

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, Bloor, Spadina, and College. See Page 16 for information about HVRA or visit www.harbordvillage.com where this newsletter can be found in glorious colour.

Message from the Chair of the HVRA Board



Dear members of Harbord Village:

There are many definitions of a community, but when **I bit into an 'adult-oriented' butter tart**, as it was advertised on the bake sale table, I knew I had found another. With raisins soaked in cognac, these not-too-sweet delectables brought joy to all who consumed them that day. Some thoughtful person had baked and donated **those tarts to last month's Fall Fair**, and it was a tasty reminder that I live in a

community full of caring individuals.

On the morning of the fair, a dozen volunteers unload-



ed donated food and beverages from cars and set

up tables in Margaret Fairley Park. By noon, another dozen people were cooking food, erecting displays, featuring silent auction donations from local businesses, and building a stage from which musicians would share their talents that afternoon.

In this neighbourhood, many go beyond complaining to actually doing something about the things they care about. Whether removing graffiti, preserving

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HVRA's Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 for 7:00 p.m.

Kensington Health Centre, 25 Brunswick Avenue

6:30 – 7:00	Meet, greet, catch up on your membership dues
7:00 – 7:40	Area caucuses, caucus reports; elections to HVRA board
7:40 – 8:00	Councillor Vaughan: State of the ward and city, and Q & A
8:00 – 9:00	Special topic: Reforming municipal politics (see Page 3)



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architectural heritage, inviting community police officers to lead a crime prevention tour, developing programs that help save energy, saving Central Tech's pool, or beautifying Harbord Street with flower-pots, you will find people donating their time to make it happen.

Our tiny parks are getting some attention, too. The parents who founded the Friends of Margaret Fairley Park are implementing many improvements. When it was announced last year that Sally Bird Parkette (also on Brunswick) was

randomly chosen to receive \$100,000 in federal stimulus funds, neighbours launched a public process to ensure those funds would address local needs. And this fall, the sorry parkette at Brunswick and College will be the focus of a design competition among architectural students, which we hope will spur its revitalization. Suffice to say, Harbord Village is a laboratory of community-building projects and ideas, all driven by people who care.

I would be remiss in not mentioning our recent solar energy and backyard tree projects, our weekly Farm-

ers' Market and the upcoming Pumpkin Festival on November 1st. None would exist – or would have existed – without the help of dozens of volunteers.

Interested in learning more about these – or starting another project? Come to HVRA's Annual General Meeting on October 19th, where you'll meet neighbours who will listen to your ideas, and who might just be willing to help. Personally, I'm hoping to meet the baker of those scrumptious butter tarts!

- Tim Grant

"Harbord Village is a laboratory of community-building projects and ideas, all driven by people who care."

Below is Brunswick Avenue resident Jan Muszynski selling raffle tickets at our 2010 Fall Fair. Jan solicited all the Fair's silent auction items from Bloor and Harbord merchants. (Photo by Marco Cupido)



NOTABLE DATES

All Candidates Debate, Monday, October 18, Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 429 Bloor Street West, 7-9:30 p.m.

Hear first the candidates running for City Council in our ward, followed by those running for school trustees in the public and Catholic boards.

HVRA's Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, October 19, Kensington Health Centre, 25 Brunswick Avenue, 7-9 p.m.

Our guest speaker is Dave Meslin of the Ranked Ballot Initiative of Toronto, who will be speaking on reforming municipal politics. *See story on Page 3.*

Harbord Street Pumpkin Festival, Monday, November 1st, 5-8 p.m. between Borden and Spadina. *See story on Page 4.*

Free Community Swims at Central Tech, every Saturday, 2-4 p.m. Enter off Lennox.



Your municipal election

The author, Dave Meslin, will be speaking and leading a discussion at HVRA's Annual General Meeting on October 19 (see Page 1).

The most vital ingredient for a healthy, beautiful, creative and prosperous city is strong civic participation. The strength of a city lies not in the corridors of City Hall but in the neighbourhoods, where the collective wisdom and passion of residents transform ideas and dreams into projects and campaigns.

