

Harbord Village Residents' Association

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

Message from the chair of HVRA's board

During an idle moment at an HVRA board meeting a year or two back, I boasted that "my" Robert Street block was more sociable than any other in Harbord Village. I explained that 40 residents had just enjoyed a rotating dinner. (It involved going to different homes for each of three dinner courses and sitting across tables from those they might not have previously met.) And for a second year in a row, approximately 75 neighbours attended a potluck dinner in a laneway just off Robert Street.

No sooner had I finished my boast than things erupted.

Someone pointed out that that person's block had hosted



an annual laneway dinner for the past five years. Another claimed a laneway dinner

which had been going for 10 years. Still another pointed out that that person's block held several annual get-togethers, including a party in December that involved way more people. Sufficiently chastised, I nonetheless marvelled at how many community-building socials were taking place. It left me even prouder to live in Harbord Village.

If such activities are not yet occurring on your block, it is likely that many or most of your neighbours would welcome them. It takes only one

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HVRA's 2012 Spring General Meeting

Tuesday May 15, 6:30 for 7:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION: Kensington Gardens, 45 Brunswick Ave. (see Page 3)

6:30 – 7:00	Meet, greet, catch up on your membership dues
7:00 – 7:30	Area caucuses (for each of the five areas of Harbord Village)
7:30 – 8:00	Activity reports on graffiti removal, heritage preservation, neighbourhood history, spring clean-up, yard sale, and more
8:00 – 8:30	Gwyneth Pearce on researching the history of our houses
8:30 – 9:00	Councillor Adam Vaughan on noisy bars and rooming houses



(Chair's letter continued from page 1)

"...with the arrival of warm weather, this is a great time to plan a laneway dinner."

or two people to initiate these gatherings. And with the arrival of warm weather, this is a great time to plan a laneway dinner. Here are my suggestions for doing just that:

- Choose a date. We hold our dinner on June 21st, the longest day of the year.
- Choose a laneway location with very little car traffic. Then leave a note in the mailboxes of those living

adjacent to it, asking if anyone objects to a laneway dinner on that date.

- One week later, assuming no one has objected, distribute an invitation to everyone on the block. The invitation should include a schedule for the evening.
- Ours starts with a laneway cleanup at 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., everyone is invited to bring tables and chairs. Thirty minutes later, the food arrives. It is finally

time to enjoy a splendid feast, the company of many and the opportunity to make new friends.

Whether a laneway dinner, a holiday party, a rotating supper or another social event, it takes only a couple of neighbours to make it happen. And if you decide to put in the effort, you will be making our little community that much better a place to live.

Tim Grant, HVRA chair

STOP THE PRESS: SPRING CLEAN-UP HUGE SUCCESS!

On the cold morning of April 21, almost 100 Harbord Villagers and friends, inspired by Neil Stephenson's amazing organization, cleaned up our streets, lanes and parkettes, supported by 35 sponsors who provided sumptuous food and 15 fabulous prizes. Photos of the occasion are scattered throughout this issue. These and more are at HVRA's website, where our sponsors are listed. Below are Margaret Beare and Nhai Nguyen-Beare bringing in their litter haul.



RICHARD GILBERT

Loving our laneways

As you will recall, one of the most successful community consultations ever undertaken by HVRA resulted in a wonderful collection of names for our laneways suggested by you, our members. With the approval of the councillor's office, we submitted our list of 23 names to the city and, as expected, some were accepted as is, some had pro forma objections that can be overridden, and some have to be changed because of duplication in other parts of the city.

