

HVRA

Harbord Village Residents' Association harbordvillage.com

Message from the Chair

Anne Fleming

As we settle into our second year of COVID-19, people are finding ways to thrive within the current “new normal.” This summer saw the relaxing of restrictions and life beginning to return to our outdoor spaces. Cafés popped up everywhere, while the dome at Central Tech finally came down, heralding the return of recreational athletes to the track and field. New restaurants and businesses continue to open up shop, enlivening our neighbourhood—check out



Taddle Creek plays at this year's Fall Event

HVRA Annual General Meeting, October 21, 7–9 p.m.

HV residents are invited to attend the 2021 AGM on Thursday, October 21. Connect with neighbours and hear what HVRA has been working on this past year.

Agenda includes Chair's report on recent activities and accomplishments, financial report, board election, Community Builder Awards, updates from Ward 11 Councillor Mike Layton and University-Rosedale MPP Jessica Bell, and a NetZero committee presentation of the results of their survey and the status of their initiatives.

We will also have area caucus breakouts for neighbours to discuss concerns within each area. Each caucus elects two representatives to the board. Area Reps will then present reports so the board can follow up on the issues.

Anyone can attend the AGM, but only paid-up members can vote. Join or renew online at <https://harbordvillage.com/membership>, or fill in the handy form on page 12 and drop it off with payment by October 19th at 134 Robert St.

Register to attend via Zoom—bit.ly/3mclcSg.

We look forward to seeing you there!

our list on page 10 for some inspiration on how you can support local!

Fall has seen the return of students younger and older as school and university classes resumed in person once again. We were excited to be able to put on a version of our annual Fall Fair, safely distanced, though we look forward to the time when we can host our regular celebration of music, food, and community together in person. And another version of PumpkinFest is also in the works!

It's also been inspiring to witness many of our neighbours take on small but significant ways of improving life in Harbord Village, from fundraising for Kensington Health residents, organizing a community cleanup, tending corner bump-out gardens and boxes, and running food drives, to encouraging creative porch activities. Even when we can be together in the traditional sense, each of us can find a way to contribute to building a community we can be proud to live in.

As I reach the end of my first year as HVRA Chair, I would like to thank everyone who has helped along the way. I look forward to working with my neighbours to build an even better neighbourhood!

Join HVRA to help build a stronger community

Lacy Lauks

Become a member (or renew your membership) with the Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA) to help us build a stronger and more supportive community. With your support, HVRA can take on various activities and issues that benefit the neighbourhood, including enhancing our local parks, hosting community events, addressing safety concerns, representing HV at development hearings, and so much more. Get regular email updates and have your voice heard by attending and voting at our Spring Meeting and upcoming Fall Annual General Meeting (via Zoom this year). Membership is only \$10 per year. Please join (or renew your membership) at harbordvillage.com/membership/.



Spring cleanup volunteers

Area reports

Northwest

Christian Mueller

Our area enjoyed a good summer with lifted restrictions on local stores and restaurants. Further entertainment good news includes the late October reopening of the Tranzac Club following major renovations, with a handful of socially distanced, seated, small-scale events. All are welcome to attend. Details of the reopening will be announced on tranzac.org.

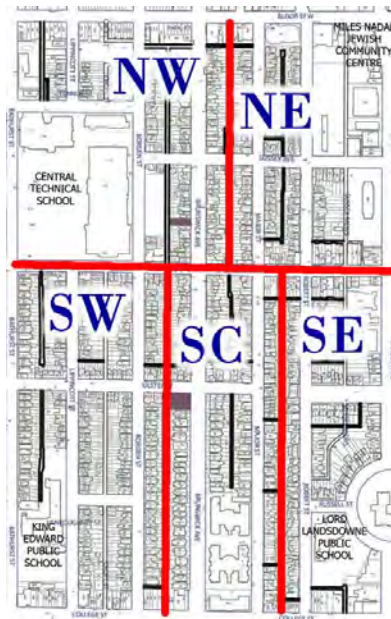
Southwest

Jane Perdue & Robert Stambula

Over the summer we were pleased to see speed humps installed on Lippincott St. (from Ulster to College), including outside King Edward School. Initiated by the community, these measures will help to make this busy street safer, especially in front of the school.

SW reps have also been working actively with King Edward's Parents Council on their yard revitalization project. A formal community access agreement for the off-school use of the King Edward Public School field and playground is in the works.

Garbage storage outside the Fort York Food Bank continues to be an issue for residents on Borden, and it is hoped a solution can be found soon.



Southcentral

Susan McDonald & Simon Coleman

Renovations to the Kensington Health Centre to expand their Hospice are ongoing. The project should be completed and landscaping on the east side of Brunswick Ave. restored in 2022.

The long-awaited repaving of Brunswick Ave. was completed this summer. It included freshly repainted contra-flow bike lanes.

Residents on south Major St. offered regular Sunday musical concerts on their front porch. This brought cheer to neighbours and those passing by during COVID restrictions.

Northeast

Nicholas Provart & Carolee Orme

Various dusty activities are wrapping up! U of T's Robert St. field and community area will welcome neighbours soon, after a hiccup involving some underground piping that needed repairs. At 666 Spadina, the last of the concrete work to reinforce the parking garage slab is ending, while the canvas for a new city park at the north end has been unrolled (i.e. placeholder sod). The councillor's office will work with the Parks department on a new design. Construction work for a new residence at Sussex and Spadina and a new rental building south of 666 is underway.

Southeast

Gina Buonaguro & Cathy Merkley

This summer, the southeast of Harbord Village was alive with the sound of music! Morale was boosted on our neighbourhood streets with backyard and laneway concerts, all safely distanced, of course. The restaurants in our area were also hopping with activity. Flock, Piano Piano on the old Can Can site, Free Times Café on College, and many more eateries were the places to be on sultry summer evenings, some taking advantage of the city's new rules on the location of their patios. As usual, Harbord Convenience contributed much beauty through their garden and flower sections.

HV events: Something for everyone

Spring cleanup

Anne Fleming



Not even lockdown could stop Harbord Village from celebrating Earth Day on April 24 with the return of our community cleanup, this time with social distancing. Households across the neighbourhood enjoyed the beautiful sunshine as they took to the streets, parks and alleys of the neighbourhood to pick up garbage and recycling. After a very long winter, it was a particular pleasure to welcome spring weather and feel connected to our community as we worked together (even while apart) to make Harbord Village more beautiful—and cleaner.

Special congratulations to Gloria L., Jessica B., and Zoe D., who each won a generous prize donated by the Harbord Street BIA. We hope the cleanup inspires Harbord Villagers to continue to pick up litter throughout the year, because we all can make a difference!

Very special thanks to Kerry Clare for organizing this event in the absence of the usual HVRA cleanup.

Spring meeting

Anne Fleming

Our spring general meeting was held in May via Zoom, with about 60 attendees. In addition to our area reps discussing pressing issues with neighbours in each of the five HVRA areas, we presented Community Builder Awards and heard from local epidemiologist Colin Furness about “COVID and Community” and the ways we can support each other through crisis, stressing the importance of vaccinations to keep us all safe. MPP Jessica Bell was on hand to make brief remarks and take questions.

Still-fresh success at the Bloor Borden Farmers' Market

Gus Sinclair



The Bloor Borden Farmers' Market entered its 14th year on Wed., June 2nd. For an opening day we set a new record for sales in what looks to be a record-breaking year.

It is clear the market is well loved by our loyal shoppers for whom Wednesdays from 3 to 7 have come to mean “Market Day!”

The farmers tell us that our market is the best run, friendliest and for many their most lucrative of all the markets they attend. None of this would be possible without a large contingent of volunteers

who organize, among other things, the clearing of the Green P lot from the evening before, stage the set-up of canopies, welcome the farmers as they arrive and lead them to their assigned sites, organize the musicians, run the bank account, report to our partners—Farmers' Markets Ontario—who help finance our small budget, and welcome shoppers to the market.

Fall Fair

Anne Fleming

We held a scaled-back but highly successful event this year on September 12—see page 6 for a full report. Many thanks to our volunteers and the HSBIA for helping us put on this exciting community event.

AGM

Anne Fleming

Our AGM will again be online on October 21. For details and registration link, see our website at bit.ly/3mclC5g.

PumpkinFest

Gina Buonaguro & Lena Mortensen



The PumpkinFest tradition lives on, following the success of 2020's socially distanced version involving a Halloween home-decorating competition. Stay tuned for more details for this year, coming soon.

Helping our environment: HVRA's first-ever NetZero e-bike fair

Anne Fleming



HVRA's NetZero Committee held its first e-bike fair on Sept. 25 as part of our campaign to promote green transportation alternatives that can help reduce your carbon footprint. Many people came by to check out the various models of electric-assist bikes, including folding models and cargo bikes.

Local vendors Sweet Pete's, Curbside Cycle, and Urbane Cyclist, as well as e-bike rental service Zygg answered questions, offered test rides, and explained ownership and rental options for the e-curious. Many thanks to Nicole Schulman for organizing, and to our volunteers for helping attendees discover the many reasons it can make sense to convert at least part of your transportation needs to an e-bike. For more info on this and other initiatives, visit the NetZero page on the HVRA website: bit.ly/3Fb7LvO. Supported in part by a grant from The Atmospheric Fund.



A different kind of Fall Fair, 2021

Anne Fleming, Fall Fair Chair, with Gus Sinclair, Cathy Merkley, and Christian Mueller

Our annual Fall Fair returned in a different format this year, owing to COVID-19 public health restrictions on gatherings. Instead of having all the elements take place in the same location, we spread out musical performances and kids' activities across several outdoor venues the afternoon of Sun., Sept. 12. Folks were able to enjoy a range of musical genres while they explored the neighbourhood, snacked on popcorn from Knox Church and goodies from Harbord Bakery along the way. Many of the groups were familiar to regular Fall Fair goers (Caledon County, Taddle Creek, Keleher Brothers, Brian and Wayne), but many were new, including the Back Alley String Quartet, pianist Adrian Ross, Q&A, Fuat Tuac, and Temeka Williams and Brandon Davis. And of course, it wouldn't be the same without the friendly folks from St. Stephen's daycare to keep the kids busy at Margaret Fairley Park.

Our organizing committee was thrilled to be able to partner with local businesses such as the Tranzac Club, Spence Gallery, and Harbord Bakery. Knox Church, which usually runs its own event at the same time as the fair, was able to be part of the event this year with its talented lineup featuring EarlyBird, Christoph IbrahimKristen Westwood, and Steve Gleason—an unforeseen but very welcome opportunity we hope will continue! Several residents offered up their front porches and back alleys as pop-up venues, giving each performance an intimate feel. It was clear to all that this brief return to live music was a balm not only to the audience, but to the musicians who have missed playing for others for the last 18 months.

Our huge thanks to everyone who participated and supported the event, including our performers, venues, St. Stephen's, and our sponsor, the Harbord Street BIA. We look forward to seeing you next fall—in the meantime, please support our wonderful local restaurants and merchants!



Temeka Williams and Brandon Davis at Knox Church



Adrien Ross in Kosover Lane



Caledon County on Brunswick Ave.

Robert Street field and greenspace update

Nicholas Provart

After some delays caused by the need to cap old sewer pipes from houses that used to line the east side of Robert Street, work on the University of Toronto's Aura Lee field is finished. The field now has 150 boreholes extending 250 metres below the surface for low-carbon geothermal heating and cooling. New fencing replacing the old chain link fencing has been moved eastward to provide a substantial grassy boulevard area on the west side of the field, where retaining wall blocks provide convenient seating encouraging sitting and chatting. HVRA will be liaising with the university about using the field on weekend mornings next summer. Stay tuned!

A community green space—whose creation was negotiated by the HVRA—is also substantially complete. The area, designed by STUDIOtla with input from the community, includes playground equipment, a shade structure and seating, and butterfly gardens (see picture). It is a welcome addition to the neighbourhood, which together



Before

with the new city park at the north end of 666 Spadina almost doubles Harbord Village's green space. Enjoy!



After

HV's plow time is here!

Anne Fleming



It's official! Council voted 24–1 in May to approve sidewalk snow clearing in all city neighbourhoods, starting winter 2021–22. Congratulations and thanks again to HVRA South West area rep Bob Stambula for his doggedness in pushing this item through (after decades of official post-amalgamation inaction). Apparently, the answer was tiny, sidewalk-sized plows!

Brunswick contraflow bike lane installed

Anne Fleming

The Brunswick portion of the Brunswick-Borden contraflow bike lane was installed earlier this summer, with road resurfacing on Brunswick between Ulster and College, and new line markings. Still to come as part of this project are signage, loading zones, and a raised intersection at Borden and Ulster, which will improve safety for pedestrians.

When the lane system along Borden/Ulster/Brunswick is complete, cyclists will be able to more easily connect throughout popular cycling routes on College, Harbord, and Bloor, as well as connect better to the Bellevue lane to the south.

HV residents had raised a number of safety concerns about the current configuration of the lanes, and a one-year anniversary review was agreed to in council's approval last year. The HVRA Safe Streets committee will be working with HV residents and the councillor's office to find solutions to the outstanding issues.

HV Planning & Development: Helping improve our public realm

Robert Stambula & Sue Dexter

The City of Toronto categorized downtown neighbourhoods including HV among the least “parked” areas in the city. Not so long ago, we only had Margaret Fairley and Sally Bird Parks. Things got worse when the Toronto District School Board privatized the after-hours use of its field at Central Tech, the largest open play field in HV. These deficits are only more apparent as our population grows in large, new, high-rise developments on our arterial roads and intensification within HV. People want to live and build here, but if not managed, the very things that attracted them to the neighbourhood will be at risk.

What to do? For HVRA it means looking for every opportunity to improve our public realm. It means championing community interests in large development settlements, such as Robert St. Field and community space (see page 7), 666 Spadina Ave., Central Tech & Bathurst Ave., fostering partnerships within the community (Doctors’ Parkette and King Edward Public School), making better use of what we have (laneways), and advocating improvements from the City (snowplowing—see page 7).



A formal community access agreement for the off-school use of the King Edward Public School field and playground is in the works.



Before and after: A new grand boulevard produces breathing room and a beautiful view on Robert St. along with greater community access to the U of T Robert St. Field.



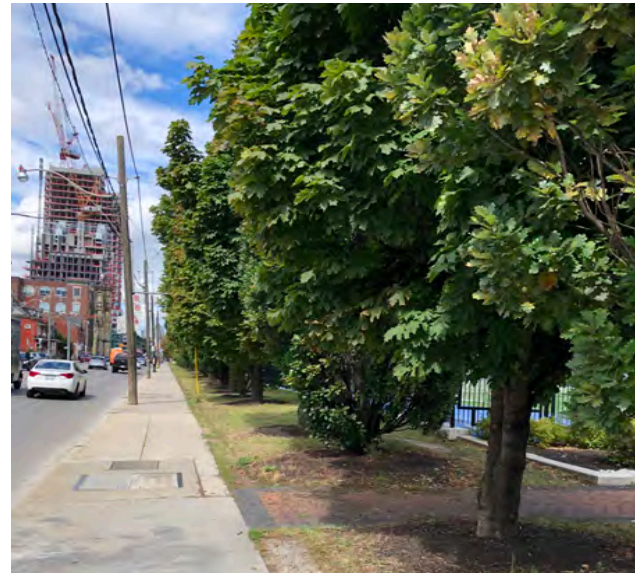
Before and in progress: A new park will replace the private yard on the north flank of 666 Spadina Ave., with fresh sod as a placeholder.



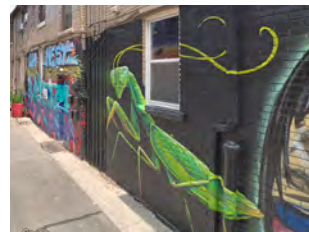
Before and after: Doctors' Parkette emerged from the west flank of Kensington Health on College.



Before and after: A new community corner overlooking Central Tech from Bathurst to Harbord was developed. Extensive community access to the new running track, end zones and more, was also negotiated.



Before and after: Another grand boulevard emerged on Bathurst.



Before and after: Laneway greening initiatives (like this one on Croft St.) are enhancing our lanes.