Elections are an important part of the civic engagement puzzle, not just because elections determine who runs this town, but because election time is an opportunity to highlight municipal issues. This is the time for town hall meetings, debates, platform launches, campaign office parties, etc. This is the time when candidates are likely to knock on your door and ask what your ideas are for Toronto, a time when casual conversations at dinner parties turn towards local issues like transportation planning and urban development, a time when young non-partisan candidates can throw their name in the ring and put their ideas on the table.

Local municipal elections are more accessible, tangible and immediately relevant than provincial or federal elections. Local campaigns are often grassroots ventures, volunteer driven, independent from parties and a natural starting point for political engagement.

So what happens when the **electoral system doesn't work?** When voter turnout is at 40%, **and most of those votes don't count anyway?** What does it mean, when someone can **'win' a seat on Council with only 20% of the vote?** What happens to civic engagement when an election is tainted by **'vote-splitting' and 'strategic voting', causing some candidates to get pushed out of races, while other candidates win races with little actual support?**

Looking to other major cities for ideas, we can easily identify many potential tools for improving our local elections. Montreal has a strong borough council system, giving power back to neighbourhoods. Vancouver has a municipal party system, with local parties independent from provincial or federal parties. Both of these cities hold their main voting day on the weekend, not on a weekday. Many American cities have municipal

term limits. How about a lower voting age, ranked ballots or online voting?

These are all ideas worth looking at. Would they all work here? Some could, some would not. Every city is different in terms of size, culture, history, etc. We need a made-in-Toronto solution that works for our neighbourhoods. We **don't need to settle for uninspiring elections in Toronto.** We can work towards better elections, with a strong campaign for voting reform at the local level.

Of course, voting reform is only one part of democratic renewal. After all, **civic engagement doesn't end on Oct 25th. That's when it begins!** Voting for and electing a city council is just the first step. Then we have four years to work together, council and residents, in a collaborative journey of city-building.

- Dave Meslin

"We need a made-in-Toronto solution that works for our neighbourhoods."

Dave Meslin





3rd Annual Harbord Street Pumpkin Festival, coming on November 1, 5-8 p.m.

“As our Pumpkin Festival grows each year, we need more volunteers.”

Bring your family and friends for three hours of magic on Harbord Street from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, November 1st (the day after Halloween).

Last year, 588 uniquely carved pumpkins, each illuminated by a candle, were displayed on tables along Harbord between Borden and Spadina.

As last year, restaurants will provide free food and we will provide free cider.

If the former Miss Emma’s store on Harbord is available to us again this year, we’ll host an art show of works by local artists along with a silent auction.

HVRA is pleased to co-sponsor the Festival with the Harbord Street Business Improvement Association.

As our Pumpkin Festival grows each year, we need more volunteers. If you can help in any of the following ways, please contact me at 416.960.1244 or tim@greenteacher.com:

(1) Canvas businesses on



Bloor and College for silent auction donations;

(2) On Halloween (i.e. Sunday night), drop off our blue cards at houses on one or two streets that have pumpkins;

(3) Collect pumpkins left on porches with blue cards on Monday afternoon for two hours;

(4) Set up tables along Harbord for 90 minutes on Monday afternoon;

(5) Help during the event to keep candles lit inside pumpkins; and

(6) After 8 p.m., help for an hour to remove candles from pumpkins and fold up the tables for collection.

Looking forward to seeing you **at this year’s Pumpkin Festival!**

- Tim Grant, chair, HVRA

Below are photos taken at our Fall Fair in September 2010 by Marco Cupido. On the left is the band Anima Fado. The legendary Nuno Cristo is at the left, Cristina is singing and Larry is on the guitar. The photo on the right is of Gus Sinclair, former HVRA chair, who organizes the fair, Tim Grant, current HVRA chair, and Richard Gilbert, who chaired the predecessor Sussex-Ulster Residents Association in 1971.





