

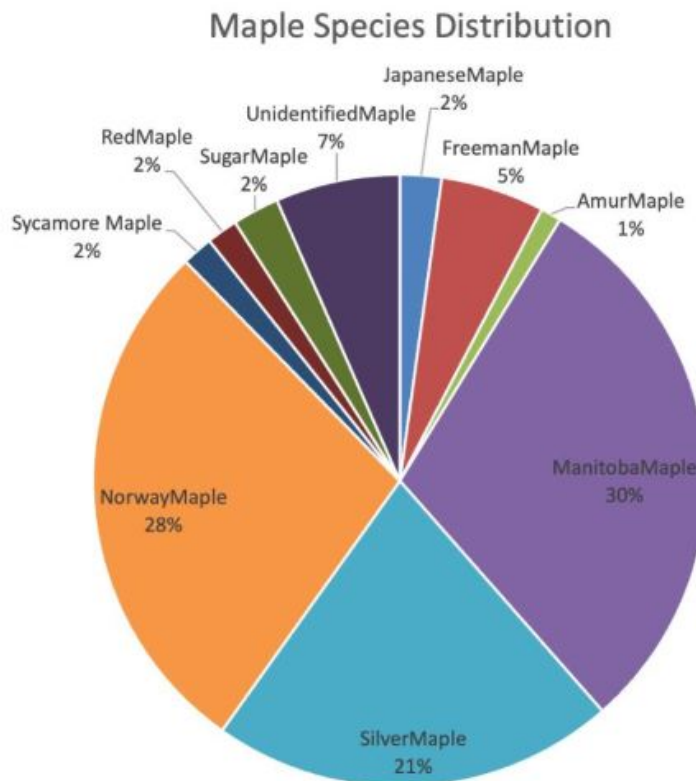
This Week in the Annex:

February 01, 2023

Tree Survey Check Up

How well do you know your maples? Our graduate student researchers from Daniels Forestry at UofT identified nine different species in the Annex survey last summer. But of these, three types dominate: Manitoba (30%), Norway (28%), and Silver (21%).

The Manitoba and Silver Maples are [native to Ontario](#), but the Norway Maple is an invasive bully that has even superseded our national symbol – the Sugar Maple – in the popular imagination. To test your own ability to tell the difference, just [check out this report](#) from a Daniels graduate that first appeared in the *Globe and Mail* in 2020. (*Ed's note: Shame on Air Canada!*)



According to Daniels graduate student Zihang (Lucy) Wang, 24% of our Annex trees belong to the maple family. And of these, only 2% are Sugar Maples – Canada’s national symbol – the one that turns blazing red in the Fall.

Condition Report

The survey isn’t providing just numbers, it’s also serving as a health check for our urban forest. As she crunched the data on our maples, Zihang looked specifically at occurrences of crown defoliation, rot/cavity on the trunk, and poor branch attachment. Overall she found that the trees that are still standing since the 2011 survey are holding their own – if not improving – in regard to defoliation and rot.

However, the picture’s not at all so rosy regarding branch attachment. Zihang was concerned to find that a third of the Manitoba and Norway Maples surveyed are afflicted with poor branch attachment. You’re right – that means they have limbs that are susceptible to falling off under stressful conditions. And she urged residents to be cautious – to monitor their trees for weaknesses.

ARA Member Robin Roger sent this photo of an old beauty at the corner of Admiral and Lowther that toppled in a fierce storm in April, 2019, narrowly missing a cyclist.



The conclusion is obvious. Our trees deserve to be properly maintained, and monitoring is essential.

In fact, if you believe a tree limb is an imminent hazard, then you should report it to 311. While doing so, you will be asked to provide a detailed description accompanied by pictures if possible. And if Urban Forestry agrees with your assessment, they aim to be on scene to inspect the site in a maximum of 3 days.

Keep Those Dollars Coming

It's been heartening to see how many of our members have stepped up to support the tree survey. In fact, another \$1,825 flowed in this past week. That makes a total raised of **\$5280** from **33** members since we first announced the campaign on January 18 – just two weeks ago. Quite wonderful!

That said, we've got an ambitious goal of **\$15,000**. So if you can find it in your heart to support the trees, we'd be ever so grateful. This just wouldn't be the Annex without them.

Moving House?

The prospect of moving house is daunting for any of us. But when it means a whole building is shifted, that's a trauma of a different order.

Our sincerest sympathies go out to the immediate neighbours who have to endure the constant roar and beeping of construction as 10 Prince Arthur finally gets underway. But truth be told, it's made for fascinating viewing as workers prepare the site.

That was then . . .



Photo courtesy [ACO](#)

Above is the Alex Leslie House as it languished not so long ago. It is the last of the "Yorkville" houses in the Annex, a house style that typified much of what Yorkville and its annexed area looked like back in the day. Like 63-65 Kendal that we featured last week, it had become a sad example of demolition by neglect. But the building was given a reprieve and current developers have incorporated it into plans for the forthcoming [award-winning mid-rise](#).

This is now...



The house has been shrink-wrapped and moved back to make way for excavation and foundation work. You can watch [some of the current action by clicking here](#).

It's an impressive undertaking to be sure. But it's also true that modern equipment makes comparatively light work of the task. For comparison's sake, have a look at this photo of the Beaufort apartment building on Davenport taken in June of 1931. It took hard manual labour to move the structure back several feet to make way for a widened Davenport Road.



Notes and Queries

KESKUS Update

There's an equally sympathetic project underway in the 'hood – this one the [KESKUS centre on Madison](#). Workers are now underpinning the heritage house which has been incorporated (much like the Alex Leslie house on Prince Arthur) into the design of the new build.

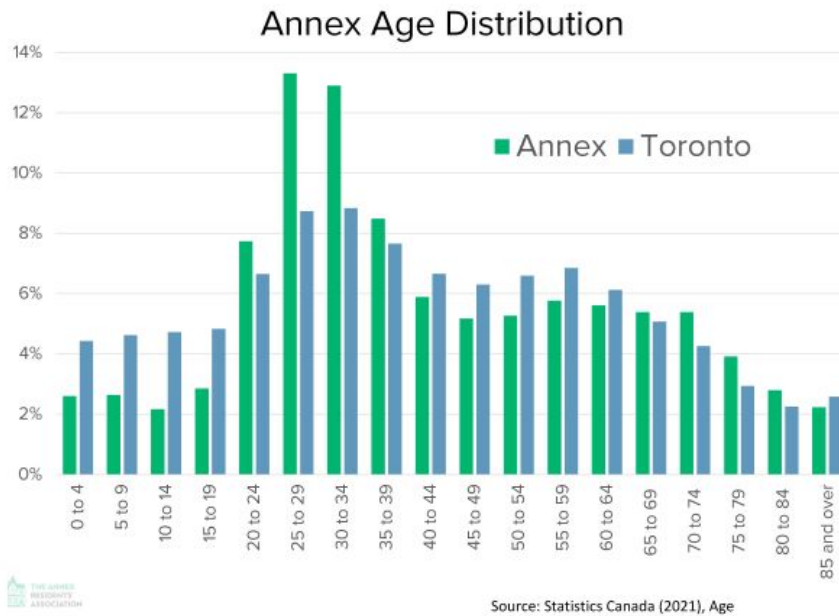
As project lead Ellen Valter says, "Once this building is reinforced, the foundation will be lowered. That ugly duckling basement will be gorgeous when the walls and floors are replaced." She invites us to [check out the action in the construction video](#) and note that the wailers (the horizontal connectors between the shoring piles) are now completed too. Won't be long now . . .



The Annex by Numbers

Alex Topp and David Sisam continue their exploration of the 2021 Census data, this week checking how we stack up against age distribution in the City as a whole.

Our share of Millennials sure stands out. But is there anything surprising here? Or does it fit with your experience of the community? Let us know at info@theara.org.



Welcome Neighbour

We ventured out Thursday last after that major winter storm expecting to spot some creative snowmen. Not one of the frozen H²O variety was to be seen, but we did encounter a snowman of a different sort – Jim Hossack, the new superintendent of 88 Bernard. (For sure you know the building – the one whose lawn was for years blanketed at Hallowe'en with punning gravestones and skeletal body parts.)

We stopped to thank Jim for clearing that vast stretch of corner sidewalk so quickly and exactly. Hailing originally from Sudbury (which must explain his skill dealing with snow) Jim, his wife Julie, and their wonder dog Parker arrived in the Annex last December. The family is really enjoying the neighbourhood, particularly the chance to shop locally at smaller shops. According to Jim, "We're looking forward to being here for a very long time and continuing to build a community here at 88 Bernard Ave." So do stop and say hello if you see him about.



Snow Encounter

We were caught totally by surprise, so the camera didn't come out until almost too late. But there in the distance you can spot not only Ted Humphreys on his tractor ready to plough out an Admiral Road driveway, but also a City of Toronto mini plough (deluxe model with a glassed-in driver's compartment) on the sidewalk to the left. Of course there was almost no snow for him to push away – Ted, Jim, and neighbours had taken care of that three days previously. But at least there's now proof that the long-promised municipal service is a reality.



Critter Corner

A shout out to ARA Chair and night owl, Rita Bilerman, for this once-in-a-lifetime image of a close encounter that occurred this past weekend. Alas, without audio there's no word as to what the opossum and raccoon had to say to each other. Any bets as to who scored the most food?



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