



Palmerston Area Residents' Association

Serving the Palmerston/Little Italy Neighbourhood

JOIN US NOW!
— see inside for details



Already we have seen a new home for the LCBO and construction beginning on a multiuse building in its old location on the south side of College St. The north side of College St. will be under development pressure. **Thoughtful advocacy is necessary.**

College Street is Next By Paul MacLean

Development is happening all around us. Is College St., in the PARA boundaries, next?

What Are the Issues?

PARA gained a lot of experience on new development bordering an old neighbourhood as we negotiated with Westbank, City Planning, and our councillors over the Mirvish Village site. Although College St. does not allow for the same large-scale development, the issues are similar.

1. Intensification puts a strain on existing infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, transit and roads. There will be increased movement

(pedestrian, cycling, vehicles, public transportation).

2. Green space and public realm.

We already have a lack of green space in our area for the number of people living here. The public realm of College St. could do with considerable improvement.

3. The lack of affordable and subsidized housing is a city-wide issue and significantly impacts this neighbourhood.

4. Heritage preservation. There are a number of important heritage buildings on College St.

5. Building height and mass.

New buildings need to fit in with the existing streetscape and character so that the impact on the nearby neighbourhood is minimal.

6. Successful retail and overall viability of projects are important factors for enhancing the neighbourhood and business area. *continued on page 2*

COURTESY OF TURNER FLEISCHER ARCHITECTS FOR RIOCAN LIVING

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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.

College St. is Next *cont'd from page 1*

Why We Need an Avenue Study

An avenue study, led by City Planning, involves public consultation and provides the planning framework and guidelines to which future development, both public and private, must conform. The study covers areas such as: built form, heritage retention, street character, retail (e.g., store size), public realm, green space, transportation infrastructure (pedestrian, cycling, vehicle, public) and neighbourhood protection. An avenue study is the best available process for resident input before development applications are made.

The existing College St. study goes east from Bathurst St. It deals mainly with built form. PARA is requesting a more comprehensive study for the westward section beginning at Bathurst.

The **Four Corners Study (Bathurst and Bloor)** proved to be very important in shaping the development at the Mirvish Village site. More recently the Study survived a challenge from a developer on the north side of Bloor. It was settled through a negotiated settlement with the City and the four Residents' Associations. A Bloor St. avenue study is currently underway to address development along Bloor St. from Palmerston to Lansdowne.

PARA is assembling a team of community members to participate in any studies and to monitor College St.



What Has PARA Done So Far?

1. We have requested the Heritage Department of City Planning to assess the properties on the northeast corner of College St. and Palmerston Blvd., and the properties on the north side of College St. between Euclid Ave. and Manning Ave. for heritage designation.
2. We have requested an avenue study for College St., running west from Bathurst St. This has been passed at Community Council but awaits further approval.

developments. Let us know if you want to join or want any further information on any of the items mentioned in this article. **Email address:** info@palmerstonara.org. [PARA](#)

Westbank Parkette By Nick Forsyth

While the Mirvish Village Development is far from complete, it's worth paying attention now to the discussion about the proposed parkette that it will include. It was the focus of a small "Community Visioning" meeting held by City staff and Westbank architects at CSI Bathurst on July 9, 2018. Ideas for the parkette included that it must be an actual park,

however small, and that it not be subverted by the wide range of commercial ventures going on around it; that Westbank construct a dog park on one of its skyscraper roofs, a design trend at the moment and not as farfetched as it may sound (there will certainly be a small horde of canines added to the neighbourhood through this development and they could easily overtake

the parkette); and that it include a large, tasteful waterfall, muting the big-city bustle and creating a transitional space of calm and refreshment.

This was the gist of the preliminary discussion, and it remains to be seen what impact the voices of the neighbourhood will have. Hopefully further meetings will occur, and it may be up to you to develop an opinion about and to campaign for a parkette that enhances our neighbourhood. [PARA](#)



Mike Layton's Update: Our Opportunity to Reshape Local Democracy

Let me first take a moment to thank the residents of University-Rosedale who have put their trust and faith in me with their vote. Throughout the campaign it was a pleasure to meet old friends and new residents, to talk about the issues we

are facing in our ward and in the city that we are striving to create.

