

The Pocket

FREE

VOLUME 9

MARCH 2007

Artists Bring Pocket Vividly to Life

By Lindsay Soomet

Although not all of us living in the landscape of the Pocket are skilled in the area of visual art, our community does draw in artists. No matter where in the neighbourhood you reside, there's a good chance that as you incessantly shovel the snow taking over your walkway, there's an artist at work down the road.

We have an abundance of artists living in our stomping grounds, too many to mention in just one sitting. On Earl Grey you'll find Anita Advani, who has lived in the area since 1988, and has shown her paintings at the

Riverdale Art Walk as well as The Little Art Show. Then there's Cecilia Booth on Seymour Avenue,



Carolyn Megill

who some of you may know from her illustrations in The Pocket newsletter. Originally from England, Cecilia has displayed her creations as set designs for the Toronto productions of The Phantom of the Opera and The Lion King, and she has been pursuing the arts for her entire life from mask making to painting in acrylics and drawing.

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Halloween Houses in the Pocket

By Nate Hendley

In what has become an unofficial tradition, several homeowners on Ravina Crescent went all out in decorating their domiciles for Halloween in 2006. While other streets also featured ghoulish displays, Ravina arguably had the highest Scary House Per City Block ratio (S.H.P.C.B.) in the Pocket.

People on Ravina appear compelled – perhaps by forces beyond our comprehension – to create highly outlandish and original Halloween scenes.

At number 81, for example, Jeff Otto turned the front of his two-story home into a giant monster face. A pair of enormous exercise balls painted to resemble angry eyes looked out from a second floor porch railing.

Between them protruded a huge, bumpy nose made from wire mesh and cloth. Metre-high jagged teeth (in reality, spray-painted pieces of Styrofoam) and an enormous floppy red tongue (made from more cloth) on the ground floor porch completed the look. A dry ice machine belched clouds of smoke to deepen the evil ambience.



Jeff Otto's Marvelous Monster House

“There's a bit of a competition on the street [to create the most eye-catching Halloween house],” confessed Otto.

“However, it's mostly just people having fun.”

Otto, who once created a giant lawn spider for a previous Halloween, said he paid about \$100 for materials to construct his monster face – a cheap price for thrilling kids and awing parents.

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Halloween Houses in the Pocket

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Spiders remain a popular spectre on Ravina; number 69, for example, featured a huge green spider wallowing in a web. The arachnid and its white webbing took up the entire lawn of the house. It is unclear whether children who became entangled in the web managed to free themselves or not.

Robyn Stevens at number 59 Ravina also utilized a creepy spider in her Halloween décor, along with bats on strings, pumpkins, besheeted ghosts, bales of hay, corn and a scarecrow. The end result was a decidedly rural-looking house of horror, as if the Waltons had hired a demonic decorator to spruce up their pad.



Robyn Stevens

Stevens, who set up the display with the help of her daughter, Anuxa, said she had no particular theme in mind.

“It’s more for the little ones,” she noted. “I didn’t want it too scary [for little kids].”

Brian and Marcia Lenglet, at number six Ravina, went for a more traditional, haunted cemetery look.

Their front lawn was liberally covered in tombstones and other markers of the dead. The tombstones were plastic and we’re assuming no real corpses lay under their lawn. Some frightening looking effigies that resembled supernatural visitors from the netherworld completed the Lenglet’s display.

Brian Lenglet denied that his neighbours were trying to outdo each other with Halloween décor.

“It’s more just people getting into the spirit of it ... wanting to make the complete [Halloween] experience,” he explained.

Regardless of whether a competition for scariest house exists or not, Ravina Crescent has acquired a rep for having the most spectacularly decked out homes in the Pocket come October 31.

As Stevens noted – repeating an observation made to her by a passer-by – “Ravina is great for Halloween.”



Marcia and Brian Lenglet

Editorial: Bye Bye Barb

By Nate Hendley

She is known by many names: By-law Barb, Publisher Barb or just plain old Barb, neighbour and friend.

