

the bridge

Connecting people, places and ideas across our city from the downtown east

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam **2** Yesterday Today Tomorrow **4** Toronto's First Post Office **7**
With Dini Petty Kat Akerfeldt



A view of the section of the Gardiner Expressway where noisy overnight rehabilitation is causing sleepless nights for nearby residents. Photo: Rosemary Frei

Sleep-deprived locals demand noise reduction during Gardiner rehabilitation

By Ben Bull

Cancer patients cowering under the covers between chemo sessions. An ailing septuagenarian sleeping upright in his chair. Many children turning up late for school.

Dozens of people reported these and other shattering effects of excessive overnight noise stemming from the Gardiner Expressway rehabilitation between Jarvis and Cherry Streets at a Jan. 10 meeting.

Seething residents from the St. Lawrence Market area packed the meeting to ask that the City of Toronto's Gardiner construction team – which is overseeing the 18-month, \$248-million project that started in October 2019 and will continue for another year – put an end to the overnight noise.

They have complained for three months of sleepless

nights due to extremely loud noise every Sunday through Thursday night. The complaints didn't result in appreciable noise abatement and so they asked for a meeting.

"We need to know why you've been jack-hammering us out of bed at 3 a.m.," said one meeting attendee.

Michael D'Andrea, Chief Engineer and Executive Director of the city's Engineering and Construction Services division, Easton Gordon, Senior Manager, Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation, and other city staff and officials listened in stunned silence as residents lined up to list their concerns.

"The buck stops with me," D'Andrea said after the approximately 70 people in attendance made their compelling

arguments for a remedy. "We need to fix this."

At a Jan. 17 follow-up meeting, city staff said that as a result of the earlier meeting they'd set up two noise monitors in the neighbourhood with another soon to follow. In addition, "real-time [noise] monitoring is now in effect," explained Frank Clarizio, the city's director of Design and Construction.

"Our inspectors will shut down problem equipment immediately," added Gordon.

City engineers expressed disappointment with the management of the project by the contractor, Aecon – particularly Aecon's decision to use the noisiest equipment for the overnight work.

There also was an honest and open exchange of information

between city officials and residents at the Jan. 10 meeting. For example, officials disclosed that the agreement with Aecon stipulates a maximum noise level of 75 decibels for overnight work, but despite this sounds have been recorded overnight at 90 decibels.

"I have condo residents calling me at 2 a.m. in tears," as a result of this disruptive noise, a member of a neighbourhood condo board said at the meeting. "One seventy-year-old man cannot sleep in his bedroom because of the noise: he has to sleep upright in his chair."

Gardiner continued on pg 4

Tribunal to rule on heritage preservation in St. Lawrence neighbourhood

By Andre Berman and Rosemary Frei

In just a few months' time the broad-strokes future of the historic buildings in the St. Lawrence area will be decided.

That's because, according to a source who spoke to *the bridge* off the record, in the early summer the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) will release its decision to either loosen the rules in the area's Historical Conservation District (HCD) Plan – which came into effect in November 2015 but was immediately appealed and, as a result, effectively suspended – or allow the plan to be implemented without any modifications.

This will set a precedent for other HCD Plans in Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood HCD is akin to Montreal's Old City. It contains dozens of intact historic buildings, the oldest of which were constructed in the 1820s. The district includes the 10 blocks of the original Town of York and many important landmarks such as the site of the original Ontario provincial parliament buildings, the south building of the St. Lawrence Market, St. James Cathedral and the Flatiron Building. It also has been the epicentre of many of Toronto's key civic, cultural, community and social events throughout more than two centuries.

HCD continued on pg 8

'in reply to the mayor' (5G may 'be smart' yet its not 'so wise')

By Anthony Van Zant

From: John Tory
Date: Wed, Jul 17, 2019, 5:00 PM
To: <anthonyvanzant1@gmail.com>

Thank you for your note with respect to EM[F] field exposure. I take note of the request made to the UN to have a more complete examination of the long term effects of EM[F]. I am very much guided by objective expertise of scientists on these matters so those opi-

nions are always welcome as we try to promote and protect health.

I will look forward to whatever developments or reports may emerge on this matter and thank you for bringing it to my attention.

John Tory

back in july it was 'so pleasing that chya took the time 'during the toronto city-council session' to review the document(a.k.a.'note')and then

'e'-mail'd your'reply promptly to me as we move towards followthrough as to wher'a collaborativ'path will lead us ('wesee . . yet)infaith(as'an actionword)n'with my humbl'eualpeice(as'you wrote'me(inlookng'forward to;))whatever further developments or reports may emerge" n'thanking me for bringing it to your attention', (although@times 'relaying in seam'ingly 'adverse data in'this message of hope(is

not'easy lest'a souldeep'beleif that 'we(here in toronto)can'be thee 'chang' precisely'where the world needs'it to'be seen . . john' 'its about 'peopl n'humanity' as 'individuals' instrength to our whole(n'whombetter to'deliver n'adhere 'humanity' than abunch'of humans(again(niice'one, its my understanding'that the 5g 'smart' (S-surveillance

(M-monitoring (A-assessment (R-rating (T-tracking) technologies are a game-changer that we must not be gamed'by('period.(never'-mind its potentials in patented weaponiz'd motis'operendi nor'our pre-existing problems with audio/video/textbody signaturing in manual/remote shadowing and digital re-construction

Reply continued on pg 5

Connecting people,
places and ideas
across our city from
the downtown east

the bridge

is an independent community newspaper published monthly and distributed by a mix of delivery services to a varying readership. Over 3000 copies are circulated throughout the downtown east - Moss Park, Corktown, The Garden District, South Cabbagetown and the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood - and to community hubs that extend across Toronto.

the bridge strives to source up-to-date activity and diverse interests from heritage, planning, culture, development, arts and opinions that advocate a collaborative level playing field forum.

