

HVRA



Harbord Village Residents' Association harbordvillage.com

In this issue

2019 Event Highlights, Fall Fair Memories, Major Street Refugee Family update, Green Spaces, New Businesses, Community Builder Awards, and more.

Fall AGM Wed., Oct. 16

Find out what's going on and reconnect with fellow neighbours after the summer! Agenda highlights include: HVRA committees & officers, election of a new board, Community Builder Awards, Councillor Layton's semi-annual update, and special guest speaker Dylan Reid, former Toronto Pedestrian Committee Chair, Walk Toronto leader, and co-founder of *Spacing* magazine, talking about what can be done to improve road safety for pedestrians. We hope to see you there, at Knox Presbyterian Church, 630 Spadina Ave., 6:30-9:00 p.m.

How to join HVRA

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



Merrill Swain

Join HVRA for the benefit of all

Merrill Swain

We invite you to become a member of Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA) and amplify your voice. Enjoy regular email updates about local developments, safety concerns, traffic issues, neighbourhood events, and more. And if you have time, we welcome you to volunteer and become involved in HVRA's activities. Help build a stronger and more supportive community. You can also help shape our direction by attending and voting at our Spring Meeting and Fall Annual General Meeting. Member or not, you are always welcome to meet your neighbours at any of our annual events such as the Fall Fair and Pumpkin Festival. Membership is only \$10 per year. Please join (or renew your membership) at <https://harbordvillage.com/membership>.

Chair's message

Gail Misra

Although it felt that summer would never take hold, it was glorious when it arrived! Gardens and trees flourished, as did our neighbourhood. A spring clean-up kicked off the season. The gardeners' group hosted a great plant fair and tree pick-up. Our in-ground street planters came into bloom. The farmers' market provided wonderful local produce and wines. Interesting new restaurants opened, keeping us on the good food map of this city. Our Fall Fair gave us a chance to enjoy good food, music and company. And, by year end, we'll have more public space with new parkettes on Bloor Street. Our neighbourhood continues to be vibrant due to the commitment of all those who belong to and get involved in Harbord Village and our residents' association. Our collective thanks to everyone helping build our strong, diverse community!

This newsletter is produced semi-annually, for the area bounded by Spadina to Bathurst, Bloor to College. HVRA thanks Anne Kerekes as managing editor, Anne Fleming as assistant, Jane Auster for copy-editing, and Ian MacKenzie for his patience and layout skills to create this newsletter.

Major Street Syrian refugee family update

Gus Sinclair



Annette Tromly

The Syrian family sponsorship by the Major Street Syrian Refugee Initiative (MSSRI) was instigated by the late Margaret Beare along with nine other Major Street residents.

Funds were raised among the HV community and our eight-member family arrived in Spring 2018. A house was found in the St. Clair and Dufferin area and the family settled in. Ayman, the husband of one family, wasn't able to come as he had fled to Germany when things got difficult in Lebanon, so an additional task was to start the process of getting him into Canada. There was much else to do: ensure the family saw a doctor, since no one had seen a physician in years; find winter and summer clothing; start ESL classes; and help people who had never used the Roman alphabet to negotiate the TTC subway and streetcar system. Winter came with some trepidation, but the kids loved the tobogganing and everyone relaxed.

As our year commitment came to a close, it was clear the family couldn't afford to live in Toronto so they rented a place in Milton near a sister and her husband and family who had arrived a few years earlier.

Best of all, we managed to break the legal logjam for Ayman, who arrived in Canada in August 2019, and the family is now united. From a spark of an idea in 2017 to where they are now, both the family—and we—are excited for their future!



Annette Tromly



Annette Tromly

Area reports

Northwest

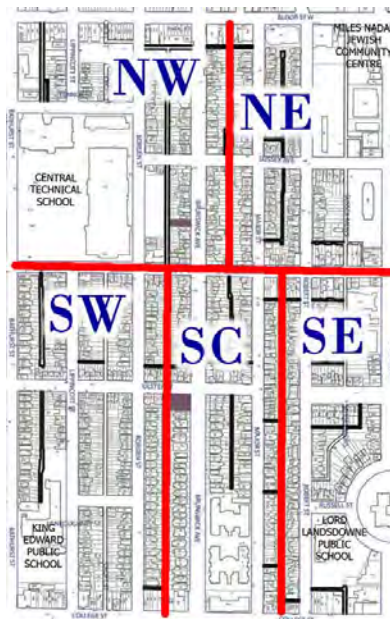
Nicole Schulman & Christian Mueller

So much construction! As part of the Bloor St. refurbishment (with new sidewalks, new tree plantings, and upgraded bike lanes), we are also getting more greenspace at Brunswick and Bloor. In addition to the planned parkette on the southeast corner, they are installing a new greenspace on the northeast (where they've removed the paving). There's major repairwork at Central Tech, and several houses are being gutted to become multiple unit residences.

