

Spring 2014

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

Hello, wonderful residents of Harbord Village!

As you may have heard, Tim Grant, our esteemed Chair, has taken a leave of absence to run in the provincial election for the Green Party.

I have stepped in as your Chair *Pro Tem* on the assumption that he can take up his duties again after the Election on June 12.

Your board continues to tick along and work on many items on your behalf. Perhaps the most significant this past half year is the Central Tech field. Much has been much written and many notices sent to you since the fall, but to recap:



- TDSB went to the Committee of Adjustment to apply for a dome over artificial turf -- HVRA opposed, on the basis that a project of this size would have a huge impact on the community and therefore requires community consultation.

- The C of A agreed and stood the issue down for three months pending the consultation.

- A consultation working group was set up and met four times, but without reaching agreement. HVRA maintained the parking impact was enormous, community access to the facility was minimal, the closing time of the dome activities (midnight) was too

late.

It became clear there was no compromise possible on these and other issues between the parties. It should be noted that HVRA tabled two other options and then a third, one

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Upcoming HVRA Events

Come one! Come all!
HVRA Spring General Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 20th
Place: Kensington Gardens –
North Building – Main Activity
Room
45 Brunswick Avenue

Time:
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
6:30 Meet, greet, join, renew membership
7:00 Meeting begins with caucuses & election of area reps
- HVRA board reports on the past six months
- Constitutional amendment to be voted on
- Councillor's office: State of the Union and Q & A
Special speaker:
Helen Mills, resident of Lippincott St. on "Green Laneways: What they are and how they work in other cities."



"...the positions of each are fundamentally opposed."

(Continued on Page 2)

of which would have added natural turf and maintenance for 10 years at no cost to the TDSB, and would have had the field open by this fall. The TDSB rejected all of these.

- The case returned to C of A in late March. Again HVRA opposed, and our position was upheld by the Committee of Adjustment.

-The TDSB filed an appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board, which was withdrawn when the TDSB took

the unusual step of appealing to Ontario Superior Court of Justice on the grounds that the city had no right to declare the project a minor variance and hence the adjudication at the C of A was not legal.

And this is where the matter stands.

It is unfortunate that HVRA and TDSB find themselves in this intractable place, but the positions of each are fundamentally opposed. The HVRA believes that a project of this size and impact sitting in the middle of HV for many years

to come – perhaps as many as 40 – must take the community into account. The TDSB on the other hand believes it has the right to build whatever it wants where it wants without any consideration for the community in which it is located. While the TDSB has chosen to go to the courts, we remain willing to work with them to find a solution that works for all parties.

Now on to more pleasant things – read on....

- Rory 'Gus' Sinclair, Chair Pro Tem

Time for Canada Post To Change Plans



It's unanimous! When asked to choose either community mailboxes or less frequent mail delivery, 100% of those answering HVRA's recent survey told us they would prefer less frequent than five-days-per-week delivery to their homes, if necessary, for Canada Post to cut its costs.

While both of these alternatives have been offered as ways to economize, Canada Post has already said it plans to intro-

duce community mailboxes in urban areas such as ours over the next five years -- thus eliminating door-to-door mail delivery entirely!

Among those we've surveyed, 93% are aware of the changes announced by Canada Post and 87% think such changes are a bad idea. In comparison, only 20% of those surveyed find fewer deliveries to be such a bad option, while 73% believe

them to be a "good idea" provided they are necessary to save money.

There's a fairly even split between respondents who are willing to have their mail delivered once or twice per week and those who are willing to have their mail delivered three or four times per week, 49% versus 47%, respectively.

While the present findings are based on a very small sample size (N = 45), the implications are quite clear. Canada Post would be well advised to avoid alienating local residents by going against their wishes when another equally effective cost-cutting alternative is available. HVRA's board will now ask other residents' associations to join us in lobbying Canada Post to consider this downtown-friendly alternative to their current plans.

Thanks all of you who responded to this survey!

- Christian Mueller





Calling all Dragon Boaters!

Wow, dragon boat racing is a whole lot of fun! And for the first time ever we had a crew of our own representing Harbord Village in 2013 (see photo).

This year we're going to do it again -- once more under the leadership of a local paddling enthusiast, Tim MacFarlane, who has been a member of the Harbord Village community for more than 30 years.

Tim is both coach and founder of the Harbord Village Rusty Dragons. He will take novice paddlers from never having sat in a dragon boat to racing on Canada Day.

