

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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HISTORIC WALKS IN HARBORD VILLAGE

an explorer's guide, to a Toronto neighbourhood

13,000 YEARS AGO TO 1787

Harbord Village Residents' Association acknowledges Indigenous presence in our area with this statement, adapted from one prepared by the Elders' Circle of the University of Toronto First Nations House:

We acknowledge that the area we call Harbord Village has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat First Nation, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Before European settlement, the area was included in the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We respect that agreement and honour the history of past care for the land where we now stand.

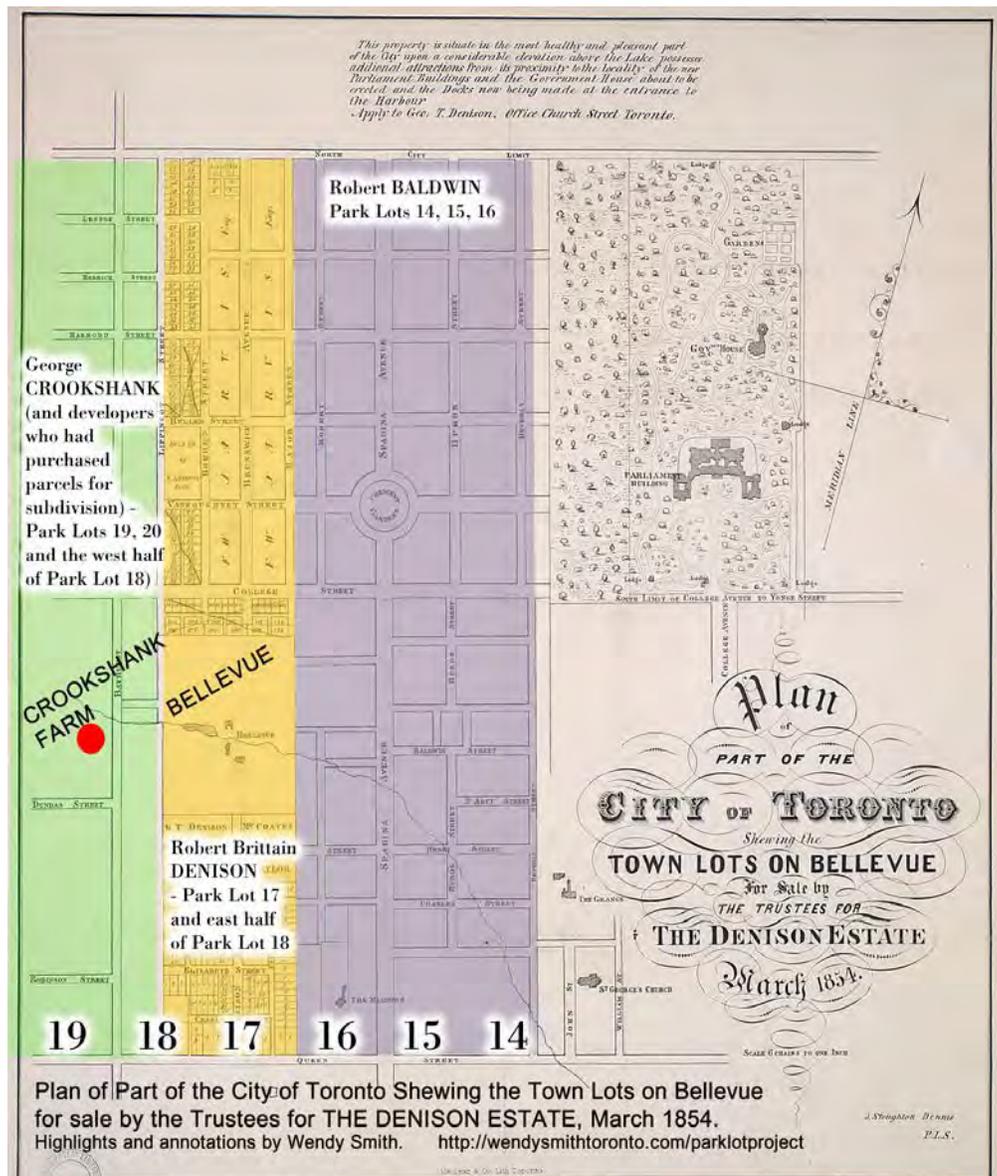
Formed 13,000 years ago from the lakebed of Lake Iroquois at the end of the last glacial period, the sandy Toronto Plain midway between the Rouge River and Etobicoke Creek, south of Davenport, east and west of the Don Valley is flat. In our neighbourhood the beds of Taddle Creek to the east, Garrison Creek to the west and Russell Creek through the middle are perceptible, but today's Harbord Village lacks streambeds.

Nor does it does provide archaeological evidence for settlement before the European period. It was, however, part of a rich hunting ground during the millennia when Indigenous people lived on the Iroquois Plain. In the post-glacial period, tundra vegetation supported giant mastodons and mammoths. Their teeth have been found in Christie Pits. In warmer, more recent times the area became a white-pine and oak savannah, like the re-naturalized areas on the eastern edge of High Park. Hardy prairie plants and relatively sparse forest cover are typical of this type of terrain, with large "sentinel" trees like the ancient bur oak that still stands behind 61 Brunswick. Grass, berries, acorns and nuts supported caribou, elk, and deer. Passenger pigeons filled the trees and darkened the skies. All were valuable as human food.

From before 1600, the larger area containing what is now Harbord Village was subject to conflict, competition, and treaties among Indigenous groups and Europeans. Even before European contact, the Huron-Wendat who once dominated the area and cultivated its land for corn, beans, squash and sunflower seeds, had moved to the Oak Ridges and then to Georgian Bay. The Seneca, an Iroquoian group from south of Lake Ontario, briefly lived in longhouse villages at the mouth of the Humber and the Rouge. After 1760, a few hundred Mississaugas (Ojibwe/Anishinaabe rather than Iroquoian) lived along the lakeshore. The British claimed ownership of the Toronto area on the basis of the "Toronto Purchase" documents of 1787 and 1805, signed by Mississauga leaders. By 1847, the Mississaugas had moved, first to the Credit River and then to Hagersville, south of the Iroquois Six Nations land near Brantford, where they now live as the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. They renegotiated a land-claim agreement in 2010 that covers much of the Toronto area.

In 1787 the ancestors of the First Nation who are now the Mississauga of New Credit were persuaded to sell, for £1,700, the land that would eventually contain the City of Toronto. In 1793 Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe founded the City of York, bounded by today's Front, George, Adelaide and Berkeley Streets. To the north, between what were then the Baseline (later Lot Street, now Queen Street) and the First Concession Road (now Bloor Street) 100 acre Park Lots were awarded to government officials, Empire Loyalists and colonial grandees. Harbord Village is built on Park Lots 16 (Robert Baldwin), 17 (Robert Denison) and 18 (George Crookshank) between College and Bloor Streets, Bathurst Street and Spadina Avenue.

PARK LOTS: 1793



Toronto Historic Maps: <http://peoplemaps.esri.com/toronto/>
 Historical Maps of Toronto: <http://oldtorontomaps.blogspot.ca/p/index-of-maps.html>

Simcoe wanted these lands north of the city of York cleared, settled and farmed to feed the growing city and, in many cases an estate house was built, generally facing south to face Lake Ontario. These houses included Bellevue, on Denison Square and The Grange, which still stands, as the nucleus of the Art Gallery of Ontario. As the city expanded, the owners of the park lots began to subdivide them for development.

Park Lot owners established different street and block patterns in their holdings, rarely linking them from one park lot to another, creating kinks in the east-west grid and the City had little success in linking streets into a more coherent city-wide block pattern. (Spadina Avenue, laid out as a central grand avenue within a consolidated estate, is unusual.) When the lots were subdivided and plans registered they were sold off to the developers of the day, builders who built a few houses at a time, for sale or rent.

from the *Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District Plan*, prepared in 2005 by heritage architect **Cathy Nasmith** (a past-President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.)

The construction of Harbord Village began in the 1860s; buildings that are now all demolished. It continued in the 1870s, reached a crescendo during the 1880s (a decade of building boom in Ontario) and continued through to the 1920s after which it was subject to occasional replacements. Starting in the 1960s many houses were altered by being simplified for easy maintenance. Gables and decorative woodwork were removed, doors and windows were replaced by aluminum and vinyl, wooden railings with wrought iron. Most of the built heritage of Harbord Village is of such merit and interest, it inspired, in 2003, the creation of **Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District** which prevents the demolition and inappropriate “renovation” (as opposed to conservation or restoration) of the street-visible aspects of its properties. Phase 1 of the HCD came into being in 2005, Phase 2 in 2009. In 2014 the remainder of Harbord Village was nominated as a potential Phase 3. (See the Harbord Village Heritage Conservation page at harbordvillage.com/projects/heritage-issues, including a link to the most recent version of the *Heritage Directory and Handbook*, useful for those considering renovations.)

Harbord Village has always been a diverse community, culturally, ethnically and spiritually, where waves of immigrants of different nationalities have enriched local life and made this a fascinating place in which to live. (And to seek entertainment, in a neighbourhood that is within walking distance of “everywhere downtown” and where there is an abundance of places of worship, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, bars, music venues, bookshops, parks and much more.)

Harbord Village is a *flaneur’s* dream, a neighbourhood that is fascinating to walk through, along the bustling diversity of College and Bloor Streets that form its southern and northern boundaries and through its dignified Victorian and Edwardian streetscapes. So choose your route and enjoy your historic walk through Toronto’s Harbord Village!

For more history and oral histories about life in **Harbord Village before the 1970s**, see:

HARBORD VILLAGE HISTORY: <http://harbordvillagehistory.ca/>

visit its **STORY POSTS:** http://harbordvillagehistory.ca/hvhistory_oralhistory_storypost.html

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HISTORIC WALKS IN HARBORD VILLAGE

an explorer's guide, street by street, to one of Toronto's most fascinating neighbourhoods

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/committees/te/te051115/it020.pdf>

http://www.tobuilt.ca/php/toneighbourhoods.php?sortfield=Buildings.%60BuildingName%60&sortby=DESC&search_fd8=Sussex-Ulster

(bounded by Spadina Ave, College St, Bathurst St, Bloor St W)

East-West streets, moving south to north:

COLLEGE St, p6-8

HARBORD St, p10-12

BLOOR St. West, p13-16

shorter streets east-west: RUSSELL St., WILLCOCKS St, p17-18

SUSSEX Ave, p19

ULSTER, VANKOUGHNET, LENNOX Sts, p20

North-South streets, moving east to west:

SPADINA Ave, p21-22

SUSSEX Mews, ROBERT St, p23-25

MAJOR St, p26

BRUNSWICK Ave, p27-32

BORDEN St., CROFT St, p33

LIPPINCOTT St, BATHURST St, p34

HARBORD VILLAGE BACK LANES, p35-38

**SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS OUTSIDE HARBORD VILLAGE
BUT IN SIGHT OF IT FROM ITS BOUNDARIES ARE**

STARRED

Harbord Village E-W Streets moving south to north

College Street (Spadina to Bathurst)

Originally College Avenue, a private approach to King's College, it marks the southern boundary of the 1827 land grant for King's College, now the University of Toronto. In 1888 it was leased, with University Avenue, to become a public street.

Look Up! Above their mostly mutilated shop fronts, the commercial buildings along what has been designated one of Toronto's most promising "avenues" are buildings that are "old" (1880s Victorian -1930s Art Deco), some that are not so old, some that were once magnificent, some that are banal, with gaps between them that beg to be filled with 21st Century "heritage buildings of the future". The most interesting are identified below.

College St (south side*)

Alexandrina Block*, 281-289 College St, 1887.

Royal College Rehab* 295 College St., architect unknown – formerly **Ukrainian Credit Union*** - a striking white, modernist building that contrasts boldly with its older neighbours.

College Condominium*, 297 College St., Core Architects for Tribute homes: a 15-storey tower to be built on the site of what was once a Buddhist Temple and before that a Ukrainian-Canadian Community Centre (where excavation revealed the brick foundation of an older building and the stumps of what might have been an orchard.) A welcome replacement for that ugly, low slab building with its huge, desolate parking lot but one that is much feared for the possibility that it might house a supermarket and the harm that might do to the businesses of Kensington Market.

Kensington Market* (Access by walking south on Augusta Ave. from College St south side): Sub-divided into Park Lots from the Denison Estates in the 1850s, occupied by Irish and Scottish labourers in the 1880s (when the working class, who mostly walked to work, needed to live downtown rather than in the suburbs.). In the early 20C, taken over by European Jews who began to convert the ground floors of their homes to stores to create the "Jewish Market". Since the 1960s settled by waves of immigrants, mainly from Italy, Portugal, Latin America and the Caribbean; plus Chinese and other south-Asians who also run businesses along the adjacent "Bladerunner" strip of Spadina Ave, which links to Chinatown on Dundas St. to the south east.

Planet Traveller*, "North America's Greenest Hostel", 357 College St, 1910, restored by Tom Rand and Anthony Aarts 2010. Solar panels and underground heat pumps generate electricity, recapture waste heat and reduce power consumption.

