# 046 Barry and Helen Goldlist

Please note that any items that were difficult to transcribe are marked with an **[indiscernible]** tag.

**[0:00:00]**

**Interviewer:** Okay. So I have Helen and Barry Goldlist sitting with me. They live on Howland, but both of them have interesting histories from Harbord Village. So I would like to thank you both for coming to speak with us, to our history committee, and I'm going to ask each of you to just tell me on the tape when you lived here, the ages that you were, or your **[0:00:30]** family history your father's business. Okay, so Barry, do you want to start?

**Respondent 1:** Okay. So my parents came here from a displaced persons camp in Germany in 1948, and they arrived in May, and at first lived in Kensington Market, one bedroom, walk-up apartment with another couple and their child, so there were four adults and two children in a one-bedroom apartment, and then when their second child **[0:01:00]** and I were born, it got a little crowded having eight people in a one-bedroom apartment, so my parents bought a house on Borden Street, 40 Borden. It was an infill house, so it wasn't one of the three stories being built in 1925, presumably, because the original house had deteriorated. And so I was a week old when we moved into it, so I don't remember the apartment on Denison Avenue too well, so that was my – so I was brought up, and we lived there **[0:01:30]** until I was eight years old, eight-and-a-half, so I spent my first eight-and-a-half years in Harbord Village area.

**Interviewer:** Do you have any idea why they chose to live in this part of the city? After they left Denison, why they chose to live here.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah, this was the Jewish area of the city, so the few blocks east of Bathurst and west of Bathurst, north of College to Harbord were where the Jewish immigrant population lived, so my father's partner and cousin lived on Beatrice Street, so just a few blocks further **[0:02:00]** west, but just between Harbord and College, and the area was mostly Jewish at that time.

**Interviewer:** Oh yeah. Yeah. So that was the major drawing card for them.

**Respondent 1:** College Street had tons of Jewish stores on it, and delicatessens, and stuff, and obviously if we went down south on Spadina and into Kensington Market, there's a lot of Jewish businesses and restaurants.

**Interviewer:** Well and it's so understandable that people want to be – especially when they come as immigrants, they've been through what they went through, **[0:02:30]** want to be where they're with others of their kind.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. And that tradition still is in Toronto, so you get Italian areas, you've got Portuguese areas, you've got Little India, so it's not a bad thing.

**Interviewer:** It isn't, and it's – what language did your parents speak?

**Respondent 1:** In the home until the kids went to school they spoke Yiddish, so that was our first language. Once – my mother took English classes. My father picked up some English because he **[0:03:00]** opened a store in Kensington Market, but the – but once we started going to school, we spoke mostly English in the house, and my parents, if they didn't want to hear something, spoke Polish, [laughter] so that way we couldn't understand.

**Interviewer:** So Yiddish was your first language.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And you learned English by going out on the street and playing with the kids?

**Respondent 1:** And going to school.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** A lot of the kids on the street also – their parents spoke Yiddish as well, so…

**Interviewer:** Of course.

**Respondent 1:** It **[0:03:30]** wasn't unusual.

**Interviewer:** And what did your father open in Kensington Market?

**Respondent 1:** So his parents had had a goose farm, and sold geese in the old country, so they knew poultry very well, so his first job he worked for Irving Ungerman, who still owns Roy's Dupont Poultry. So he worked for him for a while to save up enough money to put a down payment. He and his cousin on a store that they bought on 188 Baldwin Street, so then it was a poultry store. Mostly chickens, **[0:04:00]** so he moved a little bit away from geese, but it was still in the same family, and he had that store for twenty years.

**Interviewer:** Did you work there at all? Or spend time there?

**Respondent 1:** My father and his cousin could run it very well, but sometimes when one of them was on vacation or something – so like Christmastime or something – I would work and help my dad. The fascinating thing is that he had some rooms above it, which he rented out, and one of the people **[0:04:30]** he rented it to were another Polish family who had escaped before – through the war, got to Russia. So eventually were sort of transported by the Soviets to what was Uzbekistan. So they came – they were briefly in Israel and then came to Toronto, and the little boy who also helped my father, who was a few years older than me, is now my son's father-in-law.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent 1:** So it's a small world out there.

**Interviewer:** When did you make **[0:05:00]** that connection? When did you figure that out?

**Respondent 2:** Before they were married.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** When they were dating, when we were doing Jewish…

**Respondent 1:** We figured it out, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** The link actually came when we had transferred Barry's bar mitzvah movies onto a DVD and we were watching, and Daniel's fiancée came in in the middle of it and she looked at the screen and she says, "That's my bubby." And we said, "Oh, no, no, no. Don't be **[0:05:30]** silly." You know?

**Respondent 1:** Everybody had that kind of hairdo in the '60s and stuff, but it was…

**Respondent 2:** But it was her bubby.

**Respondent 1:** And not only were they at my bar mitzvah, they were at our wedding as well.

**Respondent 2:** And I have the list. They gave us a cheque, and they sat at table twenty.

**Interviewer:** Oh marvellous.

**Respondent 2:** So there was a connection.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent 1:** When – she died. So when our daughter-in-law's grandmother died, she was in her nineties. She still lived in her old apartment, and when they cleaned it out they found the thank you card from my bar **[0:06:00]** mitzvah, [laughter] which was a picture of the table that she sat at, so it was all her friends. She was sitting at her friends, so she didn't keep it because of the thank you card; it was a picture of all her closest friends sitting at the same table.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god. Anyway, and you saw it all those decades later.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** That's a marvellous story. Oh, fantastic. Okay. And when you did work there, what were some of the jobs that you did?

**Respondent 1:** You helped the customers pick out a chicken. So they were either – there was a – **[0:06:30]** most of the chickens were cleaned and, you know, butchered already to be prepared to be sold, but there were two groups of people who had to buy live chickens, and one were the Chinese, so they wanted to make sure it was freshly killed. And so in those cases, you know, you run out and grab a fresh chicken, and a live chicken, and bring it in.

**Interviewer:** Who's you? Who would do it?

**Respondent 1:** Anybody who was there. Chickens are easy. Turkeys are easy too. The ones that are a problem are ducks because normally **[0:07:00]** poultry you hold by the legs and just sort of hang there, don't cause any trouble. But ducks will bite you, so ducks you have to hold by the neck. So they were the problem poultry.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever do that?

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Respondent 2:** What do you mean oh yeah?

**Respondent 1:** When I helped my dad. [Laughter] Remember, we lived down here so it was – anyway, so that – and the other group that you had to sell live – so those chickens, my father would – after they picked out the right live chicken that they would be sure was fresh, my father would butcher for them and they had a machine that took off the feathers **[0:07:30]** and stuff, and he would sell it to them. But…

**Interviewer:** You said it was the Chinese…

**Respondent 1:** And the other group was Orthodox Jews. Anybody who had to – so that they had to be sure that it was a kosher chicken, that it was killed properly. So they would pick out one, and I would run it over to **[indiscernible 0:07:50]**, who worked in a laneway just behind Baldwin Street, so he was just like a **[0:08:00]** hundred meters away, and I'd take the chickens to him and he would make sure they were ritually slaughtered in the proper way, and that they met all the criteria to be kosher, and I'd bring it back. And he was **[indiscernible 0:08:11]** was a wonderful, wonderful man, but his

work clothes were obviously a white lab coat always splattered with blood.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god.

**Respondent 1:** And his **[indiscernible 0:08:20]**, but then when he cleaned up and went home, he always wore the nattiest sports jackets and hats. It was adorable. The nicest, nicest man.

**Interviewer:** Wonderful **[0:08:30]** memories. How old were you when you started working there?

**Respondent 1:** Probably around – it was after we moved away from Kensington. We'd made a – you know, really helped because I was too young at eight, but probably around ten, twelve, fourteen, so my father sold the store when I was eighteen. So that was somewhat before then.

**Interviewer:** Well I've just been educated about what's easier to kill, what's harder to kill, and why.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. That store **[0:09:00]** is now part of Tom's Place on Baldwin Street.

**Interviewer:** Oh my god. I know exactly where that is.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So you have some fascinating memories of that.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Do you have any pictures of it?

**Respondent 1:** We have some pictures of Kensington market. There's a famous photographer. In the '60s he was an amateur then. Now he's selling them. Harry Joy. Took tons and tons of pictures of Kensington Market. Very few of my father's – or a lot of my uncle's store, which was Kitty Cat across the street, and **[0:09:30]** my father's good friends have another poultry store, the **[indiscernible 0:09:36]**, so they have a beautiful picture of him that Harry Joy took.

**Respondent 2:** Is Kensington and Baldwin part of Harbord Village?

**Interviewer:** No. No. But it's one of the questions I ask because Harbord Village ends at College. Bloor to College, Spadina to Bathurst, but people love Kensington Market. There is a lot of **[0:10:00]** ambivalence about the University of Toronto. It's been called the bully, it's been called all kinds of things. Kensington Market is universally loved, and significant, and people come here for a variety of reasons, but one reason in the past, and even now people really do love the market here.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I remember once years ago we were walking with a visiting professor who was giving lectures here in Toronto who was at Duke University, and we walked through Kensington Market. He was originally from Brooklyn. He's like – when I was a little boy. **[0:10:30]** And he really liked it.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. It's changing, but not as quickly as – what's it called? What is it? That Avenue Road, north of Bloor. Yorkville.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** I came to Toronto in 1968, and Yorkville was just – I had just come from California. It was an extension of what I had had. It seemed to me I blinked, and all of a sudden it's this new Yorkville. And so Kensington is changing, **[0:11:00]** but much more slowly.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. The big cut point for me, which changed it dramatically, was I think of **[indiscernible 0:11:06]** when live animals were no longer allowed to be sold. So that changed the whole nature of the market from when you walked through and there was all these live animals making noises and stuff, and the smells of animals and stuff, and that ended abruptly. The city passed a bylaw.

**Interviewer:** Well you just told me something else because when I came, there were live animals, and I didn't know that a law had been passed.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. The city made it illegal because they were kept in crates. **[0:11:30]** There was no space, and so it was felt to be cruel.

**Interviewer:** Very informative.

**Respondent 1:** The interesting – most of the chickens my father, in most of his career, would have been now called free range chickens because nobody had these big poultry farms. He – you know, the work week was a little bit different for him, so like Tuesday to Saturday, we would start work around six a.m. Monday to Thursday, worked until about nine. And **[0:12:00]** Friday and Saturday to about six, and then he'd start Monday morning at two a.m. to go out to the country to get produce, so the store wasn't opened on Mondays, closed Saturday around six, and so he had the briefest of weekends off. Like he didn't even have a full twenty-four hours, it seemed. And…

**Interviewer:** So you grew up with a role model of working hard is not…

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. My father loved to work, so…

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Well he sure did what he loved then. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. He worked an awful lot in those days.

**Interviewer:** Wow.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** **[0:12:30]** So Helen, let me come to you. We'll gather together. And I'd like you – because your story's a bit different, but I'd love you to tell us why you're included in being interviewed for Harbord Village, please.

**Respondent 2:** My dad owned a dental lab, AAA Dental Lab, at 124 Harbord, which is directly across from the Harbord Bakery. It's now Tati Restaurant. And he would have started his business. He came to Toronto **[0:13:00]** from Montreal around 1936, I think, so he opened the lab then, and he ran it straight through until he died in 1956, and then my brother, Bernie, took it over, and it was located there, I think until the late '80s. I'm not a hundred percent sure when it moved. It eventually moved to Clinton…

**Respondent 1:** And Bloor.

**Respondent 2:** …and Bloor.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so it didn't go very far.

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Respondent 2:** No. No. It went around the corner, so it was a **[0:13:30]** dental lab, and when it moved out within – it was empty for a while and then it became Kensington Kitchen, a restaurant. So I remember when I was a little girl going down to the lab, they called it, and helping my father. Not really helping because I was too little, so I remember sitting on a stool in the lab, and him making me little animals out of the hot wax that they used to make dental molds, and obviously to keep **[0:14:00]** me quiet and happy, and if I was a very good girl we could go to the Harbord Bakery and get a cookie.

