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Harbord Village Residents' Association

Interesting Articles inside:

- 2nd Annual Spring Clean-up is coming!
- College Street Revitalization
- and much more...

Important points:

College St. Highlights	2
Graffiti Removal Day	3
UofT Liaison	3
Tree Champions	4

Welcome!

By Rory 'Gus' Sinclair
Chair, HVRA

It was about 3 years ago that a group of your neighbours presented a new Constitution to the Annual General Meeting of the Sussex-Ulster Residents' Assoc. After much thought and discussion, the Constitution was formally accepted and the new organization known as **Harbord Village**



Residents' Association (HVRA) began its new life. Since then, we have built steadily (we have over 200 paid up members) and we have much to tell you in this our first Newsletter. As Chair of HVRA, I can also tell you I have never been prouder of the work of any group with which I have been associated. We have

been active on many fronts and your Board has been smart, reliable and dedicated in all they have done. To those of you who have not yet joined us, my advice is to be on the side of a winner and join us soon! HVRA is nothing if not a winner! If you need further convincing, read on!

Our 2nd Annual Spring Clean-up – May 4th!

Meet your neighbours while you help clean up the laneways, roadsides and sidewalks in HVRA's 2nd Annual Spring Cleanup on May 4. As in our first Spring Cleanup, we'll try to recycle as much of what we collect as we can. Bring work gloves, and pick up bags and directions from a coordinator at any one of the following 3 meeting points:

10AM - NOON

- Ulster & Brunswick (Margaret Fairley Park)
- Robert & Willcocks or
- Brunswick & Sussex

11:30AM – 2PM

Ulster & Brunswick: Help us do a final sorting and bagging of the recyclables and the refuse. Plastic gloves will be provided.

Local resident Gus Sinclair will be driving the laneways and streets, relieving clean-up volunteers of any heavy bags. So you won't have to drag heavy bags around the neighbourhood.

We hope to see you on Sunday! The neighbourhood needs your help! Questions? Contact Jane Wideman (416) 534-9888.

Have you ever wondered what you can do about a noisy neighbour? What the Committee of Adjustment does? How can By-laws be enforced in our neighbourhood? We will have City staff present to help with these and other questions. Tuesday May 13, St. Vladimir's 7pm

**Come to the Annual
Spring Meeting
Tuesday May 13th!**

Revitalizing College Street

On April 8, HVRA's College Street Revitalization Committee held an open house for property owners and businesses along College Street between Spadina and Bathurst.

It was held at the Plaza Flamingo restaurant, with excellent facilities and food kindly provided by the owners, Ramon Calero and his family.

About 70 people attended. Much enthusiasm was expressed for upgrading College Street. What HVRA proposes is set out below.

The aim is to make College Street better for all: businesses, residents, and visitors. Above all, it needs to be a place where a variety of businesses can succeed, especially businesses that can flourish well near a major university.

Two mayoralty candidates attended, David Miller and John Nunziata, and expressed full support for the project. Three other candidates, Barbara Hall, Tom Jakobek, and John Tory, wrote or called in expressing support. Our City Councilor, Olivia Chow, was present to provide her continued backing.

A feature of the open house was the well-received showing of Sandra Dunilovic's magnificent 50-minute film "Portrait Of A Street: The Soul And Spirit Of College".

The big questions are, 'When will it get done?' and 'What happens next?'

The Committee hopes that the complete restructuring of the street will occur during 2005 or 2006. The City and the TTC will be putting in the regular

amounts of money for this kind of work but more will have to be found if HVRA's and the business community's vision for a really beautiful street is to come about.

The Committee is working with architects James Brown and Kim Storey to improve the design for the street. It's also working on getting the City to allocate more money and on finding other sources of funds.

What can you do to help the project? Just now, the best thing is to join HVRA. If we had 1,000 members rather than 250, we'd have more clout at City Hall.

Details of the current version of the College Street proposal are on the HVRA Web site at www.harbordvillage.com.

Highlights from the HVRA proposal:

"...improved facilities for cyclists...(and) no parking spaces will be lost..."

- The sidewalk on the north side will be widened substantially, creating more spaces for businesses, pedestrians, and trees.
- The sidewalk on the south side will be widened at intersections, with lay-by parking between.
- 150 additional trees will be planted along the sidewalks, creating a linear urban park. The proposal includes leading-edge environmental initiatives for stormwater management and tree-root feeding.
- There will be improved facilities for cyclists (with details still being worked out with the City Cycling Committee).
- As agreed by City traffic officials, there will be one less lane of traffic on the north side, except during the afternoon rush period.
- No parking spaces will be lost, except in the afternoon rush period on the north side. This section of College will still have some of the best parking opportunities in Toronto.
- Ways will be found to celebrate the rich history of the street.

Aerial view – before...

... and after.