



# DENNIS CUTS HIS DREADS FOR SLF



Dennis before the haircut



Dennis and the Grandmothers To Grandmothers Campaign group

The Old Orchard Blossoms grandmothers group hosted a noteworthy event for a very worthy cause last month. As a part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers To Grandmothers Campaign, the husband of one of the member, Dennis Maplazi, had his 91 dreadlocks cut off as a "Dare For SLF". The event took place at JC Barber Shop, and while Dennis showed some apprehension as the actual cutting approached, he remained committed to the cause, and looked quite nicely trimmed at the end of it. Dennis' effort raised over \$3000 for the SLF. Since forming in 2006, Old Orchard Blossoms has raised \$83,000 for the grandmothers campaign, and the 240 grandmother groups across Canada have collectively raised \$16.5 million in that same timeframe. Snap North Toronto applauds this tremendous contribution to a very worthy cause. Well done, Dennis!

Event by Bruce Redstone  
Website code: peh3ej



Barber Morales, Joanna and Dennis with the first cut



Dennis after the haircut- Morales did great work!

# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER AND SERVICE



Getting ready to dig in to the yummy dinner provided at the church



Barry and Beth working over the hot grill

Last month, the Birchcliff Bluffs United Church held their annual Pancake Supper, an all you can eat dinner which helped ring in Shrove Tuesday. Organizers did a great job of whipping together an incredible meal for their guests, as this event was one of many held in the community on February 12th. It was certainly a memorable evening for everyone in attendance, as it gave many the chance to renew acquaintances with many of their friends and neighbours. The event was held at the church, located at 33 East Road.

Event submitted to SNAP  
Website code: pegtr7



Baby CJ ready for pancakes!



Happy Pancake Flippers!



Enjoying Pancake Tuesday Supper together

## SNAP Sneaks a Peek

### Things I Love About The Beach # 5 – Nabors Paints & Russel The Owner

I have always thought of Russel Ward's paint store as "Neighbours", most likely because of the comfy neighbourhood feeling and quick community access his location has always provided. Not to mention that I had never looked closely at his sign. He is after all, the go to paint expert in the Beach. For over twenty years I have visited the store in times of needed advice and paint crisis. It was only when sitting down with Russel at a local restaurant for an interview in relation to this story that I realized, it's "NABORS PAINTS!" According to Russel, the name has an innocent and humorous history. Egon and Ursula Bracker were the original owners of the store. Many years ago, a young neighbourhood girl approached Egon and greeted him, "Hello Mr. Neighbour!" The German heritage owners were so taken with the pleasantry that they decided to name their store "NABORS".

Russel Ward is an interesting character within the Beach - quiet, very observant and intuitively reserved. He started working for a family friend in the painting business at the young age of fourteen. Keen, ready to work hard, learn and make money, he made his mark at a very young age. Working after school, weekends and summers, Russel learned the craft of painting and painting well. Ontario Paint and Wallpaper hired sixteen year old Russel to work in their store to guide and advise their clientele, which he did for years until he became restless and found varying jobs. Through his high school buddy Ron, Russel met the Bracker's, suppliers of paint to contractors, designers and the everyday people of the Beach. One day, as a married young family man, Russel heard that the owners of Nabors wanted to sell the building and the business located at 2184 Queen Street East. On a three week provisional handshake, during a run away Real Estate market, Russel agreed to buy. Within three weeks Russel sold his home and was thereby able to close his purchase on August 1, 1989.

The original retail space was just about 300 square feet. The advent of GST hit businesses hard and it was a struggle to persevere and make a profit. Inventive, Russel decided to expand the retail space. He finished the basement, allowing for shelving of in house paints ready at the need. With three sets of colour displays, interior and exterior paints and a new "handshake" backing with both Benjamin Moore and Para Paints, the business grew. Showcasing not only paint products but application necessary tools and the ability to fill last minute HUGE orders, contractors, designers and the general Beach population, increased their visits to the store due to the trendy advent of design decor for homes. Financial cocooning of the time encouraged people to entertain at home, making presentation, colour and creative decorating ideas a focus. The disappointment of deflated real estate prices eased in his mind , because one thing made up for the other , negative real estate values versus a booming business balanced out, through handshakes he was grateful to have made.

Consultations are part of Russel's service. Always willing to help, he has no problem advising people who have not bought paint from his store. According to Russel, if good paints are used, they rarely fail, when a failure of product does occur: "99% of the time, the problem is in the preparation of the area or the application, not the paint." Russel has so many knowledgeable tips, window sills for example, need to be painted every two years in order to properly maintain the integrity of the wood, low VOC ( volatile organic compounds ) paints do not require as much ventilation while applying and flat paint treatments have become popular because of the resulting elegant , rich look and the forgiveness it allows for surface imperfections.

From the days of dusty rose, through the city-line inspired cloud white, to the current status of Chantilly lace , Russel has seen it all, done it all and understands it all. Give him a call for all your paint needs; your paint project will not only be perfect, but professionally personal too.

Submitted by Jillinda Greene

Email [jillinda@jillindagreene.com](mailto:jillinda@jillindagreene.com) or contact her at 416-230-3849 to give her your ideas about unique landmarks in our communities and to see your Sneak Peeks in the pages of SNAP in upcoming issues.

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