

## **Part II**

# **St. JAMES TOWN INITIATIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HEALTH**

## ***COMMUNITY VOICES:* Tackling Inequity Through a Community Based Initiative on the Social Determinants of Health**

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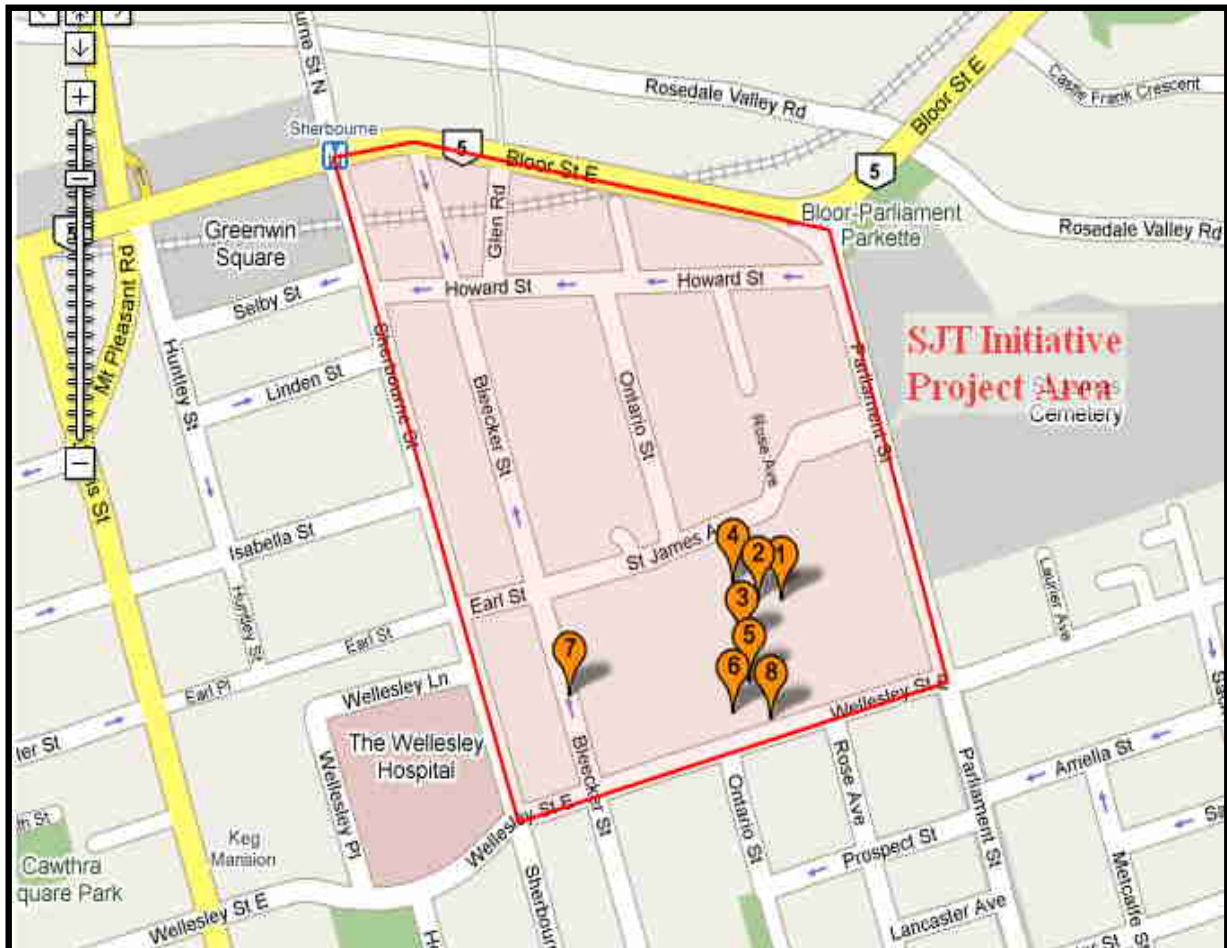
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## Annex I: Project Site Map A



This map shows the outline of the project area on Google Map. It also highlights some of the services captured in the service directory available on the SJT website marked by the numbered flags.



## Annex II: Project Site Map B



GTA 2005, Orthoimagery, Toronto, Courtesy of Brock University Library, Ontario Geographic Data Exchange (OGDE).

### **Annex III: Visual Voices Neighbourhood and Health- Full Stories**

These photographs are powerful storytellers of how newcomers are experiencing the social and physical environment of St. James Town.

These pictures were taken by 27 residents of and visitors to St. James Town. The photographers took pictures that speak to their experiences of how the St. James Town neighbourhood is affecting the health and well-being of its residents. They took over 200 photographs. Each person chose three of their photographs and wrote about them—touching on why they took each photograph and the health issues it raises. 77 stories were written in all. 54 of these 77 photos were chosen for display in the Community Voices Forum and Expo. In consultation with the photographers, words were taken from the stories to create captions for each picture that capture the essence of the photographers' messages. These 54 photos were sorted into 5 theme areas based on the main issue highlighted in each story. If a story touched on many issues, the photo was sorted according to the issue highlighted in the display caption.

The full, unedited stories that were written for the 54 displayed photos are here. Following these, in a section entitled "More Stories," are the 23 photos and full stories not displayed.

These thought-provoking photographs highlight a myriad of aspects that affect health and well-being, from the availability and delivery of services in the community, to the physical appearance of the neighbourhood, to social and economic factors like underemployment. The voices are diverse and varied, and express a wealth of emotion and experience. In these voices, there is frustration, struggle, disappointment, strength, pride, and optimism. In nearly every voice, there is the desire for positive change, change at various levels of influence and in diverse facets of the community, change which would improve the health and well-being of St. James Town residents, and ultimately, make this neighbourhood a better, and healthier, place to live. The names of the participants are included if the participant wanted. The others chose to remain anonymous.

- St. James Town Initiative, 2008



**1.**  
A. Bachan

This is a picture of a bus shelter located on Parliament Street, just on the border of St. James Town. I thought this would be a good picture to show the accessibility of the neighbourhood. I feel that St. James Town is a prime location in Toronto. There are subway and bus services all around the neighbourhood.

It is very important that these transportation services are accessible to people with disabilities as well as the elderly. From the picture, you can see a sign indicating that the bus route is wheelchair accessible. Walking through the neighbourhood, I have seen quite a few elderly individuals as well as some people in wheelchairs. St. James Town may be a good place for them to reside in since there seems to be transportation services suitable for their needs.

This is definitely a strength of the neighbourhood. Easy access to transportation in St. James Town makes getting to school, work, and other places less difficult than if you live in the outskirts of the city. This can promote good health by reducing stress. Not having to worry about transportation can save money and time. Taking public transit is very cost efficient. Having to take a taxi or owning a car can be very expensive over time, especially when you are new to Canada and do not have a stable income. Overall, I feel that this can lead to better mental and emotional health.

Perhaps a way that public transportation in St. James Town can be improved is the introduction of TTC information available in other languages. I know that this information already exists via their website but I am not sure if there are printed copies available. This might be good information to place in community centres or by the subway station and bus routes. A phone number for information in another language could be placed by the bus stop.

I feel that knowledge about public transportation is essential to living in a city like Toronto. Since St. James Town is populated mostly by immigrants, this information needs to be readily available and accessible to them.



**2.**  
Make Our Community Clean That Is Our Vision  
- B.K. Sah

This photograph indicates the garbage container is filled. It is fully filled even though people are still filling, as a result paper, cola can, and coffee cup are thrown all over the ground. It needs to be change the plastic bag before it filled fully. It is our responsibility to clean our community rather than making a mess.

It is advised that if the garbage container will be covered, flies and mosquitoes will not hatched the egg that may effect our body that could happen to become a sick.



**3.**

## Mansion or Mausoleum – C. Niles

Will you send your child to a school that looks like this? What if you have no other choice? What lies within?

Forget the experts' reports and the media – ask the children, spend some time with them. Forget about how your family started out or how generations ago your forefathers... When these children grow up what will they say? What will they do? Does it matter to you? If it doesn't, turn and walk away. If it does do something now!



### 4. SJT Resident

A young beautiful child poses and smile for the camera, pictures tells many meaning but reality have hidden deep fears and pains also struggles right at the beginning of her childhood.

Aria, six years old have been in and out of the hospital more than any children in Canada. The day she was born everyone knew that she has a genetic disorder called Neurofibromatosis; there was a 50% chance of passing on the disorder to the child if one parent has a history of this disorder, in which her mother has this disorder. It is one of the most serious neurological disorders, where several tumours will grow along the nerves anywhere in the body including the brain and spinal cord. Neurofibromatosis tumours can disfigure the physical appearance of the person, may also affect their learning disabilities and cause social isolation.

As a young baby, Aria's body was covered with light brown flat spots on the skin, variable shapes and sizes. It is called the café-au-lait spots looks like a birth marks. Aria's family love her with a passion and treated her like a normal child. As she turned one, Aria was diagnosed with tumour on her optic nerves, which may cause some blindness or disfigurement in one eye. She under gone 53 weeks chemo therapy, which shrank the tumour. However, she is slightly blind on her right eye and has a hard time finding her balance. As a result, she can not run like any other child or balance herself on the bike due to his disorder.

Every time she was treated for chemo. She pleaded her mom, "No needles and no more hospital." Her mom tried her best to comfort and convince her that everything will be fine and promised to get her a little toy whenever she goes for medical appointments.

Aria's mother is a single mom, who had a hard time finding job due to her physical deformity. She has neurofibromatosis, had similar café-au-lait spots and small tumours on the skin like a visible large pimples spots all over her body. Whenever she goes out the public would stare at her in disgrace, which makes her uncomfortable and sense of not belonging in the community. Also, her place of work were not pleased with her constant absences or being late for work because she has to take her own daughter to the hospital quite often. Aria also has neurofibromatosis and underwent 53 chemotherapy to control the optic tumours in her eyes.

Aria's second birthday, she was again diagnosed with tumour on her brain, by miracle it shrank and disappeared. This does not mean the hospital is done for Aria. Hospital is part of her life,



where she will continuously under go regular check up from her optometrist, oncology and other specialists because eventually these tumours will mutate and will become cancerous. .

At age six, Aria's mother had to spend a \$1,000 dollars for her pocket to purchase a  $\frac{3}{4}$  back brace for her scoliosis. Aria had to wear this brace for the next three years, but in the matter of time Aria's mom will have to spend more money for braces due to her growth.

At school or at the day care, Aria is wearing this brace everyday for twelve hours. She has difficulties in bending down and cleaning after herself up after using the bathroom. Her classmates make fun of her and laugh at her due to her smell and awkward way of running because she is slightly blind and can't run normal like any other children.

Neurofibromatosis patients are rare and the public must be educated and be more sensitive to this disorder. They need financial assistance for them to live a better life.



## 5.

### The Tunnel - SJT Resident

This is a tunnel. It looks so simple. No paints on the wall. Just some stains and dirt that makes it look plain. People pass this area for a short cut. It looks so peaceful and quite. It looks like ordinary things happen here during the day. People just go the pass by here everyday. But at night, it is not ordinary. It is not

peaceful and quite. You should be aware of passing here. Everybody says it is scary. Scary because something isn't good are happening here. Something which is not funny. Something to be frightened of. When you walk here by yourself, chances are for your safety. A lot of people says don't pass or never to walk alone on that place. For me, this is a big treat to our life because you are not sure if you are safe or not here if you are passing in this area. This is a big problem. A big problem because there is no assurance of your safety here. If only they can assign police officers regularly to patrol or to post during night time, at least people might feel secure and safe on their way home. They won't feel alone. They will feel better not nervous. Other thing is, maybe it will lessen any illegal activities happening at night. Well, they should pay attention to this matter because this is concerning the safety of the people in the community.



## 6.

### C. Grant

This is Allan Gardens, a place where people go to relax, and enjoy the plants and scenery and where several people take pride in walking their well-groomed and obedient dogs. Amongst the crowd is a homeless and hungry man digging through the garbage probably looking for food, and many of us are oblivious

to his plight.

In this city of Toronto, the city rich in resources, a city exploding with new construction of condominiums, we find the homeless and hungry. How can we explain the large numbers of



homeless and hunger people living on our streets? When someone is exposed to the elements, (weather, garbage and noise) that person is more susceptible to disease, and what we do not realize is that we mingled and share the same space with them. Some of us think that the homeless is responsible for his/her homelessness and that is not our problem; but it matters to all of us. We may not be aware that we pay a hefty price in community services and hospital cost for the homeless- your tax dollars at work.

Many are advocating for the homeless but more needs to be done. We need to engage our leader in dialogue about the plight of the homeless. We have to address the problem of affording housing and poverty, some of the factors that force people unto the streets. We must do something about it NOW.



