

40 HOMEWOOD *Community Newsletter*

April, 2014



**EASTER
GREETINGS**

April 20th, 2014

COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENT DAYS

Ward 27

**Environment Day BBQ in Allan
Gardens – Sunday, April 13**

from Councillor Wong-Tam's
Newsletter



**April 16th to April
22nd, 2014**



Looking for a fun way to get outside after a long winter? Join Councillor Wong-Tam for her annual Ward 27 Community Environment Day and free barbeque hosted by the 51 Division Police Liaison Committee.

Date: Sunday, April 13, 2014

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (BBQ starts at noon)

Where: Allan Gardens, by the intersection of Sherbourne Street and Carlton Street

Get ready for the gardening season with free fresh compost and drop off gently used clothing and other items for donation banks and local schools.

Meet your neighbours and enjoy lunch in the park with Councillor Wong-Tam and the Ward 27 team!



Don's Movies For April

**All movies at 7:30pm in
Recreation Room**

Thursday, April 3
HAYWIRE (2011)

Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor,
Antonio Banderas, Michael Douglas

Friday, April 4
HANNA (2010)

Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana

Thursday, April 10
PHILOMENA (2013)

Judi Dench, Steve Coogan

Thursday, April 17
DOUBLE JEOPARDY (1999)

Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd

Friday, April 18
THE INTERPRETER (2005)

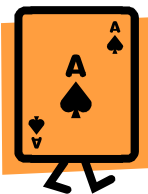
Sean Penn, Nicole Kidman

Thursday, April 24
DERAILED (2005)

Jennifer Aniston, Clive Owen

Friday, April 25
SPEED (1994)

Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock



Bridge

In the Recreation Room or
Library— Mondays and
Wednesdays at 7:30PM

Pet of the Month



RUSTY



Hello everyone at 40 Homewood, it's a great pleasure to be Pet of the Month, second Pomeranian in a row!

My name is Rusty, but I also answer to Rustoleum, Rustico, Rustissimo, and Russell T. Dog. My official name is Kismutt's Rusty Red Victorian, CDX, CDI, CD (Am). RE, RA (Am), CGN. All those letters are because my dad has taken me through various obedience titles. I have way more degrees than he has.

At 22 lbs., I am a very large Pomeranian. In Europe, I would be a Mittelspitz, but that's not a recognized breed here. I am officially 'a rescue' and have been with my dads, Daryl and Brian, for four of my nine years. Besides training and chasing things, I also love car rides. This is good, as I spend my time between 40 Homewood, a house in the country, and a couple of months a year in Florida.

If you see me in the elevator, please say "hi," if you don't mind me putting my paws on your legs so that you pat me without leaning down.

Green Committee

Save Ink- Save money ... by using Century Gothic font.

Because different fonts require different amounts of ink to print, you could be buying new printer cartridges less often by using Century Gothic, a font with a thinner print line. Some say it can use 30% less ink than Arial.



Celebrated every year on April 22, Earth Day is the largest environmental event in the world. More than six million Canadians—including nearly every school-aged child—participate in an Earth Day activity in their communities. We partner with and support hundreds of organizations across the country, as they engage Canadians in annual celebrations of this special day. The Earth needs our help all year long. [Founded in 1990](#), Earth Day Canada is a national environmental charity. We offer free, year-round, award-winning programs to educate and inspire Canadians of all ages, backgrounds and sectors to reach local environmental solutions. Our mission is to foster and celebrate environmental respect, action and behaviour change that lessens our impact on the earth. Our [programs](#)—focused on education, action, recognition and financial support—are successful because they

offer simple, easy-to-accomplish actions that can be done by all of us. Each individual action will add up to a substantial improvement for the environment when we all work together.

Find out more: <http://www.earthday.ca>



It's about that time of year when New Year's resolutions start to fade and gyms empty out, but it doesn't have to be hard to make healthy choices for you and your family. The 2014 Green Living Show, taking place at the **Direct Energy Centre April 25- 27**, features over 400 exhibitors with thousands of the best products, services, food, innovation and more – all designed to help promote a healthy and sustainable lifestyle year-round. From clean eating to clean power, it's all here under one roof.

