

DATE OF 1ST STUDENT WALKABOUT: May 15, 2014, 08:45 – 10:15AM

DATE OF 2ND WALKABOUT: Monday, May 4, 2015, 11:15-11:45AM

WEATHER: 22°C, sunny, started getting cloudy, started raining around 11:40

PARTICIPANTS:

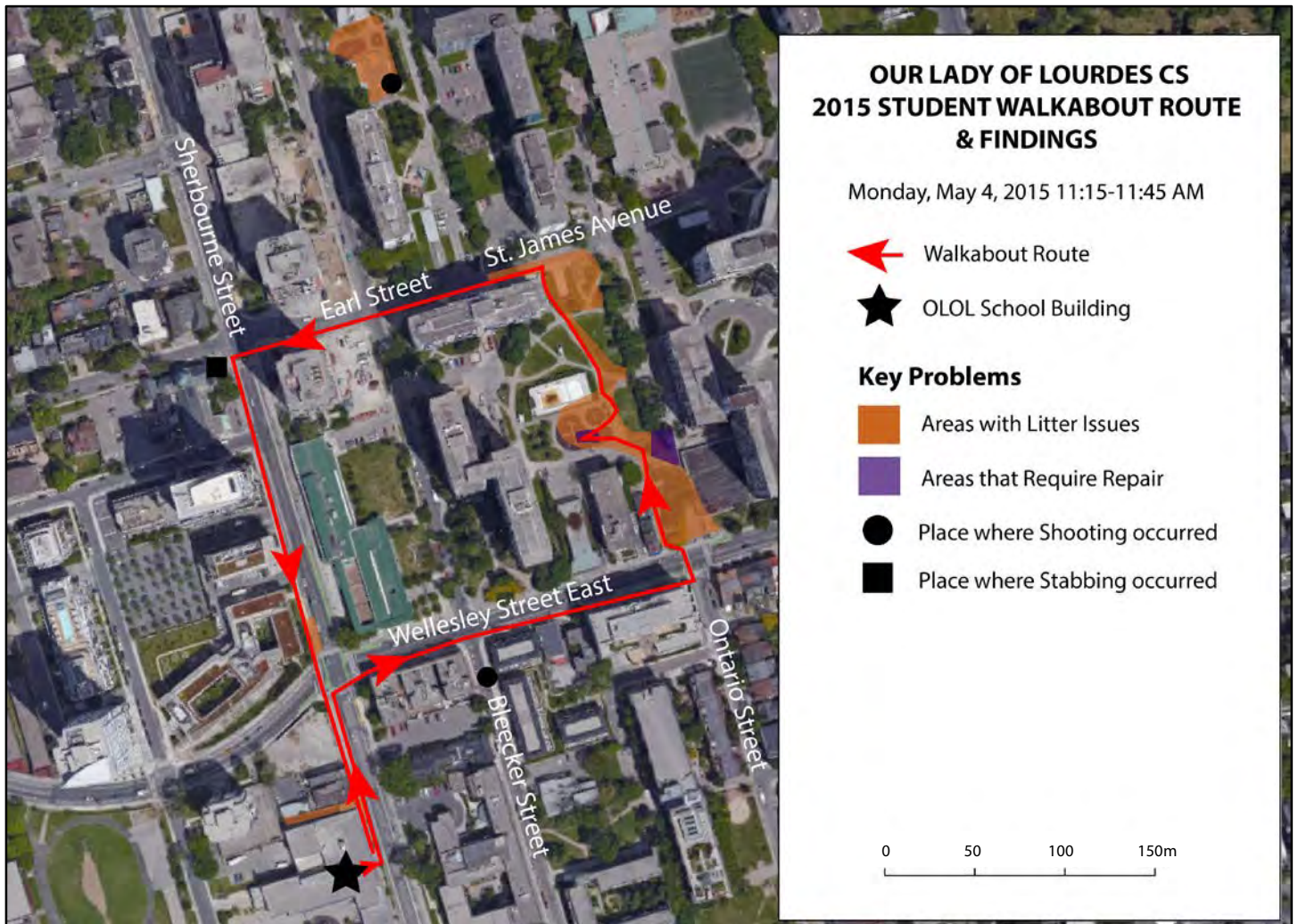
- *Ralph, Health Action Team (HAT) Student
 - *Samson, HAT Student
 - *Duke, HAT Student
 - *"Lee", (name changed) HAT Student
 - Nicole, HAT Student
 - Fyona, HAT Student
 - Frances, HAT Student
 - *Robert Longo, Phys. Ed. Teacher
 - Armi De Francia, STP Facilitator
- *Participants who were present in the first student walkabout



