



## In this issue

2018 events in review, Fall Fair memories, Harbord Village life, Green studies, tackling traffic issues, new restaurants, fire prevention, and more.

## Fall AGM October 17

Find out what's going on, and reconnect with fellow neighbours after the summer! Agenda highlights include: HVRA committees and officers, election of a new board, as well as a special guest speaker. We hope to see you there, at 45 Brunswick, Kensington Gardens, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

## How to join HVRA

To become a member or contact us to learn more, see our back page.

This newsletter is produced twice a year by the HVRA, serving the part of Toronto bounded by Bathurst Street, Bloor Street, Spadina Avenue and College Street.



Eleanor Levine

## Membership has its privileges

Merrill Swain

We invite you to become a member of Harbord Village Residents' Association and enjoy regular email updates about local developments, safety concerns, traffic issues and neighbourhood events. Learn more about your home's heritage. Volunteer and become involved. Help build a stronger and more supportive community. And help shape our direction by voting at our Spring Meeting and Fall Annual General Meeting. Member or not, you are always welcome to meet your neighbours at any of our annual events such as the Fall Fair and Pumpkin Festival. Membership is only \$10 per year. Please join at <http://harbordvillage.com/membership>.

## It takes a village...

Gus Sinclair

As some of you may know, a group of HV residents formed the Major Street Refugee Initiative and took on the rewarding commitment of helping a refugee family from Syria settle into life in Canada. The family consists of two grandparents, a daughter-in-law with two children (six and four), and a daughter and son-in-law with a two-year-old daughter.

Now that the family has arrived and settled into a house refurbished by volunteers, their sponsors are helping them assimilate into everyday life. One of the most immediate goals is tackling the English language. Apart from the toddler, everyone is learning – the older children in primary school and their elders in ESL at the Bickford Centre.

The family is optimistic and deeply grateful for the opportunities that Canada is providing. But the main challenge of finding future (post-sponsorship) financial footing remains. To celebrate—and assist—the family, everyone is invited to a fundraising social at the Tranzac, with light snacks, live band, dancing, and auction, Friday, October 12, 7 p.m.–midnight. More details to come. To donate visit <http://donate.mcccanada.ca/registry/major-street-refugee-initiative>.

## Chair's message

Gail Misra

At our Spring Meeting, Sheila Murray from Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW) give an excellent talk on why we all need to prepare for extreme weather events in Toronto, and why CREW is encouraging communities to be “climate ready.”

In fact, we experienced one of the hottest summers in Toronto in several years. And, since 2005, heat records have been broken seven times. The 2018 Canada Day “heat event” was the longest in the last 30 years. In addition to hot days, we also had above-average night temperatures adding to the heat effect.

There were also heavy rainfalls and storms overwhelming Toronto's old infrastructure, resulting in flooded basements, bridge underpasses, and subway stations; and power outages.

So the HVRA board has formed a committee to explore how to better prepare for severe weather events, so that individuals and families can be educated and ready to help themselves as well as vulnerable neighbours. Over the next year we will seek your input, and share our findings.

In the meantime, let's enjoy autumn!



Richard Longley

*Sheila Murray, Community Resilience to Extreme Weather*

## Tackling traffic issues

Carolee Orme

HVRA's new Transportation Committee is happy to report that recent actions are helping improve road safety in Harbord Village. Collaborating with U of T Engineering students regarding cars going the wrong way on one-way streets, for seven hours on June 12, 30 HVRA volunteers collected data at nine intersections. We saw 54 incidents of wrong-way driving, almost half of vehicles did not come to complete stops at stop signs, and more than a third of the time vehicles did not stop when pedestrians were in the crosswalk at Harbord and Robert. We took our data to the City, asking for increased enforcement, new street design and signage, more study, and public education. Councillor Cressy secured Council approval for a traffic light at Harbord and Robert. We will continue to press for changes and explore other ways to make the streets safer for all.

## Area reports

### Northwest

Nicole Schulman & Christian Mueller

Our area is experiencing many new changes. A welcome addition is a summer camp program at the Central Tech field. Local parents like the convenient location, and many residents appreciate seeing children have a place to play. Fortunately there is no noticeable increase in parking or traffic issues. Close to Bloor, the 24-room boutique hotel at 296 Brunswick, scheduled to open in June, is under construction. Planned features include a public garden, licensed restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, and large food hall with multiple vendors and a liquor licence, open evenings. We'll keep an eye out for how late closing times will be.

### Northeast

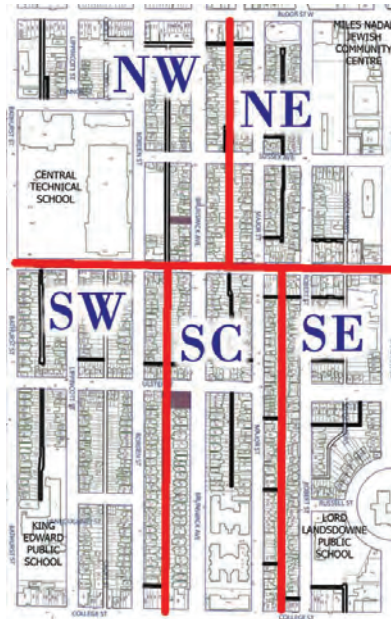
Carolee Orme & Regine Schmid

In a neighbourhood with so little green space, the creation of two parks along Sussex through negotiations with developers is exciting news. The community will have input into the design of the two spaces, one at the corner of Spadina and the other at the corner of Robert. As well, we are looking forward to the BIA's projects on Bloor Street, which will include improvements to several of the flankages in Harbord Village.

### Southeast

Lena Mortensen & Cathy Merkley

Construction began on a new 15-storey rental building at 484 Spadina, formerly the Waverly Hotel and Silver Dollar Room.



The building will incorporate signage and other elements of the original Silver Dollar Room, allowing its legacy to live on. Traffic calming changes are coming to Robert Street, with the City approval of new speed humps between Wilcocks and Harbord, as well as conversion of the busy pedestrian crosswalk at Harbord and Robert to a traffic stoplight. Thanks to the citizen-led Traffic Study (see page 2) that helped make this happen!

### South Central

Anne Kerekes & Simon Coleman

It's been a busy summer in SC. We experienced another house fire, on Major Street, that affected other properties. So we are running an informative Fire Safety article from our website in this issue. On a happier note, many residents enjoyed the great weather at our two newly refurbished parks as well as on weekly Gardeners' Strolls to resident gardens. We also gained a new post office at Starbank Convenience at Major and College. Finally, part of 45 Brunswick will be renovated to expand Kensington Hospice, with completion slated for spring 2019.

### Southwest

Jane Perdue & Robert Stambula

SW reps continue to be busy helping neighbours with local initiatives and issues. The greening of Croft continued with the third summer of planting. Noise and other issues around College continue to be monitored; patio rules were stiffened recently at Community Council as a way to help. A noisy tenant has left, solving a chronic problem. We also continue to press the TDSB to control its contractors' violation of the City's noise bylaw at King Edward Public School. Construction noise is only permitted 7 a.m.–7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturdays.



## 2018 events: something for everyone

### *Spring cleanup: keeping harbord village beautiful*

Katherine Lilley

This year's Harbord Village Community Cleanup (now in its 15th season), took place on Harbord Street on Saturday, April 21. It was one of our most successful years yet, with well over 150 people attending. As in past years, we focus on picking up litter in the neighbourhood after the long winter. We supply all the cleaning materials, and after the cleanup we hold a community gathering at Piano Piano, with delicious donated food and fabulous prizes that are raffled off. Of course none of this would be possible without the support from our generous local businesses and amazing volunteers—thank you! If you would like to volunteer for next year, please contact [katherine\\_lilley@hotmail.com](mailto:katherine_lilley@hotmail.com).



John Lilley

Cleanup volunteers ready for duty

### *Spring Meeting: issues of importance*

Anne Kerekes

In addition to the usual comprehensive update by Councillor Joe Cressy, other key topics included implementing a traffic monitoring plan and hearing Sheila Murray from Community Resilience to Extreme Weather speak about community preparedness against extreme weather.

### *Gardeners Group: sharing plants and botanical knowledge*

Margaret Procter

The Gardeners Group held another lively Plant Fair in June and enjoyed informal Tuesday-evening sidewalk strolls from July through September. U of T student Lydia Wong studied bees in 11 gardens and gave us photos, drawings, notes, and a fascinating public talk. See <http://harbordvillage.com/projects/greening/hvgardeners/> for news and images.