**Respondent 1:** What kind of cookie?

**Respondent 2:** And I would always get the honey cookies because they were the biggest cookies. [Laughter] They used to be very big discs with jam in the middle, and you know, the option is the same. I get a little cookie, but I'd go for the bigger one. [Laughter] And they are my favourite cookies in the whole world. And so I remember Harbord Fish was right next door to Harbord Bakery where there's a restaurant now. I believe it's called Loire.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Loire. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** That was Harbord **[0:14:30]** Fish Company, and then there was the Harbord Bakery. I don't remember all the other stores because I was too little. But then I also worked with my brothers. They would always give me weekend jobs, or afternoon jobs when I was, like, you know, from twelve to sixteen, seventeen years old, so I used to go down on Saturdays and help in the lab, and be a receptionist, or do odd jobs, or whatever. **[0:15:00]** There was a dentist who worked for them, his name was Dr. Stewart.

**Interviewer:** And where was that?

**Respondent 2:** That was in the lab.

**Interviewer:** When they were still on Harbord?

**Respondent 2:** Still on Harbord, so his office was there through the '40s, '50s, and '60s, I think. So there was an in-house dentist, and I don't remember his first name. Lovely man. And they also had a slew of odd people who did odd jobs who sort of – they always looked to me like they were sort of previously homeless, but somehow they would **[0:15:30]** always come in and they were the errand boys, or running. You were always running between various dentist offices and the lab where the false teeth were made, or over to different labs that did other procedures. Were picking stuff up, so there's all this courier work.

**Interviewer:** And how did they get back and forth?

**Respondent 2:** And it was always done by these odd people.

**Interviewer:** What was their transportation?

**Respondent 2:** I think streetcar.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Or bike, or…

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** It was not a formal thing.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** What else? That's – **[0:16:00]** and my parents lived on Palmerston, south of Bloor, between Bloor and Harbord, so it wasn't far for my dad to go to work.

**Respondent 1:** And then moved to Walmer Road.

**Respondent 2:** And then moved to Walmer Road.

**Interviewer:** Between what and what on Walmer? North of Bloor or north of…

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. Between Bloor and Dupont.

**Interviewer:** So your family was very much in this neighbourhood.

**Respondent 2:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** You just kind of skirted Harbord Village.

**Respondent 1:** By the time she was born, they weren't living down there **[0:16:30]** anymore.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah. They had smaller and smaller homes, so they went from Palmerston to Walmer, to Elm Ridge, to Glengrove, and I was born on Glengrove.

**Interviewer:** But everybody came down here because of the business.

**Respondent 2:** Right.

**Interviewer:** Your father's business and then your mother's business, and that kept you – so both of you were working at young ages, at twelve and fourteen, and sixteen. You were working for your family business.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, and the world was different then. You know, when I was six years old, your parents **[0:17:00]** with enough, they'd send you out to buy milk or bread or something, so you wouldn't do that to a six- or seven-year-old nowadays.

**Respondent 2:** What store did you go to when you were six on Borden? Where would you buy bread?

**Respondent 1:** Oh, go onto College. So Harbord was far north, so we moved – we gravitated towards College Street, so all the stores and stuff that we

used to go to were there, so, you know, on Sundays sometimes we'd go to Becker's, which was a famous delicatessen on the corner of Spadina and College, and I **[0:17:30]** remember my sister being indignant when they raised the price of a corned beef sandwich to forty-five cents. She said, "Nobody will ever buy this." [Laughter] And there was a candy store – you know, a variety store at the corner of College and Borden that I always used to go to, and I went to King Edward public school. One of the – and Helen's mother actually was there in early…

**Respondent 2:** My mother was born on Ulster Street.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:18:00]** No, she was born in New York City.

**Respondent 2:** Sorry, my mother was born in New York City, moved to Toronto in 1912 when she was two, and lived on Ulster and went to…

**Respondent 1:** King Edward.

**Respondent 2:** …King Edward Public School.

**Interviewer:** So you and your mother-in-law went to the same elementary school.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I think the most exciting part of going to that school was when I was in grade one, when they – construction was a little bit faster in those days, so they started when I was in kindergarten building the new school in the same lot, and when we came in September the new school was ready, we'd go into the new school **[0:18:30]** and we could – from our classroom in grade one we could see where the wrecking ball was smashing down the old school. And we were all cheering as the wrecking ball hit the old school. It was a lot of fun.

**Interviewer:** So until what grade did you live here? Until grade three?

**Respondent 1:** Grade four.

**Interviewer:** Grade four. Okay.

**Respondent 1:** So I did two and three in one year because they were running out of space in the school. [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** How did you get to school?

**Respondent 1:** I walked. It was very close. We were just around the corner, so it took **[0:19:00]** a while because you had to pick up all your friends along the way, and then after school we went to the Brunswick Street Talmud Torah where the Doctor's Hospital, now Kensington Gardens Nursing Home is, and it couldn't be more than a hundred and fifty meters away because there was a laneway that went through, so you didn't have to go down to College and walk around. You could go through the street. But we had about a half hour, forty minutes in between the end of public school and starting – I just barely made it. It was very difficult **[0:19:30]** to get there in that short period of time.

**Interviewer:** But what you're saying is there were no parents taking you back and forth.

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Interviewer:** And the kids were playing with each other.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** And the parents weren't worrying, "Oh my god, my seven-year-old is walking on the street." Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** It was a different world.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And you used the lane, you're saying.

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Laneways. Any way that was fastest. And most of us got money to buy something in between public school and going to the Talmud Torah, so we'd go **[0:20:00]** and figure out what to buy, some candy or this, and you know, but there were some very good bakeries, so you could also buy baked goods and stuff, so sometimes we would do that.