7.  
M.Y. Xiao

This picture is a snapshot of a prominent and stinky problem in the St. Jamestown community: garbage. Although this topic is so general and prevalent that can be discussed for ages, I would like to focus on the two specific – and also major – problems in particular: recycling and littering.

As can be seen in the picture, the garbage bin – located on a busy walkway beside Food Basics supermarket – is filled with cardboard boxes, glass bottles and cans. The cardboard was even neatly corrugated before it was discarded. The only question now is: why was that garbage can not a recycling bin? In the St. Jamestown neighbourhood, there is not one single recycling bin of any kind on the streets or sidewalks. This means that all sorts of recyclable garbage a pedestrian may have – such as a pop can or newspaper – will end up in the garbage. In the short term, this causes overflowing garbage cans and a negative neighbourhood image. In the long run and in the big picture, this means more money spent on hauling unnecessary garbage to landfills and a damaging impact to the environment. Moreover, the majority of residents of the St. Jamestown community whom I've approached expressed their frustration about the lack of public recycling bins. Thus, it would be a good idea to implement recycling bins – and make it known to the public – in effort to solving the communities growing waste management woes.

It should also be noted that although there are public garbage bins, there are very few of them scattered around the community with more than 30,000 people. For example, in the popular Rose Avenue Park where thousands of children and adults entertain themselves everyday, there is only one garbage bin to accommodate them. As a result, this garbage bin is constantly overflowing with junk to the extent that anywhere within 2 or 3 metres of it is also piled with bottles and cans and waste paper. When a strong breeze comes through the park as it often do, all the garbage on top and beside the lone garbage bin is blown all over the beautiful Rose Avenue field and the surrounding area. This is especially troubling because often that includes small sharp objects and garbage with high amounts of germs and bacteria. In a separate case when I approached an person who has just threw his cigarette butt on the ground in another area of St. Jamestown, he informed me that he only litters the cigarette butts here because there's absolutely nowhere to dispose it. A youth also gave me a similar answer when I questioned her about why she sometimes litters in the area. This clearly demonstrates that people in this community do not have

a natural tendency of some sort that causes them to be delinquent; it is that they are not given the opportunity to behave in a proper manner. Furthermore, even when they are given opportunities, these opportunities are fairly limited and restricted, which sometimes has an adverse effect to individuals and the community as a whole.

As can be seen, this restriction of opportunities is a major – if not the salient – cause of waste management problems in the St. Jamestown community (it could also be used to explain other problems which shall not be addressed here in specific). What is unfortunate is that garbage has become a prevalent problem for the community. Luckily, there is a fairly simple resolution that is fast, cheap and very likely effective. The first step is to increase the amount of garbage bins in St. Jamestown to an amount that is able to accommodate the community's needs. The second would be to implement recycling programs in St. Jamestown so that this viable alternative to traditional landfills is made easily accessible to residents.



**8.**  
M.Y. Xiao

This picture outlines one of the often overlooked areas of the neighbourhood: bicycles. St. Jamestown probably has one of the highest number of bicycles out of all Toronto communities. The bikes are an important transportation tool for many residents of

St. Jamestown, whether its children, adults or seniors. People use them to exercise, get to work and buy groceries, just to name a few of the bicycle's purposes. It is an environmentally friendly yet time efficient way to travel, especially around downtown. It is also the best – and sometimes the only – option for many new immigrants to this country.

Having stated all this, there's still one question that's left to be asked: what accommodations are in the St. Jamestown for the thousands of bikes in the community? For the few residents with cars, there's a huge underground parking lot – that has never been more than half full – for their motor vehicles. For the majority of residents who do not have a car but instead rely on bicycles, there are not even 5 well-maintained bike racks for the bicycles. The end result is that most bicycle owners have no choice but to lock their bike onto anything, anywhere. That's the reason why they can be spotted on fences, trees and even garbage cans all over St. Jamestown.

There are several negative impacts of this behaviour. First and most straight forward, it creates a terrible image for the neighbourhood. The scattered bikes give people the impression of a messy and disoriented community. Secondly, there's no safety protection for the bicycles, and they are very prone to theft and vandalism. Added together, this creates a depressing and insecure atmosphere for the many residents whom depend greatly on their bicycles.

The solution to this problem could be very simple and relatively inexpensive. The best solution is to install 2 long bike racks in a well lighted area near the entrance of each apartment complex. This instantly makes the neighbourhood look more organized and clean. It also gives residents easier access to their bikes, plus a sense of security. Most importantly, it shows residents – and especially immigrants – that St. Jamestown is taking initiatives to become a better community.



**9.**  
S. Shi

How much can we trust our food supply?

I took this picture at no-fills on July 2007. There are three baskets watermelons in this picture, there are a few putrescent watermelon in one of the baskets.

There are two supermarkets, no frills or food basic, in St. James town community, those two supermarkets are very important in our daily life. Almost all the people of St. James town community buy daily food from the two supermarkets, because their location is very close our home, also the price is cheaper than others.

I believe that most of community resident find putrescent food or other similar staff, for example putrescent vegetable, expired milk, refrigerated ice-cream after the power is off for one-day. Can we trust supplied food from supermarket? At least I saw a lot of people to check the expire data of food, smell the food, touch food when they want to buy it. A lot of people do not trust the supermarket who can supply 100 percent food for customers.

We are not only care about the price of goods, but we pay more attention to our healthy, we also want to get good service when we get in supermarket. We should talk this thing with the owner of the supermarkets.



**10.**  
Rose Avenue Public School  
- S. Kanagachandran

In this picture we can see an elementary school where children not only go there to learn and educate themselves but also a place were they explore, learn about life and safety. School is a major thing in each of our lives; schooling takes up half our lives

just when we think we're finish learning then after awhile you figure out you still got more to go. So having schools that you can trust your children to attend, feel safe and comfortable is one of many major problems we can face. So taking a look at this picture would this be a place you would feel comfortable in sending your children? It has a nice playground, nice buildings, but the school doesn't really make up the atmosphere inside. There are just the walls put the people inside that counts. So in a neighbourhood where a lot of gang plays, and crime and other bad things happen and if a school is located in the middle of everything would that be a safe place to send your child? Most likely no, so even if the school loves pleasing to the eye, the neighbourhood that surrounds the school also plays a major role. Having schools to educate the people is a major strength to the community. It helps improve in many different aspects to the individual. But also where the school is located in can play a major role.



**11.**  
SJT Resident

Here I see a beautiful, nice playground which is south behind 200 Wellesley. But not enough recreation. But it is safer than before. Before there was a rock and it was very dangerous for younger kids. Kids were getting hurt all the time. Secondly, I chose to take this picture because of the outdoor pool and the

indoor pool. They are closed all the time. Why? I don't know. We have beautiful pools and we don't use them much.

Why does this problem still exist? Why can't the pool be reopened? Every summer the problem comes back. I took this picture from my balcony. When I see the pool has water and nobody uses it, I feel confused.

If there is a pool, neighbours can come together and meet. They can bring their children and meet each other. It helps the neighbourhood to come out and enjoy a beautiful place.

People have to educate themselves and learn how to solve problems. Have to educate as to why the pool is being closed down. There needs to be some rules for people and children. For example, do not sneeze, pooh or pee in the pool. This relates to health. I feel that prevention is best.

The way the pool and the playground relate to our lives is the enjoyment time with friends and families. The apartments are too small to have everyone over so we need to go outside.

I appreciate the bike paths. They are a beautiful design, safe with no cars. Children can ride bikes and people in wheelchairs can go there.

We have to be training the community. It's like the litter problem. Now, we have less litter because parents tell their kids to throw litter in the garbage. As parents, we should teach our kids.

Another issue is that there are no water fountains. We need water in the playground. Children tend to go steal popsicles from the corner store, probably because they are thirsty and don't want to go all the way home to get a drink. They need hydration. We would appreciate it if they would put one water foundation in St. James Town. In Cabbagetown they have, so why not St. James Town?

Also, I would like to see more swings in the playgrounds of St. James Town. In the whole of St. James Town, there are only 2, one for infants and one for older kids at Howard and Bleecker Street. St. James Town needs more swings. Before we had 3 and now we only have 2. And the playground area is very, very dirty with broken glass, needles, and other kinds of litter. It's a health hazard, especially for children with asthma.



**12.**  
Homeless Man in Park – S. Alghanmi

This picture is so sad, showing someone sleeping outdoors. Unfortunately it is a far too common sight in cities today.



The plight of the homeless is one that continues to be an issue for all levels of government and various social agencies. For whatever reason - be it economic, mental illness, family situation, etc. – people are resorting to life on the street because they see no other way. For most who refuse to deal with agencies or use the facilities provided for them, they fly under the radar of various social programs. Most would rather do this than be subjected to the problems of the facilities themselves or the scrutiny of the programs. It flags safety and social intrusion issues associated with these facilities and programs.

The problems are not easy ones to deal with and find common ground. Each situation is different because each person, and their reasons for being on the street, is different. I just know that, for myself, I would try to find another way if ever faced with the possibility of living this way.



### 13. One Way Begins - SJT Resident

It was during the cold winter season when my parents moved here to Canada, escaping a war torn homeland, Somalia. Canada had it all. It was the perfect place to nurture and raise kids. It is a country of peace and security. It served as a beginning for me, the first chapter of my life. It was in St. Jamestown I began my

one way journey to what my parents were seeking, success. Me and thousands of St. Jamestown residents had the same beginning, and we strive for the same end. It is as though we are following a single straight path headed in one direction. This is a path that doesn't stray. A path where its direction is certain yet its end isn't. That's because the path is long. Nobody said it was easy. It is a journey; a quest. When I mention "success", one may wonder as to what I am referring to. Well, what I allude to isn't material or spiritual. Rather it's the complete package, the state of complete physical, mental and social well being. Isn't this what we strive for, the perfect life, so to say. Let's face it, St. Jamestown isn't exactly the perfect place. So according to WHO's definition, I'm pretty sure everybody hasn't reached that level of health. St. Jamestown has its flaws. However, St. Jamestown also has its strengths. What we as residents should do is bring out these strengths. One might ask how. Well, by informing the community. Whether it be by flyers or meetings. Simply informing this, changes the attitude of the people, and when this is accomplished, only success can follow. So why not just make our path to success a lot easier?



### 14. Wellesley Parliament Square - A. Halkampi

This is a picture of a recent addition to the St James Town neighbourhood. This is a manmade construction of a concrete and stone waterfall ( 2006-2007). The flowers planted in the Spring 2007. The writing on this wall is **Wellesley Parliament**

**Square.** It is a picturesque setting and one of the motives of the management is to advertise The High Rise Apartment Complex.

Although the actual picture shows the waterfall as non- functional at present as the pump is not working (to let the water flow down the stonework) the message to residents is clear... Stop! relax ....and enjoy a thing of beauty . The environment improvement image is positively highlighted. This is a soothing sight for tired eyes as the beautiful flowers provide an effective distraction from the barren concrete jungle around. The water cascading down the rocks and stones provide a welcome change of mood- from the monotony of the constant flow of traffic .Many passers by stop to admire the scenery and take pictures of their loved ones as souvenirs in this area. It is also a welcome sign to all visitors to the apartment Units located within this vicinity. More of this type of beautification projects should be encouraged in our neighbourhood as it will provide a sense of pride in our community. It will be a great idea to put benches on the immediate compound overlooking the waterfall. Then residents will be able to sit on these strategically placed benches relax and enjoy the colourful flowers and pleasant surroundings .The open policy, to beautify our community is a strong unifying bond in our growing together as a people. The government should get involved in city council level and give the area a facelift because this is a therapeutic solution. Thousands of residents who are presently cooped up in their apartments will now have a reason to walk around and enjoy the neighbourhood at a healthy leisurely pace.



**15.**  
A.Moallim

In this picture, there is a squirrel with only one front paw sitting in the middle of a barren piece of land that has been neglected. The grass does not grow there and even the wild animals are not thriving there. Even though there are people who are paid to work to maintain the land, they do not seem to care. I am

wondering what would happen, what would be possible if this piece of land were well loved by the people who live there, and work there? After all, why do we have parks? A park is where people can go sit together, talk, enjoy, and laugh and share the differences they have. It is where I can go when I am old, or where I take my children to play, or where I go to meet people to chat and to make friends – to celebrate life and community. I expect greenery, good chairs, and well maintained surroundings. I would love to be able to come out of my house to meet people rather than be confined to four walls in isolation.

In summary, the park I have is dry, with lots of litter, not well maintained, and does not show care. How is this going to affect my health? How am I going to have a chance to release my concerns with my fellow neighbours? How am I going to share what is in my heart?

We may not have lots of money, but we have each other. Parks and public spaces contribute to the social wealth. Good playgrounds for children that are safe and welcoming and have softness. I would like to provide something, resources where I can have a voice to express my concerns for the public resources. We need places of children and seniors to mingle and share caring, love and wisdom.