Northeast

Carolee Orme & Nicholas Provart

The U of T is finalizing the design of the new community green space at the northeast corner of Robert St. and Sussex Ave., based on feedback from the community from three public meetings held in late 2018 and the first half of 2019. Timeline for the work: Nov. 2019 to Feb. 2020: demolition of existing structures, soil removal/site preparation, and installation of a geothermal system on the field area; Apr. to Sept. 2020: construction of community green space and lengthening of the playing field.



South Central

Margaret Procter & Simon Coleman

As many will have seen, Brunswick Ave. between College and Ulster had some of its sidewalks repaved and curbs rebuilt. The road itself is still to be done as of the end of August. At least three different crews have been working and the damage to grass verges has been repaired. One effect of the operation has been to remove the gaps between the sidewalk and individual paths leading to front doors, and surfaces should also be safer during the winter.

Southwest

Jane Perdue & Robert Stambula

It's been a quiet summer in our area save for one near disaster. Mid-morning, Aug. 12, a car mounted the sidewalk and crashed into the King Edward daycare/playground. How incredibly fortunate that there were no children playing outside. On a happier note, under a City Vision Zero initiative that started just before the summer break, a new crossing guard appeared to assist kids at that intersection. Finally, we are grateful to neighbours in each block who tend to our Croft Greening—if there are any other volunteers to help care for plants, let us know.

Southeast

Lena Mortensen & Cathy Merkley

Summer in the southeast was relatively quiet. Construction continues on schedule at 484 Spadina, formerly the Waverly Hotel and Silver Dollar Room, and the traffic management plan so far has generated only minimal disruption. The now established speed humps on Robert have aided ongoing efforts to calm traffic, enabling an even nicer setting for lots of informal street play while the weather holds.

2019 Village events

Spring cleanup: Keeping Harbord Village beautiful

Katherine Lilley

This year's Harbord Village Community Cleanup (now in its 16th season), took place on Harbord Street on April 20.

Over 150 people helped pick up litter in the neighbourhood after the long winter.

In keeping with tradition, we then enjoyed a community gathering at Piano Piano, with delicious donated food and fabulous prizes raffled off.

All this was only possible with support of our generous local businesses and amazing volunteers—thank you!

If you would like to volunteer for next year, please contact katherine_lilley@hotmail.com.



Spring meeting: Covering important issues

Anne Kerekes

Our spring meeting was well attended, with lots of great discussion, an update from our new Councillor Mike Layton, and a very informative and entertaining presentation by Lydia Wong on how to make our neighbourhood bee-friendly for the good of the environment.

Plant Fair & Tree for Me: Greening Harbord Village, one garden at a time!

Nicole Schulman

On June 2nd the Harbord Village Gardeners hosted our fifth annual Plant Fair outside Kensington Gardens—it was a great success. We gave away annuals, generously donated by Fiesta Gardens, and shared divisions of perennial plants from our own gardens: irises, daylilies, asters, coneflowers, herbs, groundcovers.... In addition, Tree For Me distributed well over a hundred saplings to help green our yards. Throughout the growing season we go on weekly garden walks and share knowledge, and sometimes plants. All gardeners (novice to expert) are encouraged to join; email gardeners@harbordvillage.com.



Gwyneth Pearce

Bloor Borden Farmers' Market

Gus Sinclair

The Bloor Borden Farmers' Market was founded in 2004 by a group of volunteers from The Huron Sussex Residents' Organization, Annex Residents' Association and Harbord Village Residents' Association and headed up by Helen Goldlist, Christine Innes, and Rory Gus Sinclair. These folks are still doing it, in this our 12th year!

Our market is the most successful of the five MyPick Markets set up by Farmers Markets Ontario (a non-profit NGO funded by the provincial government) in 2008. We believe this is due to the cadre of volunteers who manage the market, answer questions, supply samples, and provide a soft local landing for the farmers who come every Wed., 3–7 p.m., June to October.

We appreciate our residents' patronage and look forward to seeing you next summer.



The Turnups

Fall is also a great time in Harbord Village

Anne Kerekes

Fall officially kicked off (a bit early) with the Sept. 8th Fall Fair—see pages 6 & 7.

