



The Annex Residents' Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Friends House – 60 Lowther Ave.

AGENDA

- Welcome Members and Guests
- Approval of Agenda
- Minutes from 2016 AGM
- Special Guest – Ed Keenan, Toronto Star
- Chair's report — David Harrison
- Financials — Liz Rankin, Treasurer
- Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of the 2017 21 Board of Directors - Jim Jacobs
- Road Safety Report, including “Bloor Bike Lanes”- Albert Koehl
- Rail Safety update - Henry Wiercinski
- Community Volunteer Award
- Councillor Joe Cressy: Ward 20 update
- AOB
- Adjournment

Draft minutes
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
Church of the Messiah, 240 Avenue Road @ Dupont Avenue

55 people attended.

1. **Chair David Harrison welcomed Members and Guests** and thanked the Church of the Messiah for their hospitality.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved as presented.
3. **Chair, David Harrison welcomed our guest speaker, The Honorable Chrystia Freeland, MP, University – Rosedale** and gave an overview of Ms. Freeland's background.

Ms. Freeland announced that she will focus on talking about priorities of the government as well as local issues. She is proud of the new direction the Government is taking. She indicated that the Refugee work is the most important initiative taken by the Government. Further areas of renewed focus will be:

- New approach to the environment. Important that Canada is a leader in climate change. She supports Minister McKenna in the actions of climate change.
- Aboriginal file with Minister Bennett; a Town Hall will planned together. "We can be proud that there is now money in the budget for improvements, i.e. clean water."
- Rail safety is important to the neighbourhood!
- Local infra-structure is another area of priority; a cycling plan could be discussed in a town hall or round table meeting.
- Ms. Freeland emphasized that it is important to be in the community and bring the issues back to Ottawa.
- Question arose regarding bicycle lanes and that couriers don't have a space to stop.

The Minister responded that it has her attention.

- The return of the long-form census is important so that each department will have the data to base decisions on.

Q. A question arose about the infrastructure program: There used to be cost-sharing in the previous government? Also, is social housing included in the budget?

A. Infra-structure spending is divided in three section: a. transit. b. social housing and c. greening. Some will be cost-sharing some will be federally funded.

Questions about the environment regarding carbon emissions and carbon pricing arose:

A. The Minister responded that there will be a central approach, and it is of key importance to come up with a national plan.

Q. What is being done to fix bill C-51? Will there be a balance between our rights and freedoms?

A. Minister Goodale will come here to our riding and speak to it.

Q. International Health for students. There is a concern that there are no records of vaccinations. International students come by the 1000s without information about vaccination records. Why is public health not involved?

A. I was unaware of it. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

Q. What can we do about the railways? How can we blow up the railway act?

A. There is maybe a subtlety in the railway act. If the railways can see that the changes needed are actually to their benefit. There is work to be done there for sure.

4. Approval of Minutes from 2015 AGM. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

Polly Wells/Liz Allen Rankin

5. Chair's report – Chair, David Harrison presented an overview of the business of the Association over the past year.

6. Approval of the 2015 Financial Statements

Liz Allen Rankin, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the ARA fiscal year 2015.

That the Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2015 be accepted as presented.

David Harrison/Albert Koehl

7. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of the 2016 – 17 Board of Governors Lynn Spink presented the new slate in absence of Jim Jacobs, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

That all those nominated be elected to hold office for the 2016 – 2017 ARA Board.

Lynn Spink/Liz Allen Rankin

8. Committee Reports

- Planning and Zoning Development Portal - the Annex development portal can be found on www.theara.org.
- Bikes on Bloor update – Albert Koehl gave an overview of the details for the bike lane pilot running from Avenue Road to Shaw Street. If successful, it will be a model for other neighbourhoods.
- *TreesPlease* web portal – Terri Chu and Polly Wells presented the TreeMap and highlighted various features of the portal, including the full data set that has been gathered over four years covering 36 criteria. The portal will help us maintain the tree canopy in the Annex. The portal is now on the ARA website.
- Rail Safety - Henry Wiercinski announced that a great deal of work has happened over the past year and that the new Minister of Transportation, Marc Garneau did a great job in answering questions. Round tables and workshops are being planned. A great demonstration of democracy and civic engagement; it shows that this government is taking the issues seriously. In addition, 6 RAs signed a letter regarding noise and vibration complaints and contacted CP.