METHODOLOGY/PROCEDURE:

The walk lasted 30 minutes due to the availability of Phys. Ed Teacher, Mr. Longo, and the students. All student participants from last year's student walkabout attended along with another three students, all from the Health Action Team. These students were recruited on the day of event based on their availability during their lunch hour. All participants from last year attended. Videos of students' observations and comments were taken during this walkabout. As the walk began, Bob explained the value of the work of the Health Action Team in making the walking environment safer. He told students to tell Armi their observations along the way and asked questions about factors affecting their walking experiences in the area. Students were also asked how they felt about any changes made. They were very enthusiastic about responding to the questions and pointing out their findings.

ROUTE AND OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS:



At this follow-up student walkabout, participants revisited parts of the route from the previous one and shared their observations and their recent experiences in those areas. Due to limitations in time and availability, the route was shorter than the first student walkabout. All discussions took place while walking along the route. The map above summarizes the key problems revealed from this walkabout.

Most students were familiar with the areas in the route. We began walking from the entrance of the school. We then went north on Sherbourne Street on the west side, then headed east on Wellesley Street on the south side, turned left on Ontario street where we entered a path leading to a park and playground behind the Food Basics, turned left to see the playground, went back along the path to St. James Avenue, headed west on St. James Avenue to OLOL Church on Sherbourne Street, then came back to the school entrance by going south on Sherbourne Street.

Below is a summary of the findings from the 2015 student walkabout.

Improvements

- Students feel safer with the bike lanes
- New development and construction is bringing open space and vertical park space

Issues that still need to be Resolved

- Litter in the laneways and around buildings (cigarettes, broken glass, needles, dog droppings) → Need to look at litter bins available and where they are placed
- Crime: shooting, stabbing, vandalism, drug use
- Need to fence off ventilation grills
- Need to instill a better sense that laneways are part of private property?

Opportunities

- Gathering spaces with seating along the Ontario Street Extension between Wellesley and St. James Avenue
- Clear, visible bike lanes
- Mixed-use buildings and nearby community centres

The next section presents the findings from this student walkabout in greater detail.

FINDINGS IN DETAIL:



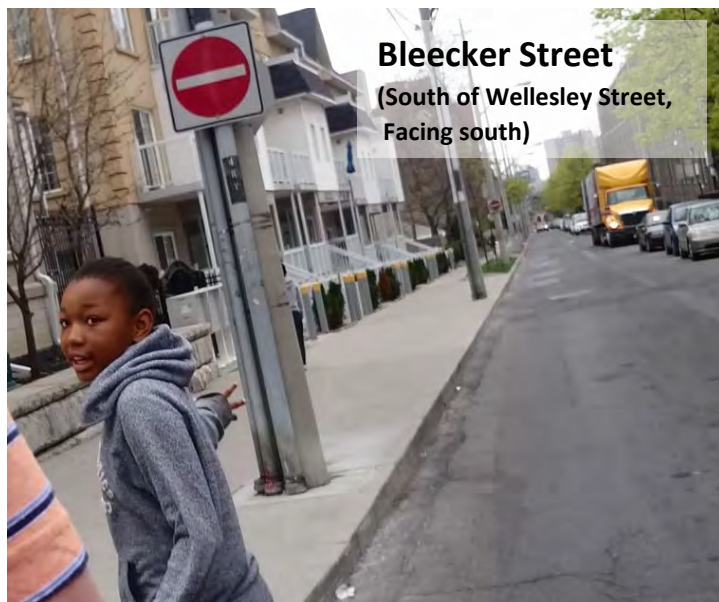
Findings:

