

THE CORKTOWN NEWS

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Goodbye Gateway Mural

By Michele Cummings

Corktown is a neighbourhood that has been fortunate to be the display case for many amazing murals. The first among them was the Corktown Gateway Mural which can be found on the south facing wall of the Toronto Humane Society building at Queen & River.



GATEWAY MURAL

photos courtesy: Michele Cummings

In 2011 a Corktown artist Gary Smith was commissioned by the Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA) to do the mural having the theme, "Corktown: The Oldest and The Newest". It was unveiled in November,

2011 and certainly did not disappoint. The mural depicts the Distillery District of old with a vintage car and a woman pushing a pram. The old streetcar is painted with the perfect colour of red and morphs into a

remarkably accurate rendering of the new streetcars. Finally we travel into the modern age Corktown complete with smart cars, dogs, segways, skateboards, and a man running with a very happy toddler. Many of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Site Specific

By Mima Brown Kapches

We are lucky in Corktown to have an art installation called "Site Specific." It's a large sculpture by Marianne Lovink and Scott Eunson that hugs the west sidewalk of Sumach Street, south of Queen. This installation has been the subject of an earlier Corktown News (Spring Edition 2016, 01) that focused on Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, escaped slaves who established their hansom cab taxi business, called City Taxi, on this location.

The plaque describing "Site Specific" states that the work traces the human "history of the site from the end of the last Ice Age to the present day."

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GOODBYE GATEWAY MURAL CONTINUED

subjects in the mural were painted with local residents in mind. This mural was made possible by the CRBA, the City of Toronto and donations from local businesses. It will be removed from the wall this spring to make way for a new mural by StreetArt Toronto.

In 2012 Gary did another mural "Child's Play" on the wall of a building adjacent to Sackville Park. This mural also featured children from the neighbourhood playing in the park. Last year the bottom half of this mural was badly tagged, a constant hazard

for street art. With the renovations in Sackville Park this summer, hopefully we will see a rejuvenation of this wall as well.

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The time has come for the Corktown Gateway Mural to be retired. Gary has suggested that we divide the mural up into logical pieces and auction them off at a community event.

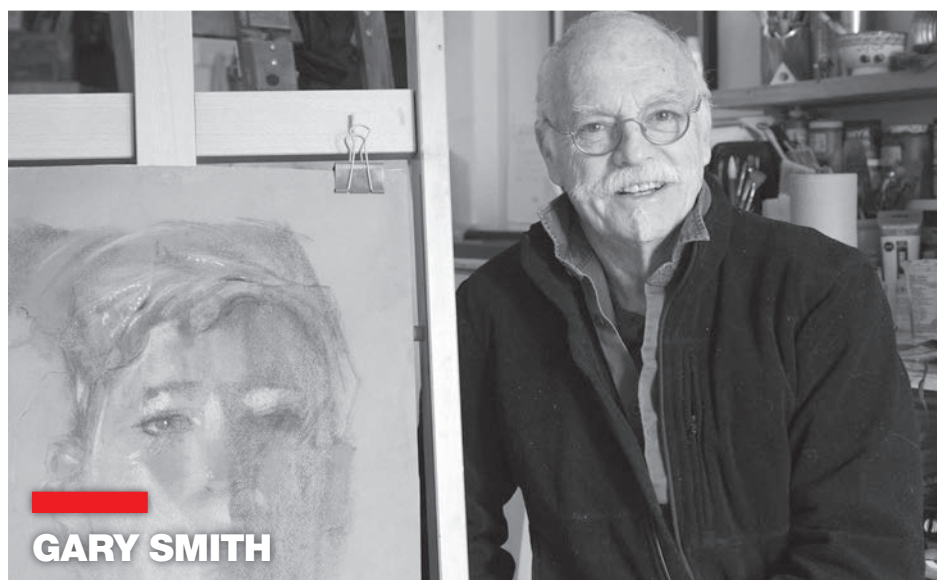


photo courtesy: Michele Cummings

I spoke to Gary about the murals and his work to find out how he felt about his Corktown murals being replaced. He was very pragmatic about them sharing that this is the nature of street art. None of it lives forever. Painting in the Corktown area has been a constant in his life. He painted the houses on Ashby Place, has done pastel portraits of children in Regent Park and taught numerous classes in his studio on King St. This has enabled him to meet so many people while doing what he loves. Most recently he has found himself painting in Paris and China, but always seems to make his way back to Corktown.

The time has come for the Corktown Gateway Mural to be retired. Gary has suggested that we divide the mural up into logical pieces and auction them off at a community event. This is such a great idea to have the work live on in some local shops or homes. Be on the lookout for details of this community event on Corktown.ca so we can give this little piece of history a proper send off! ☺

Gary Smith and Irina Schestakowich's Ashby Place paintings will be showing this May at the Rectory Café on Ward's Island. See www.escapewithGary.com for more of Gary's work.

The Corktown News

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WHAT'S UP IN CORKTOWN?

The Corktown Residents & Business Association is a not-for-profit and non-commercial volunteer neighbourhood organization.

We follow the latest developments in Corktown on a wide range of topics and serve as a liaison between Corktown, the City and other key organizations.

The CRBA is an inclusive organization open to all local residents and businesses. Join us and add your voice to the community discussion!

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April 4 and May 2
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WE's Global Headquarters Moves In

By Dennis Kucherawy

THIS SUMMER, WE WILL BECOME ONE OF US.

After celebrating its 20th anniversary two years ago, WE, the worldwide development charity and youth empowerment movement formerly known as Free The Children, is coming to our 'hood. They are building a WE Learning Centre (WLC) on the southwest corner of Parliament and Queen Street E, the site of the now defunct Marty Millionaire furniture store. When opened this summer, it will be the first of its kind in WE's operations.

"It's not just an office move," explained director Scott Baker. "It represents an expansion of our mission and capabilities that will carry us into the next 20 years.

"The Centre is a big part of our plan to grow our mission in empowering people here at home and internationally with the tools to change the world. It will be our global headquarters. We don't have plans to build similar centres in our other regions."

Craig Kielburger, a native of Thornhill, and a group of his schoolmates founded Free The Children in 1995 when he was only 12 years old. Shocked by news he read about the murder in Pakistan of a 12-year-old boy named Iqbal Masih, Kielburger was moved to take action. So, he and his mates formed Free The Children to raise awareness throughout North America about this crisis and to challenge children

continent-wide to get involved to stop it by organizing and speaking out.

In 1999, 18 years ago, his organization was estimated to have "changed the lives of more than one million young people worldwide. It has built more than 650 schools and school rooms and provided daily education to 55,000 children."

