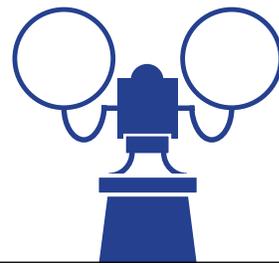


PARA



PALMERSTON AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

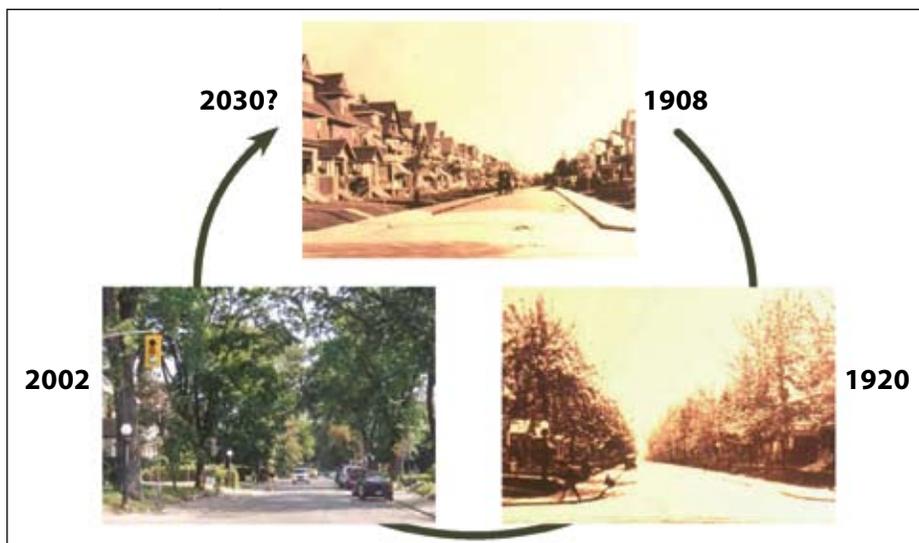
Tree Canopy Study Nets Results

by Ed Jackson

If you've walked around the residential streets of the PARA neighbourhood over the last two years, you may have noticed some odd-looking net-like contraptions high up in trees and wondered what on earth they were for.

The traps are part of a study by Eric Davies, a PhD student in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. He is looking at whether native or non-native trees species are better for attracting different kinds of insects or birds, commonly called "urban biodiversity," which results in greater resilience for the trees. One set of tree species in his study is surveying insect biodiversity and another set of test trees is surveying bird biodiversity.

A recent City of Toronto report on the state of the city's tree canopy ("Every Tree Counts: A Portrait of Toronto's Urban Forest" – see http://www.toronto.ca/trees/pdfs/Every_Tree_Counts.pdf) determined that currently 20% of Toronto is made up of forest, estimated at 10.2 million trees, which contribute significantly to ecological services such as absorbing carbon, shading buildings, blocking winter winds, improving air quality, and mitigating storm water run-off. Most of those trees are in ravines or on private property, while only 6% are what



(Above) From *Every Tree Counts: Evolution of Palmerston Blvd tree plantings from 1908 to 2002*; (below) Net trap catches insects



we would call street trees, planted along the street by the city. Many of these street trees in downtown areas like PARA were planted in the early 1900s and are beginning to reach the end of their life span. The City report uses Palmerston Blvd as an example to illustrate the dramatic evolution of the tree canopy since 1908 (see left image).

The City report estimates that 69% of the 144 species identified as street trees in Toronto are non-native to Ontario and of the top ten most common street trees, only four are native. Davies is only part-way through his study but so far he is finding that native trees have 50% more pollinator insects in them than non-native trees. He is also finding that native trees tend to be more supportive of the diverse group of parasitic insects which naturally control invaders like the Emerald Ash Borer (an effect called "bio-control") and also offer a habitat for all the many other insects that make up biodiversity in the city. Final results of Davies' study will help to determine the preferred trees to replace the endangered tree canopy over our streets. "In terms of street trees, it's actually quite a dire situation," says Davies.