I heard some things repeatedly: residents in Ward 11 want to make sure there is more affordable housing, better transit, safer streets, and expanded green space in the

KATHERINE CHILDS (ABOVE); RACHEL MELZER (BELOW)



By Ken Balderson and Roy Sawyer.



- 1 Looking in from the **corner of Bathurst and Bloor Streets** you see that excavation for the new underground parking garage and foundations has started under the place where Honest Ed's Warehouse used to stand.
- 2 At the **southern end of the site along Lennox St.** is a crane and 3 shoring rigs. The shoring rigs auger down 4-5 stories before the holes are filled with concrete to form the outer retaining wall for the parking garage and foundations.
- 3 This **lone heritage house on Markham St.** currently sits in the middle of what will become the new park. In a few months it will be lifted off its foundation and moved south to join the other Markham St. heritage houses on a new foundation.

city. What I heard even more often was that we must do everything we can to stand up for the people of Toronto against Doug Ford's cuts and his approach to governing.

I promise to get to work on these issues right away. In the coming months we will need to focus on Toronto's new Inclusionary Zoning powers to ensure all new

development includes affordable housing. Early in the next term of City Council, the future of the Downtown Relief Line will be decided. Parks and Forestry are also developing a new plan that will look at where we need to improve recreation programs.

In the coming weeks I will begin a dialogue with residents about

the type of city they want to live in, and about how citizens can be more involved in shaping their communities and their city. If you have a concern or an idea for your neighbourhood, you can always reach me at: councillor_layton@toronto.ca.

*Yours in Community
Mike*

Mirvish Village: Keeping a Long-Term Viewpoint...

By Roy Sawyer

With all the crashing and banging and construction dust around Mirvish Village, it is very challenging for nearby neighbours to keep an upbeat perspective about what the development should bring to our neighbourhood.

Important commitments made by the developer Westbank and the City include:

- **Affordable Rental Housing:** Up to 180 units (20% of the project)—including family-sized units—priced as "deeply affordable," which means an additional 20% rent reduction from the normal "affordable" classification
- **Daycare:** Purpose-built building for 50 spots
- **Community Centre:** City-owned in one of the Bathurst St. heritage houses
- **Green Space:** A new City-designed park, renewal of the Markham streetscape and significant tree planting around the site

On the affordable housing portion, so far Councillors Layton and Cressy have secured funding for about half of the 180 designated affordable housing units.

We all know that Toronto's affordable housing crisis is getting worse, not better... and that it extends to our neighbourhood.

Failing to fully fund the affordable housing opportunity with the Mirvish development would be a disaster.

Between now and the opening of Mirvish Village we can all expect to hear much more on this as we seek to secure 100% of the funding needed. [PARA](#)

A Thank You to Marjorie Shu

By Mary McKee and Frumie Diamond, with Marjorie Shu and Mary Neumann

In the early morning glow, a graceful silhouette can be seen moving slowly in our local Healey Willan Park as Marjorie Shu meditates on her Tai Chi routine. Marjorie has been instrumental in maintaining and enhancing the park over the past 10 years. But now Marjorie has announced her retirement from park activities (although not from Tai Chi and mentoring future gardeners), and we want to thank her for her years of dedication to improving the neighbourhood.

Thanks to Marjorie's initiatives, the park is now home to 3 gardens. The large perennial garden on Ulster Street was started by Mary Neumann and Helen Jones in 1993. Both women lived across the road. They planted flats of annuals donated by the City of Toronto as well as a wide variety of perennials, including rare varieties of tulips and daffodils donated by Dugold Cameron. In 2008, Marjorie Shu purchased Mary's building and resumed care of the garden by donating and incorporating more plantings. The garden has been designed to have

colourful flowering plants and shrubs throughout all the growing seasons.

The garden surrounding the Healey Willan memorial was started, as Marjorie states, "to prevent dogs from soiling Healey Willan's memorial." This garden contains plants that have religious associations such as Ascension Lilies, which bloom in August to reflect the Assumption of Mary the Virgin.

The most northerly garden—with edibles such as garlic chives, currants, and strawberries—was funded by a generous donation from artist Susan Low-Ber.

