



# The Annex Residents' Association

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
The Friends House – 60 Lowther Ave.

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome Members and Guests
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from 2017 AGM
4. Special Guest – Cheri DiNovo, Minister Trinity-St. Paul's
5. Chair's report — David Harrison
6. Financials — Liz Rankin, Treasurer
7. Report from the Nominating Committee Report and Election of the 2018 —19 Board of Directors - Jim Jacobs
8. Community Volunteer Award presentation
9. Councillor Joe Cressy: Ward 20 update
10. AOB
11. Adjournment

**Draft Minutes**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Friends House – 60 Lowther Ave.

1. **Chair David Harrison welcomed Members and Guests**
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved as presented. *Jim Jacobs/Albert Koehl*
3. **Approval of the Minutes from 2016 AGM.** *Lynn Spink/Robert Brown*
4. **Board Member John McGrath introduced our guest speaker, Journalist Ed Keenan, Toronto Star.**  
 Ed Keenan thanked the ARA for inviting him to speak and let the meeting know that he will speak about Community Engagement. He mentioned that Community Engagements exemplifies the Annex and was invented here! He lived in the Annex himself and his current focus is writing about housing issues. People's expectations about home ownership, space requirement and rental availability are the themes of his work. Keenan feels that we need to do more as a city to increase rental housing. We need more and better ideas on the housing front! Keenan opened the meeting up for questions; here is a snapshot of the questions that were asked:
 

Q. How do you feel about rent control and what will it do to alleviate the current situation?

*A. Rent controls are often counter-productive research has shown. It doesn't do much to stimulate the rental housing market; perhaps it makes a marginal difference. It will give some protection to some people and avoid doubling of rent overnight. But market at large is skeptical.*

Q. Where would the stimulus come from with rent control?

*A. Mirvish Village will be one of the first to be all rental*

Q. What can you say about transit?

*A. There is always a discussion about various options and possibilities. Keenan feels transit should be a priority for the city.*

Q. What about the deficiency of subsidized housing. The list has grown despite of the annual turnover.

*A. Wait list is very long; 7 years average.*
5. **Chair's report** — Chair, David Harrison asked for a moment of silence for Gwen Egan, a long time ARA Board member and Community worker who passed away last Sunday, April 23.

**6. Approval of the 2016 Financial Statements**

Liz Rankin, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for the ARA fiscal year 2016. She referred to Page 2. of the notes and highlighted that the *TreesPlease* program was a major activity of the ARA. As well Liz mentioned the various donations mentioned in note 5. and the success of the Annex Tour of Houses and Cultural Organizations in note 6.

That the Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2016 be accepted as presented.

*Liz Rankin/David Harrison*

**7. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of the 2017 - 18 Board of Directors**

Liz presented the slate of the nominating committee and mentioned that there were 19 returning and 2 new directors: Meaghan Abbott and Clare Scott

That all those nominated be elected to hold office for the 2017 – 2018 ARA Board.

*Jim Jacobs/ John McGrath*

**8. Road Safety Report, including “Bikes on Bloor update”**

Albert Koehl, Traffic and Transportation Chair, mentioned that 43 pedestrians, many seniors, were killed on our roads over the past year. We haven't done much for the safety of our cyclists and pedestrians. Albert mentioned that a road safety plan, including lowering speed limits to 30 km, was being implemented. Pilot of bike lanes is still ongoing.

**9. Rail Safety update.** Henry Wiercinski gave an outline of measures taken in November to improve rail safety. There will be more risk mitigation. He mentioned that there was a rumour that the CP rails be moved. Better access to GO trains if running on the same track as CP rail. Henry further mentioned that a MOU of understanding between City and CP/CN/Metrolinx was agreed on.

**10. Community Volunteer Award.** This is a new initiative of the ARA. Albert came up with Rita Bilerman, Membership Chair and Micky Fraterman, Secretary, to present the Community Volunteer Award to Chris Wright for her outstanding work with Syrian Refugees. The award was accepted on her behalf by Libbie Mills.

**11. Councillor Joe Cressy: Ward 20 update.** Councillor Cressy mentioned that the ARA is the oldest Residents' Association in the Country and David Harrison is the hardest working RA Chair. Councillor Cressy continued to touch on many topics playing a role in our City, including the increase in the inequality gap, child poverty and the affordability crisis on the housing side.