For more information on the study, contact Davies at eric.davies@utoronto.ca.

PHOTOS: CITY OF TORONTO; DONALD SCOTT

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ABOUT PARA

PARA (Palmerston Area Residents' Association) is a volunteer organization of residents committed to strengthening and preserving the stability, distinctive character and quality of life in the Toronto neighbourhood bounded by Bloor and Bathurst, College and Clinton Streets.



Updates from Mike Layton, City Councillor, Ward 19

The following are a few matters that may be of interest to Palmerston Area residents

2012 Budget

The 2012 budget is not out yet, but after this summer's Core Service Review we know that a lot of important programs are on the table to be cut. This includes reduced library hours, cuts to arts funding and community grants, cuts to proactive Metro Licensing & Standards (MLS) inspections, and significant streetsweeping cuts, just to name a few. I will be fighting against these cuts and will be holding a Budget town hall this December to provide the community with information as well as gather feedback.

Ward 19 Planning

Our office is working with Ryerson University to conduct a Ward-wide planning study to ensure that new development meets the changing needs of the unique communities of Ward 19. Throughout November and December we will host four community meetings to present the final report to the public.

Licensing and Commercial Patio Working Group

On Wednesday, Oct 19th, I opened up the discussion on the licensing of commercial patios by hosting a meeting for all stakeholders in Ward 19. In attendance were City of Toronto staff in MLS and Plan-

ning as well as representatives from Ward 19 BIAs and resident groups, including PARA's Allan Reynolds. Also attending were local restaurateurs and a representative from the Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario. The meeting was a great opportunity for staff to review current practices and for residents and businesses to express their concerns. Together we identified common concerns and solutions that our office is now exploring. This is the first of many meetings and I look forward to continuing the discussion in a few months.

Saturday Office Hours

I am available to meet with residents and community members every Saturday, at the CHIN building, 622 College Street, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you have a municipal matter you need help with, feel free to visit me on Saturdays.

Contacting My Office

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any municipal matters please email me at; councillor_layton@toronto.ca, call me at (416) 392-4009 or visit my website at; www.mikelayton.ca to sign up for my e-newsletter. Angela Surdi, my Constituency Assistant for Ward matters north of College, can be reached at (416) 397-4110 or by email at asurdi2@toronto.ca.

Charity Bike Ride for Kids: What I Learned

by James Choy

In August I embarked on a very challenging charity bike ride called Tour for Kids, which gives all proceeds to three camps for kids with cancer: Camp Trillium, Camp Quality and Camp Oochigeas. The four-day bike route was Toronto to Peterborough on the first day, around the many lakes and hills on day two, a very scenic ride to Haliburton on day three, and then back to Toronto on day four, a total of 800 km.



I was emotionally touched beyond description by my four-day experience. Each day before we rode out, there were dedications to victims of cancer, either survivors or children who had succumbed to the disease. At the end of each day, we heard from children about how attending these camps had affected their lives. It was so touching that no one could stop the flow of tears. These kids have been robbed of their childhood and for me to give them the slightest comfort by riding my heart out was well worth it. I hope I get to live to see the day when cancer will be a thing of the past.

Through my efforts on the four days, I raised over \$2600 and completed 648 km.

I learned that I can make a difference by participating in this event, riding for kids who are unable to ride. My life has definitely been enriched by the experience. I will surely attempt the ride again next year. After all, it is only 800 km... .

PARA SPOTLIGHT



Gus the Other Barber Shop at 596 Bloor St is one of those local institutions that make the PARA neighbourhood special. Gus Angelakos has been cutting hair in the area since 1960, when a haircut cost 75 cents. He celebrated his 50-year anniversary last year. Gus first learned to cut hair in his native Greece and came to Canada when he was 18. Faithful patrons keep coming from far and wide for a scissors job, a razor cut, hot, steaming towels, and an entertaining chat with Gus. He's trimmed the hair of many people, including shaving the head of actor Yul Brynner, and was barber to Ed Mirvish for 48 years.

