



NEWSLETTER

FALL 1991

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



We are not interchangeable parts. We don't all like the same things, act the same way, have the same feelings, That glorious fact is one of the greatest gifts of created nature. But too often instead of celebrating it we treat it as a sort of problem. We are tempted to see those who differ from us as wrong, or at least confused and missing the point, to think that with training and /or discipline we can get everyone into the correct mode. But of course in our better moment we know that is not only not possible, it is not in any degree desirable. Our diversity is a gift, a blessing that means we are not machines, but alive, human creatures of a loving creator.

And here at St Johns the celebration of our differences is very important to us all. Our liturgy tries to reflect this. We try to be an easy congregation where you can be yourself and know that you will be accepted. Our move to Liturgical teams is part of the on going development of our celebration of corporate unity in individual uniqueness

There are many ways to worship, and all of us find now one way and now another to be helpful. Sometimes kneeling and quiet, sometimes, noise and dancing, sometimes hugging and interaction, sometimes being left undisturbed, safely alone in the midst of friends. I think at St Johns we accept that there is no one correct way, and also that most of us at St Johns don't want the services always the same, although one of the wonderful differences we have is that some of us LIKE predictable repetition, to know every Sunday exactly what will be said, how the service will go, the comfortable familiar, and others love and need surprises, to have something different, to excite, challenge, stimulate us. So designing a liturgy for us -that is for real people in all our diversity, is a challenge.

And that is why it is so important that EVERYONE if possible joins a liturgy team. So that EVERYONE'S point of view can be included. Nobody is "right or wrong" in this sort of issue. Within the basic structure of the BAS we are to develop liturgies that will meet the actual spiritual needs of the present moment and the actual congregation. So that the fullness of our created diversity can be celebrated.

We come Sunday by Sunday to celebrate our common life in Christ, seeking not what we can get, but offering who and what we are to each other in Christ. Striving to accept and value each other regardless of sex, age, race, orientation or beliefs; foibles and all. Celebrating our corporate unity and breaking down our isolated self identity. I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me - and in you.

And since we are not "interchangeable parts, there is and will always be many different ideas as to how we can best celebrate our life. That too is a gift and a source of great enrichment. I hope everyone will join a team to participate in creating a celebration that will truly reflect this corporate identity in all its wonderful diversity.





OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The outreach committee extends a warm greetings to the parish for a happy and colorful fall! Our planning for the future year is underway, the committee is arranging the Forum Sunday speakers. Our emphasis will be our role in the larger church- learning what the national office is about and how we at St John's can participate with them. To that end we hope to have speakers address many topics - the Primates World Relief and Development Fund, the Anglican Homes, Native and Women's issues and the General Synod to held in Toronto in June 1992. It is hoped that during these talks we will develop a clearer idea of our own ministries, and perhaps , as a parish, select a particular project and make it our own.

Another concern is the growing number of parishioners who are in need of transportation to the Sunday Eucharist. We are compiling a list of person willing to provide rides - please give this some thought and if you are able to assist on an occasional basis , sign up. It is an opportunity to know each other better- and reinforce the parish as a family

We hope to sponsor one social gathering - what form it will take is not settled. That it should be a fund raiser has been agreed. It is very clear that our deficit must be reduced-there is no reason that it so doing we should not enjoy ourselves.

This year promises to be a busy one - for the Outreach Committee and for the parish. We invite anyone who has the time to join us. If you haven't the time to join us, your suggestions are welcome and appreciated . Please use the comments box at the back of the church. Help is still needed in many areas.

As a final note Our prayers and love are with the Element family. Mel did a wonderful job as Chairperson of Outreach -his input is greatly missed

Maggie Pawson
Chairperson, Outreach Committee



MEMORIALS

Flowers given to the Church on the Anniversary of the death of a loved one have long been familiar to us at St John's. When such a gift is made be sure to include the name of the person or persons to be remembered so we may all join in prayers for them. But it is not only the departed that may be so remembered. Other occasions too are appropriate occasions for memorial gifts. Wedding Anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, indeed any occasion of thanksgiving or special concern can be so offered.

Nor is the gift confined to flowers. As we have a perpetual Candle burning before the sacrament in the side Chapel , one can pay for the candle for that week as a special gift /memorial. A candle or Flowers can be arranged by calling the church office .

To: The People of St. John's West Toronto

From: Dwayne Barr



RE: Meeting on the Development of Church Land

A meeting was held Tuesday, September 10th at St. George the Martyr with the Right Reverend Terence Finlay presiding. At this meeting I represented St. John's to share your thoughts and suggestions on this important subject.

At the appropriate moment, I stated that St. John's was concerned with the lack of vision in the Diocese when decisions are made from a survivalist stance. Taking the short term outlook and acting too hastily may jeopardize the future of the church. I also stated that the decision making should be undertaken at a parish level. It is the people who are directly concerned who should be consulted. The movement should come from the people. The principle I put forward was that land within the church's domain should not be sold but should be leased if not currently needed.

Finally, as spokesperson for one of the groups whose goal was to establish three principles for a theology of land use in the Diocese, I put forward the following: the spiritual needs of the people must first be attended to; then it will follow that when the need for facilities should arise it will be possible for these needs to be addressed. All suggestions of the eight groups will be compiled in a paper to be distributed to all parties concerned.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact me at 761-9928.

Something to Think About

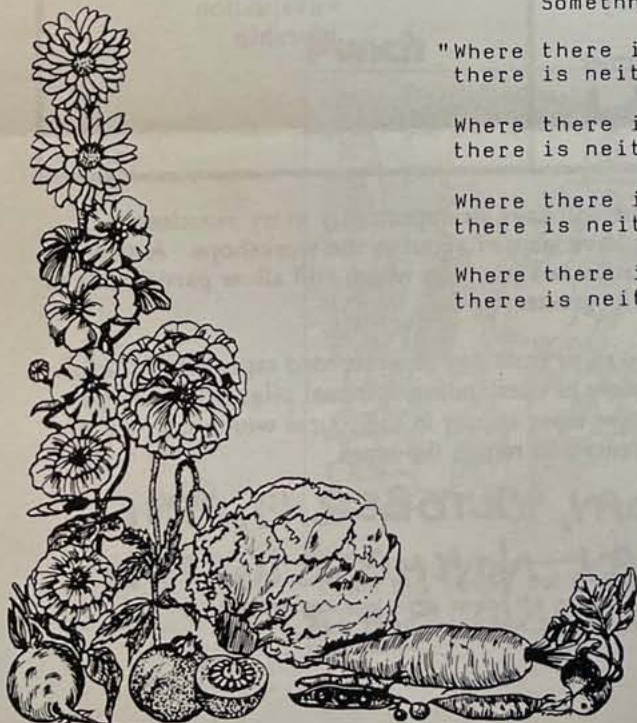
"Where there is charity and wisdom,
there is neither fear nor ignorance.

Where there is patience and humility,
there is neither anger nor vexation.

Where there is poverty and joy,
there is neither greed nor avarice.

Where there is peace and meditation,
there is neither anxiety nor doubt."

Author Unknown





CHRISTIAN
SPIRITUALITY
CONVERSATIONS ON THE JOURNEY



Overview of Course

Christian Spirituality: Conversations on the Journey is designed for a group of between 20 and 30 participants.

Facilitated by a team of six co-leaders, participants spend two days working together exploring aspects of their own spiritual life and experience, and exploring the lives and experience of some outstanding spiritual pilgrims drawn from the whole history of the Christian Church.

The days are designed to run from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm with a lunch around 12:30 pm.

The chart below outlines the shape of these two days.

Day One: Paths	Day Two: Journeys
<p>Opening Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singing, Movement, Community Building, Choosing a Learning Partner <p>Jesus and Spirituality: A Study Together Lunch Together</p> <p>Participation in Two Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer and Meditation• Journalling• Scripture and Spirituality <p>Closing Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation, Learning Partner Contact, Home Study <p>Worship</p>	<p>Opening Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Building, Catching Up <p>Listening, Discussion and Reflection on</p> <p>Four Conversations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movement and Music• Lunch with Table Talk• Art <p>Planning a Rule of Life</p> <p>Closing Plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation <p>Worship</p>

Between the two days, participants will have an opportunity to try exercises following up the disciplines they have learned about in the workshops. A sampler also provides a range of other articles and exercises which will allow participants to explore the history of spirituality in greater depth.

