



This Week in the Annex:

September 21, 2022

Cornfest Digest

Several hundred Annex residents headed to Jean Sibelius Park last Sunday to celebrate the return of our annual ARA Cornfest. We don't have an accurate count of participants – folks came and went throughout the two hours of neighbourhood conviviality – but we do know that 300 cobs of buttery corn had been devoured together with several baskets of apples, cookies, and scones by the time the band stopped playing at 5:00 pm. So that alone tells you the day was a success despite the inclement weather.

If you didn't manage to participate, not to worry. We'll be back next year. And now – a picture gallery to tell the tale of how the day unfolded.

Preparations Begin

First and foremost – 5 weighty bags of corn delivered from Son in Law Produce needed to be shucked before they could be boiled. Our volunteers made light work of the task this year, finishing in record time despite the swarms of wasps attracted by the sugary harvest. Maybe next year we bring smoke bombs?



Board members Sandra Shaul, Rita Bilerman, and Henry Wiercinski (hidden in the background) led the corn shucking operation, backed by a welcome team of volunteers from Walmer Road Baptist Church.



ARA Membership Secretary, Tija Dirks, helped fellow Board members choose their Ts before the fest got underway. First in line, Charlotte Mickie, after having braved the wasps in the corn shucking.

Despite the Weather!

Our band was aptly named. But the rain didn't prevent John Ashkenas and his *Whether Permitting Bluegrass Conglomeration* from playing, first from the shelter of their tent and then out in the open encircled by a toe-tapping crowd.

Their soundtrack livened the fest for two unbroken hours: We couldn't persuade them to stop – even for just a quick taste of corn – until the very end. Grateful thanks are due. Their music made our day.



Catch the group here [singing in the rain](#) and then again as they [emerged from shelter](#).

Serving the Crowd



Jim Jacobs has a lengthy and revered association with the ARA, master of our history and keeper of the constitution. These are important roles, to be sure. But what would we do without him at Cornfest, overseeing the propane tanks, boiling the corn to perfection, and ensuring the event lives up to its name?



The line ups were steady as residents cued for a taste of Autumn. Micky Fraterman gamely doled out the cobs for the full two hours, Terri Chu and daughter presided over the beverages and cookies that had been home baked

by Rita Bilerman, ARA Chair and organizer-in-chief of this year's fest. [Catch the action here](#) as the sun came out and the line up grew.



The Martin boys tackled their apples and corn with gusto.



Board member Blake Connoy and his son stopped for a bite before heading back to help wrangle the Cornfest infrastructure.



Newly minted Annexonians Sarah and Victor enjoyed their first taste of ARA hospitality. And they were just two of scores of residents who flocked to the park as the skies cleared. If you were there too, perhaps you'll catch yourself [in this video](#).

Business Steps Up

Annex businesses also stepped up to support the event. Besides the selection of scones provided by [Cobb's Bakery](#) on Bloor, participants enjoyed coffee drawn from a full "traveller" urn of the brew donated by [Starbucks](#). And Libbie and Aura from [Karma co-op](#) (on Palmerston, just a smidgen beyond our borders) added to the seasonal theme by offering basketsful of farm fresh apples.



All for the Cause

Our membership secretary, Tija Dirks, corralled her husband Jeroen into helping man the membership booth and operate our digital cash register. Once the rain stopped there were brisk sales of memberships and the newly minted Annex T-shirts. Watch for them in the 'hood. And if you haven't bought yours yet, they're readily available by going online. Just [click here](#) and follow the directions.

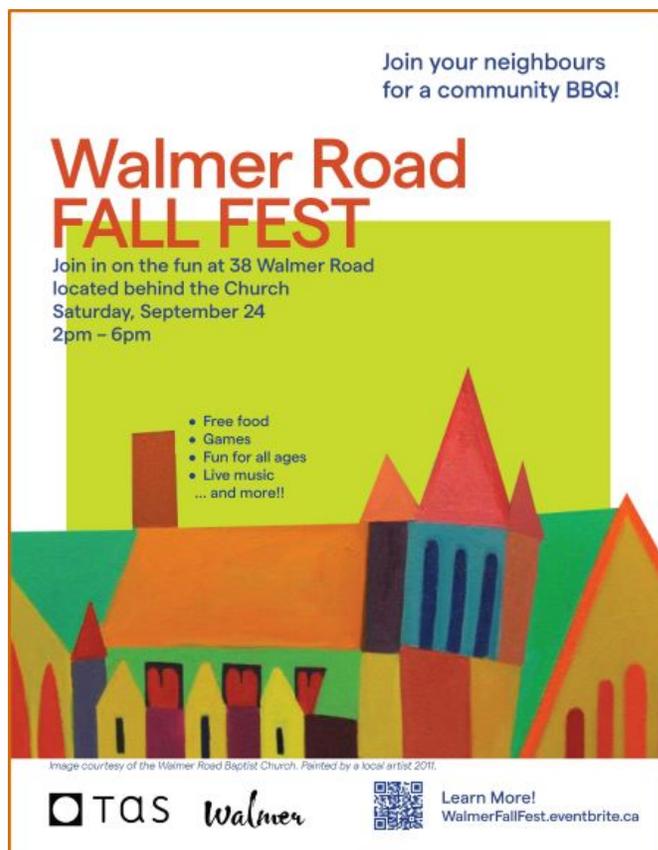


Tija and Jeroen take a break from sales.

Notes and Queries

Community BBQ This Saturday

If you haven't already done so, this is a reminder for you to register for complimentary tickets to attend the community BBQ co-hosted by Walmer Road Baptist Church and developer TAS this coming **Saturday September 24**. The event opens at **2:00 pm** and music starts at 3:30. [Click here](#) for more details and to indicate, via Eventbrite, your interest in attending.



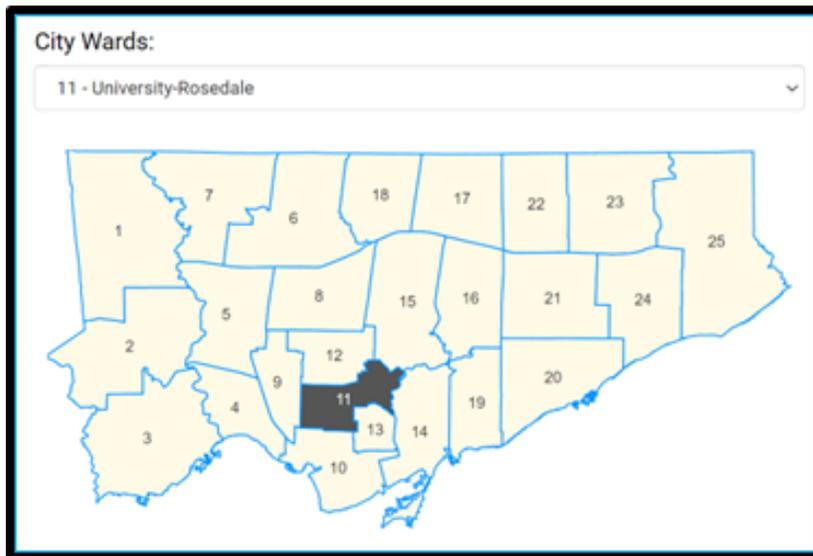
Update on 38 Walmer

Members of our ARA Planning and Development Committee have been actively engaged with TAS since the community meeting held on Zoom last August. Together they are hammering out terms of reference for the working group discussions that were agreed to at that time. Once agendas have been determined, the teams will then schedule the discussions to begin in early October. We'll keep you posted.



All Candidates Meeting October 12

Of the 14 names on the ballot for Councillor for Ward 11 (though two of them have since withdrawn), most are relatively unknown to voters. That's why, once again, Robert Brown and Rory (Gus) Sinclair of Harbord Village RA have stepped up to organize an all candidates debate prior to election day. Eight rivals have agreed to participate in the event to be held via Zoom on **Wednesday October 12 at 7:00 pm**. So mark the date in your calendar immediately, and then keep your eye on these pages for the meeting link to be released closer to the day.



Walk or Roll to Safety on October 2

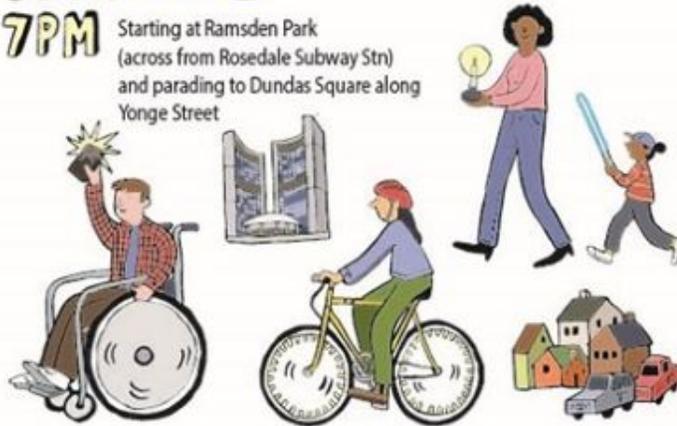
As readers of this newsletter are aware, the ARA has been heavily involved in promoting road safety, especially through the initiatives of the Avenue Road Safety Coalition. In the continuing campaign to reduce speed, save lives, and right the imbalance on public roads, a city-wide road safety rally is planned for a week this Sunday. Residents are encouraged to meet in Ramsden Park at 7:00 pm to stage a walk or roll that will put pressure on our political candidates to do the right thing. For more information, check www.CommunityBikewaysTO.ca.

Light Up Toronto for Safe Streets

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 2
7PM**

Walk, cycle + roll to demonstrate our determination and solidarity in the cause of safe roads across Toronto. Join us to tell council candidates that a brighter road safety future is within reach, with a commitment to action.

Starting at Ramsden Park
(across from Rosedale Subway Strn)
and parading to Dundas Square along
Yonge Street



Meet (with your lights on) at Ramsden Park. Or join a feed-in ride from Scarborough, Etobicoke, or North York.

For more info visit: CommunityBikewaysTO.ca



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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