Christie Blatchford's Harbord Village

Probably, this isn't the natural time to write a note in praise of Harbord Village, or whatever it is we're supposed to call our neighbourhood.

The city is yet again tearing up the streets – on one small section of mine recently, I counted nine separate vehicles, among them cement mixers and diggers – and there have been a few home break-ins, and some days the noise and dust get wearing.

But then I drag the dog for a walk (he's an English bull terrier, with a ferocious will, mostly to do the opposite of what I'd like him to do), meet neighbours and their mutts, and fall in love all over again.

It occurred to me the other day – this as I was defending Toronto as a splendid place to live – that what I have done is recreate in the midst of the country's biggest city the small town I grew up in. We've all done it in this area, some better than others.

In Rouyn-Noranda, the mining town in northwestern Quebec where I was born and raised, we had a local bakery (specialty cream-filled buns), and now I have Harbord Bakery

(specialty everything, though I have a weakness for the egg salad).

There, everyone hung out at the infamous Rec Centre, a recreational complex, and so do many of us at the Miles Nadal JCC. (I'm a member, and consider my monthly dues a mitzvah for Israel, which is ridiculous and wholly illogical, but there you go.) I run outside and hardly use the gym anymore, but two neighbours down the street are there regularly.

I still go for Weight Watchers meetings (see egg salad, above), and I love seeing all the kids pouring out at lunch.

As my parents had their favourite restaurants and bars (the Noranda Hotel Dining lounge; the Moulin Rouge; the Moose Hall!) all within walking distance, my friends and I can stumble to and from a myriad of spots for food and drink. As close or closer than when I lived at 143 Carter Avenue are a post office, a great hardware store, the best garage in the city (Peter's Volkswagen), a decent grocery, plus Kensington Market,

and a handful of good variety stores for milk and the like – all within stupidly easy walking distance.

I always wanted to live where I could hear the streetcars rumble by and see the CN Tower. Now I can, plus live cheek-by-jowl with terrific people (and their dogs – Mungo and Kuma, Crawford, Daisy, Chewie, Lily, Mayhem, etc., etc.), on a street with trees so dense you can stay dry in a shower, and with every service and shop you might want within reach.

To take liberties with a well-used line, curiously, sometimes it takes a city to raise a village.

- Christie Blatchford

"... what I have done is recreate in the midst of the country's biggest city the small town I grew up in."

A fuzzy shot of Harbord Village resident and *Globe & Mail* columnist Christie Blatchford and her dog, Obie – in another neighbourhood.





The 2010 Fall Fair (held on Sunday September 12)

In spite of predictions of a day of rain as close to the event as Friday afternoon, and the lack of a sound system for the first two hours, The Fall Fair came off with flying colours yet again.

This is a long-standing tradition in Harbord Village and a carryover from the days of the predecessor organization, the Sussex-Ulster Residents Association. I think the first Fall Fair of this series was held in 1994 – 10 of them put on by HVRA. I've seen photos of fairs in the Margaret Fairley Park mounted by SURA in the 1970s.

The atmosphere in the park on September 12 was super! It was positively a love-in,

what with neighbours schmoozing neighbours, the outstanding music, excellent Fall Fair fare, brilliant sun, kids running about with shrieks of laughter and newly painted faces, a good supply of beer and wine, fierce com-

petition for the great items at the silent auction. It all led to a great day for our terrific community.

It's a huge amount of work to put on this kind of event. It

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On this and the next page are photos taken at the 2010 Fall Fair by Marco Cupido (more Fair photos on Pages 2, 4 and 9). On this page, clockwise from the top: Amy Furness and Jess Humphreys; Laura Bradbury and Nhai Beare; Mia and Jiya; Jessy Khan, Danielle Rodrigues and Rose Rodrigues; and Alex the Magician.

On the next page, clockwise from the top: Nora; Anthony Grande and son Zachary; The **Fabulous Quitters**; the Fair's food bar; the expensive PC Amer Katoch and friend; and drummer Terry Campbell.