The cultures that make up St James Town are familiar with building social capital and not financial wealth. People are used to meeting and caring for their neighbours and extended

families in their countries of origin. In this colder climate they are also greeted with a colder social climate where the physical settings do not give them the same opportunities that they had sitting on their front porches and talking to the community as it flows by their door. In this country, the high-rise apartment space needs to be softened by a lush park setting where people can break down the isolation that the wall of their apartments imposes.

Beauty is not an option, but it is necessary for people to feel a connection with their environment. Natural beauty is probably the most satisfying. People relate to plants and animals, trees and water as indicators of life well lived. A strong common space would be filled by a strong social response that is already there- waiting to find an outlet either inside or outside the built spaces. It is these common areas that help people to establish linkages in their social networks that lead to friendship and the development of extended family. It builds social wealth that will have far reaching effects on health, safety, and welfare.

Even the squirrel in the picture, if you were to see it more clearly, is not thriving in this barren, dry and littered place. It is missing a front paw and half of the hair on its body. Its mere sight is a reminder that life cannot thrive here. Like the squirrel, isolated and depressed people deteriorate and develop sickness and become a liability to the health system – at great social cost.



**16.**  
SJT Resident

This is a picture of seniors sitting outside and socializing this summer. We have a lot of seniors in our neighbourhood and most of them live by themselves, majority of them are on wheelchairs and most of them are sick or have at least one health problem.

Seniors are the backbone of the society and I think we should not forget them. They are the elderly and they should not be neglected.

I think we should have programs for the seniors or we should have a policy for helping the seniors. For example, during summer time, the majority of seniors don't have air-conditioning in their apartments so they prefer to sit outside instead of staying indoor because it is much cooler outside. They even stay out late past 11:00pm at night. This is a major health issue for them. When it is really hot they can even die if they stay indoors.

Another issue is that most of them are by themselves and they need some way of socializing or somebody coming over and checking up on them. This is a problem for the elderly because there is no support system for them. The government should also help by donating air conditions to the elderly in poor neighbourhoods like those living in St. James Town. We should also have programs for the elderly to socialize, like exercising programs, and at the same time the government needs to keep in contact and know the whereabouts of the elderly instead of finding them very sick or fallen dead in their apartments. These programs will enhance the lives of the elderly so that they don't feel like the community has neglected them.

I think the policy makers should put the elderly in their forefront agenda and make drastic changes by implementing programs to enhance the livelihood of the elderly in our community.



**17.**  
A. Bachan

In this picture, you can see quite a few pigeons eating a pile of food that has been left on the ground. I noticed the food only because of the smell as I passed by. I was wondering where the rancid smell was coming from and when I looked around, I saw the pigeons eating the food.

I feel that pigeons are a big problem in St. James Town. When I go to the neighbourhood, I see them everywhere. They carry diseases and their droppings can be hazardous to the health of humans. If people continue to feed the pigeons, they will think that the area is a food source and will keep coming back as long as food is available. The food on the ground could also attract other diseased animals like rats, which can then get into the surrounding buildings and live in people's homes.

One solution may be to post signs warning residents not to feed the pigeons and information about the diseases that they carry. This could be done in multiple languages for residents who cannot read English.

The only way to be rid of the problem is to make sure everyone living the neighbourhood understands that they should not feed the pigeons. Also, any food litter should be placed in trash cans where they cannot get to it.



**18.**  
Anyone out there? – C. Niles

This was found at an archaeological dig of an ancient city called St. James Town. In this early 21<sup>st</sup> century civilization they used these instruments to contact the aliens outside their universe.

Unfortunately their plea for help went unheeded and they were buried in a overwhelming wave of 'that's not our problem.'

Anyone out there? Are you listening?



**19.**  
SJT Resident

This is a picture of a mentally sick person. Whenever I am going in the regent park community I always see this person crossing the road even if it is a green light. He is always crossing the intersection but he doesn't know if there are any cars coming or not. He is always doing some sort of hand motion. He walks



around with a black garbage bag on top of his shoulder. He wears a long gown, or clothes. This person needs more help because he looks 100% abnormal and mentally unstable. I don't know if he receives any help or even has a place to live. If he doesn't have anybody to take care of him, than it is the responsibility of the government, the city to help people like him. Maybe he is mentally sick and does not want to stay in a shelter, or a metal clinic. He talks to himself all the time. This is a problem because there is nobody to help him or care for him. If he had a family they may be able to help him by providing food and shelter.

I don't think the community can help with this problem, I think it is the government's job, or the ministry of health, or member of parliament. This is a safety issue. I think he needs help. It should be the responsibility of the city and of the government to help people like him. I know the government can not people mentally ill people one by one but in general they should have a place where these people can live until they get better and are able to live on their own. Maybe the government should have more mental hospitals for people like this man so they can live there and work on getting better. Or maybe we need more shelters if there are not enough for the people. We don't want our people on the street when they are suffering, especially from a mental illness. People like him might not have access to food, place to live and medication to reduce their abnormality. The government should make change and help mentally sick people.

Everything has a solution, every problem has a solution, but sometimes we don't know how to reach that solution. But there has to be a solution. Policy makers should come up with a solution to help mentally ill people.



**20.**  
SJT Resident

This picture shows a bike with empty cups of coffee on the back. The two cups are actually standing on the crate of beer which is on the top back of the bicycle in the St. James rental building.

The reason for taking the picture is for the purpose of public awareness about the situation happening in the St. James Town neighbourhood. In addition to that, the picture also tells the people with authority that there needs to be action taken to improve the environment of St. James Town such as sanitation or employment of garbage collectors to assist with the collection of dirt within St. James Town.



**21.**  
SJT Resident

This image of a dead pigeon and a pile of wooden sticks was taken right at the heart of St. Jamestown where children and families come down to play and take few breaths of fresh air in the evening hours to escape the heat of oven-like-apartments. It would not take a scientist or a medical doctor to understand the

risks of a pigeon carcass lying down on a public space. This particular one had been out on the park for several days. Quite obviously, the dead carcass becomes a hot bed for flies, mosquitoes and dangerous pathogens that could infect kids who especially have vulnerable immune system. Children might even trip on the wood and get a serious injury.

However there are other health repercussions beyond the obvious health hazards that any individual could point out; it's just not pleasant to look at something so putrid. I don't think anybody enjoys living surrounded by garbage and rotten organic waste. On a hot summer day, one can actually smell the rotten stench of the garbage inside the apartments. People in this neighbourhood already have a lot worry about. The sight of putrid garbage and awful stench just adds more mental stress. If the environment of a community is polluted, people's sense of civic pride and belonging is lost. At the end of the day, no one wants to be part of a community that smells.

We, as a tenant community, pay a lot of money to our land lords. It is not a privilege, but an absolute right that we get well maintained parks, spaces and environment around the property. Making rules and regulations is one thing, but enforcing those same rules and regulation is a totally different story. We do not want the policy makers to write endless list of bylaws that supposedly guarantees us a clean environment as tenants. We also want enforcement by inspectors who will make sure the bylaws are maintained by land lords. Most importantly, the people of the neighbourhood themselves have to take ownership of the place they live and make a conscious effort to keep their environment clean as well.



**22.**  
Garbage in Chute Room  
- S. Alghanmi

The first thing I see is a small chute room with a very large bag of garbage sitting in front of the chute, taking up most of the chute room space. The picture indicates to me that whoever is leaving the bag in the chute room is too lazy to take the bag to the larger bins available for the building. The other thing it tells me is that this person is also too lazy to separate their garbage from actual garbage and items that could be recycled.

With the problems of waste management today (i.e. cost of shipping garbage to landfill, etc.), it is so important that people starting re-educating themselves to divert from garbage into recycling efforts. So long as the proper facilities are available at a residential building, the problem should not exist if people will just change their thinking around what is garbage and what is recyclable. They would be surprised how much is actually recyclable and how it will lessen the amount of garbage going out of that building. This will, in the end run, represent a cost savings to the building, and to the positive environmental impact overall.

Some of the best ways of changing this thinking are providing motivating information to tenants and ensuring that the proper recycling facilities are in place and making sure that tenants know where these facilities exist. Then, you just have to hope that a little healthy peer pressure will have the desired affect on those tenants still too lazy to participate!



**23.**  
Green Space, Park/Garden  
- S. Alghanmi

This photo represents a lovely example of green space. The park and garden shown look so peaceful and inviting. I could imagine a lovely walk through this area and just sitting on one of the benches enjoying the sounds, sights and smells of the gardens.

Too often these days the green space environment in a town or city is the first to be lost when budgets cannot meet necessary funding for all programs and green space is so important to have some respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life. For those people unable to go too far outside the city because of transportation impediments, these parks provide a place to go with family and friends to relax and enjoy some time together or just to unwind after a busy day or week.

Given the current situation where global warming issues are so prevalent in people's minds, green space is becoming important again and corporations are providing some of the funding necessary to keep green spaces alive or create new ones. In a residential building, the addition of a green space adds to the attractiveness of the property and provides tenants with a place to enjoy themselves with their families or to sit and chat with friends and neighbours. The addition of green space to a building can provide a sense of community to a building since tenants can get to know one another as they enjoy this space together.



**24.**  
U.Makaju

A Chinese proverb: if you gave a fish to a hungry man, he/she will meet the need of one time, if you taught the hungry man the skill to weave a net, he/she will learn to solve the problem for life time. This is the main “mantra” of community development. So availability of institutions in the community which gives skills on health and employment are most to build healthy community.

Availability of institutions extending health services within the neighbourhood plays detrimental role to keep the health condition of community people intact. Above mentioned is a picture of building which consists of St. James Town Health Centre, St. Michaels Hospital Clinic and Mental Health Clinic located alongside of Sherbourne Street.

This centre has been extending primary health services to the community members of this community. Availability of such organization within the vicinity of the neighbourhood will certainly increase the feeling of safety among the community members.

Availability of health posts near by the community directly relates our lives. Because no body knows that when we fall sick. Falling sick means to be depressed physically and psychologically. The easy access of facilities assures people about their safety in regards to health.

Organizations rendering health services to people are directly related with our lives. Because people can have quick access of health services during the time of needs. And timely consultation with health personnel and treatment will certainly prevent the situation being deteriorated. Hence, this relates to good asset for our health.

Presence of such kind of facilities can be categorized as great strength for any community. Besides, presence of other organizations like Wellesley Institute, Employment Resources Centre, schools and so on also are the strength of the community. Employment Resources Centre, located along side of Parliament Street has been trying to ease out the unemployment problem, the major problem of this neighbourhood. Where as Wellesley Institute has been seriously involving in transferring skills to empower the community members of St. James Town. The recent concept of community development is not only learning skills, but also to transfer learned skills to other members. Wellesley Institute has been doing this job, which will ultimately empower local people. These are all strengths of this neighbourhood.

These strengths exist in this neighbourhood. Because this neighbourhood is mostly resided by newcomers and immigrants. And the population density is also very high. Canadian government tries to provide services to its people by making easy access of facilities. More the people employed, greater the revenue the government collects. The image of this neighbourhood among other and previous research made local government aware to launch programs which can bring people in the main stream of their wellness.

This image of strength can educate community and policy makers. Community members should have access to facilities provided by government. They should feel that these facilities are for the benefit of community members. The optimum use of these facilities in the neighbourhood by community members draw attention of policy makers. Policy makers should try to study the programs in regards to evaluate and increase more facilities in the community so that the community becomes a place better place

In order to enhance the strength, the community should be able create awareness about the facilities available in the community. More the facilities, better the prosperity in the community. At the same time, community members should voice for the need of other facilities and form pressure group to get needed programs in the community. After all, need of development must be felt by local people through active participation, rather than trickle down process. Therefore, it is crystal clear that community members are the crucial crusader for the development any community.



25.  
SJT Resident



Standing in front of this sculpture, I close my eyes, I can see the king was hunting in the forest, large parts of greens around me, I see the sunshine through the leaves shiny the water on the ground, I can smell the fresh air, I can feel the breeze is blowing my hair, what a wonderful nature! When I open my eyes, I just see a lonely and small green is surrounded by the road with car liquids. The noise of cars goes through my ear into my mind; the polluted air from the cars is flooding in my nose. I try to close my eyes again.

This is the Queens' Park which is located University and Wellesley Aves; it is a small green ground in the middle of the road. It is a survivor of the city.

As we all know that our city is growing, our green is losing. We have more and more modern buildings but you have less and less greens in the city. I want to city live, we ignore how important of the green. It is easy to take the green out of the city; it is hard to get it back. It is the time we should think about this, keep greener in the city, we need healthy lifestyle.



## 26.

Bicycles are haven't recycle yet  
- Y. M. Zhang

When I arrived in Toronto the first nice surprise for me was the garbage recycle, because I received a advice from my landlady was you have to separate the garbage which is recycle or not and also she gives me a book to learn about it, even I don't know the English but I could learn from pictures. After that I always

concentrate to put them where they should go and I like to do it.

