

## Businesses

93 Harbord (restaurant)  
owned by uncle and where Mario Porretta lived  
above grocery store with family, 105P0:02:00

Black Sea Fish Market  
bought sardines there on Fridays "he would save  
them for us," 105P1:06:00

Harbord Bakery  
"number of times broken into...you have no idea,"  
105P0:25:30

Harbord Fish Market  
brothers fought "enormous vessels of fish..smoked  
them" etc., 105P0:39:00

Ideal Foods  
Jewish owned restaurant supplier run by Weber's  
"they were the best of the best," 105P0:35:00

Kensington Market  
bought everything for the restaurant there etc.,  
105P0:32:00  
was the Jewish Market and about store that sold  
everything, 105P0:32:00

Messis Restaurant  
Mario Porretta did the woodworking, 105P0:07:30

Mr. Produce  
bought everything here for Porretta's, in Kensington  
Market etc., 105P0:33:30

Other  
stores in the neighbourhood etc., 105P0:38:30

Porretta's (pizza & restaurant)  
delivery, brother Sal bought first Austin Mini, first  
delivery car in early 70s, 105P0:16:30  
delivery, pizza delivery by bike...no driver's license,  
105P0:16:00  
food, bought everything at Mr. Produce at  
Kensington Market etc., 105P0:33:30  
food, "my brothers...we all had our  
responsibilities...made dough by hand" etc.,  
105P0:17:00  
food, sardines "nobody was going to eat them" etc.,  
105P1:07:00  
opening, "all of us...at about 6pm would open up the  
restaurant" etc., 105P0:14:00  
opening, of the business, parents worked at other  
jobs etc., 105P0:12:30  
owner, Mario Porretta quits university in 1986 to run  
the business "I sacrificed...still a little  
pissed...mistake...I didn't have a choice" etc.  
etc., 105P0:20:00  
university, "if it wasn't for the university...never would  
have been able to sustain business" etc.,  
105P1:02:30  
university, kids lined up for mother's lasagna "ate so  
much of our food," 105P0:18:00

## Children &amp; Youth

Playing & games  
parks where they played, including skating at  
Queen's Park, 105P0:43:30

## Youth

drug use, immigrant community having a hard time,  
105P0:46:30

gangs, bands of kids stealing "ripping people off"  
etc., 105P0:22:30  
gangs, between ethnic groups and the Christie Pits  
riots, 105P1:13:00  
gangs, Italian and Jewish gangs got along,  
105P0:26:00

## City Hall &amp; Other Governments

## Bylaws

concerning livestock and sidewalk patios,  
105P0:49:30

## Education

## University of Toronto

"if it wasn't for the university...never would have  
been able to sustain business" etc.,  
105P1:02:30  
Porretta's, "if it wasn't for the university...never would  
have been able to sustain business" etc.,  
105P1:02:30  
Porretta's, kids lined up for mother's lasagna "ate so  
much of our food," 105P0:18:00

## Ethnicity &amp; Culture

## Italian community

family, close family relations, Mario and parents  
living in same building, 105P0:59:00  
food, Mario speaks of food traditions dying (green  
olives) and father dying etc., 105P1:09:00  
moving away "those houses represented their  
beginning...their future lay beyond that,"  
105P0:31:00  
neighbours, living side by side with Jews "weren't  
many Canadians" etc. etc., 105P0:29:00  
racism, "learned early on...you were not an Italian,  
you were a WOP," 105P0:24:30  
youth, "Canadians were tough on us...immigrants  
stuck together," 105P1:12:00  
youth, immigration and young people looking for  
"level of validation because we didn't have  
identity," 105P0:22:30  
youth, Italian and Jewish kids, youth and adults got  
along etc. "problems were with English-  
Canadians," 105P0:26:00

## Jewish community

moving away, "last vestiges gone by early 80s,"  
105P0:30:00  
"persecuted because they were Jewish" (owners of  
Harbord Bakery), 105P0:25:30

## Language

Italian; and Italian shopkeepers "we had our own  
community...first language was Italian" etc.,  
105P0:51:30

## Portuguese community

moving in during the 70s, 105P0:30:00  
"parents physically abusive with their kids,"  
105P0:47:00

## Historical Events

## Christie Pits riots

gangs of Jewish and Italian youth against  
Canadians, 105P1:13:00

## Housing & Home Life

### Backyards

gardening, not terribly big but father liked the black soil for growing, 105P0:48:30

### Bedrooms

"didn't get my own bed until I was...sixteen..."  
parents had to walk over kids to get to bathroom etc., 105P0:10:30

"my brothers and I shared beds," 105P0:02:30

### Heating

oil, heated by oil-fed boiler...oil truck came by...coal chutes still in houses, 105P0:49:30

### Tenants

family members living together with uncle, 105P0:01:00

## Laneways

### Children & youth

"used the lane all the time," 105P0:44:00

## Names

### Appleby, Mr.

Jewish man that connected uncle to woodworking jobs, 105P0:04:30

### Borenshein, Mr.

Mario Porretta's Grade 9 teacher, 105P0:16:00

### Fuda, Johnny

going with him to Harbord Bakery, 105P0:25:30

### Giannone, Giorgio (uncle of Mario Porretta)

abusive "we didn't like him much...ousted out," 105P0:01:30

immigrated earlier "managed to buy up an enormous amount of properties," 105P0:00:30

moved back to Italy in 1980 "couldn't handle cultural diversity here" and died there, 105P0:08:30

wanted the best for everyone but very different from father "had ego the size of Grand Canyon" etc., 105P0:05:30

### Polako, Joe

held mortgage on Porretta's building "can't pay me this month...pay next month" etc., 105P0:28:30

Jewish Polish man owned butcher shop at 97 Harbord St., 105P0:10:00

### Porretta, Mario

close family relations, Mario and parents living in same building, 105P0:59:00

currently doing woodworking work in custom design homes, 105P0:08:00

immigrated with family in 1957, 105P0:00:30

learned Italian first, tough time in school "didn't know how to speak English" etc., 105P0:52:00

lived away, was married and now living again on Harbord, 105P0:58:00

motorcycle riding and dad buying one for him, 105P0:45:30

quit university in 1986 to run the business "I sacrificed...still a little pissed...mistake...I didn't have a choice" etc. etc., 105P0:20:00

woodworking skills learned from his uncle "I did all the work for Messis," 105P0:07:00

## Porretta, Mario's father

character, "simple man...artsy kind...laid back kind of man," 105P0:05:00

father kept working after restaurant opening, eventually quit day job, divorced etc., 105P0:14:30

Mario speaks of food traditions dying (green olives) and father dying etc., 105P1:09:00

"never raised his voice, never lifted his fingers on us," 105P0:48:00

realized made best choice to stay...didn't need a car, 105P0:32:00

worked as bricklayer with other Italians in construction, 105P0:03:00

## Porretta, Mario's mother

"she didn't have to work after the first year...little bit of money coming in," 105P0:14:30

"we were very close....she was incredible," 105P0:11:30

worked for a Jewish man making cardboard cards, 105P0:13:00

## Porretta, Nick (brother of Mario)

came home from school with two black eyes, tough kids, 105P0:24:30

## Porretta, Sal (brother of Mario)

bought first Austin Mini, first delivery car in early 70s, 105P0:16:30

"business was perfect for him" but into music, 105P0:19:00

## Stein, Joe

Jewish tailor who frequently visited Porretta's, 105P0:26:30

"would hang around the restaurant with us," 105P0:55:00

## Tadesco, Mr.

helped build Porretta's, 105P0:35:00

## Zimmerman

owned a store in Kensington Market "sell everything there," 105P0:32:30

## Neighbourhood & Community

### Gentrification

deciding to make one-way streets "they have money...power," 105P1:05:30

"doesn't feel as community-like..distant...isolated" etc., 105P0:37:30

"it's what money does...people don't say hello," 105P0:54:30

### Moving away

moving away by different ethnic groups at different times etc., 105P0:31:00

realized made best choice to stay...didn't need a car, 105P0:32:00

### Neighbours & neighbours' relations

living side by side with Jews "weren't many Canadians" etc. etc., 105P0:29:00

"more community in those days...warm...genuine...weren't isolated" etc., 105P0:53:00

### Safety

"don't feel it's safe...no identity in this area...don't know people" etc., 105P1:00:00

## Occupations & Finances

### Bricklayers

father worked with other Italians in construction,  
105P0:03:00

### Finances

"recognized we had debts to pay...I took over the  
business" etc., 105P0:20:00

"she didn't have to work after the first year...little bit  
of money coming in" divorced etc., 105P0:14:30

### Tailors

Joe Stein would go into Porretta's and measure  
them up "would walk in, measure my Dad's  
waist," 105P0:27:00

### Woodworkers

Mario Porretta currently doing work in custom design  
homes, 105P0:08:00

uncle did woodworking work in the Eaton Centre,  
105P0:04:00

uncle was a tough man but a great woodworker,  
105P0:03:00

## Real Estate

### Prices

Harbord St., 97 purchased for 21K, 105P0:28:30

## Streets & Intersections

### Harbord St., 93

owned by uncle and where Mario Porretta lived  
above grocery store with family, 105P0:02:00

### Harbord St., 95

current residence of Mario Porretta, 105P0:56:00

### Harbord St., 97

father purchased in late 60s, 105P0:03:30

"is and was our family residence," 105P0:56:00

previous owner Joe Palako owned Jewish butcher  
shop, 105P0:10:00

purchased for 21K in 1968, 105P0:28:30

"took over that building and made a  
restaurant...called Porretta's," 105P0:10:00

### One-way streets

"pandemonium...directions all changed...horrible"  
etc., 105P1:04:00

### Robert St., 158

former Polish Jewish owners, Ziggy and Herschel,  
105P1:11:30

### Robert St., 206

Porretta family originally started here, 105P0:04:00

## Transportation

### Traffic maze

no consultation, "pandemonium...shoved down our  
throats...directions all changed...horrible" etc.,  
105P1:04:00

one-way streets, "pandemonium...directions all  
changed...horrible" etc., 105P1:04:00