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could not be done without the hard work of many of your neighbours, so give them a round of hearty applause.

The work is not the hardest part, however, and neither is the job of finding volunteers.

The thing that is becoming more and more difficult is trying to comply with an ever-increasing series of rules and regulations from the city, many of which make not a lot of sense for an event of this size and nature, and several of which cost us some serious

money for not a lot of value.

For example, because we are in a public park, we are required to have three paid-duty officers whose sole job is to look for altercations and fracas and break them up – something we have never had in the nearly 20 years we have run the Fall Fair. We think three is too many for our party, and we will take up this issue with our Councillor Adam Vaughan.

Notwithstanding, The Fall Fair is not about to go away, and we look forward to many more editions of this fine event.

- *Rory 'Gus' Sinclair, chair, Fall Fair Committee*





Frustration at Sally Bird Park

Last year, Sally Bird Park (on Brunswick Ave., north of Harbord St.) was selected to receive \$100,000 in infrastructure funding through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC), supported by federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Members of the community came out to two public meetings to determine how the money should best be spent. The immediate neighbours of the park were frustrated with the way teenagers often monopolized the park. There had been numerous acts of vandalism (graffiti on people's houses, small fires, broken beer bottles around the play equipment, and pervasive litter). There were rumours of drug dealing. Police intervened periodically. The park was a problem.

At the meeting last December residents were unified in their

concern that the park be developed in such a way as to minimize the problems, while still creating a welcoming and usable area.

We noted that any seating be well spaced to prevent large groups from congregating. If play equipment were to be installed (which was the default plan of the Parks department), it should be clearly visible from the street. Also, sand was too problematic a surface because of the broken bottles and fears of worse hidden beneath it. Ideally, to attract people, we argued that the park should offer something that the other nearby **ones don't. The most popular** ideas were for the installation of adult exercise equipment and/or a sprinkler water park (like the one at Wychwood barns). We were told that we would be contacted in January to go over the plans.

By February we had heard nothing. I contacted Councillor Vaughan's office, which forwarded a plan that seemed to have ignored everything the community wanted.

After a flurry of emails and some pointed telephone conversations, the Parks Department revised the plan, which now

aimed to create a mixed use area. It would include: adult exercise equipment; a small splash pad for young children at the front of the park; benches that were far apart from each other; and a welcoming pathway through from the alleyway to encourage pedestrian presence. The proposed plantings were intended to be beautiful, but also to act as natural barriers discouraging people from vandalizing neighbouring houses or climbing upon them. It was a good plan.

Months passed. The only sign of action was the erection of three signs proclaiming the involvement of federal, provincial, and municipal governments. When I asked what was going on (or not going on), I was told that they were having trouble finding contractors to work at reasonable rates. The federal stimulus money, with its tight deadlines, had caused many contractors to mark up their bids. More time passed.

Work began in the latter part of the summer. The old path was dug out and a new one poured. The old paving and benches were hauled away. Many of the plantings the Parks department had installed in the past few years were ripped out. It would have been great if we could have moved those benches to another park that needed them, like Margaret Farley Park. Residents had suggested such a reuse of materials at

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The photos illustrating this article were taken by the author, Nicole Schulman.

The photo below looks west from within the park, with Central Tech in the background. The exercise equipment is to be installed to the left of the path. The upper photo on the next page shows the three signs, erection of which was the only thing that happened for many months after the park upgrade was announced.





At the moment, Sally Bird Park looks inviting. A variety of people are enjoying sitting on the bench facing the street. The newly planted grass is green and lush. Yet I am disappointed with the way in which this entire project has been carried

“... I am disappointed with the way in which this entire project has been carried out. There has been a lot of waste and very little thought for the long term. It seemed there was no one in a position of power who really wanted this park to work.”

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the meeting, but had apparently been ignored.

We discovered from the crew that the water feature was not to be installed. Another crew began installing two benches where the water feature was to have been. I tried explaining that the plans had been very clear that the benches were not to be adjacent, that we had had many problems with large groups of youths congregating in the park. The

foreman had no instructions about where to put the benches. Although the councillor's office was able to stop the crew, no one knew where to put the second bench, and so it appears to have been scrapped.