And another panic surprise for me was the broken bicycles are everywhere. why the thief didn't take it all? But later my husband lost his bicycle from friend only a few days ago at in front of public building by daily. Then I realized my question, the thieves are chose things that what they want. And people are won't let thief take their bicycles and then another problem happen that is most people are taking them to their apartment, then people whom don't have bicycles they don't pay a tension to bicycles and cause neighbours aren't nice to each other even with hatred, seem as other problems between in personal relationship, national relationship and counties caused by bad motivations.

How to prevent it? That I think the one of the idea is to build an own bicycle rooms in each building for keeping by themselves, even it can be a sample bicycle shed and will must be have a monitor that just stop by thief steal, and I know some of buildings already have it. And for the part of bike that still left in loading area we have to keep it for recycle, maybe use them make a new bike and don't be waste.

And talking to now that I also learned many from this project as how the government really doing to take care about their people but still some of those problems exist that I have done interchange our thinking with some of my friends and I list them here hope it will can help.

1. Keep our relations spatially for children to purity our heart from polluted humanities environment; less relations are tools to manage people.

2. Should be care for when emphasize personal power through the school education.
3. Government and parents should sports children to continuing education after 18 years.
4. Respecting nature is protecting our selves.



## 27. After School Program - SJT Resident

St. James Town is the most densely populated area in North America, with a population of 27,000 residents which is known as a super-block, residents coming from all over the world. Most of the buildings are owned privately except four buildings

which are owned by Toronto Community Housing. The preliminary design of St. James Town accommodated the needs of society during 1960s. In due time the community has evolved and needs must be updated to the current standards.

Considering there are several youth programs available in this community, where it provides parents assistance in child care while they are at work, which cost less than baby sitting fee. The Youth Centre charge parent fee ranging from \$2.00 to \$5.00 as a snack payments per week, served to their children. A new After School Program formed on October 2006 by the St. James Town Festival due to the popular demand from the parents. The program operates Monday to Friday at 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the sub-basement of the 240 Wellesley Street East.

When this program started it faced a series of barriers. A so called social agency reported that this is a day care and that the organization does not have a license and wrote a letter to the property management in request to evict the children out of the building. An investigator from the Children Social Services came and saw the program was being operated by volunteers, who the parents of the children, high school students and other people in and around the Greater Toronto Area. This children's program is coordinated by Chiara Lara, who has been rendering volunteer work in order to make this program a success. It managed to operate with zero funding except for the snack paid by the parents. The Children's social service investigator said that "we should have more programs like this in the community."

It is amazing on what you can do without funding except the support of the parents and community. This program creates friendship and unity within the children and parents because it allows both parties to participate and make decision over the children's activities in the centre. One day, we went on a flied trip to Riverdale Farm for tobogganing, it was the first time for most of the children. Some parents never tried tobogganing until that day. Every month we celebrate birthday party for the campers by making them feel special by celebrating pre-birthday parties and have organized a Christmas celebration in the centre. This camp has created a special bond within each family in the centre as well as in the St. James Town.

An immigrant Mehdi Moazzani helped this program by offering the children paint session, the product of which will be sold in an auction for the Sick Kids Hospital. The children have completed 45 painting in canvass within three weeks. The children in the camp understood the importance of volunteer work and dedicated time in operating the after school. Forty five paintings were accomplished by the children. The session created an impact on their lives. One

student said she felt good and rewarded in volunteering her time to paint because her painting will be able to support the Sick Kids Hospital.

This program requires space and money. The support of local leaders and residents in this community is needed in making this program a success. At the same time, parents, children and program coordinator should be part of the decision-making in planning the activities for their children in helping them become the leaders of the community.



**28.**

The Broken Mirror – J. Luo

In James Town, where is a densely built, where living immense of different people who come from variety background but they have been facing same problems.

In the evening one month ago, I was walking on street saw a harmful broken mirror there beside the tree. Someone who left broken mirror there simply and easily, however, it can cut finger and causes more dangerous problem for disabilities or children if anyone who fall down at it. The broken mirror should be there or for what reason to throw there? If it cut someone's finger could cost money from government and made huge trouble for family; if people, who come to James Town first time, think this area is not a safety living place. Furthermore, broken mirror phenomenon will cause several negative effects in this area.

Why someone who conducted this immoral phenomenon? It is necessary to dig that reason deeply. If we had trained in international ethic curriculum for everyone who lives in this area, the broken mirror would not be there; if we had paid attention to how to deal with mental health problems and reduce selfish attachment, we may not be distrusted each other in society. However, it's all happened. In my opinion, **it seems not only a simple action or behaviour.** The community needs to conduct two sides of function; one of the sides is to make a community rule to protect neighbourhoods grassland and garden, the other sides is to train both general states of environment, and ethical curriculum for new comers or people who newly move to this community.



**29.**

SJT Resident

This picture was taken at the rear entrance of Sherbourne Station. In my opinion, this image brilliantly captures the social and economic conditions of St. Jamestown, and the disparity between the rich and the poor. The tiny tunnel at the centre leads to a pedestrian bridge over a ravine connecting one of the poorest

neighbourhoods in Canada to one of the most affluent, Rosedale. On one side of the bridge, there exists a neighbourhood full of new immigrants who have come from all around the world to be part of the rosy picture promised by the Canadian government. On the other side, the picture actually comes to reality. However, the short journey of crossing the bridge is actually painful, arduous, and for the most part, impossible to most if not all of the individuals living in St. Jamestown.

This picture of the tunnel probably encapsulates so many varied issues and concerns related to health in our neighbourhood that it would not be possible for me to cover all of them in this written piece. However, one issue that is quite blatantly apparent from the image is the economic disparity between the rich and the poor. Money is one single factor that quite literally affects one's health in many different ways. First and foremost, financial stability leads to calmness, mental stability and a piece of mind. In terms of food, fresher and healthier alternatives such as green groceries are costlier than processed food. The money earned by some people is not even enough to properly feed them, let alone worry about healthy alternatives. Money also leads to better access to health. Most people living in St. Jamestown do not have the money to buy dental or an eye care plan.

This entire problem stems from one root cause which is the reluctance of the Canadian society, and not the government, to recognize the academic and professional credentials of new immigrants because for the private sector in Canada retraining immigrants is a profitable and lucrative business. Government and policy makers can introduce endless lists of legislation and regulations, and provide social support. At the end of the day it is in the hands of the person taking the interview to decide whether he will consider foreign experience of a candidate. The government and policy makers can do us a big favour and not spend our precious tax money on useless programs aiming at recognizing foreign credentials. The change and the acceptance have to come from citizens of the Canadian society, and there is no way on earth that this can be achieved by sentences written on pieces of paper.



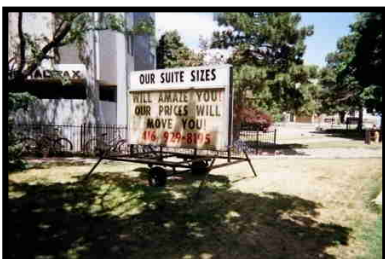
**30.**  
SJT Resident

This is a picture shows TTC. Most of people who work in down town Toronto take TTC every day. We like our TTC; it is a big benefit to people and our environment.

First of all, it is very convenience. We can take TTC everywhere without parking problems and driving problems. Second of all, it is save energy, more people take TTC lees people drive, the energy will be saved in this way, obviously, it will have less traffics and less pollutions.

However, TTC budget will be cut a huge number; the fair is raised again and again. Some services will be cut as well. If like that it will not convenient at all. Some people may be driving instead taking the TTC. The traffic will become worse. The energy will be waste more than before. It is also cause worse pollutions. The benefit to people and our environment will be gone.

How can we fix the problems? We will get some budget to solve these problems. Now, we see the global warming, it is the mistake we did in the past, but we have fix it now. The TTC problem we cannot just look the problem right now, we should look the problem in the future.



**31.**



## Just tell it Like It Is - SJT Resident

“Our suite sizes will amaze you! Our prices will move you!” Interesting advertisement. It definitely caught my attention. I live in apartments just like that; however I have yet to be amazed. When I see an ad like this, it makes me worried. Advertisers have to exaggerate about the buildings in which we live. You may be thinking; that’s what advertisers do. Well, as a St. Jamestown resident, this is how I look at the situation. Why not just mention the truth. Facts where the people in the community would all agree to if they came across it. So what’s the big deal? Well, I feel like this community either does not know its strengths or they fail to recognize them. Now this to me seems to be a problem. If an advertiser fails to mention good, forthright point, we should take it as a warning sign, or an indicator as to the perception of the community. So how can this image educate the community? Simple really. I think that by just simply looking at this picture, the people will quickly realize this isn’t right. The residents will know the ad is a misrepresentation. I just hope that after they realize this, they feel something. Anything, whether it is disgust, anger, or humour. Anything that will prompt them into making change, whatever way they can. So what can they do about it? What can we do about it as a community? By frequently mentioning the community’s strengths. Since the people aren’t really sure of what they might. I just hope I got my message across.



**32.**

The High Rise Apartment Building  
- A. Halkampi

This is a picture of the high rise apartment building ‘The Halifax’ which is located on 280 Wellesley St East, Toronto .It is ideally located as it is near the subway system and easy transportation is a major factor in residents choice of living quarters.

Most newcomers, university students and young professionals who work or study in the Great Metropolitan Area find these apartments affordable and conveniently located. These apartments are in high demand as families crowd together in these limited housing units situated near to school and work and amenities.

These overcrowded spaces lead to poor hygienic conditions as many residents complain of bedbugs, cockroaches, rats and rodents invading their apartments.

Many of the residents here are struggling to survive on minimum wages and a number of them cannot speak English fluently. As a result they cannot communicate their frustrations effectively. Some of the residents are afraid to complain of poor maintenance of the facilities to the management because of their innermost fear of eviction.

Lately, residents have held meetings to correct the growing problem of rats, bedbugs and cockroaches. To date these problems has not been dealt with effectively by administration. It is sad too that people on the outside have a negative stigma attached to this area as they dismiss it as drug and crime related and associate it as being run because it is infiltrated with poverty stricken foreigners.

This is a bias view as the honest law abiding residents work hard to eke out a living and support their families in hope of building a brighter better future.

It is hope that by presenting a picture of this building the policy makers will take a serious look at some of the persistent problems of rodents and insist that the owners of these apartment buildings upgrade the facilities and provide healthy clean spaces in keeping with the rental code.



**33.**  
SJT Resident

In this picture I see the elevators of building 375 Bleecker Street. We have three elevators in this building. What is really happening in this picture is that there is not a single day that all of the elevators are not working, sometimes two or even all three are not working.

We have up to 25 floors in this building. We also have many seniors on wheelchairs living in this building. If the elevators are not working it is a major disruption to our lives. You can just imagine how this problem affects our health with so many seniors living in this building. The elevators being out of service is a major inconvenience. Sometimes we get stuck in the elevators and during summertime it is hot in the elevators with up to 8-10 people stuck and then we end up calling the fire brigade to get people out from the stuck elevators.

This is a major problem, if you were to ask the people living in the building, nearly 90% will prefer to have the elevators fixed than any other renovations taking place in the building. There is a lot of renovations taking place in the building like fixing and painting the hallways and balconies, and this is a good improvement to the building but it is a not a major disruption for the people in the building like the elevator problem.

Every now and again we have the elevator company come and fix the elevators but not even two days later the elevators are broken and again not working. It is hard for seniors to take the stairs if they want to go out or walk their dog.

All the other renovations are good for the beautification or appearance of the building but the elevators are very important for daily use and I think most of the money for renovations should go into properly fixing the elevators once and for all. We will greatly appreciate having this problem fixed more than looking at the minute decorations they are doing to the building.



**34.**  
K. Naidoo

This building is a newly renovated library. Its space and architecture is a pleasant addition to this community. The building depicted also shares space with the community center.

It is a place of resources that many can meet for various activities or just simply hang out with their children on an afternoon study date. The open space and the lighting of this structure add a sense of relaxation. The building convenient

location I would suggest promotes a sense of community and good health. For example, if a single mother needs time alone to get either her grocery shopping done or meet with someone from the community center she would be able to leave her children in the library for a few hours or even at the community center if there are activities going on that day. For a single mother this could be seen as a place whereby a mother could rely on as a safe space for her children.

It is my opinion therefore, that this building serves to benefit the residents of the St. James Town community and also to lure new and potential buyers to occupy condominiums that are to be erected in this area. Many policy makers and planners could take this simple clean-cut structure in mind when renovating any other buildings or community resources within this community. The beauty of this structure could be further interpreted as adding a modern, uplifted view to the community. This may serve to curb stereotypical ideas of Jamestown being a grim place with inadequately maintained places and buildings. Through changes such as something as simple as adding a new structure such as the building illustrated to this community could encourage further population and could promote the addition of further infrastructure to this area. It would thus improve the appearance of this area and promote it as a place with improved living standards.

It could be argued therefore that in areas or locations where there is deteriorated buildings and poor maintenance of surrounding areas, this could create an avenue whereby individuals may linger which gives the impression of a crime and poverty stricken area. Thus, by improving this area through the strategic implementation of this library, it not only gives residing residents a place to promote education, a safe place to socialize for children and adults and the provision of a modern look and feel to the Jamestown community. This as mentioned above could work to facilitate growth and a positive wellbeing in an area that so desperately required such an improvement.



**35.**  
K. Naidoo

St. James Town is a place where many people call home. This community consists of many tucked away parks, grocery stores and schools. Although a vast number of these amenities serve as convenience to many, it also makes it easier to tuck away not so easy things that can serve to be quite harmful. One of the pictures that I took was a large corner of a garbage dump that is situated in the middle of many housing units. For many residents their balconies are either overlooking the garbage or are located directly above it. As an outsider I would argue that this is a major factor that is directly related to these residents' lives. It is my opinion therefore, that this can be seen as a health hazard to the individuals residing there. For instance in the summer, the scent from the garbage accumulated in the bins shown, may easily travel into residents' apartments and neighbouring areas such as parks.

It is also apparent that other means of livelihood may also be affected. Although, children may not necessarily play directly in this space but dwell quite close to the area have to. This is an unhealthy environment for children especially due to the fact that they would be exposed to

rodents, germs and other possible toxic substances that will be within close proximity or within such a garbage site. Moreover, because this area does not appear to be well maintained, many bugs, insects and rodents such as mice and roaches may infest or be harboured within this open space. The possibility remains that these bugs, insects and rodents may travel to surrounding areas taking many diseases with them. As a result, they could possibly infect homes and areas occupied by residents, having a negative affect on their wellbeing. Children and seniors are more susceptible to contracting contagious infections, thus adding additional stress and financial strain from covering medical expenses to any family.

I believe that this living condition exists mainly because there is a lack of space and structure that can better facilitate such a heavily populated area. Public officials may, not see the apartment buildings that encompass the garbage site, as a detrimental concern, because those who reside there are considered low-income renters. Could it be that if higher income families occupied these buildings, would such a health hazard would be present then? Perhaps this image can be used to better educate and draw awareness both community members and policy makers by highlighting that this is an issue that requires immediate attention.

I would suggest that this area would be better maintained if the garbage receiving area was relocated to the buildings' underground or even enclosing the area. This will better ensure that harmful rodents and the scent that many germs that can build causing infectious diseases will be better contained away from small children, seniors and many residents' homes.



### 36.

Out of Frame – L. Shivakoti

Proper maintenance of quality and standard of resources, facilities and infrastructures in every community is very important because our standard is reflected on these things.

The above picture taken in the last week of May, 2007 is of a community park behind 240 Wellesley. This park is a common spot for the residents of five high rises in the locality. Therefore, this place is a busy place almost every time. People come here for relaxation, walking, and leisure talk with each other. Children keep themselves busy in playing at the play park whereas most of the adults like to sit on the bench and share their feelings and experiences with each other. These activities give them good relief after the day long hard toil. It is obvious that everybody needs good rest, relief and happiness to keep oneself healthy and comfortable.

In the picture, we see a bench, but it doesn't have seat. It has been without seat since last year summer. It seems to be an ignoble thing but in my opinion it is not a thing to be taken lightly. It is our community's property and it reflects our community's standard. Our community's prestige is linked to this park. If such resources are not maintained well, we cannot be proud of anything. However, the concerned authority seems to have failed to give enough attention, or is it being neglected?



Everyone in the community likes to be proud of his or her community. We all like to say, “It is our community, it is our pride.” However, can we have that opportunity in such state?



**37.**  
SJT Resident

This is a picture of a pile of garbage in St. James Town. From what I know, trash always has germs and is contaminated and diseases spread if garbage is kept longer and isn't removed immediately. So garbage people should frequently come and take the garbage. People should also throw their garbage in proper containers, because animals always come and bite at the garbage and they spread all of the germs.

The people have to have some time to get together to talk about how we could keep our neighbourhood (area) clean. We should have a neighbourhood meeting where the people need to be told to throw their garbage in a proper way, in proper containers, so we can discuss with the people of the neighbourhood and tell to do the right thing and keep their neighbourhood clean. I hope the people know, but they are lazy people.

Several places I see garbage in St. James town. What I like to tell the people of SJT is to not bring their garbage outside until the time of removal and when they bring it make sure they then put it in proper containers so the garbage trucks can take the all the garbage. And don't litter.

These garbage bags in the picture weren't near any building, they were far away from any building. I don't know how these garbage bags were brought, the bags were probably brought before time of removal. This picture was taken near Wellesley street, I think it is beside food basics. But it was not dumped in a garbage bin and it wasn't even near any buildings. This is not good because animals come, like squirrels, and go through the garbage bags and make more mess.

This problem exists because I think people don't care, they have to care about each other and each other's health. If you are careless you do whatever you want. Our religion says if you have iman , then you have respect for everybody. When you care about yourself then you should also care about other people. If you don't care than you are selfish. If you don't feel shame you do whatever you want to do. So this garbage problem is a shame to the community.

Also, the garbage in the picture is near a little park, where kids sometimes play, and old age people also sit around here. It looks like the garbage was behind these huge stones. Even when kids bike, sometimes microbes can travel and spread to the play ground area allowing. So garbage affects people's health by getting them sick.

People need to be reminded because people are forgetting how to take care of themselves and their area.

I don't know how people will get together but if they do it is important to bring this problem up and discuss how to keep this community clean and live nicely. Maybe we should have community barbecues to get to know each other. Yesterday I saw a barbecue on Bleecker street

but there weren't a lot of people from the community present. People should come out and get to know each other so we can discuss this problem.

We should have a public meeting in the area and ask everybody to join. Maybe water and refreshments should be offered. We should get all people together and tell them to please "wake up" and solve this problem.



**38.**  
N.Raja

This is a picture of a pile of garbage I saw while taking a walk in St. James Town. This garbage was behind news paper stands. I noticed that there was a lot of litter visible everywhere in SJT either behind many stands, in the parks, or just on the side of the streets. This is a major problem in SJT. It is a problem because

litter carries a lot of bacteria and is hazardous to health of the community.

The other problem with littering and garbage everywhere in the Streets of SJT is that it makes the neighbourhood look disgusting, dirty and ugly. It also leaves a awful smell that is not good for people walking by. I think this is one of the reasons that gives St. James Town a bad reputation.

I am not sure how this problem can be solved but maybe more "Do Not Litter" signs need to be placed, or more garbage bins need to be there so people can throw their garbage in the right place instead of littering everywhere. If this problem is improved not only will it benefit the health of residents of the community but it will also make the neighbourhood look cleaner and nicer. The neighbourhood is home to so many people, they deserve to breath clean and fresh air while living in a pleasant environment.



**39.**  
N.Raja

This is a picture of a waterfall in St. James Town. I took this picture because when I was walking in the neighbourhood I noticed how beautiful it was. In front of the waterfall were a lot of beautiful plants and flowers, and on the right hand side of the waterfall were huge stones. Even grass near the area looked green and fresh. I think the waterfall as well as the surrounding area are maintained really well and it looks great. This is a positive thing in St. James Town. It is good to look at and makes the residents feel good about their neighbourhood. I think SJT needs more

things like this that contribute to making the neighbourhood look beautiful.

I think the time and effort that goes into maintaining this waterfall and the surrounding area should also go into the rest of St. James Town as well. The St. James town has a park, a library and other good things that are beneficial to its residents, but the park for example, should be maintained well. There shouldn't be garbage lying around, and the grass should be well kept and maintained so the park can look beautiful.

The neighbourhood one lives in affect their positively or negatively. When the neighbourhood one lives in is beautiful it would probably make the residents feel good about themselves as well. Along with that, there is a sense pride associated with their neighbourhood that is very pleasing and impressive to look at.



**40.**  
N. Raja

As I walked though the streets of St. James Town I saw a lot of buildings so I took this picture of the buildings in St. James Town to show how close they are to one another. In this picture, you can see a lot of high-rise buildings that are very close in proximity. I think this is a major problem in St. James Town. I

think there are just too many people living in such a small area. While walking in the SJT neighbourhood I noticed more construction happening so more buildings are being built. The problem with this is that the population is growing larger and larger, and more people are moving into a neighbourhood that is already overpopulated.

High-rise buildings are also scary to live in because of the safety concerns. If the entrance to the balconies are safe and secure so children enter and exit freely than it would be less of a concern. But majority of the buildings in this area are high rise, and while I was walking in the neighbourhood I saw a lot of children playing outside.

The other problem with the buildings in such close proximity is that they take up a lot of the land space. St. James Town can be beautified with more green space that is not available because the buildings take up most of the space. More parks or recreation centres can be built in place of a high-rise building that would allow community members to get together and involve themselves in activities. If this problem of close proximity and high-rise buildings improves it can lead to better overall health for all the residents of the SJT community.



**41.**  
SJT Resident

This image to me is a testament of the good times to come in what has been a beleaguered known for all the wrong reasons. Bleecker Street has graced the front pages of the newspapers for drugs, guns, and violence more than once. However, the opening of the Toronto public library and the community centre has

brought a sense of optimism in this otherwise street of despair. First and foremost, such a beautiful building really brightens up the look of the neighbourhood that is essentially a mushrooming jungle of dull and decrepit architecture. Beyond the physicality of the structures this new facility has infused a sense of civic pride among the people who live around this neighbourhood. Finally, we have something in our neighbourhood that we can flaunt with pride beyond the borders of our neighbourhood.

Parents in the neighbourhood have to work long hours to make ends meet and to ensure that their kids have modest lifestyle. Before the library was constructed parents have to make longer and infrequent trips to the Parliament Library. However, since the library has opened in such a close location now more frequent trips are possible. Literacy is one of the cornerstones for the well being of a neighbourhood because literate and educated children will be more successful in having respectable and fruitful careers in the larger Canadian society.

Furthermore, the building also houses an indoor gym, work out facility that promotes active and healthy living. Most people in the neighbourhood cannot afford the expensive monthly memberships of private fitness clubs. The community centre has opened up opportunities for so many children that are deprived of a proper facility to play sports like basketball and soccer especially during the cold and brutal winters of Toronto.



**42.**  
SJT Resident

I took this picture from my balcony around 5-6pm. It's beautiful day, a sunny day. I took the pictures for 2 reasons:

- In St. James Town, it's all high buildings. It's all very high. The child locks are not sometimes recommended. There are energy-saving glass doors/mirrors so it's hard to put a child lock. The doors are made of glass and mirrors. It's hard to put a child lock by yourself unless a professional comes to drill it and do it. When we heard the news of a child falling out of a building, it's scary. In St. James Town, it's all high buildings. We have to have the child locks. It's a need. The building has to be responsible. For them, it's not a compulsory. They changed all the windows and doors, why not put a child lock!?! It was there before and they took it. When you put the new doors, you have to have a plan for child safety. I talked to the manager and he said they would fix it. But still I am waiting for 3 weeks. And there is no paper to say that I complained, it's spoken. No record.
- Close to St. James Town, there are new condominiums being made. One thing of value is maybe the security of the area will increase because these are private buildings. We expected when we lost the Wellesley Hospital that people who could not have bigger units would get places. We expected lower-income families could get bigger units. We expected affordable houses. Our children grew up here and have a good public school and then have to move away because the family size increased.

When we had election, we told them that we need affordable housing. We don't need condominiums. They did not listen. Said there was nothing they can do.

When we lost the Wellesley Hospital, at least we were expecting that part of the place would be emergency for when people get hurt. They needed to leave part of it as emergency. I remember when my child fell down in the playground and I ran right away to the Wellesley Hospital. It was very close and convenient.



Condominiums are good for the view, beautiful view, nice gardens, luxury cars. You can dream that they are yours. Beautiful and security are good about having condominiums. And, also, the mix of rich and poor is a good point. Maybe the children will go to the same schools but not the same hospital.



**43.**  
U.Makaju

Surprising to find the kitchen without exhaust fan during my steps to rent an apartment around high rise area of St. James Town. Later, I came to know that most of the apartments in this neighbourhood are not installed with Kitchen Exhaust Fan.

This is a picture of kitchen + living room in one of the apartments of high rise building in St. James Town neighbourhood. An ordinary picture, but having some long term health demerits.

Nothing remarkable can be seen in the picture and nothing is happening in this picture, but a silent offing of some unseen unhealthy activities. When people use cooking stoves to cook their foods, series of toxic gases emit in the ambience of kitchen.

Kitchen is the integral part of any house or apartment. Most of the people spend couple of hours in kitchen and many hours in living room. We cook food in kitchen and take it to harness energy for our daily work.

If kitchen is not clean and fresh, food becomes infected. Their after, affect our health condition. In addition, when people cook food, it creates gases like carbon monoxide, aromatic hydro carbon and so on. If these gases do not get outlet to go out, remain in the room causing bad effect to our health. Diseases like asthma, respiratory problem can be inflexed to its residents. At the same time, high humidity can cause growth of mould, which also affects our health.

This situation is related with bad health. Because of such unhealthy situation, residents become sick. To fall sick is stressful: financially, physically, and psychologically. Sickness causes inability to work and it will affect their income status. Moreover, when people becomes sick, the government has to spend more money in health sector which can be spent on development works and government will not get tax as the person becomes unable to work. This is one of the problems of this neighbourhood.

This problem is caused by the poor economic condition of tenants. As we know that St. James Town neighbourhood is one of the most popular harbours of Toronto city for new comers. And most of the new comers are economically not sound. Obviously, they seek for cheaper shelter facilities like kitchen without exhaust fan, compromising health repercussion.

This situation is silently offing in this neighbourhood and community and policy makers are not aware of this problem. The tenants should voice about this problem. At the same time, most of the tenants are not aware about this problem. So they are unknowingly becoming the prey of this problem. Children and adults are more prone to this invisible stigma.

This problem is a bit complicated because of the already built structure of buildings. Installation of exhaust fan in all kitchens is the solution of this problem. Or policy maker should adhere to make by-laws on making mandatory in installing exhaust fan in kitchens so that tenants should not be victim of this unseen problem.



**44.**

Respecting Nature is Protecting Ourselves - Yan Mei Zhang

Look at this picture, isn't it like in summer? Especially this year the grasslands are become yellow because no more rain, no body care about it and by people step on it.

The plants are giving us oxygen and giving us a beautiful visual sense too. Image all around us only buildings and hard roads our hearts are broken already. Because of we have lived crowded and we don't have enough green to see, yet why we are going to destroy the only a little survivors.

Think of this problem that I associate about last year we went to centre island, and there are some notes says "please walk on the grass", it is an unusually thinking because not as many people can destroy them by step on and the grass are usually nice then in city. But I think we have to say: "please don't step on me", and when we make roads through the grassland or parks the first thing should we think is how to make people advantage to many directions, then we have to take care of it nicely not only plant it like our child not only care about born and we have to raising them become a adult.



**45.**

The Neighbourhood - SJT Resident

They say a picture tells a thousand stories. I'm pretty sure the word, "neighbourhood", is included in each of the thousand stories. If I were to look up the word neighbourhood in the dictionary, this picture could be used as an example. Why? What do I see? I see two old cronies talking about the good old days. I

see a lone man taking a leisurely walk under the clear blue sky. I also see women, possibly on her way home, also enjoying the day. Though these individuals live separate lives, the fact of the matter is that there is some degree of homogeneity and social cohesion. In other words, there is peace. These individuals are separate, however make up the neighbourhood. It is a though the individuals are pieces of a puzzle. What the puzzle makes up is the community. This is something beautiful. St. Jamestown isn't your Beverly Hills. However, having a neighbourhood full of peace and love is always strength. Might I add, a great one. I think the reason for this is commonality. Us St. Jamestown residents can relate to one another. That is because many

residents are immigrants. These residents are coming from similar situations and for similar reasons. This creates a bond. From there, only great things can happen. I think that the next step for the community is just building on what we already have. Lets us use our strength as a building block, or a stepping stone. Let's make the next step. Improvement is bound to happen.



46.

A.Moallim

In this picture, the efforts of one person to transform this environment is seen. It is located behind one of the buildings. Rich moist earth has been lovingly placed there and this hosta is planted there with care and is doing well. It may be the only offering that this person can afford, but it is like a candle in the darkness – shedding much light on an otherwise dark place. It seems it is the hope of this mystery gardener to encourage others to do likewise and to begin the dawning of a new spring – rich in greenery and fresh beauty. I can only hope that this strategy works – it is worth the effort, even if it takes a long time for the idea to take root, eventually, people may see that there is an appropriate response to their situation, and choose to expand on the beauty of living things in their space. This hopefully will extend to encouraging people to see more beauty in each other. One of the most wonderful aspects of maintaining living things is that it requires constant care. Just like you do not feed you child once and expect that is all that they need, but rather you keep them safe and cared for each day. A living landscape is similar, if it is well maintained it communicates that the neighbourhood is still loved today as it was yesterday and into tomorrow.

When you help to develop grassroots communities in the city, you will have the same benefits that the Canadian forefathers had in the last century where the backbone of the nation was built on the good will of small communities. St. James Town is in fact a town within a city, that is starving for the soul that a well-cared-for common space would create.



47.

C. Grant

The 519 Church Street Community Centre opened its doors in 1975. It soon became apparent that there was an urgent need to develop programs for the community. When the centre opened its doors it attracted mainly homeless people who dropped in on Sundays when other centres were closed. Today the most active and visible users of the centre are gay men, lesbians, transgender and bisexual individuals. It is a place where anyone who has an inner battle with their sexuality, can receive support and are able speak with anonymity, in an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality.

Homosexuality is not a subject that is discussed in many homes in the St James Town community. For many immigrants, homosexuality is not socially, morally or religiously accepted by a number of cultures; that is why so many gay/lesbians suffer in silence. The 519 centre provides support for those who cannot speak to parents, religious leaders or friends about their sexual orientation. At the centre, there is always an opportunity to speak to someone who understands your issues, and can refer you to other groups/organizations that cater to gay/lesbians.

Apart from counselling in same sex related practices and safe sex education, The 519 centre also addresses the problems of parenting, hate-related violence, same sex spousal abuse, poverty and advocacy. It also runs a Family Resource Centre that offers support, referrals and workshops for families with children aged 0-6 years old.

Studies have shown that gay individuals who do not have an avenue for expressing themselves will most likely commit suicide. I believe that The 519 centre plays a vital role in suicide prevention in this community. We might not know the number of gay/lesbian (especially youth) who uses the services, because of confidentiality, but one thing I do know is that The 519 centre makes a difference.



**48.**  
G. Lara

Along the Earl Street corner of Ontario Street, located inside the St. James Town Complex, three times a week, they set up a fruit stand. The fruit stand is a delight to the residents. They buy fruits and vegetables even though there are two big groceries accessible in the area.

Seeing a sidewalk vendor on the street reminds an immigrant of how they do business in their own homeland.

This type of business also supports the owner of the stand. It also employs a few staff and at the same time a place to meet and greet each other in the community.

Food is a source of isolation reduction. I remember when I was travelling all over Europe, I felt so depressed and lonely. I found it so difficult to survive on eating bread and potatoes all the time. I wanted to go back home and I missed my family so much. However, when we arrived in Berlin I discovered a Chinese restaurant and I was so happy to note that they had rice on the menu. This happened in the 60's and it cost me \$20 US just to have rice. For me the cost was nothing compared to the rejuvenating experience I felt.

Food is very important for new immigrants. It is a source of strength in being alone or isolated in a new place. Even if a person has fully adapted to a new system and environment, once the stomach gets a taste of his or her original food, the feeling is great.



**49.**  
The Tsismis Tree – G.Lara

Tsismis is a word in Tagalog and it means gossip. The place is located in front of 666 Ontario Place, in front of the Rose Avenue Public School at the corner of Earl Street.

This is a legendary trademark for the thousands of immigrants, especially Filipinos and Sri-Lankans. There are benches at this place and it is a spot



where many residents sit down and vent out many issues. It is a place where one would know who is new, who got divorced, who is sick, who are the candidates in the community, who did wrong in the community, and many, many more issues. It is a place that is treasured by the immigrants. It is surprising to note that seniors who moved out of St. James Town have the tendency to come back to this place whenever they are in the downtown area. It is a place where you can vent out your problems informally, share experiences and support each other.

The spot is so famous and accepted by everyone. It is a place where seniors can enjoy the breeze and comfort in St. James Town. Some of the regulars have passed away and some have moved out to other areas in Toronto. If you are a writer, being a regular sitter will enable you to write soap operas and different drama skits based on true to life stories. Political issues are sometimes discerned but almost always, it is discussed in a fashionable humour. This is the legendary Gossip Tree of St. James Town.



50.

The Flowers - SJT Resident

This is a group of different flowers. With color red, yellow, white, pink, orange and blue they look so wonderful. They have different sizes too. As you can see, these flowers are put together in one vase. Each flower has its own places. If we arrange it properly, it turns into a beautiful flower arrangement.

I can relate this to our lives. Each flower represents people from different places. And the vase represents this country. So it turns out to be a beautiful and attractive arrangement. This is a very good example. If people of different background are given opportunities here by just accepting their background and giving a chance of their capabilities then everything turns well. It is a problem now because like a newcomer, they need to do certain things in order to be accepted. Adjustments are so hard to do especially if you don't know how to communicate. This image can open the eyes of the people in position by doing the right thing for the newcomers. This image symbolizes how beautiful it can be even they are different from each other.



51.

Who do these cigarette ends belong to? – J. Luo

When we walk in James Town Public Park, could see so many cigarette ends have thrown at around the benches in the park, even though dustbin located a few step far. In my opinion, **it seems against beautify the city environment, not only simple actions or behaviours. It is not only related to health, but it**

**also influences next generation behaviours.** For example, child may touch a cigarette end in the Park when he/she play there, if it contains certain disease will transmitted to family members or others; and if kids saw that smokers who threw the cigarette ends where do they sit, most children will copy this behaviour then there are more people do it same way in the future. This was a too bad strength existing in our community environment. What kinds of smokers are they?

Uneducated people, poverty, people who have mental problem or someone else, maybe new comers who used to do this in their native countries. However, now we have lived in same place, same social condition, and breathe same fresh air. Only the differences are a few smokers who have thrown the cigarette ends beside benches. It may not be a big deal but it can causes further health problems that we considered. On the other hand, if smokers who pay a little attention for public or communities environment, then it easy to beautify the whole city environment more effectively.

The naive hope and the environmental training both don't work for these smokers then it is better to make a strong rule, which let everyone take a responsibility to supervise be punished smokers who threw cigarette ends everywhere.



**52.**

Gay Pride Parade - SJT Resident

The Gay Parade is an organized festive occasion. It takes place all over the world at different times. This colourful and flamboyant festivity cannot take place without the participation of thousands of individuals, community groups, businesses and sponsors. In Toronto, it is a whole week of celebration known as

PRIDE WEEK. This year's pride week's theme was – PRIDE UNSTOPPABLE – The Pride Week includes celebrating with provocative, racy and outrageous events. It is the fun and fabulous arts and culture festival that happens yearly. This is the time when they celebrate our diverse sexual and gender identities, histories, culture, families, friends and lives. It brings in millions of dollars to the city. Sections of the downtown streets are closed for this celebration. This parade creates a safe space to engage in the celebration of their sexuality. The future of the festivity is protected by reaching out, educating and defending their right to celebrate. There is also a community fair and market place to educate, entertain and intrigue you with booths of art, retail vendors, community organization and much more. They value diversity by accepting and respecting differences and working to understand the diverse cultures. They encourage the diversity of the community to participate in events and facilitate community development. They recognize, acknowledge and respect the involvement and contributions of volunteers, staff and stakeholders by creating a sustained environment where they treat each other with respect.



**53.**

Journey of Life – L.Shivakoti

I took this picture in the first week of June 2007. While walking on the way this scene caught my eyes and captivated the same in my camera.

For some observers this picture means nothing, or may just remind them of an English proverb, "Birds of the same feather flocks together." However, in my perception it is not a flocking, but a struggle for survival. A struggle for quenching thirst in the sizzling summer heat. The spot is in front of a business store. The store owner had washed the area leaving some amount of water spilled on the ground. Coincidentally I was on the spot that time. Several pigeons flocked in a

moment, hustled and bustled and struggled just for this water. Needless to say they were much thirsty that time. Suddenly some questions emerged in my mind – why do they have to come only here, or can't they have water in some other places?

If we think seriously about this matter, the reality is bitter. We human beings need every kind of facility and enjoyment. We want everything to be ready instantly as and when we require, but what about such innocent birds? Are the birds not significant for us to maintain the balance of nature?

On the other hand, what we can understand that life is not easy. It is full of struggle, joy and sorrow. Everything has to struggle for the sake of existence and survival.



**54.**  
SJT Resident

This picture represents different things for me. I know that different people have different kinds of opinion. However, for me I cannot understand why women have such little clothing on. To me this is wrong because children will see this and see these women wearing nothing and think that is right. It is not good for children. Canada allows a lot of freedom to do anything. However, they [women] must not do everything in public area. The parade is a good thing because of the freedom it represents but women must be appropriately dressed because there are children within this community and they could be sending the wrong message to these kids. Children are like blank paper. When they get this message they will learn it. When I see it, it's like 'Oh My God' because you don't see this kind of display in other countries. In my country women are not allowed to dress this way. It is something that is forbidden in my country. He believes that people who experience feeling for another person of the same gender should keep it a secret. So see this parade from my house it is shocking to watch.

