



Yonge-Bloor-Bay Business Association

55 Bloor Street West, Suite 220, Toronto, Ontario M1W 1A5

Tel: 416-922-4211 Fax: 416-928-4211 · web: www.ybba.org · e-mail: ybbinfo@attglobal.net

YBBA MEMBER NEWS Spring 2003

New Membership Roster Available

The membership committee recently released the new and improved YBBA member roster. Besides the names, addresses and numbers of new members, it provides a brief description of their businesses. Go to www.ybba.org and click on the membership page, and then click on "Who Are Our Members". A pop up will appear asking for the members only password. Because the YBBA Member News is a public document, we can't give out the password here. But we can tell you that the YBBA office number is 922-4211 and that the password conforms to it very closely.

To get on the roster, call the office. It's a valuable membership benefit.

CAWEE Affiliates! YIPPEE!

The Canadian Association of Women Executives and Entrepreneurs has become an affiliate member of YBBA. It's a great deal for both associations whose members now have access to one another's events, meetings and rosters. Find out more about CAWEE and how you can benefit by going to www.ybba.org and clicking on the membership page.

Added Recruiting Power

Karen Martin recently joined Sally Lien on the YBBA membership recruitment team. Welcome Karen! She and Sally are producing results. Since last November, the last time the YBBA Member News hit the street, they have helped sign up eight new members besides CAWEE -- Starbucks, Central Bank, La Brasserie.ca, Legal Collection Service, Metropolis Fashion Papers, Chestnut Park Real Estate and Regency Yorkville Condominiums.

Karen and Sally are always on the lookout for new leads. Let them know of any by calling the office.

Issues - 2003

Four issues will dominate the YBBA advocacy agenda this year - aggressive panhandling, tax collection by small business, neighborhood commercial property taxes and sun setting zoning bylaws.

All of them are vital to the future of the Yonge Bay business district and have direct impact on the YBBA membership. We don't have the space to delve into them in detail. But it's well worth the effort to understand them and to get involved with the lobbying effort. The office can provide a summary and steer you in the right direction.

For an idea of the challenges of dealing with panhandlers, consider the following report from the Police Liaison & Safety Committee.

For approximately a six-week period in November and December 2002, the officers at 52 division made a special effort to remove the panhandlers from our area. It was a successful program that they are anxious to continue.

During the "Blitz", 1,450 man-hours were spent by the police, resulting in 679 tickets being issued and 20 criminal arrests. But although the program was a success, the panhandlers are sure to return to the area once they realize the blitz is over.

The police are lobbying to continue this initiative but, as always, funding is an issue. Our committee is looking at ways to help but meanwhile, the police have asked us to encourage all of our members to stop giving money to panhandlers. If money is not provided, they will not be here. If you see a panhandler on a regular basis, call Randy Bested or Paul Faulds, our community relations officers at (416) 808-5291. They will arrange for the situation to be investigated. They have now started a data bank of names of individuals who make panhandling a business and/or who use the money collected for illegal purposes. Once we rid our community of these individuals, we can concentrate our resources on the true homeless who are genuinely in need of help.

Enterprise Toronto Small Business Forum 2003

After the success of the Small Business 2002 Forum, plans are underway for the 2003 edition. Norm Bergstein and Mike Murgatroyd attended the Economic Development steering committee meeting and continue to be involved in the planning with the anticipation of greater YBB participation this year. Mike recently participated in the first organizational meeting. Time and place to be announced.

Open House

In an attempt to promote the YBB and help Small Business, the Small Business Committee has been wrestling with some ideas for an Open House/Seminar. The topic will deal with some aspects of Banking and Small Business. Details are still being ironed out, but it is forecast for early Fall. Stay tuned.

Budget 2003 and Funding from HRDC

Given the YBBA is a not-for-profit organization that undertakes many initiatives to educate, inform, assist and advocate in our community, often with positive results spilling into the GTA, the Association is applying for some government funding. Any money received would allow greater scope and flexibility in its community work. Duarte Barcelos has undertaken to create a template for all committees to use as a guideline. In addition to the HRDC, the committee will look into other provincial and federal grants.

DO NOT FORGET

The YBBA **Annual General Meeting**, 5:15 p.m., June 18, at the Glass Room, 4th Floor, Royal Ontario Museum. It's a MUST.