9. Ward 20 Update by Councillor Joe Cressy.

Councillor Cressy mentioned that it is always a pleasure to show up at ARA meetings. The pace and scale of the activity in our Ward is rather relentless with one quarter of all proposed developments in the King/Spadina area. The only way can keep up with the pace and scale is working hand and glove with RAs.

Councillor Cressy highlighted the following topics of interest for the Annex and surrounding areas:

- We now have a waiting list for affordable housing of 95 000 families. One in 5 adults living in poverty with 29% of youth living in poverty. First transitional house for LBGQT youth opened in the Annex. 24 cold weather drop-ins opened up in the Ward. 250 Davenport is the next site for revitalization of community housing. Added to the mix are condos and town houses building neighbourhoods instead of density.

- Green line will be developed along the Dupont rail corridor.
- In Harbord Village, we are looking at a green plan for the laneways, which would perhaps mean expropriation of land for parks.
- Planning Studies: final piece for TOCore is the most comprehensive planning study undertaken: from Bathurst to Don River, from Rail Roads to Waterfront. 250 000 people growing to 900 000 of day-time population. At the waterfront, in the last year we have had critical development with the decision to have a no-jets Island Airport.
- City wide, two issues; Canada and Toronto – the response to the refugee crisis. The City created a Syrian refugee new settlement program.
- Another issue in the city is supervised injection sites. Three centres where drug use is taken place are being proposed. Council will vote in July.
- Annex Parks and Green spaces: Huron Street Parkette: the park space will be redesigned and the playground enhanced. Connected with Huron PS School to redesign the playground and final designs will be shared. Ryan Russell parkette will be enhanced. In partnership with the Bloor BIA, street-scaping work will be undertaken. Parkettes along Bloor on the corner of Major, Robert, Howard and Brunswick will be created on a 50/50 funding basis with BIA.
- Transit: speed limit to 30 km/h on all residential streets is coming soon.
- Development plans:
 - Established a vision for Dupont for the type of intensification in the range of eight stories. New vision from Walmer to St. George. Public meeting on June 6 or 8.
 - Honest Ed's: a tremendous amount of work is being done on behalf of 4 RAs. A re-submission on the plans will take place later in May including heritage and a new park. There is still work to do on density.
 - We are working on a Four Corner study and will have a range of public meetings.
 - St. George campus: A comprehensive secondary plan is being updated with two public meetings upcoming.
 - Davenport Triangle: this area is under unprecedented pressure. Four applications are currently in progress. There is now a newly formed group: the Davenport Triangle Residents' Association

Councillor Cressy concluded by mentioning that the Planning Department at City Hall is constantly playing catch-up and that Civic engagement is the strength of our neighbourhoods

Q. Why is the planning staff so small and why does the city give permission to developers to take over communal property?

A. We need to make a case to increase the number of planners and to mandate developers that, where possible, to build within their footprint

10. Adjournment: 9:20 p.m.

Annex Residents' Association AGM Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Chair's Remarks

David Harrison chair@theara.org

Thank you all for coming tonight. And thanks to the Friends House for their warm welcome. As you likely know, the Annex covers the area from Avenue Rd to Bathurst and from Bloor St up to the CP tracks. We have more than 15000 residents in our neighbourhood. Last year we went east to the Church of the Messiah for our meeting and we will look to find somewhere more to the western side of the Annex next year

Well, as usual, we have had a very busy year in Toronto. With so many important issues confronting Toronto it gets more difficult to strike priorities. But, transit, development and affordable housing are clearly at the top of the list. So, we thank our Councillor, Joe Cressy, for representing us so well over the past year. Also, Joe Cressy's staff and in particular Colin Burns who has continued to be most available for us to consult with and to handle the many issues that occur in this high profile area.

Our work at the ARA during the past year has included a strong focus on planning and development. As we discussed last year, the Annex was faced with myriad development proposals around the edges of our ward. From the continuing review of the Honest Ed's site to 316 Bloor St then all along Dupont and over to what we refer to as the Davenport Triangle (Dupont, Bedford and Davenport) and shouldered by the planned new development at 250 Davenport, we became somewhat overwhelmed but the amount of development activity we needed to be on top of and participate in.

