



# Harbord Village Residents' Association



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## Message from the Chair

*Tim Grant*

Get ready to place your bids. On October 21, we're launching a silent auction, featuring dozens of items generously donated by local businesses to help HVRA raise funds to support our work. Whether you are looking for a dinner for two, a bicycle tune-up, or a pedicure, you will find all of these...and more.

What's different about this year's HVRA Silent Auction is that it will take place in three phases. The

first opportunity to place bids will go to those attending our Annual General Meeting at 45 Brunswick from 7-9 p.m. on October 21. (If you have never attended one of our public meetings, you now have an added incentive!) The highest bids on each item will be listed on our website the next day, with an invitation to all to submit their own higher bids via email. The third and final opportunity for you to top everyone

else's bid will take place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in an empty storefront on Harbord during the November 1 Pumpkin Festival. That night, you can come in out of the cold and enjoy complimentary hot cider while you browse the auction tables.

Here are a few examples of items in this year's silent auction:

- Splendido: a five-course tasting menu for two (\$250 value)

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## Upcoming events in Harbord Village

Wednesday, October 21	HVRA's Annual General Meeting & Silent Auction  Guest speakers: Jessica Walters on Toronto's Noise Bylaw & Councillor Joe Cressy (invited)	Multi-Purpose Room, 45 Brunswick Avenue, 6:30 to 9:00pm
Sunday, November 1	Harbord Street Pumpkin Festival & Silent Auction	Harbord Street, between Spadina & Borden, 5:30 to 8:30pm

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](http://harbordvillage.com)



HVRA Chair Tim Grant

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- Bloor Hot Docs: four tickets to regular screenings (\$40 value)
- Harbord House: \$100 gift certificate
- Torreira Imports: oil change and filter (\$40.67 value)

We are fortunate that so many local businesses are supportive of HVRA, and their generosity is much appreciated. Our

silent auction is our largest fundraiser of the year, so please bid on as many items as you can. In the meantime, view the list of donor businesses on pages 2 and 3. As a way of saying thanks, please consider patronizing them with your business in the near future.

While we were sad to have to cancel our Fall Fair on September 13 because of inclement weather,

we're looking forward to seeing you on October 21 and November 1. If by chance you cannot attend either event, please visit [www.harbordvillage.com](http://www.harbordvillage.com) from October 21-31 to see the wonderful list of items you can bid on. This will be a silent auction unlike anything you have experienced before.

**- Tim Grant, HVRA Chair**

## Fall Fair thank-yous

The food was ordered and the permits secured. The musicians were ready, as were dozens of volunteers. But the weather did not cooperate. With a forecast of windy, rainy weather for Sunday, September 13, we cancelled the event late on the Friday before. It cost us financially, but more importantly, we lost a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company for an afternoon.

So many people contributed their time and efforts to this year's (aborted) Fall Fair. A big thanks to the fol-

Bakka Phoenix Books	Parentbooks
Caversham Books	Torreira Imports
Joy Walraven Acupuncture Herbal Medicine Cranio- sacral Therapy	Hutoshi Hair and Skin Studio
Laptop Service Express	Akai Sushi
Clay Design Studio Gal- lery	River Tai Chinese Restau- rant
Harvest Kitchen restau- rant	Yeh! Frozen Yogurt & Café
	Pizza Gigi

lowing individuals, who put so much into the preparations for the fair: Danny Cardoso, Paula Gallo, Carmen Gauthier, David Halloran, Mary Hutchings, Michael Jones, Anne Marie Lorusso, Marilyn Martin, Christian Mueller, Mary Newberry, Carolee Orme, Sharron Richards, Kat Shermack, and Wendy Trueman.

We are also fortunate to live among so many community-minded businesses. Here is a list of those that donated items for HVRA's annual silent auction:

Flip, Toss & Thai Kitchen	BMV Books
Wright Real Estate	Kilgour's Bar & Grill
Pizza Nova	Presse Internationale magazine superstore
Almond Butterfly Bake Shop & Espresso	Alternative Arts
Harbord House restaurant	King's Landing Barber Shop
Chabichou	Orbital Arts (gallery)
Gripped Publishing	Kim Hoang Jewelry & Watch Company
Monsieur Barbershop & Spa	

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312 Optical Studio	Vital Life Homeopathy	THR & Co.	Shoeless Joe's Sports Grill
Weiner's Home Hardware	Upside Apparel	DT Bistro	Mars Restaurant
Queen Video	Acupuncture Margaretha Vos	Rasa restaurant	Wright Real Estate
Manic Coffee	Good For Her	Bampot Bohemian House of Tea & Board Games	Harbord Street Business Improvement Association
Sweet Pete's B-side, Annex	Pig Out BBQ	Westwood Creative Artists	
Panorea Skin & Spa	Harbord Bakery & Clandria	Bloor Hot Docs Cinema	
Hey Lucy Pizza & Wine Bar	Top Cuts	Spendido Restaurant	

Please offer your thanks to each of these businesses by patronizing them in the coming weeks. And let's hope the weather gods shine on the Pumpkin Festival on November 1.

*- Tim Grant, HVRA Chair*

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## Welcome to the Annual Pumpkinfest

Mark your calendars:

Sunday, November 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Harbord Street, Spadina to Borden

Welcome to the best event of the year featuring more than 850 exceptionally carved pumpkins on display. Every November 1 on Harbord Street, tables line the street from Spadina to Borden with every kind of pumpkin imaginable – from old school faces with triangles for eyes, nose and mouth, to witches, cats, and ghosts, celebrity faces, political “statements,” and amazing sculptural scenes made from various squash and pumpkins. Each year we ask residents to place their carved pumpkins out

for pick-up by volunteers. At 6 p.m. all the pumpkins are lit and the fun begins. Harbord Street is aglow with happy faces. Businesses hand out pumpkin cookies, muffins, cider and pumpkin soup.

Every carving is different – a Halloween feast for the eyes. There are a lot of really talented artists and creative types in Harbord Village, but each year one stands out. Our beloved Don Duong of DT Bistro-Patisserie outshines us all. Don delights and inspires

us with both his technical talent and vivid imagination and generosity, often spending as long as 18 hours carving a single pumpkin.

Each year the admiring crowd around Don's incredible pumpkins could rival that for the Mona Lisa at the Louvre. He delights and inspires with the most amazing jack-o-lanterns you're ever likely to see!

This year we are happy to congratulate Don and his team on their 10th anniversary in Harbord Vil-

lage! Thank you Don for being one of the reasons Harbord Village is such a great place to live.

Don't forget to join us this year and also remember to check out the silent auction. There are many generous prizes available from area businesses – DT Bistro included!

The whole event is FREE, but donations are welcome.

*- Marilyn Martin*



## Harbord Village Gardeners, Summer 2015

Harbord Village has more flowers and green spaces than ever before, thanks to dozens of local gardeners who gave out plants at the Spring Plant Fair, cared for concrete street planters, and nurtured their own gardens. The photos below tell some of the story. See more information about the interests and activities of this informal group of gardening enthusiasts at [harbordvillage.com/hvgardeners](http://harbordvillage.com/hvgardeners). To join the Harbord Village Gardeners email distribution list, write [gardeners@harbordvillage.com](mailto:gardeners@harbordvillage.com) and ask to be added.

PLANT FAIR: At least 100 people attended the Plant Fair on Sun., June 7, to pick up free plants and talk about gardening with neighbours and our designated expert gardener, Anne Gibson. Most of the material this year came from members' own gardens, with donations from Fiesta Gardens (200 Christie) and Home Hardware (290 College).

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Anne Gibson answering a question



Jane Perdue and Leslie Thompson in conversation



Rose Laki Rodrigues potting donated plants



Marilyn Martin offering free plants

*Photos by Margaret Procter and Roma Kozlov*

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**STREET PLANTERS:** The concrete-box planters at local intersections are usually eyesores, but this summer they became miniature community gardens tended by neighbours. The gardeners' group supported these volunteers by transporting and digging in compost from the city's Environment Day in May, offering

advice and plants in June, and helping with watering in July and August. Plant-snatching was a recurring problem at first, but quick replanting and vigilance (plus our handsome sign) kept most boxes in bloom throughout the season.



Sign for concrete-box planters: drawing by Finn (age 6), production by Leslie Thompson



Amy Furness and her sons



Disappointed girls look at a vandalized plant box



The box was replanted and the girls couldn't be prouder

*- Margaret Procter*



## Greening your laneways and paved spaces!

We are finding more ways to green Harbord Village – some of them quite surprising.

Many paved spaces could be made more plant-friendly for bees, butterflies, birds...and us. Last spring, we talked about the 3Bs, and now that discussion has morphed into a community-wide initiative.

A committee of HVRA has been working with Councillor Joe Cressy over the summer to develop a green master plan for the neighbourhood. At press time, we were working on a final draft of a plan we hope will set the table for a greenscaping of Harbord Village.

