

071 Yiman Ng

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

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: The date today is Wednesday, the 29th of August, 2012, and I have Yiman Ng sitting with me in my kitchen. And you said that you came to Canada in 1973...

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: ...and you've lived on Major Street in two different homes ever since.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: So could you start off by just – first of all, I just want to say thank you very much for coming.

Respondent: You're welcome.

Interviewer: After a hard day's [0:00:30] work you came straight from work. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. If you can just tell me the circumstances of your moving to Major Street and then the two homes you lived in.

Respondent: Okay. So basically my dad came to Canada first. So for some reason he picked Major. I don't know, maybe the rent was good or whatever. So our first home was on 153 Major, and [0:01:00] we lived on the second floor. And it's no different from, you know, where I came from. We live in a high-rise, a much smaller space.

Interviewer: Would you just say for the tape where you came from?

Respondent: Hong Kong.

Interviewer: Okay.

- Respondent:** Yeah. So the space was small in Hong Kong where we lived, and then moving here, like there were two back rooms and a kitchen, and you know, a bathroom on the second floor. So for us, like, you know, that's huge because we only had one bedroom before we came.
- Interviewer:** Oh. So all of you were in one bedroom.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** In a large building.
- Respondent:** [0:01:30] Yes.
- Interviewer:** How old were you at that time?
- Respondent:** I was twelve. Yeah. And so it was kind of fun, like, at first, you know, for us, like, we have more space, but there are six of us.
- Interviewer:** Six children? Or four children...
- Respondent:** Four children and two adults.
- Interviewer:** Oh, so it felt luxurious to have two bedrooms for six people as opposed to one bedroom for six.
- Respondent:** Yes. Yes. I guess the sense of, you know, having [0:02:00] like a personal space. It's really quite different. But for us, that was great, and at that point, we came in December, so we didn't go to school until January, and we went to Lord Lansdowne. And like the school is such an amazing architectural style. I've never seen anything like that.
- Interviewer:** In what respect?
- Respondent:** Because it's circular.
- Interviewer:** Oh right. Okay.

Respondent: Yeah. So it's really quite different, and also like I remember at that point [0:02:30] the first day of school, of course, you know, I didn't understand any English. Very little. I mean not a whole lot. And they were trying to get another Chinese student to interpret for me. There were hardly – I mean any Chinese students that I remember. Very low, low number. And all of them were born in here, so their Chinese weren't that great, and we had a hard time understanding each other, but it was really kind of hilarious. [0:03:00] Like now when you look at the demographic, you know, you do see a lot of, like, a lot more immigrant children going to the school, and it's a lot more diverse in terms of the cultural background. So like that's what I see. A great big difference.

Interviewer: So who made up your class? Do you have – could you give me an idea of the composition of your class at that time?

Respondent: I would say like lots of, like, Caucasian.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: At that point there were also some Portuguese- [0:03:30] speaking students. I remember quite a bit, yeah, actually during that time. And I remember my homeroom teacher was Ms. De Rose, I guess. It was Miss De Rose. [Laughs] And there was a Chinese teacher and he taught industrial arts at that point. Of course, all of the girls would have, like, home economics, stuff like that, so that was quite interesting. I guess now, like, they won't do it [0:04:00] because, like, it's kind of gender-biased. So yeah. I was there for about – of course, until grade eight, and then I moved on to Harbord Collegiate. And then there were a lot more diversity in terms of cultural background. But at that point, yeah, it was really quite interesting, and ESL classes and things.

Interviewer: Oh they did have ESL classes.

Respondent: They did at that point. They did. Like I spent – [0:04:30] I would spend most of my day in ESL classes.

Interviewer: Any other children in your class, any other children who came from...

- Respondent:** Some. There were some children.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** I guess, like, in terms of ESL it was a lot more intensive at that point than now, and so it was really quite interesting, but I felt ESL – my language improve a lot more faster.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** So that was great. I don't know what the system is like right now, but at that point it [0:05:00] was really quite intensive. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** I don't know if you can answer this.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** By the end of the school year, say in June, you started school in January.
- Respondent:** Yes, yes.
- Interviewer:** Were you able to communicate with the children or the teachers?
- Respondent:** I would say, like, basic stuff. Like I was able to, but then by the time, like, about two years, I didn't have any problem at that point.
- Interviewer:** There was so much to [0:05:30] learn. I mean not only the – you had to learn a whole new alphabet.
- Respondent:** And I remember I had to take French class. I was just sitting there and it's like oh my god. I didn't understand a thing. It was hilarious.
- Interviewer:** Did your parents learn English?
- Respondent:** My dad knows some English.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** He first started work at Max Milk during that time. Now we don't have, you know, that chain stores anymore. And he went to night classes to improve his English so that he can [0:06:00] get his mechanical license, and eventually he did. Yeah. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Which means...
- Respondent:** Better jobs and things. He was a mechanic.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** You know, I always assumed that men would learn English because they go out to work, and then I learn that sometimes the men work with people who speak only their language, and the women learn English because they speak to their children and they watch television. So I know that the stereotype that I had in my mind was not always accurate.
- Respondent:** No. [0:06:30] It really depends, it really depends on whether they can get a job or not. Like my mom, she first went to – for ESL class.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** And then she got a job as a sewing machine operator.
- Interviewer:** Had she done that back home?
- Respondent:** No. She never worked.
- Interviewer:** So she had to learn the language and new skills.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Oh.
- Respondent:** So anyway, so she picked up the language pretty fast, [0:07:00] and things like that. I guess during that time, you know, in the garment district there were lots of, I would say, Italian-, Portuguese-

speaking women rather than, like, Chinese women. Like maybe about five years ago. Like now, like, the garment industry is kind of like a sunset industry because they moved a lot of the stuff to Vietnam and China.

Interviewer: Oh boy.

Respondent: But during that time, way back when, there were a lot more Portuguese and Italian-speaking [0:07:30] women in the factories.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Did your mother learn some Portuguese and Italian? [Laughs]

Respondent: Yeah. She did. It was kind of hilarious. [Laughter] Yeah. She did. She did, yeah.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: So yeah, the school is really at that point – I thought it was great. I mean really intensive, like, ESL classes and things like that, but I still didn't understand the reason why I had to take French.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: It's not that I start right from the beginning or anything. [0:08:00] It was – I don't know. That was really, really strange.