PHOTO BY DON SCOTT



Party In The Park and Planet Palmerston 2011

Sunday, June 12, was a red-letter day for two of the regular neighbourhood events that PARA supports.

The third annual **Planet Palmerston** took place on Palmerston Blvd, postponed from Saturday because of the threat of rain. Planet Palmerston is a street-wide lawn sale organized by Mackenzie Muldoon primarily as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity Toronto. PARA was a co-sponsor this year. The event raised over \$2600 for Habitat for Humanity and over \$400 for Nazareth House, a supportive non-denominational community in the area providing a safe haven for women and infants at risk. Various houses on Palmerston and neighbouring streets held lawn sales, donated goods and offered bake sale items during the day.

Local businesses that donated prizes for the Planet Palmerston raffle included: Grateful Head, The Black Hoof, Red Pegasus, Soundscapes, Churrasqueira Do Sardinha, TVO, Set Me Free, Think Pink Spa, Pet Uno, The Com-

munal Mule, Ella's Uncle Café, The Green Grind and Freshslice Pizza.

On the same day the annual fundraiser **Party in the Park** took place at Healey Willan Park, with all proceeds supporting improvements to the children's playground in the Park. This year's Party was a great success with over 300 in attendance, featuring face painting and pool splashing for the children, a bake sale and hot dogs, raffles, visits by a fire truck and Toronto cops on horseback, entertainment by a local group, the Sometimes Quartet, and support from the local church, St Mary Magdalene. Funds raised covered costs of the party (\$800/year in permits, insurance, lifeguard fees and food), and will ensure seed funding for next year.

The long-term fundraising goal is to replace the large play structure in the park. In the meantime, donations and support from the City are allowing smaller improvements to be made. This year, the City replaced one rocking toy, installed a third, brought in a new



(Top left) **Planet Palmerston**; (centre) **new Healey Willan Park sign with correct spelling**; (top right) **Party in the Park**; (above) **PARA members Paul Unterman and James Choy**

picnic table and placed fresh sand in the sand pile. Donations from Marjorie Shu and Susan Low-Ber allowed shrubs and perennials to be planted along the west fence and in the northeast corner. You can find out more about donating or getting involved at healeywillanpark.wordpress.com. Tax receipts can be issued on all donations over \$20. – Files from Rachael Mackenzie and Mackenzie Muldoon

Centre for Social Innovation Opens on Bathurst

by Ed Jackson

The PARA area has a new and exciting neighbour in its midst, a remarkable enterprise called The Centre for Social Innovation (CSI), which took over a five-story brick-and-beam building at 720 Bathurst St in 2010.

CSI started out in 2004 by acquiring several floors in the Robertson Building at 215 Spadina Ave, a restored factory warehouse with



the latest in eco-design, to make shared workspace available to individuals and organizations working for social change in Toronto and around the world.

CSI understood that there were many small separate community organizations working separately which would benefit from sharing facilities that were attractive and pleasant to be in. Both

CSI buildings offer fully functioning office space, including high-speed internet, meeting rooms, photocopy and fax machines, kitchen facilities, audio-visual equipment and mailboxes. Spaces available for rent vary from shared desks to private desks to closed offices, along with meeting rooms and a community lounge and kitchen in each building.

Small social-change organizations have flocked to occupy the space and now the CSI Spadina building hosts more than 180 organizations and individuals. Members include non-profits, charities, for-profits, entrepreneurs and activists involved in areas from health and education to the arts and the environment. Members renting space include organizations like the Toronto Cyclists Union, Reel Canada,

CSI continued on page 4

DID YOU KNOW?

CSI continued from page 3

Toronto Fringe, Jane's Walk and groups who interact with each other in informal ways in the common lounges and kitchens. As Jane Zhang of TechSoup Canada (a software provider supporting Canadian charities and non-profits) notes: "It's almost like having loads of subject-matter experts outside my door."