As a result of so much activity, our Planning and Zoning Committee has become very involved in trying to work with developers to establish reasonable new densities and at the OMB with mediated settlements

We have recently had some success in helping minimize development proposals along Dupont and as a consequence on the Dupont Visioning Study, an ARA initiative, the City was finally able to conclude successful mediation with five of the development groups from Kendal to Ossington and more or less get agreement to heights and densities which were proposed in the study. There was one hold out group at the Wynn Brothers site in partnership with the Freed group which went for OMB mediation last fall and we participated in that. It appeared that a settlement was to be made but in the end City Council rejected the proposal. So, next month, a full hearing at the OMB will take place and it remains to be seen what the result might be. It is a large development and very close to the tracks. The City is very opposed to this proposal.

Close by here, the number of potential developments in the Davenport Triangle has grown and caused the residents to form their own community group, The Davenport Triangle Residents Association, DTRA, and we are working very closely with the group to design strategies for negotiating with the City and the developers. Our aim is to minimize the effect on the existing residential structures and the rather fragile Designers Walk Lane which is proposed by all developers to be integral to the movement of people and automobiles at their buildings. So far, one development has been approved in principle, 350 Davenport, and we recently participated, along with DATRA, in an OMB mediation for the Freed proposal at 342-346 Davenport. We came to a proposed settlement but the City has to determine agreement at the May council meeting. So, we await that decision.

The City is working to make overall recommendations for the lane and traffic considerations but the work is not finished.

We have discussed 316 Bloor Street West, a proposed 42 story condominium project, at the last two AGM's. Clearly, we objected to the height and density. We participated in another OMB mediation for this project in March and, again, we came to a proposed settlement but we need to hear a final decision from Council before we can reveal the compromise. That decision should be made about now. HVRA was also a party to the mediation

The proposal at the Honest Ed's site has been well publicized and is a good example of a developer trying to work with the community to find an acceptable development plan. In this connection, the ARA worked with the

Palmerston Residents, Seaton Village and Harbord Village to help the developer, Westbank, find an agreeable design. The end appears to now be in sight and general agreement has been reached.

A word about the OMB: Much criticism is heaped upon the OMB, but our experience at the four mediations that we have participated in has been very good. We have been fortunate in having their most experienced mediator, and now head of the OMB, James McKenzie, be the mediator for these matters. Mediation is preferable to a full hearing because it is not an all or nothing proposition. The whole idea is to find a compromise that may not make any participant completely happy but will allow all parties to be content.

We made representations to the formal review that is taking place concerning the OMB and suggested that, should the OMB stay in business; every effort should be made to ensure mediation be the first step in any hearing process. We expect to hear the recommendations about the OMB fairly soon. And, as you may know the City has recently set up a Local Appeal Board that will hear any appeals resulting from Committee of Adjustment matters. These have, heretofore, gone to the OMB. Thus the workload at the OMB will reduce and hearings there should now become more timely.

Rail safety is an issue that continues to move up on the priority list of municipal concerns particularly as a result of last year's derailment on the CP line. The ARA, through director Henry Wiercinski, has made great strides in forming a coalition of communities which are working with all levels of government to find a safer way to transport dangerous goods on the rails. Mayor Tory and the Council have been focused on this issue and recently communicated our concerns to Minister Garneau.

On brighter notes, our TreesPlease project has been completed and we now have mapping of all the trees in the Annex and this data is now generally available on our website. The City completed improvements to the Huron Parkette.

We really need new members and are perplexed as to how we might accomplish this. We know that many residents mean to join or indeed think they joined in the past but life gets in the way and good intentions fade away. So, as we ask every year, please encourage your neighbours to join the association. The greater our membership the stronger our voice and the more success we can achieve. We only exist to maintain and hopefully the quality of life in the Annex for all our residents

As to Heritage and Preservation, the great work of our committee under Sandra Shaul to complete the Madison Avenue Heritage Conservation District is still under appeal as there have been three appeals to the adoption of this plan. Our frustration is palpable in the failure of matter to be resolved. Sandra's group had a very successful Annex House Tour last fall and it was well received by the attendees.

The Bloor Bike Lanes have been in operation since last fall and seem to have been well received by residents who cycle, pedestrians and motorists but not universally. An assessment will be made this summer and opportunities for input will be there for all residents. Albert Koehl deserves recognition for pushing hard to make the bike lanes a reality.