Our ward 20 is at the heart of the City, everything happens in ward 20 with one quarter of all proposed developments happening here. Livability becomes an issue as the parks become our backyard. Funding for parks in the ward are a high priority; we are happy to receive private funding for an underground park and Rail Deck park has been declared a legacy project by Mayor Tory.

Further highlights in Ward 20 mentioned by Councillor Cressy were:

- 2 new community centres: Richmond Street Community Centre and one by the lakeshore near the stadium.
- 250 Davenport is now underway to be revitalized.
- Alexander Park is well underway to repair the existing Social Housing with a Public Health lens.
- Planning our neighbourhoods is of the essence and pro-active planning is essential; The Bloor and Dupont Vision Studies undertaken in this neighbourhood are prime examples: We do the important work of managing the neighbourhood for the future.
- Huron Street Park/Play Ground, connected with Huron Street Public School and the kids designed the playground. Phase 1 has been completed and for phase 2 group has been formed to include a dogs off - leash area.
- Public meeting and consultation for Ryan Russell parkette.
- Bloor BIA working with city on street scaping for 4 parkettes. Dupont BIA is also improving street scape.
- Development at Bloor/Bathurst: We did confirm a new plan for the four corners. The other 3 three corners (apart from Honest Ed's) could be very different and amount to 6 – 8 storeys, improving public realm.
- Spadina Visioning Study from Dupont till Queen aims to create a common vision for Dupont with a max of 9 storeys with appropriate set back from the rail road. There are many new sites planned along Dupont. An Open House is planned with Councillor Layton on May 4. The Dupont by the Castle BIA will present their masterplan.
- The Final Honest Ed's development plan will be approved at City Hall tomorrow. Topics include: How does this improve the neighbourhood for the next hundred years? The project will have over 800 units. 9% - 20% affordable housing. 40% - 2 and 3 bedrooms. 26 storeys is the tallest building, which is still a little too tall. The community will also have a park, childcare, DOL area as well as bike rental on site. Public Market and retail areas will be installed and the plan includes 27 heritage sites. As well the Black History of the area will be preserved.
- Bikes on Bloor: This pilot is in place since August. There has been an evaluation regarding pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles as well as safety, volume and speed. Businesses are split about the pilot and drivers find that travel times are slower. The evaluation will continue with a meeting in early June.

Some questions were asked of Councilor Cressy:

Q. Sign on Dupont that says Bianca? Is it at 420 Dupont Street?

A. *It was approved as part on the OMB settlement one of the 4 sites. All 4 will be looked at.*

Q. Impact on the neighbourhood of bike lanes. We see that parking of trucks now happening on side streets. There is a ground swell of opposition. Business is down by 30%.

A. *Evaluation criteria were discussed. Economic impact is key. Two BIA's are looking at impact of parking with a group from UofT Cycling grid should be safe and have options.*

Discussion ensued focusing on validity of research method and structure of parking lanes and bike lanes.

12. **AOB.** An initiative to apply for a laneway between Madison and Huron has been started by Lynn Friesen. It would be helpful if we can provide some names to support the request named for Gwen Egan has started. Lynn mentioned that it would help to have some names to support the request.
13. **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## **Chair's report to the 2018 Annex Residents' Association AGM April 26, 2018**

Thank you all for coming tonight. And welcome to the Friends House. 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 community.

Once again this has been a very busy year in Toronto and of course the Annex. 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. And, of course, we trust they will be carrying on their work into next year.

Our work at the ARA during the past year has continued to have a strong focus on planning and zoning. The Annex is faced with an increasing number of development proposals around the edges of our precinct. We recommend that you look at our web site and in particular our development portal that outlines the many projects planned for the Annex.

Over the past year we have been able to finalize four major planning matters.

First, the Honest Ed's site where we, along with three other residents' associations, worked with the developer and the City to come to a successful compromise on the final re-development plan. I would like to thank Jim Jacobs and Terry Montgomery for their tenacity in keeping our voice in the process.

