

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
October 21, 2008 7 p.m.  
Kensington Gardens

The meeting was called to order at about 7:10 pm by Chair Gus Sinclair, who welcomed all to the meeting. Approximately 50 residents were in attendance.

**Area Caucuses:** The meeting broke into Area caucuses for discussion of local issues. The following was reported back to the entire group:

**North-East**

Laura Bradbury

Out-going representative Margaret Beare is replaced by Laura Bradbury ;  
Stuart Schoenfeld remains

1. graffiti in the laneways
2. U. of T. playing field issues: inadequate night lighting and lack of bike racks.
3. snow removal
  - a) some people shovel snow into the street and that interferes with parking
  - b) could a list of kids/others who would shovel snow for money be circulated

**South East**

Tim Grant

Wendy Duff and Tim Grant remain the area representatives. She co-chaired the group  
Tim reported that the residents' concerns were:

1. driving the wrong way on Major St.
2. derelict house on Robert St. that has been empty for 8 years
3. the upcoming OMB hearing on a house behind 580 Spadina

**South Central**

Richard Gilbert

Bachir Rabbat remains area rep and Mairin Wilkinson replaces Richard Gilbert

The following issues were discussed, the first three of which were the topics of the oral report to the AGM made by Richard Gilbert:

1. Note was made of several abandoned or greatly neglected houses, particularly on Brunswick. Frequent reporting to the City was advised.
2. Homeowners are clearing snow from sidewalks less often. Again, frequent reporting was advised.
3. The amount of rowdiness involving young people is growing, increasingly associated with student-occupied houses near College. This is a complex matter that deserves attention by numerous authorities (City, police, University of Toronto).
4. Illegal posters and graffiti are on the increase.
5. There is an issue concerning garbage associated with the property at the north-west corner of College and Brunswick, not the bakery (now closed) but perhaps the residential units in the building.
6. What was the Tiger Club on College (between Lippincott and Brunswick) remains an issue, although use of the back entrance has stopped.

**North-West**

David Booz

The out-going representative Samiha Sayed is being replaced by Stephanie Rea and David Booz remains

1. Concern was expressed about the rowdiness in the area on Bloor St. after closing time on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. When there is a police presence, there is no trouble, but when there is not, there is trouble. The 14th Division police officers are focused on the Entertainment District.
2. A resident from the top of Brunswick said that she was at the meeting representing a number of residents who are concerned about the rowdiness as well. She says that there are pools of blood on the street and sidewalk on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The young people seem to be fighting with broken beer bottles and so on.

3. The other main concern is the Central Tech high school kids who loiter around the school and in the upper Croft street lane. The police bicycle patrols may be effective, but there are too few of them. The students leave litter and vandalize the parking areas and cars of the residents. They can also be belligerent and intimidating for the residents. There is also lots of graffiti. One resident spoke to a school VP about students working off their community hours removing graffiti. There was also some concern about the noise from skateboarders and the garbage bins.

## **South West**

Jane Perdue and Colin Furness remain area reps

## **HVRA Business**

### **1. Minutes of 2007 AGM**

Copies of the minutes of the October 2007 AGM were made available together with Agenda items: # 5- Constitutional Amendment and #9 – patio Application Protocol

Gus explained that AGM minutes are reviewed for accuracy by the Board members within a couple of months of the meeting.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

**Leslie Thompson**

HVRA's finances are in good shape even though the Fall fair had to be cancelled due to weather. The Board members were very successful in canceling on time and obtaining refunds of deposits. Spending is project oriented. The main projects now are Treeing the City and The Heritage Project. Bachir Rabbat moved to adopt the Treasures' report. Seconded by Margaret Beare. Carried

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### *University of Toronto*

*Sue Dexter*

Philosopher's Walk vegetation is still being affected by air-conditioning system installed when the Crystal at ROM was built. Lobbying continues to correct the problem.

#### *College Street Clearway*

There is optimism that a clearway trial will be in place next patio season

#### *Solar Initiative*

*David Booz*

David reported that this successful initiative is winding down. 40 solar systems including 13 PV and 27 hot-water systems were installed in our community.

#### *Treeing the City*

*Tim Grant*

Tim reported that the 2nd half of the tree inventory was done by hired staff. Louise Potts did an excellent job and prepared a report that covered the over 2000 trees inventoried over the 2 summers.

The report is available on the web. It was noted that 5-10% of trees are in trouble, and letters will be sent to the owners of those trees, that will encourage them to contact Bruce Tree Experts Inc. Service Canada provided 90% of the funding to hire Louise.

Backyard tree-planting is planned for next weekend.

Of the \$25,000 grant from the Toronto Parks and Recreation Foundation, about \$18,000 remains.

Bruce Tree Arborist company was selected to be "Village Arborist" for our community. The owner, Ian Bruce made a short presentation and was available for questions later in the meeting.

#### *Anti-Graffiti*

*Colin Furness*

Colin reported that last weekend art students from Central Tech and volunteers from Etobicoke painted over some graffiti in an area south of Harbord St. using paint donated by a store in Scarborough.

Collin invited people from the community to contact him if they would like their graffiti painted over.

#### *Fall Fair*

*Gus Sinclair*

Gus reiterated Leslie's information that there was very little expense associated with the cancellation of the Fall Fair.

The Silent action that was to be done at the Fair will take place at the Pumpkin Festival on Nov 1/08.

#### *Heritage Conservation*

The Robert Street HCD report is now complete and is in the process of being approved by Heritage Preservation Committee and later by City Council

#### *Communications*

*Richard Gilbert*

##### *1/ Newsletter*

The HVRA Newsletter is published twice a year. Jane Auster has been doing an excellent job editing the Newsletter.

Richard invited everyone to consider contributing to the Newsletter.

##### *2/ Website*

Richard reported that Wendy Smith volunteered to manage the HVRA website. The website has grown considerably since the last year.

#### *Farmers Market*

*Gus Sinclair*

Gus reported on the great success of the Market. Bob Chorney of My Market assured Gus that the farmers "be there next year" as it was good for them too. It was felt that it was not only a good opportunity for the residents to get fresh produce but it contributed to community building.

There will be a Festival tomorrow marking the closing of the Market for the season.

#### *Pumpkin Festival*

*Tim Grant*

On Nov 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 people can bring their carved pumpkins that will be displayed along Harbord St. They will be lit and maintained by volunteers.

Celebrities will draw designs and Central Tech art students will carve them for a special display.

### **4. Constitutional Amendment**

Gus presented the reasons for creating a new board position called Communications Director.

"The way we communicate with you our members and with those outside the membership has changed dramatically since we were founded in 2000 –e.g. the Newsletter and the Website. Up to date we have assigned these tasks to various members of the Board but as the work is so much more complicated and time consuming, it is now time to have a full time position to deal with such matters alone "

To create such a position the following constitutional amendment were proposed: (provided to members with the Agenda)

-Article 6 (a) shall be amended as follows: "There shall be five (5) officers of the Association: a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary and a Communications Director. The officers shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting for one-year terms and shall serve as members of the Board."

-Article 6 (f) shall be added as follows: "The Communications Director shall, as directed by the Board, develop and implement the systems by which the HVRA Board communicates with its members and with the broader community, including the oversight, management, and production of the semi-annual Newsletter as well as the oversight and management of the website with the assistance of web experts as necessary."

Celia Denov moved to accept the proposal. Seconded by Bachir Rabat. Moved unanimously

## 5. New Board Elections

Constitutional & Nominations Committee consisted of Susan Pfeiffer, Celia Denov, Margaret Smith, David Wurfel & Kathy Wurfel as convener; Celia Denov took the Chair

Slate of officers presented for 2008-2009 term

Chair:	Rory "Gus" Sinclair
Secretary:	Eva Janecek
Treasurer:	Leslie Thompson
Membership Secretary:	Katrina McHugh
Communications Director:	Richard Gilbert

Since there were no nominations from the floor for the above positions, the new Officers of the Board were elected by acclamation.