We had another great Corn Roast last fall and June 11 it will be time for the Bloor Street festival. This is held under the auspices of the Bloor BIA who do a great job. And, of course, the Borden Farmers' Market continues to be an Annex favourite. This year, weather permitting, the market will start in early June.

As to other matters, we welcomed the newly designed YMCA Spratt house, we worked diligently with the UofT community liaison committee and contributed to their secondary plan; some Frat houses remain a real problem and the pot holes get worse, but on the bright side the Royal St. George transformer is finally buried.

Thanks to all of you who helped the ARA to deliver on our mission. This coming year will again be full of challenges and we would ask all of you to help in any way you can.

Thanks to all those who have served on the ARA Board and Committees. We will be saying farewell to Michael Low and Alex Speigel from the Board but both have agreed to stay close by and be available for other involvement. Michael will continue to participate with TreesPlease. We also said a final farewell to Gwen Egan, a board member for many years at the ARA. She was a tireless community builder. And yes, she would have been baking cookies for this AGM!

Gwen was the editor and publisher of our Voice of the Annex newsletter, organizer of the ARA Book fair and won community awards from the city. She died on the 23rd

And remember, we have many committees and all members are very welcome, indeed encouraged, to participate

Thank you all,
David Harrison

SLATE of NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF THE ANNEX RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2017 – 2018

1. Rita Bilerman – Lowther Avenue

Membership Secretary

Rita has been living in the Annex since 1994. She lives with her husband David and their 2 sons. She currently is the ARA's Membership Secretary and sits on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Besides her involvement with the ARA, Rita volunteers in the community and with political campaigns, generally organizing and fund raising. She has a background in environmental sciences as well as a financial one and holds the CFA designation.

2. Terri Chu – Albany Avenue

Terri founded the symposium 'Why Should I Care?' She has long been an active organizer of the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market, and involved in many neighbourhood issues.

3. Robin Clarke – Pears Avenue

Robin has been a member of the ARA for about 11 years. He lives in the north east quadrant of the Annex, on Pears Avenue and has been active on several projects with the ARA and the ABC on the east side of Avenue Road. He is an award winning design architect and has practiced in Toronto as a Principal in several major architectural firms since 1967. His portfolio includes projects such as Royal Bank Plaza, many Four Seasons hotels and the Ritz Carlton Hotel, downtown. Much of his work is with the development community and he is familiar with the design and approval process. Most recently, he participated in the Dupont Street Visioning Study. He is a firm believer in responsible dialogue between builders, neighbours and authorities in developing a dynamic and attractive urban environment.

4. Micky Fraterman – Brunswick Avenue

Secretary and Communications

Micky has lived in the Annex since 1997 and has been on the ARA board since 2000 after having been a member of the Annex Home and Garden Tour committee. She sold ads for the Voice of the Annex and became the ARA Secretary in 2008. As a member of the Communications Committee she is the Association's webmistress. She is on the steering committee of an "Out of the Cold" homeless shelter, a member of two refugee sponsorship groups, and. She is a board member of the First Narayever Congregation (synagogue) on Brunswick Avenue. Most recently she was Communications Manager of the former Canadian Association of Food Banks, currently Food Banks Canada.

5. Josh Fullan – Bedford Road

Josh is a longtime Annex resident, sitting on Planning & Zoning Committees for the ARA. He is the Outreach Coordinator at the University of Toronto Schools, the Director of Jane's Walk School Edition, and the founder of Maximum City, a social enterprise offering educational programming and public consultation.

6. Meg Gardner – Albany Avenue

Meg Gardner and her husband Steve have lived on Albany Avenue, just south of Dupont, for over 10 years. Although her three little boys regularly outpace her, she finds the time to be the Treasurer at the Huron Street Playschool and the Co-Secretary at Huron Street Public School. The daughter of a small town US ex-Mayor, being involved in community is in her DNA.

7. Natasha Gromoff-Kramer – Huron Avenue

Police Liaison/Community Safety/BIAs

On and off the ARA Board since 1994, Natasha has been active with various projects of the association including Fall Fair, Annex House & Garden Tour, Book Sale, Ecology Park, & Dupont Dig Festival. She has set up three neighbourhood watch programs, and has been the police liaison representative for the Annex for 14 Division (west of Spadina) and 53 Division (east of Spadina) for the past 15 years reporting to the ARA in monthly reports. Involvement includes monthly meetings, and volunteering at police events such as Open House, Town Hall meetings, BBQ Fundraisers, Festivals, Clean City Together, Farmers Market. Natasha is a retired Actra employee and still works as needed.

