

## YBB Director Appointed to MPAC

Finance Minister Greg Sorbara has appointed Yonge-Bloor-Bay Business Association Director Douglas Jure to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). Doug is one of five Directors who serve as “taxpayers’ representatives” on the 15 member Board. His term of office runs for three years commencing August 17, 2005.

In 1998 the Ontario government transferred responsibility for property assessment from the Ministry of Finance to the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation, an independent body established by the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation Act, 1997. Amendments to the Act in 2001 changed the composition of the Board of Directors and renamed the organization to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). In addition to the five taxpayers’ representatives, the Board is comprised of eight municipal and two provincial representatives. All members of the Board are appointed by the Finance Minister.

MPAC administers the province-wide property assessment system based on current value assessment in accordance with the provisions of the Assessment Act. The Corporation prepares the annual assessment rolls used by municipalities to calculate property taxes, and carries out the triennial municipal enumerations in order to prepare a Preliminary List of Electors for each municipality and school board during an election year. Today, MPAC is responsible for the assessment of more than 4.4 million properties in the province.

Doug, who is a Vice President of the Yonge-Bloor-Bay Business Association, chaired the YBB’s Task Force on Property Taxes from 1999 to 2003. He currently chairs the Government Affairs Committee.

The Task Force advocated the creation of neighbourhood commercial property class to protect three-storey, street-front commercial properties from excessive property taxation. The proposal is included in recommendations made by the City of Toronto’s Chief Financial Officer in his report: *Enhancing Toronto’s Business Climate – It’s Everybody’s Business*.

“The Task Force members volunteered their time and knowledge. Our Association thanks them for their work. The City’s report is encouraging because it addresses the tax burden small businesses face that is our major concern,” said YBB President Nick Vesely.

Doug is also a Director on the Bloor-Yorkville BIA Board of Management. “We are pleased with this appointment. It is a recognition of the critical role that property assessment and realty taxes have on the economic vitality and ambiance of downtown commercial communities,” said Bloor-Yorkville BIA Chair Gordon Dreger.