

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 8 for information about HVRA or visit www.harbordvillage.com where this newsletter can be found in glorious colour.

Message from the Boomerang Chair of the HVRA Board

Just when you thought that fella was outta here ... well whaddaya know, he's baaaaack!

Our fine newly minted HVRA chair, Tim Grant, made a difficult decision in November: it was now or never to fulfill a long-standing ambition to throw his hat into the political arena and run in the October provincial election for the Green Party. In December, Tim was nominated as the Green Party candidate in the riding of Trinity-Spadina. We all wish him well. He's a terrific candidate no matter what your political stripe.



So what about his chairmanship of our esteemed HVRA? Tim felt, and we all reluctantly agreed, that for him to run without obstructions or possible conflicts of interest it would be best to resign and concentrate on his campaign.



This meant HVRA would be chair-less. But wait! Not for

long. The constitution allows the board to appoint an appropriate member of HVRA to fill any position on the board that becomes vacant for any reason, and such an appointment is pro tem until ratified by the general meeting. As past chair, I was the logical person to step forward. So here am I your new [old] chair of HVRA pro tem.

If Tim does not win the election in October, he says he'll agree to stand as your chair for 2011-2012. Then maybe that other fella will be gone for good! [Editor's note: We'll believe it when we see it.]

(Continued on Page 2)

HVRA's 2011 Spring General Meeting

Tuesday May 17, 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 – 8:00 | Area caucuses, caucus reports, HVRA reports |
| 8:00 – 9:00 | Special topics: Laneway Naming Project; Brunswick-College Parkette competition; Councillor Vaughan's Q & A |

The meeting will end promptly at 9 p.m.



“... the consensus is that the lanes should be named for local residents who have contributed in some way to the life and landscape of Harbord Village.”

Happy buyers and sellers at a previous Bloor-Borden farmers market.
(Photo by Wendy Smith)



(Chair's letter continued from page 1)

Fresh for you

The Farmers Market returns this year for its fourth season.

Mark your calendars for the first day – June 1st at the Green P parking lot south of Bloor at Borden. Great fresh fruit and vegetables, plus bread, beef, maple syrup, honey and cheese.

The Robert Street field consultation

This past December to the end of February, all of Harbord Village was surveyed on what should be the disposition of a possibly revitalized Robert Street field, located just south of the Metro grocery store on the east side of Robert, and owned by the University of Toronto, which intends to refurbish the facility. The university recognizes that the community, especially those immediately adjacent, must have some input as to the final design and use of the

field. To that end, Wendy Rotenberg, Rene Roy and Richard Gilbert, with input from me, developed a survey, which was available at our website but also in paper form for residents who preferred to fill it in by hand.

We had 246 responses – an outstanding outcome. The results will be shared with the University of Toronto to make the community's wishes known to them in their deliberations.

Reports on the survey results by Angie Andreoli (on the content) and Richard Gilbert (on the numbers) are at HVRA's website: (www.harbordvillage.com).

The laneway naming project

In Fall 2010, I organized five-Harbord Village walkabouts, each taking about an hour. We looked at all the lanes, and as we walked I took the opportunity to discuss with

each group how our members felt the project should go forward. For example, should there be a theme? Should the names be for people or flora or fauna or...? Did anyone have any names to illustrate preferences?

On the matter of theming, I have found remarkable unanimity: the lanes

should be named for local residents who have contributed in some way to the life and landscape of HV that we know and love today. And there was no time period that was either favoured or eliminated. In other words, names could come from the earliest residents of our community right up to residents and business owners within living memory. Independent of our project, two lanes just south of Harbord are proceeding on their own. The two lanes will be named after Mr. Poretta, who founded the first pizza restaurant on Harbord, and the Kosower family, founders of the Harbord Bakery. These names are in perfect harmony with the HVRA Laneway Naming Project.



There were many other fertile subsets of naming lanes for historic personages: the names could be of some of the builders who constructed our homes more than 100 years ago, or local writers, actors, business owners, politicians, sports figures, military folk and the like.

At the 2011 spring meeting I will be reporting this finding and recommending next steps, where we will solicit suggestions for specific lanes from you, our members. Bring ideas with you, if you have them.

Rory "Gus" Sinclair, HVRA chair (pro tem)



We hope to share your memories! HVRA launches ambitious neighbourhood history project

We've been talking with our neighbours and have heard many wonderful stories, family and neighbourhood reminiscences of days past. We want to make sure these great stories don't get lost.

This winter a committee of HVRA's board launched a neighbourhood history project to gather stories and research HV's past and present. It's an ambitious project, reaching back a century and a half to Toronto's earliest days, and then through the decades of revolving ethnic migrations – Irish, Jewish, Chinese, Hungarian, Portuguese and more – to today.

Most of Harbord Village's homes are more than a century old, but the name now given to our neighbourhood is only a decade old. In 2000, the Sussex Ulster Residents' Association – triumphant in battles against various neighbourhood-busting efforts, including a 1970s plan to re-zone the area for high-rise development similar to St. James Town – was folded into the new Harbord Village Residents Association, named after the street that runs through the neighbourhood.

"One of the fundamentally interesting things about Harbord Village is community building," said committee member Stuart Schoenfeld during a recent discussion on what to name the history project. "A group of neighbours on streets that had no collective identity created a place, and that empowered them to work together for a better collective life."

These are early days for the project. The committee has met twice and is still working through the logistics of gathering, storing and presenting the fascinating material about our neighbourhood.

A top priority is forming an interview team to talk to our older residents and record their memories. We invite *all* residents to share their stories – written, recorded or videotaped.

If you have any comments or would like to be part of the project – sharing your stories or photographs, or helping with research projects – please leave a message at history@harbordvillage.com.

Wendy Smith



The left-hand photo below is of a lane behind Robert Street in 1935. The one on the right was taken near 250 Major Street in about 1913. Both are from the City of Toronto Archives. The photo above may be even earlier. On the back is written "Mother at 15 Borden Street." Who was the woman on the porch? When was the photo taken? HVRA's history project may help us answer such questions.





HVRA Brunswick-College parkette design competition

“In the spring of 2010, Tim Grant proposed that HVRA mount a Brunswick-College Parkette Design Competition.”

It's awkward, bleak, unwelcoming, a garbage trap, and utterly unworthy of its magnificent location as a prime entrance of Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District. Residents of Harbord Village, Brunswick Avenue especially, have been disappointed with the design and condition of the Brunswick-College parkette since it was rebuilt alongside Kensington Health Centre in the 1980s. Agitation for its rebuilding, that it might provide a corner of beauty to be enjoyed by all, began in 2005. That campaign has continued ever since, but so far, to no avail, as the parkette's condition continues to deteriorate.

In the spring of 2010, Tim Grant proposed that HVRA mount a Brunswick-College

Parkette Design Competition. Yvan McKinnon prepared a pair of design kits – one for amateurs and young people, one for professionals and students of landscape architecture, with photographs, scale plans and elevations, which show the parkette as it is today. In January, notice of the competition was posted on the HVRA website as well as on the international architectural website *Bustler*. This part of the HVRA website has received more than 2,500 hits.

As of the competition's deadline date, April 1st, 24 submissions had been received: 12 from Canada, seven from Italy, two from the United States and one each from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. After they have been displayed for public comment,

submissions will be judged by a team drawn from HVRA, Kensington Health Centre, City of Toronto Parks and the Toronto environmental and landscape design community. Then the really hard work will begin: turning the winning design into an elegant, practical, affordable Brunswick-College Parkette, which will be welcoming to all.

To learn more about the Brunswick-College Parkette Design Competition: Google it, find it on the HVRA website www.harbordvillage.com, or contact the competition's coordinator, Richard Longley at longley_fovea@sympatico.ca.

Richard Longley



The Brunswick-College parkette from the north.
(Photo by Richard Longley)



Margaret Fairley Park revitalization update

The City of Toronto has set aside money for a revitalization of Margaret Fairley Park. Councillor Adam Vaughan is encouraging the community to take the lead in the park redesign process, and has informed us that "anything is possible."

To generate ideas, the Friends of Margaret Fairley Park held a brainstorming fair on February 13, kindly hosted by Kensington Gardens. The event was a great way to get the community dreaming about what they want for the "new" park.

About 50 neighbours of all ages showed up and wrote and drew pictures in answer to our open questions about what they loved about the park and what they wanted to change. People imagined a perfect day in the park and got to think about childhood play.

We took the words and drawings and attached them to green balloons, creating a floating forest of dreams anchored to the Fairley Taxi – a toy familiar to anyone who visits the park with a small child. Park friend and talented photographer Mindy Stricke made portraits of neighbours with their ideas. People commented how good it was to get together in the dead of winter, and it seems that everyone is looking forward to enjoying an improved park. Not this summer, but as soon

as we can get there!

We had 35 responses to an online survey version of the brainstorming questions. The steering committee is hard at work turning the community's vision into a design brief, so we can work with the city to select a park designer and really get things underway. Neighbours can follow the progress of the park project on our blog, <http://margaretfairley-park.blogspot.com>.

For more information or to get involved, please email: fmfpark@gmail.com.

Amy Furness



"People imagined a perfect day in the park and got to think about childhood play."

Brainstorming at Kensington Gardens about the Margaret Fairley Park





New condo at Loretto School site



A northeast view of the proposed condo development at 783 Bathurst – the townhouses are at the bottom left.

We thought you might like a look at the design of a new condo proposal for the Loretto School site at 783 Bathurst, south of Bloor, opposite Honest Ed's.