On July 1, 2014, the Rusty Dragons will be racing in the 130th DDRA Canada Day Regatta at Toronto's Centre Island. This spectacular racing

event is celebrating its 130th year, having started in 1884 for canoe/kayak and rowing teams. Dragon boats were added well over a hundred years later, in 2003.

This is meant to be a fun experience for everyone, including adults of ANY age and young adults aged 14+. NO experience is required. All those who live or work in the neighbourhood are invited to join our team.

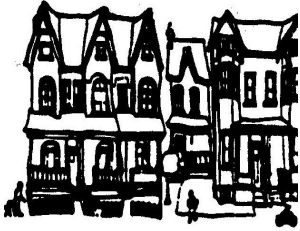
The non-profit registration fee is \$73 per person, which includes the use of equipment such as life jackets and paddles. It also includes six practice sessions at the Balmy Beach Canoe Club as well as competition on race day at Centre Island, plus a \$5 donation in support of the Kensington Gardens Hospice.

Practices are from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. on Thursdays from May 22nd to June 26th.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim by phone (647.971.7332) or email (Tim@RustyDragons.ca). Or sign up at the HVRA spring meeting!

- Christian Mueller





Oral History in Harbord Village

2013 was a *very* busy year for the Harbord Village History Group's Oral History Project. Last November, together with the University of Toronto's Museum Studies program, we hosted an exhibition at the JCC based on the oral histories we had spent two years collecting. It was a terrific hit, with so many people coming to the opening

they could not all fit in the room!

Of necessity, the show featured only a small fraction of the material we had collected. Now, through the tireless efforts of Wendy Smith, we have our website up and running (HarbordVillageHistory.ca).

You can easily access the interviews of a hundred Harbord

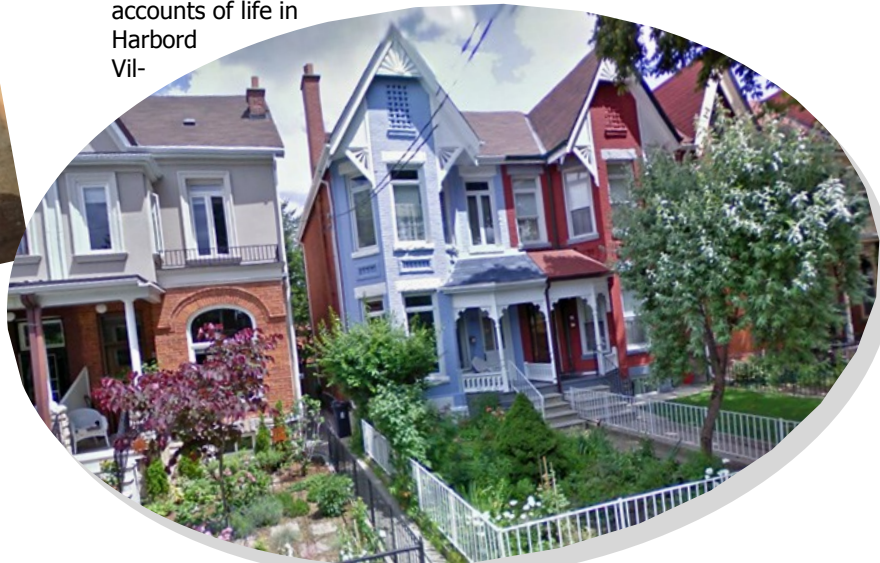
Village residents, past and present, to learn about life in our neighbourhood from the 1930s on. You can listen to the interviews, read transcripts of them, and research topics of interest by using the sophisticated index (partially developed by Harbord Village's own Mary Newberry, *indexer extraordinaire*). There are also links to other sites of historical interest.

In addition, we created 24 short audio clips you can listen to, called StoryPosts, all on the website. These entertaining clips draw upon the interviews to offer bite-size accounts of life in Harbord Village.

lage, from fish stores to children's games, memories of war heroes and overcoming adversity. We are currently working to place plaques around the neighbourhood that will link to these StoryPosts. Anyone with a smartphone will be able to scan the square QR code on the plaque and listen to the StoryPost on the spot.

But we need your help. Although we have found locations to place many of the plaques, we have not found homes for them all. If you are interested in hosting a plaque on your property, in a place that is easily viewed from the sidewalk, let us know! And, if you are interested in the history of our neighbourhood and would like to join our group, don't be shy. You can contact Nicole, the History Group Coordinator, at history@harbordvillage.com, or by phone 416. 934.1060.