There are four initiatives under consideration:

- **THE CROFT LANEWAY GREENING INITIATIVE:** This is the gateway project toward greening our lanes. Fundraising has been very successful for the greening of the Croft laneway. Maps have been prepared, and the local committee, comprising neighbours Rochelle Rubenstein, Barbara Donaldson, Jane and Bonnie Perdue, with the assistance of Kahlin Holmes, have walked the lane and developed a set of ideas for places plants might thrive. Over the winter, these neighbours will reach out to property owners along the lane to enlist their ideas and assistance to make Croft lane, come spring, a green zone!
- **PINCHPOINT GREENING:** Two for one – greening plus traffic calming. Get rid of those dreadful planters and follow the lead of the Robert-Russell community: plant trees and shrubs right in the ground. Check it out. It is beautiful.
- **CITY BOULEVARD GREENSCAPE:** Alongside properties flanking city streets are paved areas which could be planting zones. The Bloor BIA is working on introducing more green along the streets connecting to Bloor. Neil Wright from the Harbord BIA is an enthusiastic supporter of the parkette that is soon to emerge at Bathurst and Harbord. For years, Richard Longley led the charge on College, and that area got a parkette at the corner of Brunswick.
- **A COMMUNITY PARK:** Along with Councillor Cressy, we are working to find the right space.

If you wish to contribute energy, ideas, labour, or to help financially, please get in touch with Tim Grant ([chair@harbordvillage.com](mailto:chair@harbordvillage.com)) or Jane Perdue ([jperdue@sympatico.ca](mailto:jperdue@sympatico.ca)).

*- Sue Dexter*

## Storytelling in Colour

Each of my watercolours sets the scene for your imagination to play with.

I paint a wide variety of subjects. Among my favorites are nature, farming, and flight. I am fortunate to have had wonderful experiences at family farms and summer cottages. I combine these ideas into colourful compositions.

I am a member of the Toronto Watercolour Society and the Canadian Aerospace Artists Association. I have participated in exhibitions in Quebec, Manitoba, B.C., and Ontario.



Beginning to change. Watercolour.



Hand built Cedar. Watercolour.

As an HVRA artist, I am proud to show you a couple of examples of my work.

I will be exhibiting my work at the Evoke Photography and Gallery, 1265 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, from November 19-December 2, 2015 (647-248-4580). If you come by, please introduce yourself. Visit my website [www.martinmyers.ca](http://www.martinmyers.ca) for more information about my work.

*- Martin Myers, B. Arch. (U of T)*



## New website coming!

The HVRA website was amazing when it was created in 2000, and has served long and well as a repository of useful and interesting information. (Have you looked at HVRA's leaflet on fire safety in old houses? It's at [harbordvillage.com/firesafety](http://harbordvillage.com/firesafety). Do you know about the Excel file that lists and analyses more than two thousand trees in the neighbourhood? Download it and see what's changed since 2009: [harbordvillage.com/files/Inventory2009\\_0.xls](http://harbordvillage.com/files/Inventory2009_0.xls). And if you want to enjoy amazing pumpkin carvings – one of our most popular sections – you'll find hundreds of photos linked to the Pumpkin Fest page at [harbordvillage.com/pumpkinfest](http://harbordvillage.com/pumpkinfest).)

Gus Sinclair and Richard Gilbert supervised the creation of the original site, first coded for us in HTML and then transferred to a Drupal content-management system. Wendy Smith developed it into a visually appealing and multifaceted resource by applying her web-design and coding skills and by contributing photos, lively text, and much patience and care. The

site now has a wealth of sections and a huge number of links and attachments, all searchable using a button at the top right of each screen.

But it's time to make our rich material easier to navigate, especially on the small screens many of us now use. Our site also needs to be simpler to administer for people without Wendy's professional skills. This fall, Liz Murray, a graduate student supervised by Colin Furness in the Faculty of Information at U of T, will study our needs and help design a new structure for the site. If you are willing to be interviewed about your use of the site, please let Margaret Procter know ([procter@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:procter@chass.utoronto.ca)). In a few weeks you'll also hear about an online survey to capture more ideas.

HVRA deserves a web presence that matches the organization's friendliness as well as its depth of experience, and we're committed to getting it right.

*- Margaret Procter, Acting Webmaster, 2015*

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## City of Toronto Reviews Noise Bylaw

Toronto is a very livable city for most of us, most of the time. For others, not so much, and the group you belong to can change in an instant. Whether it's a nearby restaurant's changing business model, a new club, new build or renovation, or a new neighbour who likes all-night parties, the peaceful enjoyment of your home and neighbourhood can be taken away from you.

What to do after reasoned conversation fails to solve the problem? Fear not, for the City of Toronto has a noise bylaw providing for the peaceful enjoyment of your home. Oh, only if it were so easy.

On June 23 I attended one of two public consultation sessions on the review of the noise bylaw. Other than city staff, I counted a couple of dozen residents. As these things go, sadly this was a good turnout. Most residents had horror stories of lost sleep and the lost enjoyment of their homes. The inadequacy of the current bylaw and almost complete lack of enforcement seemed as much to blame as those responsible for the source of the noise. Pity city staff, who have few tools and fewer resources to actually do much about it. One brave soul reported that the number of annual convic-

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tions under the bylaw had doubled with recent efforts. Yes, doubled, but from single digits to double digits (from 8 to 16 if memory serves) in a city of some 2.8 million residents.

