

**SAVE THE DATE:  
PARA AGM MAY 16**

## *Mirvish Village/Westbank Development Updates: Negotiations Prove to Be Successful*

By Paul MacLean and  
Mike Layton, City Councillor

“What happens on this site will define four neighbourhoods for the next century. It’s essential to get it right, and I think we have.” This was Councillor Cressy seconding the motion by Councillor Layton at Toronto and East York Community Council to approve the Westbank application. Both councillors spoke of the unparalleled level of commitment from residents and from the Mirvish Village Task Group (MVTG). Councillor Cressy also said, “Because of their ability to listen, reflect and lead, we have a better project.” The motion passed Community Council. However, the motion contains modifications and conditions to the application, which will have to be approved by all parties before it goes before City Council on April 27. Some of these changes have been initiated by the de-



Based on publicly available data provided by Westbank to the City in Jan 2017; this specific image provided by Mirvish Village Task Group

veloper; others are requested by the councillors. For further details on the Westbank development, please see the article by Councillor Mike Layton on page 2. *continued on page 2*

COURTESY OF ROY SAWYER/WESTBANK

➔ **Plan to be there:** Come to PARA’s AGM and find out how the community can still be involved in the Mirvish Village development. **Mirvish Village: The Next Three Years • May 16, 2017, 6:30 to 9:00 • at the CSI building 720 Bathurst St.** See page 7 for details ◀

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**ABOUT PARA** (Palmerston Area Residents Association): PARA 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 College, Grace and Bathurst Streets.

• NEWSLETTER: DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BY FERNANDA PISANI • EDITED BY TOM CHURCHILL •

## Negotiations Prove to Be Successful from page 1

### Update from Mike Layton, City Councillor

Over the past 5 years my office and I have had the privilege of working exceptionally closely with PARA and neighbouring residents' associations on the properties surrounding Bathurst and Bloor as well as on the development application for Mirvish Village. We have held well over 40 meetings with the community in that time and have had a tremendous influence over what is possible on the site.

At the time of writing, the Mirvish Village application is on its way to City Council for the last week of April. This means that the final negotiations are ongoing. However, we have already come a long way in securing changes to the original application, thanks to the tireless work of PARA and others.

I will share a few examples of the changes with you now and I will share a much fuller update alongside local City Councillor Joe Cressy once the application has finished at City Council.

The original application proposed 1,017 rental units with the tallest building at 29 storeys. Since then, the developer has resubmitted their application twice. The current application going to City Council proposes 806 rental units, with the tallest building at 26 storeys. There has been a substantial reduction in height and density across many of the buildings throughout the site. This is significant because it will mean greater penetration of sunlight to surrounding streets, the addition of parkland on site that was not originally included, a better transition into the surrounding

neighbourhood, and a more desirable street wall (better pedestrian experience) along Bathurst and Bloor streets.

Further, the original application only retained 15 of the 27 heritage buildings in the neighbourhood, but thanks to the tireless advocacy of the community, the developer is now retaining 24 of the 27 heritage buildings. Importantly, the built form of the surrounding buildings has also been modified to better respect and draw attention to the heritage buildings.

Throughout this process we have maintained a commitment that the development will be 100% rental, making this one of the largest purpose-built rental projects in the City's recent history. This is at a time when there is a dire need for rental housing in this city. We have also been working with the developer and the Affordable Housing Office to supply a significant number of affordable units (final numbers are being negotiated) with rent close to 80% of market rate. This will help ensure we are developing a mixed-income neighbourhood.

Also worth noting, upwards of 40% of the units will be 2- and 3-bedroom units, and the developer is committed to building a space for a child care provider on site. There is a small amount of Section 37 (community benefit) funding made available through this development, which will go towards the provision of the affordable housing referenced above, public realm improvements, and the creation of a community space, which we hope will be managed by A Different Book List, whom we have all worked to keep in the community.

As always, we hope that the City Council

decision will be the final decision on the rezoning application, given the number of changes we have been able to realize as a community. However, there is a chance the application will be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). If it is appealed, we will be there in full force to defend everything we have gained over the last few years.