Publisher: Andre Michael Bermon

Contributing Editor:
Anthony Joseph Van Zant

Copy Editor: Rosemary Frei

Designer: Patrick Lee

Photographer: Stefan Blondal

Questions, comments or queries?
thebridgedowntown@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 260 Adelaide
Street East PO Box 12 M5A 1N1

Kristyn Wong-Tam City Councillor Ward 13

The City of Toronto has adopted a rights-based approach to housing, and this is a step in the right direction to address. This means that the City must consider how policies, programs, planning decisions and budgets affect how residents access adequate housing. We should strive to ensure the right housing for every resident, over time, with priority to those who are most vulnerable and invest the maximum of the city’s available resources to fulfill the right to adequate housing. We need to act immediately to address urgent threats to human security and dignity, such as homelessness.

In January 2019, I asked City Council to declare homelessness an emergency, and unfortunately, that vote was lost. Like many other cities around the world, Toronto is still in the midst of a housing crisis, and we need all levels of government to act, not just the city. This past December, City Council adopted the Housing-TO 2020-2030 Action Plan. As part of this plan, City Council requested the Federal and Provincial Governments, in their 2020 Budgets, to commit to capital and operating funding supporting the creation of 1,800 new units of supportive housing annually in Toronto. Additionally, City Council requested Provincial and Federal representatives to meet with

City staff and appropriate stakeholders before January 15, 2020 to develop an immediate six-month action plan and strategy framework that expedites the City’s initiatives to address housing challenges and homelessness. Council has requested a report back to the Planning and Housing Committee on February 12, 2020 and June 11, 2020 with an update on the progress of these meetings. I look forward to action items coming out of these meetings.

After hearing from advocates and front line workers, I joined the Canadian Mental Health Association in requesting \$600 million annually from the Federal government for supportive housing along with \$300 million annually for mental health and addictions treatment services. Understanding that there are many systemic challenges which perpetuate homelessness, this is an effort to provide access to the supports people need to thrive across a full continuum of care. It will be hard work, ensuring we deliver on the intended outcomes of Toronto’s new 10 year housing plan, but it is necessary if we are to create a healthy, safe and vibrant city. We must remain committed to doing everything possible to end homelessness. We cannot rest until this happens.



CADIA BOOKS

Est. 1931

Art, Illustrated Books, Literature & More

232 Queen St. East, Toronto
(416) 364-7638



Follow us
@acadia_books



Sanagan's
MEAT LOCKER

176 Baldwin Street
@ Kensington Market



1513 Gerrard Street East
@ Coxwell Avenue
416.593.9747

flux + form

J E W E L L E R Y

wedding + custom + ready-to-wear + re-use



Our Art. Your Story.

116 1/2 Sherbourne St. Toronto | fluxandform.com
(416) 368-9679 | @fluxandform

Tuesday - Saturday 12-6pm

A Celebration of Expressive Writing

Toronto Writers Collective Facilitator Appreciation Event

By Erin Nantais

On Saturday January 11, 2020, over 40 facilitators, staff and supporters braved heavy rains to attend the Toronto Writers Collective’s first ever Facilitator Appreciation Day at the Ralph Thornton Centre in Leslieville/South Riverdale.

The event was a celebration of the hard work and dedication put forth by TWC volunteer facilitators. Susan Turk, Toronto Writers Collective founder, explains, “It is important to show our facilitators how grateful we are for their contributions.”

The event featured guest speakers: Toronto Poet Laureate, Al Moritz and spoken word poet, Andrea Thompson. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to write together. “The facilitators told me the gathering was both rewarding and inspiring, underscoring the power of what we do,” said Turk.

This was the first time for TWC facilitators to sit down as a group and reflect on the important work they do for various communities. “Gathering and writing together is important, as it creates and strengthens our shared fabric of giving voice by encouraging



Poet Laureate Al Frank Moritz, Courtesy of the Toronto Writers Collective.

our own”, said Turk. “These opportunities enrich workshop experiences as best practices and prompts are shared”.

It was a full day of writing and sharing with breaks for the participants to enjoy a cornucopia of delicious Middle Eastern cuisine.

The discussions and writing reflected the overall mission of the Toronto Writers Collective of inspiring voice and empowering the unheard. “It really was a good group to be amongst,” Moritz revealed; “you rarely find a group that is so friendly and welcoming... This group showed a great deal of intelligence and emotional intelligence. Everything written

was very connected to basic issues of life: social, personal, and community. Everyone was conscious of life realities for individuals.”

As Moritz discussed in his talk, “You of the Toronto Writers Collective listen to the poetry of each who comes to you. Your chief gift is listening... When you encourage writing, you are offering your gift to people who, in one way or another, are locked up in loneliness – as we all are”.

The Toronto Writers Collective will continue celebrating the facilitators and writers who make it all possible in workshops across the city, in Mississauga, and Ottawa.

Massey Hall

By Bruce Bell, Senior Columnist



In 1890 a symbolic corner stone was laid on Shuter Street by Charles Vincent Massey grandson of industrialist Hart Massey who gave the city \$100,000 to build a grand new concert hall to honour the death of his own son Charles.

Planned by architect Sidney Badgley, Massey Hall eventually would cost \$152,390.75 in a time when a six bedroom house in the Annex would set you back \$1,200.

Massey Hall was designed with a neoclassical facade with over a hundred stain glass windows adorning its exterior.

the Alhambra Palace in Spain then all the rage in architectural design.