316 Bloor Street was a major project which we objected to. The developer wanted 42 floors. Along with our neighboring residents' associations and the City we finally ended up at the OMB for mediation and came to a compromised solution. The building will now be 29 floors and there is an agreement with the adjacent properties which will inhibit the possibility of additional tall buildings thus limiting over-development on the block between Madison and Spadina.

At the other end of the Annex, we successfully worked with the City to significantly reduce the potential re-development at 328 Dupont at an OMB Hearing. Much centered on the proximity to the CP railway tracks. It remains to be seen whether the Freed Corporation presents a new proposal for the land owned by the Wynn Brothers.

A mediated settlement was concluded on the Freed development at 342 Davenport. We worked along with the Davenport Triangle Residents' Association and the City.

Developments which are still under review include Bloor Street United Church, 321 Davenport, 64 Prince Arthur and various proposals for the Davenport Triangle.

As to Bloor Street United, we are part of a working group, chaired by the Councillor, to try to reach a compromise that is acceptable to all. The initial proposal calls for a 38 storey mixed use development to be constructed behind the Church and for it and existing buildings to be restored and repurposed. The ARA strongly objects to the size of this proposal. We have been successful in getting movement and reduction of the new construction but so far we have not come to a satisfactory agreement. All are working with goodwill and intention.

64 Prince Arthur is another matter. The developer seeks to build a 29 storey tower on a small lot between an existing 12 storey and nineteen storey apartment buildings. At a public meeting in February the strong community sentiment was that this proposal is much too tall for the lot and surrounding properties. We expect to see a revised proposal soon.

321 Davenport, which is immediately behind houses on Admiral Road, is scheduled for OMB mediation in the Fall.

Activity in the Davenport Triangle includes a redevelopment proposal consisting of the NW Bedford and Davenport corner site – the Subway site - and adjacent buildings. Discussions continue with the developer. And, no doubt you have already seen that the new building at 250 Davenport has begun and the site has been stripped of all vegetation. A City Davenport Triangle study was finally published earlier this year though rather late to affect many of the development proposals.

Additionally, at the Davenport Triangle, the area was subject to a sudden inclusion of a homeless shelter in the property at 348 Davenport which was purchased by the City. It is never a mistake for a privileged community like ours to try and help the most vulnerable among us. We stepped forward to support the shelter when it was proposed. The shelter did not, by itself, create homeless people; they are with us everywhere in the city but often hidden. And, this was a particularly frigid winter.

We are very aware that there have been many complaints about behaviour of individuals who stayed at the shelter. We have learned from this experience, and hope this will inform future shelter initiatives run more smoothly. We know that the City needs more shelters. While we want to do our part, the City has to make sure that neighbours' interests and concerns are properly addressed.

The current respite facility will close on May 25th, the building will be renovated to accommodate a new use. Hopefully, the move from a homeless respite site to a transitional women's facility will be managed in a much more thoughtful, supervised and community focused way.

Other planning matters on our agenda include: the redevelopment of UTS, the U of T secondary plan, the Toronto Core recommendations, appeals of the Four Corners study at Bloor and Bathurst and of the Bloor Block Plan designed to give greater clarity to the Bloor visioning plan.

We expect that we will also get involved in the City ambition to create laneway housing and regulate secondary suites.

All of this activity will now be affected by legislative change and upcoming elections. As you likely know, the OMB is now re-formatted into the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal which will give greater power to municipalities and oddly, perhaps less voice for organizations like ours. Only new developments will be subject to these new rules. There are hundreds of outstanding appeals to yet be heard under the former OMB procedures.

Back at the City we now have the Toronto Local Appeal Body which will hear Committee of Adjustment appeals which formerly would have gone to the OMB. The new group operates under the aegis of the City.

And, we have a Provincial election on June 7<sup>th</sup> and municipal elections in November. Our area provincially is newly structured as University-Rosedale and our municipal ward, Ward 24, is newly designed to encompass the area of Ward 20 previously north of Queen but without Seaton Village. The old Ward 20 was too big and we hope the new area will allow for even greater attention for us by the Councillor and, perhaps, he will even get a night off occasionally.

Other items for the record. Thanks to the persistence of Albert Koehl and others the Bloor Bike lanes became a permanent reality, Huron Parkette was re-built, and plans will be formalized for a re-design of the Sgt Ryan Russell Parkette at Dupont and Avenue Rd.

And, speaking of Avenue Road we are part of a coalition to create an Avenue Corridor Safety Study. This is an initiative of four RAs (ARA, Rathnally RA, Cottingham Square and ABC, three schools (Brown, De La Salle and Cottingham PS) as well as the offices of the three councillors (Cressy, Matlow and Wong-Tam). Our objective is to study the stretch from St. Clair to Bloor and look to improve pedestrian safety through measures such as widening sidewalks and reducing speeds as there a number of schools and retirement homes in the area and an increasing number of condos.

Rail safety is an issue that continues to be a priority for municipalities particularly as a result of yet another derailment on the CP line. The ARA, through director Henry Wiercinski, has made strides in the coalition that we helped form - Rail Safety First. It was active in the stakeholder consultation on the Railway Safety Act

Review by appearing at roundtables in Montreal and Toronto as well as in filing two briefs, with a final report expected shortly.

As ever, we would really appreciate getting 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 improve 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 were 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.

We await recommendations from the City on regulations to govern Fraternities. We expect these in the next month. Also, the City is reviewing the Noise By-Law with recommendation coming out in 2019. Because we are in a City election year, council's last meeting for 2018 will be July.

We had another great Corn Fest last fall, thanks to Christine Innes and her team. We keep trying for a skating event but the weather never cooperates. Unfortunately, there will be no Bloor Street Festival this year. But, of course, the Borden Farmers' Market continues to be an Annex favourite. This year, weather permitting, the market will start in early June.

Thanks to all those who have served on the ARA Board and Committees. Natasha Gromoff Kramer for staying so involved with community safety and the BIA's; Rita Bilerman who has been in charge of membership but is taking a break to run for the Green Party in Spadina-Fort York; Liz Rankin our treasurer who so ably attends to our finances; Terri Chui who has managed our Parks and Trees responsibility in addition to two small children; Micky Fraterman and John McGrath who make sure you all know what's going on at the ARA; Ko van Klaveren who makes sure we are on top of Committee of Adjustment items and Edward Lemman who so diligently ensures we know everything we can about proposed developments in the Annex. Again, I suggest you access the development portal that Edward designed to alert all to proposed projects.

We will be saying farewell to directors Robin Clarke, Charlie Hatt, Meghan Abbot and Clare Scott but we hope they will stay close by and be available for other involvement.

This coming year will again be full of challenges and we would ask all of you to help in any way you can. And remember, we have many committees and all members are very welcome, indeed encouraged, to participate.

Thank you all,  
David Harrison

## 2017- 2018 Committee Reports

### Planning and Zoning

[planningandzoning@theara.org](mailto:planningandzoning@theara.org)

**co-chairs: Edward Leman and Ko van Klaveren**

The Planning and Zoning Committee (P+Z) performs three functions for the ARA: 1) communicating with stakeholders on planning matters; 2) mediation of disagreements; and 3) advocacy on planning and development issues facing the Annex. P+Z is adding a fourth function this year: pro-active planning of areas at risk of inappropriate re-development.

On communications, P+Z informs residents and other stakeholders of current development trends and proposals, including through its web-based mapping portal that provides detailed information on all major projects and changes to public spaces, heritage buildings, roads and parking, pedestrian and bicycle issues, and City studies within and around the Annex. The portal can be accessed from the ARA website ([www.theara.org](http://www.theara.org)) and at <https://pandz.crowdmap.com/main>. P+Z also communicates regularly with neighbouring Residents' Associations: in the past year, it has collaborated with Harbord Village Residents' Association, Seaton Village Residents' Association, and the ABC Residents' Association east of Avenue Road on various issues.

On mediation, P+Z intervenes in proposals such as new construction or renovations that might affect the integrity and quality of life in the neighbourhood. P+Z works with the Councilor and other neighbourhood associations and citizen organizations to ensure that zoning and heritage regulations are not violated; and to review requests for exemption from planning by-laws that go before the City's Committee of Adjustment. Over the past year, P+Z has continued to try to mediate disagreements between proponents to the Committee of Adjustment and affected neighbours. P+Z also mediates on far larger development proposals. In the past year, it has been a Party to successful mediations at the Ontario Municipal Board on a condo project in the Davenport Triangle, and a huge condo proposal at the foot of Madison at Bloor. It is currently a Party to an ongoing mediation at OMB with the City on the Bloor Block Official Plan Amendments that would control building heights and scale on the north side of Bloor from St. George to Walmer Road.