**Interviewer:** So talk to me about – see, that's something that I've noticed, that if you live close to Bloor or Harbord or College, you being closest to College…

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** …you knew – those were the stores that you knew.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. We knew the owners, you know? They knew when you came in, they knew that you wanted to get a rye bread because that's what your mother always sent you for, right? So you barely had to even **[0:20:30]** ask. I used to go, like, from when I was five years old I'd go for my own haircuts. [Laughs] My mother must have taken – I don't know remember. My mom must have taken me once and said, "This is how you're supposed to cut it," and from then on I went by myself.

**Interviewer:** But the children were so much more independent. The parents were less anxious at that time obviously.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I think – I don't think it's any more dangerous now; I think it's just everybody knows about all the dangers because communication **[0:21:00]** is so effective in the media, so ever-present.

**Interviewer:** I agree with you completely. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** But you know, in our house we had, 40 Borden, is a small house. You know, it's not particularly large, but there were the four of us, and then the last couple of years five of us in our family, and that's when we moved from having two boarders to one boarder, so you could make the mortgage payments and pay off the house faster.

**Interviewer:** And these boarders were strangers. I mean they weren't family.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. **[0:21:30]** Well they didn't become – they were long-term boarders after a while, so we had one who was there, Mr. Farkas, who was basically there from the time they bought the house, and he was just the most wonderful guy. So they started off as strangers. You rented out, but they would eat dinner with us, so it wasn't like they were strangers. That was part of the deal. And you know, I just remember we had this huge pear tree in our backyard, and he made this long pole – he soldered a tin can on it, so I could go out and pull a **[0:22:00]** pear down…

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 1:** …and eat a fresh pear. I don't like pears that much, but it was a lot of fun to pull them down.

**Respondent 2:** And your mother said when your brother was born and he never slept, Mr. Farkas would walk with him for hours.

**Interviewer:** Oh. So he was really like a family member.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But what's interesting…

**Respondent 1:** We wanted him – when we moved up to the suburbs, my mother desperately wanted him to come with us, but he said, "No, all my friends are down here. I've got to stay downtown."

**Interviewer:** But see how you called him Mr. Farkas. Our generation did that. Now they would call him by his **[0:22:30]** first name.

**Respondent 1:** I don't know if he had a first name. [Laughter] I never knew about it if he did.

**Respondent 2:** He was too poor, he didn't have a first name.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. He couldn't afford it. [Laughter] A nice man.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And creative. I mean what a clever idea.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. It was so much fun getting the pears, and he was such a nice guy. And I remember the year before we moved away my father bought his first car because he knew he was going to be driving down, and so he probably got a good deal or whatever, and it was an **[0:23:00]** Oldsmobile. Of course it meant he could never buy anything else but an Oldsmobile for the rest of his life, because his first car was an Oldsmobile, but we had a – there was a laneway in back and you could park there. We never had to because his was the only car on the street. There were no permits, no fighting for spots. Yeah, he always parked it right in front of our house. Now he didn't…

**Interviewer:** Your neighbours didn't – nobody could afford a car, you're saying.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Only the people – the only people who had cars were people who lived in the suburbs. You didn't really need a car. Like when we lived there, my father walked to work, so he bought a, you know – it was a '57 Olds, so he bought it the year **[0:23:30]** before we moved.

**Respondent 2:** Where did he keep his truck? He had a truck for the…

**Respondent 1:** He had a place to park in Kensington, but sometimes, you know, if he was tired, you know, in coming back he would leave it there. He would park it in front. There was two cars parked in, you know, from Bloor – from Harbord to College there might be two cars ever parked there. There was no need to get permits and stuff because nobody had cars downtown in those days.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Well I must – certainly I use **[0:24:00]** my car, but I use TTC, and my bike, and my legs much more than I use my car. Now of course, you, after all these years, you live on Howland, which is…

**Respondent 1:** A continuation of Borden, so. When I was a baby, my mother had one of the prams, she used to – her favourite walk was to go up to St. Alban's Park and see the beautiful homes up there.

**Respondent 2:** And that's where we live. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** That's where we live now, right across from St. Alban's.

**Respondent 2:** Right across from St. Alban's Park.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And when we **[0:24:30]** told her that we were buying this house when we decided to move down about eleven or twelve years ago we told my mother-in-law that we were moving down. She goes, "I worked so hard to get out of that neighbourhood," [laughs] because to her, moving up north was prosperity.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And us moving back downtown was not a good thing, but we assured her that it was a good thing.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** I think that as people had enough money they moved, and they all felt the same way that you just described your mother-in-law felt. Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Well there was also an element **[0:25:00]** to having new. Her house was – she was the first owner of the suburb house.

**Respondent 1:** Brand new. Brand new.

**Respondent 2:** There was something about having a new house, new everything was a sign of prosperity.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. But yeah, you know, you had a driveway, garage for your car, and all that kind of stuff, so there are bigger – you know, compared to downtown, huge, relatively huge lots. Ours wasn't that big, but it was in comparison to what you have down here.

**Interviewer:** Well and considering that you were **[0:25:30]** eight at the time, it's not that you were fifteen or sixteen, so you were more flexible, I assume. I mean you left some friends behind obviously…

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** …and you took a half-hour to walk two blocks with.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** But it's not like you were older and you might have resisted.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Some of them actually moved up north too, so eventually a lot of them were there. I mean there was one that didn't, so I remember he was one of my best friends who lived on Markham, but…

**Interviewer:** Were there any shuls around here at that time?

**Respondent 1:** **[0:26:00]** Yeah. Well there were lots of shuls in the Kensington Market area. We – the **[indiscernible 0:26:04]** Society at that time had their own shul, which was at Huron and Dundas, so that's where we went. And it was an Orthodox synagogue, so it had a gallery for the women and stuff.

