



# VIEWPOINT 50

The Year in Review  
December 2014

Seasons  
Greetings

From your 2014-2015 Board of Directors



Back, l to r: Frank Delling, President;  
John Hardie, Treasurer; Gordon Hamilton, Secretary.  
Front, l to r: Katy Paul-Chowdhury, Vice-President;  
Fern Stimpson, Director.



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## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

We had a very successful AGM in early October with a full house and several interesting and respectful discussions. Katy Paul-Chowdhury was elected as the new member to the board. A warm welcome was extended to Katy. Already she has shown her mettle in a number of crucial meetings and proved herself to be a valuable addition. In the subsequent inaugural Board meeting, I agreed to continue as President of the board for another year. Following up on our Treasurer's suggestion, the board agreed to implement a rotating chairmanship for board meetings as part of our succession development plan.

Now in my fourth year as board President, I am glad to report that we can look back at an action-filled successful year. As you have been regularly informed about the developments through *What's Happening*, I will briefly summarize our activities.

Here is what we have accomplished in the past 12 months:

First, we completed our windows repair project and all the cracks in the concrete and broken ledges have been repaired; the weather strips and rollers of the sliding windows have been replaced; all leaking or broken double glass windows have been replaced and all external caulking has been fixed. Second, the window frames and metal panels have been repainted and all the outward facing concrete surfaces now have a protective exterior membrane coating.

We have heard nothing but praise for the "new and improved" look of our building – Thank You.

There are a number of smaller jobs we completed during the year:

We re-landscaped the south west corner to complete the overall garden design; to reduce our energy usage we installed motion sensor lights in the recycling rooms on all floors; and we installed new energy saving lights in and around the elevators. We had the kitchen stacks cleaned to reduce the frequent fountains in some kitchen sinks; encased the garage exhaust fans and relocated some to provide a safer environment; and built a new bike room. The board also commissioned an elevator study to investigate the recent increase in elevator outages.

With the end of summer and the end of construction in sight, we finally found time to celebrate. And celebrate we did, with a well-attended and highly successful BBQ Party. We had invited some Board members from 80&100. They, too, had such a great time that they are considering participating next year. What a party that would be!

For next year 2015 we are facing an equally busy line-up of larger projects:

The last phase of our Building Envelope Repair Program (BERP) is the balcony door replacement. Contracts are in place and, weather permitting, work will begin early next year. We will start with the 03 to 06 centre units. These doors have been ordered and are on their way. This will be followed by the replacement of the corner unit balcony doors, which is expected to begin early summer. With all colour selections now provided to Isan, the corner unit doors will be ordered by mid-December.

The work on the concrete footing for our new and re-sized Emergency Generator has started. We are still waiting for the required city permit before the generator can be ordered.

The Lobby Renovation project planning is well on its way and we are looking forward to presenting the designs and sample boards to owners within the next few months.

The landscaping around the building has been badly damaged by last year's severe winter and the construction projects. A major replanting to restore things to its former glory will take place next summer.

Other tasks will include two hard-to-pinpoint problems that occur only during the summer months. One is the permeation of garbage odors from the garbage rooms on a number of floors. The second is the frequent power brownouts throughout the building triggered by the startup of the air-conditioning chiller.

Finally, we plan to commission a consultant study and investigate the ongoing balcony ponding problem that unfortunately is preventing some owners from enjoying their balconies.

Having a beautiful newly painted building has brought all the unpainted balcony interiors to everyone's attention. As it is the owner's responsibility to paint the exclusive use balconies, management will contact the respective owners and encourage them to paint as soon as possible.

As you can see from the above, and as I have been stating every AGM, our building is an aging building and dictates to us the work that needs to be done, despite what had been forecast in the Reserve Fund Study. This means the board has to stay flexible and to respond to the problem as they arise while maintaining sufficient reserve fund levels.

There's never a dull moment for the board and we are happy to be of service. My best wishes for the holidays and a mild winter for us all.

Reminder: we will hold our annual seasonal get-together on December 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. I hope to see you all there.

Yours,  
Frank Delling,  
President, YCC323.

## GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF YCC435

Thank you for inviting us to contribute to your year-end newsletter, along with several people from our condo who have written articles on topics of mutual interest.

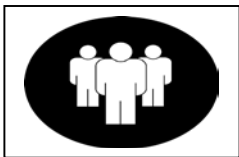
We watched with interest this year as your building was painted, and it's looking great! It's something for us to look forward to in a few years. We've been busy with projects of our own: replacement of make-up air units, new boilers, modernization of our elevators and hallways refurbishment. We're happy to have a new look on the inside.