Interviewer: Well and at twelve years old, by that time the children have had several years of French, so you were behind in French and you had to learn English.

Respondent: Yes, yes. But it was interesting. I managed kind of thing, and in terms of, like, any other subjects, I mean I didn't get to take the whole – I mean every single courses until grade eight. So to me, well that wasn't bad. [0:08:30] I mean, you know, from nothing to – take a lot of subjects, and that was pretty good at that time. And I remember, like, we were still at 153. We were taking – we took the shortcut to the school, which means we had to walk through the alleyway.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: But that time, it was very safe, was lots of kids, you know? They do that as well. Sometimes, you know, you do see tons of kids in the alleyway going to Lord Lansdowne, or sometimes you don't. **[0:09:00]** But you'd be the only one. But nowadays I don't think so. Like I wouldn't even walk by myself.

Interviewer: So you're saying – yeah. So you're saying it was – you think it was safer...

Respondent: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: ...walking through the laneway, the alleyways at that time than it is now.

Respondent: Mm-hm. Well maybe I didn't know better, but...

Interviewer: Yeah. Were a lot of children walking through the laneways?

Respondent: Oh yeah. Sure, yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. So it was a shortcut that you – a lot of the kids used.

Respondent: But you know, sometimes, like, it really depends. Sometimes I could be on my own, or sometimes obviously it doesn't care. So it just really depends. **[0:09:30]** Thinking back, like, I don't think I would have done that today.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. So you think – are you suggesting that maybe it was safer at that time?

Respondent: I guess it could still be safe like nowadays, but it's just like with lots of things happening in Toronto, my perception changed.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Respondent: I'm not quite sure you just don't walk through any alleyway period. It doesn't matter where you are, but I still feel that, like, this neighbourhood is very safe. It's still very safe. I mean **[0:10:00]** I

could go home around three, four o'clock in the morning, and I don't feel intimidated even now. I mean I never did feel, you know, that in any way that was unsafe or anything. I mean it's always a very safe neighbourhood. Except one year, it was a New Year's Eve. That was maybe about five or six years ago. I would say at least a dozen cars just south of Bloor, the windows were [0:10:30] broken. Probably somebody, you know, had a party, had a little bit too much to drink and just, you know, damaged the windows. But otherwise, I didn't feel that, like, in the neighbourhood it's not safe. I mean living in this neighbourhood for so long, I never felt that it wasn't unsafe. Never, never.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. And I feel the same way.

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: And if I walk home at night, I feel safe and comfortable.

Respondent: Yeah. I still remember I used to work – during my teenage years I used to [0:11:00] work at the Ex.

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Respondent: And my shift would finish eleven at night. And by the time I got home it was about twelve, twelve-thirty. You know, as a teenager you walk on Bathurst Street and all the way home, and it was very quiet during that time. I remember Hungarian restaurants and things like that, and they closed early, and it was very quiet. But you know, it was fine.

Interviewer: So you walked home from the Ex?

Respondent: No, no. I took the Bathurst subway.

Interviewer: Right. Yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, so it was [0:11:30] pretty quiet. That's what struck me. I mean lots of the shops were closed. It was a lot more quieter. Bloor is more like a mom and pop business at that time.

- Interviewer:** So it didn't have some of the noisy places that exist now.
- Respondent:** No, no. Like now when you go out, I mean – Brunswick House was always there, but it wasn't – I mean yes, there were some rowdy times, but you know, it's in comparison to lots of other places – it's really nothing. And now it's – you have like, you know, outdoor [0:12:00] patios, and coffee shops, and different kinds of restaurants, so it's always, always busy. It's a very different feeling. Before it was – I don't know. It was quiet. It was like oh my god.
- Interviewer:** So it was quiet, but there weren't people around.
- Respondent:** There were people around, but not like as many as, like, now kind of thing. And so it was really quite a big difference. I remember that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So it was quiet, but you're saying that all those years, beginning in '73 or a few years later when you [0:12:30] were working at the CNE, and now you feel that it was safe and it still is safe.
- Respondent:** Yes, yes, yes. I never doubt that. I never doubt. Even though I – remember – oh god, it was a long time ago. There was a girl who was murdered and they found her body in a freezer. I guess it's on Brunswick Street.
- Interviewer:** I don't remember.
- Respondent:** It was a long time ago. It kind of struck me, and – but you know, even with that case, I [0:13:00] never felt that it was unsafe. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So it feels to you that the breaking of those windows, and this – that those are very isolated incidents...
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** ...is what you're saying.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** It feels safe to you.

Respondent: Yeah. Mm-hm. I remember, like where Kinko is, Kinko, the photocopying place over there, FedEx, whatever they're called, and before that somebody wanted to turn that place into a bar or something like – and the neighbourhood – I think the neighbourhood association [0:13:30] something like that wasn't quite sure. They lobbied it not to have it there, and it was successful. Yeah.

Interviewer: Well I know they also wanted to change Dooney's into a Second Cup or something like that.

Respondent: Yeah. I remember that case too. Yeah.

Interviewer: That was another bad one. But the neighbourhood does try to keep it into...

Respondent: It has its characteristic not to have, like, you know, lots of corporate to be in here right now. I think it's great that way, to keep the characteristic in terms of it. And I do find that, like, [0:14:00] I mean in terms of cultural diversity is getting a lot more bigger than before. I remember it used to be lots of, like, Portuguese-speaking living in my neighbourhood with lots of kids. Now, you know, later on you would see, like, you know, they are getting married when they're older, you know?

Interviewer: Oh, so you watch these children grow up.

Respondent: It's like – sort of because they used to play street hockey on the streets, and yes, it's interesting that way, but now it's – [0:14:30] I guess we have less family living on that street because, like, you know, during Halloween we – it seems like we were getting less kids.

Interviewer: So at that time beginning '73, '83, there were more families with young children.