Church of St Stephen in the Fields*, 103 Bellevue Ave. 1858 (officially St Stephen the Martyr, nicknamed to "reflect the surrounding geography at the time it was built".) Architect Thomas Fuller (who also designed the Centre Block of Canada's parliament buildings in Ottawa.) The interior and the exterior of Fuller's St. Stephen's were based on St. Michael's, Long Stanton, England; "the ecclesiologists' approved model for small churches overseas." Burned by burglars in 1865, St Stephen's was rebuilt and enlarged by Henry Langley. That, and a series of alterations during the next quarter-century all but obliterated Fuller's interior. The present chancel dates from 1890. Only the general scheme is Fuller's — a richly furnished, timber-roofed nave, with a deep and richly adorned chancel. The only original feature of the exterior is the central portion of the west front with its distinctive bell-gable.

Hose Station No 8* (now Fire Hall 315), 132 Bellevue Ave., City of Toronto, 1878 architect unknown. Hose-drying tower added 1899. Guted by fire, rebuilt 1972.

Nest* 423 College St (formerly **Plaza Flamingo**, which entertained its guests with flamenco dancers and featured prominently during celebrations of World Cup victories and defeats that are, in this neighbourhood, feverish.) Inside Nest is decorated with “Giant nests that look like enormous popsicle stick sculptures are all over the place, and gorgeous, enormous paper airplanes appear to be taking flight from their nesting place on the wall.” where “Even the bottle service benches look like that third seat from minivans that wind up in the garages of every parent who owns a vehicle with 8+ seating for 3+ children.” And “The great decor is only slightly upstaged by the insane sound system and cool lights.”

Sneaky Dee’s* 431 College St. “a bomb of energy and dazzling with nostalgia, a place to sit and to dance, and home into the most reasonably priced menu in the city’s grid. It had a punk rock inception when it was founded in a basement near Honest Ed’s in 1987. Since then it has seen some great talent grace its darkly lit stage. From Broken Social Scene to Feist. In 1993, members of the Holocaust-denying Heritage Front attacked supporters of Anti-Racist Action at Sneaky Dee’s. According to a bar employee, the white supremacists "stomped all over people" and "They just went crazy. They wanted to kill anybody. There were riot cops everywhere and a lot of glass flying around. Cops were tackling guys all over the place."

College Street (north side) look up, above its shopfronts, for spectacular architecture.

284 College St., date, architect unknown. An elegant art deco building that was **Exclusive Paints** 1979-2012. The business was founded in 1938, by Izzy Reingewirtz (1908-1978) and located first on Spadina then at 298 College. It moved to #284 in 1978. Daughter Esther, remembers, when her family lived at 53 Brunswick Avenue, attending the Associated Hebrew School on Brunswick north of College. #284 is now the home of **Canada Computers**, one of many electronics stores that make this stretch of College St. Toronto’s “Silicon Alley”.

290 College St., date, architect unknown. In 1937 the original vaudeville house became the **Garden Cinema**, in 1965, the **Electra**, in 1965 **Cinema Lumière** (which enjoyed glorious years as an art house cinema) and, in 1980 **Chang’s Theatre** (which featured “Taiwanese porn with religious overtones.”) In 1986 the cinema closed, after its roof collapsed during a violent rainstorm on the opening night of *The Toxic Avenger*. It is now a **Home Hardware**, which sells supplies for roboticists and other electronic hobbyists, as well as conventional hardware.

Brunswick-College Parkette E corner of Brunswick at College

This blighted spot beside Kensington Health Centre inspired a design competition in 2011, which drew 27 entries from 8 countries. Inspired by those submissions, the parkette has been re-designed and will be rebuilt in 2016. Remembering the connection of this site to **St. John’s Surgical Hospital for Women**, the Doctors’ Hospita, Kensington Health, Kensington Hospice, and the many brave and brilliant doctors associated with Harbord Village, it will be renamed **The Doctor’s Parkette**.

John N. Grant Building, 302 College St, 1882.

312 Optical 312 College St, Original storefront with brass pillars exposed and polished in its window and its street number in ground glass above the door, exquisitely restored by the owners of the business, Andrew Laderman and Rachel Gerstein. (Her parents owned, in the 1950s and 1960s, Gerstein's Hardware which became Home Hardware at the corner of College and Robert Streets that is now located at 290 College, the former Cinema Lumière.)

320 College St - home of **Free Times Café** "with live klezmer and Yiddish music and delicious Home Made Food".

326 College St - home of **Fancy Franks Gourmet Hot Dogs** with an advertising mural by Andrew Kidder on its Major St. side which features a silhouette, in mustard yellow, of what might be the world's longest sausage dog.

Kensington Health Centre, 340 College St - until the mid 1980s the site was occupied by a handsome if dilapidated bow-fronted Victorian business and residential building which extended between Major St and Brunswick Ave. Just prior to its demise, its multitude of useful occupants included the MPP's office, a Vietnamese restaurant, a women's support centre, a children's theatre and, at the back, on Brunswick, behind a then elegant parkette, Miceli's Garden Centre. Among its residents in the 1970s were James Brown and Kim Storey (now Brown & Storey, Architects, who designed the landscaping of College St, Spadina-Bathurst and at St George St in the University of Toronto as well as Dundas Sq.) Although their first daughter was born there, they cannot remember the children's theatre but they do remember "a porn theatre, which ran films in a changing array of languages as the proprietor, Mr Awin, tried to find the winning combination. Not many people can claim to have been invited to the opening in 1977 of *Yo Fui Violada*" (See, *I was Raped*) which is now available online.

360-362 College St, site of the **Lux Burlesque Theatre**, 1959-1962 (opposite the church of St Stephen in the Field). #360 was an empty lot until 1904, when #362 was the **Wickware** barber shop. By 1915 #360 was the barbershop of **Sandler and Swiken** while #362 was unoccupied. Between 1916-1937, various businesses occupied the building. In 1938 the shops were demolished to construct a theatre (beside **Altman's Chop Shop** at #356 and the **Jenny Lind Candy Shop** at #366-368.) The **Bellevue Theatre** opened in 1939, beside **Smith's Sandwich Shop** to the east. Both were popular with troops in training during WW2.

The Bellevue became the **Lux Burlesque** in 1959, "in competition with the Casino on Queen St. and the Victory on Spadina for connoisseurs of the subtle art of the partial removal of clothes to the accompaniment of thumping music." For the opening of the Lux in 1959, the owner of the theatre, Elliot Abells, flew in stripper "Cup Cake Cassidy" for a special one-day, four-performance engagement. By her second show, a crowd of four hundred—including, the *Globe* reported, "a number of couples and more than a dozen women who entered individually and were well past 40." The whistling and stomping, the journalist added, reached "deafening proportions" as, bit by bit, the six-foot-tall brunette seductively shed her elaborate, jewelled gown. Cup Cake's burlesque performance relied more on the sexual suggestiveness of the tease than outright nudity. "The key to the striptease was not how much a woman stripped," writes historian Andrea Friedman, "but how much the people in the audience thought she stripped." Strict regulations on burlesque were enforced by a police morality squad. A bare bosom was not permissible, so performers relied on pasties and panties—as long as neither was flesh-coloured—to give the minimum legal coverage. Although it was no secret why spectators had bought their ticket, burlesque theatres included singers, jugglers, comedians, and other opening-act

entertainers with the price of admission. “I don’t see a thing wrong with it,” Cup Cake Cassidy said, sharing her pragmatic opinion toward practicing her profession on a Sunday in an interview with the *Globe*. “It’s just a form of entertainment—you can see more in some of these foreign movies! I think Toronto people who haven’t anything to do on Sunday, particularly immigrants, should be able to see a burlesque show if they want to.” Having started as a seventeen-year-old showgirl in Union City, New Jersey, Cup Cake (real name, Alice) Cassidy was proud that it had only taken her two months to achieve stardom after becoming a stripper two years earlier. Managed by her husband, she commanded one of the business’s top fees, which the *Globe* speculated to be around a thousand dollars per week. She’d been poor as a child but now, when she wasn’t touring the circuit through Canadian and American cities, she returned to her Pennsylvania mountain retreat to paint. “It’s hard work, but I wouldn’t want to do anything else,” she said. “An agent in Philly wanted to train me for Hollywood, but I wasn’t interested. I just want to be a stripper.”

According to Ross, Cassidy

Toronto, like Tempest Storm and Evelyn “Treasure Chest” West—each of whom earned more than a thousand dollars per week—earned “more than women in any other job category.” Toronto’s burlesque entertainers earned a minimum of \$166.50/week. The average wage was \$200/week with headliners earning \$350/week to \$400/week. Competition for talent between the Lux and the Casino gave stripteasers added leverage in negotiating contracts.

The Lux was forced to close in 1962, when picket lines prevented access by patrons during a labour dispute. It reopened in 1968, as the **Elektra**, which showed Greek films until 1970 and reopened again in 1976, as the **Lido**. The building was demolished in 1986 and rebuilt to house, among other businesses, one of the neighbourhood’s many pharmacies.

<http://tayloronhistory.com/2013/01/14/the-bellevue-theatre-lux-burlesque-theatre-on-college-street/>

http://torontoist.com/2009/08/historicist_cup_cake_cassidy_and_the_burlesque_boo/

She Said Boom, 372 College St “new and used CDs, books, vinyl, DVDs and more.”

Montone Block, 398-408 College St. Its name is embedded in the brickwork in the building’s peak.

Evangelisch-Lutherische St Georgs-Kirche, 410 College St. Originally College Street Baptist Church, founded 1872; St Georgs-Kirche since 1954.

Bank of Nova Scotia, 440 College St, architects Darling and Pearson, 1913. Replaced a flour and feed store operated by J. Clooney (1891) and the store of Isaac Prince and Edward Pease (who sold leather horsewhips, 1900.) In 1904 it became the Midland Bank, until it was replaced by the present building. One of the few buildings remaining in Toronto that has white terracotta cladding on its facades. Saved from demolition in the early 1980s, with the help of SURA (Sussex-Ulster Residents’ Association, predecessor to Harbord Village Residents’ Association.)

Harbord Street. - runs from Ossington Avenue in the west, through the middle of Harbord Village then east of Spadina, as Hoskin Ave., to the University of Toronto, Queen's Park and the Provincial Legislature then, as Wellesley St., to Yonge St., Parliament St. and Cabbagetown. Harbord Street first appeared – unnamed - on a *Plan of Part of the City of Toronto Shewing the Town Lots on Bellevue for sale by the Trustees for the Denison Estate, March 1854*, which also showed that the north half of Park Lot 17, between Borden St. and Major St., had been sold to Sheriff Frederick W. Jarvis and subdivided into house lots.

Harbord St. was first named on a map produced in 1857. It then ran from Hope St. (now Manning Ave) to St George St in the University of Toronto.)

The origin of the name of Harbord St. is uncertain. The fall 2008 issue (#59) of *Harbordite*, the magazine of alumni of Harbord Collegiate Institute contained an article written by **C. Arthur Downes** (graduated from HCI in 1945) that was originally published in 1979. It was republished again in *The Happy Ghosts of Harbord: a History of Harbord Collegiate Institute, 1892-1992*. (Toronto: Harbord Centennial Publishing Group, 1992, p.19.)

C. Arthur Downes suggested that Harbord St. was named in honour of Charles Harbord, 5th Baron Suffield because, like Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe, he was an opponent of the slavery. Downes was close but he chose the wrong Baron Harbord the 5th rather than the 3rd.

In 2013, Harbord Village historian **Wendy Smith**, discovered the true origin of the name of Harbord Street. Through numerous connections: **Thomas Buxton**, who replaced William Wilberforce as the leader of the emancipation movement in the British House of Commons in 1825, is source of Harbord's connection to Canada, a country he never visited. Among Buxton's anti-slavery allies were the six **Strickland sisters**, the youngest of whom became famous after they emigrated to this country as *Sisters in the Wilderness* **Catherine Parr-Trail** and **Susannah Moody**.

Susanna Strickland attended many Anti-Slavery Society meetings, which likely included the May, 1831 general assembly, chaired by **Edward Harbord, 3rd Lord Suffield** (1781-1835) where she might have met her future husband **John Dunbar Moodie**.

In 1840, after some years on an Upper Canada bush farm, Susanna and John Moodie moved to Belleville, where they met **Robert Baldwin** (who was campaigning to represent the district in the new United Provinces assembly). Baldwin often visited the Moodie home where he heard Susanna and John stories of their association with London's anti-slavery circle. The Moodies' fifth son, born in 1843, was named Robert Baldwin Moodie.

Robert Baldwin was the son of **William Warren Baldwin** (the builder of the first Spadina House, known as the father of "responsible" government in Canada - which meant rule by Canadians rather than rule from Britain). He was also the owner of Park Lots 14-16 during the period when Harbord Street was named.

Harbord St. shares its name with the now lost single span **Harbord Street Bridge**, built 1910-1914, over Garrison Creek, west of Harbord Village, between Art Eggleton and Bickford Parks, from Grace St, south to Montrose Ave. By 1930 the creek was filled in and is now buried beneath a dip in Harbord St. but the balustrade of the bridge still stands on the north side.

Harbord St. between Spadina and Bathurst:

Restaurants:

Harbord Fish and Chips, Flip, Toss and Thai, Flock, Her Father's Cider Bar, Chabachou, Boulevard Café, Piano Piano, The Harbord House all tastes and pockets are catered to, excellently.

Harbord Bakery, 115 Harbord St, founded by Altie and Goldie Kosower, 1945, rebuilt 1955. The Kosower family is honoured in **Kosower Lane**, south of the bakery, between Robert and Major St.

Bookshops:

Bakka-Phoenix Books, 84 Harbord St. - Canada's oldest science fiction bookstore opened as Bakka Books in 1972. It changed hands in 1980, then again in 2003. The new owner, Ben Freiman, added the name 'Phoenix' to pronounce rebirth. In a non-descript but purposeful building previously occupied by much-missed Atticus Books, which specialized in academic works.

Caversham Booksellers, 98 Harbord St., specialising in psychology & mental health. Established in 1989 by Dr. Christine Dunbar (psychiatrist and psychoanalyst born in Caversham, NZ) and Peter Heyworth (1931-2007), professor of English & former Vice Principal of University College)
<http://www.harbordbakery.ca/about-us>

Parent Books 121 Harbord St., (built, and occupied, by Edward Johnson, 1880.)
“The most comprehensive selection of resources available anywhere — from planning a family to everyday parenting issues to special needs of all kinds. For caregivers, counsellors, therapists, educators and clinicians, as well as parents.”

87 Harbord St, site of **Morgentaler Clinic**, 1983-1992. The clinic was founded by **Dr Henry Morgentaler**, (1923-2013) a Holocaust survivor famous for his determination to give the women of Canada access to safe, affordable abortion. Starting in Montreal in 1973, his actions led to a series of trials in Quebec and Ontario, which resulted in his acquittal in all of them and, in 1988, the abolition of the law relating to abortion by the Supreme Court of Canada. Although not all of Morgentaler's hopes have been granted (especially in the Maritimes where access to abortion remains difficult) Canada remains a country without an abortion law to this day. 87 Harbord St., which housed the first Morgentaler Clinic in Toronto, was fire-bombed by a pair of anti-abortion activists in 1992. It was rebuilt (with the attached and also destroyed, #85) in 1999. In spite of numerous requests, Heritage Toronto has yet to install a plaque commemorating the work of Henry Morgentaler at 87 Harbord Street.

Bloor Street West (Spadina to Bathurst)

Originally the **First Concession Road**, which was, for many years, the northern limit of the city. Then the **Toll-Gate Rd** (after the toll-gate which stood at the corner of Yonge St.), **St. Paul's Road** (after the church at 227 Bloor St E, constructed 1842), and **Sydenham Road** (after Lord Sydenham, Governor General 1839–1841). Renamed Bloor St. in 1855 after [Joseph Bloor](#) (originally Bloore), 1788-1862, who immigrated from Staffordshire, England to Canada in 1819, an innkeeper, brewer, and land speculator who lived at 100 Bloor St. W. In 1830 he built a brewery in the Rosedale Valley on Sherbourne St. at the east end of the First Concession Road. In 1843 he sold it and purchased a stretch of land west of Yonge, north of the First Concession, where he and Sherriff [William Botsford Jarvis](#) laid out the village plots of the town of [Yorkville](#). Joseph Bloor is buried at [Necropolis Cemetery](#) at [Bayview Avenue](#) and Rosedale Valley Road.

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and **Al Green Theatre**, 750 Spadina Ave. - replaced the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) and other Jewish clubs, schools and institutions which occupied the now demolished houses at 9-15 Brunswick Avenue, 1920s to the 1950s.

Trinity-St Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St W. Edmund Burke architect, 1889

Built with Credit Valley stone in the Revised Romanesque style. Still an active church and home to Tafelmusik, the Toronto Consort and numerous social services.

BMV Books, 471 Bloor St W. 19C previously the Hungarian castle and Blue Cellar Room. Painted black and sealed for 17 years, until it was "liberated" by the death of the owner's widow. <https://abitmoredetail.wordpress.com/2013/05/02/urban-note-ghost-city-471-bloor-st-w/>
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/bloor-streets-black-hole-up-for-grabs-at-last/article18271896/>

The Brunswick House, 481 Bloor St W, founded 1876 by Benjamin Hinchcliffe, 1831-1911, rebuilt to its present appearance 1908. (Architect John Wilson Siddall.) Originally patronized by working class immigrants, then a student bar. Famous for the groups who played upstairs in Albert's Hall (named after owner Albert Nightingale) "Home of the Blues" - Climax Jazz Band, Etta James Blossom Deary, Jeff Healy, K. D. Lang, Oscar Peterson, Peter Appleyard and more - for the shenanigans downstairs in Pickle Alley (with "Rockin Irene", Momma Chicklet, Donny the Dwarf, the Queen of Sweden, Diamond Lil Shepherd, Ivy the Honky Tonk Queen and others) and for its proneness to disturbances which resulted in its closing in 2015 and reopening as a Rexall drugstore in 2017.

Albert's Parlour which replaced Albert's Hall provided off-track betting on the 2nd floor: "Located in the heart of the beautiful Annex in Downtown Toronto, with 4 tellers and 69 large televisions for your viewing pleasure with televisions specifically set aside to satisfy all of your sports desires."

From **Dorothy Wills**, great, great granddaughter of **Benjamin Hinchcliffe**:

"My connection to the Brunswick House is through my great great grandfather, Benjamin Hinchcliffe (1831-1911) who first owned and operated the Brunswick Hotel about 1874.

Benjamin Hinchcliffe arrived in Toronto in 1865 from Silkstone England. His first hotel was the St. Georges at the corner of Yonge and Richmond (followed by the Osgoode House at Queen and York Streets from 1870. He received his tavern licence in 1876. That same year he became the owner and manager of the tavern at the corner of Brunswick and Bloor. There was also a driving shed and ballroom on the property.

He lived in his hotels where travelers would stop over, refresh their horses and themselves. By 1883 he had moved from the Brunswick Hotel into a home at the corner of Borden Street and Sussex Avenue - 243 Borden Street that became 207 Borden and is now 109 Sussex Avenue.

“Ye Olde Brunswick house was designated a Heritage Property in 1991, but will this make any difference to its future? It is sad to note the loss of this historical building.”

Gallanough Block, 1913, 483-489 Bloor St W home of the **Future Bistro** (before that, The Other Bookstore). Founded by the late Roman Wrzesnewskyj (former chair, Ukrainian Art Foundation.)

Book City, 501 Bloor St W. b“Toronto’s leading independent bookseller – Comfortable, Classy and Cheap”. Flagship store of a city-wide chain. Closed in 2013, due to excessive rent increase, now Chipotle restaurant.

Seekers Books, 509 Bloor St W. - In the basement beneath Kilgour’s Bar, west of Book City. “New Age, mysticism, meditation, eastern philosophy, the Occult plus a vast selection of literature, crime and children’s books.”

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema*, 506 Bloor St W. - Built as a cinema in 1905, opened 1913 as the **Madison Picture Palace**. Rebuilt 1941 as the **Midtown**. Renamed the **Capri** in 1967, the **Eden** (which showed “adult” films) in 1973, the **Bloor** in 1979. Since 2012, home of **Hot Docs**, the world’s largest documentary film festival.

Lees Palace & the Dance Cave, 529 Bloor St. W. - Originally a bank built in the early 1900s. Re-opened 1919 as Allen’s Bloor Theatre. Re-opened by Mr Lee on Sept 5th 1985 (with Handsome Ned) as an Alternative Music Club with dancing on the second floor and live performances on the main.

Presse International, 537 Bloor St W. Harbord Village’s most comprehensive seller of newspapers and magazines from all over the world.

Pauper’s Pub, 539 Bloor St W, built 1914 for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Honest Ed’s*, 581 Bloor St W, (between Bathurst and Markham Streets) opened 1948, expanded from **The Sports Bar** dress shop founded by Anne and Ed Mirvish during World War II. A remarkable institution, a remarkable history, a remarkable heritage building. Closed 2016.

Harbord Village between Robert St. and Spadina Ave.

The Russell, Willcocks, Sullivan and Baldwin families were Protestant immigrants from County Cork in Ireland. The families were close, and their ties were cemented in 1803 when William Warren Baldwin married William Willcocks's daughter Phoebe and later, by subsequent marriages. The Baldwin and Willcocks families lived together, and after the War of 1812 war and Willcocks's death, the Baldwins moved into Elizabeth Russell's home to take care of her. Eventually most of the many thousands of acres accumulated by the three families in Upper Canada became the property of the Baldwin family.)

Russell Street – Peter Russell (1733-1808) came to Upper Canada in 1792 to serve as Receiver General of the new province of Upper Canada. He became Administrator of Upper Canada after Lt.-Gov. Simcoe's sudden departure in 1796, until he was replaced in 1799. In 1797 Russell expanded the boundaries of the Town of York (now Toronto) from the original ten blocks in the St. Lawrence Market area, north to Lot Street (now Queen Street) and west to York Street so, much of the planning of the original Town of York must be credited to him. Peter Russell is characterized by historian **Edith Firth** in the Canadian Dictionary of Biography as “the son of an improvident Irish army officer who claimed without much evidence to be related to the Duke of Bedford” and, among other things, as an “office holder, politician, and judge” who “has never been considered one of the great men of Ontario.” In spite of those shortcomings Edith Firth’s entry concludes: “Yet the record of legislation during his administration is impressive, not for great statutes but for those which corrected abuses, improved conditions, or made the machinery of government work more smoothly. Russell was not a great man and his abilities may have been pedestrian, but his accomplishments were very real.”

<http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?BioId=36765>

Willcocks Street – Colonel William Willcocks (1736-1853) arrived in Upper Canada in 1792 on the coattails of his first cousin Peter Russell. In the Canadian Dictionary of Biography, historian **Edith Firth** writes of William Willcocks:

“By 1792 he was an unsuccessful merchant with unfulfilled municipal ambitions; thus he was easily persuaded to leave his family and follow Russell to Upper Canada.” After a short stint in this country he returned to Cork in Ireland where he was elected Mayor. After serving for one year he became an unsuccessful trafficker of settlers to Canada (the first batch deserted him in New York, the second was captured by the French at sea.) In 1796 Peter Russell persuaded the Executive Council to reserve Whitby to Willcocks for two years but his claims were rescinded in 1797. By the beginning of the 19th century Willcocks was established in York as a shopkeeper, magistrate, and the City’s first postmaster but it was not until 1801 that his wife, three daughters, and his son and daughter-in-law were all in Canada. In January 1800 he was appointed a judge of the Home District Court but his land speculations proved disastrous. By 1803, when his second daughter, Phoebe, married William Warren Baldwin, everything Willcocks had was under execution. In his old age he lived with the Baldwins, but spent much time at his property at Millbrook (Markham) involved in “useless schemes at mill building,” according to his son-in-law. His debts were paid by selling land, and his property, like Peter Russell’s, eventually passed to the Baldwin family. Willcocks’s Upper Canadian career owed more to Peter Russell’s influence than to his own ability; it demonstrates the power and limitation of 18th century nepotism.”

In the neighbourhood of what is now Harbord Village, Willcocks was granted Park Lot 15 (Huron St. to Spadina Ave) but sold it to Peter Russell in 1802. After his death in 1813 most of his extensive property went to his two daughters, and some to his son in law William Warren Baldwin (husband of Phoebe.) This included Township Lot 24, Second Concession from the Bay, where, in 1818, Baldwin built Spadina House on the brow of the Davenport escarpment http://www.biographi.ca/EN/EN/009004-119.01-e.php?id_nbr=2714

For an interesting family connection between Peter Russell and William Willcocks, meet his cousin:

Canada’s Benedict Arnold: Joseph Willcocks, our homegrown traitor from the War of 1812
Michael Valpy, Literary Review of Canada, Jul/Aug 2012
<http://reviewcanada.ca/essays/2012/07/01/canadas-benedict-arnold/>

Harbord Village streets between Spadina Ave and Borden St

Sussex Avenue. Originally Heyden St.(named after **Lawrence Heyden** (1804-1868), a Toronto barrister, relative of the Baldwins, Clerk to the Court of Common Pleas and later Clerk to the High Court. The later spelling was Hayden.)

Renamed Sussex Avenue between 1880-1884, after Prince Arthur (1850-1942), seventh child of Queen Victoria, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn and Earl of Sussex.

Prince Arthur's long and distinguished career as an army officer, included, 1869-1870, service in Canada where, as an officer with the Montreal detachment of the Rifle Brigade, he undertook a year's training and engaged in defending the Dominion from the Fenian Raids. On 25 May 1870, Prince Arthur was engaged in fending off Fenian invaders during the Battle of Eccles Hill, for which he received the Fenian Medal. On 1 October 1869, he was given the title Chief of the Six Nations by the Iroquois of the Grand River Reserve in Ontario and the name *Kavakoudge* (meaning the sun flying from east to west under the guidance of the Great Spirit), enabling him to sit in the tribe's councils and vote on matters of tribe governance. As he became the 51st chief on the council, his appointment broke the centuries old tradition that there should only be 50 chiefs of the Six Nations.

Prince Arthur served as 10th Governor General of Canada, 1911-1916. His youngest daughter, Princess Patricia of Connaught became, in 1914, the first Colonel in Chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the "Princess Pat's").

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Arthur,_Duke_of_Connaught_and_Strathearn

84 Sussex Ave., built 1885 as part of the row beside it. - On the corner of Sussex and Major is the most elegant former corner store in Harbord Village. A carpenter who worked at Eatons added rear addition and a third floor in 1895 together with the turret. In 1933 the store window on the Major St side was added by Wax Furrier. It then housed the business of a seamstress and a junk dealer named Farrell, who stored his stuff in the side yard. In the 1960's it was a children's book store shared with the Sussex Research Group (architects) who built in a lot of furniture made out of plywood; then it was the New Press. Anna and Bob Barnett (who supplied this information) bought the house in May of 1973. They added the slate roof and the three-colour paint scheme. There is a horse hitch at the rear door and inscribed brick from the 1920's. A treasure trove of bottles and china was dug out of the driveway, which may have covered a midden. Anna's garden replaced the gravel yard after 1973. In the rear interior there is a stair from 1865 Osgoode Hall which was removed from there as part of Bob's architectural work. Paving stones in driveway are also from Osgoode Hall. The blue pavers are from Spadina streetcar tracks.

Harbord Village between Major St and Bathurst St

Ulster Street. – originally named Buller St. (in honour of Charles Buller, 1806-1848, a Secretary to Lord Durham.) Presumably renamed after Protestant-ruled Northern Ireland. (In a neighbourhood where the Orange Order was very strong in its time.)

A street of mixed architecture of various ages, including, #38-54, a row of Toronto “bay ‘n gables designed and built by C R S Dinnick that was mostly rebuilt in the 1960s and ‘70s in a much simplified form by its mostly Portuguese owners.

Harbord Village between Borden St and Lippincott St

Vankoughnet Street. named after Philip Vankoughnet (pron: “vankoonet”) 1736-1853, Judge of the Home District, 1802, in whose name a large piece of property was patented in 1798. His daughter Phoebe married Dr William Warren Baldwin.

7 Vankoughnet Street

On January 3, 1899, Richard Noble and his wife Sara Noble were arraigned of keeping a disorderly house at 7 Vankoughnet Street in Toronto. According to The Evening Star, the rows at Noble’s “disreputable domicile” averaged about thirty a month all summer. However, it was not until a police officer got involved in one of these rows that the couple faced charges. The Globe reported that on Christmas Eve, 1898, “fights and drinking bouts followed each other in quick succession” at Noble’s house. Police Constable Featherstone went into the house to quell the disturbance, but “he was set upon and given a severe beating.” Three men attacked Featherstone and took his helmet, baton and revolver. When the officer reached the street, he was cut and bleeding. Magistrate George Taylor Denison presided over Richard and Sara Noble’s trial, and they were both fined \$10 and costs or 30 days in prison. The couple and a third man named Skelly tried to defend themselves claiming that Featherstone had been in the place for about an hour, drinking beer and taking part in the festivities, before he was assaulted. Richard Noble even alleged that Featherstone “attempted familiarities with Mrs. Noble.” Featherstone, however, denied the yarns. He swore that he was called by Mrs. Noble to quell a fight, and that the instant he entered the door three men “kicked him into semi-insensibility.” Two of these men, William Beetham and Thomas Bailey, were arraigned on January 11, and were charged for assaulting Featherstone. Both the Toronto Police Court and the press supported Featherstone’s version.

From: *Sex Work in the Queen City: Mapping Prostitution in Toronto, 1865-1915*

Brothels and historic sites researched by students in Professor Laurie K. Bertram's seminar *The Oldest Profession in Canada*, Department of History, University of Toronto.

<http://utoronto.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StoryMapBasic/index.html?appid=434765ad4688479d80ae67a841aef5ee>

Harbord Village between Borden St and Bathurst St

Lennox Street. - named after “a property owner in the district”. (A relative of Edward James Lennox, pioneer of “Richardsonian Romanesque” and architect of Old City Hall, among other buildings?)

NO INFORMATION re NOTABLE BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTS – PLEASE SUPPLY

Harbord Village north-south streets, moving west

Spadina Avenue, College St. – Bloor St.

(pronounced: “spad-eye-nah” cf Spadina House: “spad-ee-nah”)

Name: Ojibwa *ishpadinaa*. "high place, ridge or "sudden rise in the land."

Original name of the street from **Bloor Street** to **Queen Street West**, built by Dr. **William Baldwin** beginning in 1815. The southern portion was named Brock Street and remained so until 1884. Baldwin designed the street, choosing its extra large width and placing the circle that is today **Spadina Crescent**. He named the connecting Baldwin Street after himself, and Phoebe Street to the south was named after his wife Phoebe Baldwin.

North of **Bloor Street**, to the Lake Iroquois *ishpadinaa*, Baldwin Steps, Casa Loma and Spadina House, Spadina Avenue becomes Spadina Road.

Hotel Waverly, 1900, 484 Spadina Ave. One of Toronto’s longest running and cheapest hotels. Its accommodation provides low-cost housing benefiting Toronto's transient community as well as monthly residents. The hotel offers 24-hour laundry facilities, free parking and snack counter. Nov 16 1961, Arthur Lucas registered a room at the Waverly. Between 3:00-6:00am next morning he murdered Therland Crater and his wife Carolyn Ann Newman at 116 Kendal Ave. 11 December 1962 Lucas was hanged, with another murderer, Ronald Turpin at the Don Jail. These were the last hangings in Canada.

April 6, 1968, according to rumour he denied, James Earl Ray, began a 1-week stay, after his assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr in Memphis TN on April 4.

(He actually stayed in rooming houses on Ossington Ave. and Dundas St. West, for nearly a month.)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/a-killers-shady-stay-in-toronto/article574658/>

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/public_editor/2013/06/14/james_earl_ray_and_the_enduring_myth_of_torontos_silver_dollar_room_public_editor.html

1970-1977, of “The People’s Poet” Milton Acorn (1923-1986).

http://www.biographybase.com/biography/Acorn_Milton.html

1989, with the Silver Dollar Room, the Hotel Waverly is a setting in Elmore Leonard’s novel *Killshot*.

Silver Dollar Room, 486 Spadina Ave. opened 1958. "From its humble beginnings as a cocktail lounge for the Waverly Hotel to one of Toronto's top blues bars, the Silver Dollar Room is still shining after 50+ years.” With the Waverly, it provides two of Harbord Village’s most colourful and notorious venues.

Elmore Leonard set the opening of his 1989 novel *Killshot* in both buildings

2015: the future of the Hotel Waverly and the Silver dollar Room was determined by the Ontario Municipal Board. The Hotel Waverly will be demolished, replaced with a 15-storey residence.

The Silver Dollar Room will be restored, inside and out. Anticipated to re-open in 2021.

Scott Mission, 520 Spadina Ave., Foundation stone laid by Premier Leslie Frost, 1960.

“A Christian Mission of Mercy and Love – Non Denominational, Strongly Evangelical” founded in 1941 (with his wife Anne) by Morris Zeidman a Presbyterian minister, born in **Częstochowa, Poland** who converted to Christianity from Judaism. In 1911 newly arrived, 17-year old Morris Zeidman discovered the “House of Good Tidings of the Messiah of the Children of Israel: near the corner of Elm and Elizabeth Streets. This was the Christian Synagogue, established in 1908 by **Rev. J. MacPherson Scott** of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Jewish immigrants.

As well as food and overnight accommodation for the homeless, the Scott Mission provides daycare and summer camps for neighbourhood children.

<https://www.scottmission.com/about/history/>

Knox College, 1875, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture and Design 1 Spadina Cresc*

The circle on Spadina Ave., north of College St. first appeared on maps of Toronto in 1835. It was originally named Mansfield's Old Gardens and later Crescent Garden and located north-east of the St Leger Race Track (and cricket ground of the 1840s). It was intended that the city would turn the garden into a park after Dr. Baldwin's death, but the conditions for this were never met and his grandchildren sold the land in 1873 for \$10,000 to the Hon. J. McMurrich of the Presbyterian Church.

1 Spadina Crescent was originally **Knox College**, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which became affiliated with the University of Toronto in 1887. In 1914 the college moved to its current location on the west side of King's College Circle. After the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, 1 Spadina Crescent became a barracks, and shortly afterward the **Spadina Military Hospital**. (In 1918 future aviatrix Amelia Earhart worked as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses' aide at the hospital.) After that experience she wrote:

"There for the first time I realized what the World War meant. Instead of new uniforms and brass bands, I saw only the result of four years' desperate struggle; men without arms and legs, men who were paralyzed and men who were blind..."

1 Spadina Crescent remained a veterans' hospital until 1943, when it was acquired by the University of Toronto's **Connaught Medical Research Laboratories** to become one of Canada's main centers for the development and manufacture of pharmaceuticals. (Including **insulin** which was discovered by Banting, Best, McKillop and MacLeod at the University of Toronto in 1921.) It reverted to the status of academic building in 1972 following the sale and relocation of the laboratories.

In 2001, 1 Spadina Crescent was the site of a professor's murder that remains unsolved.

In 2009, during Frosh week, a young woman fell to her death from the third floor roof while engaged in "urban exploration" (or, according to some, "ghost-hunting".)

In 2008 the University of Toronto announced the gift of \$14m by John and Myrna Daniels which will allow the restoration of this heritage building as the new home of the university's **John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture and Design**. Extension by NADAAA architects of Boston with ERA heritage Architects.

St Vladimir's Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., 1969 - founded by the **Ukrainian Self-Reliance League**, a centre of the Ukrainian Orthodox for Ukrainian-Canadian research and a home for Ukrainian-Canadian Institutions. Marked by a statue of St Vladimir the Great ("Equal to the Apostles") who converted to Christianity in 988 and brought Christianity to Ukraine.

Borden Buildings* originally **City Dairy**, 487 (1920) and 563 (1910) Spadina Crescent, architect George Martel Miller. Now University of Toronto north building Bikechain, south building College Administration

City Dairy Ltd. founded by Walter Massey. (First to sell pasteurized milk in Canada, 1903.

Milk supplied, 1897 on, by Dentonia Farm - named after Massey's wife, Susan Marie Denton, now the site of Dentonia Golf Course and Crescent Town.)

See:

City Dairy Toronto: A Yellow Wagon on Every Street, Paul Huntley, 2011

http://www.citydairytoronto.com/borden_years.html

Historicist: *If It's City Dairy It's Clean and Pure. That's Sure: How Toronto's City Dairy became one of the largest dairies in the British Empire.*

<http://torontoist.com/2013/11/historicist-if-its-city-dairy-its-clean-and-pure-thats-sure/#more-291558>.

Once Upon A City: Dentonia Park born of Massey's dairy dream:

<http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/once-upon-a-city-archives/2016/03/17/once-upon-a-city-dentonia-park-borne-of-masseys-dairy-dream.html>

1930 City Dairy sold to then Montreal-based Borden Co. Ltd.

1930 Borden head office moved from Montreal to Spadina Crescent.

(Family name, Borden, is local - not that of Nova Scotia-born Prime Minister, Robert Borden. They married with the Denisons of Bellevue.)

Knox Presbyterian Church, 630 Spadina Avenue (at Harbord.) 1909 architect, James Wilson Gray (a church congregant) in a mixed Romanesque Revival and Gothic Revival style.

Ten Editions Books, 698 Spadina Ave.

Built 1885 as John Funston grocery store, a bookstore since 1978. Since 1984, Ten Editions (named for ten children of founder Christine Duff, now managed by her daughter Susan Duff.)

“The epitome of an old school book store: high shelves with ladders on wheels so you can reach the top and seemingly endless number of rooms in the back all filled with more categories of books than you previously knew existed.” Threatened by proposed development of corner site into a 23-storey University of Toronto student residence. City Council intends to designate.

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and **Al Green Theatre**, 750 Spadina Ave. 1953 rebuilt, 2005, named for “colourful entrepreneur and community benefactor” Miles Nadal. Replaced the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) at 15 Brunswick Avenue (that was built north of the Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah in 1937.)

Sussex Mews - a wide back lane once lined with carriage houses which runs south from Bloor St, east of the **Aura Lee playing field**, across Sussex, Harbord, Willcocks and **Sappers' Lane**, then west around Harbord Village's prettiest parking lot, then south and west again, to exit at Major St north of Russell St and **Lord Lansdowne School**.

Robert Street. – named after either Hon. **Robert Baldwin** or Col. Robert Denison.

Considering its location, it is more likely to be after Robert Baldwin, who owned the land now occupied by 1 Spadina Crescent and much more. His grandfather, William Baldwin, built the first Spadina House in 1818.

Robert Baldwin (1804-1858) was a lawyer, sometimes a poet and the "the father of responsible government in Canada" (which meant, initially, that the Constitutional Act between the Crown and its colonial peoples could not be arbitrarily altered by either and subsequently, that Canadians rather than appointees from Britain, should manage Canadian affairs - an evolution that has been described as "sovereignty by stealth.")

Baldwin was also famous for his chivalrous attitude towards women, especially his cousin Eliza Sullivan, whom he married, after a two-year courtship, when she was 17. Their marriage was blissful, when it was not interrupted by difficult childbirths, but short. When Eliza died in 1836 she was already a mother of four children but not yet 26. In the years that followed, Baldwin's obsession with Eliza deepened, according to his biographers in the Canadian Dictionary of Biography, Michael Cross and Robert Fraser, "into a cult in which she was more real than living people."

In spite of this obsession, lifelong ill-health and increasing proneness to depression, Baldwin played an enormous role in Canada's founding politics. In 1842, he and **Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine** became "the first real premiers of the province" as well as powerful advocates for the union of Upper and Lower Canada. ("Province" then referred to the Province of Canada from the Act of Union, 1841, to Confederation 1867, ie Canada West, now Ontario plus Canada East, now Quebec.) During the years that followed Baldwin, as well as campaigning to reduce animosities between Lower and Upper Canada, sought freer trade with the Maritimes, he faced down electoral violence on the part of the Orange Order and he saw off a proposal to unite Canada with the United States. His influence was also enormous locally. In 1848, in a partially successful attempt to separate church and state in higher education, he stripped the Anglican Church of its control of King's College and he encouraged the evolution of what is now the University of Toronto, with its mix of colleges of different denominations and none.

After his resignation from politics in 1851 Baldwin's, physical and mental health continued to decline while his obsession with his young wife who died 25 years earlier deepened, to the extent that, according to his biographers: "His nostalgic love, grief, and guilt that Eliza had died as a result of childbirth were codified in a bizarre document designed to ensure that he would be reunited with her. The nine requests included that certain of her possessions and her letters be buried with him and their coffins be chained together. Most important, he asked that his body be operated on: *Let an incision be made into the cavity of the abdomen extending through the two upper thirds of the linea alba.* It was the same Caesarean section as Eliza had suffered. These instructions were left with his elder daughter, Maria. When she read them, after Baldwin's death (at age 54) in 1858, she saw to most of them but, perhaps in a last act of rebellion, she did not have the operation performed and apparently told no one in the family of the request."

In spite of his uxorial eccentricities, the verdict of Baldwin's biographers is generous: "His accomplishments were legion, most important among them the genius of responsible government and the centrally important heritage of a bicultural nation."

In Canada, Robert Baldwin is remembered today by a statue before the National Assembly in Quebec City and another, in which he stands with his fellow “grandfather of confederation” Louis-Hippolyte Fontaine, in the grounds of the parliament buildings in Ottawa. In Toronto there is no Baldwin statue but, as well as in the name of Robert Street, he is remembered (with his father) in the Baldwin Room in the Toronto Reference Library and by Baldwin St, which runs south of College, west from McCall across Spadina, through Kensington Market. (That is north of Sullivan Street, which is named, not after Eliza but after her brother, Robert Baldwin Sullivan, 1802-1853, Judge of the Queen’s Bench in 1834 and Mayor of Toronto, 1835.)
http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?id_nbr=3762

Hungarian Reformed Evangelical Church, 8 Robert St. built 1915 on land sold to John McCarthy by John Dunn, 1866-1914, who had a homestead there. Dunn bought the land from one of the earliest settlers Judge Hugh Gwynne who acquired it in the 1860s. The Dunn place was torn down to be replaced by the Christian Workers’ Church which became the First Pentecostal Holy Church, then the Hungarian Baptist Church, then the Hungarian Reformed Evangelical Church,

Lord Lansdowne Public School, 33 Robert St. 1888. (Address originally on Spadina Crescent.) Rebuilt 1961, to a midcentury modern “coronet” design by Toronto Board of Education architect Peter Pennington. A Precambrian boulder, unearthed during excavation for the new school (believed to have been carried from north of Parry Sound, by a glacier approximately 12,000 years ago) is displayed in the school’s yard. Past students include Walter Huston, 1884-1950 (Star of 53 films including the Oscar-winning *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948), father of John Huston, grandfather of Anjelica Huston.) He lived at 11 Major St., 1894-1896 and is remembered on a plaque at the west corner of Major and College Streets.
<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/kingandcountry/tdsb/elementary-k-m>

Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, 5th Marquis of Lansdowne (1845-1927) was Canada’s fifth Governor-General, 1883-1888 – a period which included the North-West Rebellion and the completion of the CPR, which he rode to its Vancouver terminus – the first Governor General to do so. (After he left Canada Lord Lansdowne became Viceroy of India, 1898-1894, and, in the 1900s, leader of the opposition Unionists in the House of Lords. As such he was prominent in the struggle by the Lords to prevent the governing Liberals from creating a veto on the ability of the Lords to block the passage of bills passed in the House of Commons. During WW1 he became notorious for his publication, in 1917, of the “Lansdowne Letter” which proposed a negotiated peace.)

78-94 Robert St. “Barton Cottages”

On Robert Street, almost all of its Second Empire row houses were built by George Barton and some were “listed” prior to designation of the HCD. George and Samuel G. Barton were father and son, living together for several years. Samuel Barton is listed as the owner of Nos. 78-94 Robert Street, which are known locally as “The Barton Cottages”.
Other Barton addresses on Robert St.: 12-28, 252-266, 284-288

54 Robert St, 1889-90, architect-builder Frederick W. Clements. Built on the site of the home of photographer, accountant and broker, **Humphrey Lloyd Hime** (1833-1903), owner of the lots now occupied by 46-68 Robert St and east to Major St. He moved into the neighbourhood in 1869, as a tenant of 41 Robert St (demolished to make way for Lord Lansdowne School in 1888.)

In 1857, as a member of the firm of **Armstrong, Beere and Hime**, Humphrey Hime participated in photographing the earliest panorama of Toronto: a sequence of 13 photographs taken from the roof of the Rossin House Hotel, at the south-east corner of King and York streets. The photographs were sent to London to support Toronto's case to become the capital of the Province of Canada in the competition it lost to Ottawa. Missing, until it was rediscovered in the Colonial Office Library in 1985, the panorama is now on display at Toronto City Archives and online at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armstrong,_Beere_and_Hime_panorama
See also <https://nowtoronto.com/news/photo-essay-toronto-heritage-lost-and-found/>

102 Robert St, Taylor Smyth architects, 2009-2011

Strikingly modern, building permit issued days before Robert St. was designated Harbord Village HCD Phase 2, this house makes us wonder about the place of modern architecture in the midst of a mostly 1880s HCD. Does it elegantly complement or crassly contradict the styles of its neighbourhood? Should the same architects be allowed to design the proposed replacement for 98 Robert St., a bungalow built in 1960, that is, like #102, considered a "non-contributor" to the HCD? In 2016 the Ontario Municipal Board determined they should.

121 Robert Street birthplace, 1940, of Irving Abella, Shiff Professor of Canadian Jewish History, York University, President of the Canadian Jewish Congress, 1992 to 1995, author of *Coat of Many Colours: Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada* (1990) and *None is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe 1933-1948* (1982 - a major influence on allowing Vietnamese boat into Canada) husband of Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella.

132 and 142 Robert St. architect William St Croix, 1886.

Survivors of a row of seven (#s130-140) Second Empire, cottages the remainder of which were rebuilt in the 1960s or '70s by their then, mainly Portuguese owners. (Stripped of their slate Mansard roofs, given new brick facades, aluminum windows, wrought iron porches.)

While it is much deplored by lovers of heritage architecture, does this style, now half a century old, deserve to be recognized for what it is – an attempt to simplify houses to the extent that all future repairs can be done by their owners?)

136 Robert Street, home, 1896-97 of six-year old **Norman Bethune** (1890-1939). He is famous for his work as a surgeon during the Spanish Civil War, where he was a pioneer of blood transfusion on the battlefield and for his service in China, where he died in 1939, of septicaemia, due to doing surgery without gloves.

140 Robert St last home of poet **Gwendolyn MacEwen**, 1941-1987 She is remembered by a plaque in front of this house and by a bust, sculpted by her friend John McCombe Reynolds, in Gwendolyn MacEwen Park, on Walmer Rd, north of Bloor St W. (In 1961 she married poet Milton Acorn, who was 19 years her senior; they divorced two years later. 1970-71, he lived at the Hotel Waverly at 484 Spadina, where he, too, is remembered by a plaque.)

Aura Lee Playground, Hockey Rink and Tennis Courts (Robert St, E side, N of Sussex)

In January 1925, the trustees of the **Toronto Aura Lee Athletic Club** voted to turn their clubhouse and football grounds over to the University of Toronto. Since the 1990s the hockey rink (north of a squalid parkette) has become derelict, the tennis courts dilapidated and the playing field continues to be out of bounds to nearby residents. The name Aura Lee was taken from a sentimental ballad of the American Civil War. (It was sung by Frances Farmer and a male chorus in the 1936 movie *Come and Get It*.)

Major Street – named for **Major Robert Brittain Denison**, 1821-1900, third son of George Taylor Denison, grandson of Captain John Denison, an early settler of York, and a member of the Family Compact. In 1853 he inherited the estate of Bellevue and set about subdividing it “into individual plots suitable for building homes” in the area that is now Kensington Market. In 1858 he provided the land and the funds necessary for the building of St Stephen in the Fields. In 1887 he donated the land south of Bellevue House to the City that is now Denison Square. Bellevue House was demolished in 1889.

11 Major St, 1885 one of the twelve homes in Toronto (1894-96) of actor **Walter Huston**, 1884-1950, star of 53 films (including the Oscar-winning *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*), father of writer, director, actor John Huston, grandfather of actress Anjelica Huston) brother of **Margaret Huston** mezzo-soprano and “voice coach to the stars”, 1878-1942.

38 Major St., Kensington Hospice, originally **Chapel of the Sisters of St John the Divine**, 1888. After it was acquired by Doctors’ Hospital in 1953, a few older sisters remained in the building until the 1950s, cared for by a man they had adopted as a foundling. Restored (with its original exposed hammer-beam roof), as a hospice, in 2009, by Renzo Piano architect.

48 Major St., home in 1922 of **Joe Shuster** (1914-1992) newsboy for the Toronto *Star*, co-inventor of *Superman* and cousin of Frank Shuster of the comedy team, Wayne and Shuster. Joe’s father Julius Shuster was a presser with the Universal Pant Mfg. Co. In 1924 the family moved from their home at 101 Oxford Street, to Cleveland Ohio, where Joe met Jerry Siegel at High School. According to Siegel: "When Joe and I first met, it was like the right chemicals coming together." They published their first version of *Superman* in 1933.

86 Major St., home of **Abilio Galvao** who immigrated to Canada from Portugal in 1954 and purchased #86 in 1960, shortly before he started Arcos Roofing Ltd.. The Galvao family sponsored and hosted many Portuguese families coming to Canada. They are remembered on Galvao Lane (which runs EW between Major St and Borden St, north of Ulster St.)

133-135 Major St, “Working Man’s Cottages” built during the late 1800s; elegant, compact, deceptively small on the outside, comfortably large on the inside. Toronto needs more like them!

162 Major St. home of **Edward Johnson** (c.1875) stonemason and bricklayer, reputed to be the oldest brick building in Harbord Village. He also built #156, 158, 160 and, in 1880, the corner “house store”, is 121 Harbord St. The couple lived above the grocery store Johnson’s wife below (while “Chas. Walker, clerk of the Grand Trunk Railway lived at #162). Edward Johnson also worked on St James’s Cathedral (1850-1853) and Matthews House (now the UToronto Newman Centre) 1890-91.

250 Major St, home of **William James**, photographer (1866-1948) and location of the offices he shared with sons Joseph and William Jr. of **James and Sons**, 1918-1921

Boys of Major: Solomon (Solly) Kay (3 Major St.), **Harold Sobel** (5 Major St.), **Joe Greenberg** (98 Major St.), **Harold (Red) Fromstein** (117 Major St.), **Arthur Gold** (144 Major St.) **Irving (Porky) Lindzon**, **Charles (Chucky) Males**, **Joe and Murray Sonshine** were Jewish “Boys of Major St.” who served during World War II. Only Joe Greenberg and Red Fromstein survived. All are remembered today in **Boys of Major Lane**. (South of Harbord, between Major and Brunswick - for more see the Harbord Village Laneway Project.)

Brunswick Avenue

Everyone lives on Brunswick Avenue sooner or later.

Katharine Govier, *Fables of Brunswick Avenue*, 1985

Named, according to Eric Arthur, author of *Toronto: No Mean City*, after **Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel** (1768-1821), the unfortunate, never crowned and messily divorced Queen of King George IV, 1762-1830. (He ruled the United Kingdom – and Canada – first as Regent, 1811-1820, during the madness of his father, King George III, a period which included the War of 1812, then as King, 1820-1830.) However, it may be more likely (since Queen Caroline was not one to attract such honours) that Brunswick Avenue was named (like the province of New Brunswick) after Brunswick, in Lower Saxony, ancestral home of the British Royal House of Hannover, and of the royal houses which descended from it.

According to Brunswick Avenue resident **Nicole Schulman**:

“Originally part of the Park Lots owned by F W Jarvis, the section of Brunswick Avenue between Bloor St and what is now Ulster (originally Buller) St was broken into lots for development in 1870. At this time Bloor St was the northern boundary of the city where development had hardly begun. On Brunswick Ave. there were no sidewalks and the road was dirt (or mud) and living conditions were primitive. It was not unusual for people to keep a horse in an outbuilding. For water the original residents relied on wells in their yards or on water bought from horse carts. Garbage and human effluvia went into the yards, so residents and the Jarvis family (who still owned the land to the south) petitioned the city to construct sewer and water connections, and to pave the road and to build sidewalks. Water and sewer connections came first, in 1876 (although the houses that had already been built, without toilets, may have continued to use outhouses for several decades.) In 1882 the city agreed to pave the lower portion of the street (south of Ulster) with cedar blocks, and to provide wood sidewalks. In 1885 it agreed to similarly pave the remaining section to Bloor. Why the delay? Probably because the lower, boulevard, section of Brunswick Ave., was being prepared for mostly more opulent middle class houses, while the section north of Ulster was mostly (but not entirely) working class. The lower section of Brunswick was upgraded to an asphalt road with stone curbing in 1897, the rest in 1900-1901.”

The boulevard section of Brunswick Ave, which faces the east end of St Stephen’s Church, might or might not have been designated the “grand entrance” of what is now Harbord Village. If it was, Borden St., which faces the entrance to St Stephen’s and the top of Bellevue Ave, which runs down to what was once the site of the Bellevue Estate of the Denison family, might have been a more obvious choice but, it was not!

When Harbord Village was built the distinction between commercial and residential was quite fuzzy. Some people worked out of their houses, or in industrial buildings that have since vanished. There were variety stores on most corners, many of which operated into the 1970's when most, but not all, were converted into homes. Behind #244 there is a building that used to be a dairy. There was a commercial greenhouse behind the detached red brick house #201 and cows were kept behind what is now #193 (until they were displaced by the building of a large truck garage, opposite a mechanic’s workshop which used to stand on what is now the site of Sally Bird park.) The intersection of Brunswick and Harbord became a primarily Jewish commercial hub after World War I, with a bakery on the site of the DT Bistro and a number of other businesses nearby.

Brunswick Ave. north of College St.

The Doctors' Parkette named for eminent doctors who have lived or practiced in Harbord Village. They include doctors of St John's Hospital, the four Raxlen brothers who founded Doctors' Hospital, Norman Bethune, who lived here for one year when he was six years old, and Dr Henry Morgentaler who is famous for his work that abolished laws against abortion in Canada. Subject, in 2010, of an international design competition, which produced 27 entries from eight countries. The best of those designs were incorporated into design of the park that opened in spring 2016.

Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah at 9-13 and the **Young Men's Hebrew Association** (YMHA) at 15 Brunswick Avenue. The Talmud Torah Toronto Free School (elementary Hebrew day school for boys) was built in 1922, to a design by Jewish architect Benjamin Brown. It also contained the gymnasium and swimming pool of the Young Men's – Young Women's Hebrew Association that moved into a new YMHA building at 15 Brunswick in 1937. Both institutions moved to the Jewish Community Centre at Spadina and Bloor in 1953.

Kensington Gardens, 25 and 45 Brunswick Ave, 1997, "a not-for-profit long-term care facility for people of all ages." Kensington Gardens replaced the Anglican **Convent of the Sisters of St John the Divine**, founded 1884, **St. John's Surgical Hospital for Women**, founded 1889 (now St John's Rehab in Willowdale) and **Doctors' Hospital**, founded 1953 by Dr. Samuel Raxlen, dentist, Dr. Alexander Raxlen, surgeon, Dr. Benjamin Raxlen anesthesiologist and Dr. Saul Raxlen, family practitioner. The 10-storey tower of Doctors' Hospital, built in 1960, was demolished in 1996, with a number of houses built in the 1880s that had been part of the Doctors' Hospital complex.

Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah at 9-13 and the **Young Men's Hebrew Association** (YMHA) at 15 Brunswick Avenue. The Talmud Torah Toronto Free School (elementary Hebrew day school for boys) was built in 1922, to a design by Jewish architect Benjamin Brown. It also contained the gymnasium and swimming pool of the Young Men's – Young Women's Hebrew Association that moved into a new YMHA building at 15 Brunswick in 1937. Both institutions moved to the Jewish Community Centre at Spadina and Bloor in 1953.

51 Brunswick Ave. also demolished in 1996 now the site of the rear entrance to Kensington Hospice, was one of the houses on Brunswick and Major owned by the Sisters of St. John. In 1940 it was the temporary home of 14-yr old **Peter John Stokes** (1926-2013) a "war guest" from Britain. (One of many middle-class children who were temporarily adopted by families in North America during WW2.) PJS's brief stay with the sisters was not happy – he admits to having been "a real devil" – but, thanks to Sister Miriam, he was set on the path which resulted in his eventually becoming Ontario's pre-eminent heritage architect whose work can be seen in Upper Canada Village, Port Hope, Niagara-on-the-Lake and many other of the places he loved.

61 Brunswick Ave 1895, architect unknown. Home of **Solomon Langner**, first Rabbi, 1927-1973, of the Nareyever St Stephen ogue at 187 Brunswick as well as the then newly completed Kiever Synagogue (that was built on the site of George Taylor Denison's home *Bellevue* on Denison Square, south of Kensington Market.)

In 2011, 61 Brunswick was rescued from demolition by neglect through the restoration efforts of the Harbord Village Heritage Advisory Committee, Toronto Heritage Preservation Services and the craftsmanship of Alberto Merelles. (Also saved from demolition by neglect through the efforts of HVHCD and HPS: **60 and 62 Brunswick**, opposite #61.)

At the rear of #61 (in **Chapel Hospice Lane**) there is a giant **burr oak** older than any house in the neighbourhood, which likely stood here before the land was divided into Park Lots.

64 Brunswick Ave. - the original house (identical to #s 66-70, architect William S. Thompson) was demolished in 2003. When neighbours discovered they could not prevent this (apart from persuading the owner to alter the design of his proposed new home to one that blended more appropriately into the streetscape) they set about the formation of the first phase Harbord Village Heritage Conservation, which was passed by City Council in 2005. Properties within HCDs are protected from demolition, including demolition by neglect and their street-visible facades, roofs and sides are protected from “renovation” where conservation and restoration are required instead. Phase 1 of HVHCD includes Brunswick Avenue, College to Ulster plus Willcocks St, west of Spadina. It has since been expanded to include Phase 2 (Robert St and houses on Spadina) and expansion of the HCD into the rest of Harbord Village is underway.

68 Brunswick Ave., 1887, architect William S. Thompson, last home, 1906-1908 of William C. Ward the “Laird of Ward’s Island”.

70 Brunswick Ave., 1887, architect William S. Thompson, home c1930-1951 of impresario **Morris Grafstein.** (Sammy Davis Jr is reputed to have to have tap-danced on his floor.)

65/67-75/77 Brunswick Ave 1899, architect C. R. S. Dinnick. Four pairs of detached houses of Edwardian design to the south, and the more traditional Toronto “Bay ‘n Gable” to the north. (Check above front doors of 69, 73, 75 and 77 for original street numbers.)

73 Brunswick Ave., home from 1967 to 1997 of stage actor **Douglas Campbell,** 1922-2009, who is remembered in **Douglas Campbell Lane** between Robert and College St.

75 Brunswick Ave. Edwardian southern half of #75-77 with inappropriate porch removed and restored to its original appearance. The original pre-1907, number 61, is engraved into the ground glass transom above the front door. (It was 1135 in 1907-1908 and, after that scheme was abandoned, the present #75.)

84 Brunswick Ave - architect C. R. S. Dinnick, home of **Cyril Greenland,** (1919-2012) professor of social work at McMaster University, psychiatric social worker, government adviser, author of a half-dozen books, co-founder of an important archive of Canadian psychiatry, gifted woodworker, enthusiast for the arts and history. Cyril and his wife Jane were longstanding residents of the community, whose generosity of spirit and kindness impacted many in Harbord Village. The lane between Brunswick Ave and Borden St to the west has been named **Cyril Lane.**

Margaret Fairley Park, 1972, SE corner of Brunswick and Ulster.

Named for Margaret Fairley, 1885-1968, first wife of painter, writer, educator Barker Fairley, editor of *New Frontiers*, journal of the Labour-Progressive Party of Canada, author of *The Spirit of Canadian Democracy* and *Selected Writings of William Lyon Mackenzie.*

This park is enormously popular among people of all ages, from toddlers to the residents of Kensington Gardens. It is also the home of the **Harbord Village Fall Fair** which is held every second Sunday in September. Margaret Fairley Park was built on the site of houses at the corner of Brunswick Avenue and Ulster St that were demolished to make way for it in the 1960s – a reuse of heritage homes that would be unthinkable today.

Brunswick Ave. north of Ulster St.

126 Brunswick Ave. In 2014 a suite in this house was rented in this house for Meghan Markle when she was acting in the TV series “Suits”. Recognised then as “the skinny woman with the dog” and known locally to those who knew her as “Meg”. May 19, 2018 she married Prince Harry who is fourth in succession to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The couple are now Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

145 Brunswick Ave., 1874, architect unknown. Grander than its neighbours; one of the finest and among the oldest houses in Harbord Village. Built in Gothic style, in brick (with decorative stones around the windows which one owner understands were shipped as ballast from Britain.) Also, according to him, the builder of the house was a coal merchant who stored coal beside his home.

Brunswick Ave. north of Harbord St.

First Nareyever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave, founded 1914 by immigrants from the Galician town of Narayev in Poland. Moved to the present building in 1949. Now home to “a warm and welcoming downtown congregation, which combines a traditional style of prayer service with full and equal participation by women and men.” The lot was originally part of the land of #191, to the north. It was severed in 1887 and sold to a developer (who lived in a worker's cottage on the site of the present #207 and #205, where the current row of three houses had replaced two worker's cottages by 1890.) In 1890 he built a building at the back of the lot that was sold in 1891 to serve as a Forester's Lodge. Mennonites built the current building as a chapel in 1914-24. It served as a church until 1944, when it became the Narayever synagogue. It is now threatened by enlargement that would replace its 100-year old façade and the large maple in front of it.

moostra1@sympatico.ca

Late 1890s: 187 – 189 Brunswick Avenue, built as a Foresters' Hall
Not sure when it was sold to the Bethel Mennonite Church, the first English speaking Mennonite Congregation in Toronto.

We don't have a lot of info on this Church unfortunately.

1943 – After twenty year of renting a small house at the corner of Huron and Dundas, the members of the Narayever Congregation had raised enough money to purchase 187 – 189 Brunswick Avenue for the cash sum of \$6,000 (equivalent today of \$82,879)

An image of a copy of the deed is available.

Sally Bird Parkette - named in honour of a much loved member of the community who was active in the historical and other committees of SURA (Sussex Ulster Residents' Association, predecessor to Harbord Village Residents' Association.) Sally Bird lived at 175 Brunswick, a light blue board and batten house opposite the parkette that has been disfigured by a renovation that clad it in grey and brown vinyl.

200 Brunswick Ave., home of **Dr. Alan Powell**, University of Toronto professor, promoter of the arts and social activist. From 1969-1971, he worked with Jane Jacobs as Chairman of the Committee to Stop the Spadina Expressway. With artist Vera Frenkel, he was instrumental in the setting up of an art gallery at Erindale College (now the University of Toronto, Mississauga.) Alan Powell also founded the Hepatitis C Society of Canada in 1994. He was a major witness and presenter before the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada (also known as the Krever Commission, 1993-1997). Like his friend and colleague Jane Jacobs, he believed passionately in the importance of local city politics, and in both, the right and obligation of citizens to work together for a better city. He also opened a restaurant on Harbord Street called Major Roberts, after the streets that flanked it. Alan Powell died far too young in 2002. He is remembered in Harbord Village by the naming of **Alan Powell Lane**.

213 Brunswick Ave. – a small, elegant, setback villa that once belonged to **Albert Jackson**, who escaped to Canada as a child slave and became Toronto's first African-Canadian letter carrier. Albert Jackson never lived in this house but his granddaughter Faith raised her family here and, after his death in 1919, Albert's widow acquired a number of properties in the neighbourhood. Albert Jackson is remembered in **Albert Jackson Lane** which runs south from

Harbord St between Brunswick and Borden.

225 Brunswick Ave. – once a church then a synagogue, now rented to Energy Probe, the Green Beanery and other worthy institutions. (Opposite **223 and 228 Brunswick Ave.**, two of many Harbord Village corner stores that are now private homes.)

220-226 Brunswick Ave. - Toronto "Worker's Cottages".

Typically these compact homes did not have basements, although many had them added later. Some were brick-clad, but most were cheaply built and covered with "Roughclad", a kind of stucco that had subsequently to be re-clad, with aluminum siding or with modern stucco. Until a few years ago these were a row of four reaching to the corner. See how #220 and 222 have been expanded and how #226 has been rebuilt, enlarged and altered out of recognition, after years of neglect, while #224 remains approximately as built – when it was a twin of #226.

254 Brunswick Ave., home of **David French**, 1939-2010, one of Canada's great playwrights. Neighbours who knew him relate that he would sit at the back of his house where he typed most of his plays, overlooking what is now **David French Lane**.

275 Brunswick Ave. – Dated 1876. The original, pre-1907 number, 263, remains in the stained glass transom above the front door.

281 Brunswick Ave. – once a narrow, much setback little house, since enlarged, brought forward and rebuilt in a bold, modernist form.

292 Brunswick Ave., TRANZAC, Toronto Australia and New Zealand Club.

Founded 1931, moved from Sherbourne St. to its present location in 1967.

(Name inspired by ANZAC, the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, which fought the Turks at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia during WWI.)

“You'd be unlikely to peg it as an iconic hub for Toronto arts and music. The tucked-away building on Brunswick just south of Bloor housed an industrial laundry and dry-cleaners in the 1950s. Inside, TRANZAC boasts all the charm of a basement rec room — mismatched tables and chairs, the odd threadbare sofa and shadowy lighting.” In spite of which, the TRANZAC Club remains a much-loved Harbord Village institution.

294-296 Brunswick Avenue

Built early 20C as a stable, opposite the Brunswick House. In later life, Poor Alex Theatre, Three Schools of Art, Tilt Arcade Bar, the Labyrinth Lounge.