On advocacy, P+Z both strongly supports – and opposes – proposed planning policies of the City, and large, individual project proposals. P+Z has actively engaged with the City in the preparation of the TOcore Draft Downtown Secondary Plan to ensure that this critical effort at long-range planning is evidence-based and not susceptible to pressures from developers and other special interest groups. After three years, the final Draft Plan is going to Planning and Growth Management Committee of Council in early May and will hopefully be approved by full Council before the November election. On large development projects, P+Z has strongly and vociferously opposed projects at 300 Bloor St. West (United Church), 64 Prince Arthur Avenue, and Designers' Walk at Bedford and Davenport. In the case of 300 Bloor, P+Z convinced the Church and its two developers to work with RAs, the Councilor, and City staff in a Working Group to re-work their proposed 38-storey condo building north of the subway on the edge of the Annex into a proposal that would be acceptable to the community. This Group has met four times this year under Councilor Cressy's Chair, and will hold a final meeting late in April, hopefully to finalize an agreement that could obviate an appeal to the OMB's new replacement, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). Despite intransigence from proponents of the other two major projects that has led them to appeal to OMB, P+Z has continually maintained open communication with both developers to enable ARA to work with proponents to achieve consensus.

A new P+Z initiative for the coming year will be a systematic effort to identify and proactively plan areas in the Annex that are under possible pressure from inappropriate development. Rather than wait for the City to conduct 'block plans' and 'vision studies', P+Z will prepare draft plans for two at-risk precincts each year for the foreseeable future. These draft plans, which will result from extensive community consultation, will be presented to the City for implementation through Official Plan Amendments, zoning bylaw changes, and other statutory measures.

P+Z needs your help. While the Committee has a regular membership of around 15 residents (professionals and activists), we need more members to help share P+Z's large workload. Please contact Edward or Ko at [planningandzoning@theara.org](mailto:planningandzoning@theara.org) if you would like to join us (we meet once a month, except in the summer) or if you are interested in contributing to the upcoming precinct planning initiative

P+Z is looking at several major changes in the coming year: a new riding boundary for the November election, possibly a new Councilor, and engaging fully with the Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) and LPAT.

## Traffic and Transportation

[trafficandtransportation@theara.org](mailto:trafficandtransportation@theara.org)

Chair: Albert Koehl

### Bloor bike lanes

The 2.4 km pilot cycle track, which runs from Shaw St. to Avenue Rd., was made permanent by a 36-4 council vote on November 7, 2017. The pilot, initiated in August 2016 with the support of all local residents' associations, showed a surge in the number of cyclists with up to 7,000 bicycles documented by the group Bells on Bloor in September 2017.

A report by the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), supported by the Bloor Annex Business Improvement Area (BIA), showed that sales for local merchants increased during the period of the study. There was good support among merchants for the bike lanes although a group of merchants under the name Annex Business Bike Alliance (ABBA), officially representing six businesses, opposed permanent bike lanes and advocated for part-time lanes.

The Tour de Bloor passport initiative --- supported by the ARA and four other residents' groups --- to promote local businesses to cyclists --- was launched on June 21, 2017 and ran to October 18, 2017. The launch was held in front of Trinity-St. Paul Church and included Councillors Cressy and Layton, along with merchants (Bloor Superfresh and Hot Docs), the ARA, Bells on Bloor, and Cycle Toronto. The event garnered media attention, including from the CBC. Over 2,000 passports were distributed to cyclists, many prizes were won by shoppers, and 50 businesses were promoted on social media.

The city has installed new loading zones for businesses on Brunswick and Borden, among other locations. New bicycle parking has also been added, after the city was pushed by both the Bloor-Annex BIA and the ARA for such parking.

A bicycle path was first proposed for Bloor St. in 1896, and subsequently studied in 1978, 1992, and 2009.