Now, we’ll have to call her gone, but not forgotten.



Barb Shaw

That’s right, folks, Barb Shaw – founder of The Pocket newsletter and spirited voice of the community, who has lived here since 1999 – has decided to pull up stakes and leave Toronto.

Barb has sold her house on Boothroyd Avenue and is establishing a new life in Coe Hill (a small, bucolic community near Peterborough). Accompanying Barb on this journey is Dan Hagan, her partner and hunk o’ man. Dan was also a welcome face in the neighbourhood and a fine addition to Barb’s life.

While we wish both Barb and Dan well, there’s no denying we’re going to miss them very badly.

Bon voyage, Barb and Dan: may the roads rise with you.



**You’re invited to join Peter Tabuns, MPP
Toronto-Danforth and his staff**

OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

421 Donlands Ave., 416-461-0223

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE POCKET

Friends of Phin Park

Phin Park and the pathway through the park are a much-used resource in our community, for basketball, soccer, swimming, skating, dog-walking, fireworks and lots of other purposes. Lately, some residents think that the park has been neglected and has become less safe. As a result, a group of Pocket residents have decided that Phin Park is a community asset that requires a new, updated plan.



Phin Park Ravina Avenue resident Jeff Otto organized two community meetings in November to discuss concerns and propose solutions. While some of the problems that were identified are unpleasant (drug dealing in the park, vandalism, garbage), some exciting and visionary solutions were shared (establish an adopt-a-tree program for kids to prevent vandalism, set up a design competition using Centennial College landscaping students, and ask 7-Eleven to clean up its litter in the surrounding neighbourhood).

The Friends of Phin Park committee emerged as a result. The committee plans to set up a website, distribute a survey in a future issue of The Pocket to ask what people want to see happen with Phin Park, and establish working groups to meet with various stakeholders, such as the police, the high school principal, parks staff, landscaping groups, and local businesses.

Some steps have already been taken. Park staff have installed more garbage and recycling cans in the park. City Councillor Paula Fletcher asked the parks department and the high school to inspect and repair broken lights, requested a new Phin Park sign, asked for a meeting between community representatives and the police department, and is working on some proposed improvements to the basketball court. Some committee members have proposed a park code of conduct.

There is a still lot of work to be done. See the “Events And Activities in the Pocket” section for information about the next meeting, which is open to all – come and listen, share your concerns, or offer your volunteer time and skills.

Twins in the Pocket

In Canada, the chance a woman has of giving birth to twins is about 1 in 80. This year, that’s going to happen (again) here in the Pocket. Amanda Smith and Craig Jasman, both hardworking members of The Pocket editorial team, are expecting twins in March. They have told their doctors they prefer not to know the sex of the babies in advance, and are looking forward to being happily surprised.

Amanda says she’s nervous but excited. “Getting ready is challenging. We need two of everything, because both babies may require the same thing at the same time,” she says. Craig appears to be a little more relaxed, but is equally involved in getting ready and anticipating the demands ahead.

Both are delighted that one set of grandparents are close by, also residents of the Pocket, to share the pleasure and probably some of the work as well.

Congratulations and best wishes to Amanda and Craig!

The Basket – A True Story

(Submitted by a Pocket resident on Condor Avenue)

For the past year, my neighbour has been trying to get rid of an old basket. Every garbage day, she puts it out faithfully, hoping it will go, but lo and behold, there it sits. The other garbage cans are thrown carelessly back, but this basket remains, sitting where no harm can come to it. It seems as if it is just too nice for the trash, at least in the estimation of our local sanitation crew.

So back it goes into the house, ready for the next try, only to be left by the curb again.

By now, it has become almost a cherished treasure on Condor Avenue, causing us all to joke with the sanitation workers: “If the basket disappears, we will take action to have it returned!”

RISE Solar Installation Update

The RISE (Riverdale Initiative for Solar Energy) project, reported in the last issue of The Pocket, has been an incredible success. About 34 Riverdale residents have signed up to have solar systems installed on their homes and 37 more are considering it. These 34 installations alone mean that 630,000 kg. of coal will not be burned! The installations are grid-tied – meaning the power produced in Riverdale is fed into the Ontario electrical grid, and the homeowners receive payment for all the electricity produced. Also, a west Toronto version, WISE (West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy) has been born, and there has been interest from across the country. Check the website for photos, testimonials and solar power information: www.ourpower.ca.

Artists Bring Pocket Vividly to Life

(continued from page 1)

If you're keen on computer talent, go no further than the Condor Avenue door of Lidka Schuch – she's sold her paintings in Austria but her main focus is training individuals on design programs at Studio L, situated right in the basement of her humble home. She has been described in Graphic Exchange magazine as a "digital guru."

Some of you may recall the chicken that was a street party guest two years ago. This wasn't the jerk chicken you may have dived into, but a real live bird that appeared as part of a mini petting zoo, and earned an overwhelming response from the neighbourhood kids. The owner of that hen was Michael Warren-Darley, and though he's a breeder of parrots, chickens, and more, his main objective is painting.

Warren-Darley has been a painter since he was four, and his landscape impressions present a telling illustration of the area that surrounds him. At a glance, his house looks like any other on Condor Avenue, but you don't need to put more than a foot in the door to discover that this isn't the case. His home is awash with paintings, from portraits of Toronto urbanites in the halls to Billy goats shown grazing on his kitchen walls. Warren-Darley's work has been exhibited at the Fran Hill Gallery, the James Allen Gallery, the Famous People Players Theatre and the Hummingbird Centre. He also teaches at the Barnyard Arts School at Riverdale Farm. If you have a tail-wagger, you may have seen him on a hot summer's day in the dog park, painting away when the heat is insufferable in his studio at home. "I use the field in the dog park for a lot of my paintings, and then I put cattle or sheep in them, and everyone thinks it's the country," says Warren-Darley.

Just a short jaunt away is a home that really does make a bold impression, from both outside and in. Situated on Boulton is Carolyn Megill, whose work has been displayed in a number of galleries over the years. Her art has also appeared on the pages of Canadian House and Home and the National Post, and she has been profiled on CBC, Citytv and Bravo.

Megill's work really can't go unnoticed. The abundance of colours on the walls of her home is enough to make you melt. Most of her paintings are sold straight from her studio, nestled on her main floor overlooking the garden. "I love living here, and if you love living somewhere then you feel settled, and with

that taken care of, you can be creative," says Megill, a longtime Pocket resident.

Finally, if it's true that people know owners by their dogs, then there's a good chance you may have met Nancy Kembry or her husband, out for a walk with little Einstein and Leo. They reside just a short walk



Michael Warren-Darley

down Condor Avenue from Warren-Darley. Kembry is a perfectionist in the still-life genre, and it shows. She works in oil on canvas, and primarily paints fruit. Each cherry,

pear or persimmon in her work is bathed in a soothing glow that somehow makes every image unique. Kembry's work has appeared throughout the City of Toronto and beyond, but she's always cherished coming back to her little piece of the Pocket, where her studio sits in a converted room on the second floor of her home. "It's wonderful when I'm in the studio – that's when I think, 'Life is damn good!'" Kembry says. She is affiliated with the Niagara Gallery, though her work has appeared in several other galleries as well. She has been featured in The Globe and Mail, NOW, Toronto Life, Canadian House and Home and Canadian Art.

And there are more artists hidden among us throughout the Pocket. You may walk by them on your way to Donlands station, or see them at the corner store picking up milk, but until you get a chance to see their art, they'll remain just another friendly face amidst our quiet tree-lined streets.

If you'd like to learn more about some of the artists featured, please visit their websites:

Nancy Kembry: www3.sympatico.ca/kembry

Carolyn Megill: www.carolynmegill.com

Lidka Schuch: www.studio-l.com

Michael Warren-Darley: www.barnyardarts.org/Mike/Mike_portfolio.htm

Do you work in broadcast media, as part of the film or television industry? If so, we want to profile you in a future issue of The Pocket. Contact us at pocketnewsletter@sympatico.ca.

Be a part of *The Pocket!*

Attention scribes: itching to get something on paper? We invite article submissions of up to 500 words on topics of interest to Pocket residents. We also publish meeting and event listings, photos of neighbourhood scenes, drawings, jokes, and original recipes. Not a writer, but still have a great story idea? No problem! Send it to us, and we can assign someone to cover it. And we always need volunteers on our newsletter committee to help with things like editing, production, ad sales, and delivery. You can reach us at (416) 778-4564 or pocketnewsletter@sympatico.ca.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE POCKET

By Susan McMurray

Meeting of Friends of Phin Park

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7 to 9 pm

Location to be announced

Contact Jeff Otto to confirm :

jeffotto@sympatico.ca or (416) 463-2374

Pocket Pub Night

Sunday, April 1

7 to 9 p.m.

The Hargrave Pub and Restaurant

1106 Danforth Avenue (north side between Donlands and Greenwood)

The Pocket newsletter is organizing a pub night to bring us together to welcome spring. Join friends and neighbours from the Pocket for an evening of socializing. It's casual and come-as-you-are – no RSVP required.



All-Ages Community Spring Soccer

Wednesdays in April, May and June

5 to 6 p.m.

Phin Park

Get ready for year four of this enjoyable (and healthy!) pastime. Look for posters around the neighbourhood in early April with more information.



Saturday, April 21

11 a.m. to noon

Phin Park and the "Dog Park"

This will be the third year our neighbourhood pitches in to help clean up our parks together with other neighbourhoods across the city. Join in at either location to make our local green spaces clean and beautiful!

Fireworks in the Park

Monday, May 21

Dusk (approximately 9 p.m.)

Phin Park

Keep your eyes open for information in May to confirm the date and learn about how you can contribute.

Car-Free Day and Neighbourhood Party

The date will either be Saturday, September 15 or 22 (still tbd at press time)

2 to 10 p.m.

Condor Avenue, between Hunter and Shudell

Get ready to play in the streets at this sixth annual event for kids and adults alike. Look for posters around the neighbourhood with more information, beginning in August.

Community Clean-up Day

Are you organizing an upcoming event?

Let *The Pocket* know, and we'll post the information in our next issue.

Paula Fletcher

City Councillor
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth



Telephone:
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Wanted!

Graphic Design Whiz



The Pocket newsletter is looking for a volunteer who can assist us with some computer-based graphic design. If you have experience using Adobe InDesign or Quark, have an eye for detail and enjoy graphic design, and can give at least five hours of your time twice per year, we'd love to hear from you!

Email pocketnewsletter@sympatico.ca.

If These Walls Could Talk: Playing House Detective

By Carol Ramm

I moved into my funky little Pocket house in 1997. Since then, I have had intriguing glimpses into the past: the old-fashioned pink-flowered wallpaper found under the electric fireplace, a little iron (used on dolls' dresses?) found while digging in the backyard, and reminiscences from my 80-year-old neighbour, Don Matheson (who has since passed away), who told me about the period when furnaces replaced kitchen stoves as the source of heat. All of this whetted my appetite to know more.

I can't go back and talk to the early residents of my home, but I decided to do some research and see who they were and learn a little about my house. I'd like to share the experience, so that anyone else who is interested can do the research on their own house.

My first stop was the Toronto Reference Library, 4th floor. Here you can check:

1) Old fire insurance maps to see when your house actually appears, and how its shape may have been altered over time. (By the way, the first few editions of *The Pocket* newsletter reproduced the maps from 1903, 1910 and 1923). My whole street, Boothroyd Avenue, wasn't on the 1910 map, but by the next edition, in 1923, the street and my house are shown. This gives me a window of time to check into.

2) City directories. These were produced from the 1830s on and were like our phone books, but with more information. They list, for every year and address, the head of each household and their occupation. This can help to pinpoint when your house was first occupied, and by checking various years, you can find out the names of the different families that lived in your house. (The directories are also available on microfilm at the Toronto Archives.)