**Respondent 2:** Right.

**Respondent 1:** And when people started to move, they bought another building at Wynona and St. Clair, which is now a Russian **[0:26:30]** Orthodox church, I believe, and after people really started moving up into Bathurst Manor area, they bought a piece of land. They were going to – always talking about building a synagogue, but it never occurred. So they never had another congregation. Some of the smaller congregations did do that, so they had small little synagogues up north.

**Interviewer:** Lots of them. Yeah. Before we move on, I'm wondering if either of you want to talk a **[0:27:00]** little more about the stores that – like you talked about the fish store that was next to Harbord Bakery,

and you talked about all the stores on College. Anything more that you can think about, about the stores in the neighbourhood?

**Respondent 1:** You know, I don't remember them specifically. You know, I remember the variety store, I remember Becker's, I remember bakeries, but I don't remember the name. So the one that had the biggest impression – because we didn't go out that often – was the delicatessen, right? So you could **[0:27:30]** buy hot dogs.

**Respondent 2:** And that is Becker's.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. And it was on the south side of College right at Spadina.

**Interviewer:** But what's also so significant is they knew – you knew them and they knew you. You knew their names, and they knew your names. And they also knew what you wanted.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** This kind of haircut, or this kind of bread.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. They knew all the – we were all – it was – kids could do a lot, but we don't let them anymore because we're too scared.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** When we moved up north I registered myself in school and I walked to **[0:28:00]** the school, and registered myself.

**Respondent 2:** He was eight.

**Respondent 1:** [Laughs] I was eight.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. It's so different now. But I agree with you, Barry. I don't think it's any more dangerous. I just think that…

**Respondent 1:** Our perception is.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** So that's – but I walk by my old house lots of times, you know. I finish clinic at the Western and walk home. I walk up Borden, and a few years ago the door was open, and there were **[0:28:30]** contractors working, so I went in and I said, "Look, I used to live here. You've got to let me see it." And so I did. But you know, my mind had reversed. I had a good picture, but I had a mirror image of it somehow in my mind, but which it couldn't be because it had to be the way it is. It was the north half of the semi, but it was very interesting. So it was being – you know, it was just torn up so you couldn't see very much. **[0:29:00]** But the new owner subsequently had a garage sale, so I went to the garage sale and I said, "You've got to let me take a look at the renovation." She's actually a very famous theatre director, Leah Cherniak.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** So…

**Interviewer:** So she was probably quite delighted, I would think, to let you in, no?

**Respondent 1:** She wasn't unpleasant, that's for sure. She was very nice.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Whether she really wanted it or not, I don't know. [Laughter]

**Respondent 2:** So your mom, I think, used to say that when your dad had the feathers **[0:29:30]** from the chickens, he used to sell them…

**Respondent 1:** To Ed Mirvish.

**Respondent 2:** …to Ed Mirvish, his mother.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Who would sew them into pillows.

**Respondent 1:** Into pillows for Honest Ed's.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 2:** So I just remembered that when you talk about stores.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. So yeah, it always seemed to me – well the other major thing was the Bellevue Theatre, which is the second-run theatre just between Spadina and Bathurst. A little bit closer, just on the north side.

**Interviewer:** It was on College?

**Respondent 1:** **[0:30:00]** On College, and that was all the kids in the neighbourhood went for the double bills on Saturday, which were kids movies, and it was fabulous. It was fifteen cents to get in, and I could get a quarter from my mom, so I could get – I got fifteen – so admission and a box of popcorn. Boy, you got thirsty without a drink because it couldn't quite extend to a drink, so you had to run out in between to get a drink from the fountain. [Laughter] But it was great because we **[0:30:30]** could go there every Saturday for a quarter.

**Interviewer:** With a pile of kids.

**Respondent 1:** With a pile, yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. It's the same thing back in…

**Respondent 2:** And when I was ten or eleven I joined the JCC.

**Interviewer:** And where was it?

**Respondent 2:** It was at Bloor and Spadina.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And I was part of a group called the Tweeners, that was not – we were like pre-teens, but they called them – that was the Tweener group, and I remember I had belonged to the bowling league, and the summer camp, and then all these **[0:31:00]** activities that you go down on Sundays. So I belonged to the JCC until I was about thirteen or fourteen, and I made friends with kids who still lived in

the area. I had a friend who lived at Robert and Sussex, and she always, you know, felt funny about still living downtown, and we didn't go to her house a lot. She would come up to mine.

**Interviewer:** So she was a little embarrassed?

**Respondent 2:** A little bit because her parents still lived down here, **[0:31:30]** but then within a couple of years they moved up to Bathurst Manor, and then we got to go to her house more.

**Interviewer:** So her family had made it by that time. [Laughs]

**Respondent 2:** But that was later, so if I was twelve, what was that? That was the '60s, the early '60s.

**Interviewer:** So the JCC was significant for you at that tweener age.

**Respondent 2:** Absolutely.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And my sister, when she got married, her first job was at the JCC. She was head of Arts and Crafts. So yes.

**Respondent 1:** And **[0:32:00]** even though we were Jewish, one of the big things, I was walking up to the Santa Claus parade in November because that was, you know, only a few blocks north.

**Interviewer:** It's still fun. I once made a brunch. I was living here, and I made a brunch, just invited all kinds of friends, and by the time they got here I thought they would kill me because it was the day of the Santa Claus – who remembers that it's in November? And they had to get across on Bloor.

**Respondent 1:** It's very difficult.

**Interviewer:** It was hell. I'll never do it again. I changed the date.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. You can't – you assume that you're going to be **[0:32:30]** trapped in your house until one p.m. in this area.

**Interviewer:** Or else watching the Santa Claus parade.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, or else going.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** I remember it being much colder during the Santa Claus parade when I was a little boy though.

**Interviewer:** You know what? It might have been. Also, when I go to the JCC sometimes at nine in the morning, the families are already sitting there and it doesn't start until twelve or one, so people sit outside for a long time to get the best seats on the curbside. [Laughs] Yeah. So you're saying **[0:33:00]** that it was predominantly Jewish. Your family had a business here, and your family lived here, and it was predominately Jewish. But I guess on the street the language was English.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember other ethnic groups moving or…

**Respondent 1:** Well we sold our house to an Italian family, so there's a lot of Italian people moving in by the time we were leaving, and our house got delayed, so they moved in, so it was another – so two adults and two kids also moving in. **[0:33:30]** So for about two or three months…

**Interviewer:** So they didn't force you to leave. You all just stayed there.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Now that's unusual. That wouldn't happen today.

**Respondent 1:** No, not anymore.

**Interviewer:** It's ours, find some other place. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** And I'm sure they had to fight my parents, and they had a financial agreement about it, but still, everybody was very nice.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. So you didn't learn any Italian in those few weeks? [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** No. It was a couple of months, I think, that there was the overlap.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember much about what kinds of work people were doing, **[0:34:00]** and also whether some of the women were working, or many of the women were working?

**Respondent 1:** Very few of the women were working.

**Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

**Respondent 1:** You know, that was still the era, when I was a little boy until we moved away, the milk and eggs were delivered. Well not for us, because we got our eggs from my father. [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Respondent 1:** But the milkman, anyway, it was still horse-drawn carriage, so you know, I'd go and there were – the women were there, and all the women knew the mailman because he came by when they were at home not working. So there were some **[0:34:30]** like my aunt, my father's brother's wife, worked full-time, but most did not.

**Interviewer:** And what was she doing and why was she working? Because she was the exception.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Well my uncle had a store in Kensington as well. He had no partner.

**Interviewer:** Oh, so she was there.

**Respondent 1:** If anything she was a better worker than he was. She was incredible.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. So you're saying the women stayed home. Talk about this horse and buggy. What's that?

**Respondent 1:** That's how they delivered milk. So you know, he would – **[0:35:00]** he knew what you wanted, and if you wanted something other than your usual, you know, you'd leave a note on the front porch…

**Respondent 2:** Rolled up in the milk bottle.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Because you left the bottles out to be collected.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. You left your old ones to be collected, and he brought the new ones, and if there was a change in your order, you left a message you were having guests or something, or a party, or whatever, you'd leave a message for him. But the horse knew where the next stop was, so he would go with – and give a couple, go to the next door, leave their thing because he'd have a thing, and as **[0:35:30]** many as he took, the horse knew to stop where he was going to be finished because they did it the same way every day, right? Because almost everybody at the time was the same order. So unlike a van, the horse could figure it out, so it's fascinating to watch because sometimes you saw them come. And the other thing I remember is people complaining about the mail delivery because you had mail delivery twice a day from Monday to Friday, but Saturday was only once, so people thought, "How the heck do you live with mail delivery only once on Saturday?"

**Interviewer:** Bad service.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:36:00]** Yeah. That's what we consider…

**Respondent 2:** Next election we'll change it.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. So nowadays we'd say, "Hm, not bad."

**Interviewer:** That's right. That's more than twice what we have now.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Did you touch the horses at all?

**Respondent 1:** No.

**Interviewer:** You didn't.

**Respondent 1:** I don't remember doing it.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** We used to go out and watch, and didn't want to disturb them, I guess. Or scare them. I can't remember. I was little, but it was fascinating to watch them.

**Interviewer:** And the back lanes, did any of your neighbours **[0:36:30]** have horses in the back lanes, or…

**Respondent 1:** No horse. No.

**Interviewer:** Nothing.

**Respondent 1:** Horses were not allowed. It just was a mode of delivery.

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Respondent 1:** And most of the, you know, laneways – not everybody had garages in them, so there was really not much there. It was just a way to make a shortcut for us.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Now that we're at the back of the house, I want to talk about the back of the houses. What you had as gardens, whether they were used, or front porches, what – **[0:37:00]** fronts and backs, please talk about that.

**Respondent 1:** So you know, we didn't used to play in the backyard particularly, other than getting the – it was small. Other than getting, you know – and it had that huge tree in the middle so you couldn't – because if

you wanted to play games, you'd go to the schoolyard, you could – we played on the street.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** But there was – nobody had air conditioning obviously in those days, so on hot summer nights, everybody in the whole street was sitting on their front porch, and because the front laws were so small, you could just **[0:37:30]** take your – you could water the whole front lawn while you're sitting and talking to your neighbours beside you, saying, "You need me to sprinkle it."

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Because they were so small, and you were going to be sitting there for a while. It was too hot to sit inside, so that I remember. Nobody had barbecues or anything like that in the backyard.

**Interviewer:** So the backyards were a more modern era. It was the front. People congregated in the front.

**Respondent 1:** That's right. Everybody sat in the front on Borden Street in those days.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** And **[0:38:00]** on Howland, not too many – Helen and I were the rare ones who still liked to sit out, because we were out – opposite the park, so you see all the dogs running around, the kids playing, so it's a neat place to sit and watch the world unfold.

**Interviewer:** I moved down about twenty-five years ago and I was living on Robert Street at the time, and a huge amount of sitting out on the front. I loved it. You'd sit out until 11:30, twelve, 12:30 in the morning, and just yeah. And **[0:38:30]** neighbours would pass by and come. It was just a lovely way. Kind of Jane Jacobs' sidewalk living.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, no. When I was a boy, that's the way I always lived. But I think a lot of that is driven by – nobody had a television because

that was a brand new thing, and nobody on Borden Street that I knew of, none of my friends had TVs or anything like that, and I think we got one the year we moved or something. And so there were – televisions were not there, and air conditioning was not available, so it…

**Interviewer:** You know, but in some way **[0:39:00]** people talk about the good old days and the bad old days, but that I think was good in terms of a feeling of neighbourhood…

**Respondent 1:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewer:** …and friendliness, and yeah.

**Respondent 1:** You knew all the kids on the street.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Like nobody – our parents organizing a play date would have been a foreign language.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. That's for our grandchildren. Yeah. It was predominately Jewish. As Italian people moved in, did people **[0:39:30]** mix with each other? Or did that not really happen while you were here?

