



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.

Visit us at harbordvillage.com

Follow us on TWITTER:
@harbordvillage -
for neighbourhood news
@savecentraltech -
for news on HVRA's fight
against the TDSB's Central
Tech dome project



Message from the Chair

Tim Grant

Updates on our Parkettes

We are fortunate in Harbord Village to have so many residents who have been willing to devote time to improving our four small parkettes. Here's a quick update on their efforts.

Three of our parkettes are located on Brunswick, and the most northerly one was the first to be revitalized. While initially surprised to learn a few years ago that City officials had designated the tiny

Sally Bird Parkette as the recipient of federal infrastructure funds, we quickly convened the adjacent neighbours to drive the design process, consult widely, and identify priorities. As a result, hundreds—if not thousands—have since enjoyed the vegetation, benches, and exercise equipment that were installed there.

Led by the very active *Friends of Margaret Fairley Parkette*, our largest parkette is now half-way through a revitalization. The western portion was completed last year and, hopefully, the eastern half will be

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Our deepest thanks to Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, who has most ably filled Adam Vaughan's shoes as interim Ward 20 Councillor. She is a guest speaker at our AGM on November 3rd.

HVRA's 2014 Annual General Meeting

Monday November 3rd, 6:30 for 7:00 p.m.

Kensington Gardens, 45 Brunswick Ave. (north building)

6:30 – 7:00	Meet, greet, catch up on your membership dues, buy a cool T-shirt!
7:00 – 7:30	Area caucuses & election of area reps (for each of our five areas)
7:30 – 8:00	Election of officers and activity reports
8:00 – 9:00	Guest Speaker: Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Interim Ward 20 Councillor



HVRA Chair Tim Grant

continued from page 1

redeveloped this fall. Comprised mainly of local parents, the *Friends* have consulted widely and tried to keep City staff focused on implementation.

As slow as the process has been, the group deserves much praise for their efforts, especially in trying to incorporate everyone's input. Their toughest challenge was to decide which elements could be incorporated into that small space.

Furthest south, the as yet unnamed and much neglected parkette at the corner of Brunswick and College was the focus of an international design competition a couple of years ago, drawing 20+ submissions from eight countries. Hundreds of residents and an expert panel evaluated those

designs and identified the features they most liked, before a landscape architect was contracted to produce a final design. (See harbordvillage.com/bc-parkette for artists' renderings of the designs.)

However, the past two years have been consumed with the negotiation of a shared use agreement between the Kensington Health Centre and the City, each of whom own portions of the property to be used. We now expect construction to start next

spring. Look for a "name the parkette" competition in the coming months.

Finally, our fourth parkette languishes on the north side of Sussex, just east of Robert. But with the University of Toronto anxious to develop the old post office site on Spadina and the adjacent properties to the south, it is quite possible that upcoming negotiations may lead to the creation of a more usable public space for all residents in that corner of Harbord Village.

Attend our Municipal Election TRINITY SPADINA Candidates' Debates

at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. West

COUNCILLORS: 7-9:30 pm Thurs., October 16

TDSB TRUSTEES: 7-9:30 pm Thurs., October 23

2014 Annual Pumpkin Festival Saturday, November 1st

The celebration starts at sunset. See you on Harbord Street—between Spadina and Borden.

As the Festival grows, we always need more volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Tim Grant via chair@harbordvillage.com



Don't forget to vote! MUNICIPAL ELECTION October 27, 2014

20 Council & Trustee Candidates Sign Letter to Electors supporting community greenspace at Central Tech

To ensure the maximum clarity for voters in the upcoming municipal election, HVRA and other neighbouring residents' associations contacted as many of the Councillor and Trustee candidates as we could reach, to seek their views on the Central Tech dome issue.

We submitted to the candidates an *Open Letter to Electors*, and we invited them, if they agreed with the statement, to sign.

*You can see the **Open Letter to Electors** on page 3, to the right.)*

If you are opposed to the TDSB's plans for a commercial sports dome at Central Tech, you are invited to sign the petition at: harbordvillage.com/centraltechpetition

OPEN LETTER TO ELECTORS to save the Central Tech Playing Field

Please see our article about this letter on page 2.

Whereas, the Central Tech playing field is a critical community asset for neighbourhoods short of green space; Whereas, community access to open spaces, including publicly owned TDSB lands, is under threat; Whereas, the Toronto and District School Board is short of funds to maintain their fields which are used as community green space, while the City has assets which can be brought to bear; Whereas, both the City and TDSB have policies which place the preservation of green space as a high priority;

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES

I, the undersigned candidate in the municipal election of 2014, wish to go on record to undertake the following:

1. I oppose the commercialization of school lands;
2. I oppose the TDSB's commercial dome proposal for the Central Tech playing field;
3. I support restoration of that field to natural soil and turf;
4. If elected as your City Councillor, I commit to immediately meeting with TDSB to initiate a community-based solution for the Central Tech playing field, to:
(a) generate a fact base on field and grounds contamination and remediation alternatives; (b) initiate action at City Council to raise funds to preserve the Central Tech playing field as a sports field and community green space, and to maintain the grounds for the enjoyment and enrichment of all; and (c) work with TDSB to lobby for change to the provincial directives which are forcing the local school board to sever, divest, and sell off community-based assets.
5. I oppose any further actions by the TDSB — including signing any contract, licence agreement, or any other undertaking, with Razor Management or any other supplier — with respect to the Central Tech dome project, until the newly elected TDSB Trustees take office on Dec. 1, 2014.

TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

I, the undersigned candidate in the municipal election of 2014, wish to go on record to undertake the following:

1. I oppose the commercialization of school lands;
2. I oppose the TDSB's commercial dome proposal for the Central Tech playing field;
3. I support restoration of that field to natural soil and turf;
4. If elected as your School Trustee, I commit to immediately meeting with the City to initiate a community-based solution for the Central Tech playing field, to:
(a) generate a fact base on field and grounds contamination and remediation alternatives; (b) work to assist City Councillors to identify and earmark City funds to preserve the Central Tech playing field as a sports field and community green space, and to maintain the grounds for the enjoyment and enrichment of all; and (c). work with City Councillors to lobby for change to the provincial directives which are forcing the local school board to sever, divest, and sell off community-based assets.
5. I oppose any further actions by the TDSB — including signing any contract, licence agreement, or any other undertaking, with Razor Management or any other supplier — with respect to the Central Tech dome project, until the newly elected TDSB Trustees take office on Dec. 1, 2014.

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE SIGNED THIS STATEMENT

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES - WARD 20

Christoff, Daryl — darylchristoff.ca
Chu, Terri — terrichu.com
Cressy, Joe — joecressy.ca
Hollings, Graham — grahamhollings.ca
Kapoor, Anshul — anshulkapoor.ca
Koehl, Albert — votealbertkoehl.com
Louie, Tonny — tonnylouie@rogers.com
Novak, Sam — samnovak.ca
Shermack, Kat — katshermack.ca
Thomson, Sarah — sarahthomson.ca
Tsai, Susan — stsaiward20campaign@yahoo.ca
Wright, Nick — electnickwright.ca

COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES - WARD 19

Bowman, Scott — scottbowman.ca
Layton, Mike — mikelayton.ca
Sawision, George — georgesawision.com

TDSB TRUSTEE CANDIDATES - WARD 10

(TDSB Ward 10 includes Municipal Wards 19 & 20)

Aires, Tony — tonyaires.com
Anderson, Ybia — electybia.ca
Klagsbrun, Richard — klagsbrun.ca
Malik, Ausma — ausmamalik.ca
Sims, Michael — michaelims.ca



Harbord Village Gardeners: a new neighbourhood group

by Margaret Procter

June 1st felt like the first day of summer—warm, clear, and bright, with green leaves finally appearing after a very long cold spring. More than 100 people celebrated the new season at a Plant Fair held in the

south patio of Kensington Gardens Residence at 25 Brunswick Avenue.

With a generous donation from Fiesta Farms on Christie Street and offerings from local gardens, everyone was able to take

away at least one new plant to try out at home.

The array ranged from bright annuals to edible herbs and hardy perennials. Pots, tools, books, and advice from an expert gardener were also available

for the asking. Visitors included new and experienced gardeners, families with children eager to grow their own tomatoes and flowers, and residents from the longterm care facility enjoying the sights and smells of growing things.

The Plant Fair was the first event of a new group invented during the long hard winter of 2014 by Jess Lemieux, an experienced urban farmer who realized she wasn't the only one dreaming of a green season. A half-dozen other people joined her to chat about gardens and gardening, and to consider ways of sharing those interests with others.

The idea of a Plant Fair warmed several chilly spring evenings, as did the generosity of the donors we asked for help with publicity, supplies, and setup for the event.

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Left: Array of plants and other material given away to visitors, with the expert gardener Anne Gibson sitting behind the *Ask Me* sign.

*GARDENERS,
continued from page 4*

Special thanks are due to the HVRA for startup funding, Fiesta Farms for six flats of plants, and Kensington Gardens for the space and equipment.

The group has already undertaken another summer project, planting a Sensory Herb Garden for Kensington Hospice at 38 Major St., with enthusiastic support from the administrators there. Three large pots, occupying a sunny corner of the courtyard, yield green sprigs for use in the kitchen.

What next? Two dozen people signed a sheet on

June 1 saying they wanted to receive notice of future events. Some possibilities are exchanges of bulbs and perennials, a winter houseplant fair, and a workshop on preserving.

More people will be needed to make these ideas a reality.

To receive messages from Harbord Village Gardeners, write gardeners@harbordvillage.com asking to be added to the email list. Expect notices this fall about exchanging plants informally. Please also consider sharing the fun of organizing more events.



Above: Jess Lemieux and her son Finlay with part of the newly-planted Hospice herb garden.

Our Paddlers victorious once again

by Christian Mueller



For the second year in a row, dragon boaters from Harbord Village have shown themselves to be the best paddlers in their division.

The Rusty Dragons, as they are called, finished first out of five dragon boats in a series of races that were held on Centre Island on July 1st.

Since 2013, Harbord Village has had its own paddlers in this venerable 130-year-old Canada Day Regatta.

The Rusty Dragons' first place finish this year was a notable accomplishment not only because they won their division title

for the second time in two years, but also because more boats were competing – five this year, compared to three a year ago.

While another five boats competed in a “faster” division based upon preliminary time trials, our amateur paddling enthusiasts can be proud of their victory. As one of them said: “We’re just out there having fun.”

For information about becoming a Rusty Dragon, please contact Tim McFarlane at 647-971-7332 or tim@rustydragons.ca.

All levels of ability are invited to join!



The literary Windup Bird Cafe offers unique cultural programming

by Jane Perdue

Last fall, author Claudio Gaudio partnered with local author and restaurateur Sang Kim to open the Windup Bird Cafe at 382 College.

Over the years this large south-west lot at the corner of Borden and College has had many short-lived uses — various food outlets, a cafe/book store, and the campaign office for Adam Vaughan's successful bid for Ward 20 Councillor.

Throughout these changes, the prominent second story mural, "America and Other Poems", painted in 2000 by local artists Steve Driscoll and Matt Bahen, remained in place. When Gaudio and Sang took over the space they

oversaw major indoor and outdoor renovations for their new cafe, but kept the Driscoll/Bahen text-infused painting. This seemed a good indicator that the new venture respected the unique character of Harbord Village neighbourhood, and respected originality.

Amongst the noisy mix of College Street's clubs and take-out restaurants, the Windup Bird Cafe is a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. Its butter-warm interior is covered with delightful art. The abundance of fresh and healthy menus by chef Yumiko Kobayashi, served in creative compositions, are coupled with Kim's unique cultural programming, which celebrates

the written word and healthy food for all ages.

Kim's mission includes teaching food literacy and ocean sustainability as prominent authors, storytellers, and even magicians are invited to this hub of creativity.

To a sold-out crowd every Sunday night, Kim hosts "Sushi Making for the Soul" to those wanting to master (and eat) sushi creations. Another series, called "COOK/BOOK", has included well known authors such as Katherine Govier and George Elliott Clarke who cook their favourite dish while the evening menu is built around that selection. This series continues in the fall with writer/columnist Joe Fiorito and Carol Devine, author of *The Antarctic Book of Cooking and Cleaning*.

Families are included in this unique programming with the Magical Brunch series every Saturday between 12 and 2 and "Windup Wizards" perform on the last Sunday of every month. "Kid-Chen Confidential" is a cooking club for kids between 6 yr and 16 years, teaching

kids how to cook nourishing and delicious food. This is an ongoing six week program, and their recipes will be published.

More monthly programs will be launched in the Fall including "Comfort Food For The Broken Hearted", where menus will be designed around themes of loss and grief. "literEATure", will be a series of multi-course menus from famous novels that have nothing to do with food; "Parental Guidance Not Required Reading Series", for writers 8-18yrs, reading to the public for the first time; "The Food Project" with the charity *Literature For Life* — food and literary literacy for vulnerable single mothers. A weekly jazz night on Thursdays is also planned.

In early August, the Windup Bird hosted a community event, to thank the neighbours for their support. Dozens showed up, indicating that this restaurant is a venue the Harbord Villagers hope will stay. Next time you are in nearby, look up at the intriguing mural, and visit this unique culinary hub.



**Windup Bird partner
Sang Kim and friends**

HVRA Oral History Project

to be honoured at Governor-General's Ceremony

Also a finalist for a Heritage Toronto Award (community heritage)

by Margaret Procter

You've heard how HVRA's Neighbourhood History Committee has collected and transcribed interviews with residents about daily life in the neighbourhood before 1975. Now that work has received public recognition.

The Harbord Village Oral History Project is a finalist in the Community Heritage category for an award given by Heritage Toronto. The final selection will be announced in a ceremony at Koerner Hall on October 21.

The project is also one of two English runners-up for the Governor-General's History Award for Community Programming, with a ceremony in Ottawa on the first weekend in November.

Congratulations to all who worked on the project, and to all who contributed their memories and reflections!

Right: the Harbord Village History website can be seen at harbordvillagehistory.ca

Below: the opening event for Oral History exhibit at the JCC, December 2013

[about Harbord Village](#) [ORAL HISTORY PROJECT](#) [PHOTOGRAPHS](#) [contacts](#) [home](#)



HARBORD VILLAGE HISTORY

a programme of the Harbord Village Residents' Association

Harbord Village History is sponsored by the [Harbord Village Residents' Association](#) of Toronto. We are a group of local residents who share an interest in how our neighbourhood has grown and developed over time.

In 2012 the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded us a grant for the [Oral History Project](#). The grant allowed us to record stories from people who lived in the area prior to 1975. This website presents interviews with over 100 residents and makes them accessible in both audio and written form, with a searchable index.

The grant also enabled us to present an exhibit based on those interviews, and to install [StoryPosts](#) throughout our community that highlight residents' memories of life in Harbord Village.



HVRA's Wendy Smith a finalist for a Heritage Toronto Award (media category)



Congratulations to HVRA board member Wendy Smith, whose Toronto Park Lot Project has been selected as a finalist in the Heritage Toronto Awards in the media category. Wendy's project is an online interactive map, which explores the environment, politics, and personalities of the earliest days of Toronto and Upper Canada. You can see Wendy's project on the web at parklotproject.com

Central Tech battle to be determined by the OMB?

HVRA is fighting to return the school's natural grass playing field to students and the community. We do not believe an eight-storey DOME is the solution.

October 14, 2014

After losing several planning and legal fights for approvals for a commercial sports dome on the Central Tech playing field, the TDSB has decided to try its luck at the Ontario Municipal Board. The TDSB has been told the earliest possible date for a 10-day hearing at the OMB is April, 2015. The TDSB has requested mediation on an "emergency basis" at an earlier time.

Meanwhile, *in the absence of any planning or legal approvals*, several TDSB Trustees are pressing the board to authorize the signing of a contract with the dome developer Razor Management. **This could take place as soon as the next TDSB meeting on October 29—in an effort to preempt possible anti-dome decisions by newly-elected trustees and councillors.**

HVRA has been trying to learn as much as it can around the Central Tech developments. Our goal has been to fully inform local residents on the TDSB's plans, and the likely consequences to life in our neighbourhood.

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We continue to post information on our website as fast as we get our hands on it, but some of it will take time.

On September 4, 2014 we filed three Freedom of Information requests with the TDSB, asking for documents related to the Central Tech contamination, the arrangements between TDSB and the dome developer, and school board tenders related to its "championship field" program.

On October 6 we were informed of a 26-day delay in releasing the information—post-municipal election, and 36 hours after the TDSB-Razor Management contract meeting on October 29.

For the past year, since the first news of contamination on the Central Tech playing field, we have struggled with the TDSB for details on the nature of the pollution, the possible related health risks, and alternatives for remediation of the field.

In recent weeks we've succeeded in obtaining a handful of TDSB environmental consultants' reports on the

contaminated playing field. These reports say that exposure to the identified contaminants (PAH and metal impacts) is "likely minimal and intermittent use of the field in the past is not of concern". However, they continue to recommend that access to the field remain prohibited "until appropriate risk management measures can be put in place". [ECOH, March 2014a, pp.1-3.]

We also now have a consultants' report discussing five remediation scenarios for the playing field—two of which add clean soil and natural grass on top the field, at a cost of \$1.28- to \$1.66-million.

We have frequently complained to the TDSB about its inadequate signage, which does not explain to residents why the field has been pad-locked or why it should be avoided.

Over the past summer we have been fighting as well

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Chronology:

Committee of Adjustment refuses TDSB a minor variance to build a huge commercial sports dome on the Central Tech playing field.

■ TDSB appeals to Superior Court and loses. ■ TDSB appeals Superior Court decision in Divisional Court. ■ HVRA wins intervenor status at Divisional Court, over the objections of the TDSB. ■ The three Divisional Court appeal judges rule unanimously against the TDSB.

■ Next stop: the OMB.



to understand the decision in June to also fence off the grassy areas around the school.

The only information we have managed to obtain about the fenced-off grassy areas was through a Freedom of Information request to the Toronto Department of Public Health.

This resulted in the release of a confidential TDSB consultants' report on contaminants found in the grassy areas, with a recommendation for further testing in other

areas which had not been sampled (and are not fenced off), as well as a human health risk evaluation. We don't know whether such studies have been done or what the results might have been. Our F.O.I. requests should give us some answers.

We have posted all reports in our possession, with analyses, on our website. See harbordvillage.com/centraltechdome ("Field & Grounds Contamination", "Remediation Options", and "Freedom of Information Requests").



Follow us on TWITTER @saveCTfield

Check our website harbordvillage.com for updates.

Sign our petition at harbordvillage.com/centraltechpetition

See page 3 for Candidates' Letter to Electors on the dome project.



End of the road for the Harbord Village laneway-naming project

The highly successful Laneway Naming Project has now officially wound down. As reported here, 2013 saw about a dozen Laneway Naming Ceremonies but there were two lanes for which Ceremonies had not yet taken place. This past summer, the last two laneways were finally named. A heartfelt **Thanks!** to HVRA Past-Chair Rory 'Gus' Sinclair for steering this project from conception through naming consultations and city negotiations, to the unveiling of the signs in a series of beautiful and moving ceremonies.

Immergluck Lane

[This is an edit of an article by Sheri Shefa in the July 3 edition of the Canadian Jewish News. Our thanks to Sheri.]

If not for the newly-erected street sign behind a Spadina Avenue Pizza shop, most Torontonians would have no clue that it was once the site of a decades old dry cleaner and tailor shop run by Holocaust survivors Sam and Bella Immergluck.

Sam and Bella, who died in 1988 and 1995, were, for 40 years, the proud owners of the Student Elite Cleaners and Tailor Shop on the west side of Spadina at Ulster.

Living in the flat above the shop, their clientele were U of T students and their neighbours whom they regarded as friends and adopted family.

"As far as they were concerned, these were their children, their neighbours

and their friends. It was more of a social gathering rather than a business," said Ann Wagmaister, their niece.

Sam and Bella were a "second set of parents" for Ann, her older brother Irv Kirstein, and her late twin brother Michael Kirstein, who lived with them when he was a teenager so he could enrol at Harbord Collegiate. "You would come into the cleaners and not just give them your pants and your shirt," Ann

recalled. "You always had to come in with a story or a question to ask about something they read in the paper. They needed an opinion. They would have long talks with [University of Toronto] students as well as their professors."

Before immigrating to Canada, Bella found herself in the hands of the infamous Dr. Mengele who performed inhumane experiments on Jews at Auschwitz. These experiments left Bella unable to have children. Sam, a skilled tailor, was sent to Mathausen where he sewed SS uniforms. Neither of their spouses nor Sam's son survived the war.

When asked what this honour would have meant to her aunt and uncle, Ann burst into tears, overcome with emotion. "He was very humble, but they both would have been thrilled. They would not have wanted anyone to make a big deal but the fact that this community did... they would have been extremely proud that they were seen and remembered as contributing much to the community and the people in it."



David French Lane

by Glenda MacFarlane, David French's partner

On June 22, 2014, David French Lane was officially dedicated with a City of Toronto ceremony. About 65 friends and family members came to celebrate on that sunny Sunday morning. At the event, Rory Sinclair and Tim Grant of the HVRA spoke, and then I said a few words about what the neighbourhood meant to David.

A sense of place was very important to David's work and to his life. His plays are often associated with Newfoundland, where he began, that island that shone vivid in his imagination. And of course, he loved PEI, where he spent 40 summers.



But in fact, the majority of David French's plays were set here, in Toronto. He lived most of his life in this city. From the lean-to at the back of Mr. Nutt's shoe repair shop where his family moved in the 1940s, to the houses on Oakwood and on Euclid. He went to Rawlinson Public School, to Oakwood Collegiate, and also

to Harbord Collegiate, just down the street from here.

David moved into the upstairs apartment at 254 Brunswick Avenue in the mid-1970s. It was a place with great neighbours who became lifelong friends. It was close to the Tarragon Theatre, to bookstores, and to a movie theatre—some of the things David considered essential. He could have morning coffee and conversation at a friend's apartment, or read his paper at JJ Muggs. All-day breakfast at Paupers Pub. Dinner at the Other Café, at the end of the street.

And although some of the people and places changed throughout the decades, David stayed right here. He loved this 'hood. It was part of him. And of course, David

spent many, many hours writing plays at our kitchen table, which overlooks this very lane.

After the ceremony, Rory played the beautiful pipe tune "The Battle of The Somme," to honour David's play "Soldier's Heart" about Newfoundlanders in the Great War. Afterwards, many of us went to Paupers for a drink.

The naming of the David French Lane means so much to his daughter Mary, to me, and to all of his family and friends.

I'd like to thank the City and the HVRA (Rory Sinclair and Jan Muszynski in particular) for making sure that David is now literally on the map! It's a great honour, and we will always be grateful.



Left: Bella and Sam Immergluck
Right: David French





Our 3rd annual yard sale — great donations, many challenges, friends rally

by Marilyn Martin

Despite many obstacles, HVRA's third annual yard sale was a great success.

It seemed winter would never end this year and sadly, the usual weekend for the sale arrived so cold, rainy and miserable, that we opted to reschedule for the end of May.

A number of our major committed donors were people who were in the process of selling their homes or emptying storage units, and had to have everything cleared

before our new yard sale date. This meant either losing the donations or storing them in my home. I try to limit my own storage of donations to the 14 rubbermaid containers in the basement (the weeks leading up to the sale get crazy enough!) But this year, the living room, dining room, and the hall were full.

By the night before the sale there were boxes, bags, and furniture spilling out over the porch, walk, and

garden. Then, at 6:00 am on the morning of the sale, it was confirmed that the donated, large rental truck we would normally use to transport rental tables and goods was unavailable.

I sent out an emergency call to neighbours, friends, and board members who bravely abandoned their sleep to take load after load over to the site at Harbord and Robert for our 9 am start!

The sale went well—we had lots of great donations—and once again we were fortunate to have a really great group of volunteers. But with so many donations, it was clear we would still have a great deal left at the end of the day: possibly several big truck loads, but no truck!

Fortunately, Adam Vaughan (our former city councillor, campaigning as Trinity Spadina M.P.) came along to visit and when he heard of our predicament, he pulled his own volunteers (who were out posting election signs) off the road to help us. We were all pretty exhausted by then, and receiving that phone call, that there was a truck, and

a couple of guys, coming at the end of the day, to help us clear up, gave us the strength to make it through.

Thank you so much Adam! The two men came by and hauled and lifted and loaded for several hours. In the end, we donated two loads to the Scott Mission and two to Goodwill. The guys were so kind and we were so grateful for their help and yet at the end of the day they were hugging US and thanking US for our work—very sweet!