Six of our suggestions were accepted without change:

Loretto Lane
Galvao Lane
Sappers Lane
Greenberg Lane
Immergluck Lane
Bagpipe Lane

The following suggestions met with only one 'pro forma' objection: in general the Street Naming Policy prefers single names for streets, avenues

and lanes rather than two names, such as an individual's first and last names. We think, and so does the councillor's office, that the community can push for acceptance of these "double" names since there is already precedent for doing so. We intend to proceed with the following names as originally suggested by you and selected by the jury:

David French Lane
Alan Powell Lane
Albert Jackson Lane
Douglas Campbell Lane
Barker Fairley Lane
Boys of Major Lane
Barbara Godard Lane
William James Lane
Leah Cohen Lane
Barbara Barrett Lane

The following suggested names had bigger problems insofar as there were other streets in the city with the same or very similar names

(Continued on page 4)



New location, same great meeting

Because of the overwhelming turnout at both our 2011 spring and fall meetings, we have moved our 2012 spring meeting to the Multi-Purpose Room at 45 Brunswick. This is the northerly of Kensington Gardens' two main buildings.

Our main presentation on May

15 will be "Travels through time: Harbord Village in years gone by." Ever wondered how long your home has been standing? Or who first lived in it? Or what your street looked like generations ago?

HVRA resident Gwyneth Pearce will offer a short illus-

trated introduction to some of the key resources – in archives and online – that we can use to piece together the history of our homes and our neighbourhood.

We hope to see you at our new location on May 15.

Cyril Greenland: A man of community

On New Year's Day, Cyril Greenland, a valued member of our community, succumbed to leukemia at the Kensington Hospice.

Cyril came to Canada [and us] from the UK. Based on his success in remotivation (reorienting long-term mental patients towards life in the outside world), Cyril was recruited by the Ontario government to plan how to empty the province's crowded psychiatric hospitals. This push was underpinned by studies showing that long-term patients developed "hospital neuroses" and never actually got better.

As the official obituary in the Globe and Mail put it, "No one was better at listening to damaged and disadvantaged individuals." This innate quality no doubt assisted Cyril greatly in his professional life, but it also made him an ideal community man.

Cyril and Jane Greenland moved into Harbord Village in 1967 – and our community has never been the same. He was instrumental in the com-

munity consultations around the changing role that Doctors Hospital would fill in Harbord Village. He was an early member and supporter of the Sussex Ulster Residents' Association, the predecessor of HVRA. He was a perfect neighbour, unafraid to befriend marginalized members of our community, and brokered many a peaceful resolution to thorny neighbourhood disputes.

Cyril was a power for good in our midst. Among many positive contributions, his was a voice of reason in disputes, the soul of discretion in keeping confidences, indefatigable in making peace, an exemplar of good humour and grace under pressure, a striver for the betterment of his community, and a fearless advocate for the less fortunate among us.

In short, Cyril was a rational voice espousing the value of connecting the members of the

community to each other. We are forever in his debt.

He is sorely missed.

Rory 'Gus' Sinclair, with help from Celia Denov

"Cyril was a power for good in our midst."



HAMISH GREENLAND



Loving our laneways (continued from Page 2)

“one of the most successful community consultations ever undertaken by HVRA resulted in a wonderful collection of names for our laneways.”

already in use. This poses a problem for Emergency Services, which may give instructions to crews that are ambiguous. We have consulted with the individuals or organizations as well as the jury to propose alternatives to our original suggestions

<u>Original Suggestion</u>	<u>Alternative Suggestion</u>	<u>Reasons for alternative</u>
Carpenter's Lane	James Hales Lane	One of three carpenters honoured (the other two will be on a nearby plaque)
Lewis Lane	Lewis Family Lane	Wish of the Lewis family
Fernandes Lane	Antonio Fernandes Lane	Name of original immigrant
Greenland Lane	Cyril Lane	Wish of the Greenland family
St. John's Lane	Chapel Hospice Lane	Original building + new use
Dairy Lane	Grimsby Dairy Lane	Full name of the original dairy
Trinity Lane	Katharine Hocken Lane	Name of important minister at Trinity-St. Paul's

Kensington Hospice

Our neighbourhood palliative care facility

“a model that many experts consider the future of end-of-life care”

SPRING CLEAN-UP: The early morning gang setting out.



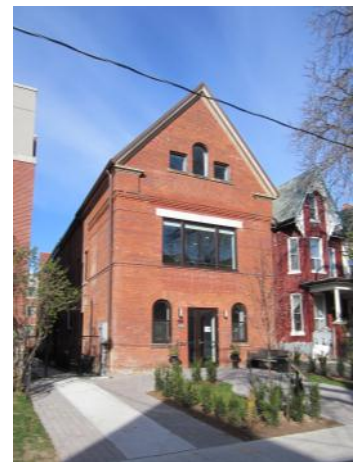
RICHARD GILBERT

On March 17, the Globe and Mail published a long article in its Focus section, “To go gently into that good night,” featuring Major Street’s Kensington Hospice. Journalist Lisa Priest and photographer Peter Power spent four weeks visiting this 10-bed facility, which opened last August.

The building, at the northeast end of Kensington Gardens on Major Street, was originally a convent and chapel, founded in 1892 by the Anglican Sisters of St. John the Divine. Today, it is a place of calm and dignity allowing its residents to die while surrounded by family and friends.

The article observed that it is a “model that many experts consider the future of end-of-life care – a more compassionate, all-encompassing experience for patients and

families, and more affordable and sustainable for the burdened health-care system.”



For more, see HVRA’s website at www.harbordvillage.com or this link:

www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/end-of-life/where-quality-of-death-can-enhance-quality-of-life/article2372279/.

Jane Perdue



Original Slate Roofs, Windows, Doors, Porches, and Decorative Woodwork – oh my!

The original features of your heritage home are among its chief assets. They are also crucial to its resale value, which means they deserve conservation.

Heritage conservation has become much easier, thanks to the greater availability of new conservation materials and conservation experts, and a new willingness on the part of competing suppliers (of windows, especially), to produce replicas of historic originals.

Where to find this conservation expertise? The Harbord Village Directory for Conservators and Restorers of Heritage Properties is accessible at:

<http://harbordvillage.com/heritagedirectory>

Here you can find links to:

- Resins for the restoration of decayed wood.
- Advice about turning original windows into thermopanes (which will allow you to discard your aluminum storm windows).
- Wood turners who can replace lost or damaged porch pillars and balustrades.
- Heritage contractors and craftspeople who know how to conserve and restore original roofs, windows, doors and decorative woodwork.
- Suppliers of reproduction doors and windows.
- Restorers of stained glass, suppliers of heritage paint colours – and much more.

"if you have any doubts regarding the influence of heritage conservation on real estate values, be assured, they are laid to rest in the Harbord Village Heritage Directory!"

Heritage Permits

The repair and restoration of heritage features may not require a building permit, but in Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) a heritage permit should be obtained before work begins and materials are purchased or contracts signed.

In Harbord Village, HCDs are: Brunswick Ave: College to Ulster. Robert St: College to Bloor. Also, all streets between Spadina and Robert south of Harbord.

Regardless of whether you live in an HCD, for advice regarding heritage conservation and heritage permits contact one of the Harbord Village Heritage Advisory Committee:

Gus Sinclair at rory.sinclair@rogers.com,
Susan Dexter at susan.dexter@rogers.com,

Richard Longley at longley_fovea@sympatico.ca.

This could save you money, and reduce your risk of spending money in ways that reduce rather than enhance the value of your property.

To obtain a heritage permit or for advice from its source, contact Georgia Kuich of the City's Heritage Preservation Services at gkuich@toronto.ca.

Finally, if you have any doubts regarding the influence of heritage conservation on real estate values, be assured, they are laid to rest in the Harbord Village Heritage Directory!

Richard Longley

SPRING CLEAN-UP:
the final haul from
our streets, lanes,
and parkettes.



RICHARD GILBERT



Memories of Harbord Village: the 1930s–1950s

"It was a working class neighbourhood, where families struggled to make ends meet, but a vibrant community that was loved."

The History Committee of the HVRA has started work on a long-term project to capture the oral history of our neighbourhood by interviewing current and former residents who recall what Harbord Village used to be like decades ago, and how it has changed.