For these things [parade] we accept these kinds of things because we [as newcomers] have no say. In Canada this kind of behaviour is already legal so it cannot be changed back. The government wants to be supported by different people. A lot of gay and lesbian's people come to Canada to have the same sex marriage. If I think it is wrong it would make no difference because that is the way it is in Canada. It's something that I am just not used to.



**55. The Empty Swimming Pool**  
- A. Halkampi

This is a picture taken of a beautiful spacious but empty swimming pool which is ideally located on the compound of the Wellesley High Rise Apartments. It is a crying shame that unfortunately the residents are not allowed to make effective use of this facility. Since residents live in such crowded apartments they should have easy access to outdoor facility which will serve to promote motor skills and encourage them to socialize in the outdoor location.

The pool is almost always deserted and the authorities should provide a resident life guard on site to ensure residents could use the pool under guided supervision.

The residents will be more than willing to enrol their children in swimming classes and pay a fee for the upkeep and maintenance of the facility which unfortunately is left unattended most of the year. What is the benefit of a facility that is not in proper condition for the people to enjoy? If the authorities are unable to provide the proper maintenance it should seek outside help from the office of the mayor or other charitable organizations to assist in the upkeep and efficient running of the facility.



**56.**

A. Moallim

This picture shows how a lush green urban space is the dream of everyone in St. James Town to have. After all people given a chance, surround themselves with life and beauty. I live in St. James town and I see that the neighbourhood surroundings are

showing neglect. My concern is that this neglect is transmitted to the feelings of the people who live there. How can we turn the situation around where people care for each other and the environment reinforces this sense of caring? Although the residents do not own this land, neither do they feel a sense of ownership. This feeling of ownership comes from involvement, activity, sharing and creating with and for each other. The solution is internal and not externally given. The goal is realize that people should not merely exist in St James Town, rather, it is to discover that they truly yearn, whether they are aware of it or not, to be involved citizens of the place they call home. The hopes and dreams of the residents matter to the community and can even be expressed in the development of a beautiful common space together. What the community needs is for someone to truly understand the real-life community needs and to provide the resources to enhance their capacity to participate in Canadian society in ways that can be seen and felt, because, after all, they do strive to be a part of their new country and to make meaningful lifelong contributions to Canadian society.



**57.**

SJT Resident

I took this picture because it shows an unused pool. We have 2 pools, this outdoor one, and one indoor, and every time there is a problem with the pool, it is not used to its full potential. There are a lot of kids in the community and we end up going all the way to St. Lawrence pool which is at Esplanade and Sherbourne

area. So instead of us paying money for the pool classes and going far away, it would be best if we paid the money for this pool and have our kids come here to use this pool which is closer to us, instead of taking the bus or looking for rides to go to the other pool.

This is a major problem for the people in the community who don't have money, this stops the children in the community from having the opportunity or benefit to learn the skill of swimming. Swimming is a good exercise and an essential skill to know, it may also be a good survival skill to know. If the pool is fixed at least kids who are obese can swim and exercise in the pool as a



way of stimulating their muscles. If the pool is opened than the kids will have an activity to do instead of roaming around in the neighbourhood.

I don't know what the problem is with this pool because it is always closed, but if it is something fixable than the government should invest in fixing the pool and then we can have classes where we can pay the trainers and the lifeguards to keep it running during the summer season. At the moment the pool is idle, like a statue, or an image for the community to see, and I don't think they made the pool for that reason. It should be buzzing with activity during the summer season. The pool should be fixed so it can bring fun and life back to the community.

I think we have the power to fix this pool problem. The community is willing to pay for the classes so we can use the pool that is next to us instead of a pool that is far away. We can also have classes for the seniors, for women only, for kids, and if this pool problem is solved I think it will bring back the spirit of summer.

Also, the government should offer as much assistance as they can offer to have both the indoor and the outdoor pools working to their fullest potential.



**58.**  
A. Bachan

This is a picture of one of the high-rise buildings in St. James Town. I took this picture looking up at the building to show the perspective of a person on the ground. One day while I was walking in the neighbourhood, a lighted cigarette fell a couple inches from my shoulder. By reflex, I looked up but I knew it would be near impossible to see where it came from. On other occasions, when it was not raining, I saw water falling and sometimes drops fell on me. Some people have told me of glass and bottles falling near them. Luckily, they were never hurt.

I am not sure if this is a big problem in the neighbourhood but I do see litter on the sides of the buildings, maybe indicating that garbage is thrown over balconies. Obviously, this would be very bad for health. People could become injured by these falling objects. For example, the cigarette that fell could have fallen in my hair or landed on my skin. This problem could be especially dangerous for children since they are likely to be injured more severely than adults.

I am not sure what could be done about this problem. Perhaps signs could be posted in the buildings asking tenants not to throw things over their balconies and/or signs on the ground warning passers-by of possible falling objects.

I feel if people have a bit more pride their neighbourhood, they would not like to see litter on the sides of the buildings.



**59.**  
B.K. Sah

This photograph was taken in the public park. It shows that people are not aware and they throw the garbage near the garbage container. It also seems like garbage container is full. It needs to be change the plastic bag. It is also necessary to cover the garbage container, flies and mosquitoes does not fly and do not spray the disease. I realize that people are not concussed. People do not mind to sit in front of the garbage container where the bad smell comes. It is advised that it needs to be changed the plastic bag before it filled. It is also advised that we need separate garbage container otherwise the environment will be polluted. It would be better to put separate garbage bin for recycled.



**60.**  
B.K.Sah

This photograph indicates people are so lazy to put garbage such as coffee can; water bottle and cola can etc. where it belongs to be. It also shows that there is no garbage container around that area that's why people are putting their garbage on milk container. It also shows people are tying the milk container on cycle, so they can easily carry and dump the garbage to the nearest dumping place. It would be good to have awareness program regarding how we make our community clean and clear environment. We have to also inform the community people about the garbage; garbage container that how it sprays the disease if we do not put garbage in the right place and proper way. It is a unique time to aware about the garbage and garbage container, so we can save the community for being affected by disease. Make Our Community Clean that Our Vision.



**61.**  
The Philosopher's Stone – C.Niles

It has magical powers. It gives you long life and prosperity. In this wasteland of no opportunities it's the only chance of 'winning.'

Become a part of the Canadian dream. Don't you watch TV? It's always the deserving who win. Imagine the freedom! You can't afford not to play. What else is there?



**62.**  
C. Grant

I see a home, not an institution for people with HIV/AIDS. Casey House provides professional services for persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through a range of palliative and supportive care, in a residential setting. This facility has all the comforts of a home, equipped with TV room, music room and a library. I volunteered at the house and witnessed the care and compassion that the residents receive not only from the caregivers, but also from the volunteers.

June Callwood founded Casey House Hospice in 1988. It was the first hospice in the world to provide support and palliative care for people with HIV/AIDS. She named it after June's son Casey, who was killed by a drunk driver. At the time it was established, little was known about the disease and the general population believed that one could get the disease by touching or being around someone with HIV/AIDS. Callwood had a strong conviction that when a person is dying they should do so according to their own wishes, surrounded loving caregivers.

Casey House is located at Huntley Street and provides free services to members of the community regardless of race or financial status. Through partnerships with other organizations, it delivers care in a variety of settings such as the home, clinics and mobile bus. It is surrounded by the gay community to the west, St James Town to the east, Rosedale to the north and Moss Park to the south. The location is a reflection of the vast spectrum of people it serves.

There are great opportunities for those interested in volunteering in a palliative care facility. If you can stroke someone's face, hold someone's hand, or counsel a bereaved resident; then Casey House is the place for you.



**63.**

The Park - SJT Resident

This is a park. With slides and everything for children's entertainment. With trees and benches for grown-ups to feel relax and rest. This park is also a place where you will meet other people and gain friends with same or different backgrounds and cultures. A place where you can enjoy your environment.

This is one of the important places in a community. Important because this is where gatherings, socialization, relaxation and entertainment take place. It is a strength of a community. A good place in a community. Most of people of different ages from babies to an old ones, you've seen them in the park. They spend some of their time here for a purpose. That's why this place needs more improvements. Something like creating more attractive and more entertaining environment but everything should be all safe for children. But again, it should be taken care of. Patrolling this place is needed. Because for some people, it is not only for fun and entertainment or for relaxation. Maybe something not good might also happen here. People should also have responsibilities of maintaining it nice and clean. Like no littering in the park and others.



**64.**

J.Luo

When we walk on street and Public Park, we have seen so many cigarette ends have been thrown at where flowers are planted or blooming. In my opinion, **it seems against beautify the city environment, not only simple actions or behaviours. It is not only related to health, but it also influences next generation**

**behaviours.** For example, child may touch a cigarette end in Public Park when he/she play there, if it contains certain disease will be transmitted to family members or others; when child or teenager who seen those cigarette ends, they might think it is normal that cigarette ends or other

garbage to throw at garden. Thus, how our city will become to in the future. The photograph #07 shows that there so many cigarette ends are within flowers, how smokers do think it is okay to throw cigarette ends to where beautiful flowers are blooming. Here I would like to distinguish smokers and criticize smokers, which have a comparison between high educated people whose workplace, and living place and uneducated or lower educated people whose workplace, and living place. No matter where do they come from. When I am investigating the University campus where I rarely see many cigarette ends within blooming flowers; however, in St. James Town where I have seen many cigarettes ends within blooming flowers. Why? This is a considerable question to answer because there are several complex reasons, which related life states, causing many negative effects. For example, when people who have mental problem and poor, they smokes, and they do not care, where the cigarettes ends should throw such as garden because they only concentrate on their basic needs. They may not think a little cigarette end can not cause big social problem, indeed, everything from little to become large, educated people understood this truth.

Briefly, as we beautifying our city environment, we also need to pay attention how to beautify our inner life, which needs community to do environmental training for new comers and lower or uneducated people, who live there and don't know how environment importantly related to our everyday life, and also related to our future generation.



**65.**

Ireland Park - SJT Resident

This picture depicts a portion of the Ireland Park which was opened on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. It commemorates a historic event that started 11 years ago. It honours the Irish immigrants who fled during the famine of 1847 and the 38,000 who arrived in Toronto that summer. Toronto's population was only 20,000 at

that time. Ireland Park is a bridge that will link two nations and two cities. It is the story of the destitute overcoming unimaginable hard ships and suffering, and speaks of the consistent kindness and generosity of the Canadians since 1847. It is a reminder of the trauma of famine which still exists in many parts of the world. Ireland Park Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization whose purpose it is to create venues and materials that symbolize the arrival and settlement of the Irish in Canada. The history of the park can be read by a simple touch of a mouse on a computer which is enclosed in a slab of concrete. Its objective is to commemorate the 1,100 people who lost their lives during this tragic period in Toronto's history including both Irish immigrants and those who lost their lives trying to help them. To celebrate the contribution of the Irish who went on to make meaningful contributions to Toronto and Canada. Create awareness of the economic and cultural contributions of the Irish of Toronto and Canada before, during and after the famine period. Reinforce the Canadian tradition of welcoming waves of immigrants around the world, and to provide a strong foundation for the ongoing celebration of the Irish heritage and the contribution to Toronto and Canada.



**66.**

K. Naidoo



This is a community that many choose to make as their homes because of it's' convenience. There is easy access to the grocery stores, childcare, schools, community centers and more importantly minutes away from the subway. This picture is a side entrance to the Sherbourne subway. Many use this entrance as both entry and exit to the subway. This picture was taken in the early evening when most of the streetlights have already been lit. However, this dark shady corner may deter many from using this entrance. The house that stands in front of this alley-way seems to be isolated among the trees and buses. Unlit alleys such as the one seen in the picture in my opinion may invite unwanted criminal activity. A few years ago this very entrance was a site for a crime investigation. A young teenage boy was exiting the subway and heading home after work and was brutally murdered. He was a resident of the St. James community. His death was a case of mistaken identity. I use this story in emphasizing that many residents may still see this important site as a sense and reminder of danger. Having the fear of crime lurking around may create anxiety for many, thus, fostering increased fear among residents. For instance women walking alone at night through such an exit may heighten her fear. Also this impedes of the livelihood of this community's residents. Meaning that, community residents do not have to necessarily use this exit, however, even passing by this locale may seem dangerous due to improper lighting and isolation which gives the impression that such an area is unsafe. This sense of panic and fear of danger could eventually put a toll on ones health.

In my opinion this problem exists perhaps because there is a lack of emphasis and awareness on this issue. Community and policy members can easily correct this problem by installing more lighting or having the bulbs changed when it gets burnt out. This area is not the only area that can be seen as a source of poor lighting there are many pockets within this community that is surrounded by shady areas but lacks a source of lighting. A simple corrective factor such as lighting is vital to keeping an area safe and offering a sense of securing to those dwelling in any given community.