The idea of shared space became so popular that an additional building was soon needed. When the Bathurst St building became available, the idea of CSI Annex was born. Purchased with the help of a loan guarantee from the city and an innovative Community Bond investment loan process, CSI Annex on Bathurst St. will ultimately house up to 300 new members. Applications for new members are encouraged.

For more information on CSI see <http://socialinnovation.ca>.



• New front-yard pad parking is no longer being granted in the PARA neighbourhood.

The owners of existing front-yard pads are required each January to pay a fee to the City to maintain their permission to park. A small metal license plate is required to be mounted on the front of the house or verandah in plain sight indicating the spot is legal. Also, front-yard pad parking doesn't automati-

cally come with a house when you buy it. Once you take possession of a new home which currently has front-yard parking, you'll need to apply (with a City fee of \$69) to transfer the parking permit to you.

• A new City bylaw makes it mandatory for all property owners in PARA's ward to disconnect downspouts that empty directly into the City's combined sewer and storm sewer system.

This is to minimize basement flooding and polluted rainwater entering local waterways. The deadline for disconnection is November 20, 2011.



More information and how-to details are available at http://www.toronto.ca/water/protecting_quality/downspout.htm

• You must remove snow from the sidewalk in front of your house within 12 hours of a snowfall ending or you face a \$105 fine, according to City bylaw 530-1999.

You'll face a similar fine if you shovel snow into the street and block street parking.

However, if you are a senior or if you are disabled, you can contact 311 Toronto or (416) 392-7768 for information on how to receive assistance with your snow clearing.

Hands Across the Sands for an Iraqi Family

By Paul Maclean

Members of two local faith groups have joined forces to help an Iraqi refugee family get a new start in Canada.

Since 2003, more than 4.5 million Iraqis have left their homes and are seeking refugee status in other countries. Canada has approved the refugee status of some of these families, who are waiting for a group to sponsor their first year in Canada.

The reality of daily life in Iraq is grim. Every day that families venture to the market to buy

groceries they are terrified of a bomb explosion. Every day, individuals, because of their religion or ethnic background, live in fear of being tortured or killed.

Touched by the plight of these refugees, four individuals from the Jewish community approached members of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene. Now the two PARA area groups are working together to sponsor one of these waiting families early in 2012.

You can help too. For more information, contact; paulmaclean@rogers.com or (416) 535-2596.

New Area Residential Hospice Opens

By Paul Maclean

A new hospice in the area opened its doors to its first residents in August 2011.

Kensington Hospice is a joint initiative of the University Health Network and the Kensington Health Centre. Located close to PARA on Major Street in the Kensington Market area, the home has a total of 10 bedrooms with a professional staff of nurses, physicians, social workers and volunteers. The rector of St Mary Magdalene's Church is offering pastoral care at the Hospice, orig-

inally a women's hospital chapel before being remodelled by the Kensington Health Centre.

Hospice palliative care provides end-of-life support for individuals who are no longer able to manage living at home. A residential hospice offers a cheaper and more comfortable alternative to an acute-care hospital setting.

Currently Kensington Hospice is seeking donations and volunteers to help in the nutrition program, on reception and in planning/coordinating fundraising events. For more information, please contact Natalie Dzudovich at ndzudovich@kensingtonhealth.org or at (416) 963-9640 ext. 1425.

PHOTO BY DON SCOTT

NEWSLETTER MISSION

- We want to inform, educate and support our community on local issues
- Help develop a sense of belonging and enjoyment in a safe community
- Promote community betterment through active participation of residents
- Support the growth of PARA membership

PARA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Allan Reynolds (Chair); Paul Unterman (Treasurer & Membership Coordinator); Doug Lowry (Secretary); Emerich Kaspar (Zoning & Bylaws); Donald Scott (Communications, Newsletter Coordinator); Ed Jackson (Communications, Website Coordinator); Fernanda Pisani (Communications, Newsletter Design); Graham Lewis (Greenspace & Beautification); Rachael MacKenzie (Healey Willan Park Project); James Choy (Planet Palmerston); Paul Maclean, Heather Schramm. **For electronic versions of the newsletter content and additional information on PARA, visit our website at www.palmerstonara.org. Email us at info@palmerstonara.org.**