The first entry for my address was in 1914. Under Boothroyd Avenue, James Boardman is shown living at #18 (his neighbour across the street is Arthur Boothroyd, at #15). I then check in the "Names" section of the same directory to learn that James Boardman was a foreman with the civic car lines. This was a city department that operated streetcar lines, and was one of the predecessors of the TTC.

Now that I know when the first residents moved into

my house, I head for the City of Toronto Archives, which has produced a wonderful guide, "Researching Your House." This leads me to check:

3) The tax assessment rolls for 1914. There, in Ward 1, Division 7 (which includes the whole area of the Pocket), I find the entry for 18 Boothroyd Avenue, showing that James Boardman was age 36 and a foreman, a Baptist, and married. It also indicates there were four residents of the house, and that the house and land was valued at \$815. Times have really, really changed! James Boardman was shown as having "manhood franchise," which I believe was a completely strange (to

our ears) way of saying that he could vote. There was also a vacant stable at that time at the rear of 1 to 5 Boothroyd, a little hint of those horse-drawn vehicle days.



Carol's house at 18 Boothroyd

4) The building permits. Here, I have good and bad luck: up to and including 1914, there is an easy-to-use street index to building permits (after that year, the system takes longer to access). However, I don't conclusively find "my" building permit. Although many of the permits give the address of the house to be built, I can't find one for 18 Boothroyd Ave. It is probably the permit issued in 1912 to Mr. Bedford & Cross – a small building company? – to erect a two-storey,

semi-detached brick dwelling ("vener front and rough cast") on Boothroyd, at a cost of \$2400.

This is the end of the trail for now. A quick check of the photograph collection at the Archives doesn't turn up any listings for Boothroyd Avenue, or the side streets around it, although there is a series taken on Jones Avenue in the 1950s. Maybe there is a wonderful picture of my house taken long ago, hidden in an obscure collection at the Archives... I'll have to keep digging to find out.

Resources:

Toronto Reference Library: 789 Yonge Street:
www.tpl.toronto.on.ca

City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Road:
www.toronto.ca/archives

Virtual Reference Library: vrl.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Toronto Public Library digital collections:

www.tpl.toronto.on.ca, click on "digital collections"

Pocket Profile: Ernest Wotton

By Marc van Beusekom

Ernest Wooten and his wife Sally have lived on Earl Grey Road for some 22 years. Ernest is a lofty (6' 8") and distinguished looking gentleman with a pronounced English accent, which he uses to good advantage to display his quick wit and to charm the ladies of the Pocket.

Ernest was born and raised in East London. He immigrated to Canada in 1956 to take a job near Montreal. He moved to Toronto shortly afterwards because there were more opportunities in his field as a lighting engineer. A few years later he moved again, to the United States, as he was keen to find out why major lighting projects in Canada were going to American designers. While in the States, he spent some time in New York City. He happened one day to visit the Church of the Transfiguration in Manhattan and got to speaking with the rector's wife. "We've got someone your size here," she remarked, and promptly introduced Ernest to Sally. She was "this gorgeous 6' 2" actress from Peoria," Ernest recalls, who was living in New York. They were married a year later. Ernest lived in the United States for three years before returning to Canada to set up his own practice.

Among his many projects, Ernest has designed the lighting for the parliamentary library in Ottawa (remodeled recently from 2002 - 2005), for St. Paul's Cathedral here in Toronto, and for the national museum in Las Paz, Bolivia (as a CUSO volunteer). He has taught courses in lighting at a number of



Ernest Wotton

universities in Canada and the U.S., and has recently written a book on the subject of church lighting, which is soon to be published. In 2005 he received the silver medal from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers in England (the first time it had been awarded to someone in Canada) for his work in his field, and, he says, for "good behaviour."

During his years in the States, Ernest's American friends would ask when he was going to become a U.S. citizen. He would reply, "My dear friends, I love you very much, but there are some things a gentleman just does not do."