- Aside from improving cyclist safety, students also find that the bike lanes improve pedestrian safety since it distances pedestrians from cars



Findings:

- Student participants have not seen the *Share the Road* sign before
- The sign came with the installation of the bike lanes



Findings:

- Nicole used to live here and said there was a shooting here last year. When she lived here, she walked by herself and did not trust other people walking on this street

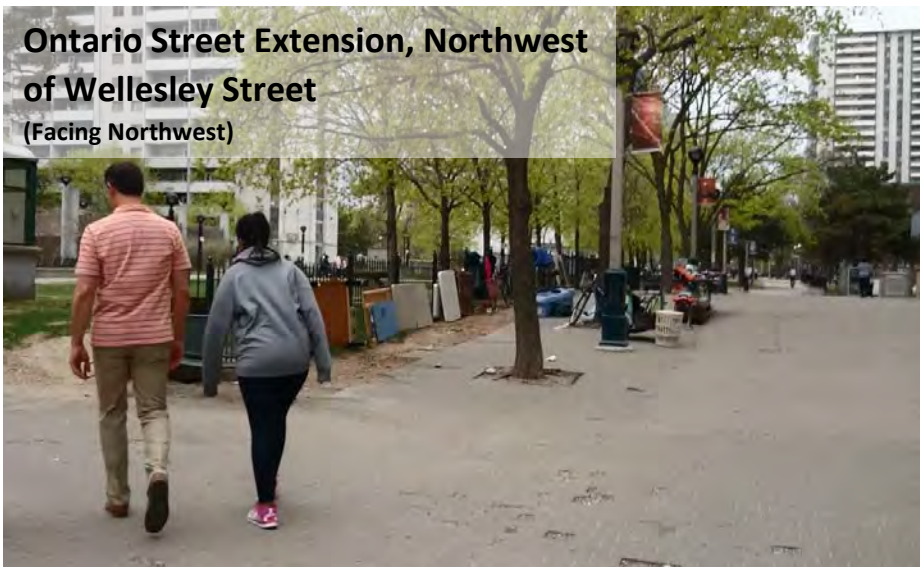
Ontario Street and Wellesley Street (Facing North)



Findings:

- Armi sent in a request to 311 to clean up the litter (Reference # 3294889). Even though the request has been “concluded”, there is still a lot of garbage and broken glass on the ground
- Nicole does not like her mom shopping here because it’s a bad area
- “It’s always messy in here.”
-Ralph

Ontario Street Extension, Northwest of Wellesley Street (Facing Northwest)



Findings:

- Path leading north has missing tile pieces (right of photo)
- “People sell broken stuff here.” - Samson
- People sell clothes, jewellery, pirated DVDs and other items (but not food)
- Nicole saw someone selling a broken bike
- Sometimes the “vendors” just leave their items here and do not come back for them



Ontario Street Extension Playground, Further Northwest of Wellesley Street (Facing Northwest)

Findings:

- Playground location where needles were found last year
- Students are already noticing litter



**Ontario Street Extension Playground,
Further Northwest of Wellesley Street
(Facing Southwest)**

Findings:

- Two of the hanging rings are missing: one at the furthest right (being held by Frances), the other at the furthest left (left not shown in photo)
- Chains are rusty



**Ontario Street Extension Playground,
Further Northwest of Wellesley Street
(Facing South)**

Findings:

- Missing plank: smaller children may get hurt from tripping and/or falling in



**Ontario Street Extension Playground,
Further Northwest of Wellesley Street
(Facing South)**

Findings:

- Difficult to use the playground when there is litter on the ground

Ontario Street Extension Playground

(In most gaps between the playground paving material and the curb)



Findings:

- People put cigarette butts, broken glass, and other litter in this gap

Ontario Street Extension Playground, Further Northwest of Wellesley Street

(Facing Northeast)



Findings:

- Difficult to use the playground when there is litter on the ground

Ontario Street Extension Playground, Further Northwest of Wellesley Street

(Facing East)



Findings:

- Lots of seating but also lots of litter
- Lots of cigarettes; sometimes people throw them on the ground even when they are still burning
- May need litter bins closer to sitting areas

