



This Week in the Annex:

June 22, 2022

Barreling Towards City Approval

Three significant Annex district projects will come before TEYCC (Toronto East York Community Council) next week. Developers are clearly hoping to speed these applications through to Toronto City Council (the final forum for seeking municipal approval) before it breaks for summer recess in mid-July.

The ARA's Planning and Development Committee has been working diligently on each of these files. They are urging residents to be involved, read the proposals, and express their views in writing to TEYCC.

Clicking on each of the following addresses leads to a brief description of the project together with a link to information about how you can participate. The deliberations will be conducted over two days: June 29th and 30th.

[110-116 Avenue Road](#)

[661 and 663-665 Huron Street](#)

[334-350 Bloor Street West and 2-6 Spadina Road](#)

Also being considered are two projects that, although they are outside the Annex boundaries, will have major impact on our neighbourhood. The reach of the proposed University of Toronto Secondary Plan and the proposal for developing 95 St Joseph Street both merit concern and commentary.

[UofT Secondary Plan](#)

[95 St Joseph Street](#)



What a Party!

Last Saturday the stars were in alignment, the weather cooperated beautifully, and the community came out in droves to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Wiener's Hardware.

We may as well tackle it straight from the get go: Wiener's is properly pronounced "wīner" (as in the alcoholic liquid), not "weener" (as in the edible solid). But if those mnemonics don't help, not to worry. The staff are always happy to serve you no matter what you call the store.



Photo Courtesy Wiener's Home Hardware and [The Annex Gleaner](#)

Wiener's Hardware was opened in 1922 by Ida and Hyman Wiener who lived in the back two rooms of the building before the business expanded. You can just spot Ida in this family photo from 1923: She's presiding over the merchandise from the rear, posed behind the counter with her oldest boy, Murray, standing in front.

A black and white photograph of a young man standing with his arms crossed next to a vintage car. The car has "HARDWARE & HEATING" and "N 7043" written on its side. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark trousers. The background shows a brick building with windows. The year "1944" is handwritten in the bottom right corner.

Photo Courtesy the Wiener Family

Pictured above is Hyman and Ida's son, Gerry Weiner, the second generation of the family to run the business at 432 Bloor West. More senior readers of this newsletter will note with nostalgia the phone number on the car which begins with an alphabetical exchange: KI for Kingsdale. In 1954 KI merged with WA -- Walnut -- the defining telephone exchange of the Annex back in the day.

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This screenshot of Might's City Directory from 1940 confirms that for a time there were competing Wiener visions of the enterprise with a second business at 390 Bloor closer to Yonge.



Photo Courtesy Neiland Brissenden Bloor Annex BIA

It's all in the family. Marty Wiener (the third generation owner of the store) stands proudly with his three children: Melanie (centre) who is assuming ownership, and her siblings, Gillian and Adam. Marty spent more than five decades at Wiener's starting when he was a boy of thirteen working part time on weekends. He figured the 100th anniversary celebration was the perfect day to choose for his retirement. Big thanks are due to Wiener's for providing cake for the crowd.



Photo courtesy Micky Fraterman ARA

Wiener's current staff take a break at the Victory Café. From left to right seated are Gary, Aidan & Mark. Standing behind from left to right are Aaron, Tony, Marty, Melanie, Howard & Murray. Howard was emcee for the event and one of the chief planners. The empty plates? They're courtesy of the [Victory Café](#) which provided pizza slices gratis to everyone who attended the celebration. Thank you, Victory! The pizza was delicious.



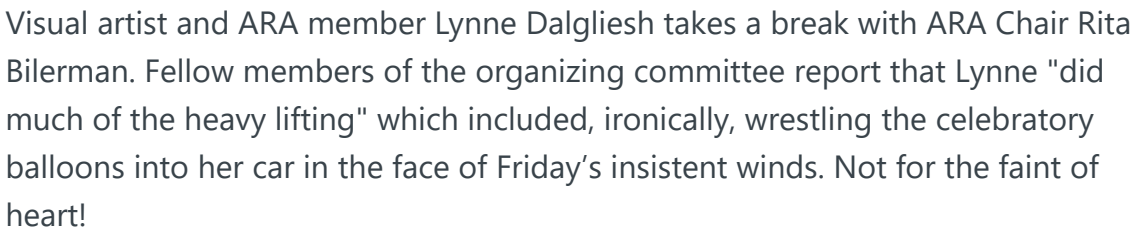
Photo Courtesy Neiland Brissenden Bloor Annex BIA

Four generations of the Wiener clan gathered for a family photo-op. In the centre front is 92-year-old matriarch Dorothy, wife of Ida and Hyman's son, Gerry. As a young bride (she and Gerry married in 1949), Dorothy would come down on Friday nights to bring him his dinner and keep him company until store closing at nine.



Photo Courtesy Neiland Brissenden Bloor Annex BIA

Councillor Mike Layton was on hand to present Marty with a testimonial acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the store. Visible in the background is Brian Burchell of the Bloor Street BIA who worked behind the scenes to secure the official approval, permits, and signs as well as to ensure the City's participation in the event.

[illegible]

https://annex.nationbuilder.com/admin/broadcasters/1/mailings/77/html_preview



The James Ervin Trio kept the crowd humming for much of the afternoon. Thanks to Anne Fleming and Rory 'Gus' Sinclair of the Harbord Village RA for organizing their appearance.

Adam Seelig and Brunswick's very own *Horn on the Cob* are pictured below setting up at noon to play the "Happy Birthday" honours. Afterwards they treated us to a lengthy set that included tunes aptly selected for a hardware store celebration.



You can catch a bit of the concert [by clicking here](#) and listening in on "Super Freak," by Rick James, the source for MC Hammer's hook in *Can't Touch This*. (Hammer . . . get it?)



Balloon Maker Jung kept the kids happy with fanciful creations. You can see him at work [by clicking here](#) – but you'll have to rotate your screen 90 degrees if you want to watch him fashion a monkey climbing a palm tree. (We confess to not being the greatest of videographers.)

Overall it was a wonderful celebration. A hearty shout out is due to all who worked so hard to make the day possible – including the Wiener's clan who have held that spot for 100 years. Just another indication of why the Annex is such a splendid place to live.

Notes and Queries

Safe TTC

With the increase of concerning incidents occurring on the TTC properties & in trains, streetcars & busses, 53 Division is strongly recommending that TTC customers download and use the **SafeTTC** app on their mobile phones. The app offers a quick and discreet method for reporting harassment, safety concerns, or suspicious activity directly to the TTC's Transit Control Centre.

From the app home screen, customers have two easy options for contacting Transit Control:

1. **The “Report a Problem” button allows users to send text and photos or videos directly to Transit Control. When reporting an issue, customers can select from easy drop-down menus for vehicle type (bus, streetcar or subway), route numbers, and station locations, and report categories to assist Transit Control in assessing the situation.**
2. *** The “Call Police” button will connect customers directly to 9-1-1 dispatch and should only be used when emergency police, fire or medical assistance is required.**

Fingers crossed that you won't ever find yourself using the app, but it's good to be prepared just in case.



A Remarkable Tribute

It took less than 12 hours to raise the necessary funds last week to pay for the commemorative plaque to be installed in Edward Leman's honour in Taddle Creek Park. If you missed that moment but would like to have your name included on the scroll that we will be presenting to Edward's widow, Dilys, then do still consider making a donation. In this case your funds will go to support the ongoing tree survey for which Edward was a strong advocate.

To make a contribution, simply go to our website (www.theara.org) and click on the big blue **Donate** button at the top left corner of the banner. If you want to include a message, you can send it to info@theara.org.

Value of Trees

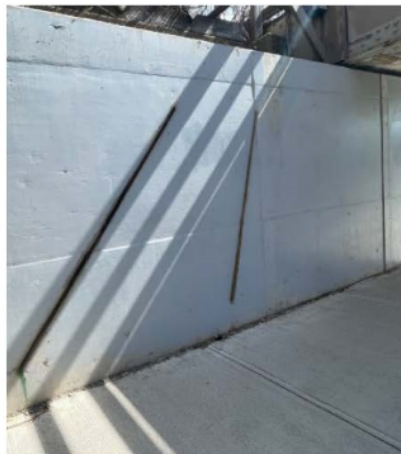


Marking the Solstice

Turns out that the solar recorders under the bridge at Spadina and Dupont are all three set to work their magic not at dawn but at 12:00 noon standard time. We duly went out to check the action yesterday. And -- yes -- there is a visible alignment. The image below compares the shift in the sun's rays between the Equinox on March 21 and yesterday's solstice.



June 21, 2022



March 21, 2022

What's On This Weekend

It's a hop, skip, and a jump away from the Annex, but we know that many Annexionians patronize and treasure the **Karma Co-Op** at 739 Palmerston. So we'd be remiss if we didn't mention that the Co-Op is celebrating its **50th anniversary** this **Saturday June 25** from 2 to 6 pm. See [their website](#) for details.

We end with a brief reminder that everyone is invited to gather at Jean Sibelius Square at 3:00 pm this coming **Sunday June 26** for the annual **mulberry**

picking. Details are available on the [Events page](#) of our ARA website.



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