

Good Afternoon and Welcome,

My name is Margot Levitt and as President of the Ridgeway Ratepayers Association I have the pleasure of working with a great executive on your behalf. I would like to introduce you to RRA's executive: our secretary: Shelley Stillman; computer guy and webmaster, Matt Ritter; Treasurer, Allan Glube; sign maker and detail gal, Rhonda Nissenbaum.

Way back in the seventies, at the beginning of Ridgeway time, city planners were wise enough to incorporate green areas in the middle of residential neighbourhoods. Time has passed and our playground and park were functional but not exciting.

Councillor James Pasternak is responsible for our new park and playground. He presented us with this opportunity and with neighbourhood volunteers we worked alongside the City to make this park happen. Thank you Councillor Pasternak!

Today would not have been possible without the help of our neighbourhood volunteers: Thank you Eva, Birte, Liz, Michelle and Jeff, Vera, Izabela, Natasha and Mark, Ariella, and Jennifer. Thank you to Councillor Pasternak and his office staff including Jacob and finally, Sanofi Pasteur and Councillor Pasternak for donating pizzas.

Thank you to our neighbour business for their support: Kiva's Bakery & Restaurant, Starbucks (Steeles & Dufferin), Tim Hortons (Steeles & Dufferin) and Metro Foods. Extra thanks to Little Kickers Soccer for Kids for providing activity stations.

I would like to thank our entertainers, Susan Acheson, Harold Stein and Hayley Holish as well as Sean Cuthbertson and Larissa Gibson from Little Kickers for volunteering to be with us today. (PAUSE and CLAP)

Please note our two new additions to our park - a book box and toy box. In the spirit of creating community we have a box for books. Read a book, return a book, put in a book, or pass on a book. The book you loved to read may interest someone else. We also have a box for the chess and checkers sets we bought, bubbles and chalk. Have Fun!

Thank you to our long time and new members who have support our efforts. If you have not yet done so, please take the opportunity to join us.

And now, I am pleased to hand the mike over to our City Councillor, James Pasternak.