- Nicole Shulman





"...he devoted himself in life to the alchemy of art and the mystery of the imagination"



Naming of the Lanes

What a wonderful thing, the naming of the lanes in our neighbourhood and especially for my family and my father's friends, the naming of one of these lanes after him, Douglas Campbell Lane.

There is a great quality in the naming of places. It does such honour to my father that his name will remain tied to this place long into the future, but also his name does honour to the place, the lane itself.

Often laneways are forgotten places -- little strips of land that are squeezed between the backend of businesses and car garages, hidden and a bit broken. Now, with my father's name written so boldly on his lane's name plate, I feel a sense of caring for this place. I feel I might go out of a Sunday morning and sweep this lane clean, cause pretty pink flowers to grow there along its broken fringes, and patch its pot-holed pavement. Well...I think to myself...this is a good thing to engender -- a good neighbourly sentiment. Why not?

Going further, I might like to ask permission to paint his

portrait on the wall there or get children from the nearby school to paint little paintings there to leave behind or ask my artist friends to leave taken art objects to decorate the place -- for my father devoted his life to the making of art.

Douglas Campbell was a great artist, actor and director on stage, film and TV. He also loved to draw and paint and, in this way, he devoted himself in life to the alchemy of art and the mystery of the imagination. He spoke to me about the process of bringing people's imaginations alive together in an encompassing unity with the actor or painter. The mystery of the imagination was central to his thoughts, and his technical abilities of vocal power and movement were tools to make understandable to others the great ideas in ancient Greek drama, Shakespeare or William Blake, to mention some of his favourites.

What a wonderful thing the naming of the lanes, for I find myself paying attention now to the name of other lanes and wondering about the peo-

ple who once lived in this neighbourhood, like my father, who once was with us crossing at the lights on College Street on the way into the Kensington Market or having a falafel plate and a beer at the Free Times Café. I feel a sense of increased caring for this place, and, after all, to notice and to care are primary impulses in the making of art and primary impulses also in the making of a neighbourhood and a city which is a fit place for us all to live in.

For "Douglas Campbell Lane," his family and friends say "Thank you!"

- Tom Campbell

Son of Douglas Campbell and a well-respected Canadian artist

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

To Speak to Matters of Governance & Mutual Obligations between Directors and Officers of the HVRA Board and its Members

Background and Preamble

The following will be proposed at the Spring General Meeting 2014 as a Constitutional Amendment to replace Article 11 "Responsibilities of Officers, Board and Committee Members", hereinafter to be titled "Duties and Responsibilities of Directors, Officers and Committee Members". [Note that there is an additional proposed change to Article 6 subsection (b) which brings up to date the matter of succession to the Chair should the position become vacant.. see end of this document]

A new feature contained in the change to Article 11 is contained in Appendix A. This is a stand-alone "HVRA Board Expectations Agreement" to be signed by all members of the Board upon first accepting to serve as a Director or in the initial transitional phase, by all existing members of the Board.

This agreement, which fleshes out duties and expectations for all members of the Board, will be valid for as long as any member of the Board remains a Director.

Essentially, this proposed change is about Governance and responds to the many substantive changes in Board Governance [not just for non-profits] that have come to the fore in the last half decade.

The kinds of things laid out in this document are very common to non-profit boards such as ours.

I have had the good luck to put this together with the advice of Darrell Brown a governance lawyer with Sack Goldblatt Mitchell, a well respected downtown law firm. Darrell, who has done pro bono work for another Board for which I volunteer, kindly offered to assist us with this.

Rory 'Gus' Sinclair

Past Chair HVRA

Proposed New Article 11

Duties and Responsibilities of Directors, Officers, and Committee Members

A: Duties and Responsibilities

Each Director is expected to become an active participant in a board that functions effectively as a whole. A Director is responsible to perform as follows:

- i. Be informed of the HVRA Constitution and its By-laws, mission, values, codes of conduct, and policies as they pertain to the duties of a Director;
 - ii. Keep generally informed about the activities of the Corporation and the HV community;
 - iii. Attend Board meetings regularly, serve on committees of the Board and contribute from personal, professional and life experience to the work of the Board;
 - iv. Exercise, in the performance of their duties, the degree of care, diligence and skill required of a Director pursuant to the laws under which the Corporation is incorporated;
 - v. Be independent and impartial;
 - vi. Not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward or fear of criticism;
 - vii. Act with honesty and integrity and conduct him/herself in a manner consistent with the nature and the responsibilities, and the maintenance of public confidence in the conduct of the Board's business;
 - viii. No individual Officer, Board or committee member shall enter into a contract on behalf of HVRA without Board approval;
- No Officer, Board or committee member shall commit HVRA to a course of action without prior approval of the Board, except in the case of an urgent issue, in which case approval of three (3) Board members shall be sufficient authority. The poll of Board members may be done by phone, fax or e-mail, and then reported to the Board. Any Officer/member involved in such urgent action will be expected to report the nature of such actions to the Board at the earliest possible time;
- x. Voice, clearly and explicitly at the time a decision is being taken, any opposition to a decision being considered by the Board;
 - xi. Ask the Directors to review a decision, if he/she has reasonable grounds to believe that the Board has acted without full information, or in a manner inconsistent with its fiduciary obligations or otherwise inappropriately, and, if still not satisfied after such review, ask that the matter be placed before the membership;
 - xii. Exercise vigilance for, and declare any conflict either of financial interest [pecuniary] or personal according to Section C of this Article;
 - xiii. When speaking publicly, Officers, Directors, and committee members should do their best to represent the Mission and Values of the Association as a whole, consulting in advance with the Board or at minimum the Chair. Personal opinions must be identified as such;
 - xiv. Be in compliance with Board decisions and direction from the Chair and the Officers of the Board;
- Attendance at public meetings or public statements by members on behalf of HVRA should be reported orally or in writing to the Board at its next meeting. Such reports should include the date and type of meeting or nature of statement, and a very brief summary of the meeting's discussion and outcome.
- xvi. Treat as confidential all information regarding the policies, internal operations, systems, business or affairs of the Corporation obtained by reason of his/her status as a Director and not generally available to the public unless expressly declared public by a resolution of the Board; and,
 - xvii. Sign the Reciprocal Board Expectations Agreement (See Appendix A).



B: Duty of Loyalty

The relationship of a Director to HVRA and the Board is that of a fiduciary. This means that a Director is considered to be acting for the benefit of the organization and must subordinate his/her personal interests to the benefit of the organization. Board members are therefore expected to:

- i) Maintain solidarity with fellow Directors in support of all decisions of the Board or the General Meeting that have been made in good faith at a legally constituted meeting, by Directors or members in reasonably full possession of the facts. This duty applies even if the director votes against the measure except as follows:
In certain circumstances a Director may speak publicly against a policy or decision of the Board, provided that he/she does so respectfully and does not invoke his/her membership of HVRA or its Board in any such statement or communication.
- ii) Support directives from the Chair and Executive and,
- iii) Provide whole-hearted support to established policies of the organization as put in place by the General Meeting or the Board, and new policies as may from time to time be approved by the Board or General Meeting.

C: Duty to Avoid Conflicts

There are two types of conflict:

- 1) Conflicts of Interest which have a pecuniary or financial dimension; and,
- 2). Personal Conflicts

1. Conflicts of Interest:

- i) Directors will be deemed to have a conflict of interest if a Director or any firm or corporation in which he/she or any member of his/her family (including the immediate family members of a Director's partner) or close personal or business associates of the Director has or have a pecuniary interest in a matter before the Board.
- ii) Directors must declare a conflict of interest prior to any discussion of the matter at the Board. Once a conflict is declared, the Director, if requested, will withdraw from all discussion on matters relating to the conflict.

2. Personal Conflicts

Personal conflicts occur when:

- i) A Director's duties to HVRA conflict with duties that the Director may owe to another person or organization. Put another way, a director is in conflict when he/she has duties or obligations to another person or organization, the policies or actions of which are in conflict with stated HVRA policies or actions of the Board.
- ii) The interests of two entities to which a Director owes allegiance are not in harmony, and the Director cannot discharge his or her obligations to one without acting against the interests of the other.

Hence, a Director should avoid being a part of any organization, working group or panel where matters of policy established by HVRA may be subject to discussion, opinion, or voting.

Should a Director nevertheless find him/herself in such a position, he/she must not invoke his/her membership in HVRA or the Board in any public statements on the matter. Further, the Director must recuse him/herself from all discussions on anything to do with that particular matter at the HVRA Board or the General Meeting.