Can we do better? One Sunday morning I called parking control. A parking enforcement officer arrived in 15 minutes and within another 20 minutes the car blocking a laneway (and my exit) was towed. On the other hand, a call to 311 on a Saturday morning because of construction noise at 7:00am (9:00am is the rule) gets the promise of an investigation within five business days. Why? An inadequate number of enforcement officers permitted to work only bankers' hours.

Residents dealing with systemic violations from restaurants, clubs, or rowdy neighbours can monitor and keep noise logs...all in the hopes of being one of the eight annual cases where there are actually convictions.

Help may be on the way. The City of Toronto's Municipal Licensing and Standards (ML&S) is conducting a review of the bylaw to ensure it is easy to understand and reflects the needs of the growing city. From public and industry consultations ML&S has learned that the

bylaw is outdated and confusing, does not balance the needs of businesses and the needs of residents, and is not enforceable.

Proposals were to be sent to the Municipal Licensing & Standards Committee on September 18, 2015. Proposals for the Committee to consider include:

making prohibited times easier to understand; increasing fines and/or penalties; developing a mechanism to communicate exemptions to residents; and developing a process to revoke noise exemptions. ML&S is also examining motorcycle noise and vibrations.

Is there any hope? Clear rules, re-engineering the use of enforcement across all city divisions, good management, and the willingness to do so are prerequisites. Imagine

an officer available to counsel violators or issue orders/tickets if needed within an hour, just like the action taken when people park where they shouldn't.

Want to learn more? Jessica Walters from ML&S and one of the leaders of the review will speak on this topic at the HVRA Annual General Meeting on October 21, commencing at 7:00pm.

**ML&S has learned that the bylaw is outdated and confusing, does not balance the needs of businesses and the needs of residents, and is not enforceable.**

**- Robert Stambula**



## The Postman Walked!

This summer Harbord Village was home to a very special event. For two weeks in July (from July 12 to July 26) a talented troop of actors and musicians performed the play “The Postman” on the streets and porches of Brunswick and Major streets. The play tells the story of Albert Jackson, Canada’s first black postman. Jackson lived and worked in Harbord Village, and the laneway



running south off Harbord between Borden and Brunswick now bears his name.

As part of this year’s Panamania Arts & Cultural celebration, the play offered residents and visitors alike a unique insight into an important piece of Canadian history.

Congratulations to Director David Ferry and the “Rolls-Royce” company, which included lead actor Laurence Dean Ifill of Degrassi High fame.

- Carlo Drudi with photos from Christian Mueller

## Celebrating Central Tech's 100-year legacy

Central Tech turns 100 this fall, and its alumni association is planning to celebrate the school's long history with a reunion and full weekend of activities taking place over three days in October.

There will be a reception on October 16, a gala dinner/dance on October 17, and an alumni/faculty brunch on October 18 for alumni and their guests.

On the 16 and 17 everyone is welcome to visit the school and take a guided tour of its "hidden secrets". In addition, the public is invited to a marketplace the organizers have planned. There will also be a display of the high school's century-old archives.

Most of the funding for Central Tech's centennial has been privately donated. In recognition of donors' contributions, a "Legacy Wall of Fame" has been installed

as a permanent commemorative fixture in the lobby of the school.

Contributors are recognized in five categories: students, faculty, in memoriam, supporters, and corporate. To have a plaque with your name mounted on the Legacy Wall, contact the anniversary committee at [ctsalumni.100@gmail.com](mailto:ctsalumni.100@gmail.com) or call 647-693-2013.

This birthday in particular deserves to be a very special occasion. As the outgoing student council president, Helen Zhou, said of her school when she graduated in June, "being 100 is really a testament to how diverse and great (Central Tech) is."

*- Christian Mueller*

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## HVRA co-sponsors reading of "A Christmas Carol"

Looking for an opportunity to unleash your inner thespian and read Dickens to a live audience? You're in luck! This year will be Trinity-St Paul's third performance of Charles Dickens' beloved classic, "A Christmas Carol," and they have asked Harbord Village to partner in the presentation.

A call has been made for readers and volunteers. If you would like to suggest readers or volunteer, please contact Carolee Orme ([cmorme@gmail.com](mailto:cmorme@gmail.com)). Plan to join us on December 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity-St Paul's. Proceeds from this event will go to a local food program.

*- Carolee Orme*

## HVRA Board 2014-15



This issue of the HVRA newsletter was edited by Jane Auster; typeset and layout by Catherine Belvedere; Carlo Drudi was executive producer.

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SE	Carlo Drudi		carlo.drudi@gmail.com

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 MEMBER AREA webpage at [harbordvillage.com/member-area](http://harbordvillage.com/member-area)  
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.....