As well, each participant will take away from day one recorded tapes which include ten minute introductions to a variety of outstanding spiritual pilgrims of the past and the present. The scripts of these tapes appear in the course workbook. At the conclusion of the course, participants will return the tapes.

DATES: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1991
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1991
REGISTRAR: MARILYN SHORTT

Evangelism - How Do Churches Grow?

by John Roddam

Where do our people come from? They were not always at our church - How did they come and get involved in our parish? Churches grow and receive new members in three ways: through biological growth, transfer growth and conversion growth.

Biological growth occurs when a couple has a child and brings that child for baptism and ongoing nurture in the Christian community. We rejoice with parents as children are brought into the fellowship of Christ's Church. Statistically, biological growth accounts for minimal growth. Yet, biological growth is good - the Kingdom is enlarged - the community enriched. However, in many parishes, biological growth is the only kind of growth, and churches dependent solely on this type of growth are in trouble - they will die!

Transfer growth occurs when members leave one parish to go to another. This may be the result of moving from one community to another, being disgruntled and leav-

ing one parish for another, etc. Transfer growth is often significant in urban areas where population changes are occurring. Many parishes have a large annual turnover because of the mobility characteristic of today's work force and this calls for special efforts to maintain leadership and membership. Transfer growth is good growth, and is the largest factor in rapidly-growing churches in North America! If you see a church grow dramatically in North America, it is usually the result of Christians leaving less active churches to join "where it's at"!

Conversion growth occurs when unchurched, nominal or non-Christians encounter and commit themselves to Jesus Christ and are integrated into the church. Unfortunately, most churches and denominations have not recognized or experienced the benefits of fostering this type of growth:

- The blessings that accompany the direct fulfillment of the primary command of our Lord to seek the lost and make disciples.

- Conversion growth injects enthusiasm and spirituality into local churches - "God is alive and in our midst!"

- Conversion growth leads to further growth. New converts with support are very effective evangelizers. They haven't become "churchified". They still have many contacts in the unchurched community, speak its language, and function as 'bridges' for sharing God's love outside the church.

- Conversion growth can never be accused of "sheep-stealing" the way transfer growth often is.

'An Observation: Wouldn't it be great if all parishes affirmed these three ways of congregational growth and development, while focussing intentionally and strongly on conversion growth?

John Roddam is the rector of St John's, (Westphal), Dartmouth, NS, and active at the Diocesan level in renewal.

This is the second of a series of articles on evangelism.

TONGUES OF FIRE, Summer 1991 11

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

Punch



"I can't help thinking that if God had really intended me to spread the word, He would have made me a stinking rich American with my own radio station."



Children



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - CHILDREN

During the summer the children enjoyed Nan Weston's program on 'Children in the Bible'. We have now started our regular Church School program again and are looking forward to an exciting year as the Parish integrates "The Whole People of God" curriculum as used in the Church School into the Liturgy.

The Christian Education program for our children is very important as it provides the foundation for the children's Christian beliefs and understandings. The Christian Education Committee hopes that by integrating 'The Whole People of God' curriculum into the Liturgy, it will create a stronger understanding and awareness "upstairs" of what the children are doing "downstairs". This should help the parents, in particular, to talk to the children outside the church environment about their Church School experience, and to integrate it into their daily lives.

To help families with this extended learning process we will be distributing the 'Parents' Pak' at the beginning of each unit during the year. The 'Parents' Pak' will explain the theme of the unit and will provide ideas on sharing your faith within the family. We hope that parishioners without young children will also enjoy the 'Parents' Pak' as they do the focus each Sunday.

The Christian Education Committee has a number of dedicated teachers but we need more! Teaching on Sunday is an enjoyable way of seeing the Liturgy from a new perspective, as well as getting to know the children on a more personal level. Exposure to the children's ideas and questions can be a challenging and rewarding way of learning to express your beliefs in the most basic terms.