8. David Harrison – Bedford Road**Chair**

David Harrison has been an Annex resident, on and off, for over twenty years with his wife Erica Fischer. He has been ARA director since 2007 and is currently Chair.

Active over the years in community and political organizations, he was on the Board of the North Rosedale Ratepayers Association from 1997 – 2004. David is a businessman and investor and holds the position of Chairman for PHD Canada, a leading media management firm.

9. Christine Innes – Walmer Road

Ongoing member of the ARA, Christine was a founding committee member of the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market a strong supporter and advocate for a number of community organizations, including starting the ARA's annual community corn roast. She is the mother of 4 children, ages 14 - 24 and a lawyer. She practiced law for 14 years (as a commercial litigator) before returning to public service. She is currently Chief of Staff to Ontario's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade.

10. Jim Jacobs – Albany Avenue

Jim has lived in the Annex since 1968. Now retired, he ran a small business for about 20 years. He volunteers at the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market.

11. Albert Koehl – Howland Avenue**Vice-Chair; Chair, Traffic and Transportation**

Albert is an environmental lawyer, cycling advocate, and happy resident of the Annex. Albert is Vice-Chair of the ARA.

12. Edward Leman – Prince Arthur Avenue**Co-Chair, Planning & Zoning**

Edward Leman is an urban planner, and President of Chreod Ltd., consultants on urban and regional development. He has led consulting projects on metropolitan development issues in more than 110 cities in North America and Asia. He is a Senior Fellow of the Global Cities Institute at U of T. Edward spent his teenage years living in the Annex. On returning to Toronto eight years ago, he moved back to the Annex with his wife Dilys (writer and editor) and youngest daughter Oriana. Edward is Co-chair of ARA's Planning and Zoning Committee, and joined ARA's Board in February of 2010.

13. John McGrath – Brunswick Avenue**Chair, Communications**

John has lived in the Annex for the last 19 years, and was on the Board of the Annex Residents' Association during 2005 and 2006. He retired from CBC to begin a new career in strategic communications. John has been re-engaging with his community as chair of communications of the ARA.

14. Terry Montgomery – Albany Avenue

Terry Montgomery is a relatively new resident of the Annex, having moved here in early 2007. He is a strong advocate for this great Toronto neighborhood and is keen to ensure that it thrives and adapts to the changing urban context without compromising its quality and livability. Terry is a founding partner of Montgomery Sisam Architects, a Toronto practice which has played a central role in the redevelopment of many new Toronto communities including the Queen Street site for CAMH, Rivertowne at Dundas and the Don River as well as the Pan Am Village for the 2015 Pan Am Games, next to the Distillery District.

15. Liz Allen Rankin – Wells Street**Treasurer**

Liz Allen Rankin moved to the Annex in 2008 after living 25 years in the Beaches. She is currently the ARA Treasurer as well and was on the ARA's *TreesPlease* Project Committee. Liz loves the diversity of the Annex, its community-feel and vibrancy. A recently retired CPA/CA, Liz is an active cyclist and gardener.

16. Sandra Shaul – Kendal Avenue**Chair, Heritage**

Sandra is chair of the ARA Heritage Committee and has worked on Annex Heritage Conservation Districts since 2005. She is also a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee. She began her tenure with the ARA as one of the leaders against the development at One Bedford Road and helped to negotiate the settlement. She was vice-chair of the Toronto and East York Heritage Preservation Panel and sat on the City of Toronto Preservation Board. Sandra was a founding director of The Funding Network-Toronto and of People Plan Toronto.

17. Lynn Spink – Albany Avenue

Lynn moved to Albany Avenue in the early 1970s, when she worked for Pollution Probe at the University of Toronto and then for the City of Toronto Planning Board. She's active on many community projects and is the ARA's liaison with Toronto's Film Office.

18. Ko Van Klaveren – Albany Avenue**Co-Chair, Planning & Zoning**

Ko has lived in the Annex since 1982 and is an active member of the Planning & Zoning Committee and Member of the Board. He is involved in the ARA because he cares about the quality of life and the built form of the neighbourhood in which he lives. Ko is an Architect with Stantec Inc., Toronto.