Respondent: Yeah. Mm-hm. Yeah.

Interviewer: Who seems to be filling these homes now? You're saying it's not families.

Respondent: I would say young couple. Like the one beside me was purchased by a young couple, and then also – yeah, we were squished between two **[0:15:00]** couples without children.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: Yeah. And those were children, now they're grown, they moved out, they got married and things like that, and then also the neighbour's kid, you know, they grow up, so they're young adults now. And I guess time is different. Like they're also living with their family too, and so it's weird. I really don't see that many kids.

Interviewer: Right. And...

Respondent: At least on our streets.

Interviewer: Well and **[0:15:30]** Halloween is a good barometer because if there are kids there, you're going to see them. They're going to be at your door. Yeah.

Respondent: Mm-hm. Yeah.

Interviewer: So it seems to you that there are maybe young couples here, but they're not – they don't have children.

Respondent: Yeah, we – the previous owner on one side – I think after a couple of years they moved in – they had their first kid, and then a year later they had another one who was pretty quick, and then they moved out. So like pretty young family or **[0:16:00]** just couple, and that's about it though, yeah. But I do probably think that a lots of the family, you know, they used to be like young families with kids, the kids grow up, and the parents they're still living there.

Interviewer: So not only are there those young couples, but there are older people like me who are staying here because we like the neighbourhood.

- Respondent:** It is a nice neighbourhood.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** And I think it would be great to see young families move in too kind of thing, but I like it, like whatever it is. **[0:16:30]** Like I mean as long as – you know, it is still a nice neighbourhood.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. Now your family – I'm just going to go back a bit.
- Respondent:** Sure, yeah.
- Interviewer:** You moved into the second floor, which felt big, for six people compared to what you had back home. And you lived there for just a few years and then you moved to another house north of where you were, still on Major Street.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** Your family bought that second home?
- Respondent:** Yes. Yes. My parents did.
- Interviewer:** So there were six of you living there.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** You had the whole **[0:17:00]** house then.
- Respondent:** Yes, yes. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** So that must have felt really luxurious.
- Respondent:** Oh it was nice. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Do you have any idea how your parents learned about Major Street and to move here? Any idea at all?
- Respondent:** I have no idea. I guess, like, you know what? I still want to say they rented from a Chinese family first. I think it's the similar cultural

background. And I guess, like, they felt like it's a nice neighbourhood because, like, Lord Lansdowne is close by and it's also close to Chinatown, but it's not that close, [0:17:30] but it is good. And you know, yeah, walking to the subway is quite a bit of a way, but you know, it's still accessible...

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Respondent: ...to TTC and things like that. And I guess, like, you know, my parents or my – you know, my dad, which first ran the place there, they never knew that like this is such a neighbourhood for school. Okay, I went to Lord Lansdowne, and then I went to Harbord Collegiate, and I went to U of T. I never have to TTC.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: [0:18:00] U of T even better. I rolled out of bed at eight-thirty, I can still make it to my first class at nine. This is great. Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: So that probably wasn't even in his thinking, you're saying. He would – but it worked out.

Respondent: It was just like a random choice, I would say. It's more like a random choice. But they did enjoy the neighbourhood. Like it's quiet. Once you turn into the street it's quiet.

Interviewer: Yeah, I agree.

Respondent: I mean like you don't get the noise and things like that. Yes, you do – you may see some rowdy people on Bloor sometimes, but [0:18:30] the noise stay up there.

Interviewer: I agree.

Respondent: And then that's the thing. And it's such a nice neighbourhood. I'd cry if I ever have to move. [Laughter]

Interviewer: I feel the same way. And did you find by the time you learned English that the children in the families were accepting and integrating? Or what happened with you?

- Respondent:** Like basically, you know, there had been incidents. I mean [0:19:00] I got beaten up by some girls in the school, I think, within the first month when I started school here. You know? But still, I mean at that point I didn't know any better because we didn't have the language and things like that.
- Interviewer:** So you don't even know what she was saying to you when she chose to be so mean.
- Respondent:** I didn't even know how that happened, put it this way. So – but then at that point, you know, I – [0:19:30] my parents didn't even know about it because...
- Interviewer:** You didn't tell them?
- Respondent:** No. Because I think, you know, you first arrive and you just kind of, like, kept it to yourself. You know that they're also under lots of stress.
- Interviewer:** And you understood even at that young age.
- Respondent:** I guess like, you know, because also stressful for the kid – lots of people felt that with immigrants. It's the adults that get stressful. The kid, they just go to school. But you know, kids, they also have to have stress too. You know? So it's the same thing. It's just that people put more emphasis on the adult or finding a place, picking up the [0:20:00] kid, employment, and all this stuff. But then, like, the kids also have to go through a lot as well, especially growing up between two worlds. There was really lots of, like, conflicting values as well.
- Interviewer:** What kinds?
- Respondent:** Say, you know in school, they will tell you how you have to be, you know, assertive and things like that.
- Interviewer:** Back home or here?
- Respondent:** Here.

Interviewer: Here.

Respondent: So when I talk to you, you look into eyes, you know, whether I'm scolding you or not, but you know, [0:20:30] within our culture, you know, you listen to your parents. When they are scolding you, you don't look them into the eyes. Okay? So it's really lots of, like, you know, quite differences, nuances over there, and sometimes they ask you, like, "Where's the homework? Do you have any homework?" Like we don't have lots of homework here. It's not like Hong Kong. There's tons of homework. So it's quite different. I remember [0:21:00] like these kind of things, and the assertiveness, and I remember in high school and the teacher asked me, "Well do you go to party?" I said, "No, my parents, they don't allow me to go." "Oh, if I were you, I would just tell them I'm going." I cannot tell them that I'm going.

Interviewer: Your teacher said that to you?

Respondent: Yes. It was really interesting. It was really interesting. But I guess, like, she just wanted me to be more assertive. [0:21:30] I can see where she's coming from, but the other thing is when you're squished between two worlds, you see all these, you know, values collide. Collide. But you know, also – well you know, there are always struggles and things like that, but you pick the best from both worlds and you try to do that, you know? Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't work, but you know.

Interviewer: You began to make friends eventually.

Respondent: Oh yeah. I made a friend in grade seven [0:22:00] and we were friends ever since. She used to live on Major too, until she got married. We still keep in touch.

Interviewer: You still keep in touch now.

Respondent: Yes. Mm-hm.

Interviewer: And was she Canadian? Was she...

- Respondent:** She was of Greek descent. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And born in Greece or born here?
- Respondent:** She was born here. She was born here.
- Interviewer:** But you really became very special friends.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm. So it was quite different that way.
- Interviewer:** And who did your parents socialize with?
- Respondent:** Not [0:22:30] really quite in the neighbourhood. I mean they have their own friends and things like that outside the neighbourhood kind of thing. My dad may probably know a bit more because it's just like to hang out, you know, kind of thing outside, like in the garden and things like that. You know, so. No, they don't really like hang out a lot. I mean basically with the neighbours. And I don't think so. Yeah. Mm-hm. Yeah. And also, like, you know about work and things like that, like we don't want to see those [0:23:00] neighbours that often. Like more that you go hi and bye kind of thing. I mean things like that. But it's not like I'm going over to visit, or they're coming over to visit. Not like this kind of – yeah.
- Interviewer:** Were you allowed to bring children home, or did your family prefer that you be friends at school?
- Respondent:** No, no. I bring my friends home.
- Interviewer:** You did.
- Respondent:** When I was in school, yeah, I did. Yeah. It was okay. Yep. At that point, since my parents both work in both times, so we have a key, we just go home and do whatever, and sometimes you [0:23:30] do, you know, brought your friends along, but we were always nice kids, so there were no problems at all like these kind of thing. And I

remember usually after school – I think lots of times we also – we went to the Boys and Girls House, a library. I don't know where it used to exist, but it's a small library.

Interviewer: Where? Where? Approximately.

Respondent: Within the U of T campus. I know that's huge.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay. So...

Respondent: It's called the Boys and Girls House. It's a library. [0:24:00] I think if you Google it you find.

Interviewer: Okay. No. I mean I have never heard about it. So it was somewhere on campus.

Respondent: Yeah. It was – I remember that, you know...

Interviewer: And was it like a recreation centre?

Respondent: No, no. It was a library.

Interviewer: It was only a library.

Respondent: Yeah. It was called the Boys and Girls House.

Interviewer: Oh. Well I've never heard of...

Respondent: I don't think it exists now. I don't think so, but during that time.

Interviewer: So you would go to the library and take out the books or sit and read there?

Respondent: Yeah, yeah. Mm-hm. Yeah. So I think that was a [0:24:30] time that I learned more about fairy tales, western fairy tales. I kept reading fairy tales. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Boy.

Respondent: With the pictures.

- Interviewer:** Now you have three siblings.
- Respondent:** Yes, I have a brother and then a sister and then a brother.
- Interviewer:** And where are you in the birth order of the four children?
- Respondent:** I'm the oldest.
- Interviewer:** And then three younger ones.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I always wanted to be the only child or the youngest, but I guess not. [Laughter]
- Interviewer:** No, you got three more after you. Yeah. You talked about going through the lanes to get to **[0:25:00]** school and it sounds to me, from what I hear, that it was quite a common route. A lot of children used...
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. What about playing on the street?
- Respondent:** You know what? We didn't really do that. We usually – like, you know, just play in the house.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Because our parents worked full-time. So when you go home, you stay home.
- Interviewer:** Those were the instructions.
- Respondent:** That's it. You stay home because, like, you know I have – like there was **[0:25:30]** an eight-year gap between me and my youngest brother, so we all stayed home and then two in between kind of thing, yeah. So like if one go out, the others probably want to go out too, and it was easier if we stayed home. But we never felt bad about it. I don't remember that at least.

- Interviewer:** You had each other.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well we argue and fight, but...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Of course. Sisters and brothers do that. Yes. Yes.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** **[0:26:00]** One thing that I've seen a lot in this neighbourhood is people sitting on the front porch.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Was that something your family did?
- Respondent:** At times. It's not like that often like in the summer when it's, you know, very warm and things like that. But I also know that, like, the only time my parents – especially my dad, because he tends to garden.
- Interviewer:** Oh okay. I was going to ask you about that. So yeah.
- Respondent:** That one, he does that a lot. Yeah. In the summertime and things like that. **[0:26:30]** Yeah, probably he was the only one who was out there a lot. [Laughs]
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So would you tell me what – all those years ago what you had behind your house, and your dad does the gardening now? Or he's been doing it all these years?
- Respondent:** Grow, grow.
- Interviewer:** Always?
- Respondent:** That's his garden. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And what does he grow back there?
- Respondent:** We had flowers and things like that. We also had chives. Backyard we had the beans and we have honeysuckle. Apparently with

honeysuckle you can dry it and [0:27:00] after it dries, you put – you make tea with it. You put in honey.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: And you also put in chrysanthemum. It's very good for the lungs and the throat.

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Mm-hm. And does your family ever use it for sitting behind the house and maybe having dinner outside? Or it's strictly dad's garden?

Respondent: Oh no. Yeah, it's just my dad's garden. We don't – yeah. Dinners would be in the house, but yeah. Not a whole lot of activities outside, no. [0:27:30] I don't think so. No. Mm-hm.

Interviewer: And is that a common practice for Chinese people, that they would be inside more than outside? Or that was just your family?

Respondent: Oh. For my family, yes. Like a lot of stuff, like on the inside of the house. But I'm not quite sure about the other families though. I wouldn't say that it's a common practice. Who knows. They might be doing a lot more in the backyard with some other family kind of thing. Yeah.

Interviewer: [0:28:00] You talked about some of these differences. I'm wondering as – and you're the oldest, as it was time to – that young people begin to date, were your parents different, do you think, from the other parents in terms of what they would allow their four children to do?

Respondent: Of course. No, they always said it was school first.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: School first, and things like that. And I guess, like, we were all, [0:28:30] like, quite obedient, I would say. We would, like, really go to school. In terms of dating, like it was more like after we complete the school kind of thing, except for one of my brothers. But that was

okay, he was the youngest, so like I think with lots of parents they tend to be a lot more lenient with the youngest one...

