

IS ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN NOT SAINTLY?

Or is it just Beachers who get that label for asking questions regarding our children's health and safety

In a media blitz started by the Toronto Star, Beaches area residents were accused of being uncaring, unchristian, and nimbys, when local residents started asking questions about a proposed homeless shelter planned to open at St. Aidan's Anglican.

Residents were caught off guard. Girl Guides not notified until the 11th hour. Ward 9 Day Care not notified until the 11th hour. Most residents completely oblivious to St. Aidan's secret plans, that church officials admit had been in the work for over 18 months.

Yet, just one week earlier, All Saints Anglican, at Sherbourne & Dundas, opted out of the homeless shelter business. According to the Globe & Mail, this decision will cost All Saints the loss of \$143,000 in city funding.

The veteran Reverend Jeannie Loughry said that she wanted to return the church to "a more faith-based approach."

All Saints will continue their daytime work of distributing hypodermic needles and condoms to these clients, however.

It appears that St. Aidan's simply wants to import those clients from downtown, by giving them TTC tokens too.

Could it be that Dog Walkers, Joggers, and Mothers with strollers can look forward to picking up the used hypodermic needles and condoms from the Boardwalk and Beach very soon? All Saints gives this equipment to their clients to be used, after all.

The horrible facts are, that 38% of Toronto's homeless population has Tuberculosis.

According to the Association of Gospel Rescue Mission's web site, "65%-80% suffer from chronic alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, or some combination of the three." 19th Century American-Style Soup Kitchen responses are not the answer...this according to most progressive-minded advocates for the homeless.

Perhaps All Saints Anglican has learned something over the past ten years. Now is the time to ask questions.

P.S. DID WE MENTION THAT BY-LAW 138 DOES NOT PERMIT THIS USAGE? MICHAEL PRUE, SANDRA BUSSIN, AND CITY STAFF HAS SAID SO BOTH ON THE PHONE AND IN WRITING.