19. Henry Wiercinski – Chicora Avenue**Vice-Chair**

Henry Wiercinski has been an Annex resident for over 25 years. A graduate of Queens University, he has practiced business law in Toronto since 1975 with a focus on financial services, structured products, project finance and infrastructure. He is vice-chair of Rail Safety First, a coalition of residents and business improvement associations that advocates for safe, transparent and accountable rail, a director of Smart Commute North Toronto, Vaughan and a director of the Canadian Society of Decorative Arts.

New Board Members**20. Meghan Abbott – Brunswick Avenue**

Meghan is a higher-education professional with over 5 years of increasingly senior roles at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Meghan, her husband Ross and son Henry (age 3) are new Annex residents, having taken possession of their Brunswick Avenue home in January 2016. Meghan is an active Toronto resident, she cycles to work, is a past volunteer at Sick Kids Hospital and proudly participates in events that support Eva's Initiative and the Alzheimer's Society Toronto. She is keen to get involved with the future plans for the Annex, particularly in the zoning, planning and development taking place

21. Clare Scott – Howland Avenue

Growing up in the Annex, the streets, parks and schools in the area had a formative influence on Clare. With the ARA she hopes to focus on improving active transportation options, cultivating green spaces, and maintaining the neighbourhood's unique character. She is also keen to learn from the experienced folks on the Board. Clare has a degree in History & English Lit from the U of T and currently oversees Active Living programs at the BrickWorks. She also volunteers at U of T's community bike shop, Bikechain.

Committee Reports**Planning and Zoning**

planningandzoning@theara.org

Klaveren

Co-chairs: Edward Leman and Ko Van

One of the functions of the Annex Residents Association is to monitor and, if necessary, intervene in proposals such as new construction or renovations that might affect the integrity and quality of life in the neighbourhood. The ARA's Planning and Zoning Committee works with the Councilor and other neighbourhood associations or citizen organizations to ensure that zoning and heritage regulations are not violated; to review requests for exemption from planning by-laws that go before the City's Committee of Adjustment; and to intervene in City planning deliberations that could affect the Annex. The committee also works with institutions such as the University of Toronto, when their development plans affect us.

P+Z has supported ARA's intervention at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) on three major development proposals: a 42-storey condo at Bloor and Madison, a modified proposal for condo and office development at 328 Dupont (Wynn/Freed), and a proposed 10-storey condo in the Davenport Triangle. In all three cases, ARA (through its Corporate entity ARC) was a full Party. All three were mediated at the Board. Council rejected the 328 Dupont mediation which will now go for a full hearing in May. The other two mediated agreements will be reviewed by Council later this month.

P+Z has also participated in three City Planning studies over the past year: TOCore, which will lead to a Secondary Plan for the Downtown area (Annex is its northern boundary); the Bloor-Annex Planning Study that resulted in Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments limiting the heights of buildings along the north side of Bloor from St. George to Walmer Road; and the Davenport Triangle Planning Study which will set zoning and urban design parameters for the area between Dupont, Bedford, and Davenport. P+Z has built – and updates monthly – the Annex Development Portal that maps and describes all major development projects in the Annex. This portal, which is online at <https://pandz.crowdmap.com/main>, provides opportunities for feedback from residents on the individual projects. We encourage you to use the site to see what is happening in your neighbourhood and make your views known. Since its launch in early 2016, the site has had 1,260 visits by 1,160 unique

visitors, and over 4,000 pageviews.

We welcome new members. If you would like to join P+Z, please contact Edward Leman or Ko Van Klaveren at planningandzoning@theara.org.

Traffic and Transportation trafficandtransportation@theara.org

Chair: Albert Koehl

The year 2016 saw a significant change in the approach to road safety in the City of Toronto. In July, City Council approved its first-ever road safety plan, which includes elements such as lower speed limits and more bike lanes --- both issues highlighted in the ARA's 2011 Cycling Policy.

For many years, the city focused on warning vulnerable roads users like pedestrians and cyclists about the danger on public roads, instead of actually addressing the road danger. At the same time roads were widened at the expense of sidewalks and speeds increased at the expense of safety. When death and injury did occur it was usually considered an acceptable cost of our modern transport system. As urban densities increase, however, more and more people are walking, cycling and taking transit instead of driving cars and the old approach is often being challenged.