Marjorie has maintained these gardens through the increasingly scorching, dry summer months. There is no water connection for a hose in the park—even after the wading pool was renovated several years ago—so Marjorie watered the large perennial garden every day using a long hose connected to her home. She watered the two smaller gardens by hand with two buckets.

This summer, Marjorie initiated the Monday Night Garden Work Parties for enthusiastic neighbourhood vol-



Marjorie is as well known for her gardening talents as she is for her signature hats!

unteers. Topics included: how to germinate seeds, proper use of garden tools, and pruning techniques.

Marjorie hopes the community will take up stewardship of the gardens, fostering connection between nature and the young families who frequent the park.

PARA invites those in the community who wish to continue Marjorie's legacy to contact us—this is our greenspace and we have to take care of it! [PARA](#)

Planet Palmerston By Kei Yano

Despite the rain, the Planet Palmerston Community Street Sale participants persevered with yard sales, bake sales, a BBQ and a raffle. Held on June 23, it was the 10th anniversary of this yearly fundraiser in support of Habitat for Humanity. Unfortunately, the rainy day put a damper on the festivities and there were fewer sales on the street than in past years. "It wasn't the easiest of years, nor the most successful, but it may have been

the most resilient and demanding, and we still made it through and managed to raise a little bit of money for Habitat (for Humanity) in the process," said Mackenzie Muldoon, the event's originator.

In the 10 years of holding this event, almost \$30,000 has been raised for Habitat for Humanity, and the organizing team is looking forward to better weather next year. [PARA](#)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Your PARA newsletter team is **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS!**

- * What would you like to see in the newsletter?
- * We need writers, photographers, articles, ideas. * Send us your input.
- * Or **COME JOIN THE TEAM.** * Contact **PARA** at info@palmerstonara.org

FERNANDA PISANI

The Sweet Anchor of Little Italy

By Fernanda Pisani

There are two enduring establishments in the PARA neighbourhood that serve as community hubs as well as sources of delicious food: the Riviera Bakery on College St. and the Harbord Bakery. The term, "If these walls could talk," certainly applies as these bakeries have witnessed and continue to see ongoing changes and events in the area.

We highlight the Riviera in this issue and look forward to profiling the Harbord Bakery in the Spring 2019 edition of the newsletter.

Christmas at the Riviera is a feast for the eyes as well as the appetite, with treats both sweet and savoury.

Founded by the late Rocco Reale in 1974, the Riviera has favoured us ever since with beautiful displays of marzipan fruits and vegetables in the bakery window. The almond-based marzipan delights are produced on site 2 to 3 weeks



in advance of the holiday season. The fruit and vegetable shapes are formed with traditional molds and painted with a glaze made from a German recipe, using a technique Rocco learned from Italian master bakers as a young man. In addition, the bakery lends a European sensibility to the holiday season with baked goods imported directly from Italy. And with the addition of goodies such as Torrone, Panettone, and English Christmas Pudding, the Riviera ensures you need not leave College Street to satisfy your holiday cravings.

Rocco immigrated from Italy in 1962 at the age of 16 and trained at the Vesuvio Bakery, now the Riviera, learning the craft of pastry chef as well as bread maker. He bought the business from the Vesuvio owners in 1974. Rocco's specialty goods such as Zep-pole di San Giuseppe, which are produced in March, have been featured in the *Toronto Star*, *Canadian Living* and *Toronto Life* magazines. His baking skills are well appreciated at Easter time as well, and the Easter procession attendees are sure to drop by the bakery to enjoy treats such as the ricotta and cooked wheat cake Pastiera Napoletana, Cannoli, and Capuccino.

As per many unions in the neighbourhood, Rocco met his wife Rosa on College St. (Her parents owned the Roma Meat Market, which was located east of the Café Diplomatico. They sold fresh meats and were among the first in the area to offer a variety of imported Italian goods.) Rocco and Rosa married in 1974, a landmark year for them as business owners and as a married couple. Sadly, Rocco passed away in March of 2018, and now the family—Rosa, son David and his wife Michelle, daughter Stephanie, and Rocco and Rosa's grandchildren—continue to build on the bakery's legacy.

In the 1970s Rocco and Rosa's well known generosity extended to taking in Vietnamese refugees who at the time were known as "Boat People." One of these was Hong (aka David), whom Rocco trained as a very young man to become a baker; Hong was able to make Toronto his home and to sponsor his family. He is now head baker and well known to Riviera customers.

Many people in the area treasure the Riviera Bakery, a great part of our neighbourhood, and continue to enjoy the friendly environment, the regular goodies, and the seasonal specials. [PARA](#)



David Reale (top) poses in front of the marzipan window display; Rocco, proud of the fruits of his labour (centre); Hong and Moshan in the kitchen (below).

FERNANDA PISANI

Green Committee Fall Event

By Rachel Melzer

Healey Willan Park, at the corner of Euclid Ave. and Ulster St., or "at 504 Euclid Avenue, by Ulster St.," is well known to anyone who is raising (or has raised) young children in our neighbourhood. Our park is equipped with a play structure, a sandbox, even a set of musical bells. Park benches and picnic tables have been cheerfully painted (and re-painted, over the years). In the summer the wading pool and the shade from numerous trees are extra draws. Neighbourhood volunteers tend a garden in a space along the south edge of the park and have even planted some raspberry canes for all to enjoy.

But one of the most notable features of our park is the abundance of toys. Individuals and families have donated shovels, buckets, and an armada of toy excavators and other trucks, which children put to use in the sand box. During its "dry season," the wading pool is full of tricycles and other small riding toys, and toddler-sized climbing and sliding equipment is set near the big play structure.

On Sunday, November 21st, the PARA Green Committee hosted a clean-up and stewardship afternoon at Healey Willan Park. Volunteers sorted through all the toys to get rid of any that were broken; raked the sandbox and searched out trash in the corners of the park; even swept the path and mulched some of the trees. It was a brisk but sunny day. Warm drinks, fruit and cookies were shared among the volunteers and other park-goers. There were even celebrity sightings, as Councillor Mike Layton took a break from door-knocking on the eve of the municipal election to lend a hand with raking and other park clean-up tasks. Also helping out was our MPP Jessica Bell with her family.

PARA hopes to host more



PARA neighbours, assisted by Mike Layton (left) happily participated in the Healey Willan Park clean-up.

events after the winter snows pass. Thank you to everyone who helped to clean up the park together on November 21st, and to all the other individuals whose acts of park stewardship make Healey Willan Park a special place in our neighbourhood. [PARA](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



Being Smart About Salt:

- The de-icing salts used on roads, sidewalks and other paved surfaces cause pollution in our waterways.
- Here in southern Ontario, partly due to use of these salts, chloride levels in streams are rising towards levels that are dangerous to fish and other freshwater creatures. These salts are also hard on our trees, lawns and gardens.

The Smart About Salt Council, a committee of the Ontario Good Roads Association, recommends these six actions:

- **Shovel sooner than later.** Clear the white stuff as soon as you can so a snowy sidewalk doesn't become an icy one. Instead of salt, let the sun do the melting for you.
 - **Use salt alternatives.** Use alternatives like sand or non-clumping kitty litter to create traction instead of salt.
 - **Use salt wisely.** Only use salt on icy areas and give it time to work. A little goes a long way, and salt doesn't work when it's colder than -10°C.
 - **Prevent ice.** Direct downspouts away from walkways or driveways and keep storm drains clear to avoid icy areas.
 - **Wear winter boots.** Wear a pair of winter boots with good tread to keep you safe and warm. We can't always expect bare pavement.
 - **Put snow tires on your car.** Consider switching your all-season tires for snow tires. You'll have better traction and two sets of tires that last twice as long.
- Rachel Melzer

RACHEL MELZER (ABOVE)



Reducing the number of Toronto wards changes everything.

More residents' associations and issues will compete for our councillor's attention. **PARA will ensure that our neighbourhood concerns are heard and respected.**

Our board and small group of volunteers cannot do this alone — we need you, too.

- Become a PARA member and make our voice stronger.
- Join the PARA board and share your problem-solving expertise as we advocate for appropriate development along both College and Bloor Streets.
- Commit to volunteering your talents for even just two hours as we work on initiatives such as the Laneway Naming Project, PARA Green Plan, Party in the Park 2019, and neighbourhood communications.

To express interest in a Board position, to make an offer of volunteer hours or to provide feedback, email us at: info@palmerstonara.org

I WANT TO SUPPORT MY NEIGHBOURHOOD AND JOIN PARA

- 2018/19 Membership NEW- welcome! RENEWAL- welcome back!

Name:

Address:

Email: Phone:

Your areas of concern (e.g., traffic, green plan, laneways, community events, development, etc.):

.....

- Membership:** Individual Voting Member \$25
 Supporting Member or Family \$40 = additional support for PARA initiatives
 Super Member \$50 = maximum support for PARA activities

Payment: 1. Paypal via palmerstonara.org/membership/

2. Cash or Cheque, made payable to PARA
 c/o Ingrid Nasager, PARA Membership Coordinator,
 146 Clinton St.
 Toronto ON M6G 2Y3



Find us on Facebook: [PalmerstonARA](https://www.facebook.com/PalmerstonARA)

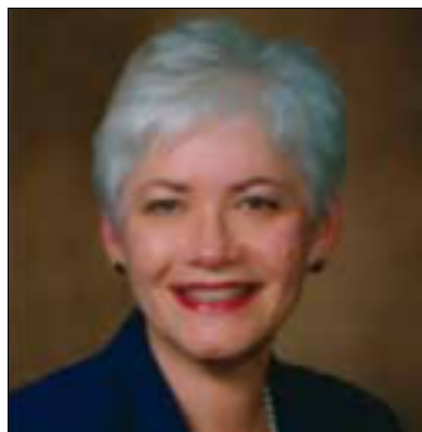
PARA Laneways: A Progress Report

We are pleased to provide you with the following update as of November 2018, on the laneway-naming initiative in our neighbourhood:

- Eight laneway-naming petitions are ready to be submitted to the Department of Engineering at the City of Toronto. These are: Joe Bertucci Lane, Wayne and Shuster Lane, Beatrice Minden Lane, Via Dei Giardini Lane, Huggins Family Lane, Morley Safer Lane, The Jewish Folk Choir Lane, and Alan Borovoy Lane.
- We will submit these petitions as a package for approval at Community Council in early 2019, in time for a Spring celebration to officially inaugurate our new laneway names.
- Thanks to the efforts of Eya Donald Greenland, lane 8 has been named after Dr. Lucie Tuch.
- We hope that you enjoy the current installment of the stories behind the lane names.

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	Lucie Tuch
Lane 9	Wayne and Shuster
Lane 10	Sam Richardson
Lane 11	Eliza Balmer

LANE 8



Lucie Tuch Lane

Lucie Helen Tuch first arrived at 458 Markham St. in 1962. At 22, she was one of only six female students in her year at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, out of a class of 128 students. She, her parents and her much younger sister, Alice, had moved to their new residence on Markham Street from their previous home on Phoebe Street in the Queen and Spadina area of Toronto.

From childhood, Lucie was a force to be reckoned with: vibrant, opinionated, proactive, engaging, big-hearted, with a huge sense of humour. She'd have been surprised to hear herself described as a feminist; despite her powerful drive to succeed, Lucie's heart was steeped in traditional values.

She would not have been surprised to hear herself described as an environmentalist, however. An early member of Pollution Probe, Lucie would leave an educational note on your windshield if she found your car idling at the curb. She collected egg cartons in the rear seat of her car for recycling, long before the City implemented its recycling program.

Graduating in Dentistry in 1965, Lucie worked at a number of clinics until she opened her own dental office at 458 Markham St. in 1977. In the ensuing 30 years, she became beloved by many neighbours who became patients, often curing their deep-seated fear of dentists. Those who moved away still returned to Dr. Tuch's dental chair for annual check-ups and a generous dose of her quirky humour, observations on life, and wisdom.

When her younger sister, Alice, graduated

LANE 4

Huggins Family Lane



Huggins Family outing: Adonis, Arleen, Alison and Adonica, (front row); and Wyvonie and John Huggins, (back row). Taken in June 1969 in front of the Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields at College & Bellevue, where the parents were married, all the children were baptized and confirmed, and John and Adonica (and her son Atiba) continue to worship.

The Huggins family, the first (and only) black family in the neighbourhood for many years, lived at 205 Clinton St. for more than half a century. John Huggins hailed from the island of St. Kitts, where he was a Police Officer. Posted to the neighbouring island of Antigua, he met

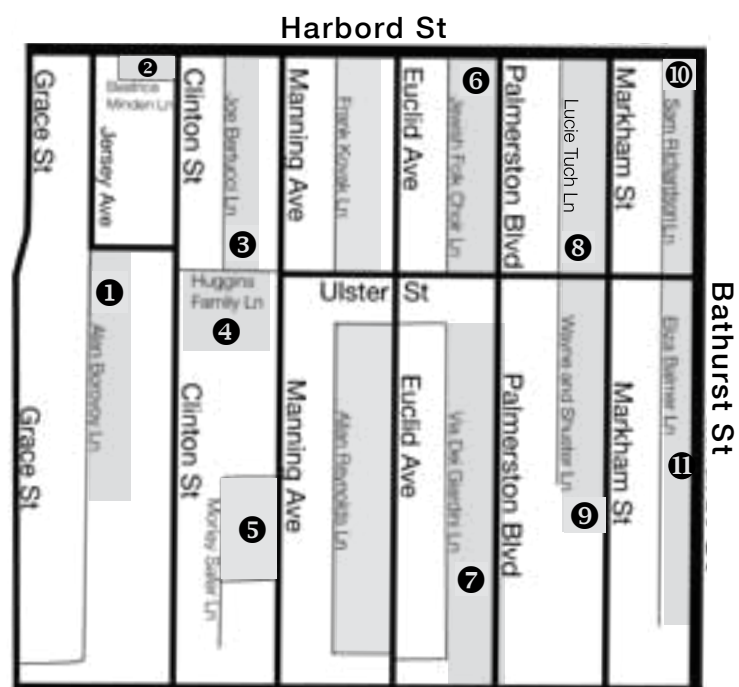
Wyvonie (known as Yvonne, who then left to study nursing in England). Seeking greater economic opportunity, they immigrated to Toronto and married here in 1957, and after several years as renters above a hardware store on Dundas near Spadina, they purchased their home on Clinton St. in 1966.

Like many racialized people at the time, John was prevented by racial discrimination from being hired as a Police Officer in Toronto, so (again like many of his fellow Caribbean Canadians) he ended up working as a porter on CN and then as a Service Manager on VIA Rail until his retirement. Wyvonie was a nurse working at different local hospitals part-time in the early years while the couple raised their four children—Adonica, Adonis, Arleen, and Alison—all of whom attended Clinton Street School (K-6), then King Edward (7 and 8). As one of the children put it in a recent interview, growing up black in an overwhelmingly white neighbourhood was not easy: "I have only positive memories of my classrooms (at Clinton Street School). It was in those public spaces like recess and going home for lunch and after school. Those were the times I was confronted with racism. It was hard. There was a lot of name calling on the schoolyard." Through it all, though, the Huggins children found the strength (stoutly supported by their parents) to build lifelong friendships with the neighbouring kids and make their mark on the community as adults—as filmmakers, lawyers, educators, and social activists.

Naming Laneway no. 4 the Huggins Family Lane honours this remarkable family and their contribution to the Palmerston area. Mrs. Huggins died November 26, 2015. She lived in the house on Clinton up to three months before her death, almost 50 years. — Robert Vipond

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!!!

We still need help in obtaining signatures for the last 2 lane naming petitions: lane 10, Sam Richardson Lane; and 11, Eliza Balmer Lane. If you can help, email us at: info@palmerstonara.org.



MAP: KATHERINE CHILDS

COURTESY OF THE TUCH FAMILY

Lucie Tuch Lane cont 'd

in Dentistry and joined the dental office, she provided Lucie with another great passion: two young nieces, Kaitlin and Hayley. Aunt Lucie devoted Mondays to her nieces, augmenting their education, teaching them life skills and nurturing their interests. She set high standards and demanded top results. Married later in life, Lucie had no children of her own, but she had embraced aunthood so fully, the girls accepted her as their second, much stricter, mother.

Lucie had a strongly philanthropic bent; many charities and hospitals benefited from her generosity. She personally funded a new combined digital panoramic cone beam unit for the dentistry department at Princess Margaret Hospital, in thanks for the care she had received while being treated for the breast cancer that claimed her life in 2007.

It seems particularly fitting that Lucie Tuch Lane, which runs between Markham and Palmerston, from Harbord to Ulster, continues south to College Street as Wayne and Shuster Lane. Johnny Wayne and Frank Shus-

ter, Canada's beloved comedians, also attended Lucie's alma mater, Harbord Collegiate. Anyone who ever sat in Dr. Lucie Tuch's dental chair would tell you that Lucie's humour was on a par with Wayne and Shuster's, even though it was generally followed by an admonition to floss regularly, not leave your car idling, and to be sure to recycle your egg cartons.

The family and friends of Dr. Lucie Tuch are deeply grateful for the many neighbours and members of PARA who supported naming this lane in honour of a truly trailblazing woman. — Eya Donald Greenland

Acorn Growers

By Frumie Diamond

Acorns, acorns everywhere...

Something amazing is happening at 337 Palmerston Blvd. on this beautiful October day. In a newly constructed 4-metre by 4-metre raised planting bed, several people are bent over, hard at work sowing seeds. Pedestrians and cyclists stop by to see what is going on.

This is Eric Davies' project and he and several volunteers are planting about 1,500 acorns that he has collected from old growth Red Oak trees in the Toronto area. Early next spring we should be seeing hundreds of red oak seedlings popping out of the soil. Eric's goal is to give away as many seedlings to good homes as is possible. A very large log adorns the front lawn and demonstrates how large a diameter the mighty oak can achieve.

Eric is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Forestry at Uof T. He is passionate about promoting the importance of biodiversity, especially in urban settings. His previous research in our neighbourhood demonstrates that native trees and shrubs support far more invertebrates than non-native species. This is crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem and it provides sustenance for our



Successful urban forestry in effect on Palmerston Blvd.

migrating song birds (who are in serious decline) during spring and fall migration.

Red Oak trees were common in the original forest in our area, but non-native trees now predominate. Eric is trying to reverse this trend, and although this is just one small project, he is hoping to encourage neighbourhoods across Toronto to take up the challenge: plant native trees and ensure biodiversity for a healthy environment. Be on the lookout next spring for baby oak trees. [PARA](#)

Party in the Park

By Ingrid Nasager

The annual Party in the Park (Healey Willan Park) was held this year on June 10th. Organizer Patricia Pyrka and a handful of volunteers struggled against a brisk wind to keep the decorations contained, and the weather cooperated overall to give us a perfect June day. PARA sponsored the musical group The Blue Yonders, whose swinging music attracted families as the afternoon wore on.

A small but busy bake-sale table provided treats, while a few daring kids ventured into the splash pad, only to be distracted by the arrival of a Toronto Police Services officer mounted on the always-popular horse.

Hosting a membership table at the park entrance, *continued on page 12*



KATHERINE CHILDS (ABOVE); INGRID NASAGER (BELOW)

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), Elizabeth Cowling (secretary), Joan Reynolds (treasurer), Frumie Diamond, Ingrid Nasager (membership), Nick Forsyth, Mary McKee, Kei Yano •
- **Mirvish Village Task Group (for PARA):** Paul MacLean, Donna McFarlane, Leo Panitch, Roy Sawyer • **MVTG web manager:** Donna McFarlane •
- **Lane Naming:** Mary McKee, Katherine Childs, Jorge Assuncao, Robert Vipond, Fernanda Pisani, Jennifer Deyell •
- **Communications & Facebook:** Mary McKee, James Choy • **Website Coordinator:** Nick Forsyth, Mary McKee •
- **Greening:** Frumie Diamond (chair), Kei Yano, Nick Forsyth, Scott MacRitchie, Becky Armstrong, Rachel Melzer, Marisa Burton, Mark Shyzer •
- **Newsletter:** Frumie Diamond (editor), Fernanda Pisani (creative director), Nick Forsyth, Katherine Childs (photography), James Choy, Kei Yano, Tom Churchill (copy editor) • **Central Tech Field Liaison:** Nick Forsyth • **Planet Palmerston:** Kei Yano • **Party in the Park:** Suzanne Kleiman, Patricia Pyrka •
- 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 • Facebook www.facebook.com/PalmerstonARA/ • Mirvish Village Task Group: www.mirvishvillagetg.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 By Nick Forsyth

Gus the Other Barber

moved to a newly renovated place at 701 Bloor St. West, east of Christie. Gus himself has long since retired, but the small barber shop he ran has been a generations-long neighbourhood linchpin.



Wonder Pens

Wonder Pens (52 Clinton St.) has taken up the quirky little box of a building between French/Korean resto Doma and the Greek Orthodox Church. They deal in writing essentials: pens, pencils, and paper. Fountain pens, styluses and markers, leatherbound notebooks, and handmade stationary are carefully curated. They even offer classes in calligraphy!

Print Pop (637 Bloor St.) is a simple print shop on the corner of Bloor and Euclid. It's nice to see useful and functional businesses moving in; hopefully their wide variety of printing equipment finds a purpose here, be it signs, stickers, decals, or homework.

The airily modern Vietnamese cafe **Rustle and**



Rustle and Still

Still (605 Bloor St.) hangs a half-story above Bloor Street near Palmerston; thick fronds of potted plants enhance the ambience of pale wood and soft lighting. Serving classic Vietnamese style coffee and a wide variety of Asian-inspired beverages, with banh mi and pastries to eat, it is quiet, calm and cheerful. It also provides a welcome community space, as is evident in the way it has caught on with a wide swath of the younger

generations in the neighbourhood. It is a treasure. Taiwanese restaurant **Yi Fang Taiwan Fruit Tea** (615 Bloor St.) takes over the corner space last occupied by a Taiwanese noodle shop, and almost across the street is the bright orange **Coco Fresh Tea and Juice** (630 Bloor St.), which looks small but is in fact a gigantic player on the world stage, with 2000 locations amassed over the past 20 years. Both are cleverly designed, attrac-

tive rooms. Will they coexist peacefully... or compete till one surrenders?

The menu at **Do Eat Chinese Dumpling House** (623 Bloor St.) has been revamped, but (thankfully) certain dumpling recipes and methods have been kept.

Salumi Bar (593 College St.) has slapped a fresh coat of paint on an already beautiful entranceway. Salumi serves up serious Italian cheeses and charcuterie, paired with small dishes of pasta and salad suited to social, engaging eating.

The **Peacock Public House** (582 College St.) is a gastropub taking over what you may still remember as the old Bar Italia. Owned by the Queen and Beaver folks, it is now a large, stylish, high-quality bar and restaurant, comfortable and inviting. [PARA](#)

Think IT

A young Italian couple, **Marzia Giancarli and Enrico Marinella**, are bringing a bit more Italian culture into our neighbourhood with the cuisine at **Think IT (Italian)**, their new café at 196 Borden Street (at Harbord). The menu includes Spinaccino (a vegetarian sandwich), coffee made with Trucillo beans from Italy, baked-on-premises treats like cornetti (little horn pastries filled with apricot jam) and an Italian version of the French croissant (with less butter), gelatos, delicious panini, soups, salads and house pizza. With their newly acquired liquor license, they plan to serve Italian wines and beers with Italian tapas. Their motto is "Eat Italian, Drink Italian & Think Italian." A definite place to check out... — James Choy



NICK FORSYTH (ABOVE); JAMES CHOY (LOWER RIGHT)

Party in Park

cont 'd from page 10

PARA board members welcomed several familiar faces as they renewed memberships, and encouraged a few new neighbours to join the organization.

This is a popular annual event in our neighbourhood, and a small group of volunteers make it hap-

pen every year. A special thank you to everyone who made this event a success, including coordinator Sue Kleiman, organizer Patricia Pyrka and the volunteers who set up and tidied the site.

We are actively seeking volunteers to assist with the preparations for Party in the Park 2019, and hope to have a small army ready in the new year! If you have enjoyed

attending Party in the Park, have children who play in Healey Willan year round, or just appreciate the community spirit of the event, please step forward and lend a hand so that we can continue to mount this event. A larger group of volunteers would make short work of planning and organizing. **Please contact: info@palmerstonara.org** so that we can follow up with you in late January. **PARA**

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