The opportunity for community input does not end once the rezoning application passes City Council in the last week of April. We will then move into what is called the Site Plan Control Process, through which the City can secure landscape details, public realm design, details of building materials, and other architectural features of the proposal. We are currently negotiating significant community involvement in this process. And, of course, in the next year we will begin a public consultation on the parkland design, as this will become a new city-owned park.

Construction will soon be underway and our office, as is our tradition, will be working with the developer to create a Community Liaison Committee where you can voice your concerns and ask your questions as they relate to construction on the site. If you would like to be involved in this, or simply to learn more, please contact me directly.

So much about this site has been shaped by the community, and I know that the end result would have been very different had PARA not been at the table. It has been an absolute honour working so closely with the community on this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can email me at [councillor\\_layton@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_layton@toronto.ca) or phone me at 416 392 4009.

*Thank you, Mike Layton, City Councillor*



## Harbord Collegiate Institute Celebrates 125 Years of Excellence in Education! Weekend of Friday April 28, 2017



Harbord Collegiate Institute's anniversary celebrations will start on April 28, at 12:00 p.m. with a BBQ that is to continue throughout the day. Tours of the auditorium, decade rooms, and the school museum have been organized.

Harbord C. I. has a strong alumni association as well as the Harbord Club, a great way for alumni, school staff and faculty to stay connected.

The Harbord C.I. Alumni Association gifted the school a museum room that brings

Harbord's history and legacy to life for all to enjoy. The facility is the first of its kind in the TDSB and the envy of other alumni associations.

Celebratory events include a fashion show, orchestra, band and concert choir performances.

The weekend will be a great opportunity to visit, renew old memories, see old classmates, and have a great ol' time.

All proceeds from the weekend will be *continued on page 4*



# CSI Celebrates Honest Ed's With an Event for Everyone

By Katherine Childs



**HONEST ED'S**  
*Got Indigestion*  
HIS BARGAINS  
"KEEP REPEATING"



Honest Ed's style merchandising and ephemera, art installations and music, were what made the Toronto for Everyone weekend fun

KATHERINE CHILDS AND FERNANDA PISANI

Toronto for Everyone (TO4E) was a four-day celebration in late February sponsored by the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) and held in the empty Honest Ed's space. Visitors enthusiastically engaged in widely different types of activities. Events included an opening ceremony on Thursday, a large evening dance party on Saturday, dance and theatrical productions, and an assortment of panel discussions and workshops held over three days. CSI brought people together to celebrate our diversity through visual and performing arts while simultaneously providing an opportunity for discussions around shared interests and goals for the future. (For pictures of the event search on instagram: TO4Everyone or TO4E; and on twitter: TO4Everyone.) [PARA](#)

## Engaging PARA Workshop at TO4E's Community Hub



Under Paul Maclean's leadership a roomful of participants gathered round ten tables to contemplate a variety of photographs of front yards and porches in the PARA neighbourhood taken by PARA member Katherine Childs. Participants were asked to choose a photograph and then discuss with others why they chose that picture. After lively discussions around the room, each group wrote down their collective ideas and shared them with the other groups. — *Katherine Childs*



Harbord C.I. continued from page 2

donated to the school.

A gala evening featuring a sit-down dinner and dancing (DJ) is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. Guests can participate in a silent auction and listen to a line-up of entertainers and speakers.

The featured keynote speaker is Leslie Dan (1950s alumnus), renowned philanthropist and founder of Novopharm and Viventia.

More information on the celebrations is posted on: [www.harbordclub.com](http://www.harbordclub.com) and Facebook: Harbord C.I. Grads/ Alumni, email: [harbordclub@gmail.com](mailto:harbordclub@gmail.com), or telephone Belinda at: 647-444-1765.