Please support HV one-of-a-kind local businesses

Food

Akai Sushi
Almond Butterfly
Annex Food Hall
Aunt Lucy's
Bagel Time
Bampot House of Tea
Bauzza Bauzza
Bistro 422
Bombay Roti
Burger's Priest
Burrito Bandidos
By The Way Cafe
Chuan Noodle
Cobs Bread
Cora Pizza
Country Style
Crafty Coyote
Cuppa Tea
Daily Delicious Wanton
Dak Lak Vietnamese
Deepizz Pizza
Dessert Kitchen
La Diperie
Dreyfus Restaurant
East of Brunswick
Elchi Chai
El Rancho
Emmer Bakery
Eva's Original
Famoso Pizza
Fancy Franks
Flock Rotisserie
Found Coffee
Free Times Café
Fresca Pizza
Fresh
Freshii
The Fry
Future Bistro
Fuwa Fuwa
Gazale
George's Deli & BBQ
Green Room
Hacienda
Happy Burger
Harbord Bakery
Harbord Fish & Chips
Harbord House
Haven Eatery
Her Father's Cider Bar
Hogtown Vegan

Indian Desire
Insomnia
Istanbul Shawarma
Japan Sushi
Jell & Chill
Jerk King
Kensington Bakery
Kenzo Noodle House
Kibo Sushi
Kinka Izakaya
Knockout Chicken
Kung Fu Tea
Lavish
Lebanese Garden
Little Jerry
Magic Noodle
Manic Coffee
Mars Diner
Matha Roti
Mean Bao
Mi'Hito Sushi
Mi Taco
Monkey Sushi
Mugi
My My Chicken
Naan Spot
ND Sushi
New Generation Sushi
New York Gyro
Nirvana
Nora Shawarma
Onnki Donburi
Osmow's
Paupers Pub
Piano Piano
Pig Out BBQ
Pizza Ceo
Pizza Gigi
Pi Co
Pita Land
Pita Q
Pomegranate
Quetzal
Ramen Isshin
Rasa Restaurant
St. Louis Wings
Sakura Japanese
Scottybons Caribbean
Shawarma Royale
Sheherzade
Shuyi Delicious
Sushi Mado
Sushi on Bloor

Tea 18
Thai Basil
Thindi
Think IT Cafe
Toby's Pub & Eatery
Tonkatsu
Udon Kitanoya
Unicorn Cafe
Victory Cafe
Vietnam Lovely Noodle
Voodoo Child
YGO Lab
Yasu Sushi
Yogurty
Zaad Mediterranean

Retail & Other

Alex Cuts
Alternative Arts
Altima Dental
Annex Hotel
Annex Mart
Annex Photo
Augusta Pharmacy
Bakka Phoenix Books
Barber House
Bloor Dental
Beguiling Comics
BMV Books & Cafe
Boom She Said
Canada Computers
Caversham Booksellers
CL Hair Salon
Clay Design
College Home Hardware
College Street Optical
Common Sort Apparel
Coin-o-rama Laundromat
Comrades Barber
Creatron Electronics
Curbside Cycle
The Curl Ambassador
The Copy Place
Decent Auto Repair
Dental Smiles
A Different Booklist
Duke Barbershop
EB Games
Elite Image
Freedom Mobile
Fuzz Wax Bar
Good for Her
Gripped Publishing
Harbord Convenience
Harbord Dentistry
Hot Docs Theatre
Hutoshi
Inti Crafts
Joe's cleaners
Jump+
Juxtapose
Kwesiya Apparel/Decor
Kim's Hair Fashion
King's Landing Barber
Knob Hill Cleaners Little
Little Island Comic
Massage Addict
Midoco Art Supplies
Miles Nadal JCC
Mod Electronics
Move Pain Care Physio
Om Market
Patrick Crean Books
Pet Valu
Peter's Garage
Piya's Boutique
Press Internationale
Rag Doll Vintage
Randolph Academy
Ran's Closet
Raxlan Pharmacy
The Rock Store
The Runners Shop
Starbank Convenience
Stephanian Antiques
Sivananda Yoga
Silver Arrow Barbershop
Spirit of Math
Stop'n'go Convenience
Studio 79
Sweet Pete's
Tafelmusik
Tech Mobile Repair
The Ten Spot
Things Japanese
Threading Experts
Three Cent Copy
312 Optical
Top Cuts
Tranzac Club
Urbane Cyclist
Wiener's Home Hardware
Wright Real Estate
Xbow Barber Lounge