The earliest recollections are from the 1930s, when it was a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood. In the 1950s new immigrants arrived, led by Italians and then Portuguese, but there was always a mix of people and cultures that lived together and were part of the community. It was a working class neighbourhood, where families struggled to make ends meet, but a vibrant community that was loved.

Here are some of the things that have been said during the oral history interviews:

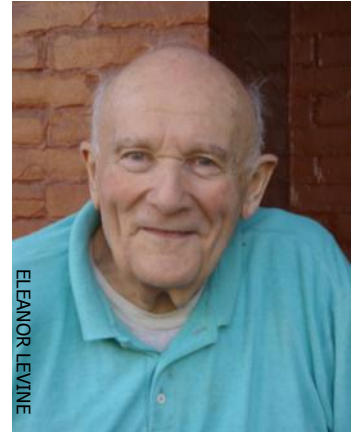
We grew up in a community that, despite the absence of parents, because they were at work, those that remained were monitors of our behav-

iour. ... everybody knew everybody else, and they mustn't misbehave 'or else!' I don't know what the 'or else' was because we never misbehaved. ... "We played puck and stick – you take a length of broom, you take another length of broom, and you sharpen one end. You hit the sharpened end, you strike it, it flies; if they catch it – you're out. ...

We made our own orange crate scooters. ... We had roller skates that we used to adjust by pulling out and in and tightening the bolt. ... We'd get on the ice trucks. We'd go ... when they were tarring the road and grab pieces of tar because we liked to chew on it – good for the teeth! It really was good. [MG recalling the 1930s]

We picked up chestnuts, they were toys -- that was a fun thing. We used to make toys out of them, yeah, it was called a 'doney-whacker'. You'd put a chestnut on the end of a rope, and you'd have to take another chestnut and hit it off, there's some silly little game ... so you'd have to run and get all the chestnuts. I mean, the squirrels would have to fight us kids for the chestnuts! [SF remembering the 1950s]

There was a lot of activity in the back lanes too. Some served as heavily used short-cuts to Lansdowne School (now Lord Lansdowne) where almost all the kids went.



Mutt Greenberg [MG], April 2012.

A lot of all sorts of things happened in lanes. People were drinking in lanes, people were initiating relationships, and things of that sort. There were carpentry shops with sawdust that went all over. ... The lanes were very mucky, semi-paved. ... People walked through them in the summer time. Kids collected the lilacs. ... people went along snipping lilacs, climbing fences from the homes on Major or Robert, and they went and sold these lilacs. ... One of the favourite places to sell them was up at the United Church. ... There were horses, there were wagons. [RK]

Where there are now garages, there used to be stables for the work horses that delivered goods well into the 50s.

You see, this was a self-contained neighbourhood. What wasn't available at the corners was brought in by horse and wagon, and push-carts. This wonderful bearded man with a yarmulke came by with a tank of fish and they'd

A lane behind Robert St in the 1930s.





come out, and he had a little scale and they would reach in and pick out and chop off the head, put it on the scale, and so on. And then the wagons would come, horse and wagons – 'Water Mel-ons! Water Mel-ons!' Singing it out, and we'd buy watermelons or anything else. [MG remembering the 1930s and 1940s]

Families were large. It seems that all the houses rented out rooms or apartments. Having 12 people in a house with one bathroom was common.

When we moved in [in 1941], most of the houses here in this area had two kitchens and one bathroom because you moved into the first floor and you rented out the second floor. If you had a third floor, you rented that out, too. So you would have a family of four, six, living in two, three, rooms, and in order to pay for your house you'd rent out the flats. ... You'd brush your teeth in the [kitchen] sink because you only had one toilet for everybody. You'd wash your hands and face, you couldn't line up for the bathroom – you'd never get to work or to school. [FG]

Most mothers stayed at home, but there they worked hard.