Interviewer: Yeah, I think so.

Respondent: ...and things like that. So – but he's still, you know – did very well in school and things like that, so it wasn't an [0:29:00] issue in itself. I guess sometimes, like, you know, they said, you know – I mean they thought that with the eldest, like abide by all these things, the younger ones will follow. But put it this way, I don't think that it's necessary the case in my house because, like, my brothers said that they did – they excelled in school. Much more better than I did. They didn't need me to set an example actually. So yeah, so that wasn't the case. But of course, no, they also would prefer – I think they would – with [0:29:30] lots of cultural backgrounds prefer that, you know, whoever you date is of the same backgrounds and things like that. Like think about, you know, communication, food, like, they thought of everything. So it's really quite different. I can see where they're coming from. They want you to, you know, have an easier life.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: Otherwise there would be lots of adjustment and things like that. But you know, but as children ourselves, we kind of, like, [0:30:00] you know, grow up here, so we also thought otherwise and without exposure to other cultures. I mean I would go to my Italian friend's home to eat and my Greek friend's home to eat, and you know, I was exposed to a lot of things. So it's really quite interesting, okay – it's not as serious as my parents would think of because, like, there isn't really that much of an exposure for them because they worked all the time.

Interviewer: Right. So your parents worked very [0:30:30] hard, and the four children had more time to interact with everybody in the neighbourhood, whereas your parents didn't, I think you're saying.

Respondent: Not necessarily never, but mainly I would say classmates.

Interviewer: Right.

- Respondent:** Classmates.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Yeah, so yeah. I don't think I really did mix with any kids in the neighbourhood because we stay in the home a lot more.
- Interviewer:** And are any of your siblings married to Chinese people, not Chinese people?
- Respondent:** **[0:31:00]** My youngest brother is married to a Caucasian. My sister married a Chinese man.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Mm-hm. So I don't know...
- Interviewer:** Was that hard for your parents when they...
- Respondent:** As far as I think they were surprised kind of thing, but you know, they are cool with it now. Like knowing that, I mean they have to spend, you know, the life together and stuff. I mean themselves, they are fine for that – that's great, **[0:31:30]** and they have the grandchildren, so I think they are fine.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** You know, once the grandkids come along, everything is fine.
[Laughs]
- Interviewer:** I'd like to move on to the changes in the commercial – the stores. Now...
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** ...the first house and the second house, what was the main east-west street? Now you were on Major all of these years since 1973.
- Respondent:** Yes, yes, yes.

- Interviewer:** So which streets were you closest to in your first house for a short time?
- Respondent:** First house we were in the middle. [0:32:00] Like...
- Interviewer:** Between?
- Respondent:** ...really smack in the middle between Sussex and Harbord.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** And then now we are more – a bit more closer to Bloor.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. Right. Okay. So really your experiences would have been between, well Bloor for sure, some – okay, Bloor and Harbord.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** Can you just think back to the stores on Bloor, on Sussex?
- Respondent:** You know what? Before I don't think there were that many stores or things like that. If they do, [0:32:30] there were some mom and pop shop kind of thing because we went to school, it was close to school. It's close by, like you know, Central Tech, and there was U of T and things like that. Later on I think it becomes more – I would say yuppified with the restaurants. They are not cheap restaurants. Definitely not.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** And the Women's Bookstore.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And being there, and Harbord Child Bookstore. I guess like it's kind of becoming like a Bloor West [0:33:00] Village kind of type of thing that was more kind of like an intellectual feel to it...
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.

- Respondent:** ...than before.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. So the changes you're seeing are more intellectual, more yuppified.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** A combination.
- Respondent:** Yes, yes. And then, like, there was a controversy with the Morgentaler Clinic.
- Interviewer:** Oh yes.
- Respondent:** And the bomb.
- Interviewer:** Oh. How old were you at that time?
- Respondent:** I couldn't remember.
- Interviewer:** In your thirties? Twenties? Anyway, you were an adult.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Well put it this way, [0:33:30] yeah, that was in my – I don't – yeah, that's right. Yeah. My teenage years. Mm-hm.
- Interviewer:** I wasn't living here. I mean I was very aware of it of course. What was the response of the neighbourhood to that incident?
- Respondent:** You know, I didn't really talk to the neighbour, remembering talking to the neighbour about this. Like I guess, like, I was just aware of it, but I rarely spoke about this with [0:34:00] my friends and things. And not so much, like you know, in terms of neighbours and things like that.
- Interviewer:** So then you and your friends, what...
- Respondent:** They were asking, "Oh, are you afraid?" Like you know, these kind of things. And that happens a lot. You know what? This is very issue-specific, and again it's very – it's an isolated incident. And

they were trying to get him. Basically that's about it. But like talking about, you know, abortion being violence, but they are using violence to...

Interviewer: Extreme [0:34:30] violence.

Respondent: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: I like the way you put it. It's issue-specific, because that's exactly what it was.

Respondent: It's issue-specific. Yeah.

Interviewer: Horrible, but...

Respondent: It's really horrible. It's so ironic. It's because, like, the Women's Bookstore, they were right beside the clinic.

Interviewer: I had a friend who had a business just adjacent to it, I guess, on the other side and she sold it and moved up to Spadina. She just couldn't bear to be there anymore.

Respondent: It was hard. It was [0:35:00] really hard. And so, like, I think they're having, like, you know kind of like a boutique store. You know, like the Japanese paper place now, like you know, they have over there, and then there's a couple of shops, and then you have the Dessert Trends.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Oh. Nice place.

Interviewer: Yeah. [Laughter]

Respondent: So it's really yuppified. And then, like, you know with the Haversham Bookstore. It's really intellectual, psychological, I mean, related stuff.

Interviewer: Well you summarize it very well with those two specific words.

