

# Briefing Memo

**To** Downtown Yonge Members

**From** James L. Robinson, Executive Director

**Date** January 3, 2011

• • • • • **Re** Fire at 335 Yonge Street



Dear Members,

As you are probably aware, there was a serious fire early this morning at 335 Yonge St.

This is the over 100-year old historic property at Yonge & Gould which partially collapsed in April 2010.

The fire started at approximately 4 a.m. and it took 32 fire trucks and 125 firefighters to get the fire under control. To these brave firefighters we extend our sincere thanks, and we offer wishes of a speedy recovery to those who were injured in the line of duty.

We commend the Toronto Fire Services for their work in containing the blaze. We extend our appreciation to them for their brave and diligent work in containing the fire, protecting neighbouring properties from extensive fire damage, and for keeping the public safe. We understand that they are currently addressing remaining fire concerns in the lower parts of the building.

Area businesses should be aware that access to properties in the blocks surrounding the site is currently restricted. Yonge St has been closed to both vehicles and pedestrians from Dundas St to Gerrard St. Likewise access for vehicles has also been restricted on the intersecting streets of Dundas, Edward, Gould, Elm, and Gerrard.

It is not fully known when the streets will re-open. Some reports indicate that it may be noon or into the afternoon. We can expect that once the fire service completes their water blasting, further work will be needed to address the icy conditions on area roads and sidewalks.

Downtown Yonge has long been concerned with the condition of 335 Yonge Street. This historic property is an integral part of the vibrant downtown urban experience of the area. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and work with the City of Toronto in seeking a safe site as the first priority. Please feel welcome to provide us with your feedback on what you are experiencing.

Sincerely,

Downtown Yonge B.I.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Robinson

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