Our party room is currently command-central for the hallways refurbishment project. When it is returned to us for normal use, we plan to resume social events such as listening to guest speakers, like the one who spoke on balcony gardens last spring. Some of your residents accepted our invitation to join us and I hope that people will do so again in the future.

Recently, people from both communities worked together with the High Park Coalition as speakers at E.Y.C.C., participants and supporters at the OMB, and as volunteers who helped run the HPC yard sale at 50 Quebec and the garden party at 70 High Park. The community spirit was inspiring. Now we are all anxiously awaiting the OMB decision.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Judy Cole  
President, YCC 435.



## MANAGEMENT'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It has truly been a privilege and honour for the management team to work with the Board of Directors and with the residents. Quality of service and maintenance is crucial in serving the needs of owners and residents, and to increase the value of the property. Our professional and well-trained team is committed to providing excellent customer service to residents, including 24-hour emergency response.

Looking back, we had a very busy year starting with a very long and cold winter. It was a big challenge fighting with the freezing temperatures to prevent frozen pipes and dealing with equipment breaking down.

We have a number of other projects on the go or completed this year including: garage fan encasement, new bike room, flushing and routing the kitchen stacks, motion sensors in recycling room and chute rooms, continue servicing the fan coil system and cleaning



the carpets and garage. We were also involved day by day in the various construction projects.

One thing on the horizon is an update of the Condominium Act, which will be made into law very soon. The Minister of Consumer Services reported at a recent Condominium Conference that he is extremely satisfied with numerous recommendations received from the public, especially from owner/residents. More information on this Act which governs all condos will be available early next year.

We look forward to continuing to provide quality customer service in the new year. Happy Holidays from your Management Team ~ Isan, Radu and Carlos.

Thank you very much to everyone who removed their vehicle(s) for the semi-annual garage cleaning! Since residents do not own their parking space (Common Element - Exclusive Use), it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors (Corporation) to maintain and ensure the garage is secure, clean and storage-free.

For more information regarding the garage, please refer to the Rules and Regulations which are posted on the YCC323 website: [www.ycc323.com](http://www.ycc323.com), and in the Condominium Living Handbook which is available in the Manager's Office.



### COMMUNICATION & WEBSITE

#### Communication ...

...constructing reality  
...creating connections  
...engaging community  
...enabling change

...serving the greater good

As highlighted above, communication creates connections and engages the community. While reading the various articles in this newsletter, you will note that communication was and is a shared activity amongst residents, the Board and committees.

This committee's primary aim is to provide a written or digital source of information on a timely basis to the residents. During the past year we introduced a monthly communiqué entitled "What's Happening". This publication, by design, is intended to be brief and provide quick information on activities expected in the upcoming month.

The website provides more frequent updates (under Current Activities) where the events are of a quick nature and a short time span – e.g. City of Toronto water shutdown. The website also provides a depository of historical information and access to by-laws, rules and regulations, and supporting information for all committees.

In May, the long-time editor of Viewpoint 50, Terry Graham, decided to hand in his editor's visor and retire. This prompted a review of the whole concept. It was decided to continue publishing a newsletter to "create connections and engage the community". Based on the joint opposition to the Grenadier Square Development, we recognized that our community includes our sister buildings at 80 and 100 Quebec. We have, therefore, solicited submissions to Viewpoint 50 from our neighbours to the north. The final page lists all contributors, to whom the committee says "Thank You".

The guest editor for this issue would appreciate your comments on the format and any suggestions on items that could be added in the next issue. Our current intention is to publish Viewpoint 50 in this format twice yearly – June 1 and December 1- with guest editors taking turns producing the newsletter. Please see the editorial at the end for more information on guest editors.



A digital version of this newsletter (in all its glorious colours) is available on the YCC323 website ([www.ycc323.com](http://www.ycc323.com)).



ENERGY



For more than three years various Energy committee members, together with the Board, researched and met with multiple companies to determine what was the best course of action for YCC 323 in order to address the many challenges and possibilities related to recaulking the building envelope and door/window replacement requirements. These projects are now underway and completion is anticipated by the end of next summer. The Energy Reduction project also has been implemented.

Recycling efforts continue. In each issue of Viewpoint 50 and the monthly newsletter, we have provided residents with recycling tips which support the City of Toronto's efforts to divert as much as possible from landfill sites. We are doing a good job when it comes to using the Blue Bins ~ but we could do better.