### *2018 Community Yard Sale: a different approach*

Nicole Schulman

On May 27 we had our annual Neighbourhood Yard Sale Day. This was the first year we did not have a central table with donated goods for sale. Instead, similar to what some other neighbourhoods are doing, we encouraged individual residents to hold their own yard sales all over the neighbourhood on the same day, in order to attract greater yard sale traffic.

### *Dragon boating: fun and fitness with friends*

Tim MacFarlane

Our dragon boat team garnered a bronze at the annual Canada Day Regatta on Centre Island, capping off weekly practice sessions since May. The team formed in 2013 for residents, family, friends, and businesses in HV, with an emphasis on fun, enjoying the lake, and some friendly competition. Anyone can do this—age, gender, fitness level, etc. are no barrier. Find out more at [HarbordVillageDB@gmail.com](mailto:HarbordVillageDB@gmail.com).



Dragon boat Canada Day Regatta



Eleanor Levine

## Fall is also a great time in Harbord Village

Anne Kerekes

Fall officially kicks off (a bit early) with the Fall Fair on the second Sunday of September (detailed on pages 6 & 7) featuring entertainment, food, silent auction, and more. Then the Fall AGM on the third Wednesday of October is a great way to stay informed about important news and issues. And finally our Annual PumpkinFest lets the inner child in all of us revel in the variety of pumpkins carved by residents. Pumpkins are displayed and lit up along Harbord Street on November 1.

The weather may be cooler, but it's still a great time to come out to enjoy the warmth of our community and the company of our neighbours!

## Farmers' Market: bringing nature's bounty to our neighbourhood

Rory Gus Sinclair

This summer we celebrated the 11th year of the Farmers' Market, which takes place every Wednesday, June–October, in the Green P parking lot between Borden and Lippincott. We offer a great market experience to area residents with friendly volunteer staff and real local farmers and their produce. All made possible through partnering with the My Market and My Pick programs of Farmers' Markets Ontario funded by the Ontario government to promote farmers' markets. As we wrap up 2018, we look forward to seeing you next year.



Happy Plant Fair patron



Eleanor Levine



Graham Rempe





## HVRA Fall Fair

*The weather was cool—but then so was the party*

Rory Gus Sinclair and Anne Kerekes; photos Graham Rempe

As they say in the outdoor event business, “You pick a day—and then you pray.” In over 25 years, we’ve only had to cancel twice and this year was a close call. The initial forecast called for all-day heavy rain. So the cool temperatures we got were less than ideal but at least the show went on.

And with a surprisingly good turnout. Kids were running about with painted faces, neighbours were socializing, there was lots of great food and beverages to be enjoyed, we had lots of great restaurant gift cards and concert tickets and more to raffle and auction off. And the music was never better with a standout performance by Island Accent as the closing act capping off a varied program with Irish traditional, Bluegrass, Blues and Roots, Folk and Cajun, Trad Scottish, and Country.

All this was possible with dozens of volunteers doing everything from flipping burgers and cooking corn; setting up and taking down; provisioning the food kitchen; minding the beer and wine table, all for the “front of the house” or what you see. “Back of the house” or unseen efforts involved arranging rentals, permits, insurance, and inviting the bands; provisioning tablecloths and food and drink; and soliciting for the silent auction, which set a record this year for dollar value of all the prizes. It is always a huge undertaking but the payoff is also always so satisfying as we see our community out having such a good time.







## Thank you to our volunteers

Coleen Whyte, Carmen Gauthier, Caitlin Smith, Wendy Trueman, Christian Mueller, Remi Sliwa, Noa Sliwa, Anders Hoffman, Peter Fallico, Ryan Maleganeas, James Murdoch, Hari Rathod, Matt Hoffmann, Nhai Nguyen-Beare, Gina Buonaguro, Amelia Agrowal, Andreas Agrowal, Angie Mackie, Gord Muschett, Khalid Mohammed Ali, David Booz, Brock Shepherd, Ann Eyerman, Leslie Thompson, Leah Ritcey-Thorpe, Mary Newberry, Gord Brown, Mary Louis, Kanan Patel, Katherine Lilley, David Retzleff, Miriam Ticoll, Leslie Carlin, and Simon Coleman