The Green Room bar to the west, on Barbara Barrett Lane, Lane (named after the founder of the Toronto School of Art), is in what was the stable entrance. A 1905, made in Toronto, Turnbull elevator hoisted horses to the second and third floors. Building is now home to a number of creative people but destined to become a boutique hotel.

300 - 306 Brunswick Avenue

south extension of the Gallanough Block, built 1913, 483-499 Bloor St. West (Future Bistro on the corner, opposite the Brunswick House)

Fictional address, in the mid-1970s, of Katharine Govier, Edmonton-born author, in 1985, of *Fables of Brunswick Avenue*, which opens with:

Everyone lives on Brunswick Avenue sooner or later. I did more than most, seven years at two

addresses, a decade ago.

Katharine Govierb actually lived at three addresses, 398, 409, 411, all north of Bloor St.

The FINEST GRAFFITI in Harbord Village (and some of the finest in Toronto):

Barbara Barrett Lane E-W, south of Bloor St W. between Brunswick Ave and Borden St.

David French Lane N-S, between Brunswick Ave. and Borden St, from Sussex Ave. to Barbara Barrett Lane and the **Green Room**.

Croft St., N-S, College St to Lennox St, between Borden St. and Lippincott St.

Borden Street – named after **Esther Borden Lippincott**, wife of George Taylor Denison and daughter of Capt. Richard Lippincott, an officer of the Revolutionary War and early settler in York. (The name Borden probably indicates that Esther was also a member of the family which owned of the City Dairy, the stables of which (1910, architect George M. Miller) are still standing at 563 Spadina Crescent and are now part of the University of Toronto, rather than – unless more distantly – the family of Nova Scotia-born Prime Minister, Robert Borden.)

Harbord Village Farmers' Market –Green P parking lot, south of Bloor St. W, between Borden and Lippincott. On Wednesday afternoons, 3:00-7:00pm, June to October, farmers bring honey, sweet potatoes and other pesticide-free leafy greens, tomatoes, salad stuff, berries, melons and other fruit, artisanal cheeses, garden plants, organic bread and eggs and frozen angus beef.

NO INFORMATION re NOTABLE BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTS – PLEASE SUPPLY

Croft St. - Narrower than most streets, wider than most lanes, Croft St is evolving out of its largely industrial past into a more residential present – and into a laboratory of eclectic architecture and graffiti – much of it excellent.

Named after **John Croft**, an early 20C English immigrant to who died while clearing ruins after the **Great Fire of Toronto** in 1904. On 4th of May of that year, Croft was investigating an explosive charge that had failed to detonate when it unexpectedly went off. He died from his wounds the next day, thereby becoming the fire's only fatality. Croft Street was named in his honour shortly after. At the southern end of Croft Street a plaque and a large, colourful mural which commemorates John Croft and his demise.

Croft St resident Susan Pfeiffer and Harbord Village historian Carmen Gauthier tell us that originally only four Croft St. buildings were residential, the rest were “industrial”:

1 Croft St. – Toronto Ambulance Service during the 1930s.

6-8 Croft St. - 1920s-1960s Empire Auto repair shop.

8-16 Croft St. reputed to have been a munitions factory during WW1.

#8 was later Ruddock Mfg. During the mid-1980's, lower Croft had two photographers (Paterson Photography at #6 and Jim Allen Photography at #18, by which time the re-purposing of lower Croft from industrial to residential use was underway..

10 Croft St. Tube & Pipe Co., Eastern Rug Cleaning 1920s - 1980s, after which the entire row, 8-16, was rebuilt and divided into five loft homes

18 Croft St. Cartage agent, 1923, later Continental Cartage & Storage. Then

Peerless Enterprises Co Ltd, sheet metal fabrication shop. In the 1960s, Peerless moved to the Queensway. **Aero Fabricating Corp Ltd** took over for a brief run but the property was frequently missing from the tax rolls. Inside it was the **National Bait Company (Live Bait)**.

22 Croft St. was Dave's Car Sales and Repair.

50 Croft St first mentioned in the tax rolls in 1958, when it, too, was owned by Peerless Enterprises at least to 1963. It was not listed from 1970 to 1995, when Mark Gomes and Susan Schelle decided to claim it as their home and not just their studio, thus adding to the city's tax base. According to Susan Pfeiffer, the present owner of #50 "It is fun to live on such a multipurpose street, though I do not regret that the National Bait Company is gone."

54 Croft St 1890 in 2003-04, the remaining half of the old semidetached cottages was "renovated" into a modern, black cuboidal home designed by Kohn Shnier Architects.

92, 94, 96 Croft St. built, 1920s on land owned by the Salvation Army.

The many garages which back onto Croft St are notable for their **graffiti** (and some, for their murals.)

Lippincott St. – named for **Esther Borden Lippincott**, wife of George Taylor Denison and daughter of Capt. Richard Lippincott, officer of the Revolutionary War and early settler in York.

(Richard Lippincott served during the American Revolution as a Captain. In 1782 he hanged Capt. Joshua Huddy, a rebel prisoner in his charge, in retaliation for the killing of Loyalist, Philip White, for whom Huddy was to be exchanged. General George Washington made several attempts to have General Sir Henry Clinton, his counterpart in the British forces, surrender Capt. Lippincott for this incident, without success. After the Revolution, Lippincott went first to New Brunswick, then lived for a year in England before settling in Vaughan Township in 1793.)

<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/detail.jsp?Entt=RDM2948539&R=2948539>

Ralph Chiodo Family Immigrant Reception Centre, 100 Lippincott St, - This building, more than 90 years old but recently renovated, provides services for refugees: temporary accommodation and initial settlement, childcare and housing. The Centre's Art Therapy Program offers traumatized refugee children the opportunity to express themselves through art.

King Edward Junior and Senior Public School, 112 Lippincott St. 1958. Originally Bathurst St. School, 1872, which was rebuilt 1900-1902 and renamed 1902, in honour of King Edward VII. (The King- Emperor, born 1841, reigned 1901-1910, who ascended the throne after the death of Queen Victoria. His equestrian statue - acquired from India - stands at the centre of Queen's Park.) Memorials in the lobby are a bronze plaque "In loving memory of the boys of King Edward School who gave their lives for humanity in the Great War, 1914 – 1919" and a World War II memorial by Group of Seven artist A. J. Casson: "For King and Country Members of King Edward School who have volunteered for active service with Canada's fighting forces." (Former student and World War II veteran Stanley Grizzle became the first black officer for the Ontario Ministry of Labour in the early 1960s and a citizenship court judge in 1978. He is honoured at "Stanley G. Grizzle Parkette" across from Main St. subway station.)

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/kingandcountry/tdsb/elementary-k-m>

Bathurst Street - named for Henry, 3rd Earl Bathurst, Secretary of War and the Colonies, 1812-1827, who organized migration from the British Isles to Canada after the War of 1812. Bathurst granted the charter to King's College (now the University of Toronto) but never visited Canada himself. The name Bathurst was originally applied to the section of the street south of Queen (then Lot St.), when the northern section was named Crookshank St., after George Crookshank who owned a large estate there.

College Street United Church, 1885, 452 Bathurst St originally **College Street Presbyterian**. could hold 1200 worshippers.

Under founding (1874) minister Alexander Gilray (1874-1915), and Robert Balmer Cochrane (1915-1925)., Congregation voted In 1925 to join the United Church.

Over time attendance fell and it ran into financial difficulties and fell into disrepair. Thus in the 1980s, despite its heritage status, it was decided to demolish much of the church and rebuild it with a condominium on top. The architects of the new building worked to have it be as similar to the old church as possible, copying many of its architectural elements. Home of Opera by Request (Director William Shookoff) and Xing Dance Theatre and Dance Studio.

Central Technical School, 725 Bathurst St. 1915, architects Ross & Macfarlane of Montreal. Fourth home of the Toronto Technical School, founded 1888. Cornerstone of the present building laid by Prime Minister Robert Borden in 1913. Driveway in front of the school originally part of Lippincott St. Houses to the west of it, to Bathurst St, were demolished to make way for the school's playing field.

In 1888, the Association of Stationary Engineers requested a school for technical training in Toronto. In 1891, Council passed a motion "to establish The Toronto Technical School to be located in the St. Lawrence Hall and the anterooms connected therein." Classes began January 26th, 1892, and were held from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. each public school day. Provision was made for 150 students studying mathematics, chemistry, descriptive geometry, mechanics, physics, and drafting. When 307 students registered, it was clear St. Lawrence Hall was inadequate. The school moved to Old Wycliffe Hall. By 1896, enrollment was 1,511. Courses in Domestic Science were introduced in that year and the school became coeducational. By 1900, overcrowding forced a move to the Stewart Building on the south side of College St. (until recently the Ontario College of Art). The first art department was formed by putting a partition across the pool. Sculpture was taught in the deep end of the tank; all other art classes in the remaining area. Day classes began in 1901 with 151 students; night school attendance was 1,710 students. Dr. William Pakenham was principal from 1901 until June 1907.

On 19 November 1912, plans, specifications and an agreement to permit the closing of Herrick Street between Lippincott and Borden Streets were approved for the present building. In 1913, the cornerstone of the new building was laid by Prime Minister Robert Borden.

Formal opening was Aug. 31, 1915. By 1932, because of an increasing number of aircraft students, the city bought a garage, "the Annex", at 844 Bathurst Street. During the Second World War, the school operated 24 hours a day. Day students attended from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Emergency classes involving marching drills, wireless operating, aircraft mechanics, tank repair and related subjects were supervised by Royal Canadian Air Force, the Army and the Navy from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/kingandcountry/tdsb/secondary-a-f>

Central Tech is the only school that has the privilege of using the coat of arms of the City of Toronto - due to the fact that the citizens of Toronto paid for the school without the aid of other levels of government. The "ribbon" across the bottom of the crest carries the legend "Industry, Intelligence, and Integrity". The Scottish stonemasons who build the school carved the two gnomes which surmount the columns that top the columns supporting the main entrance. One is dressed in academic cap and gown and is busy writing in a book, representing the academic side

of the school. The second gnome is in the ancient garb of a journeyman working with hammer and chisel, representing the technical side of the school.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Technical_School

Memorials include, World War I: “War Memorial by Alfred Howell A.R.C.A First Art Director Central Technical School, 1914-1928: Two life-sized “classical” figures, male holding sword, draped seated female, flanked by two flags: a Canadian “maple leaf” and the Red Ensign in painted plaster. The woman’s face, which, resembles the face of *Canada Bereft* on the Vimy Memorial, may have been sculpted by **Walter Allward**, a Central Technical student, who also taught in the adult program.

Site, 2013, of a dispute between Toronto District School Board and the local community regarding TDSB proposal to replace the surface of the school playing field with synthetic turf and to erect an inflatable dome over it for four-five months each year, thereby blocking views of the designated heritage building in its heritage landscape. Mediation through the OMB, increased community access to the field, reduced dimensions of the dome.

CSI Annex – Centre for Social Innovation*, 720 Bathurst St

A remarkable example of creative adaptive re-use of a dignified late 19C commercial building

Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts*, 736 Bathurst St. Founded by George C.

Randolph Jr. in 1992, a well-preserved example of adaptive reuse. Originally **Wesleyan**

Methodist Church, 1888 – **Bathurst Street Theatre**, 1985.

B.streets Condos, 783 Bathurst St., 2013 on the site of **St Dominic Savio Catholic Elementary School** which became **Loretto College School** in 1985.

Harbord Village Residents' Association Laneway Naming Project

<http://www.harbordvillage.com/lanenames>

In 2009-2011, to facilitate recognition and access by emergency services, the back lanes of Harbord Village were given names by residents, mostly of local notables of the past.