At the Homecoming Service on September 8th we all covenanted to help and support the Church School program. One way of showing such support is through teaching or helping in a Church School class. We feel it is asking too much of a person to teach more than two units in the year, or to teach two units in a row. Even the most dedicated teachers need time to participate in the "upstairs" Liturgy. We need four teachers for each unit, and if they cannot be found we will have to cancel the program for all children for that unit.

Please take a look at the sample lesson on the bulletin board at the back of the church, ask questions of any member of the Committee, then sign up on the sheet provided. We would also like to encourage anyone and everyone to take a turn giving the Focus at the beginning of the service. The material is provided, and is very easy to follow.

The children need to know that their program is an important part of the life of the Parish. The best way to demonstrate this is through involvement of the whole congregation. Besides, IT'S FUN!

Mara Nickerson
Adrienne Roffey
Anne Ruta
Sharon Barnes
Marion Barker
Mabel-Anne Waters





Youth



Youth Ministry at St. John's

A new youth group is being organized at St. John's for kids who are in grade 6 or older. For many years kids of this age group have been faced with a choice of either attending Sunday school or simply fitting into St. John's as an adult. We hope that our new youth group will give these kids a feeling that they really have a unique place at St. John's and help them grow into their adult role in the church.

Our first event will be a pizza party to be held Friday, Sept. 20 at a location to be announced. This will give us a chance to meet together and discuss the kinds of things youth at St. John's would like to do. If you are in this age group we hope you can attend. We need to hear from you in order to know how we can best serve your needs. You will have direct input into the events we plan. We hope this is the beginning of a lively and fun youth ministry at St. John's. If you are unable to attend but have ideas about what kinds of activities you feel the youth group should sponsor, please contact Cynthia Stoddart-Webster or Sheila Crummev.



BAPTISM

Robert Lawrence McLeod 13 Jan 1991
 Jeffrey Scott Meneses 31 March 1991
 Vanessa Maria Alice Kappert-Martin 19 May 1991
 Zachery Matthew McCaw 19 May 1991

HOLY MATRIMONY

August 17 1991 Paul Joseph Bates
 and Lisa Joan Rogers



*By the power of the Spirit
 give to the water of
 this font the grace of your
 Son*

BURIALS

Bertha Curry (74) 13 April 1991
 Irene Butler (81) 1 August 1991

The story of Jesus' "calming of the waters" really has NO CONNECTION AT ALL with the following story. Still, isn't it strange how we sometimes make connections in our minds?

The Fishing Trip

(with apologies to A.A. Milne)

Christopher Robin found everything in order on the dock, down at the lake. He put things into the boat — the oars, the picnic hamper, the fishing lines — and then looked around for his friends. There was no one in sight.

He was early, because he was excited. This was to be his first fishing trip without father or mother. What a Grand Adventure! He laid down on the dock, one foot in the cool water, to think about it; that was at least half the fun of Grand Adventures.

He remembered mother's words: "Remember, Christopher, never go alone in the boat."

Christopher Robin thought of this as Mother's rule about boats: "Never Alone in the Boat." Mother's rule was the reason he was waiting for his friends on the dock, and not in the boat: never alone in the boat meant even when the boat was tied up at the dock.

There were other rules about boats, and Christopher Robin had worked hard at remembering them all. Now he thought about what he called Father's rule about boats: "Steady in the boat."

Father's rule was the reason Christopher Robin had not invited Winnie the Pooh on the Grand Adventure. Dear Pooh, wonderful Pooh! It would be so much fun if Winnie the Pooh were along, but he could not be counted on to sit still, to be "steady in the boat." Christopher Robin sighed, and closed his eyes against the bright sun. The absence of Pooh would be the one sad note about the Grand Adventure.

"Christopher Robin, you're not asleep are you? Don't we have things to do to get ready?" Rabbit's voice startled Christopher. He jumped to his feet. They were all there: Rabbit, and Piglet, and Owl, and Eeyore, and Kanga, and Koo, and Tigger, and Pooh ...

