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HELEN KENNEDY CAMPAIGN UPDATE – September 2006

Hello Friends,

It's been quite a couple of weeks! Between campaigning, some Heritage Preservation Work, and a number of other celebrations in the neighbourhood, I've been so busy that, for the first time in years, I wasn't be able to catch a single film at the Film Festival!

The campaign is off to a great start but we need more volunteers to join our team. Join the Helen Kennedy Team by [email](#) or by calling 416.703.6695.

Campaign Headquarters Set to Open Soon!

The campaign has taken a big step forward - we've got a new home base to run the whole show from! Campaign central will be in the back space at *St. Stephen's-in-Fields Anglican Church* at the corner of College and Bellevue (103 Bellevue, west of Spadina Avenue, opposite the fire hall). We'll be up and running *October 2<sup>nd</sup>*, feel free to come on in and say "Hi".

St. Stephen's, at the north end of Kensington, has almost reached its 150th Anniversary. It's been an entry point for thousands of immigrants, and now runs Sunday services and weekend breakfast programmes. About a year and a half ago, the church's doors were nearly shut for good. As part of our campaign with local activists and the congregation, we succeeded in getting heritage protection for this historic building. The Friends of St. Stephen's put on a huge campaign to save it, including a benefit concert by Bruce Cockburn. It is a magical place, with a great congregation. It's now open to the community for rentals, and I am thrilled that my campaign can help them on their way.

If you'd like to do your part in helping to preserve this beautiful building, *Ali's Carpet* from Kensington Market is holding a day-long rug auction and benefit at the church this Sunday. The owner of Ali's made a generous promise long ago to help St. Stephen's pay off its debt to the diocese. Help him keep his word, help Kensington keep its church, its breakfast for the homeless programme, and help yourself to some great deals! The address again is 103 Bellevue St. Hope I'll see you there on *Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>*, between noon and 6 p.m.

Helen Helps Preserve Our Local Heritage

I recently appeared before the Heritage Preservation Board to celebrate the completion of a major project I've been working on for the past few years -- the first legislative steps to preserve Queen Street from University to Bathurst as the *Queen West Heritage Conservation District*.

This will be the first business street in the City of Toronto to get heritage protection! The front facades, rooflines, and streetscape ambience will all be protected and new buildings will have to fit in.

Check out the study [here](#).

In our ward, in the last couple of years, Olivia Chow and I worked hard to see the investment of \$300,000 toward heritage protection studies — for Harbord Village, in the Annex, on Queen Street – studies those communities might not have been able to undertake on their own. These historic areas need to be safeguarded and I'm pleased to be working with so many of you to ensure their protection.

Quay to the City

Last month's 10 day car-free experiment on the south lane of Queen's Quay West from August 11 to 20th was a resounding success, and a taste of what's to come thanks to the waterfront revitalization project. Torontonians from across the City came to enjoy the Quay on foot, bicycles and in-line skates. Just imagine what our lakeshore will be like

once the project really gets off the ground! The Toronto Star's architecture critic, Christopher Hume, applauded the closing, you can read the article [here](#).

#### No to Big Box Stores in Our Community!

I heard back from a lot of you about the last survey issue: the possibility of a big box store going in at Bathurst and Queen! You have spoken loud and clear, you don't like big box stores. I fully agree. And here is the good news, contrary to what you may have heard, *the laneway transecting that property at Queen and Portland Streets has NOT been sold to the developer*. Further, the owner of the land has no announced deal with Home Depot. Best of all, with our proposed *Queen West Heritage Conservation District* on its way through City Council, now any proposed store or development, would have to respect the streetscape. There is some fear mongering going on around this topic but don't believe everything you hear. Together with your previous councillors Olivia Chow and Martin Silva we have been vigilant in protecting this historic strip from big box store development and I vow to maintain the protection you have come to expect if you give me the honour of becoming your next City Councillor.

#### Our Next Question to you:

With the closing of the Michigan border, and the purchase of a landfill site near London, Ontario, the subject of waste has received a lot of attention. We want to hear from you:

*Do you believe the reduction in waste, thus reducing the need for landfill, should be an important priority for Toronto City Council?*

Please [send us your thoughts](#).

#### Here Comes the Sun: Two Dates to Circle

Our campaign to green up the city through support for more pedestrian-friendly streets, including clearways, car-free days, improved bike facilities and extended bike lanes has been getting a positive response. Here is another exciting green initiative I want to share with you.

Tim Grant and David Booz of Harbord Village Residents Association have joined with Bathurst Quay Residents in the *Downtown West Solar Energy Project's* first public meeting, hosted by Councillor Martin Silva. Come and find out whether you would like to participate in a bulk purchase of solar water heaters and solar electric systems for your house, business or multi-unit building. Here are the dates:

September 26, 7 to 9 p.m., St. Stephens-in-the-Fields Church, 103 Bellevue, (at College), will focus on solar energy for homes.

September 27, 7 to 9 p.m., Harbourfront Community Centre, 627 Queen's Quay West (at Bathurst), will focus on multi-unit buildings.

Hope to see you there!

Cheers,

Helen Kennedy

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead