

The Pocket

FREE

VOLUME 5

JULY 2004

Pocket editorial – We're One Year Old!

By Nate Hendley

The Pocket newsletter recently celebrated its first anniversary. To mark this milestone, *The Pocket's* all-volunteer staff took the time to reflect on where we came from and outline future goals. Our history goes like this: last year, a neighbour had an idea to start a community newspaper for the Pocket (the area defined as extending from Jones Avenue to the TTC yard and Chatham Avenue to the Go-Train tracks). This neighbour told other neighbours who got together and created the first issue of the newsletter you now hold in your hands. Teamwork was essential, but so was the individual spark that initially got us going. Of course, *The Pocket* wouldn't have survived if it weren't based in such a great community. The Pocket neighbourhood is the kind of place where residents actually talk to each other, community spirit runs high and "quality-of-life" is more than just a real estate cliché. We hope *The Pocket* newsletter has reflected these special attributes during its first year of operation. Newsletters, like neighbourhoods, are subject to change. To this end, staffers at *The Pocket* have established several goals for year

two. *Pocket* volunteers want to establish a regular publishing schedule for the newsletter, maintain the balance between serious and "light" pieces, emphasize community safety issues, engage readers to a greater degree and become more inclusive. One volunteer suggested we launch a "pro" and "con" forum for controversial local issues; another suggested we have more comics, cartoons and crosswords. We're going to try our best to incorporate as many of these goals as possible in upcoming issues of *The Pocket*. We also want to reiterate something that we stated at our very first *Pocket* meeting: this newsletter belongs to everyone in the Pocket community. We encourage all neighbourhood residents to contribute stories, photos, ideas, drawings or even their time. If you want to write a story or draw a picture, let us know. If you'd like to help distribute *The Pocket* or sell ads, let us know. This is your newsletter. Offering your input is the best way to ensure that we survive and thrive as we move into our second year of life. -the Publisher



Collage Including Pictures of Community Soccer, Clean up day, Nora Young on a bike and a Local flower bed.



Community Soccer Kicks Off in the Pocket

By: Barbara Shaw

Peter Cahill and Greg Barsoski are teaching the Pocket how to play. Every Thursday at 4pm these two Pocket Dads host a pick-up soccer game in Phin Park and so far it's been a big success. Barsoski came up with the idea after seeing a group called ALPHA run a similar game in the West End. He started talking to Cahill and the idea was born. "I said, yeah, let's do it then," says a sweating Cahill while taking a break from the Thursday night game. "This is all about getting together and having a good time; getting out of our houses and having fun." And people are getting out of their houses. Over twenty Pocket residents have been showing up for the game. And people are not just showing up to kick the ball. There is a growing crowd of spectators and with players aged two to 54, it's the best show in town. "It's great because kids are playing with adults and they feel more supported," Barsoski says. Sophia Barsoski is five years old and she's playing goal. She enjoys playing soccer with her Dad but she's also enjoying the game for what it is, challenging and competitive. "I like when I get the ball a lot and when we win a lot," Sophia Barsoski says as she takes a break from tending goal to eat an apple. "I'm not scared of the fast ball." When



asked who the best players are from the co-ed multigenerational game Sophia answers quickly before running back to take over the goal. "The girls and the grown-ups are the best," she says. "The grown-ups are big kids". From a spectator's point of view, the adults might just be having as much fun as the kids and they are working just as hard to move the ball across the field. But, because their muscles are older and not as used to running after a ball, there are some painful grimaces as adults hit the sidelines with pulled hamstrings. "Anyone can show up and play," says Cahill while stretching on the grass. "We don't care what your skill level is because it's a mixed game. It's not elitist, everyone is welcome." Barsoski thinks that this will grow and grow and maybe start to spill out of Phin Park. "Right now we're just getting to know each other and have fun," Barsoski says while running back onto the field. Soccer in Phin Park is the social event of the week and the games will continue every Thursday until it snows. Everyone is welcome and thanks to two Pocket Dads we'll be getting some much-needed exercise while having fun and meeting new people.

Needles found in TTC Park

By: Barbara Shaw

Residents need to use caution when walking through the TTC park this summer. Neighbours working on the Community Clean-Up in April found used syringes and condoms in the area. TTC staff and grounds crews that keep the park clean were not shocked by the news since they have had complaints from neighbours over the past few months. The crews have been made aware of the situation and they will do their best to clean-up what they can but they have no way of stopping drug use that happens in the park. Residents with ideas on making the park safer are encouraged to contact the TTC.



St. John's bakery



"The sourdough fixed my sister-in-law's toaster!!"

It hadn't worked properly for weeks but as soon as she put in a slice of St. John's organic sourdough it worked perfectly...and it kept on working for a week and a half!"

Peter from Shudell.

St. John's Bakery is a small artisan bakery specializing in Breton-style organic bread. The bread is made locally in small batches, using traditional techniques passed on from a village bakery in Brittany. St. John's offers training to socially disadvantaged people who want to learn the art of bread baking.

Pickup: Saturday mornings from 1 Queen Victoria St. between 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

Available in: Sour Dough (White, Multi-Grain, Whole-Wheat or Rye), Multi-Grain, Whole Wheat, Walnut/Raisin, Normandy-Style White, Italian White. New!! Apple Pie

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To Order: Phone 416 466-7939, email: marcvanb@interlog.com or drop by 1 Queen Victoria. (If you are placing an order, please let us know by Thursday night)

Community Benefit Concert Raises Money for Shooting Victim

By Glenna Kennedy

Imagine being the mother of three children, one of them severely disabled. Then imagine being shot in the back and the prospect of never being able to walk again. It is not in the imagination of Louise Russo, the recent victim of a drive-by shooting in Toronto. It is reality as we all know. Our community imagined it, along with many others in the city – and pitched in. On May 14, the Hargrave Pub on the Danforth hosted a packed-with-people benefit, under the directorship of neighbourhood resident Frank Benac, who thought that something must be done for Louise Russo and her family when he read of this sad story. Frank hit the Danforth early in May. Pub owner Chris Wood agreed to host. Caring merchants all along Danforth Ave. donated thousands of dollars worth of raffle prizes. Radio stations advertised the event. City TV advertised the benefit and covered it live. Local musicians played for free. Politicians Jack Layton and Marilyn Churley arrived and donated \$100.00 each. Hundreds of hotdogs and hamburgers were barbecued and eaten with gusto. Local volunteers were generous with both their time and the money they could give that night. The people in our community raised \$3,420.00. Frank called

the Russo family that night to let them know. Louise's sister, Rose, said the family could not believe the generosity of so many people who don't even know them. Our community is no stranger to Louise and her family anymore. Way to go neighbourhood!



Louise Russo

POCKET CRITTERS

By Glenna Kennedy

The squirrels have dug my
flower bulbs
And what am I to do?
No summer glee will grace their
bed Not white nor red nor blue!

Now one's in my garden
Just adding to my grief
I wanted that tomato
The fuzzy long-tailed thief!

A skunk is on my lawn tonight
As darkness now approaches
The thought of just what he can
do I'd rather live with roaches!

Another's underneath my house
And golly what a smell!
As far as me and skunks get on
The skunks can go to #\$\$\$#!

Raccoons get in my garbage
It's really quite uncanny
Just one more trash lid taken
off
Will send me to my mammy!

Now they're in the treetops
While I'm trying to barbecue
How to keep them from my
steak I haven't got a clue!

As autumn now approaches
Of all bulbs there is no lack
But foolish me, of course I
knew The #%%%% squirrels
are back!

Why am I relentless
In my pursuit to keep them
back When I have come to the
conclusion We must share this
habitat?

It's true. Complaints are
abundant in the Pocket, as
everywhere, about the damage
that our fellow denizens cause.
Antecedotes and concoctions
abound to keep the critters
away, from paprika to chicken
wire – ask any devoted gardener
and you are guaranteed a
lengthy conversation.

The City of Toronto says we
must live in harmony with the
animals we share our lives with
until such ways are found to
decrease their populations, but
is this likely to happen given
urban growth? There are lots of
ways, however, to keep animals
from getting in your home.
Entrances such as chimneys
and other openings should be

blocked. And gardening? Well,
whatever works for you.

A very good source of
information on both wildlife
and domestic animals in the
city is available at the City
of Toronto Animal Services
website ([city.toronto.on.ca/
animal_services](http://city.toronto.on.ca/animal_services)). There is lots
of useful information on how
to wildlife protect your home
and lots of other good ideas.

Get in touch with the Pocket
and share your own ideas with
us.

GET OUT OF HERE YOU
@#%#\$\$\$ SQUIRRELS!

From
the Archives



Ravenna and Jones 1913

City of Toronto Archives

Pocket Op-ed: Street Hockey Ban is UnCanadian!

By: Michael Kozurok

As I walk down the streets in The Pocket from various directions I can't help but notice the signs prohibiting ball hockey. My first sentiment is "How Anti-Canadian is this?"

I understand that the safety of our children is top priority. It is also evident that the Pocket is not a common artery for morning and evening commutes.

The traffic in our Pocket is very minimal and maintained at 40kph, which gives plenty of time for vehicles to slow down or stop for any sort of obstacle. Hockey is a national pastime and is part of growing up in this beautiful country. It was the beginnings of the likes of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux. I plan to encourage my children to do the same on Condor

Avenue. It goes without saying that before my children carry that old hockey net onto the street that they have been instructed on the rules and safety issue that revolve around street hockey. As we stand right now, our children are playing ball regardless and it is teaching them that it is OK to break a by-law to participate in a natural and truly Canadian activity. I will be passing by your home this summer with a petition to have these signs removed so that our children can play without breaking the law. Why should these innocent children be turned into scofflaws for participating in our national pastime?