In 1894 the 3,500 seat Massey Hall opened with a performance of Handel's Messiah and for the next 124 years Massey Hall would be the focal point of great music making.

In the beginning however it was one performer who would put Massey Hall on the map of becoming one of the worlds greatest concert halls, the most famous tenor of his generation Enrico Caruso.

Caruso played the Hall twice, 1908 and 1920 and by then Massey Hall was quickly earning a reputation as an auditorium with outstanding acoustics.

Not everyone could afford a ticket so following his full concert, Caruso went out onto the fire-escape to sing for the



Massey Hall 1899.

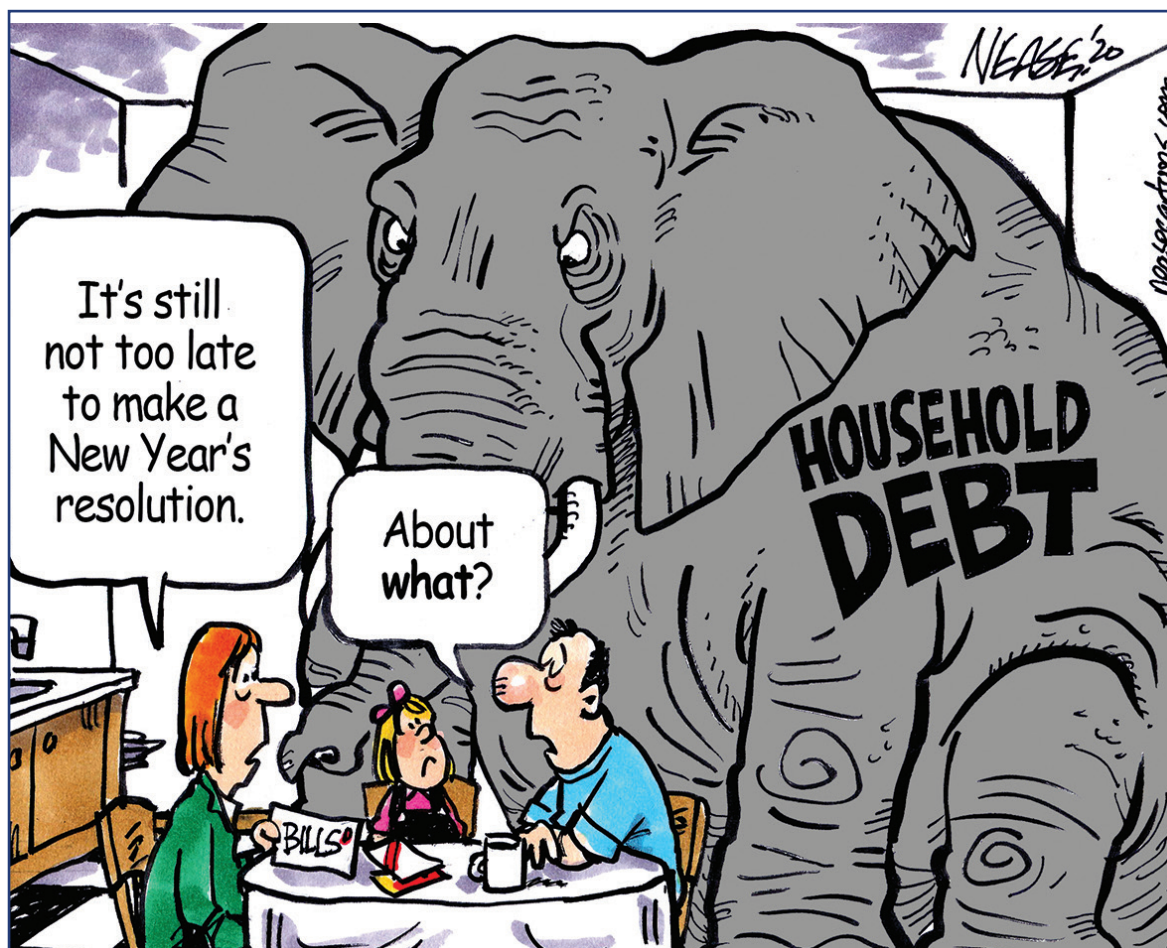
As legend goes, Hart Massey's 12 year old daughter Lillian wrote out 'Massey Music Hall' on a piece of paper, gave it to her father who then handed it to the stone carvers who then carved the lettering above the main door.

This lettering is still evident today, however some letters were covered up when the exterior fire escape was installed later on.

The main concert hall interior with fantastic Moorish arches that spanned the width of the auditorium was inspired by

crowd who could not get or afford a ticket gathered on Shuter Street.

Over the years Massey Hall became Toronto's pre-emanate concert venue with some of the 20th century's most famous people appearing on it's stage including Winston Churchill, George Gershwin, Glenn Gould, Maria Callas, Vladimir Horowitz, Dalai Lama, Luciano Pavarotti, Bob Dylan, Ravi Shankar, Maureen Forrester, Cream, Neil Young, Oscar Peterson, and of course Gordon Lightfoot.



Rendering of Massey Hall after renovation. Credit: KPMB Architects

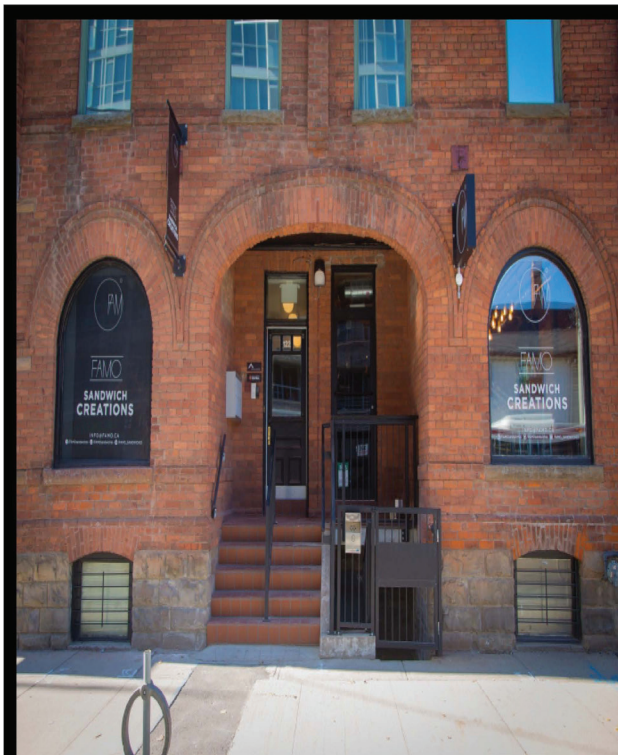
In 1967 a 29 year old Gordon Lightfoot began a series of annual concerts that eventually would become the most solo appearances at the Hall of any performer and a defining signature of Massey Hall.

Gordon Lightfoot now 79 was given the honour of being the last performer to play the legendary hall on July 1,

2018 for the final show before 124-year-old venue closes for two years of renovations.

Plans revealed for the renovation of Massey Hall not only show new offices and a larger backstage area for performers but also include a pair of exterior glass walkways that embrace the sides of the hall improving access for all.

The architectural renderings created by KPMB Architects, the team behind the Massey Hall Revitalization project, also include the restoration of the 100 original stained glass windows after been boarded up and concealed from view for over a century.



FAMO

122 Sherbourne Street
(416) 360-1221 - www.famo.ca



Yesterday Today Tomorrow

With Dini Petty

Is it apathy that makes us turn away from the homeless we meet? Have we seen them for so many years that we've lost interest in the approximately 9,200 homeless? The main symptom of apathy is a lack of motivation to do, complete or accomplish anything and a diminished willingness to act.

Which pretty much describes how I felt when I moved back to Toronto six years ago and noted how our homeless population had increased. What can I do about it? Why has nothing been done to resolve the problem? When I have a spare toonie, I'm happy to part with it as I did on the subway. When he first put his hand out, I ignored him but then I realized I could spare a toonie today and walked down the subway car and gave it to him.

He's in need of a shower and clean clothes and has difficulty speaking but he's somebody's son.

I've moved out of apathy and am now officially getting angry. I sent an email to City Councillor Joe Cressy and asked what I could do to help. I await his reply. In the meantime, how do people survive these winter nights on the streets.

Brother, if you can spare a toonie, please do so.

Amazing Moss Park Art Fair

By Carol Mark

Moss Park was named for the large amounts of moss that grew on the estate home of the Allan family, who had emigrated from Huntley, Scotland. The original home stood on the west side of Sherbourne between Queen and Shuter St. It was demolished to make way for urban renewal. Nothing remains of the park except its name. William Allan's son, George William Allan was a lawyer, the 11th Mayor of Toronto and Speaker of the Senate. He presided over the Ontario Society of Artists, was and was a patron of Paul Kane.

During 2004-08 on Queen St East, directly across from Moss Park, the ACA Gallery started out with the ambitious brief that art really could change the world. The gallery brought together a disparate group of artists, who shared only one thing: the desire to have their art make a genuine social impact and change people's lives for the better. What started as a grassroots art focused group eventually led to social outreach projects like helping local cancer patients with funds for first and last months rent. Then things got bigger by building the first hospice at Wounded Knee so Native Americans did not have to



leave their home to die. Then, to our astonishment, the opportunity arose to collect and pack 15,000 lbs of medical supplies for Afghanistan in the first humanitarian aid delivered via the US State Department.

When I first went to Afghanistan, I wondered how a small group of artists and humanitarians ended up in the middle of a war zone negotiating

a massive airlift. Then I looked around at the people for whom daily life was a huge effort, and each day of survival a huge victory. I realized that no matter how small or big the act, if it was filled with love and generosity it would lead inevitably to an open heart and a better world. With this premise, that small loving acts can change the world, I announce

the Amazing Moss Park Art Fair and a call for artists. We will be hosting small pop ups in the neighbourhood, as well as larger exhibits. If it sounds like the kind of thing you'd like to be involved with, contact us.

www.amazingmossspark.ca
amazingmossspark.ca

Gardiner from pg 1

A member of the Market Lane Junior and Senior Public School Parent Teacher's Association reported that the school's principal informed her that there has been a 40% uptick in student late arrivals

since the work began.

"Parents are blaming this on a lack of sleep caused by the Gardiner construction," noted the member.

Residents wanted to know why city officials – particularly Mayor John Tory, who is the single most powerful proponent of the project – have not remedied the situation.

Ward 10 Councillor Joe Cressy said he doesn't support the overnight work and has been lobbying Mayor John Tory's office to alter the schedule.

However, many attendees

wanted to know why Tory was not in attendance.

"This is his project," said one irate resident. "He tells us he cares - but he's done nothing."

Tory had issued a media statement immediately prior to the Jan. 10 meeting saying that, due to excessive noise levels, Aecon will "cease overnight work effective tonight and through the weekend."

Residents scoffed at the statement, which was handed out at the meeting, because Aecon doesn't perform rehabilitation work on Friday or Satur-

day nights.

Area residents are hoping to keep the lines of communication open with the city and are pushing for the establishment of a working group.

And that's not all they are doing.

"We are considering taking legal action," said Suzanne Kavanagh, who is with the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, at the Jan. 17 meeting. "We need to keep the pressure on."



January 17 meeting at the St. Lawrence Community Centre. Photo: Ben Bull

Do you have a story to tell?
We want to hear you

TORONTO WRITERS COLLECTIVE
www.torontowriterscollective.ca
info@torontowriterscollective.ca

Drop-in Workshops:
Mon., 5:30-7: Fred Victor Housing, 145 Queen St. E.
Tues., 2-3:30: Mustard Seed, 791 Queen St. E.
Thurs., 6- 7:30: Evelyn Gregory Library, 120 Trowell Ave. (Eglinton/Keele)
Sun., 12-1:30: the 519, 519 Church St. @ Wellesley

Encouraging Voice, Empowering the Unheard

Explore your creative genius
Free brave expressive writing workshops
Supportive feedback
All are welcome

f t i @ torontowritersc

Is the Dundas-Sherbourne area poised to be condo-ized by stealth?

By Andre Berman and Rosemary Frei

the bridge has uncovered what may be a drive to turn the Sherbourne and Dundas community into several new developments that could include high-density condos and townhouses.

The drive appears to be two-pronged: a plan to expropriate the properties at 214-230 Sherbourne and another to revitalize the Toronto Community Housing Corp. (TCHC) Dan Harrison Complex. Putting primarily condos and townhouses in this large area would irreversibly change it and may drive current residents out.

Yet official documents couch the proposed changes as primarily addressing the need for affordable housing and better social services.

For example, a report presented to the December 2019 city council meeting described this as “a strategic opportunity to acquire property for the development of much-needed affordable and supportive housing.” It also “presents the unique opportunity to unlock the new housing and community revitalization solutions needed to address the social, economic and physical challenges facing the Dan Harrison Complex and the local neighbourhood.”

A report to the November 2019 Planning and Housing



The 214-230 Sherbourne properties are slated for expropriation by the City. Photo: Andre Berman

Committee meeting said, “The Dan Harrison Complex (DHC) is a high-needs building that is currently being reviewed by a joint City-TCHC group to create a long term plan for the property, with a view to developing a plan that improves the health and safety outcomes for the building and the surrounding community.” This will be

done in stages, starting with changes to “stabilize the building and community, moving on to a more comprehensive plan to transform its place in the community.”

Aderonke Akande, Manager, Tower & Neighbourhood Revitalization, Social Development, Finance & Administration, City of Toronto, responded to ques-

tions from *the bridge* by denying any connection between plans for the DHC and for 214-230 Sherbourne, calling them “two distinct pieces of work.”

She also said the DHC revitalization “will be done in close collaboration with the residents of the Dan Harrison building, with current residents as the intended end users of the trans-

formed site.”

Notably, however, a November 2015 report to the Toronto and East York Community Council titled, ‘Downtown East Planning Study – Official Plan Amendment – Final Report,’ designates the ‘Sherbourne Corridor Character Area’ as Apartment Neighbourhoods. According to the Official Plan, such areas are different from low-rise neighbourhoods because in Apartment Neighbourhoods “a greater scale of buildings is permitted.” Furthermore, according to the Official Plan they provide an opportunity “for additional townhouses or apartments on under-utilized sites, including new rental housing.”

The Official Plan for Apartment Neighbourhoods doesn’t prohibit condos.

David Sit, Manager, Community Planning, City Planning, City of Toronto, told *the bridge* that such a “designation typically is reflective of areas where residential apartment buildings exists. The nature of the use would be for residential purposes. As part of this initiative, City staff will help to determine how large a building may be and other uses that may be appropriate.”

Reply from pg 1

(ofwich'turns toronto's facial recognition integrity into a moot'excercise in'reconstruct'd 'e'-files connect'd to'said; facial biometrics(n'worse)to bill C-51 design'd to obstruct our unalienable'rights where ever'politicians n'corporations try'run roughshod'over its detractors of'nefarious plastic'politics(gofigur 'yet)'check your recent history'(and'not@ the'door(as israel n'brussels hav'outlaw'd 5g'tech)(just'as we are of the last that still'hav toxic water flouridation programs . .

obviously all'this postures numerous game-changing effects n'solutions that need'to be realiz'd a.s.a.p.(yet'youv stated numerously'that urgencys touch is'missing in our citys works n'workers(and agreed)its'quite a wrinkl'from city planning'to budgets n'its many effects

(yet 'none of'that' changes the fact that an'exceptionally harmful radio'activ electronic soup is being heavily construct'd n'heavily proffer'd all around our city'ofwich technocracys over'reach and over'control only suits small-mind'd technocrats

'skills 'grifters n'fools . .

<https://emfscientist.org/index.php/emf-scientist-appeal> (EMF- U.N. Scientist appeal document)now included in waterfront-group appendix#3 as considered material@the march'31/2020 deadline inprocedural process with the quayside projects 'considerations' and approval process 'as a direct result of'this writer)

*part#4(and final installment of this 'edition series')in next months 'the bridge'



church/wellington - construction/tech infrastructure rollout recordhigh 'economic development' budget.

“Why do you have a bench out front? Doesn’t it attract people you don’t want? This is Moss Park after all.”

By Michael McGown, Longboard Haven

When we first opened our doors, we got this comment frequently. However, being directly across from the park, it seemed wrong to not have a place to sit and watch the world go by. As well, we are a community focused group of people, and our community includes all people from all walks of life.

Skateshops, like barber shops, have benches out front. Everyone needs a place to rest, to think, to repack one’s bags, or to have an impromptu picnic.

Our bench has 3 rules: no alcohol, no hard drugs, and no asking passers-by for money. If you break them, we ask you to leave. This hasn’t always been successfully implemented, but simple rules seem to work best.