The work is not yet done. The exercise machines have yet to be installed. I am deeply dismayed by how hard it has been to get the Parks Department to heed the community's wishes, or even follow best horticultural practices.

out. There has been a lot of waste and very little thought for the long term. It seemed there was no one in a position of power who really wanted this park to work. Those community members who made the effort to go to the meetings and contact our councillor's office when things started derailing played a critical role in shaping this space. It shows how important community involvement is.

- Nicole Schulman

Wendy Smith's panoramic view of the 2010 Fall Fair.





Crime in Harbord Village

“... the more calls [the police] receive from a particular neighbourhood, the more patrols that neighbourhood receives.”

Even without lots of clubs and bars on Bloor and College, our downtown neighbourhood would be vulnerable to car vandalism and the odd house break-in.

Whenever these and other **crimes occur, it's important** they be reported to the Toronto Police. When three officers gave a presentation to an HVRA board meeting last winter, they pointed out that the more calls they receive from a

particular neighbourhood, the more patrols that neighbourhood receives.

Whenever a crime or a suspicious incident occurs, please contact 911 or Toronto Police at 14 Division at 416.808.1500.

In late August, a community police officer from 14 Division led a very helpful crime prevention walkabout of 15-20 **residents from "south" Robert**

and Willcocks Streets. During the walkabout, the officer discussed the pros and cons of laneway lighting and described ways that residents can be more careful.

If you would like to participate in a crime prevention walkabout in your corner of the neighbourhood, please contact 14 Division and me at 416.960.1244.

- Tim Grant, chair, HVRA

Congratulations to Cathy Nasmith

Cathy Nasmith (along with *Spacing Magazine*) has received the 2010 Jane Jacobs Award. Cathy, past-president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and publisher of the blog *Built Heritage News* (builtheritageneews.ca), is well known to Harbord Village. She was the architect of both phases of the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District plan. This has contributed enormously to the conservation and restoration of the architecture that makes our neighbourhood what it is – one of the most desirable and vibrant places to live in downtown Toronto and thus, the world.

Here is some of what former mayor John Sewell had to say about Cathy in his speech at the awards ceremony:

“She has been involved in working to save many buildings, and has retained her optimism even when the au-

thorities are unsympathetic. ... She has worked hard with communities to establish heritage districts. She is an outstanding architect – a fine designer, one of those rare professionals who understand the nuts and bolts of building, a lover of the modern as well as the heritage, and she has gained awards for her skills at architectural restoration and interpretation.

“One of her most high profile heritage fights was the campaign waged with Margie Zeidler to save the Concourse Building on Adelaide Street West – and the building is still here. Out of that work, as a communication strategy to create pressure to amend the Ontario Heritage Act so municipalities could stop the demolition of designated buildings, *Built Heritage News* was born. A free online news bulletin, *Built Heritage News* has been published with consistent regularity since then,

bringing a wide array of information to an even wider audience in Ontario and across Canada. Its finest moment was a call to pack the gallery of the Legislative Assembly to watch the debate of the amended Heritage Act. In the face of such support the lingering opposition evaporated.

“Cathy's story proves the point: never underestimate the power of one smart, energetic, and determined person who always thinks the best of people, searches out their good qualities, and then has the ability to bring them together for a common cause. Jane Jacobs justly admired people like Cathy, as we do too.

“Thanks, Cathy, for your consistency, energy and determination, and the innovative spirit you bring to complicated issues in our public lives.”

Cathy Nasmith





The fires continue

On the evening of September 5th, about 11 p.m. as Mary and I and nephew Dan from England were walking back from the Italian Festival on College Street, we saw the first fire trucks arriving at 366 College Street, west of Brunswick on the north side. This was the Canada Computer Store, on the main floor and basement, with three floors of apartments above. Smoke was billowing from the roof.