To read feature article "The Heroes of Harbord C.I." go to: [www.thestar.com/news/gta/2012/04/27/the\\_heroes\\_of\\_harbord.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2012/04/27/the_heroes_of_harbord.html)

**Among Harbord's notable alumni are:**

1 Kathleen Coburn, scholar on the works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge

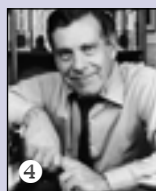


- Ivan Fecan, TV and film producer
- 2 Melissa Hayden (Herman) New York City Ballet
- 3 Stephen Lewis,



politician (NDP) and UN ambassador for Canada

- Joe Pantalone, politician
- 4 Morley Safer, CBS news
- 5 Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster, comedians



# Bloor Street Bike Lanes: Quick Update

by James Choy

**Traffic flow concerns** may prompt changes to the separated bike lanes on Bloor Street. The Toronto Star recently published preliminary data on the Bloor Street bike lanes initially obtained in the fall via a freedom-of-information request. It shows that up to that time there was a 36% increase in bike traffic but that driving times increased by about 8.5 minutes at peak hours. The City of Toronto is considering making changes by retiming signals, enhancing signage, and modifying intersections. These changes will be implemented over the next two months when it is practicable as stated in the city's first report.

The city published a report titled "Update Bloor Street Bike Lane Pilot Project," dated Feb. 24, 2017. The key preliminary findings are based on four factors: public perception, effects on businesses, effects on the cycling environment and effects on the motoring environment. Sixty-four percent of the 1,530 local residents and businesses surveyed agreed that bike lanes provide a safe, comfortable environment for cyclists, with acceptable trade-offs to traffic flow and parking inconvenience; 63% of motorists surveyed now feel comfortable driving next to cyclists compared to 14% surveyed in 2015; and 53% of 150 local

businesses surveyed agree the bike lanes are worth the trade-offs. Still under way is a study pertaining to safety and parking.

The next round of traffic data collection is scheduled for June 2017, with the results going to Public Works in the fall for final evaluation. The media's coverage of the bike lanes tends to favor the motorists and focuses negatively on the congestion created by the single traffic lanes. The plus side is that there are more cyclists using Bloor St. West as a primary commuting route. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. **PARA**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD EVENTS

### Party in the Park is happening!

**Save the date: JUNE 11, between 2 and 5 p.m. at Healey Willan Park.**

This is our yearly neighbourhood party, so come on out — get to know your neighbours, have great conversations, enjoy and relax. The kids will love the police horses, fire trucks and fun at the wading pool, as everyone indulges in the barbecue and bake sale while the band plays on.

Donations to the bake sale are gratefully accepted! Please note: Money from food and drink sales funds the cost of permits and insurance. Any extra money goes to help maintain our well-used park.

Preparations are already underway, but **VOLUNTEERS are still really needed!!!** Please think about helping out in any way that you can. Contact [healeywillanparty@gmail.com](mailto:healeywillanparty@gmail.com). Let's make our party great!



### Planet Palmerston

Once again this year we can look forward to enjoying this fun community event. This will be our 9th year of support for Habitat for Humanity GTA. Over the years, Planet Palmerston has evolved into so much more than just a street sale, with activities that have included raffles, BBQs, lemonade stands, crafts, baked goods, plant sales, music performances and much more.

Although this event takes place on Palmerston Blvd. between College and Bloor Streets, participants from neighbouring streets are more than welcome. Each participant makes a minimum donation of \$25 or a chosen percentage of proceeds, which will go to Habitat for Humanity GTA. For details you can go to the Planet Palmerston website: [www.planetpalmerston.blogspot.ca](http://www.planetpalmerston.blogspot.ca)