"Pooh?" said Christopher Robin. He was sure he had told Pooh about Father's rule, and about being able to have just one person — one very steady person — for the back of the boat. That could only be Eeyore, of course. Eeyore was very steady. When Eeyore sat down, which was not very often, nothing could move him.

"Pooh?" said Christopher again. Then, remembering his manners, he said hello to everyone else before turning to Pooh again.

"Pooh?"

"It's a nice day," said Pooh. "A nice day for a fishing trip."

"Yes it is," said Christopher Robin.

"Even if there are no hooks and wiggly worms. Fishing is even more fun when you just pretend by putting lines in the water."

"Yes, Pooh," said Christopher Robin. "It is fun. Pooh, I did tell you about Eeyore, didn't I, and about being steady?"

"Sure," said Pooh. He pulled a jar from behind his back. "I thought you might forget to bring honey. Here," he said, with a big grin, offering it to Christopher.

"Oh. Thank you, Pooh," Christopher said. He wanted to hug Pooh for being so thoughtful. So he did. Pooh blushed.

It didn't take long to load everyone in the boat. Kanga was in the bow. Tigger was in the middle, where he could help Christopher Robin with the rowing.

Eeyore was the last one in, and Christopher asked him to sit in the stern. "That's the back of the boat," he explained to no-one-in-particular. Eeyore settled in the stern comfortably, giving Christopher his usual stern look.

Christopher felt he had to say something more, something about being steady. "You're our ballast," he told Eeyore.

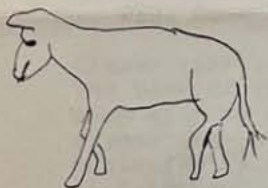
To Christopher's surprise, Eeyore promptly got out of the boat, sat on the shore, and stared at Christopher with an even sterner — you might say stubborn — look on his face.

"I'm not your ballast," he said.

The next few minutes were very confusing. Everyone tried to explain to Eeyore that ballast was good, that ballast was steady, that ballast made the boat safe. Everyone, that is, except Piglet, who ran from bow to stern squealing.

"Yes but, yes but," said Piglet, "Why does Eeyore have to be ballast if he doesn't want to?"

Finally, Kanga managed to plunk Piglet down on the bottom of the boat. "Do be quiet, Piglet," said Kanga. "Let Christopher Robin look after this."



But Kanga's hopes were in vain. Nothing could persuade Eeyore to be ballast, even though it seemed he finally understood it meant something good.

"I think the fishing trip is not to be," said Christopher. There was a long, sad silence.

"I think I could be your ballast, Christopher Robin," said Pooh finally.

Of course, everyone agreed at once that Pooh would be a splendid ballast. Well, not everyone. Christopher Robin remembered father's rule: steady in the boat. But then he looked carefully at Pooh, who was looking carefully at the stern of the boat, which is where the picnic hamper had been stowed.

"Pooh?" said Christopher Robin. "If we let you be our ballast, would you promise to do one Very Important Thing?"

"What's that?" asked Pooh, his eyes never leaving the hamper.

"Would you promise to let nothing — nothing at all — happen to the lunch? Would you sit with it and be very steady?"

Pooh nodded his head very seriously at this idea. And Christopher Robin felt assured that he had found a very reliable ballast!

As you can imagine, it was a very fine fishing trip, a Grand Adventure after all. At Christopher's request, Tigger helped him to stay pretty close to the shore, which was another of the rules. Wool and Rabbit turned out to be very fine at fishing. Even Piglet settled down after a while, and was very patient while Kanga showed how to throw the fishing line into the water.

Pooh sat very still, with his paw on the picnic hamper and a rather dreamy look on his face. To no one's great surprise, eventually he fell asleep, no doubt dreaming about lunch.

And Christopher thought how easy it was, really, to have a Grand Adventure when one followed the rules.

What no one noticed, however, was a slight ripple in the water, a dark cloud to the North-West, then a bit of wind and a few rolling waves. By the time anyone did notice, the waves were rather high, and a few drops of rain had fallen.

"It's a storm, Christopher Robin," said Rabbit, very worried.

But no one really heard him. His voice was completely lost in a loud clap of thunder: KA-BOOM!