Since then, Free The Children has become WE and has established more than 1,000 schools and school rooms worldwide with offices in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, London UK, Chicago and California. WE Day, a free awareness and fund-raising annual event for all students held every fall, is made possible by corporate sponsors. These events are held in 14 cities internationally and are attended by more than 200,000 students from 8,000 schools.

Toronto is WE's action central. Currently headquartered in Cabbagetown, WE has been working with children in Regent Park since 2014, said Scott Baker. "Corktown was chosen for the Centre and our new office locations because of its proximity to both Cabbagetown and Regent Park," he said. "This will allow us to maintain the strong relationship we have built with students and parents in the neighbourhood during the last decade through long-standing volunteer efforts. For example, through a staff-led initiative, 'WE Read,' employees mentor local Regent Park youth between the ages of five and 12. It is important WE maintains its connection and partnership with this neighbourhood. Also, about 80 percent of WE staff, averaging an age of 26, live in the core of Toronto. This location will enable many to walk, ride their bikes or take the TTC to work, which is important to them."

Baker describes the WE Learning Centre as a "social innovation hub." Located in the midst of Corktown, it will be accessible to local residents and neighbours. "Groups of students from the neighbourhood and beyond can gather during the day for speeches and workshops that inspire deeper engagement with the local and global community. Young people will have access to our youth social incubator, a space dedicated to one-on-one mentorship and training from internal and external experts with access to the tools and supplies needed to start their own charity or social enterprise."

Obviously, the WLC will help support many of its neighbouring businesses, added Baker: "Through our expansion into Corktown and the former Marty

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Where are the Grocery Stores?

By Kara Isert

It's a common complaint. We hear it all the time – at the monthly CRBA meetings, in the I'm A Corktown Facebook group, in neighbourhood surveys, at development meetings – Corktown needs a grocery store!

I say, kwitcherbeefin! It's true; there are no big grocery stores within the Corktown borders. But we are actually better served than many other downtown neighbourhoods. Grocery shopping is so much more convenient than when I moved here in 2010 and is getting better all the time.

Here's my guide to the current grocery options around Corktown.

Big Grocery Stores

There are two full-on grocery stores within a couple hundred meters of Corktown. Both of these are discount stores – No Frills from the Loblaws family and FreshCo from the Sobeys chain. Neither has in-store bakeries or butcher counters or in-store deli counters. But both have a great selection of fresh produce, meats, bakery items, staples, cleaning supplies, basic household goods and everything else you expect from a grocery store.

Luciano's No Frills

200 Front St. E. at Princess

Less than 200 m from Corktown's western boundary at Berkeley.

Hours:

8AM – 10PM M-F, 8AM – 9PM Sat.
8AM – 8PM Sun.

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » All your grocery needs in one place.
- » LCBO and Dollarama conveniently nearby for other household staples
- » Similar selection and quality to Loblaws with lower prices, including President's Choice products
- » Good prices and perfect if you're into coupons and flyers.

FreshCo – Dundas & Parliament

325 Parliament St. at Dundas

In Regent Park just a couple blocks north of Corktown.

Hours:

8AM – 10PM every day

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » All your grocery needs in one place.
- » Specialty products reflects diverse Regent Park area with interesting packaged foods, halal meats (goat!), organics, spices.
- » Friendly cashiers, mostly from the area.
- » Good prices and perfect if you're into coupons and flyers.

Small Grocery Stores

More than a convenience store, these shops have a decent assortment of fresh produce and baked goods as well as all the basic household needs for staples (oil, rice, packaged foods), cleaning supplies, a freezer section with vegetables, maybe some meats (fish sticks count, right?) and frozen meals. Typically, they have better hours than the big grocery stores and better prices than the convenience stores.

Sam's Food Store

175 River St. at Oak

Under the previous ownership, my hubby and I used to call Sam's the "Fake Rabba" because it had a similar setup and branding but had lost use of the Rabba name. Under its new ownership, Sam's has been cleaned up and has a better selection so is much more pleasant to shop at.

Hours:

Always open, 24/7

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » Always open – great for emergency shopping trips.
- » Surprisingly good selection and prices for a 24-hour store.
- » Basic selection of fresh produce (bananas, potatoes, onions)
- » Fresh made ready-to-eat chicken, samosas, patties and other convenience foods.
- » Injera! I've never seen this Ethiopian flatbread in a store before. Now I'm going to have to find a good recipe for doro wat (chicken stew)...

Kabul Supermarket

240 Parliament St. (north of Shuter)

Kabul Supermarket is the biggest of the specialty food stores around Regent Park. It looks a bit sketchy from the outside. Once inside, you have to go past the snack counter and

through a swinging door to get to the "supermarket" section.

Hours:

9AM to midnight

(meat counter closes at 9PM or 10PM)

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » As you'd expect from the name, Kabul Supermarket caters to an Afghani and Muslim market with halal meats and lots of interesting looking products with Arabic names or writing.
- » Fresh meat counter with chicken, goat and beef (no pork) – very good prices.
- » Eclectic selection of fresh produce, more than the basic onions and bananas – okra, lemons, eggplant, big bags of peeled garlic...
- » Great selection of South Asian and Afghani products including a huge selection of dried fruits especially dates.
- » Convenient hours and location.

Riverside Market

720 Queen St. East at Broadview

I know for some of you the other side of the Don River seems very far away. But for those of us on the east side of Corktown, Broadview is just a couple minutes walk away. And the Riverside Market is worth the walk with its small but comprehensive selection of products and pretty reasonable prices.

Hours:

Open 24 hours (!) Mon – Sat.

(closed 9PM Sunday until 7AM Monday)

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » All the staples you'd expect in a variety store plus a lot more. A very good selection of produce for a small store
- » Organic products and fresh flowers
- » Convenient hours – open 24/7 except Sunday late night
- » Local food brands like Ace Breads
- » Reasonable prices
- » Close to St. John's Bakery and other specialty shops

Markets

St. Lawrence Market

93 Front St. East (750 m west of Corktown)

It's not very far from Corktown's borders to one of Toronto's most famous and best grocery shopping spots. SLM has over 100 vendors including produce stalls, butchers, fishmongers and cheese shops. There is a honey stall and a mustard shop and a shop that just sells rice – talk about specialized!

Hours:

5AM – 5PM Saturday, 8AM – 6PM

Tuesday through Friday,

Closed Sunday & Monday.

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » The Saturday farmer's market! Best in the summer when filled with local and in-season products.
- » The main market has 100+ vendors offering everything you need plus a bunch you didn't realize

you wanted (pomegranate seeds! Ukrainian mushroom spread – yum!)