## 6. Creation of Specialist Board Position for University of Toronto

Gus re-assumed the direction of the meeting

It was the will of the meeting that Position of Uof T Liason be extended for another year

Richard Longley nominated Sue Dexter for Uof T liason position. Sue accepted.

It was moved by Richard and seconded by Eva Janecek-Rucker. Carried

## 7. Patio protocol proposal

Copies of the proposal were distributed at the meeting

### Proposed HVRA Protocol for Patio Applications in Harbord Village

Patios contribute to the ambience of Harbord Village. They can also be a source of concern to residents. The Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA) wants to ensure representation of residents' interests in patios, as well as good communication among applicants, residents, City staff, and the ward councillor. HVRA thus proposes the process set out in the following paragraphs.

These are in essence three types of patio:

1. **A patio on City property on a residential street** (usually at the side of a corner business on a main road). For this, the business operator must have a patio permit from the City and, if alcohol is served, a licence for use of the patio from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). As well, such a patio must be supported by a majority of neighbouring residents who respond to a poll conducted by the City.
2. **A patio on City property on a main street** (usually on the sidewalk in front of the business). The requirements are as for #1, without the need for a poll.
3. **A patio on private commercial property** (usually at the rear of the property). The licence from AGCO is required, if applicable, but not a patio permit from the City.

For an application in respect of any of these types of patio, particularly the first and the third, HVRA, if asked, can facilitate a public process designed to ensure that a proposed patio will not imperil residents' quality of life. Elements of such a process might include the following:

1. Make available relevant information, e.g., about zoning requirements and AGCO's requirements.
2. Help ensure that an applicant understands the kinds of concerns neighbours can have about patios and the desirability of distributing plans to nearby residents.
3. Convene one or more meetings at which an applicant and nearby residents can air concerns so there is a baseline of understanding among all parties, and perhaps move towards an agreement as to how the proposed patio should be managed.

Topics of a negotiated settlement could include: hours of operation, number of patrons, alterations of plans to mitigate noise, conditional licensing, onsite staffing arrangements, trial periods, and others. HVRA will act impartially during such a process.

When an applicant refuses to participate in the process, HVRA will usually oppose the application.

When there is an HVRA-facilitated negotiation without a settlement, HVRA may itself conduct a poll of neighbours, using the City's rules, and be guided by the results of the poll.

When a settlement is reached and the patio operator does not abide by its terms, HVRA will usually act to secure enforcement of the settlement.

Gus summarized the above proposal and invited questions.

Janice Dembo expressed a concern that negotiations will be binding.

Gus re-iterated that the intent of this protocol is to provide an environment to get the residents and businesses to negotiate and resolve disagreements.

Moved by Faygie Oliver and seconded by Janice Dembo

The Protocol was approved.

## **8. Community Builder Award**

Gus announced that Jane Auster is this years recipient-- both for her long term contributions as a board member and for her continuing work as editor of the newsletter although she is no longer a resident of Habord Village. She will be presented with The Chair's 'Pick of the Month' from the LCBO in appreciation for her work.

Tim acknowledged all members of the Tree committee but especially Margaret Proctor, Dinny Biggs, and Samiha Sayed

## **9. Meet the Village Arborist**

Tim introduced Ian Bruce and Todd Irvine

Together they presented their experience (35years) and philosophy of their service: preventive approach, creating "urban forest" through planting and care of trees. The services are provided by skilled staff who use no mechanical equipment. Both Ian and Bruce were available for questions after the meeting.

## **10. Councilor Vaughan – State of the Union and Q and A**

Special focus was on noise and noise By-Laws that was of great interest to the members. The Councilor acknowledged a problem of dealing with noise and the level of violence in the community. His staff is going to pool "Best Practices" with respect to handling noise problems, They are going to review Ottawa By –Laws, Vancouver, New York and San Francisco documents

He also noted that his office is aware of the problems at the Heritage office.

The Councilor also informed the members of the upcoming tax increases and the graduated way they are going to be collected.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm