



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

EDITOR: Bruce DeMara
DESIGN + LAYOUT: C. Jones
CONTACT US: 40HomewoodNews@gmail.com



Talking Cemeteries

Bruce DeMara

Virginia Van Vliet knows a lot about cemeteries.

Van Vliet is a long-time member of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association and volunteer with the Royal Ontario Museum Walks, which offers walking tours around Toronto. She came to 40 Homewood on May 26 to give a very lively lecture on a subject some of us would wish to avoid thinking about.

"Cemeteries are really. . . where the past and the present meet," Van Vliet told about 20 residents. She gave a general overview of the history of cemeteries in Toronto before focusing on two sites close to home, St. James Cemetery at 635 Parliament Street and the Toronto Necropolis at 200 Winchester Street.



Cemeteries, she noted, became far more part of the city landscape in the 19th century for a number of reasons, including changing Victorian views on death, the Industrial Revolution – which created middle class wealth for the first time – and even the rise of the evangelical movement. Prior to that, people were often buried without coffins and tombstones were reserved for the very wealthy.

St. James, opened in 1844, became the favourite resting place for the Family Compact, the cadre of prominent families who controlled Upper Canada for decades such as the Gooderham and Worts families of distillery fame.

The Necropolis, which opened in 1850, is the final resting place for many well-known figures in Toronto history, including former rebel and first mayor William Lyon Mackenzie, journalist George Brown who founded The Globe newspaper and famed rower Ned Hanlan, for whom Hanlan's Point is named.

It's also where prominent black Torontonians such as Thornton and Lucie Blackburn are buried.

"Cemeteries are where history comes alive and they really are lovely places to walk," Van Vliet told an enthralled and appreciative audience.

The very last public tour of spring 2024 will be June 8th at 1pm at the Toronto Necropolis! Completely free and no registration required! Come early to take advantage of the refreshments provided by The Mount Pleasant Group. See you in the cemetery

Good eats, cheap eats & sweet spots

by Dr. Cammy Lee Bostwick

A great place for a post gym workout is Boku on the corner of Yonge and Breda (the west side of Maitland). For \$22, I ordered the combo "Boku Curry + SIDE + soda". Sides could be miso soup, salad or vegetable gyoza. Choice of protein is breaded chicken cutlet, shrimp or corn croquettes. I chose the gyoza and shrimp.

Five dumplings arrived with crispy skin and a filling of minced vegetables that was piping hot, so be warned! Five tempura shrimp of significant size came beside rice and Japanese curry which is flavourful with just a hint of heat. Pickled cabbage and finely chopped scallion garnish the dish. The lighting here is perfect for date night: flatteringly dim without being too dark. Decor is whimsical, with opened Japanese umbrellas adorning the back wall. Service is outstanding: Julia, Blue, and Mila are attentive and remember you (and what you order). A rarity in today's fast-paced "eat and get out" culture.

At such a reasonable price, Boku has ambience, great food and excellent service. This special is available Sun-Thurs from 6pm. Itadakimasu!



410 Sherbourne: The Phoenix - Plus

by Charles Marker

If you're wondering what's happening with the plan to redevelop 410 Sherbourne just to the east of us, read on.

The building consists of the Phoenix Concert Theatre and it formerly housed clinics and offices of St. Michael's Hospital. St. Michael's moved to larger, more modern facilities at 95 Homewood a while back, leaving the Phoenix in the four-storey building.

In November 2021 a Zoning By-law Amendment application was submitted to the City to permit construction of a 42-storey mixed-use building containing 473 dwelling units. In December 2023, City Council refused the Zoning Amendment. The owner appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal in January, and a case management conference will be held on June 6. There are confidential documents, with recommendations from the City Solicitor, which have not yet been released.

Here is more history of the music venue from BlogTO: "Originally it was ballroom dancing and dinner parties for the German-Canadian Club Harmonie before the venue was transformed into the ill-fated Toronto offshoot of Greenwich Village-based club Village Gate.



410 Sherbourne St. with 40 Homewood in background

"Next, the building became home to an '80s counterculture icon as The Diamond, a dance club known for its mash-up of punk and glam styles. Punk and glam fell out of favour as grunge took the counterculture spotlight, and the Diamond closed in 1991 to make way for The Phoenix, a primarily rock venue catering to changing tastes."

The Board Corner

By Martha MacLachlan

Last month, we talked about the riser project. This is the one where we open the wall on each floor and replace pipes.

The next step will be the long-awaited corridor refurbishment. I am happy to report we have received five submissions by design companies and are currently reviewing the bids and the proposed materials, like carpet and tiles and colour combinations for the walls, floors and doors. Once we decide on the design company, residents will be given the opportunity to vote on selected choices. We can't give you an exact time frame but it will happen in the next two months. The objective is to start the work in sections as the plumbers work their way down the floors replacing the pipes.

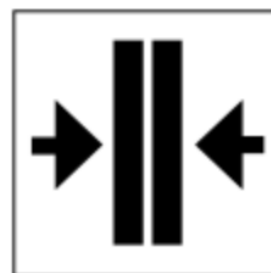
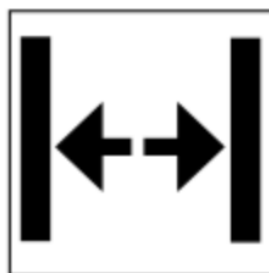
You might notice work being done on the south front end of the building where the steps to the back of the building are located. A fobbed gate is being installed with additional fencing to prevent non-residents hopping over the gate and installing themselves in our back yard. This installation is in response to resident concerns that there is an increase in itinerants from the little park using this entrance to our back yard. Yes, they can still gain entrance by walking up the street and going down the driveway but the gate will hopefully act as a deterrent.



Gardening Committee members planting our pollinator garden in May.

The Garden Committee welcomes your help on Sunday, June 9 at 11 am to help plant 90 more new plants. Meet in front of the building.

Stay tuned, it just keeps getting better at 40H.



The elevator technicians tell us that the elevators are built to respond to the button. And, by the way, that button in our elevators is the one closest to the door.

Physically blocking the door triggers an emergency for the elevator mechanics and is to be avoided.

Rules & Bylaws

By Constance Dilley

Welcome to the new Rules and Bylaws column. The Governing Documents Committee will explain what motivates certain rules and ask for your attention to them.

If you get into an elevator and seeing someone running to join you, what do you do? Stretch out your arm to hold the door open. It's a neighbourly thing to do and allows the other person to join you in the elevator cab. Good, no? The intention is fine but holding the door open with your arm, not so much.

See this rule: 12.5 When it is necessary to hold the elevator door open briefly, Residents should use the "door open" button to do so. The door must not be held open by any other means (i.e., bodily or by using a large object) as costly repairs can result.



YARD SALE

SAT. JUNE 15, 2024

**9 AM – 1:00 PM
(SET UP STARTS AT 8 AM)**

RAIN DATE – SUN. JUNE 16

**TABLES AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR \$5
(IF REQUIRED)
INQUIRE AT THE OFFICE**