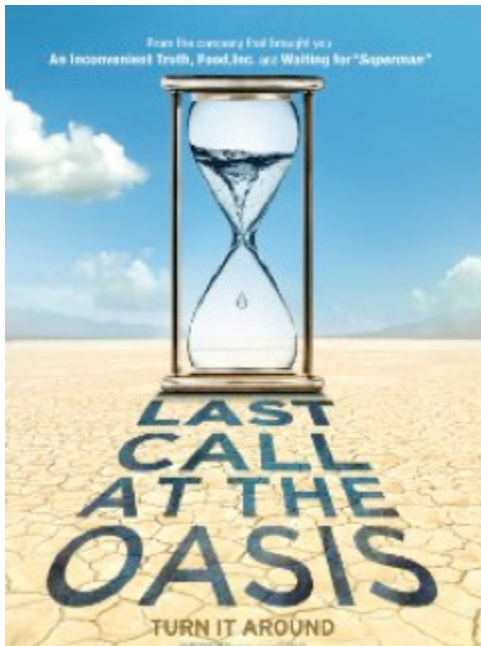
Dates & Hours

Friday, April 25	10 a.m. – 7 p.m
Saturday, April 26	10 a.m. – 7 p.m
Sunday, April 27	10 a.m. – 6 p.m

Direct Energy Centre
100 Princes' Blvd.
Toronto, ON M6K 3C3
Closest intersection: Lakeshore Blvd.
/Strachan

For ticket prices and bargains, go online:

<http://www.greenlivingonline.com/torontoshow/admission.html>



Where's the Water?

On Tuesday, April 15, The Green Committee will present **Last Call at the Oasis**, a 2012 documentary from the producers of *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Food, Inc.* and *Waiting for Superman*.

When was the last time you worried about getting a glass of water?

Last Call at the Oasis presents an inspiring wake-up call for why you should be worried, and why the global water crisis will be the central issue facing our world this century.

With the help of environmental activist Erin Brockovich and such distinguished experts as Peter Gleick and Alex Prud'homme, **Last Call at the Oasis** travels throughout North America shedding light on the vital role water plays in our lives, exposing the defects in the current system, and introducing us to communities in California and

Nevada already struggling with its ill-effects and individuals who are championing revolutionary solutions.

Last Call at the Oasis
Tuesday, April 15, 2014
7:00 p.m. (105 minutes in length)
B1 Rec Room

Preview: Coming on Tuesday, May 20, 7 pm, Recreation Room
"The End of the Line" Theme: world's depleted fish populations

Green tips for the Green Organic Bin

We usually think of food waste when we think of composting through our Green Bin program. There are other common household waste items that may also be deposited in the Green Bin.

Paper goods

Tissues
Paper towels
Paper napkins

If these are soiled with chemicals (such as Windex or make-up), throw them in the regular garbage.

Poo-poo and doo-doo

Kitty litter
Dog waste
Human diapers
Dog training mats

For the latter category, it's good to avoid the garbage chute, since these items can create smells and mess in the garbage compacting room.



The Dark Side of Chocolate, a documentary by Danish journalist Miki Mistrati.

On Tuesday, March 18, the Green Committee presented The Dark Side of Chocolate, a 2010 documentary that exposed the dark side of the multi-billion dollar chocolate industry. If you missed it you can find it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vfbv6hNeng>.

The film sheds light on the exploitation and slave trading of West African children to harvest chocolate, still occurring now, 13 years after the cocoa industry pledged to end it.

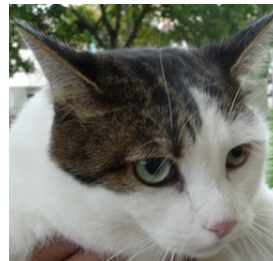
We all love chocolate, 70% of which originates in Africa, but few of us have realized that child slavery is used to produce much of the harvest. In 2001, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association formed an action plan entitled the Harkin-Engel Protocol, an agreement signed by all major chocolate companies promising not to harvest their cocoa beans through means of child workers.