We were able once again to contribute a \$1000 scholarship to Alexander Park/Scadding Court and \$1600 to The Stephen Lewis Foundation. We supported The Scott Mission and Goodwill with our leftovers and a lot of people went home pretty happy with their new treasures. We live in such a wonderful community and had a really great time out there with everyone all day. Thank you so much to everyone for your donations, your time, your purchases and your good will. Look forward to seeing you all out there next year!



The 2014 yard sale was organized by Marilyn Martin, James Murdoch, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, and Steve Klein. Above: Marilyn and her husband Bryan Mangrum, with friend Crouton, at the HVRA Fall Fair last month. (They are modelling the latest version of HVRA's t-shirt, available for \$20. To purchase, please contact membership@harbordvillage.com).

Tree Inventory all over again

by James Steenberg, Ph.D. candidate, Ryerson University (info@james-steenberg.com)

I have been very happy to spend my spring and summer in a neighbourhood like Harbord Village, measuring trees and talking with people. With my tireless research assistants, Amber Grant and Claire Stevenson-Blythe from Ryerson's Environment and Urban Sustainability program, we worked our way From Spadina over to Bathurst, bouncing back and forth between Bloor and College.

We came across giant silver maples and horsechestnuts, small but stately magnolias and dogwoods, and poor beetle-infested ash trees, to name a few.

We went into the neighbourhood with the purpose of measuring how urban forest ecosystems change in order to understand their vulnerability. Essentially, we wanted to know where trees are dying, where they are growing strong, and the reasons why, so that we can sustain the benefits that they provide to neighbourhood residents indefinitely.

Harbord Village provided an excellent research

opportunity to answer these questions because of their work in creating the 2007/2008 tree inventory. By revisiting each of these trees six to seven years later, we could actually measure the ecosystem change.

We are already starting to see some interesting patterns of change in the neighbourhood's urban forest. Trees in the front lawns of residential streets—both city-owned and private ones—are relatively stable and make up the majority of the neighbourhood's urban forest and its benefits.

However, forgotten alleyway trees and some unwieldy giants spanning across multiple backyards play a very important but often unknown role as well. And of course, the stalwart but ailing trees along the neighbourhood's commercial strips suffer the highest damage and mortality of all.

Equally as fascinating as the research was our conversations with neighbourhood residents. Because we spent so much of our time knocking on doors and talking



James Steenberg with his research assistants Amber Grant (L) and Claire Stevenson-Blythe (R).

with people, we had some great chats about trees, life, the universe, and everything. People had a lot to say about their trees, so in addition to ecological data we stockpiled some truly amazing stories.

While we did not visit each of the circa 4,000 trees originally measured, we saw enough of them to shed some light on the neighbourhood's urban forest vulnerability.

In the fall, we will be describing our findings and experiences in a report to the Harbord Village Residents' Association.

In the meantime, feel free to contact me with any questions about the project. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank the neighbourhood residents and the members of the HVRA that were so instrumental in undertaking this project.

Development pressure builds

Developers plan high-rise projects on the east, west and south boundaries of Harbord Village — with the prospect of hundred of new residents and hugely increased demand for infrastructure (hydro/water/garbage services), parking, transit, and greenspace.



Honest Ed's (Ed Mirvish property, below)

Westbankcorp, a prominent Vancouver developer, has purchased the Honest Ed's site, including the west side of Markham Street. The company has commissioned Vancouver architect Gregory Henriquez to begin work on design.

In broad outline, the developer is thinking of a million square feet, similar in size to Vancouver's Woodward development, done by the same architect. (See westbankcorp.com for details).

The Bathurst-Bloor building would include rental, affordable, and condo tenancies. Retail at ground level could include startups and small-scale businesses.

A survey conducted this summer to define the community's goals for the site identified a need for green space, a civic plaza, and a community cultural centre as priorities. The survey, conducted by the Palmerston Area Residents' Association (PARA), in collaboration with Seaton Village Residents' Association, Annex Residents' Association, and HVRA, found that daycare facilities are also ranked high.

For more details on the Honest Ed's survey see the PARA website at palmerstonara.org/vision



During a number of public meetings, residents asked for a real demographic mix of students on the Spadina site in suite-style apartments, lower heights

leading to less density and fewer beds, no cafeteria, and no housing on Sussex between Robert and Sussex Mews Laneway. Negotiations are underway.