Then the Fall AGM on the third Wed. of October is a great way to stay informed about important news and issues.

And finally our Annual PumpkinFest lets the inner child in all of us revel in the variety of pumpkins carved by residents.

Pumpkins are displayed and lit up along Harbord Street on Nov. 1.

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



Anne Fleming

Another great Fall Fair

Gus Sinclair

For the HVRA Fall Fair Committee

Our Fall Fair weather forecast did not look promising the week before: cloudy and cool. Luckily the day was 19 degrees and mostly sunny ... warm enough for people to linger and socialize and enjoy the afternoon: kids running around in excitement with painted faces; a musical lineup that was varied and upbeat; tasty beer, wine, and cider with kombucha. A great menu of hearty burgers, corn, hotdogs, salads, and baked goods was provided through the generosity of Fiesta Farms, Flock, Pizza Nova, and Summer Fresh. And to top it off, the excitement of winning more than 20 raffle prizes as well as bidding on all kinds of goodies available at the right price at the silent auction.

Margaret Fairley Park was packed, and there was such a great feeling of community in a neighbourhood that values community above all.

This is my last year of running the Fall Fair, but we found a worthy successor in Anne Fleming, who shadowed me for the whole process. She is perfect for the job: personable, funny, smart and unflappable. I have been running the Fall Fair since the mid '90s, which is a very long run indeed, and I will cherish all the great memories of Fall Fairs past!



Photos by Anne Fleming



Fall Fair volunteers

It takes so many people to put on this event and they all deserve a big thank you. Here they are. Applause please!

Anne Fleming, Wendy Trueman, James Murdoch, Kent Parker, Gord Muschett & Angie Mackie, Andrew Sliwa, Richard Longley, Matt Hoffman, Peter Macaulay, David Booz, Suzanne Dubeau, Brock Shepherd, Finn Shepherd, Anne Kerekes, Christian Mueller, Leslie Carlin, Simon Coleman, Hanna Gavendo, Melissa LaVallee, Paul Macarico, Dave Retzleff, Miriam Ticoll, Mary Louis, Kanan Patel, Angela Miles, Elaine Ford, Caitlin Smith, Gina, Amelia, and Andreas Buonaguro, Lynn Connell, Dinny Biggs, Jackie Solway, Michael Jones, Eva Lacson of St Stephen's Community House (kids games), Carmen Gauthier, Debbie Black, Divya Lamba, Lacy Lauks, Paul Johnston, and Rim Tesfai.



Thank you to our generous donors

Harbord Village is lucky to have great local businesses and neighbours who helped make our Fall Fair silent auction and raffle a great success and supported the many initiatives that make our neighbourhood great.

AGO
Akai Sushi
Alex Cuts
Almond Butterfly Bakery
Alternative Arts
Anne Lindsay Music
Annex Photo
Bakka Phoenix Books
Bata Shoe Museum
Blackbird Bakery
BMV Bookstore
Cafe Diplomatico
Canadian Stage Theatre
Caversham Booksellers
Central Tech Dome
Cheese Magic
Christian Mueller/Mary Louis
CL Hair Salon, Bathurst
Clay Design
Cobs Bread
College Street Optical
Comrades Barbershop
Crafty Coyote / Victory Cafe
Curbside Cycle
David's Tea
Dessert Kitchen
Everdale Farms
Factory Theatre
Fiesta Gardens
Flock Rotisserie
Free Times Café
Fringe Toronto
Fresh Restaurant
Gardiner Museum
Good for Her
Gripped Publishing
Harbord Bakery

Harbord Convenience
Harbord Dentistry
Harbord House
Harbord Street BIA
Hart House Theatre
Harvest Kitchen
Her Father's Cider Bar
Hot Docs Theatre
Hutoshi
Independent City Mart
Insomnia
Jimmy's Coffee on Baldwin
Juxtapose
Kalendar Cafe
Keiko Shintani Textiles
Kensington Brewery
Kilgour's
King's Landing Barber
Knox Church
Krispy Kreme
L'Arc en Ciel
LeTAO
Manic Coffee House
Margaret Keenan Ceramics
Mars Diner
Mattamy Centre Ryerson Rams
Metro
Miles Nadal JCC
Mugi Restaurant, Bathurst
Muskoka Brewery
Muskoka Mercantile
Nu Bügel
Panago Pizza
Parentbooks
Patrick Crean Books
Paupers Pub