We were pleasantly surprised to see it become a place not

only for our customers to sit while we build a board, but as a stopping point for all kinds of people. Elderly folks on their way to the pharmacy who need a stopping point to catch their breath; parents can sit a screaming child down while they search their bags for what they need; people with no homes who need to repack their bags or take a break from walking; other business owners will use it to sit and watch the world go by.

We will always continue to reach out to the community, a place we have been a part of for the last 7 years. It’s changing quickly, but we hope small efforts like our bench can help Moss Park realize that at least in our case, the grass is greener on the other side. And take it from us, it’s great to sit and look at.

“It’s a Two-way Happiness”

By Phil Roth

Working together with its diversified client base has been first and foremost the key driving force of Flux + Form custom jewelry. The distinct partnership of Kim Drosdick, Suzanne Crudden and Carey Pearson makes this a remarkable design power trio. Their positive and courageous energies have allowed them to establish a renowned presence in a highly competitive industry with a flawless reputation of exceeding most expectations of loyal patrons.

Much of their raison d’être is to actively listen to the wishes of their customers, whether the attention is given to design and form, selection of gem stones or budget for that special engagement ring, a focal point remains that needs and wants are met in the final finished product.

What definitely stands out in this Co-Operative business structure is the transparency and willingness to share knowledge, educating prospective clients on what essentials to look out for and making the selection process less complex. A concerted effort is placed on the outcome of the transaction, not the transaction itself. Simply put their open communication style aims for the polished piece of jewelry to find a happy and joyous welcome in the

hands of the receiver of the gift or present.

This unique success story is firmly propelled by fundamental values of mutual trust and honesty. No compromises are ever made to jeopardize this principal code of conduct. Intrinsically motivated to create and design one of a kind artisanal jewelry pieces that find hospitable embraces with its recipients.

All three women are owner stakeholders and industry leaders. They continually examine, often over shared lunches, how to charter their next steps to accommodate new and curious clients in the most mutually satisfying ways.

It is fair to say that the experience at Flux + Form is quite the contrary of any box store encounter and worlds apart in their differing philosophies. The aim is to create pieces that do not exist and to elicit joy and enthusiasm in return. Providing an exclusive experience that begins with a discourse of possibilities to the finished and happy handover. Repurposing-Reusing-Remaking family heirlooms into new or modified pieces represent special niche services offered by Flux + Form that are welcomed and not industry standard. 100% attention is given to meeting the agreed upon modifications.

Flux + Form has established

itself in Moss Park for the past 12 years exceeding client expectations, and growing continually because of customer referrals and repeat business loyalty.

The intimate and personal approach to creating future family heirlooms is personally rewarding for designers Kim, Suzanne and Carey. This feeling is also transferred to the joyously happy clients who are often kissing each other on the way out of the store. Other occasions bring quiet or overwhelming tears of elation. The nature of this business is sentimental and touching and this is shared by reciprocity of clients showering Flux + Form with wine, chocolates, coffee and donuts with gratitude in return. “It is a two-way happiness... because we make each piece with love” says Kim Drosdick. Blood, sweat and tears are also part of the equation to find the client based solutions “to make it perfect until it is right,” says Crudden.

Let yourself be warmly welcomed. You will be received by an under-stated, beautifully classy Canadian humility that needs no loudness nor boisterous introduction.



(Left) Suzanne, Kim and Carey. Photo: 20b Photography



Flux + Form, 116 1/2 Sherbourne Street

Connections

By Kate Hamilton,
Building Roots

Talk about community usually means something else – neighbourhood (“community centre”), free entry (“community night”), or for-broke-people (“community housing”).

Those are only populations – identified by a single characteristic. Community is a web of relationships that (I think) de-

velops in phases:

1. Shared experience of goals and challenges creates a loose fellowship
2. Interactions that call on individual characteristics create a nascent community
3. Community stabilizes as a valued environment that supports well-being

The fabric of community is magic – a new person is accepted as an intimate, has a place among people. When Margaret

Laurence spoke of writers as a tribe, this is the environment she was urging into existence.

We’re built for belonging: our bones know that to be without any tribe is to be vulnerable. Much of Canadian social history is about banding together to improve the odds of physical, economic, and mental survival.

We rarely get this from workplaces; often we don’t get it from family; in cities sometimes we don’t even know our neighbours’ names. You can be in multiple populations (parent,

artist, Torontonians) without having community.

And yet it’s not complicated. I started a weekly neighbourhood ramble to admire front-yard gardens – an hour’s calming break. Chatting, we disclosed interests and skills. Now we call each other for a movie or help with a ladder, and welcome new walkers; the magic is flowing.

At larger scale, Building Roots (mission statement: enable social cohesion) established a produce market at Moss Park, supplying some vegetables

from its small urban farm at Ashbridge Estate. Workshops, storytelling, lunches enliven the market; sunshine, laughter, joy of achievement enliven the farm.

That dynamic – loose collaboration fosters other interactions, which thicken into the fabric of community – takes time and needs your presence, so go be present for something that interests you. Unplanned rewards await.

Visit the Moss Park Market



Check out our events
buildingroots.ca

f @BuildingRootsTO



Market Winter hours

Saturdays 11–4pm



\$5 Produce Baskets Free Books

Art exhibits Workshops

Have You Found Toronto's First Post Office?

By Kat Akerfeldt, Executive Director, Toronto's First Post Office

In the heart of Toronto's oldest neighbourhood, just around the corner from St. Lawrence Market, nestled between two flags, is a small place of some significance.

