

# Harbord Village Residents' Association

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*This newsletter is produced twice a year by the Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA) serving the part of Toronto bounded by Bathurst St, Bloor St W, Spadina Ave, and College St. See the last page for information about HVRA or visit [www.harbordvillage.com](http://www.harbordvillage.com).*

## Message from the chair of HVRA's board

### Becoming More Inclusive

When HVRA was created, a choice was made to call ourselves a residents' association, rather than a ratepayers' or homeowners' association. Our intent was to be inclusive and serve all those who live in Harbord Village. Yet in the years since, virtually all HVRA board members have been owners of single-family homes. When I joined the board 12 years ago, the board did include a tenant representative. But that young man soon moved out of the neighbourhood, and left the board.

Since then, we've taken various steps to become more



inclusive. We deliver our newsletters and flyers to every house – not just to the 400+ people on our membership list. We also leave quantities of these materials in the lobbies of the apartment buildings and condos in our area. And when we've had grant money to distribute to residents for things like free backyard trees, we have translated the pertinent information into Italian, Portuguese and Chinese, the languages spoken in approximately 20 per cent of Harbord Village households.

More obviously, all our outdoor events – the Fall Fair, Pumpkin Festival, Yard Sale

and our "Litter & Glitter" clean-ups each Spring and Fall – have been open to all residents, young and old alike. Through those events, many tenants and university

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## Upcoming HVRA Events

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 – 9:00pm, **Spring Meeting** w Guest speakers include Wendy Smith, the creator of the *Toronto Park Lot Project*, on Toronto's early history and the naming of Harbord Street, and Councillor Adam Vaughan on "The State of the City"  
Kensington Gardens, 45 Brunswick, Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesdays, starting June, 3-7pm, Bloor-Borden Farmer's Market, Green P parking lot, south of Bloor between Borden and Lippincott.

Saturday & Sunday, May 25-26, 10am & 2pm Doors Open tours of the Harbord Village. Lead by esteemed local historians, all four tours will begin on the SE corner of Brunswick and Bloor and last 90 minutes. Learn more about the architecture, the history of the area and some of the colourful individuals who called the Harbord Village home over the years.



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students have learned about HVRA, while at the same time they forged greater ties to this downtown neighbourhood.

We've enjoyed some success by taking these steps. Our membership is now broader-based than just homeowners, and includes members of the immigrant

families who settled here a few decades ago.

Now we're going further. To enable young parents to hear the guest speakers and fully participate in our upcoming Spring Meeting on May 21st, we've arranged for childcare. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see another attempt to draw in young parents: our first-ever collection of baby pictures. And writing this arti-

cle has got me thinking about proposing to the board that we provide a free one-year membership to all university and college students who sign up each fall.

If you have other suggestions for how HVRA can better serve all who live in our amazing neighbourhood, we'd love to hear them.

Tim Grant, HVRA Chair

*"Our membership is now broader-based than just homeowners."*

## Babies in Harbord Village

At the last meeting of the HVRA board, we were casting about for topics for the newsletter.

I wish I could remember who suggested it – but as soon as that person said "Why not publish photos of new babies in the 'hood" – I knew we had a winner!

Aside from their innate ability

to make all grownups go aw-wwwww...!, we all thought that publishing baby photos was an ideal way to introduce our newest additions and their proud parents to the larger community. So feelers were put out and here is the first batch of HV's newest citizens. There is a special bonus in this group, an historical photo of HV youngsters (now UofT

Professors!) taken in 1973!

This is to be a regular feature of this newsletter for the near future. And as well as new babies, we will publish photos of any young resident of HV up to the age of 4.

So keep those photos coming!! rory.sinclair@rogers.com

Rory 'Gus' Sinclair



Nora



Olivia Kate



Isla Beth



Professor Emily Gilbert, University of Toronto, age 4 and Professor Myriam Denov, McGill University, age 3, 1973



Sophie and Ari

## Farmers' Market back by popular demand!

### An open letter

Dear Harbord Village Residents' Association,

THANK YOU! Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bloor Borden My-Market.

Again this June to October, every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m., local farmers will gather to sell fresh grown fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese, honey, syrup, flowers, and more. With your monetary support we can advertise the market, maintain our tents & supplies, tow errand cars to clear out the lot, provide yummy samples and continue to pay our musicians an honorarium.