Paradise Theatre
Pet Valu
Peter Macaulay
Piano Piano
Pizzeria Via Mercanti
Piya's Boutique
Randolph Academy
Rasa Restaurant
RBC, Spadina/Harbord
Rexall, Bloor/Brunswick
The Rock Store
Royal Conservatory of Music
Sanagan's Meat Locker
Second Cup, Bloor
Shopper's Drug Mart, Bloor
Sivananda Yoga
Starbucks, Bloor
Studio 79
Susan Swan Author
Sweet Pete's
Tafelmusik
Tarragon Theatre
Textile Museum
Think IT Cafe
312 Optical
Tom's Place
Top Cuts
Tranzac Club
U of T Athletic Centre
Urbane Cyclist
Wanda's Pie in the Sky
Wiener's Hardware
Wine Rack, Bloor & Spadina
Wright Real Estate
Yasu Sushi
Zade Jones Studio

Bloor Street revitalization

Carolee Orme



Images courtesy of Bloor-Annex BIA

Phase 1 of the Bloor Street Revitalization is now complete, with the replacement of 142-year-old underground watermain between Bathurst and Spadina. Phase 2 is now underway: Sidewalks and trees will be replaced, and bike lanes made permanent. Four new parkettes are under construction at Robert, Major, Brunswick, as well as Howland. All will feature sustainable wood decking, bike parking, accent lighting, and custom furnishings. Lastly, the street will be repaved. All is on track for Nov. 2019 completion. This is a great example of coordination between City departments and the Bloor-Annex BIA, whom we can thank for the parkettes and other streetscape improvements.



Local bites

Anne Kerekes

Our area attracts some of the most interesting new eateries in the city, from elegant to casual, classic to innovative, and everything in between.

Dreyfus at 96 Harbord has already earned a reputation for delicious French fare with local ingredients, paired with great wine. This intimate 30-seat bistro takes reservations. facebook.com/Dreyfus-Toronto.

Mugi at 793 Bathurst is a small takeout & eat-in spot serving hearty curries, noodles, and rice, made from scratch. All items are vegetarian with innovative ingredients like jackfruit replacing meat. mugi.ca.

L'Arc en Ciel at 376 College is a sleek "pâtisserie de glace" making its own gelato (with unique rotating flavours!), incorporated into various desserts. In winter baked goods will be on offer. facebook.com/LArc-En-Ciel.

LeTAO at 356 College is a Japanese bakery chain offering beautiful and decadent cheesecakes and soft serve made with quality milk from Hokkaido. All items are flash frozen and shipped from Japan. eatletao.ca.

Deepizz at 384 College is Toronto's only source for 100% halal-certified deep-dish pizzas, calzones, sandwiches and more. With great choice and ingredients, Deepizz is worth a try! deepizz.com.

Master of the giant beanstalk

Leslie Thompson

From the highest window in my house I have a view of several amazing Harbord Village gardens. The small plot that stimulates my imagination the most is Manuel Abelha's backyard vertical garden. Jack, of the beanstalk fame, would be very impressed.

My neighbour Manuel is a master gardener; you may have noticed his eight-foot tall dahlias on Major. His horticultural skills were nurtured when he was a child on a farm in the Azores and then subsequently as the master gardener of a large real estate company and as an entrepreneur with his own landscaping business. He has lived in our neighbourhood for over 50 years, raising three sons with his wife Maria and lifting our spirits with his stories and the joys of his gardens.

Mr. Abelha's vertical vegetable garden is a wonder. As the adjacent photo shows, he starts in the spring with an armature to support the growing plants on top of soil enriched by compostable vegetable matter. There are always beans, but some years his garden has yielded tomatoes, chayote squash and this year even pumpkins. As the seeds germinate in the warmer months, Manuel gently coaches the vines to climb upwards by securing them to the poles. With sufficient sunshine and water, his is a high yield garden that provides fresh produce not only for an extended family, but sometimes for a few lucky neighbours as well.

In a recent article, the *Economist* magazine considered the potential of high-yield vertical gardens in an urban setting as a natural and "green" method of agricultural production. Although commercial applications house the plants in hydroponic beds and substitute sunlight with LEDs, Manuel's guiding principle of working gently with nature instead of dominating it is consistent with both methods. Although Jack of the beanstalk fame might have seen the vertical garden as a quick escape, our Major St. example of intensive farming is both a lesson in yielding more with less and perhaps a harbinger of future food production.