Whenever the city upgrades its recycling program, new posters identifying these changes are posted in the disposal room on each floor. Please take time to read them and learn what we can recycle.

It has been brought to the attention of the committee that a lot of the items have not been rinsed thoroughly before being placed in the Blue Bins. Unwashed peanut butter containers and Styrofoam meat/fish trays, for example, must be completely free of waste before being put in the Blue Bins. This results in a two-fold problem. The superintendents have to transfer unwashed items into the garbage before they can prepare the recycle bins for pick up, and unnecessary waste is generated as a result. Dirty items also provide a great food source for unwanted insects.

Please note that at this time the City does not recycle **BLACK PLASTIC** items. This means you cannot recycle the black plastic containers that come with your Swiss Chalet delivery for example.

Unwanted medications should not be flushed down the toilet nor tossed into the garbage. Most pharmacies will be happy to take your unwanted medications and dispose of them in a safe and secure manner.

Other recycling opportunities: The Red Bin in the Recycling Room is well used by residents. The contents of this bin are used to support charitable programs across Ontario. Habitat for Humanity has received multiple donations from residents who have undertaken renovation/redecorating projects this year. Recently one complete kitchen scheduled for demolition was donated to a family in need. Each of these initiatives works to ensure that quality items are being recycled to others for their use instead of becoming landfill waste. Before undertaking any renovation project please consider how some of your unwanted items may be reused to help others. The box for the battery recycling collection is in the office. This box is for used batteries only.

Christmas will soon be here. When the time comes to dispose of your tree, extra large green garbage bags are available from the office for your use if required.

Happy holiday season to all from the Energy Committee.



HEALTH & SAFETY



The Health & Safety Committee was very industrious this past year. In the first half of the year, the Committee sponsored defibrillator training in January and the Silver Circle



information session in April. Fridge magnets containing emergency numbers were distributed in the spring; if anyone needs an extra emergency card, please speak to Isan.

Following extensive research on support systems and organizations available to seniors, the Committee arranged several workshops in conjunction with Toronto Public Health:

- Falls Prevention, an informative afternoon session that included a demonstration of how to get up if one fell while alone;
- Let's Talk About Cooking, for 1 or 2, or in batches, a very popular afternoon presentation, that ended with sampling a couple of the foods prepared during the demonstration; and
- Reading Food Labels, a topical presentation held in the evening to allow more people to attend.

Links to more information on each topic, as well as pictures taken at the workshops, are available on the YCC323 website.

The Committee was also instrumental in introducing exercise classes for seniors in our Meeting Room. Each class runs for one hour, and is repeated twice a week. Spaces are still available. Further information may be found on the website, or through the office.

Looking forward, we are planning a repeat of a previous presentation on Fire Safety, put on by the Toronto Fire Services, in the early part of 2015. We are also investigating other workshops with Toronto Public Health.

Finally, we welcomed a new member to the Committee this year – Bill Vance. If anyone else would like to volunteer, you will be more than welcome!



### LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS ADVISORY



First of all, a big “Thank You” to everyone who spoke to members of our committee and to our gardener Wayne Hudson about how good the newly-planted area on Gothic Avenue looks. We received compliments from our residents, our neighbours at 80 and 100 Quebec, and perfect strangers walking along Gothic. We are very pleased with the effect, and it's good to know that others are too.

The committee will be getting together with Wayne and with our Board liaison, Gord Hamilton, in January to plan for next season. A number of plants were moved this year to keep them safe from the scaffolding, and since they have now taken root, they will stay

where they are next year. New plants will fill in the empty spaces, where we hope they will not be disturbed for many years to come!

Another area we are looking at is the wooden retaining wall on Gothic. We would like to replace it with concrete strips to shore up the rise, and extend it around the corner to maintain continuity. One major consideration, of course, is the cost of such an improvement. The committee has always stayed within the bounds of our budget, which has sometimes resulted in slowing down the gardening process, but we are pleased to be able to present and preserve colourful and healthy grounds.

Eighty and 100 Quebec have a newly-formed landscaping committee, and we will soon be meeting with them and their Board liaison to discuss plantings in the common areas between our buildings. Landscaping and recreational facilities shared by our two condo corporations are governed by the High Park Green Recreational board. Landscaping on the private grounds of the condo corporations are each corporation's own responsibility. Enjoy the winter with house plants, and we'll see you in the gardens next spring!