Local Biz Profile

The Fentster

Jane Perdue

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Fentster ("window" in Yiddish) on College St., is an independent artist-run space that is self-described as "a window into Jewish life through art." This gallery in a window is the storefront of the grassroots Jewish community Makom. Curator Evelyn Tauben invites artists to create site-specific installations open to view 24/7. Each window display lasts three to four months, accompanied by related events and talks. Passers-by can learn about the artists, their art and their association with Jewish culture and traditions. For example, this summer, Daniel Toretzky's "The Tower of the Sacred & Ordinary" included a detailed tower on wheels inspired by ornate Havdalah spice boxes that looked like medieval castles. Last year, Robert Davidovitz's "What Will Remain" stained glass installation related to a family practice that began with his grandfather, who repaired broken windows in post-war Vilna, and his father, who restored stained glass in Israel's synagogues. To learn more about Jewish history via contemporary art, spend some time, day or night, at the Fentster window, or visit fentster.org.

Community Builder Awards Fall 2021

Gus Sinclair

Maria Pasquino



Maria Pasquino is responsible for one of the most magnificent gardens in Harbord Village. Located at 68 Brunswick Ave. between College and Ulster, she and Richard Longley have worked on this front garden since 1995.

From early spring into early winter, the garden produces a glorious array of colourful perennials and vines. Over the years, the plantings have been extended onto Brunswick Boulevard, a trend followed by near-by neighbours. Maria is a knowledgeable gardener who shares cuttings and divided plants, and her passion is shared with all to behold and enjoy.

Leslie Thompson



Leslie Thompson is an all-around asset to HV with an impressive list of accomplishments over the years: a former board member who has volunteered at most events, and a Treasurer who overhauled our accounting system. She has championed more greenery in HV, from street planters to backyard trees, safer streets with petitions for speed-bumps and chicanes, as well as environmental stewardship through NetZero.

Leslie is also our go-to resource for all things Heritage, helping get HV reviewed for Heritage Conservation District status, writing Heritage articles for our website and newsletters, and fielding all your questions at the Fall Fair Heritage Table. On behalf of HV, thank you Leslie!

HVRA committees

Board search/ nomination

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

Communications

Oversee the newsletter, website, e-blasts.

Gardening

Enhance HV with personal and public gardening initiatives.

Heritage

Document and preserve the unique architectural history of HV.

Membership

Grow and nurture HV membership.

Parents' consultation

Focus on issues of interest to area parents.

Safe Streets

Work on community-based solutions for pedestrian safety related to traffic.

NetZero Carbon

Help homeowners reduce their carbon footprint.

To learn more or join, contact search@harbordvillage.com.

HVRA Board 2020–2021

<i>Chair</i>	Anne Fleming	chair@harbordvillage.com
<i>Past chair</i>	Gus Sinclair	chair@harbordvillage.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lena Mortensen	treasurer@harbordvillage.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Suzanne Dubeau	secretary@harbordvillage.com
<i>Membership</i>	Lacy Lauks	membership@harbordvillage.com
<i>Webmaster</i>	Regine Schmid	web@harbordvillage.com
<i>UofT Liaison</i>	Sue Dexter	development@harbordvillage.com
<i>NE Rep</i>	Nick Provart	arearepne@harbordvillage.com
<i>NE Rep</i>	Carolee Orme	arearepne@harbordvillage.com
<i>NW Rep</i>	Christian Mueller	arearepnw@harbordvillage.com
<i>SC Rep</i>	Simon Coleman	arearepsc@harbordvillage.com
<i>SC Rep</i>	Susan McDonald	arearepsc@harbordvillage.com
<i>SE Rep</i>	Gina Buonaguro	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

Name ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Address

Telephone..... Email.....

Please check one:

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

Payment can be made online at 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.

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 and Margaret Procter for copy-editing, Ian MacKenzie for his patience and layout skills, and everyone who supplied photographs for this issue.