However, child trafficking still continues in West Africa. Authorities and chocolate companies denied it and so the documentary filmmakers went undercover to discover the truth. The film starts with its two filmmakers flying to Mali, where children were rumored to

be smuggled from and then transported to the Ivory Coast. What they uncovered was shocking. Children, ranging in age from 10 to 15, were found forced to do hard labour, physically abused, and paid poor wages or none at all. Many of them stay with the plantation until they die, never seeing their families again.

When confronted with the findings, corporate representatives of some of the world's major chocolate producing companies continued to deny them but the investigations of the filmmakers proved beyond a doubt that these abuses still occur today.

There was a good turnout for this documentary and the Green Committee thanks all who attended. Nine bars of fair trade chocolate were sampled, much to the delight of all (see <http://fairtrade.ca/> for more info. on fair trade). Very informative. A must see.



Spotty Wisdom

This month Spotty says:

Let's always do our best, in both the best and worst of times.



Resident parking

There have been problems with cars being parked in the resident parking by people who are not paying the monthly parking fee (\$90) and who are sometimes parking in someone else's assigned space.

Board and Management will be more strongly enforcing this with ticketing followed by towing and possibly tire locks.

Rule 15.7 applies:

Residents must park in their assigned parking spot. Resident vehicles not parked in their assigned parking spot are subject to ticketing and towing at the Resident's expense, in which event the corporation and its agents are not liable for any damage, costs or expenses whatsoever caused by removal from the property.

Staffing Updates

First, for several months we've had a lot of work done by an on-site contractor, Feta Xhoxhaj. Feta has a wide range of skills, and you might have met him painting your hallway door or tearing down and building back up the walls in the laundry room.

Second, Management is in process of hiring a second, full-time cleaning staff person to bring us back to two people performing that function. This hiring is probably imminent.

Back Issue Newsletters

The 40 Homewood Community Newsletter, begun by Martha McGrath in October 2003, is now fully archived on our website:

<http://40homewood.org/information/newsletter>

Take a trip through memory lane.