Ontario Street Extension Further Northeast of the Playground

(Facing East)



Findings:

- Beer cans and other litter in the planting beds even though there is a litter bin near Price Depot Canada

South of St. James Avenue, West of Ontario Street

(Facing Northeast)



Findings:

- Fire occurred at 666 Ontario Street
- A few months ago, Ralph heard and saw someone screaming around the picnic tables and smashing glass bottles

South of St. James Avenue, West of Ontario Street

(Facing North)



Findings:

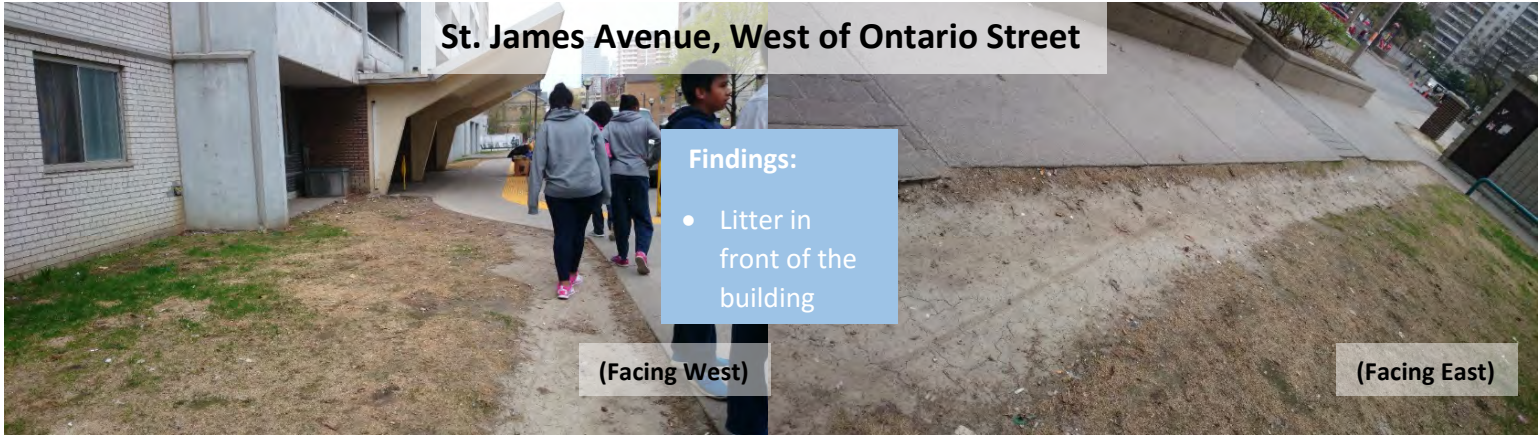
- Litter by the building
- People do not throw away dog droppings
- Need another litter bin here?



**South of St. James Avenue,
West of Ontario Street
(Facing Northeast)**

Findings:

- “It’s good to have this [fence]...If [the ventilation grill] is all rusted and damaged, if someone steps on it, they can fall in... Some places don’t even have this [fence]...If you walk by the pharmacy store, there are some places there [that do not have this fence]”
- Samson



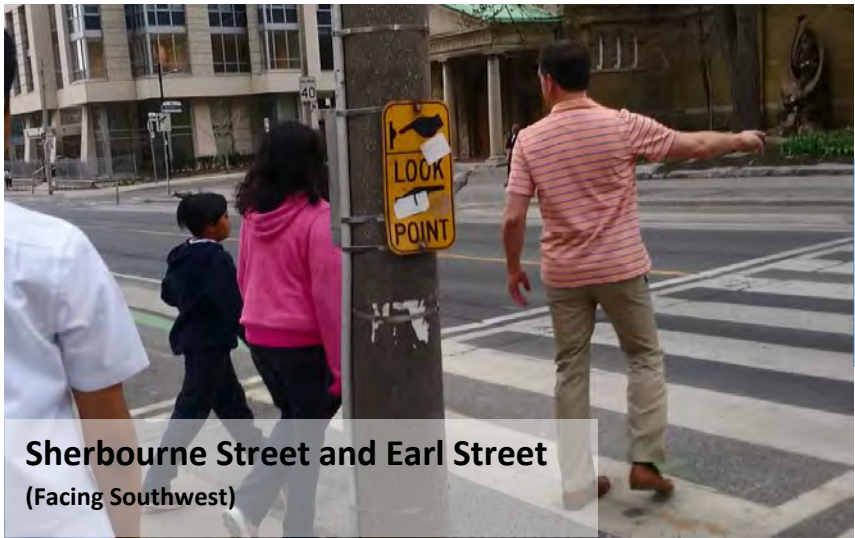
St. James Avenue, West of Ontario Street