Ernest and Sally are delighted to be living on Earl Grey. They enjoy the mix of people who live on the street – they have counted some 12 different nationalities. It is neatly ironic that, amidst this cosmopolitan background, Ernest lives on a street with a name so reflective of his heritage.

"It would be difficult to find a nicer street to live on or a nicer bunch of neighbours," Ernest says to me as we conclude our interview. Then he pauses to open the door for the neighbour's cat, Leo, who has stopped in to the Wottons...for tea or course

Do you know a resident who should be profiled in a future issue of this newsletter? We want to hear about them! Send us details at one of our drop boxes, by calling (416) 778-4564, or by emailing pocketnewsletter@sympatico.ca.

The Pocket by the Numbers

- 2 Issues of *The Pocket* each year
- 16 Number of volunteers who worked on this issue
- 3-6 Approximate length of time, in months, to put out each issue
- 150 Estimated number of total volunteer hours given this issue
- 450 Dollars required in ad revenue or donations to cover printing costs each issue
- 1000 Number of households who receive *The Pocket*
- 2500 Estimated readership per issue

If you enjoy *The Pocket*, please consider making a financial contribution – any amount most welcome! – to keep it going. Or why not take out an ad to promote your local business? Ads cost \$50 for a business card-sized space; larger dimensions are also available. In addition to reaching our loyal readers, you'll also be helping to build our community. You can reach us at (416) 406-1684 or pocketnewsletter@sympatico.ca.

Special thanks to three very special donors who helped to make this issue possible!

Book Club

Some residents have been discussing the idea of a Pocket book club, but we need someone who is interested in taking this on. If you would like to organize a book club, please drop *The Pocket* a line, and we'll include information in the next issue.



A Little (More) Green in the Pocket

By Paul Dowsett (with contributions from Nate Hendley)

Many of you may have noticed the dumpsters, concrete rubble and other signs of havoc at 4 Queen Victoria Street over the past while. At our house, we have been trying to follow some very basic principles of sustainability and urbanism or community development, to be as “green” as our resources will allow.

Before we bought the house in 1997, we decided we wanted to work within, and intensify, the existing urban infrastructure of Toronto; use the city and the resources that were already there; and rehabilitate an existing house. Our realtor led us to the Pocket, and after we saw it, we looked nowhere else.



4 Queen Victoria Street

The Pocket was very affordable and starting to become a highly desirable neighbourhood. We moved into one of the most dilapidated houses on the street. Our first steps were to make the house habitable and to improve its appearance. Our more recent renovations in 2006 have built on this foundation.

For our latest renovation, we decided to:

- Hire a contractor from the neighbourhood. Transportation requirements were greatly reduced, and we had a chance to get to know another Pocket neighbour.
- Reinstall the front porch to maintain and encourage contact with the community.
- Reinterpret the traditional east-end Toronto iconic form of a house, with its dramatic steep-pitched roof gable, bay window and front porch, while concealing modern, flexible, open-plan living spaces within.
- Create a central courtyard to allow natural daylight and breezes to penetrate deep into the house.

This passive solar energy combined with active cross-ventilation reduces the need for both interior lighting and air-conditioning.

- Capitalize on existing native deciduous trees and vines to provide shade in the summer and allow heat energy (from light) into the house and the ground in the winter. We have also planted some new trees for the future.
- Encourage our neighbours to maintain a simple chain link fence as green-screen between properties. This uses little material, is cost-effective and causes minimal environmental impact. It also provides a trellis for vines.
- Practice xeriscaping by planting native, drought resistant plants, which also provide a natural habitat for birds, butterflies and other native pollinators. Our plants cool the air in summer, absorb pollutants, produce oxygen, block noise, provide privacy, protect us from the sun, reduce air conditioning needs, and reduce storm-water run-off and soil erosion.
- Place windows, which can have a major effect on a home and its power usage, so that they maximize daytime lighting and cross-ventilation. We have minimized windows facing west, to decrease maintenance and late afternoon solar heat gain. We installed argon-filled, double-glazed windows with pre-finished wood sashes and frames to reduce summer heat gain and winter heat loss.
- Install a low albedo (highly reflective) locally manufactured galvalume roof to minimize solar heat gain and extend the longevity of the roofing material. Not only does this reduce the amount of asphalt shingles going to landfill every 10 to 15 years, but also the roof can be recycled at the end of its life.
- Direct clean rainwater run-off from the roof to the gardens to minimize impact on our municipal water system.
- Install a solar water heater to pre-heat the incoming municipal water (www.generationsolar.com for more info). This pre-heated hot water runs through an ultra high-efficiency gas boiler and goes to faucets when hot water is needed. The home’s original cast-iron radiators, new high-efficiency radiators and a radiant in-floor heating system in the basement and new living room are also heated by the same high-efficiency boiler. (continued on next page)