Harbord Village Backlanes

- 1: Loretto Lane** - named for the school that occupied the property immediately to the west for nearly 50 years.
- 2. David French Lane** – David French, one of Canada’s great playwrights lived at 254 Brunswick and died in 2010. Neighbours who knew him relate that he would sit at the back of his house overlooking the lane — he typed most of his plays there over his last forty years.
- 3. Alan Powell Lane** - Dr. Alan Powell lived for many years at 200 Brunswick Ave and his garage was situated on east side of this laneway. He was a University of Toronto professor, a promoter of the arts in Canada and a social activist. From 1969-1971, he worked with Jane Jacobs as Chairman of the committee to Stop the Spadina expressway, which would have destroyed any remaining affordable artists' studio in the downtown core. With artist Vera Frenkel, Alan was instrumental in the setting up of an art gallery at Erindale College. Alan Powell also founded the Hepatitis C Society of Canada in 1994. He was a major witness and presenter before the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada, also known as the Krever Commission (1993-1997). He believed passionately in local city politics, and in both the right and obligation of citizens to work together for a better city. He also opened a restaurant on Harbord Street called Major Roberts, after the streets that flanked it. Regrettably, Alan died far too young in 2002.
- 4. James Hales Lane** - named after James Hales, George Phillips and Thomas Baldwin, who were all carpenters or joiners and who built houses on Brunswick Avenue, Borden and Lippincott Streets circa 1900. Originally proposed name: Carpenters’ Lane.
- 5. Albert Jackson Lane** - Albert Jackson was a child slave who escaped with his family from the US to Canada in the 1850s. In 1882 he became Toronto’s first black postman. He is mentioned in Karolyn Smardz-Frost’s Governor General Award-winning book *I’ve Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (Thomas Allen 2007) in which she wrote:

“Albert Jackson grew up to become the first African Canadian postal worker in the city. His appointment caused some friction because it elevated a black man over white postal workers in lesser positions such as mail sorting. Albert was kept as an inside worker, despite being hired as a postman to deliver mail, until the people of St. John’s Ward launched a public inquiry... Eventually he was assigned to deliver mail rather than simply sort it at the post office”. Albert Jackson was the owner of 213 Brunswick Ave. but his granddaughter would eventually raise her family in it while his widow acquired a number of houses in the neighbourhood. Albert Jackson’s name was suggested for this laneway by Patrick Crean, publisher of *I’ve Got a Home in Glory Land* - before he and his wife, the novelist Susan Swan, discovered, to their astonishment, that the house they were living in – 213 Brunswick Avenue - had once belonged to the man they had nominated.
- 6. Lewis Family Lane** - Harry & Mary Lewis moved to Major Street in 1964 and raised three sons. They were hard working immigrants and only one of two families of Chinese descent in this community at the time. The house is still occupied by one of the sons and his family. Originally proposed name: Lewis Lane.
- 7. Galvao Lane** - Abilio Galvao immigrated to Canada from Portugal in 1954, leaving his small village of Arcos de Valdevez and his young family. Like many of the immigrants to Canada at this time he arrived in Halifax knowing no English and very little about Canada. He worked for a few years on farms in western Canada, and then decided to settled in Toronto where he worked very hard to bring his family to Canada in just four years. In 1960 he purchased his home at 86 Major Street and shortly after he started his own roofing business Arcos Roofing Ltd. which is still managed by his son Manuel. The Galvao family hosted many Portuguese families coming to Canada looking for a better life — many of them generously sponsored by Abilio.
- 8. Antonio Fernandes Lane** - the Fernandes family owned a house on Lippincott but lived on Borden, later on Brunswick. He was a Toronto Subway Tunnel Worker and a Pioneer CN Rail Worker.
- 9. (Cyril Lane)** proposed name: Greenland Lane.) Cyril Greenland, psychiatric social worker, professor of social work at McMaster University in Hamilton, government adviser, researcher, author of a half-dozen books, co-founder of an important archive of Canadian psychiatry, gifted woodworker, mentor, enthusiast for the arts and history, he left his mark on Canadian social policy on child welfare, the rights of the blind and humane treatment of the mentally ill. No one was better at listening to damaged and disadvantaged individuals. Cyril and his wife Jane were longstanding residents of the community, whose generosity of spirit and kindness impacted many in the neighbourhood. In November, 2010, Cyril was presented with an HVRA Community Builder Award, thanking him for services of extraordinary importance & value to the residents of Harbord Village.

“Since Cyril and Jane moved to 84 Brunswick Avenue in 1967, Cyril has been a power for good amongst us, a voice of reason in disputes, the soul of discretion in keeping confidences, indefatigable in making peace, a perfect exemplar of good humour and grace under pressure, a striver for betterment of his community, and a fearless advocate for the homeless and less fortunate amidst us. In brief, Cyril has been a rational and sane voice espousing neighbourhood & community values for his entire time amongst us. We are in his debt.”

10. Chapel Hospice Lane - Chapel Hospice Lane St. John. In 1889 the Anglican sisters built on Major Street the historic St. John's House hospital and their Chapel of St. John the Divine — reborn in 2012 as the Kensington Hospice. Originally proposed name: St. John's Lane.

11. Grimsby Dairy Lane - memorializes the Grimsby Dairy at 108/110 Robert Street. John Locke (ca. 1888-1929) founded and operated the Dairy from this laneway in the early part of the 20th century. Originally proposed name: Dairy Lane.

12. Douglas Campbell Lane - the first Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival (founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1952), Douglas Campbell (1922-2009) was a hugely talented actor and lived for 30 years at 73 Brunswick Avenue. He raised several children there, including Tom Campbell (an important contemporary Canadian painter), Torquil Campbell (rock star and leadman for The Stars), Ben Campbell (also an actor and leading man at the Stratford and Shaw Festivals.) Douglas Campbell played the Great Detective, King Lear, Oedipus, and many more.

13: Sappers Lane - the Royal Canadian Military Engineers (the "Sappers") club house (with its badge, which featured a beaver) was located at 578 Spadina Avenue from 1964-1997. Members accessed the club via this lane from the parking lot at the back.

14: Greenberg Lane - named for the Greenberg Family of Major Street and other addresses in Harbord Village. Aaron and Sophia immigrated to Toronto in the early part of the 20C and settled in what is now Harbord Village. Dr. Joe and his son David together practiced family medicine for approximately 60 years. Mort still lives in the original family home in which he grew up and is known as the Jewish Santa Claus due to his work on the Star Fund.

15. Barker Fairley Lane - Barker Fairley (May 21, 1887 – October 11, 1986) lived on Willcocks Street. Born in Yorkshire, he came to Canada in 1910, and in 1915 became a professor at U of T. He was a writer, poet & professor of German studies — one of the foremost scholars of German literature of the century. He also created the university newspaper. He painted portraits and landscapes, and was a friend of the Group of Seven. Barker Fairley received an order of Canada in 1978, and died in his 100th year. Margaret Fairley Park at the south-west corner of Brunswick and Ulster Streets, is named after Barker Fairley's wife.

16. Boys of Major Lane - memorializes several young men of Major Street who fought in the Second World War, at least four of whom lost their lives. They spent their youth in the city playgrounds - Jewish immigrant kids too poor to afford a bat and ball, never dreaming they'd own a baseball mitt. These boys were among the earliest to enlist, some lying about their age, 17-year-olds going to war.

Harold Fromstein, known as Red, lived at 117 Major St. He used his older brother's name to enlist in 1940.

Wounded in France in 1944, and decorated for his service, he survived the war. Joe Greenberg enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 and survived the war to become the legendary Dr. Joe Greenberg.

Flying Officer Irving "Porky" Lindzon was shot down over the Bay of Bengal in 1945.

Flight Sgt. Harold Sobel lived at 5 Major St. and Flight Sgt. Solomon (Solly) Kay next door at 3 Major St. The two were friends and competitors, pitching against each other in rival baseball teams at the Lord Lansdowne playground. They formed a club and carried their membership cards as good luck charms. A third friend, Charles (Chucky) Males, joined them in the air force. None returned from the war.

Joe and Murray Sonshine also served. Murray died; Joe was taken prisoner and sent to Buchenwald, though he did survive.

17. Immergluck Lane - Sam and Bella Immergluck owned and lived above the Student Elite Cleaners and Tailor shop on the west side of Spadina just north of Harbord Street for nearly 40 years. They were a heroic and remarkable couple. The original store was on Harbord Street but was moved when U of Toronto built a swimming pool on the site.

Bella Immergluck was a Czech Jew. She and her husband were targeted by the Nazis initially because of their politics and imprisoned. He was shot by firing squad and she was arrested and imprisoned and was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp as one of its first inmates. Miraculously, she survived and was liberated. She went to work shortly after the war ended in an orphanage for children of the Holocaust. There she was responsible for trying to trace children's families who may have survived and also arranging for adoptions of so many who had no surviving relatives. She and Sam adopted a girl from the orphanage who subsequently moved to Israel.

Before the War Sam Immergluck worked as a tailor in Poland and was a very active Bundist (Socialist Jewish Worker) organizer. When he was shipped to the concentration camps he managed to stay alive because he was put in a work camp to make uniforms for German Soldiers.

Sam's entire family were murdered during the Holocaust. Sam was especially devastated, as his only child a boy, was due to be shipped out on the last Kinder Transport to England, but the Nazi's stopped it and his son subsequently was murdered on Yom Kippur in 1939.

Bella and Sam met after the War in Germany and married and were fortunate to be sponsored by Bella's sister who lived in Canada and immigrated to Toronto in 1951 under the Canadian program which accepted Jews who were tailors. They borrowed the money to open the shop. Bella died in 1995.

Until his death in 1987, Sam Immergluck devoted his time and energy as a contributing member of “Workmen’s Circle” (Arbeiter Ring). Sam believed strongly in social justice and the continuance of the Jewish language and Jewish culture in Toronto and Canada.

18. Barbara Godard - Lane

backed onto lane #18. Barbara was a stalwart community supporter, including an active involvement in the earlier Residents’ Association SURA. She was also a successful author and was internationally recognized for her literary scholarship in her field, earned through long professorial tenure at York University.

Barbara Godard v

19. Katharine Hockin Lane - Dr. Katharine Hockin, a long-time member of the Trinity-St. Paul’s congregation, was a Canadian born in China of missionary parents. For over 50 years she taught in Canada and in China, passionately engaging her students and the church in mission and ecumenical work. Original proposed name: Trinity Lane (after Trinity-St. Paul’s church at the north end of the lane.)

20. William James Lane - William James lived at 250 Major Street. He photographed Toronto streets and city life in the early part of the 20th century. There are approximately 10,000 photos and slides in the Toronto Archives, all taken by William James.

21. Leah Cohen Lane - Leah Cohen lived and worked in Harbord Village from 1976 until her untimely death from cancer in 2007. Leah was one of the earlier generation of Canadian feminist writers, authoring two books: *The Secret Oppression: Sexual Harassment of Working* and *Small Expectations: Society’s Betrayal of Older Women*. Because she was a self-employed writer and researcher, Leah worked at home, on Major Street between Harbord and Sussex, and was a regular presence in the cafes and shops and streets of the neighbourhood. She believed that the laneways of a community were its soul and she recognized many of the area houses better from the back lanes than from the front streets.

22. Barbara Barrett Lane - Barbara Barrett Biggs (1915-2005) founded the Toronto School of Art in 1969. She moved her expanding school into a former synagogue at 225 Brunswick Avenue (at Sussex) in 1972, where it remained until 1984, when it needed even larger premises. Under her guidance the TSA provided independent but classically oriented art instruction to thousands of adult students, as well as employment and encouragement for many now well known artists as teachers. The Toronto School of Art continues to this day, in space rented from the Kent School near Dufferin and Bloor. Barbara Barrett was honoured by the federal government in 1991, when she was awarded the Lescarbot Medal for her patronage of artistic endeavours.

23. Bagpipe Lane – since 2009 Bagpipe Lane has been used as a staging area for the piper at the Bloor Borden Farmers’ Market and as a place to tune his pipes.

Names assigned by the City at the request of their families, 2010-2011

A. Louis Laki Lane (N-S between Robert and Major St, south from Kosower Lane to a spur of the lane that runs, south of Ulster St, west to Major St) honours Louie Laki who arrived in Toronto from Slovenia in 1957 and lived on Major street from 1960 until his death in 2002. Well-known in the neighbourhood for his generous, hospitable nature, Louie Laki exemplifies the tremendous contribution that immigrants have made to Toronto.

B. Kosower Lane (E-W between Robert St and Major St, south of Harbord St and the Harbord Bakery) honours Albert & Goldie Kosower who came from Poland and took over the Harbord Bakery in 1945, establishing a Toronto landmark. Goldie Elster, born 1911 in a Polish shtetl, was sent by her family to Canada at 15. She lived then on Lippincott Street with her aunt, uncle and grandmother who had come to Canada some years before. Two more of the Elster girls made it here in the next 8 years; the rest of the family remained helpless in Poland and perished in the horror of Treblinka. Albert (Alter or Altie) Kosower came to Ontario when he was 18, to work as baker’s apprentice in Jewish bakeries. The couple worked day & night, in 1945 buying the little bakery next to the fish market at the corner of Major & Harbord. This was still a time when the locals brought their own cakes and savoury sabbath meals to bake in the bakery’s brick oven. Altie was famous for developing an early morning coffee club with business men and locals, where they would discuss all sorts of things. Goldie did much the same in the front. Her specialties were families, couples, joyous and not so happy events, problems and solutions. She became a loving and beloved community resource. The family lived above the bakery for many years. Their customers became their friends and they earned an enduring loyalty from everyone whose life they touched.

C. Porretta Lane (E-W between Robert St and Sussex Mews, south of Harbord St) honours Giuseppe Porretta, who passed away on September 9th, 2005. Giuseppe owned the well known Porretta’s Pizza on Harbord at Robert Street. Giuseppe Poretta immigrated to Canada from Sicily in 1958 with his young family and in 1969 they opened their family restaurant — the first pizzeria in the neighbourhood. He was a generous man, hiring from the area, donating to schools and community centres, hosting events on Harbord Street and helping those less fortunate. After being in the business for 25 years, Mr. and Mrs. Porretta retired and had to close down the business. Some of the family continue to live beside and near the lane. Many locals reminisce about the good old days, Porretta’s Pizza, the Harbord Bakery and how the two businesses made Harbord Street what it is today – a wonderful family community.

**HARBORD VILLAGE
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HISTORIC WALKS IN HARBORD VILLAGE

an explorer's guide, street by street, to one of Toronto's most fascinating neighbourhoods.

WANTED!

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**THIS GUIDE CONTAINS ERRORS, WHERE SOURCES
ARE SOMETIMES OF DOUBTFUL ACCURACY.**

IT IS ALSO INCOMPLETE.

CORRECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND LOCAL HEROES
(AND VILLAINS)**

WILL BE MOST WELCOME!