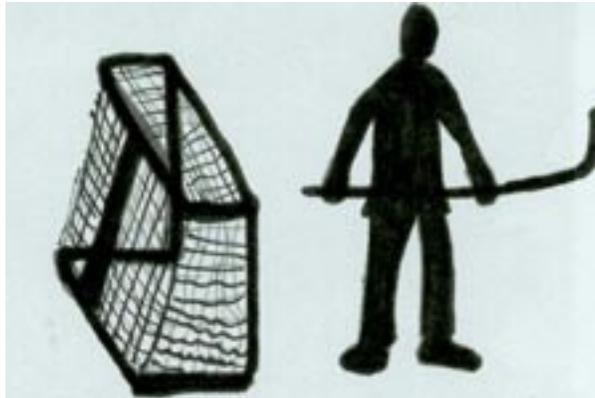
Shouldn't every one of us encourage this physical activity rather than seeing our kids spending endless hours watching TV or playing

games on the computer? Please feel free to email any comments that you may have in regards to this issue and if you would like to add your name to the petition list. Please add your name and

address and telephone number and email to pockethockey@sympatico.ca

Lets encourage the wondrous chant of "CAR!!!" and "Game On!!!" in our Pocket and cheer on our future gold medallists. Lets educate our children to be responsible and teach them that it's OK to play ball hockey in our community.

Michael Kozurok A resident of the Pocket



Update on the TTC Park Community Garden

By: Nicholas Brooks

All our fruit trees are in blossom having made it through the winter, and we expect a small harvest. We are planting in one area and waiting for Councillor Paula Fletcher, who represents the Pocket neighbourhood at City Hall, to come and visit. Then we will be arranging a community open house with a view to recruiting more gardeners. We have a lot of space for non-homeowners to come and 'play in the dirt' Nicholas Brooks



Illustrator by Cecilia Booth



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Kids Blossom in “The Story Garden”

By: Barbara Shaw

Artistic and enthusiastic Pocket kids ages six to 12 are invited to attend an arts and gardening camp at Oakvale Green Community Garden each Sunday morning in July. Founded by Emma Manchester and fellow Pocket artist Daniel Howlett, “The Story Garden” is designed for kids to create stories, dance, garden and make art. Coming from the artists’ imagination, “The Story Garden” is a place where all kinds of stories grow,” says Manchester. “There are stories about creatures that live in the garden. There are stories that come from the imagination, so it helps to make puppets and masks to act them out. There are stories full of simple kinds of magic, like seeds sprouting. There are forgotten stories that we



need to tell so that we can remember...like the story of Hastings Creek.” The camp will be run at Oakvale Green Community Garden and the cost will be based on a sliding scale to cover the cost of materials and a snack. This will be a creative and fun learning experience for neighbourhood kids as well as a chance to socialize with others. This is also the chance for Pocket Kids to “hang out in their neighbourhood with other kids from their neighbourhood,” says Manchester. So take your kids out to some magical Sunday morning summer fun and learning! Contact Emma Manchester at 416.465.1458 or seekingsecrets@wildmail.com for more information on “The Story Garden”.

Neighbourhood Deals – And More

By: Rowena

Rowena, a 20-year resident in the Pocket, has an idea she would like to try. Got items to sell, swap or give away? Planning a yard sale? Having a street party? Would you like to put together a craft, card or gardening club? If there is anything you would like to share with you neighbours in the Pocket, you can now let them know via e-mail at neighbourhooddeals@sympatico.ca. This is a free service offered by Rowena to help keep our community together. The service is for our neighbourhood only and your e-mail address will not be given to anyone unless you request it. All

e-mails sent by neighbourhood deals will be sent BCC. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, send your first name and e-mail address to the above web site and in subject line type “mailing list”. If you would like to post an item, send it to the website and type “posting” in the subject line. Write a brief description of your item or idea in your e-mail and, if you wish, a contact number, or you can just communicate via e-mail. Rowena will post all items on the first and third Sunday of each month. Good luck in your quest!

Police Make Arrests in Blake-Boulton Shooting

By Nate Hendley

”In our last issue, we wrote about the tragic shooting death of Clayton Kempton Howard, a much respected, 24 year-old community leader in the Blake-Boulton neighbourhood. Since that issue came out, police have arrested several suspects in connection to the shooting. Police said neighbourhood witnesses who came forward with information aided them in their investigation. While we still mourn for Howard, we are glad that area residents cared enough

about the crime to provide police with helpful tips on the alleged assailants.”



The Pocket

Issue V

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Many thanks to all that have been involved and to all that read the newsletter. Drop boxes are located at 18 Boothroyd Ave, 34 Condor Ave. You can email us at thepocket@sympatico.ca

The Hargrave Pub + Restaurant



Purchase an entree and get one free entree of equal value up to September 15 with this ad. 1106 Danforth Ave, West of Greenwood.
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