Within minutes, several more trucks of various sizes arrived complete with the mobile Fire Command Centre with two high-ranking officers in a 270-degree glazed trailer. They immediately began coordinating efforts of the assembled crews and vehicles using radios with all members of the team on site. Firefighters began quickly but methodically laying out hoses and equipment to reach the blaze. Within another 10 minutes even more trucks and equipment arrived, so the total number of vehicles on site by my count was over 20. Within the next few minutes, the first firefighters were visible through the windows on the second floor and shortly after on the third floor as they began breaking windows to allow smoke to escape.

Quite a lot of smoke was pouring through the roof of 366, and we could see even more rising up behind the peak, so we assumed there was a serious fire going on at the back as well.

The smoke seemed limited to 366 College. It was clear that the next building to the east had been built later and was at least double brick and probably providing sufficient barrier for flames on that side. The next address to the west, however, was part of the same construction with likely less of a barrier. We kept watching the top floor of 368 where there was smoke, but the one electric ceiling fixture kept burning throughout the night, indicating that the fire had not yet reached that apartment

This was my second fire in three years – **“up close and personal.”** The other was at 19-27 Major St., where I happened to be nearby and

watched flames erupt even before the first trucks arrived. This fire started from a roof that was being repaired using torch down membrane – but spread because of no fire separations between the different occupancies. Attic fire separation information is available on our website.

We don't yet know the cause of the fire on College, which started in the basement and did not spread.

For both of these fires, I have to say that the actions and conduct of the fire department and the police were exemplary and professional, and effective in every way.

— Gus Sinclair

“We stayed for about an hour and watched as the firefighters took control of the situation and the police politely but firmly took control of the approximately 500+ onlookers.”

View of the fire at 366 College from the north.
(photo by Richard Gilbert)





HVRA's volunteer gardeners work their magic on Harbord Street flower pots

"... when I bike through I look with pride at the efforts of our committee and the friendships it has fostered."

HVRA's Flower Pot Committee,

L-R: Zahava Lambert, Paul Macarico, Marilyn Martin, Jeannie Hastie, Wendy Smith. Missing from photo: Scott Hubbard, Clarisa Waldman.

Here's one more reason why Harbord Village is a great place to live.

The large flower pots in front of businesses on Harbord Street are now thriving with the constant attention of neighbourhood gardeners.

This spring the Harbord Street Business Improvement Area accepted the HVRA's offer to take over the planting and care of the pots, placed on the street by the B.I.A. a decade ago.

The gardeners — with the very leafy moniker *Harbord Village Volunteer Flower Pot Committee* — planted the pots

this spring with geraniums, potato vine and large purple coleus.

This year's plants were purchased with a \$1,000 contribution from the B.I.A., and the pots are watered by the businesses where the pots are located.

"It's a wonderful collaboration of residents and businesses," says HVRA board member Wendy Smith, who brought the idea to the HVRA board **this past winter. "It's lovely to be part of a project that makes everyone so happy."**

When the call for volunteers was made at the HVRA spring meeting, there was enthusiastic response by more than a dozen residents. When needed, a group email is sent out and those available rally on the street.

Neighbourhood gardeners can often be seen on Harbord stopping to dead-head geraniums or trim dead leaves as they pass by. In September they were out in force to add autumn mums and kale to the pots.

The committee received a generous discount for the plants at Harbord Convenience, and are grateful to **Soyoung Kim, one of the store's owners**, who made great suggestions for the planting design.

The group keeps costs down by rooting replacements in their own gardens, then re-

planting in the pots. The morning glories and gorgeous curly willows which appeared in the centre of the pots during the summer — inspired by an idea from Clay Design — were rooted and planted by team member Marilyn Martin.

"As I walk along Harbord I'm focused on the pots themselves," says Marilyn. **"A leaf to be trimmed, a plant we should replace. But when I bike through I look with pride at the efforts of our committee and the friendships it has fostered."**

Of the more than two dozen pots originally bought by the B.I.A., only 11 remain. Over the years some wore out or were stolen; one was accidentally eaten by a city snow plough during a particularly snowy winter.

