

An Evening with Brent Toderian

—Mississauga's Next 50 Years

So many people came here,
lining up in the spacious Living Art centre
before opening time.

Young, mid-aged or elder...
white, brown or black...
all wondered what future would be unfolded.

It was a cold night, -15.
The weather report warned: snow flurry, felt -30.
But here we were, eager with springlike spirit.

Outside, pink, green and purple lit up the city tower,
yellow glowed over the new center library,
blue shimmered among pine trees
that surrounded the silvery court
where greenhorns and veterans freely skated.

Warm chatting, soft laughing,
even whispers from the portraits of Hall of Fame,
all seemed to look forward to a miracle future...

Mr. Toderian did not offer a golden cutting-edge vision,
Instead, he forewarned us and our city:
“Before any goal or change,
Think clearly, what it means, what
do you truly want?”

The rolling ball was thrown back to us, to the city:
“Do things right,
Do things right well!”

Yes. but how?

Success was never a daytime dream or a signed contract —



There must be a long list of No's and Do's
Tons of careful and wise research and debate
What do we want? what does the city want?
“car-free, convenient and sustaining community,
multicultural, dynamical and harmonious,
safe, green and healthy?
What would AI do to us?
How far could we plan the future?
5 years, 10 years...50 years?”

The evening curtain call came.
We walked out with many questions —
each footprint deep in the snow.
Should we sing:
Let it snow, let it snow?



Anna Yin @2024/01/24