Toronto's Road Safety Plan, modeled on the international Vision Zero approach, rejects the notion that death and injury are an acceptable part of a modern road system.

Lower speed limits

Speed limits have been lowered on Annex streets, both as a result of the Road Safety Plan and of initiatives that predate the Safety Plan. The ARA deputed at the Public Works Committee in favour of lower speed limits.

On Annex side streets the speed limit has been reduced to 30 kmh. The reason is simple: at 30 kmh a pedestrian hit by a car will almost certainly survive while at 50 kmh, the same pedestrian will likely die.

On so called "arterial" roads like Bloor St. and Spadina Rd., the speed limit has been reduced to 40 kmh under the new Road Safety Plan (although enforcement is still rare).

Bloor pilot bike lane

After decades of study and debate, a short pilot bike lane was installed on 2.4 km of Bloor St. encompassing Bloor from Avenue Rd to Shaw St.

The installation of the bike lane was quickly followed by a large increase in Bloor St. cyclists --- including seniors and children with their parents --- who for the first time can get to work, school and shops in greater safety. The City's bike counts in October 2016 showed a 36% increase in bike trips on Bloor relative to pre-bike lane days, while counts by other organizations have shown even larger increases in September. Even during the last two weeks of January 2017, an average of 1,700 cyclists per day were documented on the Bloor bike lane (at Spadina) by the group Bells on Bloor. Toronto's increasingly warm winters means that an increase in cycling trips from December to March will likely become the norm.

The bike lane has seen the reduction in motor traffic of 4,000 cars per day, according to the City's counts. This is good news for children with respiratory illnesses. Toronto Public Health reports that motor traffic remains the major contributor to fine particulates in the city.

The City is now looking at making adjustments to the bike lane at certain intersections to reduce motor traffic delays caused by slower right turns. Adjustments will also be required of shoppers arriving by car who now have limited on-street parking but can still take advantage of ample Green P parking and side-street parking (as well as obvious alternatives such as transit and cycling).

Toronto's road safety initiatives --- including ones implemented in the Annex --- are consistent with the lead being established by other major global cities where driving downtown is increasingly treated as a luxury. And with dozens of new development applications or approvals for our neighbourhood (including the former Honest Ed's site), it is likely that walking, cycling, and transit will not only remain the quickest way of getting around but with improvements to the road safety environment, it may finally become the safest way to get around.

Our local councillor Joe Cressy has been at the forefront of these road safety initiatives, and fully deserves our recognition and gratitude.

Police and Community Safety and BIAs

Natasha Gromoff - Kramer

The ARA liaises with the Toronto Police Services in 53 Division (east of Spadina) and 14 Division (west of Spadina). Reports are given monthly to the Board on the police activity in the division. We live in a safe neighbourhood. The bike officers patrol our streets and parks.

Always remember to report anything suspicious to keep your home and streets safe. Our CPLC (Community Police Liaison Committee) meetings consist of crime updates, arrests, safety measures, and any problem that members bring to the table to try and be solved. Both Divisions have a Community Scholarship program which we have supported. Police are very involved with youth. Also the Divisions have clothing drives and BBQ fundraisers. Open House and BBQ - 53 Division is May 13/17, 53 D station - Duplex and Eglinton. We also work very closely with the two local BIA's who try to eradicate graffiti and make our main streets and pedestrian crossings safe - Bloor Annex BIA and Dupont ByThe Castle BIA.

Membership Report

membership@theara.org

Rita Bilerman, Membership Secretary

2017 will be another very important year for the ARA. As developments in our neighbourhood continue at an extraordinary pace, we will be heavily relying on you for your support and feedback. The ARA has always sought to represent the Annex in the most effective and meaningful way and with these developments; we will really need your help. As some of these developments are not supported by the ARA, and some not by City Hall either, we may be asking for financial support to wage a legal fight with certain developers. Stay tuned!

The ARA has represented the Annex at City Hall, the OMB, and at various neighbourhood functions and events. We aim to build even stronger relationships with both our internal and external stakeholders. Mostly, these include our neighbours, local businesses, schools, police, government, and other residents' associations. But we continue to need the support of our members and appreciate any input. We encourage you to communicate any interests or issues you may have to us.