The thunder woke Winnie the Pooh from his nap.

"What? Who? Where?" Pooh cried out, almost as loud as the thunder. He started to stand up, leaning one way then the other, rocking the boat in a most alarming way. The picnic hamper was still in his clenched paw.

"Pooh!" said Christopher Robin. "Sit down!"

Winnie the Pooh looked at Christopher. He was surprised at the sharpness of his voice.

"But Christopher Robin," Pooh protested. "The boat. It's going to tip over! I've got to do something."

It took every ounce of Christopher Robin's concentration to answer Pooh the right way. Strangely, he remembered mother's words to him when he had wanted to help her cut vegetables with a very sharp knife. "There are many different ways of helping, Christopher. Believe me; trust me," she had said.

"Pooh," Christopher Robin shouted over the sound of the wind, "There are many different ways of helping. Trust me! And sit down. Now!"

Trust him? Trust Christopher Robin? There was no one Winnie the Pooh trusted more, no one in the whole world. He sat down. Steadily. And stayed sitting down, with a steady hand on the picnic hamper.

At that moment it seemed to everyone that the storm had become much less severe. Was it just their imagination, do you think?

In pretty short order, Christopher Robin and Tigger managed to get the boat back to the dock and everyone safely on shore. Eeyore was still there, steady as a rock in his own way! By this time the rain had stopped too, so the picnic was spread out for lunch. Even Eeyore was hungry, though he had not shared in the Great Adventure.

"Pooh," said Eeyore over lunch, "Was it hard being a ballast?"

Winnie the Pooh wiped a drop of honey from his nose, and thought about that.

"Not really," Pooh said. But Eeyore looked a bit puzzled, and Pooh felt he should say something more. But he didn't know what to say. He looked at Christopher Robin for help, then it came to him.

"When the wind and the waves come," he said, struggling for the words he wanted, "You don't fight them. If you don't fight them, they don't fight you. Is that right, Christopher Robin?"

Christopher Robin thought that was so close to being right that he just smiled and nodded his head, and went on eating.



PARISH DIRECTORY

INCUMBENT Father Christian Swayne 763-2393 (Church)
767-9081 (evgs. & emergencies)

HONORARY ASSISTANTS Rev. Bruce Alton 762-8664

Rev. Bill Bearance

Rev. Richard Johns 429-3276

Father Murray Bellway

Michael Thompson

RECTOR'S WARDEN Yvonne Johns 429-3276

PEOPLE'S WARDEN John Gower 769-8183

DEPUTY WARDEN Fred Addis 763-3640

ORGANIST Robbie Beaumont

LAY READER Cy Weston 766-6663

CHURCH OFFICE Lynda Woolrich 763-2393

SEXTON Wally Barrett 763-2393

ENVELOPE SECRETARY Ida Brittain 535-2879

CO-ORDINATOR OF READERS/INTERCESSORS May Webster 763-7556

CO-ORDINATOR OF SIDESPONSORS

CO-ORDINATOR OF SERVERS Lucas Roffey 730-9809

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN Irene Munroe 762-5327

Joan Devitt 766-3062

ADVISORY BOARD Richard Woolrich 766-4959

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE Mara Nickerson 766-0308

FINANCE COMMITTEE Garnet Devitt 766-3062

LITURGY COMMITTEE Father Christian Swayne 763-2393

OUTREACH COMMITTEE Maggie Pawson 763-2266

PROPERTY COMMITTEE John Gower 769-8183

EARLY ENRICHMENT DAY CARE Patti Mitkus 762-8125

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST David Holmes 531-3769

WOLF CUBS John Gower 769-8183

SPARKS Nan Weston 766-6663

BROWNIES Sharon Barnes 767-9629

GIRL GUIDES Quita Webster 252-5644

PATHFINDERS Nan Weston 766-6663

RANGERS Heather Janke 760-0633





A New Perspective

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may happen,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass.
Among the new-mown hay;
Among the husking of the corn
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,
Out in the fields with God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



(St. John's Church, West Toronto
288 Humberside Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1L5
Church 763-2393

Father Swayne
204 High Park Ave.
Toronto
M6P 2S6