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## **Baby Point Gates fully restored, thanks to local BIA**

*Bloor West Villager*

A two-year project to restore the historic stone gates at the Jane and Annette streets intersection has finally come to fruition.

The year 2011 marked the Baby Point gates' centennial anniversary, which coincided with the creation of the Baby Point Gates Business Improvement Area (BIA). In recognition of the milestone, the BIA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially launch the restoration project, funded by the BIA with support from the city and the Baby Point Club.

"We're the first official parkette funded by a BIA in Ward 13," said Danica Loncar, chair of the Baby Point Gates Restoration and Rejuvenation Committee. "We're pretty proud of that."

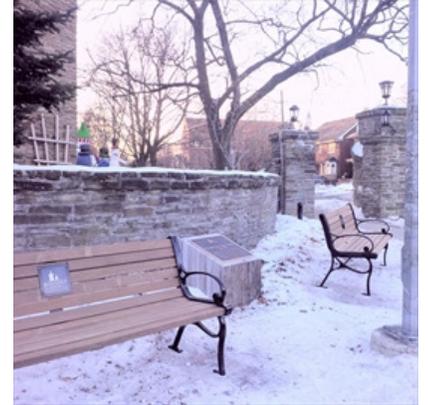
A focal point of the BIA and the surrounding area, the gates saw the addition of new landscaping, upgraded and additional ground lighting not only for ambiance, but for safety as well, vintage reproductions of existing lanterns were constructed and new benches installed. A victim of graffiti, the gates' stone and mortar was rehabilitated. A new plaque commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Robert Homes Smith-designed gates and the creation of the BIA.

The gates were erected in 1911 at the onset of the construction of the Baby Point Gates subdivision to showcase the new neighbourhood. Once the houses were built and residents moved in, they liked the gates so much they wanted to keep them. However, over time, they became neglected and run down.

The BIA thought it interesting that in its inaugural year its namesake was turning 100 years old and thought was only fitting that the BIA's first major beautification project be the rejuvenation of its namesake.

In celebration of the holiday season, two fir trees have been decorated in lights.

"We went through all these obstacles," said Loncar of seeing the project through to completion. "We're so happy. It looks great."



*The Baby Point Gates Business Improvement Area's restoration project of its namesake, the Baby Point Gates at the Jane and Annette streets-intersection is now complete. The gates' mortar was restored, new lighting installed, benches erected and a new plaque.*

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