

We are saddened to share with the Annex community the news of Edward Leman's passing this past Tuesday October 12. In the following tribute, former ARA Chair, David Harrison, gives a measure of our enormous debt to Edward and the incredible loss his passing signifies to our community.



Edward Leman - A Tribute

It would not be an exaggeration to say that in the modern era of the ARA there has never been a volunteer director who gave as much time and expertise to protecting and nurturing the Annex community as did Edward Leman.

Both destined and educated to become an architect, Edward switched his allegiance early on to urban planning and international development, establishing his consulting firm, Chreod, in 1985. The biography posted on [the company website](#) records an impressive body of international work in development policy and risk analysis. In fact his services were sought across the planet from Chicago to Ho Chi Minh City, from Seattle to Shanghai, from Vancouver to East Java. But Edward's typical aversion to self-promotion means that the website biography is sorely out of date and incomplete. He was at heart a modest man who valued family and home above all. And we had the great good fortune that he called the Annex home.

Edward brought all his experience and skills to his role as Co-Chair of our Planning and Development committee. He held this position for almost 10 years

and was able to build a superb group of other like-minded professionals (architects, lawyers and planners) and community leaders to create what has surely become a gold-standard for other associations.

A long-time resident at 50 Prince Arthur, he lived and worked there at different times in his life both as a young man and as an adult. He put to rest the notion that only homeowners can have a proprietary interest in the future of their community. His aim with the ARA was to ensure that the Annex remained a livable community, and, in between his work that took him to such faraway places as China, Mongolia or Nepal, this occupied ever more time than he likely anticipated.

Never a NIMBY, Edward worked hard to persuade developers to work with us and make adjustments and improvements to their proposals. This was never easy work but Edward devised the "Working Group" approach which often found the ARA, the City and developers sitting together and making compromises towards a better plan. His approach was adopted by other communities. Was it successful? Yes, we were able to make many significant improvements to development plans. The Bloor Street United development would be an excellent example as would the rejection of the proposal at 64 Prince Arthur.

Naturally, success is never guaranteed but even with the testiest of developers Edward kept prodding. There are some 30 development proposals in play affecting the Annex and Edward built remarkable software to keep track of these so as to be available to all of us for review. It is not apparent who of us now will have the skills to carry on maintaining this sophisticated software.

The work he started is not finished and others will take the baton. Clearly, 145 St George looms largest and soonest in proposals to be assuaged. Our bench strength will be able to continue the work he began but will sorely miss his unique skills and insights that always ensured a more interesting point of view.

We offer our sincerest condolences to his wife Dilys and their two daughters.



The Annex Residents' Association is a volunteer organization of residents committed to improving and preserving the distinctive character of our neighbourhood. Our strength depends on our base of support in a well-informed community.

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The Annex Residents' Association