It is to be nine storeys, 196 units, of which 21% will be 2-3 bedroom, and the remainder one bedroom and studio. Six three-storey townhouses are planned to the south of a servicing entrance and drop-off loca-

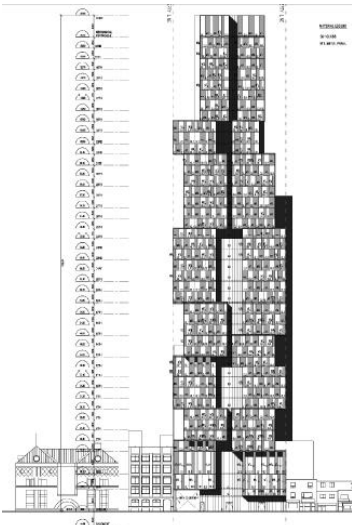
tion in the laneway to the rear of the building.

The buildings include green roofs and retail or other use at grade. The project will be proceeding through a re-zoning.

David Pontarini is the architect, the developer is Michael Klugmann, Lindvest Properties (Bathurst Bloor) Limited. Look for the first public meeting around June.

Sue Dexter

The applicant's sketch below shows how the development proposed at 245 College would tower over the Lillian Smith Library to the east. This sketch and other renderings are at <http://forum.skyscraperpage.com/showthread.php?t=188607>.



Hang onto your hats!

The University of Toronto wants to expand, but is short of money. So it is considering partnering with the private sector at some sites.

One project has come forward.

The university has leased land to a private developer, who has applied to build a 42-storey student residence across from the Clark Institute at 245 College Street. If approved, the proposed tower building will be adjacent to the Lillian Smith Library, an historic building, as well as low-rise businesses along College.

The plan has aroused the opposition of all residents' associations surrounding the university, most importantly the

Grange association, whose membership includes residents in the two and a half storey Victorian neighbourhood south of College Street. Councillor Adam Vaughan, City Planning and the Toronto East York Community Council have all opposed the proposed rezoning.

What happens next is not known, nor is the nature of the university's lease and business arrangement with the developer.

The university has bought the post office building on Spadina north of Sussex Avenue and has not yet informed the neighbourhood what it intends to do with the land.

Finally, the university is seeking to expand and add development sites on campus and along Spadina Avenue. These

include UTS, the Borden building and the Victorian building at 1 Spadina Circle. This building is now in the hands of the Architecture Department, which intends to renovate the building, remove the additions, and create a major development on the north side with funds it hopes to generate through yet another public-private partnership.

The University of Toronto Area Liaison Committee, which includes neighbouring residents' associations, the city and the university, agrees there is a need for a planning study to rationalize development along College Street, and a planning framework for lands owned by the university beyond its historic borders.

Sue Dexter

University of Toronto update



The Mon Ton Window Gallery

How many times have you walked past the unusual window displays at 402 College Street (just east of Lippincott), peered in, and wondered who was responsible for these exhibitions?

The window is curated (or as she says “whimsically inspired”) by local printmaker, painter and fabric artist Rochelle Rubenstein, who invites artists to create site-specific installations for her 8 ft. wide “gallery.”

Usually you will find this talented Lippincott resident in her College St. studio, which is behind the window, the walls and floor covered with her colourful woodblock prints and paintings, on various surfaces such as fabric, wood and paper.

Since 2007, these clever installations, which usually rotate monthly, have been completely different. Last summer, the Koffler Art Gallery (at Bathurst and Sheppard) co-sponsored Panya Clark Espinal, an artist perhaps best known for her public art in the Sheppard subway line. The window, entitled “Vitrine,” was altered and extended out onto the street. It took a week to construct and required a building permit for her glass and wood installation, which remained on display for two months.

Last December artist Shirley Yanover, who lives on Borden Street, installed clown bears, a golden retriever and part of a tree trunk onto parquet

flooring, with photographic images of nature spinning in the background. Her provocative “Spin Cycle” was favourably reviewed by the Globe and Mail, which described her window as a “compact, smart, visual playpen.”

Quite often you’ll see Rochelle’s dog, Smokey, sleeping in the window. Sometimes, one of her toys, left in the window along with the art, becomes part of the conversation of passersby.

Rubenstein, a community builder and good neighbour who has worked with battered women, lends her studio for different community workshops. In 2009, she installed “Refugees” in the window. Several full-sized fabric figures were crowded in the small space, creating a powerful narrative that referenced our neighbourhood’s history and community.

The installation was an homage to her family, which moved to Canada after WW2 and lived in crowded downtown housing, and acknowledgement of the refugee centre on Lippincott, just north of College St.

“Refugees look almost the same, but each has an individual personality. When I stitched the fabric, even though the block print is the same, the image alters ever so slightly. These are altered families brought into strange new living quarters – in the heart of our neighbourhood.”

The “Refugees” window also celebrated the diversity of our community, similar to how Rubenstein sponsors many different creative ideas that fill the Mon Ton Window Gallery and bring a refreshingly new approach to “window dressing.”

Jane Perdue

Rochelle Rubenstein and Smokey in the window with the installation “Infection” by sculptor Rick Oginz.

“Rubenstein, a community builder and good neighbour who has worked with battered women, lends her studio for different community workshops.”





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

HVRA Board 2010-11

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SE	Bettina von Lieres	923-5840	bvonlieres@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

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
(October 2010 to September 2011)

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.....