LIBRARY



The Library, a long-standing institution in this building, continues to be open when the room is available to residents, and closed when the room has been rented out. Stocking depends on donations of good used books from residents. Fiction and Non-Fiction are accepted, and materials are measured against the existing collection to see that they fit in properly. Weeding the Voltairean garden is discretionary, and there is a time element for any magazines that are donated.

No money is spent on the room beyond the original shelving costs, and the selection size is determined by the existing availability of the shelves. If there is room and space, framed posters and puzzles MAY be added. A new feature is special shelving for CDs (on top of the bookcase between the windows) provided by Dean Tudor, should anyone care to donate CDs for other residents' listening pleasure.

As the Librarian lives outside the building (one of our townhouse neighbours), he would appreciate having one or more Resident Volunteers to assist him in the liaison work between the Library and Residents. No heaving lifting or dusting is involved! Please contact Isan. Thank you.



## LOBBY DECORATIONS

Mother Nature is a master artist: from the delicate details of flowers and variations of green plants to the transformed textures of twigs, grasses and seed pods. It is from this arsenal that I draw to create decorative arrangements for our lobby lounge. Always on the lookout for something unique, colourful, and inspiring I welcome suggestions. Compliments are appreciated, too. And questions are never turned away. It is the interest that you show that keeps me interested and challenged.

Some efforts are more successful than others evoking rave reviews or little rearrangements by an anonymous hand. Fresh flowers can be a challenge offering short lived beauty under direct lights and in a conditioned environment. Some of you may have noticed that containers often reappear since they come from an eclectic and slowly evolving inventory. Artificial plants and flowers are sometimes used when watering periods need to be extended. Fresh young plants occasionally resurface as a more mature specimen. Not surprisingly the natural light flooding my southeast corner unit enables the foster plant nursery to thrive.

So when you see me tending to the living plants or changing out the arrangements, do not hesitate to ask questions, make suggestions, exchange ideas. If you are interested in a particular plant that you would like to adopt, just let me know. It is not my desire to live in a jungle. Or if you love plants and would like to help nurture and maintain them or feel you have a creative talent that needs expression just let Isan know. This is a committee of one with room for more.

The results are not without effort. And sometimes even a mistake can bring reward. Last year's mix up with our artificial Christmas trees resulted in a fresh tree for the Lobby. I think this has started a new tradition!



## GENERIC MONTHLY CALENDAR

If you are planning an event and want to know when the Meeting/Party Room is unavailable, the following “generic calendar” shows the existing bookings:

MONDAY ~	Book Club – evenings, third Monday of every month
TUESDAY ~	Bridge Club – afternoons Yoga – evenings
WEDNESDAY ~	Seniors’ exercise classes – afternoons Euchre Club – evenings
THURSDAY ~	Seniors’ exercise classes – afternoons
FRIDAY ~	Yoga – mornings

## LET’S GET TOGETHER & DO SOMETHING

Do you have some extra time on your hands but don’t really want to go out in the rain and snow to fill it? Do you feel you would like to give something back to our community but can’t think of what to offer? Do you want to get to know even more people in our condo?

Here’s one suggestion: why not volunteer to help out on one of our Committees? Extra hands and new ideas are always welcome, and you might be surprised at how much fun it is too.

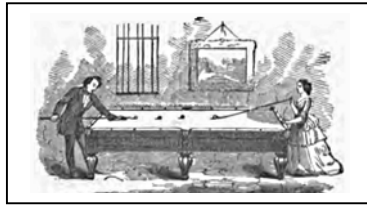


Or you could help start a new club or recreational activity. How about organizing a movie night in the Meeting Room? You could show your travel pictures, and offer popcorn along with the commentary. Maybe you could form a darts club – there must be at least one darts champion around. The possibilities are as endless as your imagination.

If any of the foregoing sparks your interest or imagination, please speak to Isan and he will pass your name on to the appropriate committee or person.

## CLUBS & RECREATION

### BILLIARDS/POOL/SNOOKER



In our lovely Games Room there is a lovely pool table that is quietly pining away from lack of use by refined ladies and gentlemen. However, the table is hibernating at the moment so we'll leave it in peace until the spring. By then the sea ice should have receded from the Games Room and we'll be asking if anyone would enjoy a friendly game on a weekday afternoon or evening. Watch for further news in April.

### BOOK CLUB

The Book Club here at 50 Quebec Avenue has been active since March, 2007. Members of the club have come and gone over the years, but there is a core group that meets in the Party Room at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of every month (September – June).