Who shovelled the coal? You think the men shovelled the coal? The women shovelled the coal! [The men] weren't home! Then we had a jacket heater for heat – it was a little stove for hot water, and when you needed hot water to take a bath, you'd take a bath once a week, you'd turn on the jacket heater. Some places you had to put a quarter in to light it. You had washtubs, you washed on a washing board. You would give big sheets out to a laundry, there was nowhere to hang it, you had a small backyard. [FG]

But, despite the hardships, all the residents interviewed recall our neighbourhood as being a special place.

It was just wonderful. We shared everything. People had fruit trees out back – some of them are still there – pear trees, cherry trees, apple trees, and I can remember the neighbours would all share. ... We shared up and down the street. ... We had such a nice good neighbourhood; if we could go back to that way, I think the world would be a

better place. Everybody cared. I remember we'd get the apples or pears from the neighbour down the street. ... My mother would do preserves, so ... we'd peel the apples or the pears and if there'd be a worm in half my mother would say, 'Well, you gotta share! Cut that half out and give it to the worms, and cut the other half up. [SF]

If you have old memories of our community that you would like to share, or if you know someone who was living here more than 40 years ago and would like to be interviewed, please contact the History Committee's interviewer, Eleanor Levine (416 536-2185; email: elliejmz@sympatico.ca) so we can add your voice. We are also compiling photos of the neighbourhood and its residents taken before about 1960, and relevant documents, and would appreciate any help you can provide.

Eleanor Levine and
Nicole Schulman

"Who shovelled the coal? You think the men shovelled the coal? The women shovelled the coal! [The men] weren't home!"

Rose Laki Rodrigues with her father Louie Laki in 1957, when he was aged 29, and in April 2012.





HVRA — Associate Member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

"Since our organizations share so many conservation goals, ACO was delighted when, in 2011, HVRA became one of its associate members"

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) has been defending Ontario's built heritage since 1933. That was when University of Toronto Professor of Architecture Eric Arthur (author of *Toronto: No Mean City*) purchased loyalist Barnum House near Grafton and saved it from decades of demolition by neglect (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barnum_House).

Since then the ACO has grown to 25 branches province-wide, dedicated to the conservation and restoration of heritage buildings in their communities and throughout the province.

The road to conservation and restoration is not easy. In Toronto, recent years have seen the loss of 1856 Walnut

Hall, the modernist Bata Building in Don Mills, the Downsview Airport Hangars and the Empress Hotel.

In Brantford, Colborne Street (a row of pre- and early post-Confederation commercial buildings) was demolished in 2010 (with the help of federal stimulus money!). In 2011, a devastating tornado damaged 25% of the buildings that surround the historic square of Goderich, many severely.

In all of these cases human indifference to the historic, environmental and economic value of built heritage contributes enormously to its loss. This is true even in Goderich, where historic buildings that might be saved are liable to be demolished. But without the ACO, the situation would be far worse.

The many heritage buildings that have been saved after ACO intervention include the Gooderham Flatiron building, the Distillery District, the 'Five Thieves' stores in Toronto, the Little Red School House in London, Jubilee Hall in Walkerton, the Sheave Tower in Cambridge, Meaford Town Hall and Port Hope railway station.

And Harbord Village? The plans for our two Heritage Conservation Districts were drawn up by Cathy Nasmith, past president of ACO.

Since our organizations share so many conservation goals, ACO was delighted when, in 2011, HVRA became one of

our associate members, which means that members of HVRA now have access, with members of ACO, to:

- ACORN, ACO's twice-yearly magazine, which covers heritage in Ontario.
- Acorn in a Nutshell, ACO's online newsletter with real-time stories of heritage in crisis and heritage success.
- The annual ACO awards dinner, where Ontario's heritage communities celebrate their successes in preservation, advocacy and craftsmanship.
- ACO's annual conference, at which forward-looking, heritage-loving experts and local heritage leaders share their experiences.

•ACO's partnership with the University of Waterloo Heritage Resource Centre in their joint research into what makes Heritage Conservation Districts Work. (For more, see the Harbord Village Conservators' Directory – www.harbordvillage.com/heritagedirectory.)