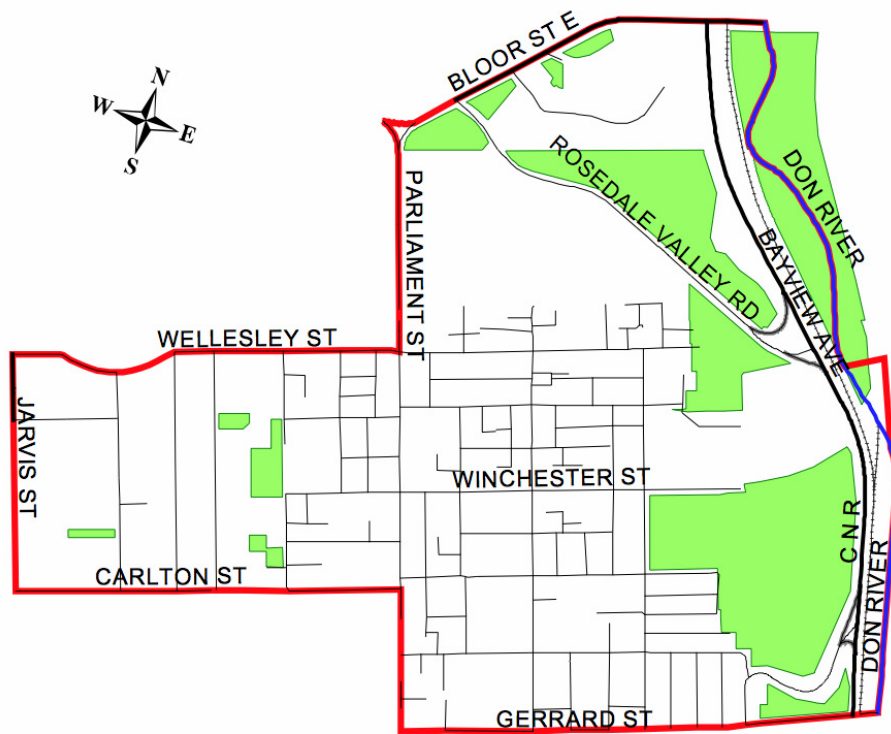
Landscape Project: 2014

by Timothy Oakes, chair, Five-Year Planning Committee

The Five-Year Planning Committee is working with the Property Manager, the Board of Directors and Personal Gardens to implement Year 4 of a five year project to improve and coordinate the fairly large green spaces that we are so fortunate to have.

This year's efforts will concentrate on the island in the rear driveway, the pergola structure in the front of the building and the area between the front entrance doors and the northeast corner of the building. We will continue our efforts to reduce our annual landscaping costs by planting more perennials, although these will always be supplemented by annual planting to give more colour to the gardens. A large part of the budget involves improving drainage and irrigation on the property and this will be part of our efforts again this season.

Sheridan Nurseries will be back in April to change up the two planters in front of the main entrance with a Spring theme. With the arborists having completed the trimming of the trees last fall, we look forward to brighter sunlight on our grounds and a drier season than last year.



Not A Priority Neighbourhood

City Council recently identified 31 "priority neighbourhoods" which are eligible for extra funding and services due to their low scores on a variety of measures, including economics and poverty, educational levels, civic participation and others.

Of the city's 140 neighbourhoods, ours is called "Cabbagetown-South St James Town." 40 Homewood is in the South St James Town section (see map).

On these measurements, we are right in the middle, ranking # 71 of the 140.

Contractors and Service Providers

You can find a four-page list of Contractors and Service Providers, continually updated, on both the website

(<http://40homewood.org/information/bulletin-board>)

and in print at the office. If

you've used workers you'd like to recommend for your neighbours, please send the name, contact information and type of work to the website email (homewoodweb@gmail.com).

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

Q & A

Questions to the Board or Management

Question: Is there any guidance for volunteers who are not elected Board directors to follow?

Answer: The Board has recently passed a Volunteer Code of Ethics. This will be distributed to all present volunteers (committee members, etc.) and will soon be posted on the website also.

Question: Is there a schedule for window washing?

Answer: There will be a washing of inaccessible windows in May and another one in the autumn.

Question: When will there be a fire inspection?

Answer: The Annual Fire Inspection will take place in May. Now is the time to make sure that your smoke detector is working and, if not, to check and replace the battery which might solve the problem. Also check your carbon monoxide detector if you have one.

Question: Will our sound systems in the recreation room be upgraded?

Answer: This is in the works. First, the audio system (speakers, microphones for meetings) will be replaced. Second, the entertainment cabinet will be revamped and then the TV and DVD players and VHS players will be replaced as necessary.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LAST CALL AT THE OASIS
April 15th, 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, June 11th, 2014

YARD SALE
Saturday, July 5th, 2014

BBQ
Saturday, August 9th, 2014

HOLIDAY DINNER
Sunday, December 7th, 2014

Earth Hour

About a dozen people attended a celebration of Earth Hour and the Fifth Anniversary of the Green Committee on Saturday, March 29. Earth Hour, begun in 2007, is a symbolic hour showing support for conservation and concern about climate change. Our group walked over to Allan Gardens and looked at the downtown skyline from there. The big office towers were much more dimly lit than usual. On the way back we noticed that nearly 90% of the units on the east side of 40 Homewood had dimmed or no lights. Congratulations, all!

IN MEMORIAM



Former resident Arthur Martin died on March 4, 2014, at his home in London, Ontario. He was predeceased by his husband, Russ Baxter, who died in December 2013.

Arthur was born in 1931 in England. He was in the British Navy for six years and then came to Canada in 1970. He worked as a bartender, a bingo hall manager and a bank teller.

During his years at 40 Homewood, Arthur was very active in convening social events.