Sometimes we spend all night discussing the books, sometimes we just catch up on what everyone has been doing, and most of the time we just laugh and have a good time.

The books I enjoyed the most over the years ... too many to mention but here are three:

1. *Cutting for Stone*, *Abraham Verghese* – drama/romance – it absorbs you on page one – lots of action and drama;
2. *Bachelor Brothers' Bed & Breakfast*, *Bill Richardson* – humour – a light, delightful book and it even gives you a banana muffin recipe;
3. *The Chalk Girl*, *Carol O'Connell* – mystery – grabs you right at the start – if you are squeamish, don't read it!



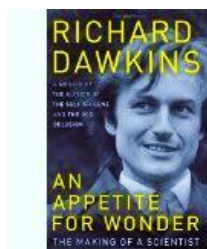
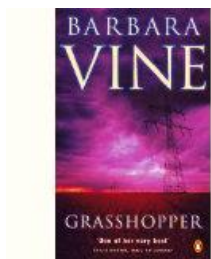
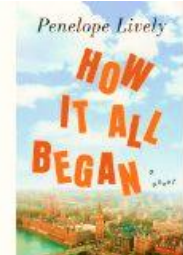
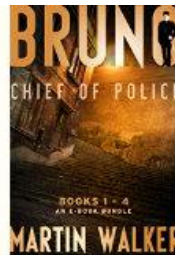
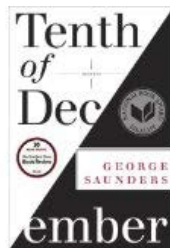
Happy Reading from the Book Club!



**BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS – DECEMBER 2014 TO JUNE 2015**

Meetings held in Party Room  
 Third Monday of every month  
 Starting at 7:30 p.m.

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
December 15, 2014	The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden	Jonas Jonasson
January 19, 2015	Tenth of December	George Saunders
February 16, 2015	Bruno, Chief of Police	Martin Walker
March 16, 2015	How It All Began	Penelope Lively
April 20, 2015	Grasshopper	Barbara Vine
May 18, 2015	An Appetite For Wonder	Richard Dawkins
June 15, 2015	The Rosie Project	Graeme Simsion



Pot Luck Suppers,  
 Dec.15 & June 15,  
 starting at 7:00 p.m.

### BRIDGE



If you want to have an enjoyable Tuesday afternoon, join us for bridge in the Meeting Room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Don't be afraid of that word "bridge"! Bridge is a card game of logic and taking risks. You say you haven't played for years and years? That's okay, the cards will jump-start all those sleeping brain cells, and you'll be back into the swing before you know it. If you've never played at all and want to learn, c'mon down and team up with one of the regulars. We don't bother with keeping score; we just enjoy the moment.

Oh, yes – there are also treats – coffee and goodies to sweeten the game! We call it "social bridge", a term that the purists would shudder at, but that's the way it is with our group. Hope to see you playing bridge soon!!



### IN EUCHRE WE TRUMP

A relatively newcomer on the club scene, the weekly Euchre gatherings have a small but dedicated fan base who likes to share laughter, baked goods, and spirited games. No matter the weather or the latest Rob Ford shenanigan, all make an effort to meet up for the love of the game.

Looking back at the last year, some memorable moments come to mind: Carole and Bill's 10-0 win in 3 hands that has been talked about for 6 months (like a fisherman's tale, it gets more glorious by the week), Mike's confusion and fear about playing 6-handed games, Claire's uncanny knack for trumping aces, Pat's way of changing seats to create good karma, Etienne's lack of knowledge from anything pre-1990, and Bill's ability to order up and win (but also lose to his great surprise) with one lowly heart trump.

Throughout each of the 208 games played, one constant observation remains: Nobody can ever remember what trump is. Some might imply that it's because we don't take the game seriously. I think it's rather because we have too much fun enjoying the game.

Looking forward to another great year in 2015!



### FIFTY FEET OF FUN

High Park Green residents are fortunate to have a pool right in their back yard. What is even better is the fact that pool is heated, and staffed by a great team of young people. They all seem to genuinely enjoy watching our aquatic antics, engage in conversations, and take an interest in our visits, family, and friends.

This summer we were treated to a newly painted pool deck and new lounge chairs on which to read and relax.

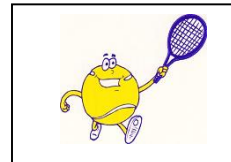


One of the best aspects of the pool is the opportunity to meet with, talk, and get to know people from all three buildings which share this facility. In between swimming lengths, or just cooling off in the shallow end, we discussed the renovations to the buildings, local events, our families, and even arrange other get-togethers. Now, when walking through Bloor West Village, we have even more people to talk with . . . if you recognize them wearing something different from their swim suits ! !

