

# Dixon Hall poll closed

Duncan McAllister

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A long-standing polling place has had its Elections Ontario (EO) status revoked thanks to new provincial accessibility standards.

Ironically, the removal of the Dixon Hall polling place at 58 Sumach from the list of voting locations has forced voters to a location that is currently inaccessible due to construction: access to the replacement location at 203 Sackville Green—the South Regent Park Community Centre—has been cut off north of Shuter St. during revitalization.

Area resident and Trefann Court Residents' Association (TCRA) member Bill Eadie states, "For everyone (physically disabled or not) who lives on Shuter, 203 Sackville Green is not easily accessible, due to closure of Sackville Green from Shuter to Dundas."

He continues, "Dixon Hall is readily accessible to our neighbourhood. Dixon Hall has a wheelchair ramp, and button to open the door. Why is the province claim-



ing that it is inaccessible?"

Eadie took his questions to EO and was told "unfortunately, Dixon Hall is no longer available to us as a voting location because it is deemed inaccessible under EO accessibility specifications."

Alicia Fowlie, spokesperson for EO, sheds some light on this: "Our site inspections, which were conducted in the fall of last year, determined that the alternate location sent to you by Eadie—Dixon Hall—did not meet our site accessibility standards and there was no temporary remediation (i.e. temporary ramp) that we could put in place for election day."

Eadie feels that the Ontario accessibility bar may be set too high, and that local municipally funded locations like Dixon Hall may not be able to effect a retrofit if

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