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Business ventures along the commercial streets in the PARA neighbourhood are constantly changing. We welcome new businesses that bring a greater range of services closer to our homes



The Little Italy neighbourhood has long been waiting for a convenient local **LCBO outlet**. Well, the wait is finally over! A new store is slated to open December 1 at the long-vacant building at 529 College St. Advance publicity assures us the outlet will carry more than 1100 products, including a Vintages corner.

Acadia Restaurant, which has opened at 50C Clinton St, just north of College, features an eclectic mix of Acadian and Southern "Low Country" cuisine.

Pasqualino Menswear, after 30 years in a location on Clinton St, is showing its high-end menswear apparel in a more prominent storefront at 654 College St.

The former Korova Milk Bar



space at 488 College St has been taken over by **Smokeless Joe's**. The pub, which features oysters and mussels along with a selection of more than 250 beers, recently moved from a basement location at John and Adelaide in the entertainment district.

Billing itself as the first kids' comic book store in North

America, **Little Island Comics** has opened at 742 Bathurst St, just south of Honest Ed's. It's run by the folks at The Beguiling, in Mirvish Village. While The Beguiling targets adult readers of alternative, underground and avant-garde graphic stories, Little Island is marketing itself specifically to young readers.

The former side-street location of The Big Chill at 367 Manning Ave has been taken over by **The Little Dog**, which features steamed hot dogs and fries and poutine to go along with the steamies.

A new collectibles shop has opened in the 350 square-foot space at 548 College St. It's called **The Arthur** and features vintage housewares and accessories.

Masikoma, a Korean and Japanese sushi restaurant at 708 Bloor St, has joined the many other eateries in the Korea Town neighbourhood.

Hrvati Bar has opened at 690 Euclid Ave, just south of Bloor. It's a Bavarian-style bar with a Croatian food theme. Chef Rodney Bowers also just launched **Hey Meatball!** a little west of Little Italy at 719 College St. It features an array of meatball selections with sides, inspired by a kofta (Turkish meatball) shop in Istanbul.

On Oct 1, **Goodlife Fitness**, Canada's largest fitness chain,

acquired the Eclipse Fitness Club facility on the second floor of 533 College St and have announced plans to update equipment and facilities in the coming months..

With a name inspired by a novella by Gabriel García Márquez, **No One Writes to the Colonel** is an eclectic bar at 460 College St which features entertainment running the gamut from readings to stand-up comedy to film screenings.

An interesting newcomer to the neighbourhood is **The Toronto Cartoonists Workshop**, located at 587 College St. It bills itself as is "a learning environment where aspiring cartoonists can study with working professionals in the North American comic book, webcomics, animation and illustration fields."



Sonic Boom, the iconic used-CD and music store squeezed by its landlord out of its old space on Bloor St in the Annex, has moved its inventory to two new locations. The main store now takes up a big part of the Honest Ed's building at 782 Bathurst St while Sonic Boom Kensington highlights vinyl recordings in its Kensington Market location.

Little Italy now has a new bridal store. **Felicia Bridal** has moved into the old Balfour Books storefront at 601 College St.

To add a little retail variety to the College St strip, a flower shop called **Botany Floral Studio** has opened at 626 College St.

Serving traditional casual Italian fare, **Trattoria Taverniti** has taken over the old John's Classic Pizza location at 591 College St.

Tosho Knife Arts, specializing in hand-forged Japanese knives and knife sharpening, restoration and repair, has opened at 602 Markham St in the Markham Street Village.

Grotto Lounge has revived, renovated and renamed the former Calisto club space at 647 College St. It's a supper club serving a variety of pizza and pasta and other Italian fare.

A franchise of **Mullins Irish Alehouse Pub** has opened for business at 537 College St, in the old Cornerstone Pub at the corner of Euclid Ave.