But, it is not just about money. HVRA

does more than give us an annual donation. You provide us with amazing energetic dedicated volunteers

who tirelessly organize and maintain our market as one of the most successful farmers' markets in the city.

So again, THANK YOU, HVRA,

and see you at the market!

*Helen Goldlist for The Bloor Borden Market Advisory Committee*





## Residents' survey illuminates priorities for HVRA

**We recently conducted our first-ever online survey of local residents and, with more than 100 completions, we're quite pleased with the response ... thanks to all of you who participated!**

Our desire is to share these findings. But first, we should explain what our survey was meant to accomplish.

At the last general meeting in October of 2012, the HVRA board of directors heard a broad range of concerns expressed by attendees – frankly too many for the HVRA or its board to tackle all at once!

Hence, the need for a survey to be sure the association's limited resources are focused on issues of the highest priority within our community.

From the statements of concern noted at our October meeting we distilled a battery of 20 items. The present survey was designed around these, essentially to determine the relative importance of each item using an online questionnaire.

Members of the association were contacted by email and given a link to the HVRA website where they would have encountered a short set of questions to answer. The full questionnaire is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TQ9K6Q6](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TQ9K6Q6).

Participants answered two questions in particular regarding each of the 20 items presented. One question asked how important an issue or concern each of these items was "to you personally". This question had four possible answers: very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important.

The other question asked which three items "concern you the most," specifically, which item is the most important, then which is second, and which is third in importance.

### Now the results are in!

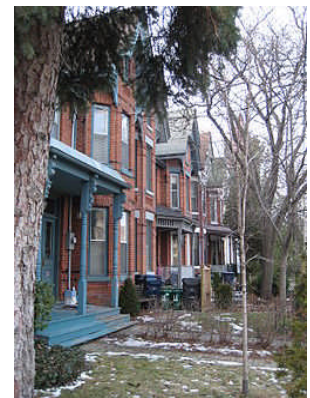
The measures taken from these two questions are consistent in showing that the one greatest concern to those who live in this part of Toronto is the university's proposed expansion and how it plans to develop nearby properties. Hardly a surprise perhaps, considering its close proximity to us, yet the evidence leaves no doubt that Harbord Village residents are extremely concerned about this issue.

The accompanying table provides a summary of the present data. The top six items are listed in order of importance based on the percentage answering each question.

From this table it's clear that each of these measures points to the same conclusion in so far as the issue of the university's expansion and development appears at the top of both lists. These results show that concern for this issue is both widespread and relatively intense, with 77% rating it very or somewhat important and 38% ranking it among the three things – out of a possible 20! – of greatest importance to them.

While there are another five items on each list, it's interesting to observe that only three

*Can you spare a minute to answer a few questions?*





appear on both lists. The three that are important on both measures are: construction without a permit/illegal building; ineffective by-laws/weak enforcement; and disturbances caused by drinkers in neighbourhood bars.

**Putting this information to good use**

The HVRA already has some initiatives in place to deal with these issues. For example, the association is represented on a longstanding, community-wide Liaison Committee that deals with the U of T.

Another initiative has been to form a Disruption Committee to address disturbances in the neighbourhood, while illegal construction has been the target of numerous efforts to ensure that building permits are properly obtained and enforced. This overlaps with the aim of ensuring that by-laws in general are strictly enforced and, in certain situations such as drinking in bars, that bylaws are strengthened to make them more effective.

In addition, an effort has been made to target some of the other issues we've observed, such as graffiti and trash in

laneways. A "paintout" project has been initiated to remove graffiti, particularly from laneways. Meanwhile, a twice-yearly community cleanup collects trash and litter.

The HVRA board cannot promise that insights gained from this survey will yield immediate benefits. However, these findings certainly help us to zero in on major concerns that we strongly believe ought to guide our pursuit of workable solutions to such problems in the future.

*Christian Mueller, PhD*

**The findings:**

Very or Somewhat Important Issue

77% Worried about the University of Toronto's proposed expansion/development plans

76% Construction being done without proper permits/illegal building

75% Construction that threatens heritage trees

74% Trash dumped in laneways

73% Ineffective bylaws/weak bylaw enforcement

72% Disturbances caused by those drinking in neighbourhood bars

1st, 2nd or 3rd Most Important Concern

38% Worried about the University of Toronto's proposed expansion/development plans

26% Excessive noise late at night

25% Ineffective bylaws/weak bylaw enforcement

25% Disturbances caused by those drinking in neighbourhood bars

23% Construction being done without proper permits/illegal building

23% Too much graffiti

*The one greatest concern to those who live in this part of Toronto is the university's proposed expansion and how it plans to develop nearby properties.*





*New tags are removed within 24 hours.*

## Graffiti cleanup underway!

A group of neighbours have started taking back our lanes from taggers. So far, they have painted over Sussex Mews Laneway from Harbord to Russell and Harbord St., Spadina to Bathurst.

It started last summer, with a central core of two highly committed anti-taggers. Homeowners gave us permission to paint over their house walls, garage doors and fences. After about 10 days, the

laneway was spotless, and has remained so ever since.

New tags are removed within 24 hours.

Hundreds of tag events since, we pronounce success. Two taggers have been arrested. Our laneway is clear. More important, tagging has been dramatically reduced.

A graffiti summit involving the councillor, police, Central Tech, Harbord BIA and many

neighbours met to share information and begin planning for the work of painting over in Harbord Village. About half our properties have been tagged.

So what's next? We need to recruit others along the lanes of our neighbourhood to continue the job of tag removal. HVRA has started a superfund to buy paints and tag removal chemicals, and our treasurer welcomes donations. Working on a lane by lane basis, we will help volunteers from other lanes get started for a late Spring "paintout".

*If you want to volunteer or to contribute, contact Tim Grant, chair@harbordvillage.com*



*Elbow grease cleans the bricks...*





## University of Toronto Update: Keeping the university green

### Keeping the university green

The HVRA board has gone on record opposing the conversion of the back campus playing field to artificial turf.

The open space runs south of Devonshire, along Hoskins. The university has signed a deal to convert the turf field to artificial, using funds donated by the Pan-American games.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni have joined a petition against the proposal. Prominent alumni have written articles in local papers in opposition. Demonstrations are planned. Architects and landscape designers are working on alternative proposals.

So far, the university has remained adamant about proceeding with this plan.

### 245 College St.

The proposal to build a 24-storey, 759-bed, privately-owned student residence at 245 College Street remains in front of the Ontario Municipal



Board. The matter is slated to go to a full hearing of the board in early July.

HVRA and other residents' associations bordering the university have hired lawyers and a planner to fight the proposal, which backs onto two-storey Victorian cottages on Glasgow Street.

We believe the proposal is too high for the area, and does not provide good transition into the neighbourhood, nor does it promote neighbourhood sustainability. We are concerned about the long-range viability, given this is a private initiative, not a full university residence. It provides a disquieting precedent for all neighbourhoods abutting the St. George campus.

To date, we have received many generous donations. More would be most welcome. To help us out, cheques payable to our law firm, Iler-Campbell, can be sent to: Ralph J. Daley,

President, Grange Community Association, 41 Soho Square, Toronto, ON M5T 2Z2.

**The HVRA Spring Clean-up**  
**Was April 21st – Thank you 165 Volunteers!**

Thanks to Splendido, and all of our great sponsors!  
 Please visit [www.harbordvillage.com/cleanups](http://www.harbordvillage.com/cleanups) to see great photos and more information



## Harbord Village pilot project gets ahead of emerald ash bore killer

**Cost to HVRA homeowners could be as little as \$250 every two years**

*Finally, some real hope in staving off the green beetle that is threatening one in ten trees in the City of Toronto*

Finally, some real hope in staving off the green beetle that is threatening one in ten trees in the City of Toronto and is further advanced on the University of Toronto campus than was thought. Some have been found in Harbord Village, but we need to act in the next four months to save half our trees.

"We need to be in a position to act by June," said Prof. Sandy Smith, University of Toronto Forestry Department Entomologist. "Injections must be within June-August timeframe, or the trees will die."

"This is way better than we thought," said Tim Grant, Chair of HVRA, when we were given a quick preview of the plan. "We still have a chance

to act."

What is promising is that the cost of injecting affected trees is considerably less over time than cutting them down, because a major infestation is invariably fatal.

Harbord Village Residents' Association has informed owners of ash that can be saved. The City will be injecting healthy trees identified by green tags on City property. The HVRA board will also assess whether fund-raising or negotiating favourable rates for service for the owners of trees on private land may be possible.

Meantime, the Board has reached out to the Councillor and City Forestry to see what can be done to position ourselves to act more quickly to save the urban forest from future pest invasions.

The University of Toronto Forestry Division graduate students Sarah Melamed and Xin Zhou have created a scientific working model for handling the crisis which will see the most infested trees lost, but could save half the ash in Harbord Village and as much as 14% of our tree cover in some areas—if we get our healthy trees injected before the end of August!

"This is coming faster than we thought," said Sandy Smith, the Forestry Department Professor of Entomology. "The campus already has more beetles than predicted." Four mature University trees have already been cut down, and four others on City lands within the University are terminally infested. The study was generously financed by U of T Grounds working through the University of Toronto Area Liaison Committee. It was

designed to develop a model for responding to the crisis on both the University campus representing public lands and in





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Harbord Village, which represents the urban forest. The Graduate students worked from the HVRA tree inventory, performed by residents a few years ago (see HVRA website for google access to the trees that presently grow in the village), but collected individual tree data through last summer.

Harbord Village has 18 ash on private property and 98 on city boulevards or city property in our front yards. Recommendations are to cut dying trees immediately, save sick trees but plant replacements so they are established when the older trees die, and inject trees which can be saved with pesticides which will kill the beetles. Injections are more than 95% effective, new products are on the way, and the cycle for injecting may be-

come longer over time as the infestation will wane as the untreated host trees die, so costs may be diminished. Ash can live up to 80 years. If we save them now, they will outlive most homeowners!

Up to now, there has been no formal scientific plan and information has been scattered. "For the first time, there is a model for treatment of the beetle invasion which can be applied to other communities," said Dr. Smith. Already the City of Markham has expressed interest in this Forestry model.

"We are developing a package to give to owners of ash—many of whom we have already met, as to consider the health of their trees and get a good picture of what was happening, we had to have their permission to enter their yards," said Sarah Melamed,

co-author of the study. All ash in the study have been assessed for health, age, and contribution to the canopy.



"Trees are a vital part of our community. They provide shade, beauty, they lower our energy costs in both extreme seasons, they clean our air, reduce particulates that cause breathing problems, they fix carbon and they add to the value of our homes," said Prof. Smith. "To replace a single mature tree, you would have to plant 61 new trees."

*"To replace a single mature tree, you would have to plant 61 new trees." - Prof. Smith*

Tim Grant smiled. "We have room."

--Sue Dexter



Harbord Village	cut	leave	inject	replantings
City property	21	34	36	7
Residents	5	4	9	4
Est. cost	\$22/cm of dbh*		\$6.50/cm of dbh	

(\*diameter at breast height)



This issue of the HVRA Newsletter has been edited by Jane Auster. Layout by Mark Treleaven.

### HVRA Board 2012-2013

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SE	Angie Andreoli	416-830-5340	angieandreoli@hotmail.com

### Membership stuff

- **Already a member?** Thanks. In particular, sincere thanks to all of you who have honoured us with your Supporting and Fanatic memberships, which have supported many of the new initiatives we've undertaken.
- **Haven't had a chance to renew?** Now's the time. Simply fill out the renewal slip below and mail it with your cheque.
- **Not yet a member?** Now's the time! Meet your neighbours, have some fun and perhaps devote a few hours to something you want to improve. No time to spare? We understand. But by simply joining, you'll add your name to our ever-growing roster and help make HVRA's voice even better heard at City Hall.
- **Ideas for how to grow our membership, and strengthen connections?** Please contact membership secretary Gail Misra at g.misra@me.com

### HVRA Membership & Renewal Form

Not a member yet? Know someone who should be a member?  
Please join – to help us continue building a great neighbourhood!

2013 HVRA Membership

Please mail to: Harbord Village Residents' Association

P.O. Box 68522  
360A Bloor Street West  
Toronto, M5S 1X1



Please check one:

- Voting Member (individual) ..... \$5/one year; \$10/two years
- Supporting Member (to support HVRA activities)..... \$20/one year; \$40/two years
- Fanatical Member (to really support HVRA activities!)..... \$50/one year; \$100/two years

Payment can be made via PayPal or credit card at our website: ([www.harbordvillage.com](http://www.harbordvillage.com)) or mail a cheque payable to the Harbord Village Residents' Association, and include:

Name.....New?.....Renewal?.....