Findings:

- Litter in front of the building

(Facing West)

(Facing East)



**Sherbourne Street and Earl Street
(Facing Southwest)**

Findings:

- Samson said that these crosswalk signals were not working a few days ago



**Sherbourne Street and Earl Street
(Facing West)**

Findings:

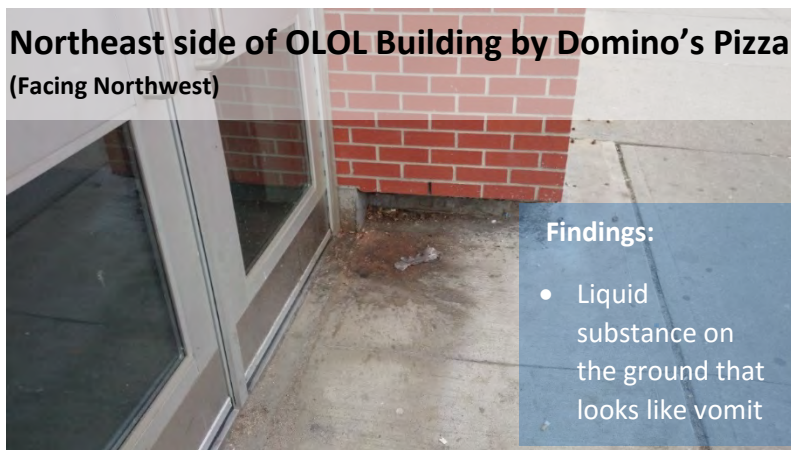
- Ralph points out that a stabbing happened here
- Samson said that streets were closed because of this stabbing which doubled the time it took for the bus to get to school



**Sherbourne Street and Wellesley Street
(Left Image Facing North, Right Image facing Northeast)**

- Findings:**
- Vandalism and a box that invites litter near a circuit box





OTHER FINDINGS (NO PHOTO AVAILABLE):

- There used to be a bridge along Earl Street, East of Sherbourne Street; students like that there is now open space
- Students are noticing building improvements, especially 545 Earl Street, including tile replacement, sliding doors, and repainting

OTHER QUOTES:

This girl got hit by a car but the man just left her and kept on going.

- Nicole

I remember it was near a Book Bank...A lady was riding her bike and a car just drove over her and ran her over and instead of stopping, he rolled up to the sidewalk and I almost got hit.

- Frances

Near my building [West of Ontario Street and Prospect Street] there is this little pool thing and people just smash glass... It's a little pool for little kids then after that I see little kids playing around that area I'm like, are they ever going to clean that up?

- Nicole

Some people outside at my building, they smoke cigarettes and they just throw it on the grass. Sometimes it starts a fire and someone has to put it out.

- Frances

311 REQUESTS TO BE SENT

- Litter issue at 275 St. James Avenue (front and east side of building)
- Vandalism, broken bottles and other litter on the northwest corner of Sherbourne and Wellesley
- 2nd request to clean-up litter along Ontario Street Extension (including at the playground): add more litter bins
- Fix tiles at Ontario Street Extension by Food Basics
- Fill in gap between playground pavement material and curb
- Repair hanging rings and nearby plank
- Clean space between OLOL building and Domino's Pizza

REMAINING ISSUES TO BRING UP TO THE COUNCILLORS AND COMMUNITY

- Need to look into applying principles of defensible space to improve safety in the Ontario Street extension
- Permission for students (and possibly community partners) to put artwork in areas to be determined by the school
- Increase the number of waste collection bins for people to discard items that they cannot sell?