Toronto's First Post Office can be found here, nestled between two flags. It is both a museum, and a bustling Canada Post outlet. The Postmistresses often hear the same refrain: "I never knew this was here!" Toronto's First Post Office is the best kept secret of those curious neighbours, and the few thousand world travellers who have stopped by to begin their exploration of Toronto's Old Town neighbourhood.

Once inside, those visitors are greeted by the friendly staff at the postal counter. They are busy selling stamps, dispatching packages, and sorting mail for the fortunate few who have rented one of the 220 hand-numbered P.O. boxes. In 1833, it was the elite who held title to these boxes. Anglican Bishop John Strachan, educational reformer Egerton Ryerson, and Toronto's first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie were among those who peered into the glass-fronted boxes for news from their correspondents. But all of Toronto's early residents came here for their post. It was the only post office when the 9,252 residents of the

Town of York suddenly became Torontonians on March 6, 1834.

In the fast-moving lunch-time lineup, you might find a visitor who has a postcard to send home. Here's a new resident who wants to send part of his paycheck across the ocean, to help the family he is missing dearly. Behind him, an office worker who wants to return an ill-fitting pair of pants to Amazon. And finally, a collector who wants the Post Office's unique cancel stamped carefully on her envelope. Who in this line is in 2020, and who is a ghost from the 1830s?

Beyond the line, early residents of the city took a chair and rested for a moment beside the fireplace to read their let-

ters, and write a note in reply. Perhaps they got comfortable, and exchanged some gossip with a neighbour, or gave directions to a newcomer. It's 186 years later, and the scene remains the same. Right down to the quills and ink set out for public use.

The museum is operated by a group of residents who formed in the early 1980s: the Town of York Historical Society. At a time when much of Old Toronto was being demolished, the Society quickly got to work with the restoration of Toronto's First Post Office as a museum, and soon Toronto's First Post Office was once again helping Torontonians with their postal needs. This tenacious group still exists to

share the story of the Town of York and early Toronto, as well as the early postal history of Canada.

Out front, visitors encounter one last apparent contradiction: a plaque marking this place as the "Fourth York Post Office," a National Historic Site. And yet, this is Toronto's First Post Office. Reader, can you figure out how both are true?

Toronto's First Post Office is at 260 Adelaide St. East, just east of Jarvis. Open 7 days a week! Join the Town of York Historical Society for only \$30/year. More information can be found at TownOfYork.com

streetsouls
evenin ofthee'arts
inliveperformances
saturday march
twentyone
@tranzac
(mainroom)

no'cover

"for any n'all information
call; 416)604-5912

Club PLATINUM

585 Dundas Street East, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M5A 2B7

Media Contact: Jacqui Burke
Whatsapp: +1-647-292-0210
media@clubplatinumto.com
clubplatinumto.com

Club PLATINUM Goes Monthly

Dance Party for Seniors (55+)

Club PLATINUM is thrilled to let our community know they are going monthly with Seniors Dance Party (55+) events. This inclusive and fun dance party features danceable hits of the late 40s through the early 70s and happens on the last Sunday afternoon of every month at 2:30 – 5:00 pm in the Lounge at the **Centre for Social Innovation**, 585 Dundas Street East, 3rd floor Daniel's Spectrum Building. Next couple of dates are Sunday, March 1, and Sunday, March 28th.

Club PLATINUM is inspired by extensive research on dementia and aging which reveals that dancing, music, and socializing are critical to ongoing brain health and improving quality of life. The events are designed to increase community involvement and engagement for seniors all over Toronto.

But also? It's so much fun. "This is something that Toronto is really missing," says Jacqui Burke, Founder. "I was really looking for a fun night out, and I love to dance but there aren't a lot of options if you're over 55. Well, now there is."

We are committed to making the event as inclusive as possible to give Regent Park and Toronto's lower east side seniors a fun and affordable afternoon out.

The monthly dance party will also be augmented by completely inclusive dance classes to begin in the fall of 2020. Other special events include a possible patio party in summer!



TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE
260 Adelaide Street E.

operated by the Town of York Historical Society

Post Office
Museum of the Town of York
and Canada's Postal History
Made-in-Canada Gift Shop