He met Russ at Prime Timers about 2001. They married in 2010 and soon after moved to London.

There will be a memorial for Arthur at the **Metropolitan Community Church**, Simpson Avenue in Riverdale, on **Saturday, April 26, at 4.00 pm.**

(This information is taken from a 2004 Newsletter profile and from notes from Arthur's friend, Roy Miles.)

A.G.M.

What: 40 Homewood Annual General Meeting for 2014

When: Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 7 pm

Where: Primrose Hotel, Carlton & Jarvis

Who: All owners plus proxies representing absent owners

Tasks: (1) appoint auditor for 2014-2015
(2) elect Board directors

This year, the terms of two directors will be up: Brian Brenie and Stephanus Greeff. We need to elect two directors to two-year terms, ending in 2016. Incumbents are allowed to run for re-election. One of those positions will be elected by owners living in their units ("owner-occupied"). Three directors, Laurel Adams, Timothy Oakes, and Charles Marker, have another year in their terms, until 2015.

A preliminary notice of the meeting will be sent at the beginning of May, and it will include nominating papers for candidates for the Board. Nominations will be due near the middle of May.

If you are considering running for the Board, feel free to get in touch with present or former Board members to find out more about the tasks and workload.





Air Conditioners

by Jeffrey Amos

The first thing to know when choosing an air conditioner is the square footage of the area being cooled. AC power is measured in BTU (British Thermal Units) and the number of BTU corresponds to the space that an air conditioner can cool comfortably. Since it's difficult for cooled air to move from one room to the next, you may need a separate AC unit for each room. If you choose to only have one unit, one trick is to place a fan in the doorway of the room that you want cooled facing into the room. The fan will draw air from one room into the other, though it likely won't cool the second room as thoroughly.

West side units may need an air conditioner that is slightly more powerful than recommended as it will have to work harder than an AC unit on the east side.

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS

These sit in a window or wall opening, with interior controls. Interior air is cooled as a fan blows it over the evaporator. In this process, heat is drawn from the room and discharged to the environment, cooling the room and removing the humidity. During milder weather, the fan function can be used.

Advantages Price (costing a few hundred dollars for an AC that can cool an entire unit). They are also easy to control, and moderately easy to install. (If you are installing one in a window

with a long drop down, it is strongly recommended to hire a professional installer).

Disadvantages They sometimes fill up an entire window so that it cannot be opened or closed, they are fairly loud, look unsightly from the outside and drip on the outside, potentially landing on balconies below.

PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONERS

These sit on the floor on wheels. One or two tubes go from the unit into a slot that fits into an open window frame in order for the air to be exchanged. The difference is that a portable AC can be moved from room to room.

Advantages The slot for the hoses can be removed from the window so that the window can be opened and closed when the AC is not in use. There is a water tray that catches condensed water (so this does not go onto your balcony), and newer models evaporate the water so you don't have to empty these trays.

Disadvantages A portable AC unit is about double the price of an equivalent window unit, the tube(s) going to the outside can get hot and give some heat back into the room. They're noisy and take up a fair amount of floor space.

DUCTLESS (MINI SPLIT SYSTEM) AIR CONDITIONERS

These consist of two parts – the inside wall mounted blower (which gives off the cooled air into the unit), and the compressor/condenser which is located on the balcony. They're connected by tubing through a hole in the wall which pumps refrigerant between the two parts. In many renovated units at 40

Homewood, the windows in the living area have been replaced with sliding doors - this does not leave a space where a window air conditioner could be installed, or where a portable unit's window slot could fit. As such, the only option available is the ductless mini split system.

Unlike the window AC and portable AC, which can often be installed by the owners or handymen, these units must be installed by HVAC professionals. They need to be connected directly to the electrical system (they do not "plug in" to an outlet), and a hole needs to be drilled in the wall between the balcony and the inside for the connecting tubing. Thus, it is essential that the owner obtains written approval from the office to install the unit, and that it be done by professionals.

