

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

**February 08, 2023**

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### **Fifty Years and Counting**

At a time when the Annex is being deluged with proposals for new condo developments, it is only fitting to celebrate one of the very first to be built in our community: the 12-storey structure at 190 St George. Rising gracefully from its spacious grounds at the corner of Lowther, the building was designed by architect Joseph A. Medweki and completed in 1972.



This is one condo that has more than stood the test of time with its generously sized suites and solid construction. A [National Post article](#) from 2006 cited it as one of the top ten residential towers in T.O. with its "wraparound balconies with see-through metal railings and floor-to-ceiling windows." According to the

authors, Mr. Medweki, who was also an amateur painter, was so proud of the building that he featured it in the background of his self-portrait.

## **A Hidden Community Service**

One of the original owners in the building was a local dentist, Dr. Willard Kerr, who also happened to be a friend of the builder, Mr. Lempicki. Together they worked meticulously to design a purpose-built, full-scale dental office located conveniently off the main lobby and with a floor plan that accommodated a reception area, examination rooms, office, laboratory, and washrooms.

Fast forward fifty years, and [Annex Dentistry](#) is still in operation providing dental services to the community. Sunlight still floods the unit through generously-sized glass windows that look out onto Lowther. And but for a discreet sign recently installed, the suite continues to blend into the building appearing to unaware passers-by like a private residential unit.

Of course, there have been changes: Dentistry has come a long way since 1972 when Dr. Kerr took possession of the unit. But a sign of its ideal design and location is the fact that the suite has had only two occupants in all this time.

## **A Home of One's Own**

While Dr Kerr was easing towards retirement in 1999, Dr. Amy Antzoulatos was in the early years of her career. Dr. Amy – as she is affectionately known to her hundreds of Annex patients – had graduated from the UofT Faculty of Dentistry in 1994. She won top honours that year for root canals – a specialized service in which she was ironically completely uninterested. Rather, she chose to pursue general dentistry as it gave her a chance to accommodate her artistic side (she paints and plays the piano and flute in her spare time) as well as her scientific skills (her undergraduate degree being in bio-chemistry).



*Even a medical mask can't hide Dr. Amy's megawatt smile.*

Dr Amy had begun her career by purchasing the dental practice of another retiree in the erstwhile medical building at 99 Avenue Road. She poured thousands of dollars into refurbishing the unit before word unexpectedly came that the building was to be demolished to make way for a condominium. So after only six short years she found herself evicted and searching for a new home for her small business.

Determined not to fall prey again to the same uncertainty of leasehold, she leapt at the chance to buy the facility and practice at 190 St George. She and Dr. Kerr worked companionably in the space for the next two years before the senior dentist put down his instruments for good.

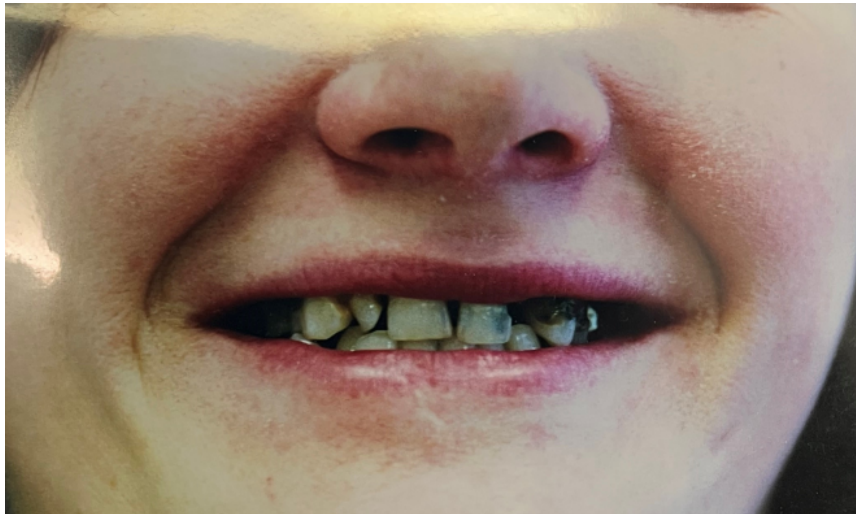
## **Serving the Community**

At a time when the majority of her colleagues are bound to dental corporations, Dr. Amy has been able to remain independent, in large part because she is secure in the ownership of her suite at 190 St George.

It's not easy – the economies of scale and administrative assistance make joining a corporation remarkably attractive. But such agreements come at a cost. And

Dr. Amy resists losing her autonomy to an entity that polices the amount of time spent on each discrete procedure.

The freedom from corporate financial targets allows her to donate services to new immigrants, most recently to Ukrainian refugees. And it also permits her real passion – what brings her the most professional joy – selecting one person in need each year and gifting them with a complete smile makeover.



*To the lay observer, this is nothing but the most off-putting of smiles. But to Dr. Amy, it was a canvas on which she could create a work of art.*



*It took a full year to transform that smile. But the results were nothing less than life-changing for the patient -- and extraordinarily gratifying for Dr. Amy.*

### **An Annex Gem**

Dr. Amy is, in sum, all about people, about getting to know her patients and watching families grow as she welcomes new generations into her practice. It

doesn't matter what their circumstances or where they're from. In fact, between them, she and her staff can welcome patients in any one of six languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Greek, or Tagalog.

Like [Wiener's Hardware](#) and [Snowdon's Pharmacy](#) whose milestone birthdays we've previously celebrated in these pages, [Annex Dentistry](#) is one of those local businesses that defines and enriches our community. With warm wishes for a happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday . . . and counting.

## The Annex by Numbers

This week Alex Topp dove deep into the 2021 Census maps to develop the following comparative chart of select Toronto neighbourhoods. Turns out that even though the generous lawns and trees that are an Annex hallmark give us a sensation of space and breathing room, we're actually in the top 20% of neighbourhoods in terms of density, verging on 11,000 people per square kilometer.

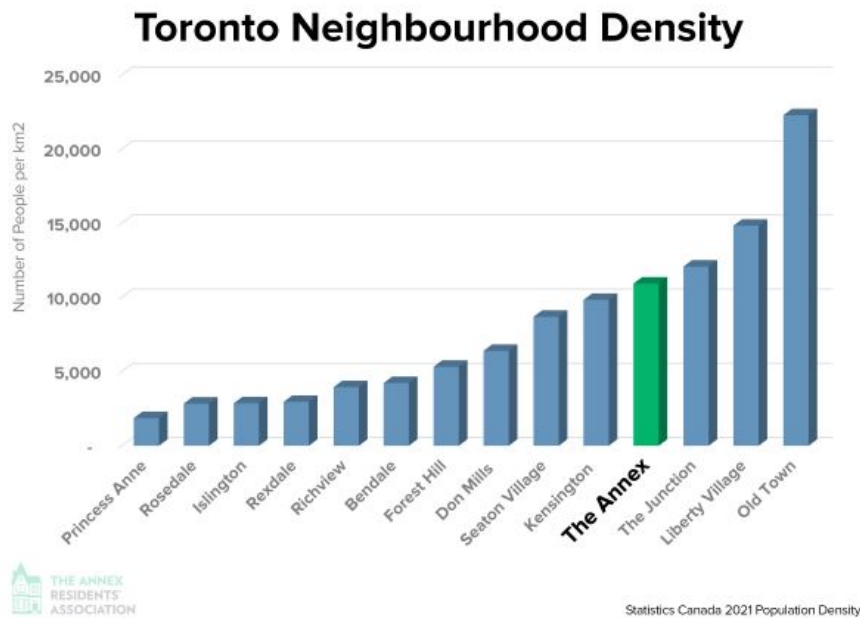
### Elsewhere in the City

At the top end of our chart is [Old Town](#), a conglomeration of historic neighbourhoods in the heart of the city. It combines places whose individual names you'll be more familiar with, like St Lawrence Market, King East, Corktown, and the Distillery District. Folks are packed in down there at the rate of 22,000 per km<sup>2</sup>.

For fun, we also asked Alex to include the Premier's digs in his analysis. Wouldn't you know it, Mr. Ford lives in Princess Anne Manor – the Etobicoke enclave that barely makes the chart at 2,000 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

Room for a condo tower or two? Just sayin' ...





## Notes and Queries

### Inquiring Minds Want to Know

Several readers have written to inquire about the bright red behemoth that has been parked for months now outside 145 St George. A quick note to management brought the following response:

The red truck is a steam boiler, which is connected to the building's heating system. Given the age of the existing building and its boiler, this past summer building management conducted a series of repairs to the building's current boiler. The boiler truck is stationed there as a backup / additional measure to make sure the building and existing tenants would have heat available at all times during this winter.

The truck has been there since November and will stay there until April. Property management has ensured us that the engine is always turned off and therefore shouldn't be emitting any noise.



## Flooding the Field

Hats off to the dedicated team who valiantly braved the cold to start flooding the field at Jean Sibelius Park last week. They were able to build a solid base of ice during that incredible deep freeze. Alas, Saturday's snow and Sunday's warm spell brought operations to a halt, and near term forecasts aren't favouring the ice makers one bit. Fingers crossed that we'll be able to snatch at least a few days of skating – if not a few weeks – before the calendar turns and we glide into Spring.



## ARA Board Meets Tomorrow

The first in-person, indoors social for the ARA Board since 2020 was held on Groundhog Day at the Pour House. But it's back to business tomorrow – Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> – at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

One potentially contentious item on the agenda concerns the Board's response to recent developments at Osgoode Hall. While many individual Board members have been actively protesting Metrolinx's plans to fell the Osgoode trees, that doesn't mean that the Board itself will officially weigh in on the issue.

If you're at all inclined, tune in to listen to the discussion. Just email your request to our Secretary, Micky Fraterman, at [info@theara.org](mailto:info@theara.org) by noon on Thursday, and she'll send you the link. And if you're new to the association, why not [browse our website](#) beforehand just to get familiar with our committees, concerns, and colleagues?





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