The changing closing times of the pool, through the summer season, help us to celebrate the lengthening days but to also to eventually bemoan the end of another warm, wet, and wonderful swimming season. Now we can look forward to next year's fifty feet of fun ! !

### TENNIS

Another summer tennis season has come and gone.

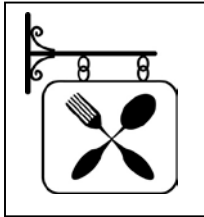


Each Sunday, tennis enthusiasts of our two condominium corporations gathered at our tennis courts to have a few hours of fun and recreation. Over the past many years, High Park Green tennis courts have become a great place for both community and personal friendship building. On these tennis courts, age, gender, ethnicity and skill level all disappear into the background. Beyond tennis, there are laughter, chit- chats, exchange of knowledge and, above all, sharing and caring.

We appreciate everyone who participated in the wonderful game of tennis this year. Each one has contributed to the community of ours with his/her style, outlook and etiquette. We certainly have enriched one another's life by sharing those moments. We would also like to thank the management, the superintendents and the gardener for maintaining the facility and its surrounding.

Tennis seasons are never too far apart. We hope that when the spring arrives, we will have more people to join this open and fun activity each Sunday. Let us get out, to enjoy the blue sky, the warm sunshine, to get to know the people living next to you and the community we are proud to live in.

# Features



## EATS & TREATS AROUND OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

(all on the route of the Lambton 30 bus)

### **Malta Bake Shop**

3256 Dundas Street West

(At Gilmour, east of Runnymede, kitty corner from Nissan)

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Malta with a trip to your local Maltese bakery and cafe. Treat your taste buds to new flavours while enjoying the sound of the Maltese language as the community gathers here after church on Sundays. Or drop by for a coffee during the week to view the photos and crafts of Malta that decorate the walls. You might also notice the corner ‘scene’ which changes with the seasons to celebrate Christmas, Easter or a patron saint. Experience Toronto’s multicultural mosaic while relaxing with a newspaper and a light bite. Pastries range from date-filled aniseed-flavoured twists (imqarat) and squares made with almond paste and dried fruit (strizzi) to filo pastries of spinach, cheese or potato (pastizzi). Or try the small folded pastry, filled with peas and meat or ricotta cheese (qassatat). You can’t miss the café’s giant Mediterranean mural on its east outside wall. It’s an invitation to slip away to a warm and inviting destination.

### **Patricia’s Cake Creations**

4130 Dundas Street West

(In the little plaza on the north side of Dundas, 30ft west of the Humber bridge)

Relatively new to the area, Patricia’s homemade soup and delicate pastries and cakes will tempt any palate; and the parking’s free. This family’s talents have been featured in Canada’s *Elegant Wedding* magazine (summer/fall 2014) and are quickly becoming in-demand as they cater and create personalized cakes for all occasions. You can stay for lunch or desert or phone ahead to arrange afternoon tea and sit beneath a stunning wall of artistically designed cakes. Tempt yourself with a decadent pastry, then cross the street and walk it all off with a hike along the riverbed below.

### Montgomery's Inn

4709 Dundas St West

(Southeast corner of Dundas and Islington)

The Last Thursday of each Month 7-10pm

Relax to the sounds of skilled musicians playing traditional ballets and jigs. Sip wine in the quite glow of candlelight. Fetch yourself a cider and enjoy a hearty bowl of stew on a winter eve. Share conversation with new acquaintances or bring along friends to appreciate the atmosphere of this old country inn, where travellers of long ago sheltered for the night on their way to and from old York. You'll sense history when entering through the ground-floor kitchen with its giant hearth tended by a friendly volunteer. Pull up a chair and sit awhile gazing into the fire, remembering your own stories of times past.

### WINTER GREENERY



In my last year in my old Glasgow flat (12 foot ceilings!), there was a winter jasmine at the sunny, drafty kitchen window. I'd rescued it in the summer for a song from the local florist. It survived my student renters, and when I bequeathed it to the next owners a year later, tendrils had reached the ceiling, the fragrance was a pleasure to come home to on a wintry day, and it seemed to bloom perpetually, though that may just be in my imagination!

I found some on Bloor recently and brought one home. It's doing nicely, and it's going to be my "Christmas Plant" this year! I'll decorate it with crystals, keep the thermostat fairly low and hope it is happy enough to bloom through the winter (the flowers wither before maturity if it's too hot). If I can find the right stand, I'll train some of the new growth to dangle. It can go on the balcony in summer.

Apart from that, I'm a fan of bud vases of various shapes and colours, filled with sprigs of whatever is available – scarlet dog-wood, cedar, holly, curly willow, honesty, something with a red berry or two (I scavenge in friends' gardens, and even buy the odd single branch or flower!). I then dress them up with small baubles or minute ornaments, and move them around to whatever surface needs a focus. It really works when space is limited.

Just writing this puts me in the mood to get ready for Christmas!

Compliments of the coming season to my good friends and neighbours at 50 – especially the book club, the yoga group, the swimmers and the gardeners!



### LOCAL PATHS & LANEWAYS

Few of us give much thought to the complex undergrowth of laneways and paths that hide behind our area's streets and avenues. We might remember the one behind the house we lived in, or the one we use as a shortcut, but the rest go unnoticed.

Yet they are so much more than shortcuts. Some showcase innovation and expression – stunning graffiti art, garages repurposed as art galleries, creative infill housing. Some reveal unvarnished truths – old pigeon coops, dilapidated laundry stoops, scrap metal yards, vertical acres of crumbling insulbrick. Many provide alternate bike routes or refuge for urban wildlife.

Laneways sometimes also provide fascinating glimpses of infrastructure from our city's past. For instance, west of Jane Street – from south of Baby Point Road to north of St Clair Avenue – can be found several discontinuous bits of an extra-wide lane that was the bed of an excursion railway used by daytrippers touring the hinterland of the smaller Toronto of a hundred-plus years ago.

Nearer at hand, around the corner from Morningside United Church is a stubby, nameless lane between #11 and #13 Palisades Street. Turn left just before the wooden gate with the diamond-shaped window and you'll find yourself at the south end of a narrow, seemingly secret pathway. It feels like an English public footpath as it slopes downhill between the backyards of the houses on Palisades and Ellis Park Avenue. Keep going and you'll find yourself emptying onto Valleymede Road across from what appears to be the tracks of a homemade funicular. The athletic may choose to then head left, up a very steep staircase back to Palisades; others will simply turn right and amble homeward across High Park.

Whatever and wherever they are, the laneways, pathways and hidden staircases of our neighbourhoods are adventures waiting to be appreciated.





### PARK WATCH – HIGH PARK

#### The Joys of Volunteering in the Community



Providing I am in town, I spend two to three hours every Sunday afternoon as a host to visitors to High Park. Over the past fifteen years, I have met and assisted hundreds of visitors to my (and your) 400-acre backyard.

What is a typical day? I can guarantee several requests for the nearest washroom. A close second is directions to the zoo (technically animal paddocks). The month of May is dedicated to the Shakira (cherry) blossoms. Rain and inclement weather are not a

*“Hey Mister, where do you keep the crocodiles? ... are there bears in the park? ... what about lions, Huh?”*

*“Now George, you were only to ask the nice gentleman where the closest washroom is”.*

deterrent as it provides me time to renew acquaintances with the dedicated walkers from the neighbourhood. Fortunately medical emergencies are infrequent and usually occur in the winter with slips on the icy trails.

What keeps me motivated? The unending enthusiasm of the kids as they discover the park and their barrage of questions (see box). Also, their actions, such as the little girl who supervised her mother carving her pumpkin, then marched into the wading pool, ankle deep, to insure her creation was front and centre amongst the other 50 or

so completed carvings. She then insisted I keep vigil while her mother hustled her to the car to change her wet shoes and socks. She gave me a high five when she came back. That made my day!

I encourage you to explore the many nooks and crannies in the park. Better still, let a youngster be your guide.

### HISTORICAL NOTES

My volunteer position in High Park allows me to reminisce with others about the “old” neighbourhood. A recent conversation involved the “Mineral Baths” on the north side of Bloor opposite the park. The pools in the picture below, circa 1954, have been replaced by the condominium at 20 Gothic. For those of you who remember, the gentleman in the foreground is standing where our old tennis courts were located.

Before the Bloor subway was extended to Jane Street, one could ride a streetcar from Jane and Bloor. In the summertime, my brother and I would fight over a window seat on

the streetcar with the hopes of seeing a brave soul dive off the diving platform (on the left in the picture).