- » A very wide and fresh selection of meats, produce and baked goods.
- » Lots of ready-to-eat options – the Portuguese chicken sandwich is my fave but there's also peameal on a bun, crepes, fish, salads...
- » Real Montreal-style bagels, maple syrup, fresh pasta, did I mention there's a rice stall?, French-style butter, every cheese imaginable.
- » One-stop shopping if you factor in the Metro grocery store across the street for household basics like cleaning supplies. And there's an LCBO next door.

Moss Park Market

Queen East near Ontario St.

In its second year of operation, the Moss Park Market operates out of shipping containers that have been transformed into a little shop.

Hours:

10AM – 6PM Wed. through Sun.

Closed Mon. & Tues.

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » Fresh produce and great prices
- » New in 2017 – a small selection of dry goods and staples like oil & rice
- » Also new – a refrigerated section for eggs, meat and other groceries
- » Local and organic options
- » Convenient location

Arman Produce Market

Regent Park on Parliament Street

(east side just south of Dundas)

A produce stand set up between buildings in Regent Park.

Hours:

10AM – 9PM Tues. through Sat.

Closed Sunday & Monday

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » A huge selection of fresh produce, around 175 items
- » Covers the bases from your staple fruits & vegetables (oranges, bananas, onions etc.) to organics and multicultural specialty produce, some chosen for their health benefits
- » If you're into ayurvedic medicine, this is your place
- » Very affordable

Specialty

These stores are not really grocery stores and don't have all the items you'd expect from a full grocery store. But it is good to know that they have some grocery items, too!

The Healthy Road

518 King St. East near River

Hours:

10AM – 7PM M-F & 10AM – 5PM Sat.

Closed Sunday

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » Organic & specialty foods – mostly dry goods, packaged goods and snacks
- » Refrigerated & frozen foods including ready-to-eat, dairy, some grocery items
- » Lovely, friendly and knowledgeable owners and staff
- » Vitamins, minerals, health supplements, natural cosmetics, pet nutrition

Shoppers Drug Mart

351 Queen St. East at Parliament

Hours:

8AM – 9PM every day

WHY SHOP HERE?

- » Now owned by Loblaws, Shoppers has pretty much all basic grocery store staples except for fresh produce. You'll find dairy, frozen vegetables, fish sticks, packaged foods and a huge range of snack foods and drinks.
- » Pharmacy and the usual drug store staples.

Convenience Stores

These stores are good in a pinch or when everything else is closed.

C- Stores

351 King St. East at Parliament

Great lunches: made to order sandwiches and Korean specialties, reasonable prices, a pleasant place to shop.

Hours:

7AM – 7PM M-F, 9AM-4PM Sat,
Closed Sunday

Sweet Marie Variety

502 Queen St. East at Sumach

Is its name purposely ironic? Not sweet but is conveniently located next to the Dominion on Queen and does have your convenience store staples.

Ray's Discount & Convenience

352 Queen St. East at Parliament

Not really discount or convenient, despite its name and no fresh fruit & vegetables, despite its sign. Best for lottery tickets and cigarettes, I suspect.

Kim's Convenience

252 Queen East (almost at Sherbourne)

A few blocks out of Corktown but it is the storefront for the CBC show, Kim's Convenience. Your basic convenience store plus TV merchandise and free photo ops with the real staff.

Delivery & Pickup Services

Why go grocery shopping when the food can come to you? If you have the money for it, less traditional shopping options include:

Introducing the new CRBA Board

By Michele Cummings – Past President CRBA

The Annual General Meeting for the Corktown Residents and Business Association was held on February 7, 2017 and a new Board of Directors was elected. They come from all over Corktown with varied interests. 2017 will be a great year!

Returning Directors

Socrates Apallas (business) will again serve as a Business member of the CRBA. He works tirelessly organizing our social events and to get advertising for the Corktown News. Without him, you would not be reading this paper!

Kathrin Furniss (resident) after taking a bit of a break to have her first child, Kathrin is excited to be back.

Sandra Iskandar (resident) will once again be on the Board continuing her passion for Arts in the neighbourhood. Her persistence has brought us many beautiful murals in Corktown.

Tom Junek (business) is the newly elected President. Besides being a champion for the businesses in Corktown, he will be ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

Tricia Waldron (resident) will be the Treasurer in 2017 for the second year. Besides keeping track of the finances, Tricia took a stab at journalism this year and wrote her first article for the Corktown News.

New Directors

Sarah Legacy (resident) has been chosen to be the Secretary for 2017. She brings with her a wealth of volunteer experience with her and is already diving in to help out with the Making Peace Exhibition.

Trevor McLeod (resident) is our first director ever from the West Don Lands.

We are thrilled to welcome him to the neighbourhood and to the Board.

Philip Stoop (resident) who served as President of the CRBA in 2011, is back as Vice President. Representing Corktown's interest for the King Street Pilot Study and the distribution of the Corktown news will be his main focus to start.

Scott Wilson (resident) a local realtor and resident is our first board member in recent years to hail from the Distillery District. He is already involved in the Development Committee and The Corktown News!

Vacancy (business) At the time of the AGM there was one vacancy for a business member. Since then we have had three excellent candidates have put their names forward. The Board must now make the difficult decision of choosing one. This result will be posted on corktown.ca.

Final Thoughts

As we welcome in the new Board, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Board. I have met so many great people and the experiences will stay with me forever. Also, thank you to my fellow Board members who are moving on. They have worked tirelessly for the greater good and we are lucky that they chose to channel so much of their energy into our neighbourhood. Many thanks to Scott Barker, Simon Grant, Kara Isert and Larry Webb.

POPPED

THE GOOD AND THE BAD



I'm cautiously excited about the City's King Street Pilot project. It's looking at testing major changes to how King Street is used through downtown. The goal is to move streetcars and other non-car traffic much more quickly, especially from Jarvis to Bathurst where it is excruciatingly slow now. Options are being considered which will encourage cars to take other routes. If the pilot is successful, it may actually be possible to get on a 504 King car during rush hour in Corktown. And get downtown faster than by walking!



Another 14 or 15-storey condo development proposed for Eastern from Gilead to Sackville. It's not that I'm against development but why twice as high as anything else nearby. Especially when it is 6 times (!) as tall as its immediate residential neighbours along Gilead. Make it half the height, a nice mid-rise building similar to the Streetcar buildings further to the east or the condo at Trinity and I'm all for it!



Similarly sized to the condo proposed for Eastern is a cool-sounding "work-live" building on Parliament just north of Queen. Surprisingly, the proposal is not for condos. It would have office units on the bottom floors and flexible units above to be configured as office or studios or apartments or showrooms or a mix of uses. Combined with the hundreds of WE workers moving in nearby, Queen & Parliament could become an entrepreneurial hub filled with young and earnest worker bees. That will be a huge improvement and boost to cafes and other local businesses!



Have you tried to drive along River Street during evening rush hour recently? It's been brutal – cars backed up for blocks along Shuter just to get onto River. Even without the interminable watermain construction, even with the streets cleared of dozers and construction crews, it is sloooow. Construction work will start again any day now after the winter break. Just imagine how bad traffic will be once Regent Park is fully built out, another 10,000 people living there, plus the new 35-storey towers proposed on the east side of River.



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WHERE ARE THE GROCERY STORES? CONTINUED

Loblaws Click & Collect

- » Pick your grocery items online (www.loblaws.ca/Click&Collect) then pick up your order at a local Loblaws at a time that suits you.
- » Groceries are picked by a personal shopper. Prices are the same as you'd find in-store.
- » Service is available at the Queens Quay store.

Urbery

"Personalized delivery from grocery and alcohol stores, straight to your door"

- » A Toronto-based grocery personal shopping service. Place an order online (urbery.com) and a "grocery guru" goes to your local store, picks your order and delivers to you.
- » Free grocery delivery on orders over \$65. \$10 fee on any alcohol order.

Organic / local food boxes

A great option for getting fresh produce. Most offer staples like coffee, dairy, eggs and bread. Some examples are:

- » Organic boxes: Mama Earth, Front Door Organics, Green Earth Organics
- » CSA (locally grown): Good Food Box / Foodshare, Fresh City Farms

SITE SPECIFIC CONTINUED

The artists worked with historian Carolyn Smardz Frost who also has archaeological experience to present vignettes of phases of the native and historic past of Toronto. Although they state that the installation represents the history of the site, in fact they have drawn from archaeological and historic events in and around Toronto, so the passage of time depicted involves the whole of Toronto.

The first section, that which is the furthest south, shows what most will consider a mysterious object (South End). It is a silhouette of a "Fluted Point."



SOUTH END

These points, which were attached to the ends of wooden spears, were made of stone, had flakes removed to give it a lanceolate shape, then a single large flake was removed down the centre of the point from the base towards the tip creating a concave channel or a flute on the face. These points were made from 13,500 to 12,000 years ago and are very rare in the Toronto area. They are generally not very large, 5 to 8 cm in length. These people hunted caribou, and you can see the artistic depiction of antlers to the right of the tip of the point.

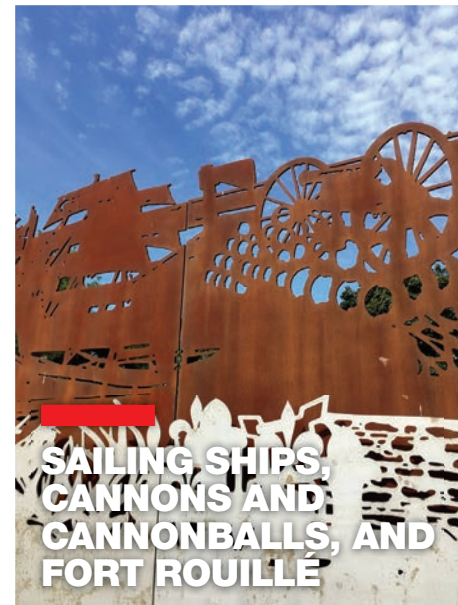
Another panel shows the silhouette of the frame of an Iroquoian longhouse and below it the image of an antler



IROQUOIAN LONGHOUSE

I was impressed that so much native and early Toronto history was included. I was impressed that the artists had a grasp of archaeological artifacts and the archaeological story.

effigy comb (Iroquoian Longhouse). This comb was found at the site of Teiaiaagon, an historic Seneca Iroquois village occupied in the 1660s overlooking the Humber River and the Carrying Place Trail. Today this is the



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location of Baby Point, North of Bloor West and Jane Street. Beside the antler comb are skins stretching on tanning racks. The comb is thought to show a man riding a long tailed panther and he would have had two panthers framing him on either side, but the comb is missing one panther.

The third scene shows sailing ships, hatchets, cannons and behind the Fleur de Lys is the outline of Fort Rouillé (Sailing Ships, Cannons and cannonballs, and Fort Rouillé). Fort Rouillé, or Fort Toronto, was established by the French around 1750 and abandoned in 1759. It was located at the western edge of the Toronto's



LOG CABINS AND A WINDMILL

waterfront. Today it is in the CNE grounds where there is an obelisk and plaques detailing the history and the discovery of the site. The outline of the fort seen on the art piece is marked on the ground at the Fort. There's a great view from Google Earth!

The fourth scene shows log cabins and a windmill (Log cabins and a windmill). The windmill was at the shore of Toronto harbour at Gooderham and Worts. Log cabins were likely present in Corktown as they preceeded brick construction. The best-known cabin in the vicinity was John Scadding's at the Don River crossing. Located on the east side of the Queen St. East bridge it was moved to the CNE grounds in 1879 and this is memorialized by plaques on the bridge. If you find the Fort Rouillé obelisk, you'll see the Scadding cabin is beside it.

When I first examined "Site Specific" I was impressed that so much native and early Toronto history was included. I was impressed that the artists had a grasp of archaeological artifacts and the archaeological story. Then when communicating with Marianne Lovink she passed along a greeting from her husband, an archaeologist I know. It is a small world! The imagery used in this important piece of public art really speaks to Corktown and Toronto's past.

Sackville Park Renewal

By Alex Bartlett

It's been a long time coming, Sackville Park, for as long as I have known it has always seemed a bit dated, a bit run down and somewhat lacking in amenities. All that aside I have almost always enjoyed this park and over the years I have met many wonderful people there while walking my dog or just passing by the park.

Late in 2012 the CRBA began advocating for City funds and support to renew Sackville Park along with the (then) 4 other significant parks in Corktown. Our local councillor's office was quite supportive of this initiative and for the past four and half years Pam McConnell has facilitated and encouraged a Corktown Parks Master plan Initiative beginning with the renewal of Bright Street Park. Sackville Park is now due to be completely remade during the summer and fall of 2017. Much time and effort has gone into this process in the form of public meetings, design charettes and many, many working group meetings. Local residents, particularly those from Wilkins Avenue made both their hopes and concerns known and the end result promises to be a significant change and a much improved park for all of Corktown to enjoy.

Anyone who has been in Corktown for more than a few years has seen the dramatic changes and new developments that have really started to shape our neighbourhood. When this Corktown Parks initiative began we were limited to just five small to medium sized parks. Less than five years later we boast Corktown Common and the wonderful streetscapes of the



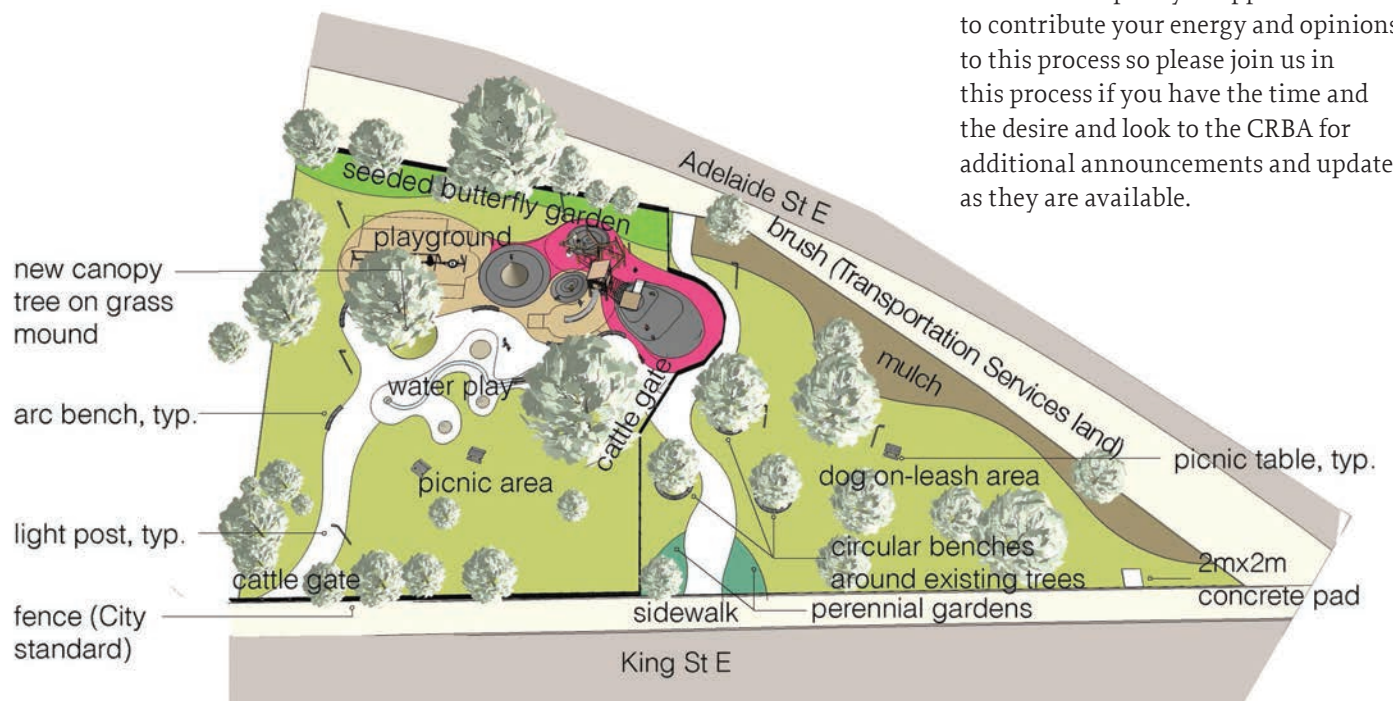
PLAYGROUND RECONFIGURATION

Canary District and a renewed Cherry Street along with the Regent Park Athletic Grounds.

All of this new development could have a profound effect on Sackville Park as there are opportunities to create much better connections to the rest of Corktown. New walkways and paths could link Sackville Park to the Power Street Dog Park along the south side of Adelaide and then back east along the north side of Richmond Street to Sackville Street. The potential for a walking and cycling route from King Street between Richmond and Adelaide Streets directly into the Power Street dog park also exists and this would be an opportunity to incorporate more open space into the park and public space of Corktown. None of these paths have been officially approved but there was enough interest in these potential new links that the re-design of Sackville Park will facilitate these new

connections should they come to be. Given all of the new development along Power Street and Parliament Street there should be a strong case for these new pedestrian connections as well as the funds to implement them.

In the interim, Sackville Park will be transformed by the end of 2017 with new play structures, a water feature that will encourage play and discovery, much better seating and picnic amenities, new fencing to make the play areas safer and new pathways, site grading improvements and new feature planting areas. Unfortunately it also means that we will lose this park for the majority of 2017 but the existence of Corktown Common so close by will make this temporary loss much easier to bear. Following the transformation of Sackville Park the focus will turn to re-make and renew Little Trinity Park and Sumach Park over the next three years. There will be plenty of opportunities to contribute your energy and opinions to this process so please join us in this process if you have the time and the desire and look to the CRBA for additional announcements and updates as they are available.



REVISED CONCEPT

THE EASTER EGG HUNT



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CORKTOWN COMMON PARK (BAYVIEW AVENUE @ FRONT STREET EAST)

SUNDAY APRIL 16TH. STARTS @ 10:15AM (RAIN OR SHINE)

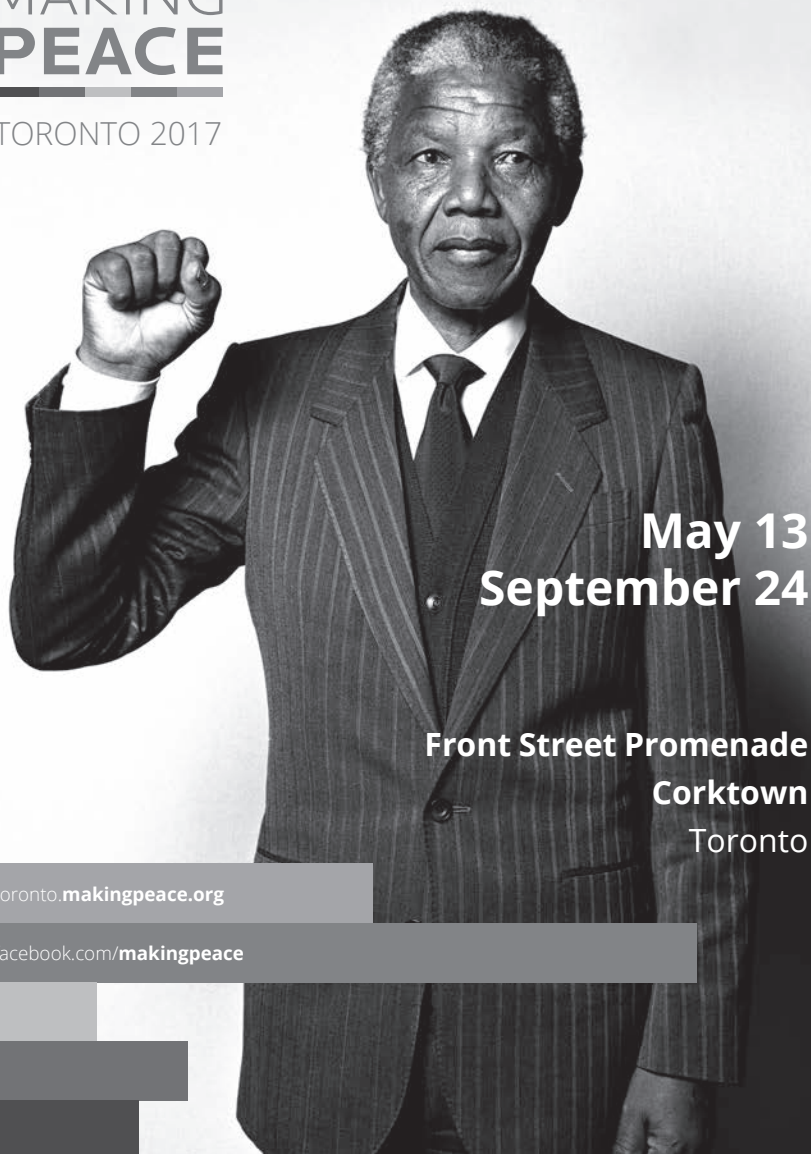
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Development Update

By Larry Webb, CRBA Development Committee

First of all, the pace of development has really picked up in Corktown over the past couple of years. The CRBA's Development Committee is doing well at tracking and influencing new development applications but we could use more help! To volunteer, please e-mail info@corktown.ca.

So what's happening right now? Here is a selection of the most interesting projects:

1-25 Defries Street between Mark and Labatt streets

A proposal for two towers has been submitted to the City; the modified single tower scheme shown at a recent community consultation has not been submitted formally. Our principal concerns are the overall height and density, and a tall podium that is out of context with the neighbourhood. As a precedent, we pointed to the approved 77 River development. Parking, access, and traffic impacts on Labatt, Defries, and Mark streets are a problem, yet the applicant has not provided a traffic study. The developer does not seem inclined to respect the community concerns and we may see this project settled at the OMB. We will continue to press for a negotiated settlement that better fits the neighbourhood.

18-32 Eastern Avenue north side between Gilead and Sackville

This proposal is a major issue for the community. At the community consultation the developer presented the proposal that was in the application. This did not reflect any of the changes that were discussed at a meeting with the CRBA Development Committee. At the community consultation, the developer heard many objections and they promised to revise the application and come back to the CRBA Development Committee – nothing has been heard at this point.

I have been very clear in my support of height in new buildings where appropriate; this is not one of those locations. The context of the older, fine-grained and small-scale properties here and along King Street is vital and this project at an applied-for 14 floors is totally out of context. While still too high, something like 8 floors would be an improvement and would be in line with the height of Trinity Lofts, a block to the west. Eight storeys is also the maximum height allowed in the precinct plan for the West Don Lands opposite on the south side of Eastern. We will continue to press for significant reduction as well as the retention of the heritage property in the north-east corner of Gilead and Eastern.

28 River Street Beer Store



The Beer Store property has been sold to a developer and an application has already been filed with the City for a 15 storey plus mechanical floor building. Our initial concerns are with the context and the developer's view that buildings as far away as River City and Regent Park set the standard for this location, which we do not agree with. We are encouraged by the developer's willingness to meet with the CRBA Development Committee and listen to community expectations. Whether their financial requirements let them meet our expectations is another matter, but they appear ready to examine our suggestions with their consultant team. We will report again when the next iteration has been received.

41 River Street (empty lot south of Shuter)

A 5-storey rental apartment building is proposed for this site. After meeting with the CRBA Development Committee and local residents, the developer basically accepted all the changes recommended. This includes angling the northeast corner of the building to provide for better connection with the immediate neighbours and enclosing parking within walls rather than being open. The developer took a large number of minor variances, and a letter of support from the CRBA, to the Committee of Adjustment on February 15. All variances were granted and the development will now proceed to construction.

Home/48 Power Street Sing Tao site

At its meeting of December 13, 2016, Council approved the amended application by Great Gulf under the threat of an OMB hearing. However, there were substantial improvements in the new design that we generally agree with. The building is now 21 floors at its maximum (plus mechanical) and the visual impact has been reduced by ending the link between the two towers at the 16th floors. In addition, a park space will be created on Power Street that will be owned by the City.

As important was City Council's direction that traffic lights be installed on Power Street at both Richmond and Adelaide at no additional cost to the City budget. The second floor height has been increased to allow for a full grocery store while negotiations for same have not yet been confirmed.

191 Parliament Street Thrifty Rental Car



There is a new development application for this site immediately south of the women's shelter, Jessie's. It is an interesting concept for 12 floors plus mechanical penthouse. The lower 5 floors are office/commercial and the remaining 7 floors they call work/live units, slightly different in concept from the usual live/work units. Whether these will be rental or condo or lease units has not yet been decided. But there is currently an emphasis on the work aspect and the intended market appears to be smaller businesses. The proposed building is full-height on Parliament while the east side terraces back from the adjacent residential at every floor making the top floor quite small. Other interesting features make this an attractive proposition for Parliament with heights compatible with existing built forms.

Southeast corner of Queen/Parliament Shoppers Drug Mart, TD Bank and more

We have no details at present but a single developer, not yet known to us, has bought the entire block from Parliament to Power and south almost to Richmond, excluding only the Shell gas station on Richmond. One concern is that WE (Free the Children) owns the former Marty Millionaire site and appear to be assembling the entire south side of Queen between Parliament and Berkeley. WE also bought the old Adornments on Queen and Royal LePage sites on the north side of Queen with the intent of holding the built-form as it is currently. With the attractive buildings east of Parliament on the north side of Queen that must be retained as of historical value, that makes development of the south-east corner of the intersection only a potential problem. We will continue to press for information and meetings with the new owner.

77 River/7 Labatt Salvation Army site

After a Community Consultation in 2015, this project was revised and brought to the CRBA Development Committee. The number of towers was reduced from two to one although the height is now 39 floors. Most of the demands of the CRBA and neighbouring community reps were adopted. In addition, at Councillor McConnell's suggestion, a Working Group of area residents, Councillor McConnell and the CRBA will be struck with the developer to monitor the development of design prior to construction to ensure our expectations are met. We will be following through on that.

Section 37 Development Funds

Where developers secure approval for additional height and/or density over and above what is already permitted by zoning, the City is entitled under the Ontario Planning Act to secure additional funds from the developer to be applied to local capital improvements. These are known as Section 37 benefits. We are keen to see these funds properly directed in Corktown and recently met with Councillor McConnell and her assistant, Tom Davidson, to present a list of potential uses of the funds in Corktown. The list was developed by the CRBA with input from the general population through an on-line survey, which was very useful. Now that the list is in, we will work with Councillor McConnell on getting some long-awaited community projects started.

This is only a partial summary of the activity of the CRBA Development Committee's work on behalf of the community and as reported in the previous update, development is getting busier in Corktown.



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WE'S HEADQUARTERS MOVES IN CONTINUED

Millionaire building, WE and our 300 plus employees are moving into a previously empty retail space. We're excited to support those locally owned businesses and to be neighbours with a number of social advocacy groups on our block. Those neighbours will show many of our social justice minded youth that a career in advocacy... supporting those in our very own communities who don't have a voice... is, indeed, possible."

The rebuilding and retro fitting of the former building, by Kohn Architects, will restore it to its historic beauty and reveal the architectural significance of a building regarded by many as an eyesore with its ugly, kitschy blue paint and gaudy pink neon signs. Gone is "Honest Marty." Here comes an elegant, excellent example of the noted Chicago School style architecture with its original brick exterior restored as well as various other architectural merits.

Chicago School architecture emerged at the turn of the 20th century and was among the first promoting steel-frame construction. The WLC building is a rare example of this style in Toronto.

WE officially acquired the building in September 2015 and restoration and construction began in January in 2016.

WE obtained the building with, as Baker explains, "a generous, targeted donation from long-term supporters of WE and Founding Chairs of WE Day: Hartley Richardson, President and CEO of James Richardson and Sons, and David Aisentat, President & CEO of the Keg Steakhouse and Bar plus charitable support from the Richardson Foundation.

WE has also acquired additional locations on Queen St. East's north side to accommodate them as they continue to expand and grow as, Baker says, "we look to maximize the work we do."

The WE Learning Centre will be housed in 43,000 square feet over three-and-a-half floors. Says Baker: "There will be mostly open-concept workspaces with exposed brick and beams, making sure to maintain the architectural integrity of the building's original design. Our main floor will be dedicated to providing the space, inspiration and resources to move people to take action, especially youth! The remaining floors will act as office space to support our global efforts, including providing resources to more than 12,000 schools worldwide."

Corktowners will be among the first to see WE's Learning Centre this summer with a sneak preview especially for us prior to the Grand Opening. Watch the Corktown.ca news for details!

Business Spotlight

By Andrea Wightman

SPARKPLUG COFFEE DELIVERS QUALITY COFFEE STRAIGHT TO YOUR KITCHEN



KARA ISERT

photo courtesy: Michele Cummings

Why leave the house, especially in the winter, when you can have quality coffee in your kitchen? Sparkplug Coffee is answering that question by filling a gap in the Toronto coffee industry. Though we in Corktown are blessed with comfortable and tasty coffee shops, it's still tough to enjoy a good cup of java at home.

Sparkplug Coffee is a Corktown coffee service that sources beans from all over the coffee world and delivers them to you. "It's just awesome to get a new coffee in my mailbox every couple of weeks. The coffee is really good and Sparkplug's webpage is full of great tips on how to maximize that quality," says Arthur Sinclair, a regular Sparkplug customer and Corktown resident.

Kara Isert is the owner of Sparkplug Coffee, and the driving force behind Corktown's access to top quality beans at home. Growing up in Vancouver (a coffee city if ever there was one), Kara has always been a bit of a coffee expert. When she moved to Toronto 15 years ago, she found herself underwhelmed by the coffee choices available to her. She identified this business opportunity and thus, Sparkplug Coffee was born.

"There were lots of opportunities for coffee 'on the go', but nothing for people wanting coffee at home. This is mostly because we're buying beans that aren't fresh and have been in the supply chain for too long," says Kara.

At Sparkplug, the beans are delivered as soon as they're roasted. The beans are blends from all over the coffee world: Brazil, Columbia and Honduras, to name a few. "When I travelled to Ethiopia, every

cup of coffee I had was amazing. They would roast the beans before each pot. Now, we make sure there are Ethiopian beans in almost every blend that Sparkplug offers."

Now in its third year, Sparkplug Coffee consists of a small team of coffee enthusiasts that are competing with the larger online delivery services, including many "coffee of the month" clubs. Their dedication to offering a reliable product that meets people's coffee habits is clearly working, and they're looking forward to launching new initiatives soon: A new referral program will allow customers to earn free coffee for each friend they recommend. And their expanding coffee equipment selection will further help customers brew a perfect cup, every time.

But you'll need to go online to get started. Sparkplug only sells directly to coffee drinkers, so their product cannot be bought in stores (where it risks sitting on a shelf for too long). Order from SparkplugCoffee.com and customize the flavour and size of bag that's right for you. Sign up for their Autopilot subscription service and your coffee is ordered on a regular basis. For those living in Corktown, don't be surprised if Kara zips by on her vintage Vespa to deliver your coffee herself. It's all part of Sparkplug's entrepreneurial charm!

Reality TV Show Host Uncovers the 'Secrets of Kensington'

By Andrea Wightman

Tevya Heller, a Canadian producer and TV series creator based in Corktown, is the host of "Secrets of Kensington", an online reality show filmed in Kensington Market. Known as "the Dr Phil for millennials" show, "Secrets" tackles the issues that are on the minds of today's young people, including sex, drugs, and human rights.

"This show gives me a platform to get my message out. I wanted a way to share a positive, empowering voice with young Canadians, and so this show was created," says Heller.

"I get 1,000 emails a week from people needing a voice. This show is a non-judgmental space for people to tell their stories"

more with his talent, he went on to create "OMG" and "Dog Park Tales," each hitting more than 25 countries.

But this early success didn't stop Heller from developing his craft. After reading about a study based out of Western University that shows university students by and large don't own TVs but consume all their content via their laptops, Heller saw the writing on the wall. It was time to make the switch from traditional cable-based shows to digital content.

This show represents more than just a platform for Heller. It's also a way for him to come full-circle from his early career aspirations. At a young age, Heller knew he wanted to be in front of the camera. After moving to New York when he was just 17, he landed an internship at MTV. Wanting to do

With "Secrets," Tevya is back in front of the camera. The show is filmed in five-minute segments in the ever-changing streets of Kensington Market. Voted one of Canada's ten hottest neighbourhoods by Huffington Post, Kensington is a character in and of itself on the show. And much like Kensington, people from around the world are coming to see the show. "I get 1,000 emails a week from people needing a voice. This show is a non-judgmental space for people to tell their stories". At a time when everything we watch is talking about hate and despair, who doesn't want to take a break for feel-good TV?

Though the show is shot in Kensington, Heller is a proud Corktown resident. To him, Corktown is "artist ground zero. It's a trendy, friendly, safe neighbourhood that celebrates its individuality. I was looking for a bit of New York City when I moved back to Canada, and I found it in Corktown."

You can watch "Secrets of Kensington" on YouTube. To learn more about "Secrets", connect with Heller at tevyaheller.com, or facebook/tevyahellerproductions.



TEVYA HELLER

Hospitality – But of a different kind

By Sunil Issac

In the simplest of definitions, hospitality describes the relationship between a guest and a host where the host graciously welcomes and entertains the guest.

Exercising hospitality often becomes a lot easier when we know who our guest is - a relative, a friend, an acquaintance - or when there is a transaction involved benefitting both the guest and the host (for example, being charged a fair price for a nice meal at a local restaurant).

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In ancient cultures, hospitality involved welcoming the stranger and offering food, shelter and safety.

But what if the guest is unknown to us, may seem unlikeable, may not be able to return the favour and, in fact, is totally reliant on our generosity?

In ancient cultures, hospitality involved welcoming the stranger and offering food, shelter and safety. The significance of hospitality in the ancient world is strongly demonstrated in Homer's epic travelogue The Odyssey. Homer describes Odysseus' 10-year struggle to return to Greece after the Trojan wars. During this time, he wanders about the Mediterranean Sea at the mercy of strangers for his subsistence. Fortunately for him, he is treated as the Greek tradition demanded: he is given a meal, shelter, and parting gifts.

Often hospitality requires that we cross boundaries and reduce some of the barriers established in our society to keep "the less welcoming" out just

because they don't fit our picture of a perfect guest. Sometimes it means paying attention to the needs of "the other" – those who look different from us as we are reminded that they are as human as we are. And as we embrace hospitality fully it could mean shedding off our sense of pride and prestige so that we can meet and serve people where they are at. When we are in that position, it becomes a lot easier to neutralize our natural tendency to rush to judgment. When we are hospitable, we are open toward others, we focus on the positive, and we believe the universe is basically a friendly place.

Since 1963, Good Shepherd Ministries has been welcoming strangers – people going through severe mental health challenges, poverty, and the crisis of homelessness – meeting their basic survival needs as well as their long-term health and housing needs. Good Shepherd Ministries strives to promote dignity, serving anyone without distinction, in the spirit of hospitality.

Hospitality may be understood and practiced differently, but for Good Shepherd Ministries, in the words of the famous Catholic scholar Henri Nouwen: "Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."

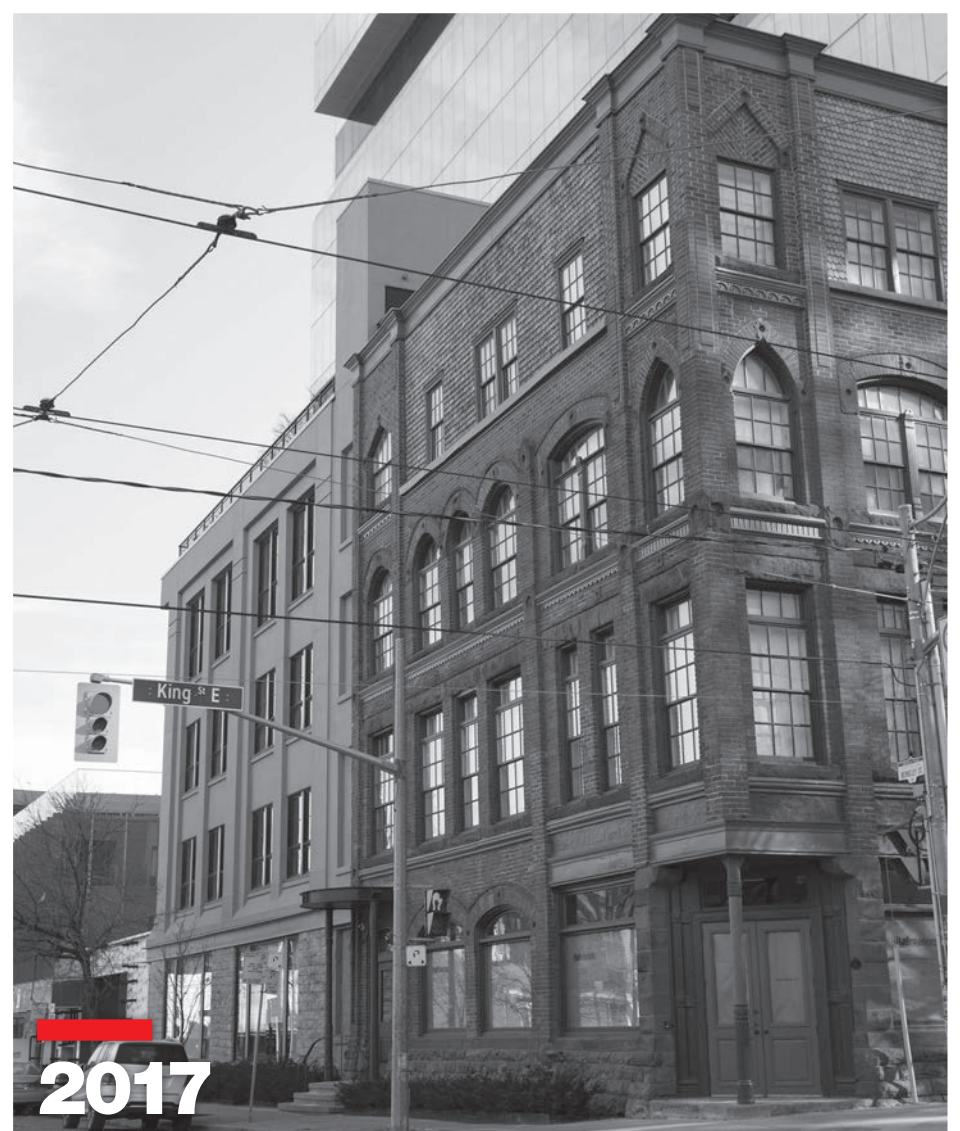


photo courtesy: Good Shepherd Ministries

Then & Now

KING-BERKELEY INTERSECTION

by Michele Cummings





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