Wendy, a neighbourhood realtor, says other businesses on Harbord Street have asked **about the pots, "and we hope to find a way to buy several more next year for added presence on the street."**

Sadly, the pot in front of Harbord Fish & Chips went missing one night in early September — a disappointing echo of the overnight theft of three pots from that same block a few springs ago.

If you are interested in joining the Harbord Village Volunteer Flower Pot Committee, please send Wendy an email at wendy@wendysmithtoronto.com





Thanking Barbara Godard

Barbara Godard, who passed away suddenly in May, was an international scholar, translator, and professor at York University.

She was also a tireless advocate for community involvement in Harbord Village from its early beginnings as the Sussex Ulster Residents' Association.

Barbara was a long-time resident of Major Street and contributed to the community's energy, most recently as an active member of our Treeing the

Village committee and the summer tree inventory project. We will miss her and her probing questions and knowledge about our tree canopy within context of the history of Toronto's neighbourhoods.

Our committee suggests that a tree and commemorative plaque be purchased or a laneway named in her honour.

– *Dinny Biggs, chair, HVRA's Treeing the Village committee*



Our revitalized website

For many years, HVRA had a website to which new information was periodically added. Not many people visited the site.

As our membership grew into the hundreds, Richard Gilbert and Gus Sinclair convinced us to invest in a more useful site where visitors could purchase or renew their memberships online.

Last fall, a new board member challenged us to make it a more important community resource.

Best of all, Wendy Smith offered to help. Known to many as a local real estate agent, Wendy has a background in graphic

design and website management. She has since transformed our website. The new site is easier to navigate, but the big improvements are in content and layout.

Our intention is to keep things there as current and useful as possible to members and visitors alike. Among the truly appealing and useful features of **HVRA's website are:**

- Announcements of important events in the neighbourhood.
- Photo slideshows celebrating the Fall Fair and the Pumpkin Festival.
- An interactive map

showing details of every tree in Harbord Village.

- Access to all HVRA newsletters and numerous other documents relevant to Harbord Village.
- Copies of recent media reports that touch on Harbord Village.

Please visit the site at www.harbordvillage.com regularly to learn about upcoming events and what your neighbourhood association is up to. If you have suggestions about the site, contact Wendy at wendy@wendysmithtoronto.com or 416.471.9373.

– *Tim Grant*

“The new site is easier to navigate, but the big improvements are in the content and the layout.”



The Farmers' Market, Year 3

“For many of us, Wednesday is ‘Market Day’ and now an essential part of the week.”

The farmers’ market located at the east end [the Borden Street side] of the Green P parking lot south of Bloor is nearing the end of its third successful year.

There have been 11 vendors this year, down from the original 14 from the first year, the reason being that many farmers are so busy and so understaffed that it is hard for many of them to get away for a day to be at our market.

This is a good reason in and of itself for you to come out

and support our local Southern Ontario farmers who do make the journey to Bloor and Borden.

The market is now a wonderful neighbourhood institution and a big part of the fabric of the community.

There is a great mix of produce [including leafy greens, cauliflower, beets, carrots, squash, onions, tomatoes, raspberries, strawberries, peaches, plums, cherries], meat [pork and beef] and prepared foods [pesto, jams,

preserves, cakes, crumbles, pies, maple syrup, artisanal cheeses] to whet anyone’s appetite.

For many of us, Wednesday is “Market Day” and now an essential part of the week.

So come on out if you have not yet experienced our local farmers’ market: Wednesdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. from the beginning of June to the end of October.

- Rory ‘Gus’ Sinclair

University of Toronto update

Preparing for a pedestrian mall on Willcocks east of Spadina.
(photo by Katrina McHugh)

The neighbourhood is changing! The City of Toronto and the University of Toronto have joined forces to make two mini-pedestrian malls and café spaces on campus and to close those portions of streets to car traffic. Look for malls on Willcocks between Huron and St. George, and Devon-

shire Place north of Hoskin. It is a year-long pilot, to study whether creating pedestrian malls and mini-green spaces is of benefit to students and the public, and to measure impacts on traffic flow. Check out the green carpet, which looks grass-like because it includes strands of material

that mimic dried grass stalks!