Advantages The inside blower is almost silent when working since the compressor/condenser is outside on the balcony; it is more aesthetically attractive than a window/portable unit as the blower is very unobtrusive and more energy efficient than a window or portable unit. Also, this kind of AC system lasts longer than the other types – 15 years or longer.

Disadvantages Price – although the cost has come down, it can still cost \$3000 - \$4000 for a mini split system and there is an annual fee for preventative maintenance. (My annual fee is over \$320.00 just for the maintenance.) Also, installation needs an HVAC professional and an electrician. Plus the compressor/condenser still drips on the balcony, so the water needs to be caught in a bucket and emptied in the sink or bathtub.

Where to buy

Window and Portable units can be purchased at major retailers like Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, Home Depot, Target, Wal-Mart. Major brands include Garrison, LG, Comfort Aire, Danby and Haier. Ductless mini-split systems can only be purchased from a heating and air conditioning specialist such as AtlasCare. Major brands include Fujitsu, Toshiba, and Friedrich.

Happy air conditioner hunting!



"Good Eats, Cheap Eats, Sweet Spots"

by Cammy Lee-Bostwick

Hey Folks,
This month's 'sweet spot' is the new "Churchmouse and Firkin" on the corner of Church and Maitland. Gone is the brass and red interior so popular in traditional British-style pubs, replaced with a more modern vibe: wallpaper that echoes the subway lines of London's famous underground transit system: The Tube, presumably.

For \$11, I had the fish tacos (snapper) and they were well worth it! I had full intention of taking a photo but when it arrived, two pieces of lightly tempura battered fish on top of pico de gallo (blend of tomato, onion, jalapeno, chilantro) cradled on two flour tortillas...well, I scarfed it down, picture-taking a distant memory. Sorry about that, folks. The pico de gallo was a bit spicy, but ok. Fish was not too batter-heavy so the lightness of the snapper

came through, and it was a nice size portion. This should be their fish & chips, but I don't think it is.

French Onion soup (\$6) was hearty, with a sliced baguette and melted swiss cheese on top; there could be more cheese but the generous amount of soft caramelized onions was spot-on. Broth was a tad salty, but otherwise, a great night out, and good news --- the friendly atmosphere made it through the renos...yay!



What's cookin' outdoors?

Are the barbecues now "open for business"?

The barbecues were not "closed" during the long winter, though not many people were seen there cooking. So, yes, "open for business." Coming soon: an accessible entrance to the patio from the recreation room and an access door outside our back door and down the steps to the patio.

The Board has established an ending time for barbecue use at 11 pm. (This is to avoid noise disturbing to residents on the west side of the building.)

The barbecue season last year was short but some of you users may have suggestions for how the process could work better. Please let the board know at board40h@gmail.com

Here is a set of instructions for those who haven't previously used the barbecues:

BBQ: PROCESS, OPERATION AND CLEAN-UP

1. book the BBQ through office or security for date and time you want it
2. When the time comes, see security, give him \$5 & he will give you a bag of BBQ equipment & he will open the gas box for you.
3. Open lid of BBQ
4. Turn gas knob to the left
5. Turn to "ON" all knobs where you see a lightning bolt
6. Press the starter button that also shows lightning bolt
7. Adjust knobs to the heat level you want

When finished:

1. Use the brush to brush the grill while hot
2. Turn gas to the right to shut off
3. Clean BBQ equipment
4. Shut lid down
5. Let BBQ cool down before you put cover on.
6. Get security to lock the gas box & to take back the BBQ equipment.





Three Months in South America

by Gus Kieley

It's great to be back in my beloved Toronto even though coming from an average temperature of 27 C in South America to an average of -16C was a bit of a shock. But I'm a Newfoundlander and no stranger to winter.

My winter escape this year was again to South America: a second visit to Colombia and a first for both Argentina and Chile. After three weeks and Christmas with friends in Medellin, Colombia, I headed for Argentina.

I arrived in Buenos Aires on Dec. 28th expecting temperatures around 25 – 28 degrees but it turned out to be 43C! It stayed that way for most of my three-week stay. Thank God I love hot weather.