As our website has become more automated, members are able to interact more effectively with the ARA and also have more flexibility in receiving communications. We welcome and encourage your involvement and communications. The doors are always open at our monthly meetings and events. We'd especially appreciate it if you could volunteer for one of our committees, events or worthy causes. Please tell your neighbours, we'd love to see them too.

The ARA will be hosting or will be attending various events in the Annex. We would like to see you! So please mark your calendars for the following:

- **Sunday, June 11, 2017, 11 am to 6 pm – Annex Family Festival on Bloor**
- **Sunday, June 11, 2017 – Ward 20 Environment Day with Councillor Cressy at Central Tech School**
- **June to October every Wednesday Farmers' Market in the parking lot – Borden/south of Bloor**

If you have any ideas for events or would like the ARA to have a presence at any events, please let us know. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in the neighbourhood!

Report on Heritage 2016

heritage@theara.org

Sandra Shaul, Chair

As reported in 2015, City Council approved the West Annex Heritage District Conservation Study Phase One (Madison Avenue) report on December 10, 2015, thereby enacting By-Law no. 1329-2015 under the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18. Public notice was issued and any person objecting to the By-Law was able to submit an appeal to the OMB via City Hall, by February 5, 2016. There were three appeals. After two pre-hearing meetings, the appellants agreed to meet with the City to mediate. Sandra Shaul, representing the ARA, was included as a participant. While the mediation has taken longer than we wished, it has been amicable and hopefully will come to a positive conclusion by mid-2017.

On October 16, 2016, the Annex Residents' Association held a pilot event called the Annex Tour of Houses and Cultural Organizations. The focus was on Madison Avenue, but also the Annex as part of a corridor that includes cultural organizations large and small. Three organizations, not well known to the general public, were the Istituto Italiano, Alliance Française, and the Museum for Estonians Abroad. Albeit a rainy day, attendance from paid visitors and our volunteers was approximately 70 individuals and feedback was very positive. Alliance Française provided space for registration and refreshments. Refreshments were generously donated by Starbucks and Cobbs as well as home made by a crew of talented

ARA bakers.

We are planning to hold our next event on September 24, 2017 with a focus on Walmer Road.

Communications

John McGrath, Chair/Micky Fraterman, Webmistress

communications@theara.org

2016-17 has been another busy year for the Communications' efforts of the ARA.

A lot of the heavy lifting was done last year when we revised the ARA website (www.theara.org) to make it easier for residents and the public to stay up to date with the activities of the Annex Residents' Association.

- The *News* section of the landing page continues to list more events at a glance
- An interactive tree map that lists the species, size, health and other attributes of all the trees in the Annex can be found in the *TreesPlease* section of the website.
- The interactive Annex Planning Portal is also up and running on the ARA website, listing all the development projects in the Annex, along with their status and size.

In addition, the Annex Residents' Association continues to send out bulletins and newsletters to inform members of important events in the Annex. Over the past year, we have sent out eleven bulletins to members, on topics such as the closing of Honest Ed's, the Annex Tour of Homes and Cultural Organizations and the plans for 316 Bloor.

Parks and Trees

Terri Chu, Interim Chair

parksandtrees@theara.org

Over the past year the Committee has been working on:

TreesPlease Database

The *TreesPlease* database has been completed. Given the cost, time, and lack of predictability for updates, a decision was made to maintain data integrity and treat the database as a "census" rather than have rolling updates. *TreesPlease* plans to update this database at the 10 year anniversary.

Thanks to a partnership made during CivicTech TO, *TreesPlease* is now working with volunteer developers to make a user friendly front end for the trees database.

In the next year, *TreesPlease* hopes to lead community events that we hope will engage the neighbourhood with the tree canopy. We hope to lead community fruit tree picking events as well as tours based on the information gleaned from the database.

Bloor Street Greening

35 planter boxes on Bloor will be replaced in 2019 when Bloor is slated for sidewalk renewal and road repaving. The largely unpopular tree boxes will be replaced with in ground tree containers that will allow the tree to grow to maturity. The in ground containment is designed to not interfere with existing utilities, but tree locations will need to be slightly different from existing locations.

On four city owned rights of way, the Annex will see new parkettes; namely at Robert street, outside the Fedex, outside the Rexall (formerly Brunswick House), and at Howland. These parkettes will see pollinator friendly gardens, large sitting areas, and some will feature bottle refilling stations and dog fountains.

This is a \$2M project of which the BIA will fund 50%.