40 Homewood Community Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 4 April 1, 2006

The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers of the articles and not the Board of Directors.

Happy April Fools' Day!



April 16, 2006

Happy Easter - April 23rd 2006 to all of

you who follow the Eastern Orthodox (hurch.



April 13 - April 20th, 2006



Daylight Savings Time starts 2:00 am Sunday, April 2, 2006 A fool and his money are soon parted.

The rest of us wait until income tax time

GROWING OLD IS NOT FOR SISSIES



Board Meeting Minutes

Some of you may not be aware that the Minutes from the Board of Directors' Meetings are available for any owner to peruse. If you want to see the motions made by the Board on how your money is being spent, this is the place to look.

They are kept in the library, filed in a black binder, on the high shelf next to the cupboards. As soon as the Minutes are approved at the Board Meetings, the binder is updated.

Please **do not** remove the Minutes from the binder

©MMMMMMMGetting To Know You



Lílían Pelaez & Mark Arcíla

In 2001, Lilian lived in Medellín, Colombia. As a widow, she had raised her three children—two boys, then 22 and 23, and a daughter 19—by herself. By day, she taught elementary school, kindergarten to grade five. She had met her nephew Mark during a stay he and his mom made to Colombia when he was young.

Old-timers at 40 Homewood have seen Mark, now 17, grow up. He was born here and still lives in the unit he shared with his mother. Four years ago, however, his life changed when she, ill with breast cancer, died. Lilian, his mother's sister, came to be with Mark and, as his legal quardian, has stayed.

Mark went to elementary school at Our Lady of Lourdes across the street and is now at Jarvis Collegiate. Next fall, he will be at Ryerson, studying either social work or administration. He likes being close to everything, especially his friends, many of whom live at St. James Town. Sports (basketball, baseball and volleyball) fill the time he's not downloading music on the computer. Although he no longer collects sports cards, he still has a large collection.

Lilian volunteers at her church, where she works with the Spanish community, and at the food bank. In our building, she chats with Spanish-speakers from Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela and Chile, and both she and Mark are grateful for its friendly atmosphere.

Thanks Connie and Charles



Tíko Toyomí Tada

Tike has a portfolio of artwork—recent things she has done for the various groups that she helps, like United Church. They are the fruit of her training at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB where she earned a BFA, learning painting drawing, printmaking and sculpting.

We have to go, however, to BC to capture her beginnings. Her mother was born there of Japanese parents. Her father came to Canada from Japan at 16 and married her mother 9 years later. When the War started, Tiko's mother lost her citizenship and the family lost their strawberry ranch and were forced to live in a war camp shack at Tashme, BC, along with Tiko's grandparents who also lost their strawberry ranch. Tiko was born in the camp.

The war over, they eventually moved to Port Hope and then Scarborough. Tiko finished Port Hope High School, and graduated from Ontario Ladies College in Whitby before heading to Sackville.

Once home again, she went to Shaw Schools for secretarial training, and worked in a number of jobs before joining Ontario Power Generation, from which she has recently retired, a member of the Quarter Century Club

Tiko collects perfume bottles, flatware and dishes, using eBay to locate other collectors. She also sews, a skill she learned in grade three. She has lived at 40 Homewood since 1979, and now has the company of her two cats, Mama Kitty and Xrissy

weiro bistorical facts

Continued from previous month

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, of "upper crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wit to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake".



To everyone who has a birthday this month.

Area News

51 Homewood Ave.

By Charles Marker Some of us have been curious about the new building across the street at 51 Homewood. I spoke to the (very hardy, working through the winter!) construction workers who said that there will be four rental apartments. Each one will be on two floors, bedrooms separate from kitchen/living/dining rooms. There will be two, two-floor apartments at the front of the building and two at the back. The basement level will be bedrooms for the lower apartments. The entire building has a floor area of 4,000 square feet, so the average size of the units will be 1,000 square feet. That's a bit bigger than our "large twobedroom" units (01's and 02's).



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You can now mix your jars and bottles and cans and milk cartons and paper products all together in either of the three boxes in the back lobby, or the recycling bins outside.

Please note that the green bin in the back lobby is **NOT** for **kitchen wet garbage.** It is meant to be just another receptacle in which to put the products that are recyclable according to the City of Toronto.

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WAYS TO SAVE WATER INDOORS



- Do not put water down the drain that could be used for watering a plant or for cleaning.
- Check for leaks in your toilet or faucets and repair where necessary.
- Use the garbage instead of the toilet for disposing of tissues and other trash.
- Take shorter showers or replace your showerhead with a water-efficient version.
- Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Operate automatic dishwaters and washing machines when they are fully loaded or use the appropriate water setting.
- •Do not use running water to thaw meat. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator...

Big new sign is a sign of the times

by Charles Marker

Walking up Jarvis Street toward Wellesley, you might have noticed the "billboard" size sign on the south-facing wall of 460 Jarvis. There was a Bank of Montreal ad last year; currently it's about soup. It's the only such ad space in that section of Jarvis Street but seems to be of a piece with the commercialization of public spaces in Toronto.

On the southwest corner of Jarvis and Wellesley, the 15-storey Toronto Community Housing apartment building originally aimed to serve seniors and people with accessibility needs. The "fascia" (made of detachable strips) sign is about seven storeys high and is a "third-party" sign, that is, it's not an advertisement for the building itself, such as the large "Rogers" sign a few blocks north.

The building is zoned R4, a residential category that does not allow such signs. Therefore, the city had to approve a "variance" (exception to the rule) to allow the sign. The application for the variance came to the Toronto and East York Community Council, which is one level below Toronto City Council, in March 2005.

The city's Community Planning Department had been asked to prepare a report and recommendation on the request for variance. They recommended that the request be refused. Their opinion was that permitting signs for third-party advertising on a residential building in a residential area with numerous apartment buildings was inappropriate. They expressed concern about this setting a precedent for advertising in residential areas. They noted that improvements for Jarvis Street are being considered to enhance the visual appeal and accentuate the heritage aspect of the street.

They made the point that "the intent of the signage provisions of the Municipal Code is to prevent signage from becoming" the predominant characteristic of residential building facades.

Nevertheless, on a motion by Councillor Kyle Rae, the variance was approved at the Community Council and subsequently approved by the? City Council. In an email response to my enquiry, Mr. Rae said, "I supported it as I generally, although not always, support signs that are going on the side of Toronto Community Housing Buildings. TCHC needs the revenue!"

We might ask whether there are any public or semi-public agencies that do not need revenue. We might wonder whether the National Ballet School, which still needs money to complete its major rebuilding, might rent off the north-facing brick wall on its stunning new practice facility.

recurity

As a result of my section on security in last month's newsletter, one of our residents wrote::",,,,re residents helping residents with door entry at 40 Homewood . Not every resident knows all home owners and renters in the building. It would be wise for people to show their entry keys when trying to enter the main door without using their pass.

Some residents show **hostility** when asked to show proof that they live in our building. If we are all to contribute to the security of the building, then all residents should understand and co-operate."

Don't get mad, be glad, that others are looking out for us.



For Emergency Purposes, it is imperative that the Management Office are aware of which residents will need help in case an emergency occurs in the building. Their list needs to be updated and they have asked me to convey via this manner that if you use a walker. scooter, wheelchair or any other assistive device as a means of getting around, please let them know **ASAP**.





Down Memory Lane By Violet

I have started to reduce the number

of my many photographs, but work stopped when I looked at a good photo of Ernest

Trepanier.



My memories and mental pictures of his apartment and of his cottage on Ward's

Island are very happy ones—particularly during the 1970's and early 80's.

A very social group was soon formed at 40 Homewood and Ernie, as he was known, was not only a member but was host to the group very frequently at his island home during the summer months.

The cottage had two bedrooms, a living room and an immaculate kitchen, plus garden on all sides, all as well tended as the inside. I don't think Ernie was ever seen as an untidy person, everything, including himself, had to be well groomed.

We soon began to use the ferry to Ward's Island whenever possible, always taking replacements for anything we used, as everything in the home had to go over by ferryboat.

As winter began to fade away, Ernie would begin going over just for the day. He would start preparing his summer home when he would stay there. Often he would return from the day trips, bearing a small sample of wild mint, the first wild daffodils or other island species. Later in the summer, it would be green beans, tomatoes, onions. He grew a good assortment of vegetables. The flowers were always beautiful.



His knowledge of the island in every respect was phenomenal. He always knew when birds and butterflies were on their way back to the city and would forecast their departure in the fall.

Birthdays were always a good excuse for a pot luck supper. Halloween another excuse. I was always hoping we would miss the last ferryboat to Toronto so that I could experience a water taxi, but it never happened.

Whenever I had overseas visitors, Ernie would always suggest I took them over, to experience his house and surroundings and the walk over to Centre Island to board the ferry there.

His sister, Bertha, was a yearly visitor and stayed for a few weeks. She would talk Ernie into shopping expeditions at Simpson's and persuade him to replace a few things. They had great times together.

Fall would come in and the island children returned to school. Ernie would be slowly putting his garden "to bed".

The last party would be at the end of November, as it was Ernie's birthday and Christmas was looming near. The temperature would be too low for Ernie to prolong the closing of his treasured home.

So we always planned a Christmas meal as our final event. Everything would be cooked between us and in our apartments. We kept a special good strong box for the turkey, as it kept warm. The ferry crew knew what we had as the aroma rose up on the boat.

The cottage is almost at the ferry dock and Ernie would have the oven on warm and the plates on top, and we would soon get to work to put the meal on the table. Ernie often made the remark "the table has a million dollar view". Quite true.

Finally we would clean up the kitchen- many hands make light work - and depart on the last ferry. Our gracious host would spend the last night there and leave the next day.

I am sure that amongst original residents still living here and was in that group of people, will also have memories of our island visits with a very gracious gentleman.



Textile Museum

Wednesdays after 4:30 pm. Pay what you can.

Gerard St. Library- Tea and Books, Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. Draw for free book.

Kids say the Darndest Things



A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens."

"How did you know that?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. I think it's printed on the bottom!"

RECIPE EXCHANGE

Coca Cola Ham

½ ham (5-6 lb.)

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ cup Coca-Cola®
- 1 cup crushed pineapple (optional)

Wash ham thoroughly. Rub fat side with brown sugar. Pour Coca-Cola over ham. Pour crushed pineapple over ham. Bake at 450 degrees for 3 hours. Makes 6 servings.



BRAIN TEASERS

Can you answer the following?

I am pronounced as one letter, but written with three, only two different letters are used to make me. I'm double, i'm single, i'm black, i'm blue and gray. I'm read from both ends and the same either way.

Ongoing Activities

Bridge in the recreation room, Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Movies with Don in the

recreation room, Thursdays or Fridays at 7:30, Notices posted every week.



Big Brother is Watching

There may be some of you out there that do not already know that

there are cameras in the elevators. Management Office can watch everything that happens in the elevators.

This month's answers to the Brain Teasers

Note from the Editor

Martha McGrath, Unit 615 marthamcgrath@sympatico.ca

Happy Easter, Happy Spring, everyone.

Martha