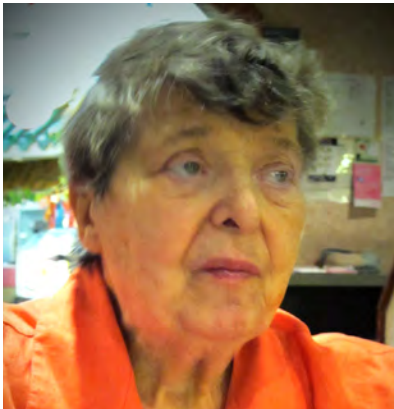
Leslie Thompson



Leslie Thompson

Community Builder Rosie Schwartz

Gus Sinclair



Rosie Schwartz has been a passionate activist for over 50 years. Her encyclopedic knowledge of civic planning and resident concerns made her a great champion for us.

Her key civic battles include: saving Old City Hall; promoting Doctors Hospital Redevelopment; preventing north of Harbord from becoming a 'high rise district'; founding the "Stop Spadina Expressway Committee" and "Sussex Ulster Residents' Association" (our predecessor); re-planting trees on Brunswick, and encouraging traffic lights at Hoskin and Queen's Park Circle, for student safety.

Rosie also ran for City Council—the only candidate formally endorsed by respected urbanist, Jane Jacobs. We thank Rosie for her efforts and legendary willingness to share her frank and unvarnished opinions.

Community Builder Luisa Cabral

Gus Sinclair



Luisa Cabral is a great example of a long-standing area resident who makes life better for her family and neighbours through everyday actions.

Luisa Cabral has lived with her family at 162 Robert since 1980. Her husband died two years ago, yet that hasn't stopped her from taking care of her extended family. Luisa's dedicated and hard-working personality hasn't changed since.

In addition to taking care of her family, Luisa is constantly keeping her house and garden impeccable.

Many passersby stop to admire Luisa's beautiful and interesting garden, making it one of the many wonderful Harbord Village properties that make our great neighbourhood even better.

In memoriam Margaret Beare, 1946–2019

Gus Sinclair & Anne Fleming



Long-time HVRA resident Margaret Beare passed away peacefully on Aug. 10. She and her daughter Nhai Nguyen-Beare were very active in our community.

Margaret was an HVRA board member in the 2000s. She also contributed at Police Liaison Committee meetings on behalf of HVRA, and as a Constitution and Nomination Committee member. Margaret was instrumental in developing conflict resolution protocols with the Harbord BIA, as well as championing our Major Street Syrian Refugee Initiative.

She was Professor in Sociology and Law at York U., and Director of the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption at Osgoode Hall Law School.

We will remember Margaret as a force of nature, with a deep desire for social justice in her community.

HVRA committees

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

Board search/Nomination

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

Communications

Oversees the newsletter, website, weekly e-blasts

Gardening

Enhances Harbord Village with personal and public gardening initiatives

Heritage

Documents and preserves the unique history of Harbord Village

Membership

Grows and nurtures Harbord Village membership

Parents consultation

Focuses on issues of interest to area parents

Transportation

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

If you are interested in more information or joining, contact search2019@harbordvillage.com.

HVRA Board 2018–2019

<i>Chair</i>	Gail Misra	chair@harbordvillage.com
<i>Past chair</i>	Gus Sinclair	chair@harbordvillage.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lena Mortensen	treasurer@harbordvillage.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Andrea Poptsis	secretary@harbordvillage.com
<i>Membership</i>	Merrill Swain	membership@harbordvillage.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Regine Schmid	web@harbordvillage.com
<i>U of T Liaison</i>	Sue Dexter	asusan.dexter@gmail.com
<i>NE Rep</i>	Nick Provart	arearepne@harbordvillage.com
<i>NE Rep</i>	Carolee Orme	arearepne@harbordvillage.com
<i>NW Rep</i>	Nicole Schulman	arearepnw@harbordvillage.com
<i>NW Rep</i>	Christian Mueller	arearepnw@harbordvillage.com
<i>SC Rep</i>	Simon Coleman	arearepsc@harbordvillage.com
<i>SC Rep</i>	Margaret Procter	arearepsc@harbordvillage.com
<i>SE Rep</i>	Lena Mortensen	arearepse@harbordvillage.com
<i>SE Rep</i>	Cathy Merkley	arearepse@harbordvillage.com
<i>SW Rep</i>	Jane Perdue	arearepsw@harbordvillage.com
<i>SW Rep</i>	Bob Stambula	arearepsw@harbordvillage.com

HVRA membership & renewal form

Please check one:

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

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

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

Name

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Address

Telephone.....

Email.....