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A Little (More) Green in the Pocket

(continued from page 6)

- Provide high second-floor ceilings with reversible ceiling fans to effectively manage rising heat.
- Build with wood framing instead of steel framing. Wood studs take less energy and create less pollution to produce than steel studs.
- Use Roxul insulation, a locally manufactured mineral wool made from molten slag, a waste product of steel production. Roxul is naturally fire resistant and will not be affected by occasional moisture. It doesn't degrade or support mould – features that fiberglass insulation can't claim.
- Select natural interior materials such as slate and hardwood floors and natural exterior materials such as cedar shakes and pre-finished, solid spruce wood siding. Wood is one of the most natural, renewable, durable and sustainable products.
- Use Ipe (pronounced ee-pay) decking instead of cedar or pressure-treated lumber. Harvested sustainably in South America, Ipe offers an attractive color that ranges from a rich russet to a classic reddish brown with a very smooth surface. It is extremely durable, and resistant to splitting, splintering, rot, insects and fire. Ipe is also slip resistant when wet and virtually maintenance-free. It lasts three to five times longer than redwood and cedar while still being competitively priced.

Our aim is to have our renovated house consume less energy and produce less pollution than the original house did. Later in 2007 I'll be able to tell you how we did (and thanks to everyone in the Pocket for their patience during our renovation process!).

If you are interested in making your house more sustainable, check out the City of Toronto's report, "Making a Sustainable City Happen: The Toronto Green Development Standard 2006." For more information, see www.toronto.ca/environment/greendevlopment.htm. And if you would like to know more about 4 Queen Victoria, please give me call at (416) 469-5453, or email pdowsett@acrobat.to

Noted in Toronto Life Magazine Best of Toronto 2007. Very Local, Very Tasty.

**St. John's
bakery**



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 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Available in: Sour Dough: White, Multi-Grain, Whole-Wheat or Rye; Multi-Grain, Whole Wheat, Walnut/Raisin, Normandy-Style White, Cilantro & Olive.

Organic Bread Crafted
using Traditional
Breton Methods

Prices: Per loaf \$3.50, Baguette \$2.50, Walnut/Raisin or Cilantro & Olive \$4.50

To Order: Phone 416 466-7939, email: marcvanb@sympatico.ca or drop by 1 Queen Victoria.

(If you are placing an order, please let us know by Thursday night)



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Two Small Pockets

In which our intrepid reporter uncovers a kids' view of what makes our neighbourhood great.

By Diana Goliss-Cho

We all need some inspiration, and I certainly found it when I met with sisters Abigail (age 12) and Ruby (age 7) to find out what they think about our little community.

Abigail has lived in the Pocket since she was one, and Ruby, well she was born here. They both like playing in Phin Park, Abigail to practice her Kung Fu moves with her friend Mimi, play soccer, or ride her bike. Ruby isn't much for playing soccer but she does like to play on the swings.

Abigail likes the neighbourhood. "It is like a Pocket. You can only get to it from one way – Jones." She thinks it is friendly and safe, and she really likes going to all of the street parties and sleepovers. She has lots of friends to do things with and quite often finds them in the park. She also tells me: "What is cool is the TTC wall; there are fences that separate parts. I can squeeze into little gaps between and explore the green belt in the back."