The pool succumbed to the subway extension from Keele to Jane Street. The last remnant of “Minnies” can still be seen from Bloor: a small walkway and stairs leading down between the green grocer and the deli.



I was raised on Galley Avenue just off Roncesvalles Avenue. Space permitting in the next edition of this newsletter, I would like to briefly highlight the amusement park known as ‘Sunnyside’ that my mother took me to when the weather was good.

### HEALTHY HOUSEPLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS

For Christmas, why not give a houseplant that purifies the indoor air and looks pretty, too? Some are surprisingly effective at removing dust pollen and mould spores, carbon dioxide and monoxide, and VOC gases (Volatile Organic Compounds) from paint, carpet, vinyl or fumes from cleaning products. NASA scientists, in fact, found 25 plants that filter the air in a spaceship, some in only a few hours!

An added feature: their flowers or foliage make them good accent plants; their height and width, useful space fillers for corners of rooms.

### Good accent plants

Azalea  
Gerbera  
Chrysanthemum  
Aloe vera  
English ivy  
Peace lily  
Poinsetta

### Tall or wide plants

Rubber cane  
Dracena  
Bamboo palms (corn plants)  
Norway palms  
Weeping figs



### Poisonous plants

Poinsettias are NOT poisonous, but certain relatives in their family of Euphorbias, like Christmas cactus, have sap that can irritate the skin.

If there are babies or pets or birds in the home, avoid those plants whose leaves, flowers, or berries are poisonous to eat or whose sap causes a bad rash. Eating the leaves of Dieffenbachia, or Dumb Cane, paralyzes the vocal chords, making the person speechless or dumb. The berries of mistletoe, holly, etc. are toxic. The most toxic are oleander, castor bean, and Datura (all parts).

The bulbs of daffodil, tulips, and hyacinth can cause indigestion, as the Dutch found out in 1946, when crop failure forced starving Dutch (and Canadian soldiers awaiting transportation home) to try cooking flower bulbs in soups.

Finally, there is the snake plant, or mothers'-in-law tongue. It's the tall spiky plant that you see everywhere in offices and malls because it withstands the worst conditions like erratic watering and lousy light. The only toxic part is its name!

From the guest editor



When I assured our President that the fall/winter edition of Viewpoint 50 would be published, I was still thinking in terms of the much shorter and more straightforward *What's Happening*. If only!

Before the November issue of *What's Happening* was even printed, I started making a list of all the different areas that could be covered in the December issue of Viewpoint 50. Then I made a list of people that I could approach to write general-interest articles, in addition to the usual Board, Management and Committees reports. This was followed by numerous e-mails and lots of personal pleas. In one case I even cornered someone in an elevator; I'm sure he thought the only way to get off the elevator alive was to agree to write an article!

The articles started to come in, and I was floored by the quality of the writing! The writers obviously put a lot of thought into making the articles interesting, informative and fun. I cannot express how much I appreciate all of their efforts. The names of all contributors are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

The Director in charge of Communications & Website is proposing that Viewpoint 50 should continue to be published twice a year (June and December). The other ten months will see the publication of *What's Happening* to ensure that residents get timely updates on projects, facilities and committee activities.

As I already edit *What's Happening*, I only volunteered to edit Viewpoint 50 this one time (even though I have enjoyed the experience immensely). **So here's the challenge ... we're looking for volunteers to be "guest editors"**. The idea is to recruit a different guest editor for each issue of Viewpoint 50. That way, the editor would only have to be responsible for one issue of the publication, and would be free to put his/her own stamp on it (within guidelines, of course).

This is your chance to show your literary/organizational side, and to interact even more with your chosen community. If you're interested in becoming a one-time guest editor, please leave your name with Isan, and the Director of Communications will get in touch with you to discuss the position in more detail.

The future of Viewpoint 50 depends on you. Throw your hat in the ring. You'll enjoy it – you really will!



## CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Enjoy an evening of Wine & Cheese



**MEET, MINGLE, MUNCH  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014**  
in the Meeting/Party Room at 50 Quebec  
**STARTING AT 6:30 P.M.**

**ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME**

We encourage all residents in 50 Quebec or our neighbours at 80/100 Quebec to submit ideas for future issues.

Should you wish to e-mail your ideas, please send to:

[webmaster@ycc323.com](mailto:webmaster@ycc323.com)

or drop off a note at the Management Office.

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Nominating – President

JOINT BOARD WITH YCC435  
(outdoor common areas)

High Park Green Recreational –  
Fern Stimpson & John Hardie