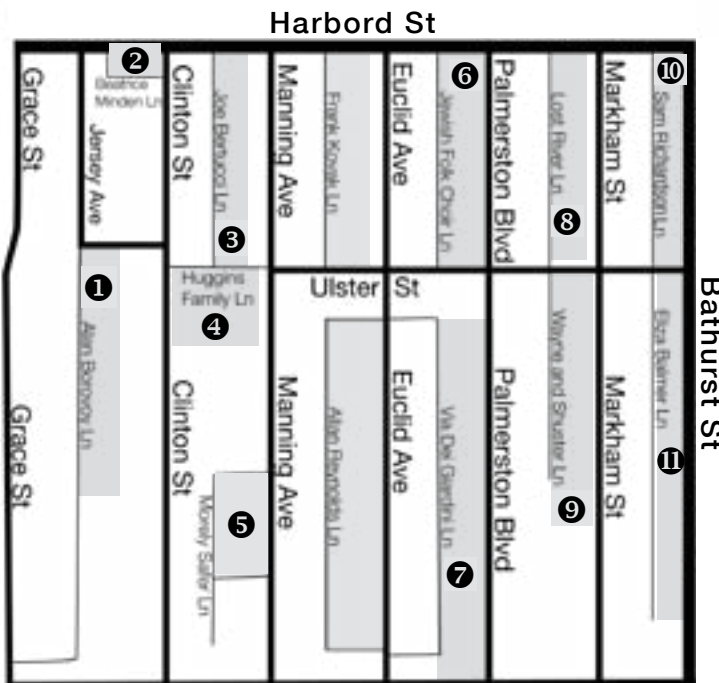
As the date of the event and additional information become available they will appear on the Planet Palmerston website and the PARA website: [www.palmerstonara.org](http://www.palmerstonara.org). — Kei Yano

LOWER RIGHT: DON SCOTT



# New News on the PARA Laneways Project

by Katherine Childs



The Laneway Committee is excited to announce that the City of Toronto's first responders (firefighters, paramedics, and police) have approved all 11 proposed laneway names. A map with the named laneways appears on this page. The Laneway Committee's next step is to collect endorsement signatures from the residents of properties that abut the laneways. A different petition will be created for each lane, describing who or what is being honored by the new name. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help go door to door with these petitions. If you want to volunteer or if you have any questions please contact Katherine Childs at [khchilds@gmail.com](mailto:khchilds@gmail.com). *More information on the lane naming project will be featured in PARA's upcoming issues.*

Lane 1	Alan Borovoy
Lane 2	Beatrice Minden
Lane 3	Joe Bertucci
Lane 4	Huggins Family
Lane 5	Morley Safer
Lane 6	Jewish Folk Choir
Lane 7	Via Dei Giardini
Lane 8	Lost River
Lane 9	Wayne and Shuster
Lane 10	Sam Richardson
Lane 11	Eliza Balmer

## LANE 1

### Alan Borovoy by Robert Vipond



Alan Borovoy's name is synonymous with civil liberties in Canada. A fierce advocate of the fundamental right to free speech in a liberal society, Borovoy served as the general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) for 40 years and led the CCLA through many of the most important issues and events of the latter half of the Twentieth Century – racism, the Cold War, and the wars on terrorism, hate speech, and pornography. As the back cover of his 2014 autobiography *At the Barricades* puts it: "This book recounts the life of an activist; always principled and compassionate, usually controversial, often very funny, and never dull." As Borovoy himself understood, much of his way of viewing the world came from his experi-

ence growing up as "a scrappy Jewish kid" on the east side of Grace Street, south of Harbord. That is where he encountered anti-Semitism, where he learned to question authority, and where he came to appreciate the importance of respect for diversity in its many forms. Borovoy was a true PARA resident. He attended Clinton Street Public School, Harbord Collegiate, and the University of Toronto, and in later years returned to the neighbourhood to live so that he could be near the CCLA offices at Spadina and Bloor. In recognition of his enormous contributions to the neighbourhood, to Toronto, and to Canada, we propose naming the laneway behind Grace Street (Lane 1) after Alan Borovoy. **PARA**

## LANE 2

### Beatrice Minden

Beatrice Minden, born Rifka Spiegel, is a Clinton School alumna who became a noted philanthropist with a particular interest in the arts and education. On Clinton's 100th anniversary, she made a significant (initially anonymous) donation to the school art program, a donation that has given thousands of children access to an enhanced visual-arts education. — Katherine Childs

◆ SPECIAL INVITATION ◆

Clinton Street Public School invites the community to a launch for Rob Vipond's book *Making A Global City: How One Toronto School Embraced Diversity*, which traces how Clinton helped three generations of newcomer students and their families integrate into life in Canada. The event will take place at Clinton Street Public School (460 Manning Avenue) on Tuesday, May 9 between 7 and 9pm. Sign up at: [www.clinton\\_launch.eventbrite.ca](http://www.clinton_launch.eventbrite.ca).