**Respondent 1:** You know, for the kids we had – they had some friends who were not Jewish, you know, because they went to school with them.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** My father would mix with anybody. As long as you could talk politics or something, he was very – didn't matter what you were. But I'm not sure how close the communities were, but there didn't seem to be particular antagonism.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah. I think especially after **[0:40:00]** people had been through what your parents lived through they wanted to be with people that they share more with. Anything about traffic? Well, one thing you said was there were very few cars.

**Respondent 1:** Well there were no – there was traffic on the streets, so I remember not – you wouldn't – even those days you would not cross College Street without the light, unless you're foolhardy.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** So you always went to where the light was, but the side streets, there were no **[0:40:30]** cars around whatsoever. No cars parked. So it was a very different looking streetscape.

**Interviewer:** Oh, that's extremely different. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And Spadina had the angled parking.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. But that was…

**Respondent 2:** Until very recently.

**Respondent 1:** Recently. Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** But I remember…

**Respondent 1:** It was crazy on Spadina.

**Respondent 2:** …being a kid, Spadina was always a crazy street.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Trying to cross that was wow.

**Respondent 2:** There was always traffic, people were always double-parked, and yeah. Always a crazy street.

**Interviewer:** What were some other memories **[0:41:00]** that you might have? Because you weren't living here, but you came down a lot through all those years. Anything else that just kind of comes into your mind?

**Respondent 2:** I don't know. No. I can't pinpoint anything else other than shopping. I mean my – even though we lived at Bathurst and Glengrove, my mother did her shopping downtown, so in the market or on Harbord Street, that's **[0:41:30]** why I know Harbord Fish, Harbord Bakery.

**Respondent 1:** And there were a lot of…

**Respondent 2:** The dairy as well. And I can't remember the dairy.

**Respondent 1:** …of Jewish people moved up to the suburbs who still didn't trust poultry from the supermarket, so my father did a thriving business. He would – Thursdays he hired a driver guy who had his own cab, and he would spend the afternoon delivering chickens on Friday. My father would – **[0:42:00]** to close neighbours of ours, my father would deliver themselves at the end of the day. But you know, for Shabbas, everybody's going to make a chicken soup or whatever. So they didn't believe that the supermarkets had good chickens. According to my father, the supermarket got first choice and they had better chickens, but that's a different industry. [Laughs] I don't know, which is true.

**Interviewer:** These are wonderful stories.

**Respondent 1:** One of the interesting things is the person who gave my father his first **[0:42:30]** job here, Irving Ungerman, is now a patient of mine, so it's so nice to be able to help somebody who was the first person to help my father when he came to Canada. Non-relative to help my father.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** That feels very, very good.

**Interviewer:** Well you know, I was thinking as you were talking, you know, dealing with the chickens and whatever you had to do that you went into medicine and you didn't have to go into psychiatry because you were afraid of blood. [Laughs] You're not afraid of bodies, and **[0:43:00]** fluids, and things like that. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** You get used to it, even if you think you're afraid, you get used to it.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. [Laughs] Health care. What was around here in terms of clinics, doctors?

**Respondent 1:** So when we were – when I was little, Fred Weinberg was the pediatrician. He was a very famous – had a phenomenal collection, later I found, of antique medical equipment and stuff, and his wife was a famous **[0:43:30]** clothes…

**Interviewer:** Cherry.

**Respondent 1:** Cherry.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. I used to jog with Freddy.

**Respondent 1:** And very, very nice man. I remember he would do house calls all the time.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Respondent 1:** But when we moved up north, he very rarely did house calls. He moved his office up north as well where, you know, following the migration of kids up north, but it was a different world. Most of the people that had cars, they could drive.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** So…

**Interviewer:** These are home visits.

**Respondent 1:** …he was a very, very **[0:44:00]** nice – and I remember once when they – my parents took me to Sick Kids, and they wanted to operate and take out my appendix and he said it isn't, and he was right, so he saved an operation.

**Interviewer:** Whoa.

**Respondent 2:** And our doctor…

**Interviewer:** But the home visit is something that happened at that time.

**Respondent 1:** It still does, but to a much lesser extent.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** And our doctor was Joe Greenberg, whose office was on Ulster, Bathurst and Ulster.

**Interviewer:** Oh. I'm trying very hard to interview him. I just spoke to him yesterday, and I'm hoping that I'll interview him on Tuesday. I was at his **[0:44:30]** brother's house yesterday taking a picture of him, because I interviewed his brother a few weeks, a few months ago, and while I was there his brother called him and said – I call his brother Muttel. [Laughs] He says, "Joe, you have to speak to Eleanor again." So I'm hoping to see him Tuesday, but he was your doctor?

**Respondent 2:** He was my doctor. He was our family's doctor for a number of years, and then I left him when I was about eighteen.

**Respondent 1:** Now I'm his doctor. [Laughter] Among others.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 2:** You're everybody's doctor.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** **[0:45:00]** But when I was working at the Western with Rosemary Meyer and Erica **[indiscernible 0:45:05]**, he referred patients to us and they all loved him. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** So I – when my mother died in February, he came – David, his son, took Barb to our place for the Shiva because he's a little frail to come by himself now, climb the stairs he needs help. But I really – I just wanted – he should write his memoirs. There has to be a complete **[0:45:30]** memoir, but just stories from each of the decades of his practice, and how the population around him changed and stuff, even from a Jewish perspective. I said, "Forget

about your patients," because he still worries about them, even though he doesn't really practice. I said, "Write some of this stuff down," because his memory is very good still, and…

**Interviewer:** That's why I Have to get to interview him.

**Respondent 1:** So tell him that you spoke to me, and that I still want him to write his memoirs. Doesn't have to be complete, doesn't have to be a life history. That's not – what I think would be interesting is how he observed the changing **[0:46:00]** of the city through the way his practice changed. I think it would be fascinating.

