

The Corktownner

Serving your community from Berkeley Street to the Don River, Shuter Street to Front Street

Summer Edition

Corktown's Seasonal Newspaper

July 01, 2009

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Here's Hoping for the 2015 Pan Am Games!

by Ingrid Gadsden



Artist's Conception

While Toronto missed out on its 2001 bid to host the 2008 Olympics, better luck might be with us this time around when international officials announce the designated host of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games. Toronto is a strong contender in the bidding, up against Lima, Peru and Bogotá, Colombia.

Across the province, politicians from all three levels of government have their fingers crossed. Since the 2007 Pan Am Games took place in Rio de Janeiro and the 2011 Games are slated for Guadalajara, Mexico, Pan Am officials just might, in the interest of fairness, decide to move the 2015 venue a little bit to the north.

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GO GREEN AND SAVE MONEY

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PENDING

So it was with optimism sprouting like mushrooms after a spring rain, the Ontario Government announced in late April that, should Toronto succeed in getting the 2015 Games, the Athlete's Village will be located in the West Don Lands, that 32 hectare tract of land abutting King and River Streets and running the length of Cherry Street from Eastern Ave to the Lakeshore.

When finished, the proposed village would accommodate 8,500 athletes and team officials in a single, centrally located area and would include a recreation centre, a 50 metre pool, a 400 metre track, parkland and walking/running/cycling trails as well as retail space, restaurants, a medical centre, banks, entertainment areas and other conveniences.

After completion of the Games, all recreational facilities and housing would be made available for public use.

For residents in the immediate area, winning the Games would significantly accelerate development of the WDL to ensure the site is ready for occupancy in a little more than five years. In addition, it would also trigger 15,000 much-needed jobs in construction, tourism and event support.

Most importantly, winning the Pan Am Games would draw major attention to both Corktown and the Distillery District and have a very positive effect on economic growth in this neighbourhood. On the other hand, local residents would be looking at five to six years of intense construction in their backyards, year-round.

Still, good things often come at a price and that price sometimes includes inconvenience. Perhaps winning the Pan Am Games for 2015 is an inconvenient price we should be willing to pay. Watch for the official announcement this fall. Here's hoping we get the Pan Am Games!



Site designer's drawing of one view of the proposed Pan American Games locale includes an historic building on the right that once housed the widely revered Canary Restaurant.

Annual Corktown

BBQ

is a Go!

Planning is already underway for the Annual Corktown BBQ. As you're reading this, CRBA board members are working their buns off to make this BBQ event the best one ever.

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 26 at Sackville Park from noon to 5 p.m.**

Events Planned

- » Musical entertainment (to be announced)
- » Face painting for the kids
- » Renowned local chef Radford Cook will once again grill up hotdogs, hamburgers and corn-on-the-cob for everyone. Reasonable prices too!
- » Plus, John Libby's incomparable fundraising auction of unique donated items.
- » Licensed for beer and wine only

Mark the date on your calendar now – then come on out, meet your neighbours, chat under the trees and enjoy a relaxing day.

Watch for more details about this major CRBA event in the September issue of The Corktownier!

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Renovated



Photo courtesy of Ontario Heritage Trust

Earlier this year, over the course of three months, the Ontario Heritage Trust completed a renovation project on the interior of the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse at 106 Trinity St.

The main objective of the schoolhouse renovation was to refurbish the interior finishes and update the facility to help better accommodate its use as a provincially significant heritage site, a public museum and a conference and special events venue.

The main access to the building was opened up to create a more formal entry hall. A new reception and display counter was designed by the Trust and was installed in the refurbished Centre Hall. Carpet tiles were removed from the Centre Hall to reveal the wood plank floor

beneath, which was refinished. New lighting was added.

The kitchen and office were renovated to better accommodate their uses. The washrooms were refurbished and made more accessible. The decorative finishes in the West Hall were updated, including refinishing the wooden plank floor. Some exterior work has also recently been completed. A new flagstone path was created at the main entrance with the stone work continuing seamlessly into the interior entrance hall. Finally, new exterior lighting and signage were added and the gardens were refreshed for the season. A new interpretive display is being installed in the Centre Hall detailing the history of the schoolhouse and the surrounding community.

Over the last 150 years, many important milestones have been celebrated at this historic building that so beautifully reflects Toronto's earliest architectural style. We're so lucky to have it in Corktown – so take a moment, when the site is open for tours, to wander through and see for yourself how it's been transformed.

West Don Lands Construction Update

Sheri DeCarlo, Manager, Project Communications, WATERFRONToronto

Significant progress has been made on constructing the area's flood protection landform, which will become Don River Park, with 75 per cent of it now complete. There are on average 150 to 200 trucks per day at the site supplying the more than

400,000 cubic metres of soil which are required to construct the flood protection landform and related earthworks depending on weather and availability. Construction of the new pedestrian ramp is also well underway. The new ramp has been

designed to bring pedestrians from River Street to the Eastern overpass to replace the existing pedestrian ramp which is too low for vehicular traffic on new River Street. Mill Street is expected to be substantially complete by the end of the summer.

Community Police Liaison Committee Report

by Philip Stoop (CRBA board member)

Town Hall Highlights

On May 14th, 51 Division hosted a town hall meeting at Ryerson University. The guest speaker was Police Chief William Blair. The town hall turned out to be an informative evening with much discussion involving current events and local issues. Most questions put forward by the public were answered by Chief Blair himself. Blair noted he is very familiar with the Corktown area since he headed 51 Division from 1995 until 2000 – and Regent Park is where he first started as a Constable in 1974. What follows are a few of the evening's highlights:

Search for new Police Cars

In 2011, Ford will discontinue production of the Crown Victoria, the main police cruiser we're all familiar with. The search is now on for a replacement vehicle. A study was undertaken to pool the requirements of police officers and to obtain input from community stakeholders. Modern police cruisers do more than just chase bad guys. Besides getting officers to the scene quickly and safely, the main function of a police car is that of a mobile office. Many cubicle dwellers can no doubt relate to officers who type queries and reports by the roadside in cramped conditions. The new police cars will also need to be reliable and easy to clean - preferably with a floor drain hole in the back when difficult customers make a mess!

911 Phone Alternatives

People can often be intimidated by crime in their neighbourhood. They may feel isolated and be afraid to step forward as a witness to crimes, or to call 911. Please remember, the police do not necessarily have to come to your house, just in case you're afraid the Crown Victorias will raise too many eyebrows. So here are a couple of alternatives:

Instead of calling 911, call **Crime Stoppers** (416-808-TIPS) or the **Community Response Unit** at 51 Division (416-808-5119).

The police cannot fight crime alone, they need witnesses. In an ideal world multiple people come forward or the whole neighbourhood steps up – then there are no personal repercussions, and crime can be dealt with far more effectively.

Aggressive Panhandling

Some residents have noticed an increase in aggressive soliciting for money. This seems to be one of those urban problems where the police are limited in the legal means to crack down effectively. And, in any case, it's one of those problems where a hard stance like jail terms would not do much to solve the underlying issues.

Unfortunately, many of the panhandlers in our area have mental health and/or drug problems. They are often unable to work and have no fixed address so they don't show up

in court when issued a ticket under the Safe Streets Act. In most cases, city services are better equipped to deal with them. Programs like 'Streets to Homes' have had success in getting people off the streets, but obviously much more is needed.

Let's hope the councilors who were present at this recent CPLC meeting were paying attention and are not leaving this to the police alone to fix. Meanwhile, aggressive panhandling can be reported to the Community Response Unit at 51 Division. (416-808-5119)

Security Cameras

There are only 24 police cameras in the city, with no immediate increase in numbers planned. On one hand, residents often see them as an invasion of privacy, but after a trial period, most do not want them removed. Cameras are very much a balancing act, and the most effective crime prevention is still to have officers physically on the streets.

Recently, private cameras have become cheaper with improved image quality. Two tips if you consider installing one: First, think of your neighbours' privacy: not many people like having a camera pointed at their windows. Second, make sure there is signage as a deterrent - preventing a crime from happening in the first place is always the best outcome.

Advertise in The Corktownier! Buy Three Ads – Get One Free!

The Corktownier – recently redesigned by a few industrious members on your 2009 CRBA Board – is published quarterly, and distributed free of charge to all homes and businesses within the Corktown area which spans from the DVP on the east, to Berkeley St. on the west; and from the south side of Shuter St. down to Front Street.

Distribution is approximately 1,400 – and growing quickly – as more and more new residents and businesses are drawn to this vital and quickly-expanding area of downtown.

In order for any community to thrive, it's vital to promote businesses and services within our own area so that residents can make an informed decision to Shop Local.

Why not promote your business in the next issue of The Corktownier? Costs are reasonable and here's the best part – buy three ads, you'll get the fourth one free of charge!

Advertising subscriptions are now available! Contact Maria Hazel (CRBA board member) at 416-364-3730.

Please Note

Residents and business owners are encouraged to submit articles of interest for publication in the newsletter. Submit your articles for The Corktownier to: ing.blueeyes@sympatico.ca. All submissions may be subject to editing.

Help the police do their job

Register your bicycle!

Summer is here, and it's time to make sure your bicycle is registered with the police. This will greatly assist in recovery if your 'iron steed' is stolen.

Two options to register

- » Fill out the attached paper form, then take it to your nearest police station or mail it to Toronto Police Service Headquarters, 40 College St. Toronto, ON M5G 2J3
- » On-line registration is available at www.torontopolice.on.ca. Scroll down the screen and click on the drawing of the bicycle on the right side that says "bicycle registration". Then fill out the form and hit "submit".

Bicycle Registration and Theft Prevention

RETAIN THIS PORTION
FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS

Serial Number

Make

Model

REMEMBER TO KEEP
A COPY OF YOUR SALES RECEIPT



RETURN TO
Toronto Police Service
40 College Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Serial Number

Make

Model

Colour of frame

Name

Address

Postal Code

Telephone Number

Shop Local and Save Big

Introducing the Corktown Advantage Card!



Shop In Your Community and Save In Your Community! That's the idea behind a very smart decision by the CRBA to issue membership cards when a resident or business joins the Corktown Residents and Business Association.

The CRBA's Mission Statement says: "The Association exists to enhance the quality of residential and business life, to promote and market Corktown, and to act as a voice for the community." Current CRBA board members are working hard to raise awareness of the organization and to attract new members from both the business and residential population.

Corktown Advantage Cards will promote businesses by offering local patrons discounts and special rewards for shopping locally. Local participating businesses will be posted on the CRBA website at www.corktown.ca where you'll find links to their sites. Businesses will also be issued a sign to post in their front windows indicating their participation in the program.

In order to enjoy the benefits of the Corktown Advantage Card, simply sign up as a CRBA member. Only Corktown residents and business owners are eligible to join. A 12-month CRBA membership costs \$12 per resident and \$24 per business owner. But depending on when you join, the card is prorated. So if you wish to join now for August, the 2009 card will only cost residents \$5.00 or businesses \$10.00. Think \$1.00/month per resident and \$2.00/month for businesses. What a great deal!

Why not join the CRBA today and start saving money by shopping locally! With your help we continue to unite our community and keep our local economy healthy.

To join the CRBA and find out more, please contact Maria Hazel (Membership/Advertising) 463 King Street East, 416-364-3730.

Don't miss these Corktown meetings!

You're concerned about what's happening in the neighbourhood, so be sure to attend the Corktown Residents and Business Association meetings. Special speakers have been lined up to keep us on track regarding on-going changes in the area, and new ways to deal with problems we often face on a daily basis. Bring your questions – bring your concerns – and speak up.

All CRBA meetings begin at 7pm, first Tuesday of every month except for August. The meetings are held in the back room of the Dominion on Queen, at Queen St. and Sumach.

UPCOMING CRBA MEETINGS:

July 7, 2009

Discussion of local issues

August 2009

No Meeting

September 1, 2009

Go Green and Save Money

Learn how to reduce household expenses and 'go green' at the same time. A Windfall Ecology Centre representative with Green Communities Canada will make a presentation on how one can take advantage of grants from the Government of Canada's Eco-Action program. This invaluable program shows home owners how to reduce their impact on the environment and, at the same time, save money on household expenses. What with a recession still chomping at the edges of our pocketbooks, saving money is exactly what we're looking for!

October 6, 2009

No Speaker Booked Yet

Streetcar Development Update

Streetcar's construction in Corktown has been weathering the storms, literally. Persevering through the rainfall over the last few weeks, we continue advancing our foundation efforts.

Our excavation and shoring stages are complete, and we are making headway with finalizing our below-grade work. Our goal is to be out of the ground in the next six weeks on all three Corktown sites. We believe this milestone to be achievable and look forward to being able to put the

more challenging and inconvenient stages of below grade construction behind us – for all of our sakes. Once out of the ground, the focus will be on seeing the structural elements taking shape, with the majority of work soon beginning to take place within the building interiors.

As we move ahead, our plans include optimizing the use of our existing parking facilities, along with other creative solutions, to minimize the traffic impact of necessary site vehicles and equipment – this is an operational priority for us.

Residential sales continue to be strong and there is encouraging interest in the commercial spaces by independent retailers. Completion of our nearby projects on River

Street and Queen Street East will allow us to focus all our direct Streetcar resources on advancing our Corktown projects, and in the process, help expedite construction.

Construction has not always been easy, however we are genuinely pleased and appreciate the support and assistance offered at key moments along the way. As the weather improves, we hope to make significant strides towards bringing our projects to fruition in Corktown.

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer and encourage you to continue to contact us with any comments or questions.

All the best from the Streetcar Development Team.

..... Advertisement

CORKTOWN ...

IT'S MY HOME TOO

With the recent changes in the real estate market it's important to have the assistance of someone you can trust if you're thinking of making a move. I've lived in Corktown for eight years, and I've monitored the market shifts in the downtown East side closely. I'm always happy to offer you my knowledge and assistance if you're thinking of selling a property or looking for investment opportunities.

CONTACT ME FOR YOUR FREE HOME EVALUATION

**BEFORE MAKING YOUR NEXT MOVE,
TALK TO A NEIGHBOUR & A FRIEND WHO KNOWS.**



DAVID MACLEAN

Sales Representative

416.637.8000

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Community
REALTY**

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BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

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