In addition, an all-direction pedestrian scramble will be installed at St. George and Harbord, a corner that is used by approximately 40,000 persons a day!

The Faculty of Architecture has taken over 1 Spadina, the elegant Victorian at Spadina Circle and Russell.

Plans will be introduced to renovate the building and rid the property of the higgledy-piggledy rear extensions. A new addition is contemplated for the north face of the building, and there is talk of also cleaning out the trash yard that constitutes a major eyesore for our community. Actual proposals await funding. Stay tuned for notices of public meetings.

- Sue Dexter





Our HERO: David Booz

Special thanks to a HERO. For the past several years, David Booz has contributed significantly to awareness and implementation of green energy initiatives in our 'hood.

He oversaw more than 130 energy audits, the installation of solar hot water and solar electricity on rooftops, as well as furnaces and energy retrofits under our Home Energy Retrofit Programme.

On the houses that have com-

pleted their work, the average energy cost savings (and green savings) has been more than 30%.

Now David has gone into the private sector where one of his projects will be working on solarizing the rooftop of Trinity College, so keep your eyes peeled.

And thanks to a

diligent and dedicated board member.

- Sue Dexter



David Booz (right) on a solarized roof with Tim Grant (Photo by Ron McKay)

Lippincott cleanup!

Led by Neil Stephenson, Lippincott residents conducted their third annual Spring Clean-up on April 24th.

Students from Central Tech helped, and Pizza Nova provided free baseball caps and pizza.

This year, their efforts spread

to nearby laneways and Bathurst Street.

If you would like to be part of an organized cleanup of your street this fall or next spring, please contact Tim Grant at tim@greenteacher.com or 416.960.1244.



Above, Fred Brennan, Jane Thompson and Christian Mueller during the Lippincott cleanup. On the left, more of the Lippincott cleanup crew.





This issue of the HVRA Newsletter has been edited by Jane Auster. Layout: Richard Gilbert.

HVRA Board 2009-2010 (a new board is to be elected on October 19)

Chair	Tim Grant	960-1244	tim@greenteacher.com
Past Chair	Rory 'Gus' Sinclair	966-1523	rory.sinclair@rogers.com
Treasurer	Leslie Thompson	924-6393	lthompson@lesrisk.com
Secretary	Eva Jancek	923-3538	Eva_Janecek@camh.net
Membership	Katrina McHugh	934-0295	kmchughc521@rogers.com
UofT	Sue Dexter	964-9527	susan.dexter@rogers.com
Communications	Richard Gilbert	923-8839	mail@richardgilbert.ca
NW	Gail Misra	434-5746	misrag@caleywwray.com
NW	David Booz	806-2669	dbooz@boozengineering.com
NE	Stuart Shoenfeld	964-3223	schoenfe@yorku.ca
NE	Laura Bradbury	928-2813	lbradbury@fairpractices.on.ca
SW	Colin Furness	536-5426	colin.furness@utoronto.ca
SW	Jane Perdue	923-7065	jperdue@sympatico.ca
SC	Máirín Wilkinson	929-8242	mairinw@sympatico.ca
SC	Wendy Smith	471-9373	wendy@wendysmithtoronto.com
SE	Debby Black	928-0702	debblack@sympatico.ca
SE	Angie Andreoli	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 Katrina McHugh at kmchughc521@rogers.com.

HVRA Membership & Renewal Form

Thanks to everyone who renewed for 2009-10. Not a member yet? Know someone who should be a member? Please join – to help us continue building a great neighbourhood!

2010-11 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) or mail a cheque payable to the Harbord Village Residents' Association, and include:

Name.....New?.....Renewal?.....
 Address.....
 TelephoneEmail.....