- Respondent:** [0:35:30] So it's just right there, and yeah, it just becomes – I think it's the whole – it's becoming like a boutique street kind of thing. I don't know. Seems like that with little shops, they sell – not necessarily necessities, but nice little things, I would say.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. Nice little chachka luxuries items.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And then as you move out – it's a very short street from Spadina and probably up to Borden right here, [0:36:00] until you get to Central Tech, and you've really got the pizzeria and also – of course, they have to cater to the high school. And then also notice where the restaurants are and all those stuff.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. It is a very short piece that's been yuppified.
- Respondent:** Mm-hm. And then I remember there was – oh, there was a restaurant. Splendido? No. It's not. Is it Splendido? It was there and they had valet parking.
- Interviewer:** Splendido.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** They had valet parking.
- Respondent:** Yes. Yes.
- Interviewer:** They had valet parking.
- Respondent:** Yes. And I was like [0:36:30] oh my goodness, what is this one doing here? It's just like it should be in Yorkville.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** It's just kind of a little bit odd to see that piece right there, but it was interesting.

- Interviewer:** What kind of stores were here '73, '75, '78?
- Respondent:** Not a whole lot. Maybe small variety. Like you know what? For the life of me, I couldn't remember where is the Harbord Bakery. I know it was there for a long time.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Harbord Bakery. But you're right, there were quite a few of the little corner stores, **[0:37:00]** the little variety stores.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And that's about it. It's not like, you know, like a restaurant. Like right now or – yeah.
- Interviewer:** And Bloor Street, any comments you'd be interested in making about Bloor Street?
- Respondent:** Like before it was more like a family-run kind of business I would say.
- Interviewer:** On Bloor Street?
- Respondent:** On Bloor. But then now, like, you know, you have all these little Japanese restaurants, Thai restaurants.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Too many Japanese restaurants.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. **[0:37:30]** Lots of them. Yeah.
- Respondent:** And I think it's become, like, they cater to a lot of students. Lots. I guess students have a lot more choices in terms of food and things like that, and then all of a sudden I think not the Brunswick House. There was another place. Horseshoe Palace moved in.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I thought that – oh, that is going to be interesting.
- Interviewer:** There used to – where was Sneaky Dee's? I know Sneaky...

Respondent: [0:38:00] Sneaky Dee is on College...

Interviewer: It's on College now.

Respondent: ...College and Bathurst, right at the corner.

Interviewer: But was it on Bloor Street at some point?

Respondent: Not that...

Interviewer: No.

Respondent: I don't remember that. Yeah. It's become more yuppified, yes. Yeah. Yuppified too. Mm-hm. And also in some way, I guess with the Bloor Cinema it also gives a little bit of an intellectual feel to it because of all the really artsy movies and second run, whatever. [0:38:30] Now it became a documentary theatre. I think it's so nice to have that piece right there to maintain that kind of characteristic rather than overrun by really commercial, like, restaurants and things like that.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Respondent: So I hope Book City will be there forever, you know, but it's not of my own choosing, but it really depends. Yeah.

Interviewer: I like both of those places too, Book City and the Bloor Cinema.

Respondent: Yeah. And it's interesting that TD Bank [0:39:00] moved away and there's the Beanery. The coffee house.

Interviewer: Yes. Right.

Respondent: Right there. And then now it's become really yuppified, not just in terms of commercially, but like the Bay Street condo is coming up. That one. So it's going to change the feel of it, and I don't know how that is going to be like, and Honest – oh my god, Honest Ed's. I remember when we first came, it was packed in there all the time. It was packed, packed, packed, packed, packed.

Interviewer: Did your family shop there?

Respondent: Oh yes. We did. [Laughter] **[0:39:30]** You know? You can find everything. You know, like it's great. When you have a big family, I mean we are not – we were not well off, but you know, that was a good place to shop really. I remember it was packed. I mean you can get everything there. I mean anything. Now it's like what happened? I guess like with the induction of, like, the dollar shop, they lose a lot of business too because they – you are not the only one.

Interviewer: Well there's the dollar shop on Bathurst, and now **[0:40:00]** Dollarama has just opened.

Respondent: Exactly. I loved the Dollarama store. [Laughter] You can find anything. So it's very interesting what is going to happen with Honest Ed's right over there. But then like, you know, the street right beside the small street on the other side, it's so nice though. Like with...

Interviewer: You mean Markham?

Respondent: Yeah, Markham. That one is a very – really nice restaurant, and you know, different kind of, like, you know really art shop and all this **[0:40:30]** stuff. So I hope that that will be there kind of because it's really, really nice. Yeah. And yeah. It was packed. I don't know. For some reason it's like nothing happened.

Interviewer: So you know, we're talking about the commercial establishments, but I think the streets, as you described, also seemed to be a little more yuppified in terms of who's moving into them.

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: Young couples who have enough money to afford it.

Respondent: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Respondent: Mm-hm. [0:41:00] It's not a – probably they're not cheap. I mean this neighbourhood. Oh I mean it's a – I guess that's why I like – like because I think, you know, people are paying that much money into probably – they really want to maintain the neighbourhood, so I guess I notice where a lot of my issue comes up, the Neighbourhood Association's really strong about it. Like for example with the bar, they want to put it where Kinko is, and the [0:41:30] Second Cup, so I guess like it's great to see that. You know? To maintain a sort of characteristic and things like that.

Interviewer: I'm on the board of directors there.

Respondent: Oh you are. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Harbord Village Resident's Association, and you're right. I mean we know exactly what we're trying to do. One of the things that we're trying to do. We don't want it to be overrun and become, you know, big, big buildings, and commercial. We do want to maintain the lovely atmosphere that we have. So you know a bit about us.

Respondent: Yeah. Mm-hm.

Interviewer: Have you seen renovations happening [0:42:00] that are notable?

Respondent: Well my next-door neighbour is doing big-time renovation. Yes. And also actually both my neighbours did. And the Portuguese neighbour just on the other side, I think [indiscernible 0:42:15] put up a big gate. I think it's reminiscent of his, you know, back home.

Interviewer: I know. In Portugal. I can picture that gate.

Respondent: Yeah. But I found that in general it's really nice, the neighbourhood. I mean the [0:42:30] places are always quite nicely kept, most of them. It's really nice. I mean it's not run down and things like that, and people feel conscientious about it. And it's really great to see that, you know, because sometimes in Toronto you go to some of the neighbourhoods, it's so run-down and things like that, and I guess because, like, most of the time, most of the property, the

owners lives there. It's not a rental neighbourhood because if it's a rental neighbourhood, people are not going to take care of things.

Interviewer: [0:43:00] Oh I know. When I first moved here I lived on Robert Street.

Respondent: Oh, you did.

Interviewer: And it had been a rental for some decades. I lived there for twelve years.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: But I know how neglected it had been, and then I moved here, and my husband and I bought it. But I know it was one I just wanted to get.

Respondent: The rent.

Interviewer: Out of it.

Respondent: It's true. And it's just like I think it's great to maintain that way. I guess, like, even with rental, unless they rent to students, [0:43:30] I mean from U of T mostly I guess, they're okay. We do have, like, some neighbours. I mean sometimes they could be a bit loud, party, but it's not, like, often, but they're cool. You know? So that's good too. I mean those are the big kids. I mean...

Interviewer: You mentioned U of T.

Respondent: Yep.

Interviewer: What I'd like to ask you about are two institutions. Three institutions now that I think of it.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: I want to talk – ask you to [0:44:00] talk to me about the University of Toronto, and Kensington Market, and the JCC at Bloor and Spadina.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: Okay?

Respondent: Okay. Kensington Market. You know what? I liked Kensington Market before. It's more like family-run during that time. And it's really quite different now. Now it's become a bit more bohemian I suppose. I like both, but like, it's very different now. It's really quite attractive, [0:44:30] and it has this kind of, like, subculture over there. It's really quite interesting. I remember sometimes I do go down there to pick up foods when my parents asked me to go down there and things like that, and there were times people were just like when you're trying to pick the good ones, at times they would pick it for me. I mean strangers that are just, like, doing their own things. Like here this is a good one. [Laughter] I guess because, like, you know, as a kid whatever they delivered, so it was great. So those are the kind of like really [0:45:00] nice memories, and I also remember going to the European meat market.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: Oh, it was packed, packed, packed, packed, packed. Take a number, I'd wait. And oh my goodness, all the staff behind the counter. It was almost like an assembly line. Like they are fast and it was really good. Now it's a bit different. I think they just changed owners. Yeah. So it seems like there are less people. I'm not sure. Maybe I didn't go in the time in which they [0:45:30] were busy or what, but I remember it was packed. I remember that place very well because my family goes there to purchase meat before. And...

Interviewer: So you're saying it's becoming more bohemian, more alternative.

Respondent: Yes, yes, yes. Mm-hm. Like, you know, and they have a lot more second-hand stores before.

Interviewer: Now? Before.

Respondent: Than before.

Interviewer: Now there are more second-hand stores.

Respondent: Like, I think, like, when I first visited it wasn't there. [0:46:00] Not that I can remember. But then, like, maybe somewhere about twenty years ago, if I remember correctly, I mean so they start to have some. And then now, like, you have half a street. Not Augusta. It's the one next to Augusta. I forgot the name of that one.

Interviewer: Augusta?

Respondent: Yeah. Between Augusta and Spadina.

Interviewer: Kensington?

Respondent: I think it's Kensington. [Laughs]

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. Maybe.

Respondent: So, like, you see half the street. They are second-hand stores. Pretty bohemian [0:46:30] that way. I remember Courage My Love is the first one that I noticed. I loved that store.

Interviewer: Oh my, that's been there a long time.

Respondent: I mean forever. But still, I remember that. And they have the organic food stores, the two cheese stores there.

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: I mean they have been there forever. And so they have, like, this kind of really alternative lifestyle.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: I mean the organic store weren't there before, and there was a Blue Moon [0:47:00] coffee place. Sometimes were there too.

Interviewer: And your family did use and does use the market to some extent, or not so much?

Respondent: Used to be a bit more because we used to go to European Meat Market to buy things like that. I remember we also go to Dominion. Now it's Metro. I remember the first time going into such a huge supermarket.

Interviewer: You mean when you came [0:47:30] here at twelve years old?

Respondent: Yeah. Yes.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: And my dad spent less than a hundred bucks on grocery, I guess, for the week. And I remember TTC forever was twenty-five cents.

Interviewer: Yeah. So it...

Respondent: How much do we pay now?

Interviewer: Yeah. Inflation. Right. How about the JCC? Is that...

Respondent: I never use the JCC, so I really can't comment on that.

Interviewer: And the University of Toronto? Any comments about its [0:48:00] presence so close to us?

Respondent: Oh, I love it. Like being – like I would consider this neighbourhood within the campus.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: It's just really nice to have a university here, and I think again with the intellectual feel about it, and also it may take a certain – I have to say it, like kind of – so it may be a safety kind of thing. And mostly a lot of students. [0:48:30] Something like that.

Interviewer: So you're saying generally speaking you feel it's nice to be adjacent to it or apart of the University of Toronto.

Respondent: Yes, it is. Yes, it is. This pro side for me is like I don't have to wake up that early to, you know, go to class. Because, like, I did have class at – was it Sidney Smith Hall? Yes. Sid Smith Hall.

Interviewer: Oh, Sidney Smith. Right.

Respondent: So it's close by, so it was nice, very quick for me to – no, it was fast.

Interviewer: You said that your [0:49:00] parents certainly valued education.

Respondent: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Interviewer: Did you all go to university?

Respondent: Ah, yes. Yes.

Interviewer: You did.

Respondent: But my youngest brother, he's the only exception. He went to Waterloo, so all three of us went to U of T, and so my brother, he went to the Faculty of Architecture, and my sister, she's a pharmacist. Yeah.

Interviewer: And you?

Respondent: I'm a social worker.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: [0:49:30] So your parents worked hard and they wanted you to be educated, and you are all educated. Yeah.

Respondent: Yes. I guess we fulfilled their dreams. [Laughter]

Interviewer: Now I'm going to move to other institutions.

Respondent: Mm-hm.