Sussex Spadina (photo above)

Optioned by Daniels Corporation for a development with the University of Toronto. Neighbours are concerned by plans put forward with the University and its private partner to erect a student residence by demolishing the building housing the Ten Editions Bookstore, north to and including the old post office building, and west to Sussex Mews Laneway. This will displace 14 long-term tenants, as well as Susan Duff, whose family has operated the bookstore since 1984.

Plans include a 22-storey, 550-bed dormitory-style residence, 60% first-year, 40% other year students.

University space, retail, and a cafeteria for students would occupy lower floors.

The area is zoned residential. The right-of-way on Spadina has a width that would permit buildings along the street to go 10-12 storeys. The Spadina property has a public lane bordering the abandoned volleyball court.

The University is also proposing extending the Robert St. field to the south by 100 feet, opening the field for public use provided dogs do not defecate on the grass. To the south, a ribbon of open space, and, a line of townhouses along the north side of Sussex.



562/4/6 Spadina Circle

(photo to the left)

OMB PL 140590: hearing scheduled
Nov. 12-14, 2014

Owner is appealing a Committee of Adjustment refusal of an application to put three-storey extensions on the three row houses.

The City and local residents, assisted by HVRA, will oppose the owner's appeal.

Heritage is not an issue, as plans to improve the front facades have been approved by Heritage Preservation Services.

Hotel Waverly 484 Spadina (lower-right photo)

OMB PL131176: hearing scheduled Nov. 24-27, 2014

Owner is appealing for permission to build a 202-unit condominium.

The City, Toronto District School Board, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and HVRA are opposing. The city views the proposal as unsuitable on the grounds that it “does not promote a harmonious fit with the existing neighbourhood context and is not consistent with the relevant Official Plan Policies.”

Project specifications:

Height 22 storeys, including 2 storeys commercial, and a mechanical penthouse.

Issues:

- Heritage: Waverley Hotel has significant cultural interest
- Density: permitted is 3 times lot area, applied for is 10 times, lot area.
- Height: permitted 16 metres, applied for is 74.65 metres, leading to shading at Lord Lansdowne school yard and on Robert St.

See a city staff report on this project at: toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-64736.pdf

Issues:

- Addition depth: the extension on three storeys is 28.14 m. Allowed depth permitted in the neighbourhood is 14 metres.
- Increased density will lead to destabilizing development pressures in the community.
- Rear-yard expansion on three floors will go against zoning requirements and the OMB-endorsed neighbourhood pattern of houses stepping down to the lane—the “bowl” effect.
- Gross floor area permitted is 1.0 times the area of the lot. Applied for is 1.18 times the area of the lot.





This issue of the HVRA newsletter was edited and typeset by Wendy Smith. Proofreading and editorial support by Margaret Procter.

HVRA Board 2013-14 (a new board will be elected at the AGM on NOV. 3)

Chair	Tim Grant	416-847-1065	chair@harbordvillage.com
Past Chair	Rory (Gus) Sinclair	416-543-2785	rory.sinclair@rogers.com
Treasurer	Carmen Gautier	416-323-3944	carmgaut@bell.net
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SC	Marilyn Martin		merdran@sympatico.ca
SE	vacant		
SE	vacant		

Already a member?

Thank you. 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

Free Student Memberships.

Welcome to one of Toronto's best neighbourhoods. We hope you enjoy living here and might just decide to stay... If you join our community association, you will receive regular emails with details of local issues and upcoming neighbourhood events.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE FOR STUDENTS. To start your free one-year membership, send your name, address, phone number and the name of your educational institution to membership@harbordvillage.com

HVRA Membership & Renewal Form 2015 HVRA Membership

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

Payment can be made online with PayPal or credit card on our MEMBERSHIP webpage at harbordvillage.com
Or mail a cheque payable to *Harbord Village Residents' Association* to us at:

Harbord Village Residents' Association
P.O. Box 68522, 360A Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON. M5S 1X1

Please check one:

- ☐ Voting Member (individual) \$10/one year; \$20/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

Name New?..... Renewal?
Address
Telephone Email.....