

I want to welcome you all - and thank you for being here to witness the unveiling of this civic recognition, this sign of Barbara Godard's presence.

Barbara Godard died too soon - her life was cut short at a time when good things were buzzing about her- she had just retired – Professor Emeritus – from York University, and had projects on the go. One of her book projects, *Canadian Literature at the Crossroads of Language and Culture*, was completed before her passing and one, *Wider Boundaries of Daring*, a Finalist for the Canada Prize in the Humanities, and winner of the 2009 ACQL Gabrielle Roy Prize for Literary Criticism, was published after; and Barbara was posthumously inducted into the Royal Society of Canada which is the oldest society of scientists and scholars in Canada. Luckily while she was still very much with us, her students had organized the Barbara Godard Symposium which included panel discussions, inspired readings by her friends and colleagues, and contributions by visual artists. And they have planned a memorial for her later today, 3:15pm at York University, almost a year to the day of her passing.

I was a friend of Barbara's – we celebrated St. Barbara's Day together yearly – she wrote about my films – we saw films together. Her prodigious knowledge, especially of history of all sorts, meant that she often could add to my experience of the film with contextual and background information. She was a most generous viewer of artists' works of all types. She brought her vast and varied knowledge to bear interpreting and appreciating the efforts of others.

Barbara's knowledge of Toronto's history and her contributions to its life make this naming most appropriate - especially so as it is a street naming. Barbara Godard was a bicycler and walker. Though she taught at York, she was always to be seen between her home on Major St. and the U. of T. Athletic bldg on Harbord where she swam, Varsity stadium where she skated, the Robarts Library where she did hours of careful research for whatever translation or essay or lecture or book she was preparing, and the Northrop Frye Hall where she led the Semiotic Circle on Saturday mornings. When I walk along Hoskin or St. George I am sure I see her– and in my mind's eye I do see her - coattails flying, and a big toothy smile of recognition on her face.

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I would now like to call upon Councillor Wong-Tam, the councilor for this Ward, who brought forward the proposition for this street naming to the East York Council and the City of Toronto Council meetings, shepherding it through the necessary process so that our desire to see a permanent physical marker of Barbara's presence here could be realized. I thank you Councillor Wong-Tam, and ask you to please say a few words.

Thank you – and I now ask Cheryl Sourkes a very close and long-time friend of Barbara's to share some thoughts and memories.

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It is with great pride in Barbara and great sadness at her absence, our loss, that I call upon Barbara's sister Elizabeth Cox and Councillor Wong-Tam to unveil the Barbara Godard Way.

-----Sign unveiled-----

I want to thank Allen Pinkerton and Rosemarie Demarco of the city and those who participated today for their efforts.  
May Barbara Godard's exemplary life – her generosity, warmth, erudition, curiosity, dedication to excellence- her smiling brilliance - set us on her path. She has truly led the Way.