

This Week in the Annex:

June 22, 2022

Purple Stain, Not Rain

It was by all accounts a beautiful day when more than 80 folk appeared last Sunday in Jean Sibelius Park to take part in the Annex Mulberry Picking Festival. The crowd ran the gamut from long-standing Annexonians to newbies, including a woman just recently arrived from Ukraine to join her daughter in Canada.

Six ARA Board Members turned out to help host the festival. Pictured below are Charlotte Mickie, Micky Fraterman, Terri Chu, and indefatigable ARA Chair, Rita Bilerman. Camera shy: Blake Connoy and Simon Freedman.



Photo courtesy Rachel Lissner

There were ten trees on private property whose owners had generously registered for the harvest. Trees that benefitted from unrestrained sun produced enough berries for everyone to take home a bucket. Others had just had enough for kids to smear their faces.



Photo courtesy Stephanie P.

Young and old wielded sticks and deployed blankets to coax the fruit from the trees. Above is pictured one of the four trees assigned to groups of children.



Photo courtesy Charlotte Mickie

And while some trees yielded more fruit than others, as you can see from this little one's mulberry-stained face, the children had enormous fun learning about

the bounty of our urban forest.

The adults, too, had a learning experience of their own when they were privileged to tour some of the Annex trees with U of T Professor of Forestry, [Sandy Smith](#) standing at the centre of the circle, below.



Photo courtesy Micky Fraterman



Photo courtesy Charlotte Mickie

The festival's intrepid organizer, Terri Chu, stands on the left, above, with Rachel Lissner from [NFFTT](#) (Not Far From the Tree).

Rachel wanted us to let you know that if you had fun picking mulberries and want to pick more fruit in Toronto, you should sign up as a member of NFFTT. Each year the group picks thousands of pounds of fruit in people's yards and donates it to social agencies and food banks.

And not to worry – volunteers always get to go home with fresh fruit to enjoy themselves! You can register as a fruit picker or fruit tree owner by [clicking on this direct link](#).

Terri promises we'll do this again next year for sure. Perhaps then we'll get even more harvesters in on the action.

A Call for Opinions

At last April's AGM, Ron Soskolne of our Planning and Development (P+D) committee reported on the progress made to date by a team of five volunteer architects and planners who live in the Annex. They have spent the last two years

working to develop a set of principles and guidelines to describe what they believe would be sustainable development in our patch of Toronto.

But now the team is seeking community input: **Have they got the draft principles right? And if so, where, specifically, should growth be focused within our borders? On which streets? And by how much? Are there some areas that should stay essentially the same? Are there sectors that are ripe for development and significant change?**

Seeking wide representation

The team can't refine their guidelines without strong community input. And that's where you come in.

The objective is to include a wide range of individuals, one that reflects the full diversity of our Annex population. That means tenants and homeowners, established and new, who together comprise the gamut of backgrounds and ethnicities, cultures, ages, and incomes.

Dividing the work

The P+D team plans to hold a series of workshops in the Fall to review and refine the work done thus far, and to determine how the overall principles and guidelines should be applied within smaller sub-areas of the Annex: the four individual quadrants drawn on the following map.



If you are interested in supporting their efforts by participating in these workshops, they'd love to have you join. Your contribution will help ensure that

the work takes the right direction and reflects the community as a whole.

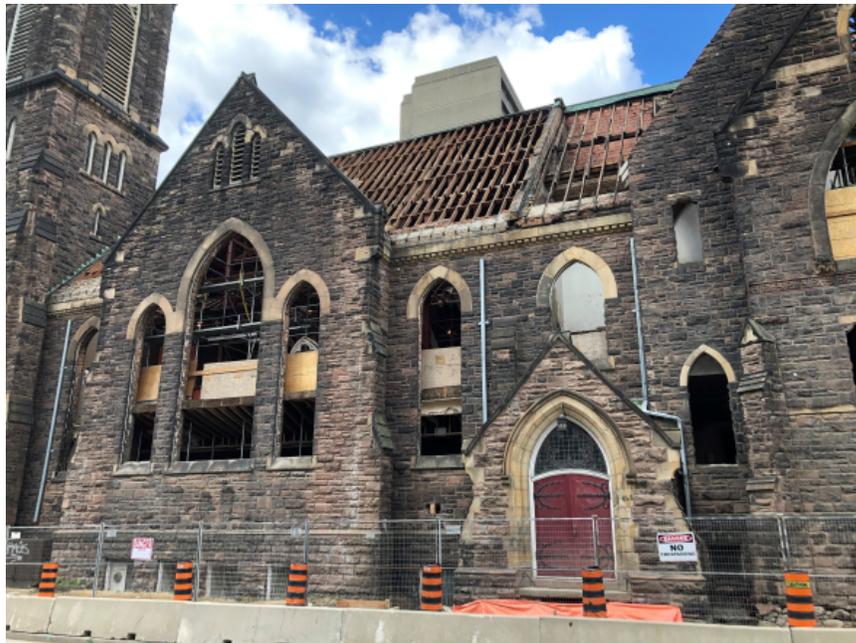
For more information, please contact info@theara.org with the subject line "Planning Principles." Be sure to indicate which quadrant you live in. The P+D team looks forward to hearing from you.

Notes and Queries

Facelift at 310 Bloor

The project has been many years in the making and represents hours of consultation on the part of the community and P+D committee members. But now *Cielo* is fully underway. Ironically the project begins with a demolition of sorts – one that's necessary to effect the restoration of the historic façade, roof, and windows of Bloor Street United Church.

Thanks to all those readers who submitted photos of the work in progress. But just to calm the fears of those not in the know, the church will by no means disappear. The following images compare its current state to that intended once the entire development is complete.



Painstaking restoration in progress.



The developer's model of the final conception for the benefit of would-be-buyers (photographed through the window of the Cielo showroom on Avenue Road).

Trying to Get it Right – Again!

We leave it to last week's official TTC notice to confirm the bad news:

The Dupont Station street-level elevator will be out of service until October 2022 (date TBD) for construction activities. A closure of the Dupont Station street-level elevator is required in order to replace glazing panels and address other deficiencies. Once work details are finalized, the schedule will be confirmed. TTC is working closely with the contractor to determine an exact date.

The contractor is required to provide a schedule and address these items:

- 1. Address deficiencies related to the glass dome*
- 2. Remove and reinstall the glass and structural elements/pressure plates*

The notice then helpfully goes on to [list accessible alternatives](#).

That's such a charming elevator. Wish that it worked like a charm!



We were so excited in August 2020 to see the new elevator unwrapped and the glass panels installed. But now it appears that the four + workers on site that day weren't enough to get it right. Heavy sigh.

ROM Walks Tour the West Annex

This coming **Sunday, July 3**, ROM Walks will invade the West Annex. Ticket holders are asked to meet at the north-east corner of Bloor and Walmer (right by Shoppers Drug Mart) for a 2:00 pm sharp start. You're invited to "learn about the people and places including churches, schools, a historic pub, and a fire station - all spiced up with an occasional murder." If this description intrigues you but you can't make it this particular Sunday, the tour will be reprised twice: on **August 14** and then again **September 25**. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)



We're not quite sure why ROM decided to advertise the Annex walk with a dated photo of Trinity St Paul's on the south side of Bloor. But let's take it as permission granted to claim both sides of the street for our own.

By Your Leave?

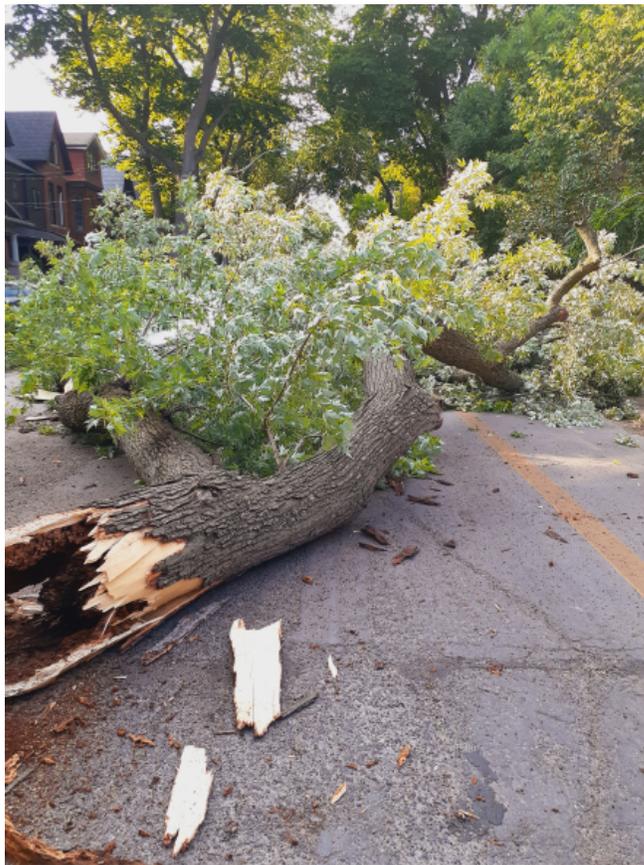
Oh my. He (she? – we didn't get close enough to check) has clearly settled in to the turf around Admiral Road. In fact there have been so many sightings we should think about giving this coyote a name.

Adam Feldmann snapped the following image early last Wednesday evening. He observed the coyote trot confidently by several completely oblivious residents who were themselves out for a pre-prandial stroll. Owners of snack size pets beware.



On the Case

There was an unexpected flurry of disorder in the 'hood last Sunday evening. First, a silver maple collapsed on Brunswick, damaging two parked cars but luckily nothing else. Hydro workers immediately descended to check the anchor points of the overhead wires that were bowed from the collapse but intact. Then almost simultaneously a small fire erupted in a third-floor apartment up the road on Huron. Absent the landlord, firefighters had to blow torch their way in through a basement window to reach the electrical panel. It's comforting to know that City services are on call 24/7.



Micky Fraterman (author of the photo) reports that the Brunswick tree was the victim of carpenter ants who compromised the entire massive trunk from inside.



In the end all was well on Huron, though the landlord now has more to repair than the damage from the initial fire. Hard to feel sorry for them, though, if they left no emergency contact information. Owners take note.



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