### Corridor Safety Study – Avenue Rd. (St. Clair Ave. W. to Davenport Rd.)

The ARA has been working with various residents' associations, parent groups, and schools to push for improvements to a recent safety study for Avenue Rd. We believe that the safety report is deficient and does not address pedestrian safety concerns. Our push is for lower speeds, wider sidewalks, a reduction to four motor traffic lanes for the entire stretch, and safety camera enforcement.

A meeting between city staff and the coalition is planned but has not yet been scheduled. The ARA likewise supported a staff plan, 'RE-imagining Yonge,' to make Yonge St. in North York safe

## Community Safety and BIA's

Natasha Gromoff-Kamer

The ARA liaises with TPS and reports are given monthly to the Board on activity in the 14 & 53 Division which covers the Annex. *Always remember to report anything suspicious in order for the police to log the incident and help keep our homes & streets safe.* It is one way for officers find out where there is more than one occurrence. CPLC meetings cover current crimes, safety measures, fundraisers and any problems that are brought to the table. This year our goal is pedestrian and cyclist safety. Eradication of graffiti is ongoing with the BIAs.

Transformational Task Force - this is the way forward for the Toronto Police Services. Uniform members of 5610 will be reduced to 4750 within four years largely through officers retiring. This is not about doing more with less, this is about doing things that are legally required to do and doing it well. Other issues that are not police matters will be dealt with by other city agencies, e.g. crossing guards as well as mental health issues.

## Heritage Report

[heritage@theara.org](mailto:heritage@theara.org)

Sandra Shaul, Chair

Mediation continued to be amicable with the appellants for the Madison Avenue Heritage Conservation District although we are still awaiting word from the City's Legal Department about a positive conclusion. A major delay was caused by the sudden and untimely death of Gordon Whicher, the City lawyer responsible for the file.

With the OMB appeals regarding the Madison Heritage Conservation District still not officially resolved, we were discouraged by an only somewhat successful resolution to the tower proposal at the foot of the street on the northwest corner of Madison

and Bloor. In sharp contrast, the Estonian community presented a beautiful proposal for a new cultural centre, community hub and archive that will encompass 9-11 Madison and the City parking lot to provide a very attractive transition from Tartu to the historic streetscape on the east side of the street.

We also received disheartening news from City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services. Because of their workload, the earliest that the next phase of the heritage conservation district studies can begin is 2019. This was especially worrisome given tower proposals for 64 Prince Arthur and behind Bloor St. United Church—within the interior residential area rather than on the main streets of Bloor or Avenue Road. Numerous large-scale development proposals are also in process along Davenport and Dupont. There is the possibility of properties being amassed on the south side of Dupont in the East Annex.

A heritage house was saved from demolition at the northeast corner of Admiral and Lowther. Without the proper heritage protection in place, a need first recognized by City Council in 1986, we are always scrambling to save properties.

On September 24, 2017, The Annex Residents' Association organized the second Annex Tour of Houses and Cultural Organizations. The focus was on Walmer Road. In addition to three private homes, we had three cultural organizations: the Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and the Native Canadian Centre. Refreshments were generously donated by Starbucks as well as home made by a crew of talented ARA bakers. Our paid attendance was double 2016 and in contrast to the wet, grey event day in 2016, 2017 brought us very hot and sunny weather. The Institute also served as the location for our registration and refreshments.

Three to four houses and three cultural organizations are a good number of places to visit, especially when combined with the street tours provided by volunteer Eric Sehr and tours of the cultural venues. We now have to increase our revenue through our sponsorships. We are planning to hold our next event in September 2018 with a focus on Bernard Avenue and the East Annex.

## Membership Report

[membership@theara.org](mailto:membership@theara.org)

**Rita Bilerman, Membership Secretary**

As developments in our neighbourhood continue to grab the headlines, 2018 is shaping up to be another important year. As a result, it is really key that we get both your feedback and support. 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, or by City Hall, 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. Please check out website for updates on where we will be meeting since it sometimes changes. 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:

- Saturday, May 26, 2018 – 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!

*I will be passing the membership reigns to a new and very capable director, Kaisa Moran. I am very thankful that she is able to take over at this time. I will be recusing myself from the ARA to run as a Green Party candidate in the upcoming provincial elections.*

**Parks and Trees**[parksandtrees@theara.org](mailto:parksandtrees@theara.org)**Terry Chu, Chair**

In the last year, the Parks and Trees committee focused on adding value to the tree database. We have been working on an app that allows visitors to the Annex to go on a self-guided tree tour. We also ran a mulberry festival in Jean Sibelius Square that featured a garden tour, and picking mulberries from several of the local trees. We plan on repeating the festival in 2018.

