

HARBORD VILLAGE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1
info@harbordvillage.com
harbordvillage.com



To: Chair and members Toronto Preservation Board

Re: item 16.15

Update on Bill 23

March 27, 2024.

Harbord Village Residents' Association has boundaries of Bloor, Spadina, College and Bathurst. The Village is host to two Heritage Conservation Districts, and contains within its boundaries some 50 listed properties with 83 street addresses.

Ten days ago, we brought you information on what we had done as a residents' association to begin to assemble the kinds of materials you would need for a designation.

Today, we bring an update.

We have found willing hands in the community and among heritage professionals to design and work on a pilot in Harbord Village. This would roadtest a plan to empower the community to deliver actionable material to Heritage Preservation Services. Our global goals are the same: maximize the number of designations before the January 1, 2025 deadline. Harness the broader community.

This is a quick start community response to a crisis. We hope to build on the HPS and consultant work that has already gone into

setting targets, priorities, must saves, but to leave those to the heritage professionals. Instead, we want, with the assistance of Heritage Preservation Services, to maximize other opportunities for designation that would otherwise be lost.

I was saddened to read the letter from my colleague in the Junction who, with a professional heritage planner, seemed resigned to plead for salvaging at least the lists. We need not accept so little. Especially when there is still time to marshal professional and community resources.

We should not accept we are sentenced to a forgone defeat.

On Friday, we begin work. In ten days, we will come back to Heritage Preservation Services and to this committee, if you wish, with a design to deliver a quick pilot in Harbord Village that could be a model for the entire city. This would test our capacity to assemble the necessary information for designations and how best we might work while placing the least level of demand on HPS.

Within the Village and along the south side of College, we have representatives of all building forms that could be part of a mass designation initiative. We have distinctive buildings such as the Lillian Smith Library, and on Bloor, such as the Brunswick House. We have a Victorian business streetscape along College. We have Knox Church and a Uno Prii apartment building. We have a fully preserved, distinctive 1885 house.

Working with HPS, professionals and the community we could design a model for heritage rescue that could be rolled out city-wide. Within weeks.

Can we afford to do less?

With thanks,

Sue Dexter
Harbord Village Residents' Association,
97 Willcocks St.
Toronto, M5S1C9

Bloor Street: maximum development pressure



College Street business district: central section



Uno Prii on Spadina, a major section of redevelopment: there are three active development sites within a block.



A gem of a house at 284 Sussex.