C: Principles for Dealing with Conflicts:

- i) Both prior to serving on the Board and during their term of office, Directors must openly disclose potential, real or perceived conflicts as defined above.
- ii) If the Director is not certain whether he/she is in a position of conflict of interest, the matter may be brought before the Chair of the Board, the Executive Committee, or the Board for advice and guidance.
- iii) It is the responsibility of other Directors who are aware of a real, potential or perceived conflict of interest on the part of a fellow Director to raise the issue for clarification, first with the Director in question and, if still unresolved, with the Chair.
- iv) If, after discussions with the Chair, there remains a question or doubt about the existence of a real or perceived conflict, the Director in apparent conflict should appear before the Board to explain his/her position. Subsequently the Board may vote on the question of whether there is a conflict or not. If 2/3's of the Board votes that a conflict exists, they will also consider how to remedy it. The Director in alleged conflict shall not be present for the discussion or vote by the Board.
- v) The disclosure of a conflict and the decision as to whether a conflict exists shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The time the Director left and returned to the meeting shall also be recorded.
- vi) If the Director refuses to abide by the Board's ruling, the Board may table the matter pending determination of disciplinary action. Such action may include formal or informal censure by the Chair or the Board, suspension, or the acceptance of the Director's resignation from the Board in accordance with the HVRA Board Expectations Agreement [Appendix A below] to be signed by all Board Members before beginning to act as a Director of the HVRA Board.

D: Transitional Article

Should this amendment be adopted at the General Meeting, all existing Directors shall sign the HVRA Board Expectations Agreement prior to the commencement of the next Board Meeting. Thenceforth all newly elected Directors shall sign the HVRA Board Expectations Agreement prior to attending their first meeting of the Board. Once signed the HVRA Board Expectations Agreement shall be deemed in effect until the resignation of any Director from the Board.

HVRA BOARD EXPECTATIONS AGREEMENT

Preamble

In order to have an effective Board, each Director and Officer agrees to a standard of participation that shall benefit the community that the Harbord Village Residents' Association ("HVRA") Board serves. The HVRA also recognizes that Board members must be given the necessary tools and information for them to meet this standard of participation. As such, it is important that these standards be expressed in the form of a mutual expectations agreement, as outlined below:

I, _____, understand that as a member of the HVRA Board, I have a responsibility to ensure that the HVRA does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the Mission Statement of the HVRA Constitution to promote the well being of our community. As part of my responsibilities as a Board member, I shall strive to do all of the following:

1. I will be an ambassador to the community for the Association's work and values, and will represent the organization in a positive manner. I shall work in good faith with community members or other Board members as partners towards achievement of HVRA goals. I will act as a spokesperson only to the extent that such authority has been delegated to me by the Board.
2. I shall attend Board meetings, special meetings, committee meetings for which I am a member, and special events as I am able. I understand that it is necessary to attend meetings in order to fully participate in the governance and work of the HVRA.
3. If I cannot attend any of the meetings and/or events as described above, I shall inform the Chair, providing a reasonable explanation.
4. I shall act and make decisions that are in the best interests of the organization, and will disclose any conflicts. Where I have a conflict either of interest or a personal conflict, or believe that I may have such a conflict, I will govern myself in accordance with the HVRA Conflict of Interest Policy.
5. I shall stay informed about the HVRA and the community it serves. I shall ask questions and request information as needed. I shall participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and other Board matters.
6. After a vote has been taken, I will support the action taken, even if I did not vote in favour of the action taken by the majority of the Board, except as governed by B subsection a) above
7. I will treat as confidential all information regarding the policies, internal operations, systems, business or affairs of the Association unless expressly declared public by a resolution of the Board
8. If I do not fulfill these commitments to HVRA, I shall expect the Board Chair to contact me and discuss my responsibilities with me. If there are significant and ongoing obstacles to my being able to fulfill my commitments, and no adjustment, accommodation or allowance is acceptable to the Board Chair, I understand that this may be brought to the Board for consideration and decision. If the Board determines, by a 2/3's majority vote, that an insurmountable problem exists, I will offer my resignation from the Board.

Signature _____

Witness _____

Date _____

Proposed change to Article 6 subsection (b) which currently reads:

(b) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Association, unless unable to do so, in which case the Chair shall designate another Board member to serve in his/her place. The Chair shall supervise the general management and operation of the Association.

Shall be changed to read as follows:

(b) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Association, unless unable to do so, in which case the Immediate Past Chair shall preside *pro tem* in place of the Chair, with the approval of the Board, pending either the return of the current Chair if the absence is temporary, or the election of a new Chair by the General Meeting. Alternatively, the Board may nominate and approve the appointment of another Member of the Board as Chair *pro tem*, also pending either the return of the current Chair if the absence is temporary, or the election of a new Chair by the General Meeting. The Chair shall supervise the general management and operation of the Association.