**67.**  
While Walking on the Way  
- L.Shivakoti

Safety, Ideal infrastructure and proper sanitation are the basic requirement of a healthy and civilized community. However, does our community maintain all these simultaneously?

The above picture is self explanatory. I had taken this picture in the last week of May, 2007. The spot in the picture is a children's park besides the building number 325 on the Bleecker Street where an after school camp is being run for several years. On the one hand we always advocate for healthy, safe and clean community, but the reality is just opposite. What an irony!

The play park is totally sealed. This has been sealed for about one and half months as a vertical bar collapsed. It is understandable that the park has been closed for safety reason. Needless to mention that safety is the primary concern for all of us, but in the name of safety is it fair to keep the facility closed for incredibly long time? Play-park is a significant place for our kids from various aspects, such as recreation, physical and cognitive development and their social development. Hence, it is disappointing to see such place sealed for so long time.



Secondly, in the picture we can see another disappointing thing, i.e. the dog shit on the way. This way is a busy way. No matter, even if the park has been closed, it is used to the fullest by large number of children and adults. Nevertheless, this is the condition of this place. Can we have any room for us to be proud of our community? Can we say our community is a highly civilized and sanitized? Sanitation has direct link with our civilization. Likewise, have we ever thought about the health hazard posed by such shits and dirt? I cannot believe everybody does so. This can be the root cause of various diseases and epidemics. Therefore, I have a strong feeling that had the dog owners been responsible and fully aware about their social ethics, such unpleasant scenes wouldn't have taken place. If such malpractices continue regularly, I am sure the community will have to pay high price one day.

The basic point is the sense of responsibility. Who is the main controller of our community? We have to always bear in mind that it is our community and we are responsible for our community.



**68.**  
SJT Resident

I took this picture because I saw lots of pigeons. Somebody was throwing food for pigeons to eat. People are always feeding pigeons but the food they use is always brought from home, and it's not pigeon food. People bring their leftovers and leave them for the pigeons to eat. Sometimes I have seen dead pigeons in the

area. So maybe they eat food that is unhealthy for them. Maybe people are feeding the pigeons leftover food, which is spoiled.

There is an over population of pigeons in SJT which is growing because people are always there feeding them. I think there should be a special park for the pigeons, where they have proper food and water and are taken care of.

Also some people can get sick from pigeons. So the government should help stop the pigeon population from growing.

In Ottawa there is a punishment by the community officer or security of that area for feeding pigeons. In parks and on walls they always have signs that read "do not walk dogs without a leash" and "do not feed pigeons". We should have the same rule's here.

The pigeon problem is a big problem because they make a mess and dirty people's balconies. Pigeon droppings are always left behind which makes the people living in the apartments sick so it is bad for their health.



On the other hand, the park is a public space, so people bring their leftovers and feed the pigeons and we cannot do anything about this. who can do something about it? No one. But I know this is a problem for the health of people living in St. James Town.

**69.**

## SJT Resident

This picture is taken from the central building of the St. James town neighbourhood; it shows the incomplete work and its level within and around the building. The reason for me to taking the round building is to show the public that there needs to be improvement to be done within the building. You could see it is of course being sheltered but when you see the sheltering of it from the rings they put around and the actual building. You will discover that in between the two there is actual soil with dirt on instead of modifying it in to tarmac or cement kind of thing.



70.  
SJT Resident

This picture shows the disorganization of telephone booths in the St. James Town neighbourhood. It shows that improvement and more work needed to be done by the government in collaboration with the residents of St. James Town. You could see an example of lack of willingness to make sure that the environment of St.

James Town is well kept clean from the inside the telephone booth in the picture, whereby someone left his Pepsi drink cup and even disorganized the whole telephone book which was supposed to be in its place. The authority had to be asking to come with solutions along with residents of the St. James Town neighbourhood to decide on how to work on such central issues.



71.  
S. Shi

I really like this picture. It is a view of the city that was taken from my balcony. I like this picture because everyday I can enjoy the view from my home. The picture is beautiful because there are a lot of trees that surrounds the buildings. I can also see The Bay, CIBC, and the Manulife Centre. The buildings are

very special. The buildings in the picture are very wide and spacious. The colour of the glass is beautiful because it is green. Every night I can see the sun light and building light from my balcony. And every night when the sun sets it is even more beautiful. It is then that you really get the see the true beauty of the buildings. When the sun sets I can see all of the different colours from the building and the sun.

This view makes me fell relax and happy. In the evening when the sun is setting it is a good time to have tea or coffee with my friend. It feels enjoyable. When the sun light is setting I would play softer music and sit on my balcony talking with my friend. We feel relaxed and we would talk about how to enjoy life. We can feel the moon and the stars very close as well. I like this community because it's a very good place to buy something and close to the subway but I like the view the most. For newcomers it's not easy for them to live here [in Canada] because things are very expensive like houses. It is harder for newcomers to have a good job because they don't have relationships and need references. Even though we have higher education background still can't find better paying jobs.



72.

Bus Stand dilemma  
- S. Kanagachandran

In this picture we can see many people waiting for the public transportation in the early morning. There are many people standing there, but there are so less communication going on between them. Each person standing there has a newspaper in their hand, and some has a mp3 in their ears some are talking on the cell phone. There is absolute no physical contact between one another. We have evolved ourselves into a world where we let technologies run our lives were as we running it. Now many people think is kind a “weird” talking to people. Every morning the same people show up at the bus stop in the morning, and the same people doing the same things listening to music or taking in the cells. This is very bad for the society because we have grown to isolate ourselves from the real world. We remove ourselves from conversations and small talks from people. Since we all live in the neighbourhood, we should all might as well get to know one another!!!



73.  
Community Matters Toronto  
- S. Kanagachandran

Community Matters Toronto has helped many people in the community in many different aspects. Having this kind of offering to the community opens up many doors to different kinds of people. In this picture we can see the entrance door to Community Matters Toronto. We can also see the different kinds of activities, organizations, and programs posted that they offer. We can also see the logo of Community Matters proudly presented. This can help in each of our lives many ways. A person who does not understand English or has come new to Canada can participate in the English Café community matters offer. Furthermore, people who are searching or jobs can come to the job that is also being run in Community Matters. Moreover, people who just want to visit and want to relax and “chill out” can come and just talk and get things out of their minds and just sit and talk and even have a cup of coffee. This is such a strength having Community Matters in our neighbourhood. This is like a big resource centre and if they do not have answers to people’s problems then they will guide to people who would know. Community Matters also helps many children and set them up for their future. They have many homework clubs where kids can come learn and get help with their homework, they offer piano classes, during summer time they have a wonderful summer literacy camp. This is so vigorous to the community because most if not all the programs that are run there is free of charge. So therefore Community Matters Toronto should be a growing group.



74.  
SJT Resident

The reason I took this picture was to show that SJT is a convenient area. You can walk to go to Eaton’s Centre. We’re close to downtown. When you don’t have money, you can walk to different places. And in the summer, there are festivals and you can take the children and enjoy the whole day outside.

That’s a good thing about St. James Town.

In the picture, you can see that the traffic lights are not working and the people obey the policemen. When the people are educated, they know to obey the police. In other countries, people don't care. They honk and fight.

St James Town is close to Bloor Street, Yonge Street and so many places. It's a good place to be in the city and it's good that people obey the police. I feel happy about that.



**75.**

U. Makaju

How do you feel when you come back from school or work, take a rest to be fresh and go for recreation or sports you like or any other activities? You will certainly feel happy.

The picture mentioned above is of a playground located amidst the neighbourhood of St. James Town. We can find lot of other playgrounds and recreation centres conducted within community centres.

In the picture we can see a group of people making ready the ground for some sport activities. Other grounds, we find in this neighbourhood are around Winchester Elementary School, Jarvis Collegiate Institute. Another popular hub for the young people in this community is Wellesley Community Centre where one can find facilities for young and adults ranging from fitness to library.

Availability of such facilities within the vicinity of the neighbourhood closely relates with our lives. Because people like to spend their spare time in productive way. Involvement in such sport related activities not only excel their health status but also provides opportunities to exchange their ideas, networking and so on. Thus, such activities become part of our life.

People spending their spare time in productive way is definitely a positive deed for their health; mentally, physically, and psychologically. It is said that empty mind is devil's house. People feel contained when they get opportunity to excel their inherent skills in various field like sports, recreation and so on. People who take part in sports enhance their physical health and excel their skill for recognition. People who are study savvy can spend in library and can take part in other social gatherings.

The availability of such facilities within the neighbourhood is no other than great strength. Because when people engage themselves in creative activities, it should be considered as strength of the neighbourhood. They develop their skills, build networking and so on.

This neighbourhood is popularly known as one of the diverse communities of Toronto, which means a first harbour of new comers. The population density is also very high. Because of such demographic characteristics, the government has extended various facilities for the residents of this neighbourhood. This is the main reason for the existence of these strengths.

The optimum use of these facilities by the residents of the neighbourhood means people like these kinds of services. The over crowded situation in these facilities means there is need of more

service giving organizations in this community. The policy makers can be educated by this trend that there is growing need of more facilities for the well being of community dwellers.

These strengths, being positive, should not only be maintained but also should be increased as per the proportion of increasing population. For this, community members should be active to aware policy makers and concerned authorities.



**76.**  
SJT Resident

This picture is taken in Alan Garden which is a park and indoor botanical garden in the down town Toronto. I love there because the indoor plants and big lawn and great trees outside.

Every morning, I take a walk in the Alan Garden and enjoy a piece of quiet and fresh air. Even in the winter I also can go into the Palm House enjoy the green.

I am very happy have this neighbour but I am very sad about the environment of our community. Our community is the biggest community in Toronto, but when you walking around, you can only see tower buildings. Walking through those buildings without threes and laws, you will feel could not get your breath. There is neither good lawn nor great trees.

For a lot of kids and seniors live in this big community. They need more greens. Seniors and kids can not go too far to the park enjoy the life everyday. If we have a good environment in our community would be great for them.

I hope we can see greens everywhere in our city in the future. People enjoy the healthy life in the modern city. Everyone is happy and healthy.



**77.**  
Does the clean environment healthy for living? – Y.M. Zhang

I choose this picture because we can see on it there is a man still sleeping on floor at 11am. And around him there are many bank statements threw by customers but we could see a garbage can in there was empty. This kind of environment people may saw before on street or somewhere too, but the problem is people and

made by them selves.

Why the man sleeping on floor in public that I think of him might a mental sick person that couldn't find home or he is a much drinker, or takes the drug? But I don't think he is poor .The sample reason that they are suffering about something-jobs, emotions, and may any of irritate from some event. And usually they are very weak inside and look strong outside. I know that government have spent a lot of money to help those kinds of people very well but still some people are doing their way. Don't you think that any problems happen all have their own reasons? What do they need? Except for doing nothing let them do what they want, and find out what ability do they have? I don't think that they need only money. I think it is an unhealthy social



problem that needs to follow their behaviours, make a statistical data by changing, and important is what are abnormal from beginning to prevent that happen, and stop continues, or make them better, then reduces the rate of this problem happen.

And talk about the garbage problem that I think the most of places in where are immigrations living and some of food product store. Because people are living crowded and the garbage full quickly in the cans and by wind blow everywhere. For this, we can put more cans out of apartment, public buildings, parks, and play ground, and it will should be strong enough and a cover on it. And the other thing is garbage throws on ground by some people who doesn't have a small good habit that parents and teachers have taught already "throw garbage in where they should go". Even in my village the herdsmen collect the waste papers and plastics for fire with sheep and yak's dry dung, and they know how to recycle garbage to private their environment and also they prevent if the animals sick by eaten them. It isn't a big or difficult movement but is an exist problem that we need treat by our patient to change the appearance. For example, put a voice like "you need money, but we all need clean environment" when people finished using the TAM, or put the same notes on the wall to reminds people who doesn't has the habit. Or make a law that everyone can inform against someone who throws garbage on ground. And in the school area by teachers guide and teaching children have to learn pick up the garbage to make a clean environment by themselves and form good habits from little.

By the way, no matter that is humanities environment or natural environment around us the important is educated about it through by generations.

Finally, I hope that when you don't have place to throw the garbage please put them in your backpack or pocket bring them home.

#### **Annex IV: Steering Group Members**

The Steering Group members who organized the Community Expo and Forum are:

Ali Moallim  
Clementine Grant  
Emily Anderson  
Kafeel Ur Rehman  
Meena Kumari Gurung  
Michael Luo  
Nur Abtow  
Peter Marques  
Sinoja Kanagachandran  
Uttam Makaju

The Steering Group members who organized and participated in the City Hall Photo Exhibit and the Roundtable are:

Aklima Halkampi  
Antonio Garcia  
Grace (Gui Feng) Wang  
Renuka Thyagaraja  
Sailaivasan Vettivelu  
Uttam Makaju  
Gene Lara  
Brian Eng  
Nasim Haque  
Erin Moriarty