With the huge number of trees lost to the windstorm in late March, the parks and trees committee will be spending a lot of time with Annex homeowners looking for strategic spots to plant trees to maintain our urban canopy. As part of this effort, we have been reaching out to homeowners who own particularly large and old trees to make sure they are aware of how to maintain these trees.

The Annex BIA has been spearheading the Bloor St redevelopment project scheduled for 2019 and Parks and Trees has taken on an active role in making sure that the species selection for the trees is appropriate.

**Communications**[communications@theara.org](mailto:communications@theara.org)**John McGrath Chair; Micky Fraterman, Webmistress**

The Communications team has been busy with sending out over 15 bulletins to our members and the wider community on a range of topics such as ARA planned events like the 2017 Tour of Homes and Cultural Organizations, the annual Corn Fest and meetings regarding various large, inappropriate development projects. Updating our website with meetings and events, the interactive tree maps as well as the interactive planning portal is ongoing. Go to [www.theara.org](http://www.theara.org) to get your news around the Annex.

**SLATE of NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF  
THE ANNEX RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**2018 – 2019**

**1. 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.

**2. 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 and prepares the ARA bulletins. She is on the steering committee of an "Out of the Cold" homeless shelter, a member of two refugee sponsorship groups, as well a board member of the First Narayever Congregation (synagogue) on Brunswick Avenue and a volunteer for Soundstreams. Retirement is a busy occupation.

**3. 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.

**4. Natasha Gromoff-Kramer – Huron Avenue**

**Police Liaison/Community Safety/BIA's**

Natasha has been on and off the board since 1994. She has been active with various projects of the association including the Fall Fair, Annex House & Garden Tour, Book Sale, Ecology Park (now Paul Martel 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), 53 Division (east of Spadina) and a guest for 52 Division (south of Bloor) for the past 15 years. The ARA connects with the Bloor Annex BIA and Dupont by the Castle BIA by her monthly reports. Involvement includes monthly meetings, volunteering at police events such as Open House, Town Hall Meetings, BBQ Fundraisers, Festivals, Farmers Market, Corn Fest. She is a retired Actra employee and still works as needed.

**5. 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.

### **6. 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.

### **7. 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.

### **8. 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.

### **9. Edward Lemam – Prince Arthur Avenue**

#### **Co-Chair, Planning & Zoning**

Edward Lemam 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.

### **10. 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.

### **11. 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.

### **12. Kaisa Moran - Brunswick Avenue** **Membership Secretary**

Kaisa recently joined the ARA board as Membership Secretary. She is relatively new to Toronto and the Annex so, please say hello! Kaisa works as an office manager/event coordinator in the Financial District, volunteers at the Gardiner Museum gift shop, and sits on Inspirations Studio's annual fundraising committee. She is an avid potter and member of Woodlawn Studio Cooperative.

**13. 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.

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

Sandra has lived in The Annex since 1986. She 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. Before her retirement she was on staff at the City of Toronto in Heritage and Museum Services. She became a member of the City of Toronto Preservation Board in 2017 and a decade earlier had been vice-chair of the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel. Sandra was a founding director of The Funding Network-Toronto and of People Plan Toronto

**15. 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.

**16. 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.

**17. 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 Member:****18. Elizabeth Sisam - St. George Street**

Elizabeth is a new resident in the Annex having moved to the area on April 2017. She has been engaged with the Annex, Harbord Village and Huron Sussex communities since 1980 when she joined the University of Toronto eventually becoming AVP Planning. As co-chair of the City - University of Toronto Liaison Committee with Adam Vaughan her interest was to ensure that planning and development proposals were thoroughly considered. Special projects included the St. George Street Revitalization, Philosophers Walk, many planning studies on capital projects, and campus master plans. She worked together with City planning staff, Heritage Toronto and Parks on a variety of projects that have been implemented in the area. For the past six years she has been Associate Vice President for Planning at Harvard with plans for campus expansion and community development in Allston.