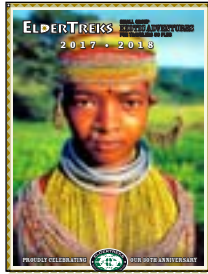
MAP BY KATHERINE CHILDS

# 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* By Nick Forsyth and Fernanda Pisani

One thing that stands out about the wave of new restaurants on College Street is the cultural variety on offer. **Mochica** (614 College St.) returns Peruvian food to this stretch of College in a sophisticated manner, expanding a high-end Peruvian bistro from Montreal. **P.G. Clucks** (610 College St.) Fried-Chicken sandwich shack fills our need for Nashville-style deep-fried chicken takeaway, be it spicy or not, judging by the steady knot of customers at the door. **Rollipop** (598 College St.), **Sushi-Burrito** converts their food truck to a friendly resto-bar with what are essentially extra large and diverse maki rolls, part of a rising sushi-burrito fusion trend.

The **Caribbean Canteen** (596 College St.) West Indian eatery may have a hard task rehabilitating the northwest corner of Clinton and College after a half-dozen restos meandered through, but they're giving it their best shot with a tremendous renovation, a menu with far more diversity of land, sea, and air than the Jamaican staples you think you know, and an impressive barbecue/smoker on the patio. That patio might be the most fun on College this summer.



If you'd like a stylish hideaway to have a drink in, two new places are taking a clever, low-key approach to the neighbourhood. **Birreria Volo** (612 College St.), quietly tucked into

an alley-shaped space next to the Royal, is an Italian beer hall meeting the craft-beer revolution with considerable class — all comfortable shadows, close quarters and exposed brick. Around the corner is **Pinky's Ca Phe** (53 Clinton St.), a funky, stylish cocktail bar hidden in a residential house on Clinton, serving Vietnamese cuisine with much more variety than just pho and banh mi.

College St. is not just about good eating, it is about community services as well.

The **Hand and Stone Spa** (578 College St.) offers services such as Therapeutic, Hot Stone, Couples, Prenatal and Signature Hot Stone Massage as well as a variety of facials and therapeutic skin care treatments. It is beautifully appointed and open 7 days a week. The registered massage therapists accept private insurance coverage.

**Dr. Louis Furtado** has opened a family practice (490 College St.) and accepts new pa-



tients — a great addition to our community as family doctors that are building their practice can be difficult to find.

**Pizzeria Libretto** has replaced the A3 Napoli Pizzeria



**When I picture a bistro,** I think of a small, cozy restaurant serving quick, rustic, home-style French favourites like cassoulet. When I stumble upon **Le Notre Bistro** (northwest corner of Manning and Harbord, 538 Manning Avenue) though, the only things that remind me of a bistro are the laid-back

ambiance and the décor — royal-blue walls, white table cloths, a long banquette and bistro chairs along one wall, prints of wine regions hung on one wall, and a clock showing Paris time on another. There are more seats along the window, at the bar and in front of the open kitchen. In the background, La Vie en Rose is playing ever so softly. The service is impeccable and the food is simple and very refined. These are all the key ingredients of a good neighbourhood restaurant. • Owner/front house person Sergeui Kourokhtine has an impressive knowledge of all the food and wine they serve. Chef Cam Nelson executes with finesse exquisite dishes that will surely impress any diner, whether à la carte, specials of the day, or a variety from the tasting menu with wine pairing. • Notable dishes include the pan-seared foie gras special (paired with a Jurançon wine). Unbelievable! And a Valrhona chocolate dessert with peppercorn accompaniment — daring, to say the least...and very tasty! — *James Choy*

LOWER RIGHT: JAMES CHOY

## NEWSLETTER MISSION

- To inform, educate and support our community on local issues • To help develop a sense of belonging and enjoyment in a safe community • To promote community betterment through active participation of residents • To support the growth of PARA membership •

## PARA BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- **Board Members:** Paul MacLean (Chair), Joan Reynolds (Treasurer), Frumie Diamond (Secretary), Paul Unterman (Membership), Katherine Childs, Nick Forsyth, Ronen Kleiman, Donna McFarlane, and Kei Yano •
- **Mirvish Village Task Group:** Paul MacLean, Donna McFarlane, Leo Panitch, Roy Sawyer • **MVTG web manager:** Donna McFarlane •
- **Lane Naming:** Katherine Childs, Ronen Kleiman, Jorge Assuncao, Rob Vipond, Fernanda Pisani, Leah Bekiaris, (student at Harbord), Michael Marcucci, Jennifer Deyell • **Communications & Facebook:** Katherine Childs, Ronen Kleiman, James Choy • **Website Coordinator:** Nick Forsyth • **Greening:** Frumie Diamond, Kei Yano, Nick Forsyth, Judy Stanley • **Newsletter:** Frumie Diamond, Kei Yano, Katherine Childs, Nick Forsyth, James Choy, Fernanda Pisani, Tom Churchill • **Central Tech Field Liaison:** Nick Forsyth • **Planet Palmerston:** Kei Yano • **Party in the Park:** Suzanne Kleiman • **Financial Records:** Doug Lowry •
- For electronic versions of the newsletter content and additional information on PARA, visit our website at [www.palmerstonara.org](http://www.palmerstonara.org) •
- Email us at [info@palmerstonara.org](mailto:info@palmerstonara.org) • Facebook [www.facebook.com/PalmerstonARA/](http://www.facebook.com/PalmerstonARA/) • Mirvish Village Task Group: [www.mirvishvillagetg.org](http://www.mirvishvillagetg.org)

**MAY 16, 2017 • DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M.**

**AGM with presentations 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
CSI Building, 720 Bathurst St.**

# **MIRVISH VILLAGE: THE NEXT 3 YEARS**

*with Roy Sawyer and Mike Layton*

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**Find out the latest information on the Mirvish Village Development.**

- What happened to the Westbank application at City Council on April 27?
- How can the neighbourhood help shape aspects of the Mirvish Village development such as community benefits, traffic management, and green space over the next three years?

**Roy Sawyer is a Markham St. resident and member of the Mirvish Village Task Group (MVTG).**

With his engineering expertise, he has played a crucial role in analyzing and developing the MVTG's critique of the development proposal. Roy has a gift for explaining complex issues in understandable, lay terms.

**Mike Layton, our City Councillor, has worked hard to ensure that residents' voices have been heard during the development process and has secured some valuable concessions to the application.**

He will outline ways in which the community must be involved in the next stages of the development.

**Don't miss this important meeting!**

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Home Owners and Tenants, Support Your Neighbourhood With a Membership In PARA!

You will be part of a community of people who care about the future of our neighbourhood.

Through eblasts you will be kept informed about community meetings, events and issues. You can have input on the issues that matter to you and ask for PARA's support — everything from help with a community fundraiser or party to challenging a development proposal.

Your membership and modest fee will support PARA's work including:

- PARA's communications and public events
• Initiatives to enhance our public space, from lane naming to greening to bike lanes
• Upholding our neighbourhood vision during the development of the Mirvish Village site

You can become a new member or renew your yearly membership in one of two easy ways.

Written: Fill in this form and mail it with your cheque to our membership coordinator.

Website: Go online to www.palmerstonara.org/about-us/membership/ and use our simple digital form to pay for your membership through PayPal.

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM 2017

(Note that membership fees are for one year only, renewable each February)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (please include unit number) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City and Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

- Payment (check appropriate box)
[ ] New Member [ ] Renewing Member [ ] Cash [ ] Cheque (Please make your cheque payable to PARA)
[ ] Individual voting member.....\$25
[ ] Supporting member/family membership (to provide additional support for PARA activities).....\$40
[ ] Super supporting member (to provide maximum support for PARA activities).....\$50

If paying by cheque please mail your cheque to: Paul Unterman, PARA Membership Coordinator, 446 Markham Street, Toronto, ON M6G 2L2

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Simon Wright
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