



**RMRA Meeting April 30, 2013**

**1. Attendance and Notes on Attendance:** 40+ people in total

**2. Special Guest ALEC KEEFER – Architectural Conservancy**

Currently working on saving historic townhouses on College which will be redeveloped by U of T

**3. Community Updates**

**a) Queen West Restaurant Study**

Norman and Mark attended

Area between Brock and Noble is too dense with restos that become bars

Recommendations are going to Council in June – eg., not rooftop or back patios, no second floor restaurant uses, maximum sizes

**b) Jane's Walk**

Two walks – War and Peace in the morning, and Parkdale architectural tour

**c) 383 Sorauren Ave development**

Mark provided updated

**d) 35 Wabash**

The plans are being revised and a new meeting will be scheduled

**e) Membership**

Sat April 13 and 20 – painting days for field house, 10 am to 5 pm, all ages

April 17 – public consultation for plans for Town Square – Planning Partnership presentation, 7 pm at Parkdale Community Centre  
Sat May 11 – gardening around the field house, 10 am, all ages

**f) Tool library**

First tool library in Toronto is now open; \$50 per year to borrow

If you have extra tools in the garage, please donate!

## **Main Event**

**Alec Keefer** outlined how you can research the history of your house – much is on line but there is always a paper trail

What you need:

Plan and lot numbers, and lot size

Location of your house on the block

Similarities with surrounding houses – if similar, then likely same builder or architect (may not be listed on all entries)

Goad's fire insurance maps – Plates 33 and 34

Streets and numbers change over time; most of the lots in the area were market gardens, prior to development

Assessment rolls – city archives on Spadina Road – City of Toronto north of Wright Ave - St. Alban's Ward, south of Wright is Village of Parkdale, St. Mark's Ward

South of Wright avenue – there were no permits issued prior to 1890

Most houses in the neighbourhood between 1895 and 1914 (Edwardian); prior to that was Victorian

Alec then provided a slide show of some of the typical and interesting architecture in the neighbourhood

Old Toronto maps – <http://oldtorontomaps.blogspot.ca/index-of-maps.html> – Nathan Ng