- Interviewer:** Synagogues, churches, any that you're aware of? Or used in any ways?
- Respondent:** No, no.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** **[0:50:00]** No. Because my family don't go to church.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** So at that point we didn't, so we didn't use any religious institutions. Is there a synagogue in this neighbourhood?
- Interviewer:** There's a synagogue on Brunswick just north of Harbord.
- Respondent:** Really?
- Interviewer:** It's a small building. Very, very...
- Respondent:** I missed it.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. On the east side. Yeah. It's been there...
- Respondent:** I'll have to go there next time.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. It's just half a dozen sort of **[0:50:30]** houses south of it and before you're at Harbord.
- Respondent:** Okay. Next time I'll take a look.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** I just don't – yeah.
- Interviewer:** I guess you weren't here when the Spadina Expressway – there was a whole issue with the Spadina Expressway, but that's before you came here. Well you know, I think that we've pretty well talked about what I wanted to talk about. **[0:51:00]** Would it be possible

for you to try to describe how you see our neighbourhood, the nature of our neighbourhood?

Respondent: Like the current nature? Or...

Interviewer: Both, both.

Respondent: Both. I think that the big difference is the change for a quieter neighbourhood. I'm not saying that it's not quiet now. I mean it was quieter before.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: I guess, like, it was mainly lots of families with small kids, so things tend to be quieter and things like that, and [0:51:30] you know, with the change in the neighbourhood it was less commercial, so it was also a lot more quieter, things like that. And, like, it was still nice that way with the quietness and I think it just – what should say – like it feels more like a family neighbourhood at that point.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: A family neighbourhood. [0:52:00] But now it is really quite different. I mean it's couples, they don't have children, and things like more like an adult neighbourhood kind of thing. [Laughs] You know, with the – you know, with the various restaurants, boutique shops around, and all this stuff. Yes, you know, you do always have the university students, you know, the rental stuff, but I'm not even talking about that. But outside that context.

Interviewer: So it's a [0:52:30] different socioeconomic population.

Respondent: I guess, like, it's more like before, like family established already in here kind of thing, and now, like, they are younger, but without children. And it's become like more adult, like a lot of services for adults, and like the restaurant stuff, and things like that. Not a whole lot for children's stuff that I can see. No.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. [0:53:00] Well I think you summarized that very well when you talked about how it had been much quieter. Yeah, yeah.

Respondent: Oh, it's true. I think last year we didn't even give out candies. Just kind of whatever. [Laughs] Yes more adults, I would say.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: It's just more adults.

Interviewer: Yeah. When you agreed to come and speak to me, I'm wondering whether you had any thoughts about what I was going to ask, or some thoughts about what you might want to tell me. So is there anything that you thought **[0:53:30]** about that I didn't ask about that you think would be significant for us to talk about?

Respondent: I actually didn't really give much thought. I said okay, you know, whatever, yes, I'll just give my experience. I'll share definitely, like, these kind of things. But I always said that it is a rather friendly neighbourhood. I mean seriously, I really mean that.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Respondent: So it's really nice to live here. I would love to live here for as long as I could [Laughs], and this **[0:54:00]** kind of thing. And that's why my family never left. It's such a nice neighbourhood, especially when you have, you know, family with children. You want to live in a nice neighbourhood and stay put, and things like that.

Interviewer: And as you said earlier, it's so convenient. Public transportation, and Kensington Market, and schools...

Respondent: You couldn't ask for a better neighbourhood. And like, you know, for walking distance, you go anywhere. You can go to U of T campus, or you can go down to Chinatown. You go to **[0:54:30]** Kensington. All this stuff within walking distance, and each neighbourhood is so distinct too. Once you go into Kensington, I mean it's another subculture over there. I mean definite subculture. And it's very interesting. It's never boring. And I think that is one of the things, is it's never boring. And you can always, you know, find things to do any time of day. I mean once, my friends called me it was like, "I

can't sleep. Do you want to come over?" [0:55:00] It was eleven-thirty.

Interviewer: Oh yes.

Respondent: "Okay, I'll come out." Went to Future.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: And it's like these kind of things.

Interviewer: It's very people-friendly.

Respondent: It is. It is. And again, it's very adult too, kind of thing. And you have the yoga – I mean yoga studios, like, things – it was never there before. Seriously, more adult stuff. Like of the – isn't there a spa somewhere? The manicure, pedicure shop?

Interviewer: Oh, there are [0:55:30] lots of them around.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Panorea.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, oh yeah.

Respondent: Yeah, so I find that it's become more adult.

Interviewer: Yes. Yes.

Respondent: Like these kind of things.

Interviewer: Adults who have some disposable income.

Respondent: Exactly. That's what it is. That's what it is. But it's interesting, like you know, then you had K-Town.

Interviewer: What is that?

- Respondent:** Oh, sorry. Korea Town.
- Interviewer:** Oh okay.
- Respondent:** To Christie and things like that. So it's very interesting. It's nice, but then beyond that is another different story. It's more like a family-run, [0:56:00] a very ethnic community, but then, like, you know, after Spadina, then there's the university students, and then...
- Interviewer:** You're right. It keeps changing as you go east or west.
- Respondent:** You know, it's true. That's why it's never boring, and you know, it's the centre of the universe here. You can say that. [Laughs] And then, like, you have Yorkville, and then after Sherbourne is totally another – it's just stores of Greek Town.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** So even though it's not walking distance, but it's still – [0:56:30] but it is very interesting. Everything north of Bloor is like – I never venture up, so I have no idea except, you know, Davenport, Dupont where all the flower shops are and things like those, but otherwise no. It's interesting, yeah. Never really quite attractive.
- Interviewer:** You know, you mentioned the centre of the universe. I feel that Bloor and Spadina is the centre of the universe. [Laughter]
- Respondent:** It is. It is.
- Interviewer:** Well I just – I want to say thank you. [0:57:00] It's been a pleasure, and I appreciate that you came, and we had this lovely dialogue. Thank you very much.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I hope that it helped. I'm not quite sure, but it's just like [laughs] I didn't really know anything about...
- Interviewer:** Well, you had a lot of very interesting things to share with me, so thank you.

Respondent: Oh okay. Thank you.

[00:57:16]

[End of recording]