

## **This Week in the Annex:**

**February 23, 2022**

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### **Is Our Man Trackman?**

Last week we reported an unfortunate attack on the roseway honouring Jane Jacobs in St. Alban's Square. At the time, some thought this may have been a singular incident motivated by malicious taunting. Alas, there's a chance that the situation could be more complex.



*Stumps of damaged trees in the strip of property between the CP tracks and Macpherson Avenue.*

### **Be Alert**

We were tipped off that shrubbery in the enclave known as the Republic of Rathnelly (RARA) was similarly beset last Spring. A man Rathnellians came to know as "Trackman" was seen at least four times hacking away at the bushes and trees that residents had planted on a small strip of land next to the rail tracks. When challenged, he was extremely verbally abusive, especially to women.

While neither the Toronto police nor CP Rail were quick to respond when alerted, "Trackman" was ultimately arrested and incarcerated. That said, he was recently released from jail. A Rathnellian reported seeing him tying a discarded Christmas tree to the skeleton of one he had previously hacked – perhaps a strange attempt to atone for the damage inflicted?



*A notice posted last April by "Trackman" protesting the lack of safe fencing along the CP track.*

### Caution Advised

Our Rathnelly source tells us that "Trackman" is highly familiar with the Annex. Apparently two RARA residents tailed him after one incident to learn where he lived. It was clear to the trackers that he knew the area well as he tried to evade them, running down laneways and back alleys: they ultimately lost his trail at Seaton Walk Parkette behind the Bathurst subway station.

If, indeed, the roseway culprit is one and the same individual, we know he was arrested and may well be back in jail. Nevertheless, residents are advised to steer clear if they see him to avoid triggering an eruption. And if he IS seen hacking at bushes, don't approach him: just call 911 immediately.



If you've ever called 9-1-1 you know it isn't a matter of a brief chat and then hanging up. The operator will keep you on the phone and ask detailed questions

about your location and the situation. To learn more about how a 9-1-1 call works, check the Toronto Police Services website [by clicking here](#).

## Sibelius Rink Stars in *Toronto Life*!

We were chuffed to see the full-page photo of our Annexonian kids out on the Sibelius skating rink in the latest issue of *Toronto Life*. On the other hand, we were totally dismayed by the cut line regarding the reaction to last month's snow-mageddon:

*... some Torontonians ventured out, whether by bold choice or brutal necessity, digging their way out of thigh-high drifts and turning parks, like Jean Sibelius in the Annex, into impromptu rinks. (March 2022, p.21)*

### A Community Effort

Nothing "impromptu" about it, cry we! That gorgeous rink – such a popular community resource – is the product of many days of planning and countless volunteer hours of flooding and clearing and grooming.

What was impromptu was the unscripted wave of neighbours who emerged spontaneously from their homes after the snow had ended, wielding their shovels to clear the rink in record time so that everyone could get back on the ice. A clarification is due – and we've written *Toronto Life* to say so.



This year, the team has even created a circular ante-rink, so to speak, where skaters can don their gear in comfort and little ones can try their blades in safety before venturing onto the main field of ice.

## Notes and Queries

**145 St George**

We know that behind the scenes the City's Planning Department is working on its response to the developer's proposed demolition of 145 St George. In the meantime, the beleaguered tenants are keeping up their fight for fair treatment. They even have a website you can check out by [clicking here](#).



ARA Board member Lynne di Stefano took this image of the striking detail on 145 St George. It's a fine example of mid-century-modern design.

### Thursday April 21, 2022

It's not too soon to access your calendars and mark the date for our ARA Annual General Meeting: **Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>**. It will once again be conducted from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Zoom with registration open early in April. We'll let you know the minute we get the details.



Plus ça change. . .

Just as the Freed project on the east side of Davenport is moving towards completion, the site of the vertical jungle down the road has emerged from its slumber. Eyes on the street, Henry Wiercinski, snapped this image of the wreckers at work demolishing the red-brick building that once housed *Just Desserts*. Prepare for hordes of trucks hauling away the tonnes of earth that must be removed before work on the foundation can begin.



### Spadina Underpass Nearing Completion

The Spadina Road Bridge under the CP rail tracks at Dupont has been undergoing rehabilitation since last July. An [updated notice](#) issued on October 18 forecast an end to construction this coming April. We were sceptical (even the notice cast doubts, saying from the top *\*Timeline is subject to change*). But surely the sight of workers installing fancy new railings along the pedestrian walkway allows us to dream that this project is truly near an end?



### All in the Family

Admiral Road residents are lucky to boast Ted Humphreys as a neighbour. He tends many of their lawns and gardens in the summer and clears their walks and driveways of snow in the winter. And he always seems to do that little bit extra for the 'hood. This Family Day he sent us a snap of his driver's-eye-view as he drove his tractor clearing the walks in and around Taddle Creek Park. Not only that, he also cleared out the nearby catch basins to drain the lakes that had flooded the roads. Many thanks, Ted!





The Annex Residents' Association is a volunteer organization of residents committed to improving and preserving the distinctive character of our neighbourhood. Our strength depends on our base of support in a well-informed community.

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The Annex Residents' Association