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Once again, Toronto making it harder to have fun baking things in parks

Posted by [John Michael McGrath](#) on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 Like

The city's love/fear relationship with outdoor ovens in public parks is a long, sad story. For more than a year the neighbourhood around Dufferin Grove Park has been [trying to protect its outdoor oven from a lawsuit-fearful city](#). Now the city, rather than try to constrain or shut down the outdoor oven at Dufferin Grove, is instead bringing in a fee system that would apparently include insurance. [The Toronto Star says](#):

The proposed fee for a group up to 25 people to use the baking oven for a day is modest at \$53, of which \$27 is for insurance. But the premise is flawed, said Jutta Mason, who spearheaded the development of Dufferin Grove Park's oven.

"It's an insult," Mason said after the meeting. "The problem is not whether we're in dire economic straits, the problem is why would we pay to give our labour to the city?"


"The fact is, if I am a person of any income, if I put my labour into my community and they tell me I have to pay, I will stop," she said.

This is probably a step up from the previous insistence that the park be brought in to "compliance" with the city's parks policy, but the locals are understandably upset. Some councillors are opposed to the fee program, and this is one of those issues where council could go either way. This will be another issue we'll keep an eye on for the council meeting next week.

Blog photo by Brock Builders via Flickr.

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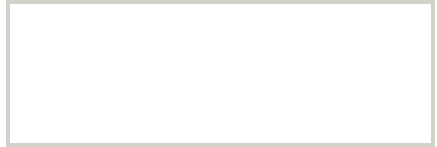
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