

**From:** [Irene Toigo](#)  
**To:** [de la Cruz, Virgil](#)  
**Cc:** [Pia Jr., Charles](#); [Rosenson, Valerie](#); [Sheila Barney](#); [Susan Halpern](#); [Terry Adams](#); [Elizabeth McCauley](#)  
**Subject:** Request for South End Study Committee  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 30, 2019 9:06:43 AM

---

Our family has a 71 year history in our South End neighborhood...a neighborhood that, while not rich, had charm and presented a unique reflection of the architectural preferences of early 20th century New England. It was a community in every respect. People interacted. We grew up knowing our neighbors, going to Holy Name School or the local public school. We had an abundance of opportunity to grow up healthy, prosper if we had the motivation, and let's not forget -- we had fun. We played tic tac toe in the middle of our street or hide and seek among the neighborhood yards. We spent our summers playing and swimming at the "Dyke" now known as Kosciusko Park. The town provided a summertime "recreation director" who kept us children busy with fun activities in the park day long until our parents came home from work.

The neighborhood had a few empty lots where no homes were built and these areas of the neighborhood provided even more opportunities for safe, creative exploits by the children. Some homes had marvelous fruit trees which provided luscious fresh cherries, grapes, apples, and peaches which neighbors shared and added to our enjoyment. The fruit trees or vines allowed us to learn and help our mothers preserve the goodies for enjoyment over the winter months.

We had woods where the current BLT building "Silicon" exists today and behind some of the houses that used to exist on Elmcroft Rd. We skidded on a small pond in those woods during the winter, sleigh rode on the dips or tied ropes on the trees and swung to our hearts content. Parents didn't seem to worry about what their children were up to. They knew we didn't have to go far from the neighborhood. We had it all!

But over the years, and with changes in priorities in our City, this magnificent neighborhood declined – slowly, to be sure but a steady, unrelenting decline nonetheless. So, as the focus was taken off us, what are we left with now? What do our children have today? Unsafe streets to play on due to chronic trucks moving about, no summertime swimming unless parents drive their children to other area parks. Our homes and yards were turned into industrial buildings or lots for parking even more miscellaneous industrial trucks. We now have lots filled with mountains of dirt and cement from torn down buildings taking over the yards where children live. This is our new reality!

I want to thank you for allowing me to indulge in my own childhood memories. But you might ask, "Why are you taking this trip down memory lane?" "What purpose can it serve – since all things change?" The answer is simple. I am trying to paint a picture that provides a context for my hope that today's children who live in the South End might be allowed to have the same environment in which to grow and prosper and have fun. And in this regard, I ask, "Why can't we try to protect what's left of our community, and its magnificent history, and encourage a more balanced view of the neighborhood going forward?"

I believe it would be helpful if today's residents were allowed to participate in a Study Committee in order to consider what we might all be able to do to preserve the history, the good feelings, and the good life that we older residents were privileged to have. Let's not make our generation the last to have good memories. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Irene Adamcio Toigo  
38 Harbor St  
Stamford, Ct. 06902