I am not a fan of really big cities but as I wandered around Buenos Aires, I quickly fell in love with it. The Buenos Aires of today is a delightful reminder of "The Golden Age" of Argentina in the mid-1800s. Money was no problem then and nothing was spared in the construction of grandiose edifices, including cafés, theatres, opera houses and other attractions. The woodwork, the charm, the opulent atmosphere simply take your breath away.

Argentines love Buenos Aires, evident in the manner in which staff speak to you at cafés and gathering places. Most were built during the Golden Age and have been preserved with great pride.

I felt very safe in Buenos Aires, a city of 3 million in a metropolitan region of 13 million. Walking streets in the downtown core transported me back to a long past era. Order a café con leche and the waiter, dressed in formal attire, presents it to you in a most elegant manner. It comes with some sweets and a small glass of mineral water. There is always something special about each café: the architecture, stained glass windows and antique furniture which creates an atmosphere that makes you feel like a special guest.

It seemed like a world of commerce everywhere I turned, especially in some of the walking streets such as Florida and Lavalle. They're near "The Obelisco" area where sounds of "Cambio" (currency exchange) come from locals trying to buy your American dollars, restaurant staff beckon you to come in and merchants with various wares calling out to tourists.

I was determined to visit Patagonia in southern Argentina. A bus tour was recommended, so off I went on a 90-hour bus ride spread over three weeks. From Buenos Aires, we traveled down along the Atlantic coast. The buses were comfortable and, with many stops along the way -- some overnight, some for 3–4 days -- I saw a lot of the countryside.

During our various stops, we could enjoy sunning on the beach and visiting a hacienda (farm) to go horseback riding with gaucho (Argentine cowboys)

guides. Argentine horses are said to be the most gentle on earth, and they certainly seemed to live up to that reputation .

We continued our tour along the Atlantic until we reached what is known as "The End of the Earth" in a town called Ushuaia, the most southerly point of Argentina. From here, we were able to see in the distance the many glaciers of Antarctica.

Seeing the melting ice fall from the sides of glaciers and the towering ice-capped mountains was astounding. The weather was much cooler here but the experience of being so very near Antarctica was worth it.

From here, we headed back north. At El Chalten, we spent two days roaming and sitting at the foot of Monte Fitz Roy where the scenery was breathtaking. We continued our way up the western border of Argentina with Chile. We arrived in San Carlos de Bariloche, another delightful town and our turning point as we headed back to Buenos Aires.

Then I was off to explore another country since a visit to Chile, I was told, is a must. I travelled by bus to Mendoza and then took a five-hour bus ride to Santiago, Chile, weaving through the Andes. As we commenced our final descent down the last mountain before the Chilean border/immigration, I clasped my hands as we sped along. The bus seemed to cling to the side of the mountain for dear life. I put my trust in the driver's long experience. Though challenged by heights, I continued to look out the bus window, seeing nothing but a steep drop to a bottom that seemed to be miles away. At last, we arrived to the bottom and were

approved to enter Chile, my reward for having made it down the mountain.

We arrived in Santiago, Chile, another city steeped in history and politics and it's also a beautiful city. A historical walking tour was most informative. Like many South American cities and indeed countries, they have had their boom period in the late 1800s with the discovery and development of the nitrate industry. Evidence of these boom times is seen in the many smaller towns, with architecture reminiscent of French design from that era.

Friends in southern Chile welcomed me to their home and showed me with great pride the three main towns in the Valparaiso Region: Viña Del Mar, Renaca and Con Con, all of which have developed into what almost seem to be one large city. They lived in Con Con, a delightful seaside town with some awesome scenery. On the fourth day, I took a 25-hour bus ride up the Pacific coast. I was in awe seeing so many fishing villages along the way.

We arrived in Aguique, another delightful town located just south of Peru. From there, we took a bus to San Pedro de Atagama, a fascinating traditional Chilean town. Two days in San Pedro and I was off to catch a flight back to Buenos Aires.



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