because it shows a community that is truly committed and organized. There is a big difference between a group with 200 paid members and an e-mail list of 200 people.

And, it gets you information about news around your neighbourhood. Through this newsletter and our blog, we'll let you know about everything from skating parties, to the opening of a new restaurant along the Danforth. We've recruited a committed local shopper who will send out regular tips on good deals in the neighbourhood and our members are regularly sharing the stories of their favourite Danforth shops.

Q What are the main projects right now?

We are delighted to be hosting a farmers' market in East Lynn Park this summer. We are working with Farmers' Markets Ontario to bring local farmers -- organic and conventional -- to our park on Thursday evenings, from 3 to 7 p.m. starting June 2nd. This weekly event will be a great asset to the community, bringing neighbours together one night a week to meet each other, enjoy some locally grown food and maybe listen to a few tunes.

Graffiti -- we're working towards getting some murals painted on a few of the buildings on the Danforth and we're taking part in a graffiti committee with Toronto Police that is trying to tackle this problem.

A tree tour by LEAF this May (25th -- spargy@rogers.com for more details) around the southeast part of our community.

A group of people are working hard on trying improve our little stretch of the Danforth. For starters, they're talking to shopkeepers and telling the rest of us about the great stores and restaurants on our strip. And they're working on a welcome package for newcomers (and some of the rest of us too) about where to go right here in the neighbourhood for everything from pizza to hair cuts to carpets.

Q How do I become a member?

Go to danforeast.ca and download the membership form. Voting memberships are \$10, non-voting memberships are free. You need to live between Coxwell and Main, Mortimer/Lumsden and the railway tracks to be a member. Drop your membership form off to Peter at 18 Keystone Ave.