TownOfYork.com

Open 7 days a week

Town of York
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



TORONTO'S FIRST
Post Office



HCD from pg 1

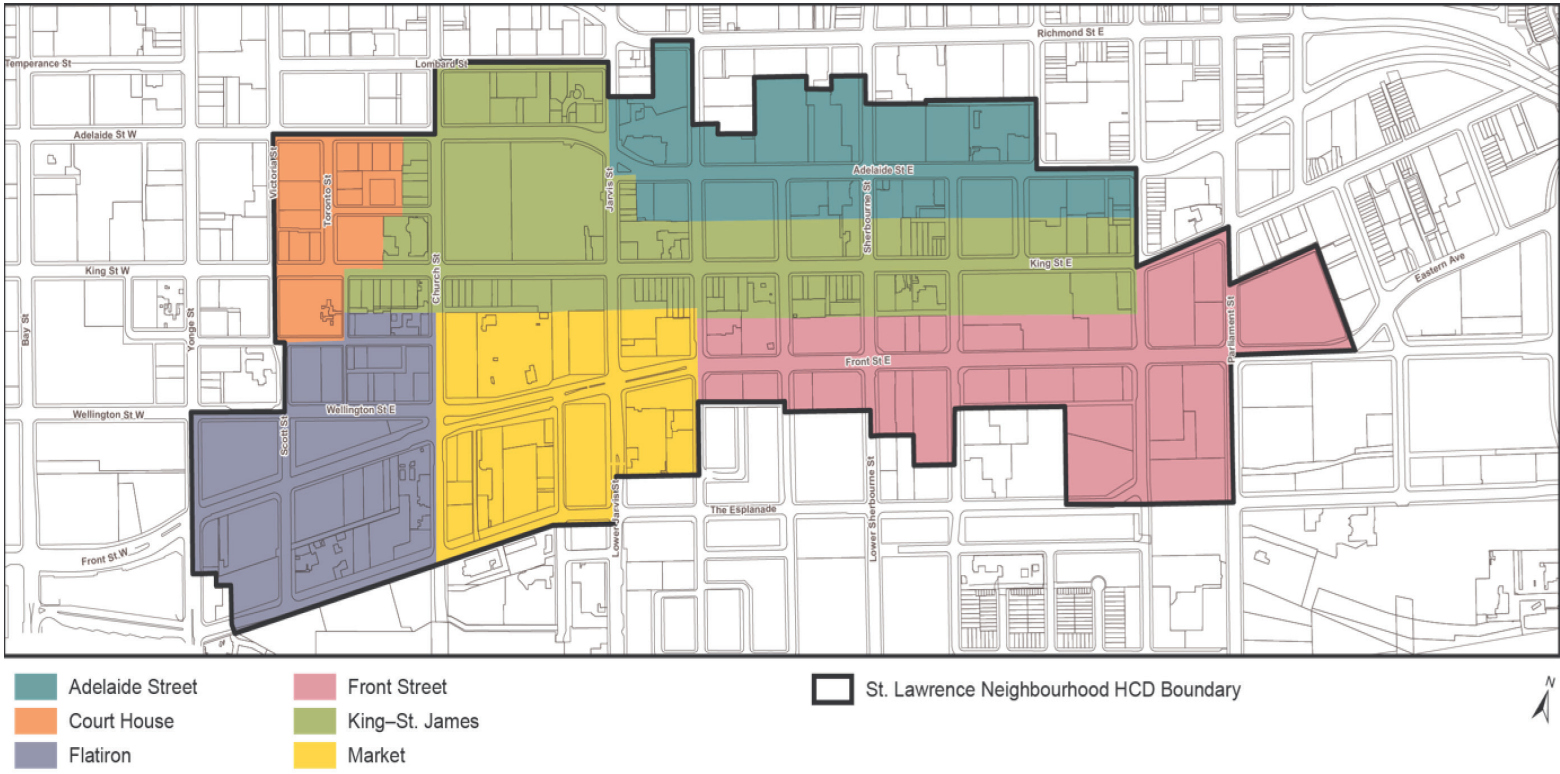
The HCD stemmed from a 2005 official recognition of the area’s historic importance and culminated in more than three years of intense and complex study, public consultation and writing. The resultant rules in the HCD are designed to ensure that the area’s unique character is conserved permanently.

The historic heft of the area, combined with the sheer size of the district – covers more than 25 blocks of some of the most valuable real estate in the city, from Yonge and Wellington on its west end to Front and Jarvis on the south to King and Berkeley on the east -- created strong camps on both sides of the appeal-process tussle.

That in turn is why it’s taken more than four years to grind through all the procedural steps. The final appeal hearing took place in November 2019 and lasted more than two weeks.

Toronto city council gave the 249-page St. Lawrence Neighbourhood HCD Plan the go-ahead in November 2015. Its goal is to curtail the rapid diminishment by immense development pressure of the downtown east’s special character. For example, it puts strict parameters around alterations to and demolitions of historic buildings. It also significantly limits density and height of additions to historic buildings.

A consortium of developers and investment firms with vast real-estate portfolios, including First Gulf and Larco Investments Ltd., immediately appealed the implementation



Map of the St. Lawrence HCD. Credit: City of Toronto

of the HCD Plan to the Ontario Municipal Board, which in 2017 became the LPAT. If the appeal is successful, the LPAT will loosen the HCD Plan’s restrictions on current and future development proposals.

“We had lots of [items] in the [St. Lawrence HCD] proposal that we had issues with,” Hugh Clark, Executive Vice President, Development, at Allied Properties Real Estate Investment Trust – a company with many properties in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and elsewhere in the centre of Toronto, and one of the 14 corporations appealing the HCD Plan -- told *the bridge*. “... Our expectation is that our concerns will be addressed [by the

LPAT’s decision].”

The City of Toronto’s planning department and their legal team are opposing the appeal.

“An HCD will provide a much-needed framework to help conserve the heritage character of this important neighbourhood for present and future generations,” Tamara Anson-Cartwright, city planning’s Program Manager, Policy & Research of Heritage Planning, wrote in a formal response to the appeal.

“You never know what they [the LPAT] are going to come up with,” David Crawford, Chair of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association’s Heritage Committee, which is opposing the appeal, said in an

interview with *the bridge*. “Instead of the opinion of a group of professionals in both the city and in the neighbourhood, you have one person [the single LPAT adjudicator who will render the tribunal’s decision] who is going to say, ‘This is what’s going to be.’”

Fae Elgin, president of the Architecture Conservatory of Ontario, commented that this will be a precedent-setting decision because so much is at stake.

“People think that [heritage’s] only purpose is to preserve our history.... In fact, the presence of these buildings makes for a more livable environment,” Elgin told *the bridge*. “... [O]lder heritage buildings

are more human-scaled.”

According to city planning staff there are three other HCDs under appeal to the LPAT. These include the neighbouring Garden District HCD, the appeal of which is scheduled to start in August 2020.

“We are certainly watching the various appeals and appeal processes that are going to be opened up in the future,” Elgin told *the bridge*. “It’s a different perspective to let a tribunal decide what is best for a neighbourhood [rather] than letting the neighbourhood itself [decide].”

Photographs from the downtown east

By Stefan.Blondal



The black cat, Acadia Books



Love message on a bench