Make the most of your associate membership, through HVRA, of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario or, even better, email us directly to become an individual member of ACO.

Thank you, HVRA, for becoming an associate member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

*Susan Ratcliffe, president,
ACO (www.arconserv.ca)*

SPRING CLEAN-UP: Participants had a splendid lunch at the Loire, courtesy of the Loire (HQ for the event) and many other sponsors.



Rowdy clubs and bars, and illegal rooming houses

The Harbord Village Residents' Association is moving towards getting the provincial government and the city to be tougher-minded about two growing menaces in our neighbourhood.

One is the growth of late-night clubs and bars, mostly on College – as well as the long-term problem at Bloor and Brunswick. They can be extremely noisy, and their patrons can make things truly unpleasant for neighbours and passersby.

The most effective action in this case could be to get the

liquor licences of such establishments withdrawn.

The other growing menace is houses rented out to large groups of people, mostly students, who are noisy and behave generally in an un-neighbourly manner.

The most effective action here could be to insist that the city enforce its Rooming House Bylaw. This requires that residences rented to more than three unrelated adults be licensed as rooming houses and thus, among other things, have to conform to much stricter (and much more costly) fire prevention require-

ments than regular homes.

The fire prevention aspect of this is of special importance because of the spate of fires in Harbord Village over the last seven years, some in rented properties.

The HVRA board is still figuring out what best to do and would welcome advice. It would also welcome having more information about these two menaces. If you are disturbed by a late-night club or bar, or find yourself living near out-of-control tenants, please send details to info@harbordvillage.com.



SPRING CLEAN-UP:

Above. The prize-fixers: Caitlin Smith, Tim Grant, and Nhay Nguyen-Baere.

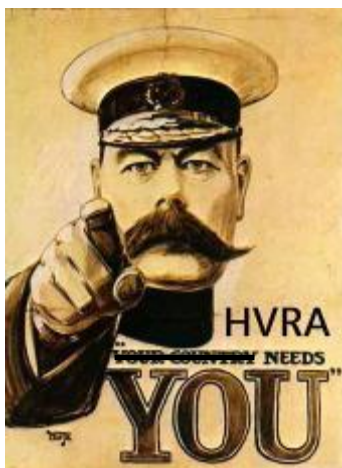
Left-top, Team Scotiabank: Socrate Argyriou, Elaine Karadakis, Pierre Ngo, Sandy Tsobanaos, Justin Lee, Yasna Munoz, Therese Ngo.

Left-bottom. Bringing in a dumped mattress: James Murdoch, Janet Maher, Beth Sulman, Derek Penslar, Fred Brennan.

Right-top. Picking up on Borden Street: James Murdoch and Neil Wright.

Right-bottom: The family that won three of the 15 prizes! Daphna Heller, Orr Ravitz, and sons (and, for some reason, Gus).

See www.harbordvillage.com for more photos and a list of our wonderful sponsors.



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

HVRA Board 2011-12

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UofT	Sue Dexter	416-964-9527	susan.dexter@rogers.com
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SE	Graham Rempe	416-324-8965	grahamrempe@gmail.com
SE	Angie Andreoli	416-830-5340	angieandreoli@hotmail.com

Membership stuff

- **Already a member?** Thanks. In particular, sincere thanks to all of you who have honoured us with your Supporting and Fanatic memberships, which have supported many of the new initiatives we've undertaken.
- **Haven't had a chance to renew?** Now's the time. Simply fill out the renewal slip below and mail it with your cheque.
- **Not yet a member?** Now's the time! Meet your neighbours,

have some fun and perhaps devote a few hours to something you want to improve. No time to spare? We understand. But by simply joining, you'll add your name to our ever-growing roster and help make HVRA's voice even better heard at City Hall.

- **Ideas for how to grow our membership, and strengthen connections?** Please contact membership secretary Gail Misra at g.misra@me.com

HVRA Membership & Renewal Form

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

2012 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.....