# Thanks to Our Generous Auction and Raffle Donors

AGO

Akai Sushi

Alex Cuts

Almond Butterfly Bakery

Alternative Arts

Annex Photo

Bakka Phoenix Books

Bata Shoe Museum

Blackbird Bakery

Blo Go Hair Salon

BMV Bookstore

Body Invest

Caversham Booksellers

Central Tech Dome

Cheese Magic

Clay Design

Cobs Bread

College Street Optical

Crafty Coyote

Crêpes à GoGo

Curbside Cycle

Elchi Chai Shop

El Rey Restaurant

Everdale Farms

Factory Theatre

Famoso Pizzeria

Fancy Franks

Fiesta Farms

Flock Rotisserie

Free Times Café

Fringe Toronto

Fresh Restaurant

Gardiner Museum

Good for Her

Gripped Publishing

Harbord Bakery

Harbord Convenience

Harbord Dentistry

Harbord House

Harbord Street BIA

Harvest Kitchen



Elaine Ford

Her Father's Cider Bar

Hot Docs Theatre

Hutoshi

Independent City Mart

J's Apron Restaurant

Juxtapose

Karen Millyard

Kensington Brewery

Kilgour's

King's Landing Barber

Knox Church

Krispy Kreme

Manic Coffee House

Margaret Procter

Mars Diner

Metro

Miles Nadal JCC

Noah's Foods

Nu Bügel

Parentbooks

Patrick Crean Books

Paupers

Pet Valu

Piano Piano

Pizzeria Via Mercanti

Piya's Boutique

Quetzal Restaurant

Randolph Academy

Rasa Restaurant

Raymond James Financial

RBC, Spadina/Harbord

Rexall, Bloor/Brunswick

River Tai

The Rock Store

Rowe Farms

RCM Koerner Hall

St. Louis Bar & Grill

Sanagan's Meat Locker

Scholar House

Second Cup, Bloor

Shopper's Drug Mart, Bloor

Sivananda Yoga

Sunflower Kitchen

Starbucks, Bloor

Sweet Pete's

Tafelmusik

Tarragon Theatre

10 Editions

Textile Museum

Things Japanese

Think IT Cafe

312 Optical

Tom's Place

Top Cuts

Torreira Imports

Tranzac Club

Victory Cafe

Wiener's Hardware

Wright Real Estate

Yasu Sushi



## Green studies

### *Trees and bees*

Margaret Procter

Harbord Village may be a downtown area, but this summer it was also a nature preserve for two research projects.

We care about our trees, but not all are in good condition. A team led by U of T student Leah Ritcey-Thorpe finished updating our 2007–8 tree inventory, funded by a federal summer-student grant and member contributions. Sandy Smith of the Faculty of Forestry supervised her and two other students supported by research grants.



Shan Azam

Christian Rempe, Zhuoran Gong, and Leah Ritcey-Thorpe

A report shows current trends in tree size and health, and a Google Earth map details locations and species. Unfortunately overall canopy is decreasing, with large trees like silver maples and horse chestnuts trimmed or removed. New trees are usually smaller ornamentals, which will never arch over our streets or contribute much to temperature regulation. However, there are still many plantable spaces suitable for large trees. And tall narrow trees such as purple beech, columnar oaks, and some evergreens suit smaller yards. A sub-list of “not purposely planted” trees shows how trees of all kinds, often in laneways, contribute to the canopy even if they don’t appear in garden catalogues. Some unique trees include ancient laburnum, a Manitoba maple 159 cm in diameter, and a shag-bark hickory.

The second project brought Lydia Wong into some of our gardens to study urban bees. Also supervised by Sandy Smith, Lydia counted bees and analyzed their flower preferences and nesting activities. Her photos and notes have made us see our yards with new eyes. We now realize we have dozens of bee types collecting nectar and pollen and creating nests for their offspring to overwinter and emerge next spring. Their variety is fascinating, and their ingenuity astounding.



Janice Dembo

Lydia Wong studying Harbord Village bees

The bees preferred native plants such as coreopsis, goldenrod and milkweed over non-native ones like roses and hosta, but visited both types. They did better with clumps of plants versus neatly spaced plantings. And they found or made their own nests in the ground or in plant material. So it’s a service to nature if you neglect to clean up every patch of ground. There may be baby bees under that leaf litter that will make your garden a fascinating place next summer. And don’t worry about getting stung. Wasps sting, bees hardly ever do.

Lydia presented an illustrated talk to several dozen Harbord Village residents on August 27. Her stunning photos and videos, and amusing and informative notes, can be found at [harbordvillage.com/hvgardeners](http://harbordvillage.com/hvgardeners).

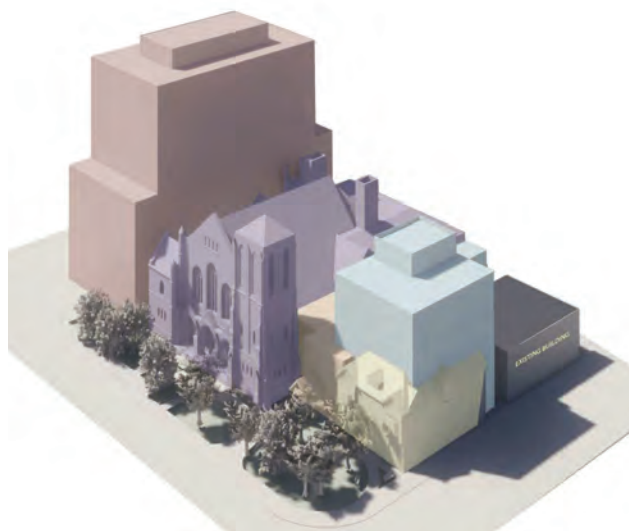
## Knox Church

Carolee Orme

Like many churches, Knox Church has a significant maintenance deficit. In consultation with HVRA, the church indicated the need to fund essential repairs and renewal of their heritage-designated church building. Despite extensive fundraising they still need an estimated \$11 million, which they will raise through partnering with New Commons Development ([newcommons.ca](http://newcommons.ca)) to build a 14-storey apartment building south of the church. New Commons was chosen for its focus on developing social purpose real estate and affordable housing.

Changes are also proposed north of the church, affecting the heritage-listed Knox House at Harbord and Spadina. Two development concepts were submitted, both offering privately owned publicly accessible green space at the southwest corner of Harbord and Spadina. One concept retains the east and north facades of Knox House, moving them to the west and constructing a six-storey addition. The other concept proposes demolition of Knox House and creating a parking lot to the west. This is at an early stage in the City's approval process with future opportunity for public consultation.

Kearns Mancini



*Building mass model, Spadina/Harbord*

## Fire prevention

Anne Kerekes

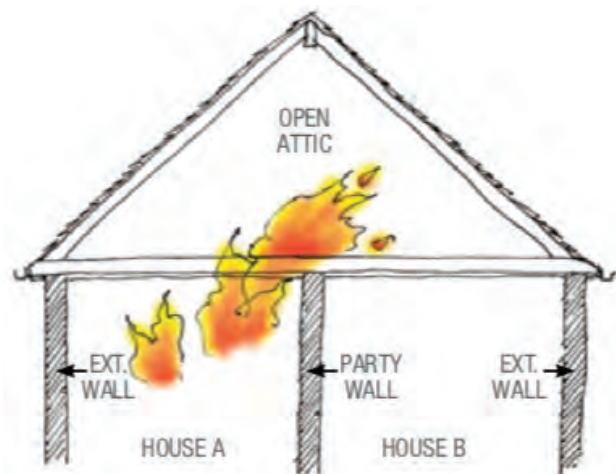
As we head into winter and spend more time indoors, it's worth reviewing how to prevent house fires from starting and spreading. The impact is especially devastating in Harbord Village, where many houses can be affected as the result of close proximity.

Many house fires start as cooking fires. Have a fire extinguisher nearby and ensure it's up-to-date (they have a one-year shelf life). Also keep baking soda handy to dump on a cooking fire.

Check your home for hidden knob-and-tube wiring (even if some of the wiring is newer). A licensed electrician can test and fix this.

Don't use firelogs and real wood logs together in the same fireplace. Firelogs deposit wax on chimney lining, and real wood sends sparks up the chimney, igniting the waxy build-up. Use one or the other, and have your lining cleaned or changed before switching.

And we can reduce fires from spreading to other houses by ensuring adjoining attics are separated by a firewall. Many older homes lack one. Check your attic and consider sharing the cost of building one together with your neighbours. It may be the smartest money you will ever spend.



Learn more at [harbordvillage.com/projects/urban-issues/fire-safety/](http://harbordvillage.com/projects/urban-issues/fire-safety/).



# Harbord Village business spotlight

## *We've got the world at our fingertips*

Anne Kerekes, text and photos

Here in Harbord Village we live not just at the crossroads of Bloor, Spadina, College, Bathurst and Harbord, but also at the crossroads of the world, with eateries serving up all kinds of international cuisine. Here are five new neighbourhood spots worth checking out!



At 196 Borden and Harbord (in the old Chabichou location) is **ThinkIT** café, which should be top-of-mind if you are hankering for classic Italian bistro fare—excellent espresso, breakfast dishes, or delicious panini made with fresh Italian bread, and more. Come in and enjoy the minimalistic modern decor, or do takeaway. Either way you'll love it! [www.pensaitaliano.ca](http://www.pensaitaliano.ca)



At 402 Bloor just west of Brunswick is **Noodle and More**, a small eatery with friendly service that offers authentic Asian dishes ranging from hearty ramen to cold noodle dishes to savoury Chinese crepe sandwich, all very good and filling with as much or little spice as you can handle! [www.noodle-even-more.business.site](http://www.noodle-even-more.business.site)



A few doors west at 408 Bloor is **Fuwa Fuwa**. This newcomer specializes in Japanese desserts, which are an up-and-coming trend here and everywhere. Their speciality is a super-fluffy pancake, made with different topping combinations. Just walk by and the aroma will entice you inside to sample! [www.fuwafuwapancakes.com](http://www.fuwafuwapancakes.com)



Over at 419 College, just east of Bathurst, we welcome **Quetzal**, which celebrates Mexico's culinary heritage by showcasing diverse regional dishes, made by traditional methods. Quetzal's chefs travelled extensively through Mexico to study Mexican cuisine and bring an authentic representation back to Toronto, just waiting to be sampled! [www.quetzaltoronto.com](http://www.quetzaltoronto.com)



Finally, at 76 Lippincott, a colourful and cozy Filipino-inspired diner has emerged (where Wrapido once operated). **BB's Diner** is a fresh take on traditional Filipino brunch. BB stands for Bahay ni Bella, which in Tagalog (Filipino) means "home/house of Bella," the home-like feel which is reflected in the aesthetic and food. It's a labour of love with house-made pork sausages, charred eggplant tortas, and spaghetti served with house hotdogs. For more information follow them on Instagram [@bbsdiner](https://www.instagram.com/bbsdiner).

## HVRA committees

Harbord Village has many committees that focus on specific areas that benefit our neighbourhood.

### Board search/Nomination

Finds at least one candidate for each vacant board position before the AGM.

### Communications

Oversees the newsletter, website, weekly eblasts.

### Gardening

Enhances Harbord Village with personal and public gardening initiatives.

### Heritage

Documents and preserves the unique history of Harbord Village.

### Membership

Grows and nurtures Harbord Village membership.

### Parents consultation

Focuses on issues of interest to area parents.

### Transportation

Works towards community-based solutions for pedestrian safety related to the use of cars and bicycles.

If you are interested in more information or joining, contact  
search2018@harbordvillage.com

## HVRA Board 2017–2018

<i>Chair</i>	Gail Misra	chair@harbordvillage.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Rory Sinclair	treasurer@harbordvillage.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Andrea Poptsis	secretary@harbordvillage.com
<i>Membership</i>	Merrill Swain	membership@harbordvillage.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Margaret Procter	web@harbordvillage.com
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<i>NE Rep</i>	Carolee Orme	arearepne@harbordvillage.com
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<i>SC Rep</i>	Simon Coleman	arearepsc@harbordvillage.com
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<i>SE Rep</i>	Cathy Merkley	arearepse@harbordvillage.com
<i>SW Rep</i>	Jane Perdue	arearepsw@harbordvillage.com
<i>SW Rep</i>	Bob Stambula	arearepsw@harbordvillage.com

*HVRA thanks Anne Kerekes as managing editor, Jane Auster for her continuing contribution to copy-editing, and Ian MacKenzie for his patience and layout skills to create this edition of the newsletter.*

## HVRA membership & renewal form

Please check one:

- ☐ Voting member (individual) \$10  
☐ Enthusiastic member \$20  
☐ Fanatical member \$50

Payment can be made online at <http://harbordvillage.com/membership>.

Or mail a cheque payable to *Harbord Village Residents' Association* at HVRA, PO Box 68522, 360A Bloor Street West, Toronto M5S 1X1.

Name .....

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Address .....

Telephone.....

Email.....