Abigail and Ruby

Ruby also has friends in the neighbourhood, but tells me she finds the area noisy because of the train that runs behind her house. She likes it when all of the leaves have fallen off the trees and she can see her bedroom window from Oakvale Avenue. She likes playing with her toys, or playing make believe; her adventures usually include a gold cat and a dragon.

Abigail and Ruby also make art. Abigail likes creating abstract art from recycled materials ("that way you are using things again," she says), and Ruby likes to paint and draw. Ruby also likes to write books, and I was very impressed by the number she has finished (47!), complete with illustrations.

I really enjoyed the time I spent talking with Abigail and Ruby. As we finished our chat, I realized how much they help make the Pocket a great community, and for that I thank them both.

The Pocket

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The Hargrave Pub + Restaurant



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The Pocket Forest Initiative

By Jeff Otto

Or, Why I Love Street Trees

The trees on my street are dying. Two came down last year and two more are tagged for removal. When I moved to Ravina Crescent twelve years ago a wonderful canopy of mature trees covered the entire street. Over the ensuing years many have succumbed to old age or neglect. (And in one case a tree may even have been poisoned by a neighbourhood resident!)

To some people a tree just drops leaves and seeds, creating a nuisance and making it impossible to grow a garden. What they are forgetting is that trees benefit us in so many different ways! They provide shade, helping to cool our homes and reduce energy costs. They provide oxygen and remove pollutants from the air. They contribute positively to air quality, and help with water run-off and soil erosion. They are home and habitat for birds and other wildlife, and most importantly – for many of us – they drastically (by 10 to 20 per cent) increase property values. Did you know that recent studies also indicate that mature trees lower stress levels and promote an increase in human social interaction?

The problem in our neighbourhood is that most of the street trees were planted at the same time and are quickly reaching the end of their lifespan. Left unchecked, the street and the whole neighbourhood will be devoid of mature trees in just a few years. The solution is easy for any one with appropriate space: plant a native tree in your front and/or back yard.

This past summer I helped to start an initiative called the “Pocket Forest.” After printing up flyers and related materials, a group of Pocket residents went door-to-door throughout the area and left information regarding the City of Toronto’s free tree planting program. We found that most people were concerned but didn’t know where to start; the information we handed out seemed to be well received.

We had a great response from the people on Ravina Crescent with orders for eleven new trees! We are still hoping for lots more orders from all parts of the Pocket neighbourhood.

If you are interested in getting a tree, please contact me and I can get you an order form. Feel free to send me an e-mail at jeffotto@sympatico.ca or call (416) 463-2374. Please leave your name, address and telephone number. You can also find more information about the city’s tree planting program at www.toronto.ca/trees/tree_planting.htm.



*Attention Pocketeers to a new Neighbourhood Resource:
Caterer* and Cookbook Author** Jesse Frayne offers*

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**Great Food for Happy Kids, RendezVous Press, 2001*

In the Kitchen with Cecilia

By Cecilia Booth



POCKET

O F F E E

Crunchy Brittle Caramel Toffee

Caution: Mixture in this recipe becomes very, very hot. Do not touch it until cooled.

Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter or margarine (plus a bit to grease the pan)
 1 cup sugar (not with very large grains)
 1/2 tsp. vinegar (try balsamic or apple)
 1/3 cup fancy molasses
 A pinch of salt
 Optional: 3/4 cup unsalted nuts or seeds (sunflower seeds, almonds, peanuts)

- Melt butter over medium heat. Add sugar and vinegar.
- Mix well with a wooden spoon. Add molasses and salt.
- Turn heat to low or medium/low so that mixture is bubbling gently and continuously. Stir frequently and keep an eye on it, as it will burn easily.
- Add nuts if raw, or add later if nuts are roasted.
- Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until a small blob sets to desired crunchiness when dropped into a glass of cold water.
- Pour onto greased cookie sheet. Rest sheet on cooling rack. Bend sheet to remove, and break up once cool with heavy knife handle or with a clean hammer.
- Store in an airtight container or bag

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