

DEER PARK

HISTORY:

Deer Park used to be referred to by the First Nations people as "Mushquoteh", which means a meadow or opening in the wood where deer come to feed. In 1837, the Heath family purchased 40 acres of land in Mushquoteh. Appropriately, they named their estate Deer Park.

By the 1850s the Deer Park area had grown to include a handful of country villas, a general store, a school, a cemetery, a race track, and a hotel that was located at the intersection of Yonge and St. Clair. Patrons at the Deer Park Hotel used to delight in feeding the deer that roamed on the hotel grounds.

The deer were long gone by the time Deer Park was annexed to the City of Toronto in 1908. Deer Park filled in very quickly after annexation. By the 1930s the Deer Park neighbourhood was established as one of Toronto's finest residential districts.

OVERVIEW:

Deer Park is different from many upscale Toronto neighbourhoods in that its homes are not isolated on the periphery of the neighbourhood. The residential streets spill out onto either Yonge Street or St. Clair Avenue, right into the heart of one of Toronto's busiest shopping, entertainment and business districts.

Deer Park's commercial centre is juxtaposed with lush green parkland, majestic trees and the Vale of Avoca Ravine, which provide a green backdrop to the neighbourhood.

HOMES:

Deer Park has a wonderful mix of detached and semi-detached houses that encompass a variety of architectural styles. Most of the original Deer Park houses were built between 1875 and 1920. Deer Park also contains a large number of newer townhouses that blend in well with the older homes in the neighbourhood.

Deer Park has one of the largest selections of luxury condominium apartment buildings in Toronto. Most of these apartments have balconies with picturesque views of the park, the ravine or the city.

SHOPPING:

The Yonge and St. Clair shopping district is known for its many fine restaurants. The high profile retailers in this area attract shoppers from all over the city.

Most of the local staple and grocery stores are located inside the St. Clair Centre and The Towne Mall or at the Delisle Court.

RECREATION:

The Rosehill Reservoir Park, on Pleasant Boulevard, is one of Toronto's prettiest parks. Wrapped around the park is a surfaced path that is ideal for walking, jogging and cycling. The top tier of the park has a large children's playground and a wading pool. This part of the park is also decorated with a water fountain, a reflecting pool, and a waterfall.

Next to the Rosehill Reservoir Park is the David Balfour Park which includes a hiking trail through the wilderness of the Vale of Avoca Ravine.

Oriole park is located at the northern tip of Deer Park. It has a playground, a wading pool, two tennis courts and access to the "Belt Line", a seven-kilometre path that follows the route of Toronto's Old Belt Line Railway.

SCHOOLS:

(P)	Deer Park Jr. & Sr., 23 Ferndale Ave.	(416) 393-1550
(P)	Brown Jr. 454 Avenue Rd.	(416) 393-1560
(PH)	North Toronto C.I. 70 Roehampton Avenue	(416) 393-9180
(PH)	Northern Secondary 851 Mt. Pleasant Rd.	(416) 393-0270
(PR)	Bishop Strachan School 298 Lonsdale Rd.	416-483-4325
(PR)	Upper Canada College 200-220 Lonsdale Rd.	416-488-1125
(PR)	The York School 1320 Yonge St.	416-926-1325

TRANSPORTATION:

The St. Clair subway station is within walking distance of every home in Deer Park.

Motorists are approximately 10 minutes from downtown, and 20 minutes from Toronto's expressways and highways.

Bibliography:

Dunkelman, David, Your Guide to Toronto Neighbourhoods, Copyright © 1997 by David Dunkelman