**Interviewer:** Well I'm hoping – every time I've spoken to him he's kind of put me off. Soon, soon, soon, soon, soon. But I think I'll phone him tonight, remind him, tell him I'm coming Tuesday, and Tuesday I think I'm going to call him and be a little bit assertive. [Laughs] Yeah. [Laughs] But he's a lovely man, and of course the shul that he started, he kept it afloat singlehandedly.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** **[0:46:30]** Yeah, yeah. So it's known now as the Shaarei Tzedec, but also as Joe Greenberg's shul.

**Respondent 1:** Right. Did he start it? Or did he rescue it? It was disrepaired and unused, and I think he resurrected it. I think that's the story.

**Interviewer:** Oh maybe, but I know that there was a period that it was really, really declining.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. He did everything for it. He raised the money, he was a present in perpetuity, it seemed, and did everything for it. I've never been in it.

**Interviewer:** Well my middle son had his bar mitzvah at that shul **[0:47:00]** thirty years ago because Misha's forty-three. So thirty years ago we made Misha's bar mitzvah there. It's a charming, lovely place. It's still very nice. Okay. So we've talked about Kensington Market, how

significant it was. I was going to ask about the university, but you would have been too young – you know, I ask people about the significance of the university in this area. Yeah.

**Respondent 1:** From having no existing – it wasn't important like Eaton's College Street, because we walked to Eaton's College Street, they then **[0:47:30]** had a free shuttle bus that took you down to the main Eaton's at Queen Street, so you…

**Respondent 2:** I remember that.

**Interviewer:** Wow.

**Respondent 1:** And so you could explore the Eaton's Annex and stuff like that. I used to love going down there.

**Interviewer:** Especially Christmas, the beautiful windows. [Laughs]

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I just used to go down to Simpson's and Eaton's for the Christmas display.

**Respondent 2:** The university didn't come into my knowledge until I was about sixteen or seventeen, **[0:48:00]** and then I used to come down and walk through Philosopher's Path and just think how beautiful it was, and you know, it would be nice to one day go to the university, so.

**Respondent 1:** But there was a big expansion of the university in the '60s, so it didn't have the same footprint in the fifties when I was living down here, so it was a much smaller place.

**Interviewer:** Well not the same footprint, and also as a child, your universe was a small one…

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** …and it was Borden and College, and the marketplace.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:48:30]** Brunswick you're already, you know, pushing the limits. [Laughs] I had to go over to Markham because I had a friend who lived there, but you didn't go much further. I don't remember playing on Palmerston. You know, that was way too far away. I'd go to Markham.

**Interviewer:** So you didn't go far away, but by the same token you were much more independent in your little neighbourhood…

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. Because you had your favourite variety story, you had a couple of bakeries, your barber, your favourite **[0:49:00]** restaurant. They were all within a couple of hundred meters of each other, so it's like now, the density is incredible.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. And there's a – now part of that is changing right now because they have some clubs there, so the after-hour clubs are causing people on, not Borden so much, it's more Lippincott. It's noisy, and there's some damage happening to the property, so that area is changing.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, you have some…

**Interviewer:** We're fighting it.

**Respondent 1:** **[0:49:30]** I don't have as much sympathy for the people who moved into the entertainment district to be close to the action, and when they move there say, "It's noisy here." Duh. You live…

**Respondent 2:** This is different though.

**Respondent 1:** This is very different. This is a quiet residential area, and when it changes that way, that's invasive.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Respondent 2:** Our son lives on Lippincott.

**Interviewer:** Oh does he? Near where?

**Respondent 2:** Right across from King Edward, from the King Edward playground.

**Respondent 1:** So just south of Ulster.

**Respondent 2:** Just between Ulster and College.

**Interviewer:** Oh so he's okay. I know that – that's where I vote. [Laughs] The school there. Yeah. It's **[0:50:00]** down near College, very close to college that the people are suffering. Okay. So I've really covered everything, but I'm wondering…

**Respondent 1:** And just on the other side of Lippincott was Chicago 58 factory for years, where they made all the salamis and stuff. They moved out of the suburbs twenty-odd years ago, but that was just a block…

**Interviewer:** When I was working at Western they were there.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** When I was working at the Western they were still there. Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** Right.

**Interviewer:** Okay. So when you knew that we were going to have this discussion, was there anything **[0:50:30]** that you thought, "Hm, this would be an interesting story to tell," or something? Was there anything that I have not asked about?

**Respondent 1:** I can't think of anything.

**Respondent 2:** I think we got it all.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah. I think so.

**Interviewer:** Okay. Well I just want to say thank you. I mean you both come from very different sources in terms of knowing the neighbourhood so many years ago.

**Respondent 1:** She was a Harbord person. I would have been far north from there.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, that's right, that's right.

**Respondent 2:** We lived up north.

**Interviewer:** But then, **[0:51:00]** but you came back. Here you are.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** You're north of Bloor now, but on the same street.

**Respondent 1:** Yeah, well you know, the question is why did people leave? And I think one of the things was as things changed, people got worried about the schools, and then what happened is that everybody started sending their kids to private schools so the schools didn't matter anymore, and so people would say, "Where's convenient to live?" So I think that's one of the drivers. And now of course people realize it's expensive for a private school and the schools around here have **[0:51:30]** really improved again. When I was a kid, they were very good schools, and I think that's – they're becoming really good schools again.

**Interviewer:** Well and certainly this population, I mean the Jewish families were always extremely devoted to excellent education for their children.

**Respondent 1:** I think what makes a good public school is that the parents demand it around them, and so you put pressure on to perform.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Respondent 1:** You have any bureaucratic edicts you want **[0:52:00]** from the government, but they're too far away to really influence teachers and principals, but parents can.

**Interviewer:** And we do. Anyway, I will turn this off, but before I do I just want to say thank you, Helen, and thank you, Barry, for really a treasure of interesting information and your experiences.

**Respondent 2:** You're welcome.

**Interviewer:** So thank you very much.

**Respondent 2:** You're most welcome.

**Respondent 1:** You're very welcome.

**[00:52:23]**

[End of recording]