

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



To: Toronto Preservation Board
Re: PB 20.10
Intention to Designate 698 Spadina

Jan. 23, 2017.

Harbord Village Residents' Association welcomes the proposal to designate the Victorian building at the corner of Sussex and Spadina which presently houses the Ten Editions Bookstore. The building is a gateway to Harbord Village, sitting across Sussex Mews Laneway from Victorian houses protected by the Harbord Village Conservation District Part Two. It is now threatened by a 2016 University of Toronto development application.

Harbord Village values heritage. Dozens of residents worked on both HCDs, which in those days used citizen power to do the house-by-house listings along Spadina, Robert, Sussex, Russell from College to Bloor and lower Brunswick. We are fortunate to have two HCDs in our Victorian neighbourhood, along with many spot listings on College St. and we are on the list for expansion of our district.

In 2009, the Part Two district study by Catherine Nasmith wrote 698 "supports the Victorian streetscape on Sussex" and recommended it be assessed for protection because of its contextual value to the HCD. In 2014, Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh's motion to direct staff to assess 698 Spadina and its neighbouring properties was adopted. Now that assessment has been completed. Staff recommends designation and welcome news it is.

The building is important to the neighbourhood for its physical presence and level of preservation, but also because it has been a major contributor to the intellectual and cultural life of our community. In the early 1970s, Volume One started a bookstore in the building, followed by Atticus Books. For the past 34 years, the Duff family has operated a bookstore beloved by the community in that building. For a third of its existence, then, this building has housed a bookstore.

We urge the Committee to support this designation, and, if time permits, suggest panel members look at 698 in the morning light from the southeast corner of Sussex and Spadina. It is a beauty.

With respect,
Sue Dexter, Carolee Orme,
Harbord Village Residents' Association.

