

## This Week in the Annex:

August 23, 2023

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### Cheer on Dupont

There are some welcome new splashes of colour up Dupont way near Huron – both of them from the talented hand of Sarah Imrisek, a community-engaged artist and coder who signs her work "Cymatiste." (For those of us who didn't know – the word is derived from "cymatics" as in "the study of sound vibrations on a physical medium." Got it?)

In other words, Sarah is cutting-edge. But you wouldn't guess it from the whimsy of her latest creations in the 'hood. First, there's the charming Bell box mural up at Wendat Square that she finished just last month.



And then, over a bit to the east, is the ebullient sign for newcomer Chilly Pepper Tacos (yes, that's how the owners spell it) -- the latest restaurant in a series to occupy the space at 176 Dupont. (If you're unfamiliar with the location, think its recent incarnations -- Rose and Sons, The Big Crow, The Grand Elvis.)



Who knows? There's always a chance that Chilly Pepper Tacos will last as long as People's Foods at that site. And for sure, Sarah's artwork deserves that length of exposure.





*Remember back in the day? We thought People's would go on forever.*

Sarah has posted some great [visuals on Instagram](#) recording her artistic process and progress. And for more on our other Annex Bell box murals, click on this [archived article from the ARA newsletter](#), Sept 02, 2020.

## Giving Mother Nature a Hand

While we're talking Dupont, did you ever wonder as to how those colourful baskets of flowers installed by the local BIA survive? It's certainly not solely because of Mother Nature, despite the amount of rain we've had this summer.

Rather, the team of Dwight and Eddie work their way up the street every other day supplying the necessary water. We caught sight of them last weekend just as their break was over, and they kindly allowed us to [video them at work](#). It's a nifty operation. Not for the faint of heart to stand on the rear platform as the waterbus methodically cruises the curb from basket to basket.



## ARA Cornfest: Sunday September 10


Save the date for sure: **Sunday September 10** from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**. That's when your ARA Board will host the annual Cornfest – the second most important

event of our calendar. (The April AGM rates first place.) There'll be free farm-fresh corn-on-the-cob, cookies, and cold drinks, all in celebration of the start of the new year. And this September, as well as being treated once again to live music from *Whether Permitting*, there'll be the added treat of an interactive dance show mounted by an Estonian troupe sponsored by KESKUS.


## Help Wanted

But your ARA Board can't do this alone. That's why we're asking for volunteers to help out. Would you be any good at shucking corn (10:30 to 12:00 on the Sunday morning)? Could you come to help set up (2:00 to 3:00 that afternoon)? Would you be able to help boil the corn (2:30 to 4:30 pm)? How about serving corn or cold drinks (3:00 to 5:00 pm)? And of course there's always the take-down and clean-up to organize (5:00 to 5:45 pm).

On the other hand, if you're not going to be in town on the 10th, would you be able, at least, to help us publicize the event either by approaching your neighbours or distributing [the Cornfest poster](#)? That would be fantastic and much appreciated.

**THE ANNEX  
RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**

Invites You to Our Annual



**ANNEX CORNFEST**

**Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00-5:00 PM      Rain or Shine**

**Jean Sibelius Park**

If you live in the Annex – you're invited!

- FREE farm-fresh corn-on-the-cob, cookies, & cold drinks
- Live music provided by *Whether Permitting*
- Interactive Estonian dance display sponsored by KESKUS
- Official ARA T-shirts for sale

**All we ask is that you bring your own cup (BYOC)**

**Come meet your neighbours**  
**New members always welcome**  
Follow us on our website: [www.theara.org](http://www.theara.org)

This is always a wonderful community event. But it can't happen without community involvement. So, please – if you've got even an hour or two to spare,

it would be wonderful to have you on the team. Just send your message to [info@theara.org](mailto:info@theara.org) and we'll gratefully accept your offer!



PS: If you have any control over the weather, that would also be gratefully received. Last year storm clouds and rain dampened the first hour of our festivities – but then the skies relented and *Whether Permitting* [took their instruments outdoors](#).

## Ward 11 Community Environment Day

There's so much going on in the Annex, it's often hard to look up and out to see just how massive is the ward that we inhabit. To drive the point home, consider the upcoming [Community Environment Day](#) – the second and final in our ward for this year. It's to be held on **Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>** between **10:00 am and 2:00 pm** all the way down at [Fred Hamilton Park](#). And you'll for sure need to arrive on wheels if you intend to take advantage.

To give you a sense of the scale of the operation, ponder the following statistics from the City: That's quite a load of waste diverted!

## Waste Diversion Statistics 2022

2022 In-community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 107,775 kg of electronics</li> <li>• 327,520 kg of household hazardous waste</li> <li>• 102,215 kg of reusable household goods</li> </ul>
2022 Drop-Off Depot events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,610 kg of electronics</li> <li>• 16,445 kg of household hazardous waste</li> <li>• 6,148 kg of reusable household goods</li> </ul>

But it's easier to tell the story in pictures -- so below you'll find some images from the first Ward 11 environment day held last June 25 at Central Tech.

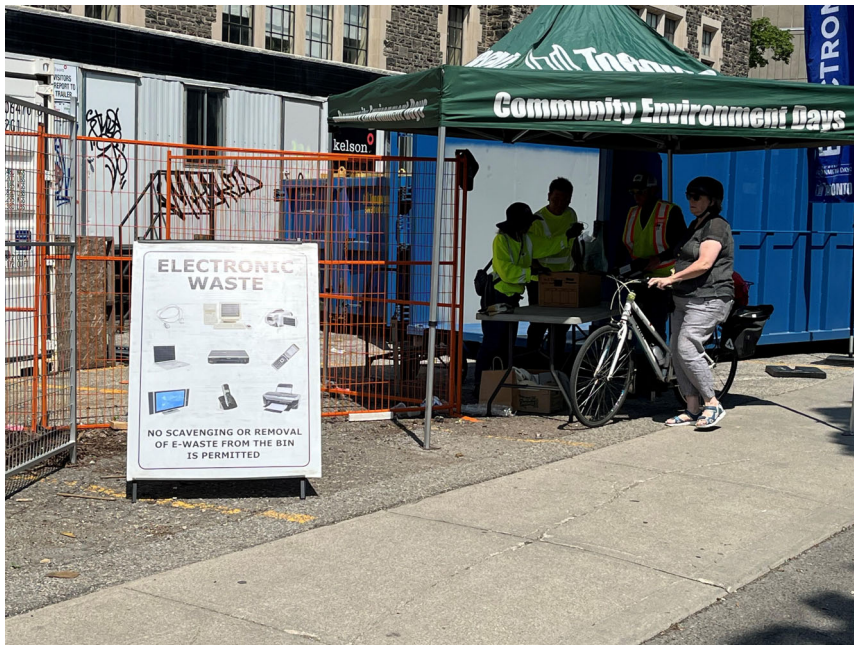


*Huge barrels of left over paint and cleaners and other liquid hazardous waste*





*A parade of trucks for carting away donated household goods for re-use such as clothing, sporting goods, eyeglasses, shoes, costume jewellery, linens, musical instruments, board games, and more*



*A crew sorting through electronic waste -- think expired computers and keyboards and telephones...*

PS: Note that if you're after some of the composted municipal waste for your garden that's always available at these events, you'll need to supply your own buckets or bags at this location.

## Notes and Queries

### A Sociable Community

We were a small but companionable crew last Tuesday week at the ARA's Meet n' Eat at [Indian Desire](#) on Bloor. Some twenty people turned out despite the gloomy weather. More than one diner went home with a doggy bag – the servings were that large and delectable. But most important was the camARAderie. (Couldn't resist. Sorry.) Thanks to Fiona McHugh and Tija Dirks for organizing.



### 250 Davenport Funday

The team had long been plotting and planning – but the one ingredient not under their control was the weather. What a difference a year makes. The Funday



in August 2022 was blistering hot: there was nowhere to hide from the relentless sun. Last week's Funday, on the other hand, was marred by blustery winds, unseasonably cool temperatures, and clouds. Almost everyone – it was the middle of August, for heaven's sake – wore a jacket or sweater!

ARA Board Member Tim Hadwen worked the crowd. Councillor Saxe spent time with constituents. But the main appeal was the food. Lots of it – total comfort – served up by an enthusiastic crew from 250...



...with sweet teeth satisfied by Ines' cotton candy, caramel corn, and snow-cones...



Fingers crossed that next year this community event will get the Funday weather that it deserves.

## **Vandals at Work**

Not everyone, it seems, is in a sociable mood. The Kitchen Table on Dupont is currently sporting plywood in its window – victim of a smash-and-grab thief who has thrice hit the establishment to abscond each time with a lucrative haul of tobacco.

Even more troublesome is the work of a pure mischief maker who has taken to sabotaging City fire hydrants. Henry Wiercinski spotted the one pictured below on Avenue Road, and it's since been reported to authorities. But we're worried that there are more examples of compromised units out there. So the next time you walk by a hydrant, please give it a second glance to make sure it's in good condition. And if not, let us know the where and when, and we'll pass the info on.



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