

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

**August 09, 2023**

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### **Honouring Edward Leman**

The rain held off – just barely – last Sunday as a group of twenty or so ARA members gathered in Taddle Creek Park to honour Edward Leman, past chair of the ARA's Planning and Development Committee. For those of you who didn't know Edward, he was, to quote co-chair Henry Wiercinski:

. . . the intellectual and spiritual heart of P+D. Thoughtful and self-effacing, he was always ready to listen. He was committed to building a better city for all. His passing has left a void, but his legacy lives on through the many innovations that he introduced. We are all the better for having shared his company.

### **A Permanent Memorial**

Since his passing in October 2021, the ARA Board voted to establish a permanent reminder of Edward's Herculean contributions to the community. Within 24 hours of our announcing the plan, [22 members](#) had stepped forward to donate the necessary funds for a memorial plaque. And – after another 18 months of negotiation with the City – the plaque was finally installed where it should be: on a bench in Taddle Creek Park in the shadow of Edward's former home at 50 Prince Arthur.



Last Sunday August 6 proved to be the date when Edward's entire family could be present to formally inaugurate the bench – including his widow, Dilys, daughters Oriana and Brigid, and Edward's siblings, nieces and nephews, all posed across the front in the picture below.



Oriana and Brigid baked his favourite birthday cake – the Sacher torte – served by Dilys with the help of the ARA's Tija Dirks.





And, with a bit of crowd management, all those who attended were caught on camera together with the flowers and framed citation presented to Dilys.



Now everyone who comes to Taddle Creek Park and sees the bench will be aware of Edward's legacy. What's more, they'll also have a taste of his wonderfully off-beat sense of humour captured in the final line of the dedication: *He always had our backs.*



## Inadvertent Demoviction

Last June 28 [we published a note](#) about the partial collapse of 146 Albany, a vacant house that had been under renovation for almost two years. The collapse is problematic enough for the absentee homeowners, but one that is utterly devastating for the unfortunate neighbours who share a wall at number 144.

Tamara Moscoe, ARA member and owner of 144 for more than 30 years, wrote to tell us of her plight. Thankfully nobody was hurt in the collapse. But within an hour of its occurrence, City officials had issued a Do Not Enter order on her house. She, her son, and daughter-in-law are forbidden to enter, not even allowed to retrieve some personal possessions. And the family has been homeless ever since, living in temporary rental accommodations.



*You can tell from the gleaming chimneys and well-maintained façade that the owners of 144 Albany have taken great care of their property.*

### **At the Mercy of Others**

Repairs to Tamara's home at 144 are complicated because much depends on the pace of construction at 146 – a project that has already lingered far too long. Consequently, the predicted timeline for the Moscoe family to regain possession is up to one full year from now.





*No wonder the Do Not Enter order was issued. Just zoom in to see the perilous state of the third-floor window of 144. The party wall it shares with 146 has been reduced to the studs.*

In the meantime, Tamara's family is desperate to stay near the Annex or Seaton Village. As she says, "Remaining in our old neighborhood would ease our sadness somewhat." And so they are left desperately looking for a short term home or apartment rental. Hardly a fair situation.

## City Inspection Backlog

The sad fact is that the City had not kept tabs on what was happening at 146 Albany. Toronto's website indicates that not even the most rudimentary foundational elements of the renovation had passed inspection (you can see for yourself [on the website](#) by checking out building permit 22 101311 BLD 01 SR) but clearly construction had continued unchecked.

What's more, this is not the only property to be so neglected in the Annex. Much the same can be said of the house at 321 St George Street, pictured below.



While the owners of the St George property have secured permission through the Committee of Adjustment for major renovations, they have not yet been issued with the necessary building permits. Despite this, they have proceeded with extreme demolition, leaving the back façade looking, at least to the untutored eye, rather fragile.

Thankfully, the property is fully detached. No neighbours are in immediate danger.

We believe.

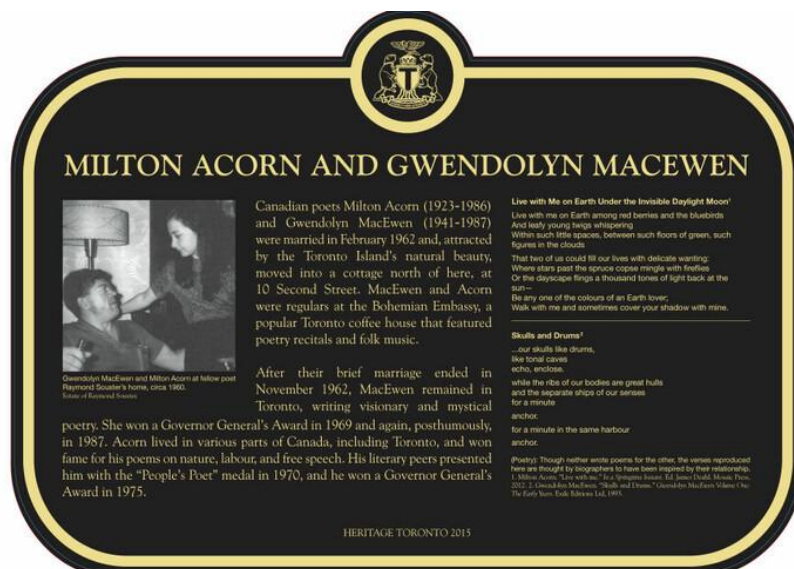
Fingers crossed.

## Notes and Queries

### What's on Tomorrow

These are the dog days of summer, but there's still lots to do in the 'hood this month. Take tomorrow night, for example. There's a free garden concert at the Italian Cultural Institute at 496 Huron starting at 7:00 pm and featuring the Sicilian Jazz Project. [Click here to register.](#)

But if a walking tour is more your fancy, then you might [sign up instead](#) for Lindsay Chisholm's stroll through the lives of women writers in the Annex. It starts at 6:30 pm in Seaton Park (14 Albany) and lasts about 90 minutes. Note that there's a small fee to cover the cost of audio headsets for participants.



## Meet n' Eat Next Tuesday

As of press time, 20 people had already signed up to attend the Meet n' Eat next Tuesday at 6:00 pm at Indian Desire on Bloor Street. We've asked the restaurant to hold 25 seats, so there's still time to [RSVP](#). In fact, you can do so right up to Tuesday morning. But if you should happen to change your plans, please cancel your reservation using the link you received when you booked. That way we can set off the right number of tables.

We're really looking forward to seeing neighbours old and new. And [the menu looks to have something for everyone](#). So, in the words oft used by our Chair of Heritage, if you're in town, then be there or be square!





*Indian Desire is on the south side of Bloor Street at number 469, halfway between Bathurst and Spadina.*

## **Look Who's Coming to Market**

By all accounts the Bloor Borden Farmers' Market is running at full tilt. In fact, ARA Board Member Terri Chu promises that the full cohort of regular vendors will be present today (market hours 3:00 to 7:00 pm). When we checked the action last week, we found that Councillor Dianne Saxe had dropped by to answer constituents' questions and promote the applications for water, waste or tax rebates/relief that are now available on line [at this link](#). Alas, we didn't catch a picture of her when she was on the picket line at Metro the day before.



*Photo courtesy of Sandra Shaul*

## **Congratulations KESKUS!**

Anyone who's worked in the fundraising business knows what a cold, hard slog it can be. That's why we're delighted to celebrate with Ellen Valter and KESKUS [the recent award of \\$750,000 from the Government of Canada via FedDev Ontario](#). The money is granted specifically for the Estonia-shaped courtyard's foundation construction currently underway at the KESKUS site on Madison.

The federal minister responsible, the Honourable Filomena Tassi, said "our government is happy to support projects like these that foster inclusivity and connectivity while leaving a lasting legacy for the Estonian community in Canada." Not to speak of supporting what promises to be a jewel in the crown of the Annex when opened! Just read the [glowing review published yesterday in BlogTO](#) if you're not convinced.



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.

This email was sent to [gillianbartlettara@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbartlettara@gmail.com). To stop receiving emails, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

The Annex Residents' Association