

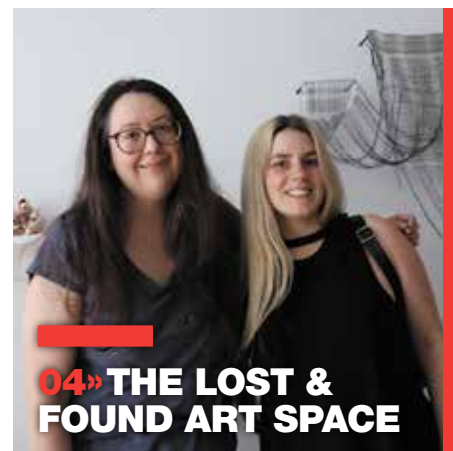
# THE CORKTOWN NEWS

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## BUILDING UP

# A watchlist of our changing landscapes.

By Edward Row



WILKINS AVENUE, APRIL 28TH 2023

Changes on Wilkin's Avenue, Preserve Corktown pushes back on Brad Lamb's plans and the Foundry is site leasing parking spaces.

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# New CRBA Board

**WE ARE EXCITED TO  
INTRODUCE THE NEW  
CRBA BOARD MEMBERS**

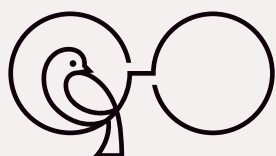
By CRBA

At its annual general meeting, held on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, Corktown voted in a new Board of Directors. There were several board members up for re-election, as well as a slate of fresh faces to the board.

Following the AGM, the new Board put forward a motion to elect their four required Director positions (President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary). The motion passed unanimously. This diverse group of talented residents and business owners is committed to supporting the community. Get to know your CRBA!

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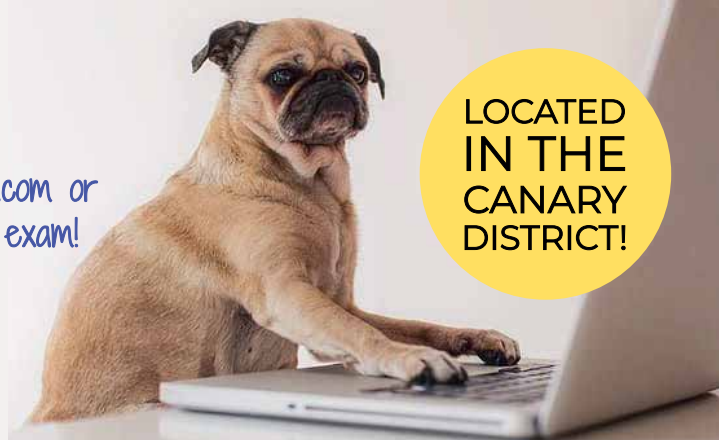
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## Acknowledgement

The Corktown News acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

# Happy Spring Corktown!

*By Chris Moise*

It has officially been over 100 days since I started my term as City Councillor for Ward 13. I am so proud to share the work happening in our community in this space.

The future Corktown Off Leash Area (OLA) at the western portion of Underpass Park, bound by St. Lawrence Street, Eastern Avenue and the Eastern Avenue Diversion has an updated timeline! Park construction will proceed in two phases, with timelines subject to change. The complete OLA should be complete by 2026.

There will also be an all-way stop created at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Rolling Mills Road, which once installed will provide a safer connection to the OLA for residents and four-legged friends alike!

I'd also like to acknowledge that the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, the oldest free school in Toronto, and is celebrating its 175th year since it was originally

constructed. Restored by architect Eric Arthur and local citizens in 1972, the building continues to stand to this day as a historic site and museum. I want to thank and recognize the current Schoolhouse staff, as well as the Ontario Heritage Trust who operate the site on such an incredible anniversary.

Thank you Corktown for letting me represent you at the City, and please don't hesitate to reach out to my office for any issue, by email at [councillor.moise@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor.moise@toronto.ca), phone at (416) 392-7903, or SMS at (647) 424-3257.



## The Corktown News

### CIRCULATION

**Delivered:** 4 times per year  
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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!

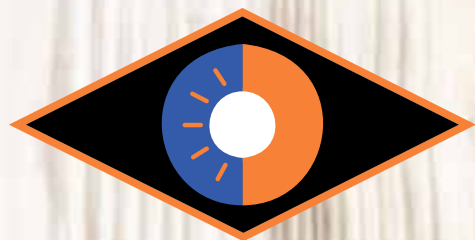
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**email:** [info@corktown.ca](mailto:info@corktown.ca)  
**Facebook:** CorktownTO  
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### NEXT CRBA MEETINGS

**June 12**  
Join your neighbours at 7PM to find out what's happening in our wonderful neighbourhood.

Dates and times above are subject to change. Check [www.corktown.ca](http://www.corktown.ca) for updates, location and agendas.

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# Rachael's Story

By Janine Manning & Angel Miller, Anishnawbe Health Foundation

For Rachael Leduc, Anishnawbe Health Toronto can be described as a great, old tree deeply rooted in Mother Earth.

Rachael, who grew up in Northern Ontario disconnected from her Indigenous culture, always felt a spiritual pull towards Mother Earth and creation. Rachael, who has suffered from panic attacks and PTSD, has been a client of Anishnawbe Health for 15 years.

"The mental health counselling I receive at Anishnawbe Health helps me to deal with all that life has thrown at me. I have learned to navigate rough waters, to slow down – to cope with stress and anxiety. These are gifts I am extremely grateful to Anishnawbe Health for," says Rachael.

The cultural programming at Anishnawbe Health connected Rachael to sacred teachings, provided access to ceremonies, and helped her grow spiritually, deepening Rachael's knowledge and appreciation for her

ancestry and Indigeneity. Today, Rachael shares these teachings with her children and grandchild.



Photo Courtesy: Tynan Studios

Going to Anishnawbe Health – it's like going to church for me, a sense of respect, wisdom love, honesty, truth, bravery

"The Healers helped my children and grandson to receive their Spirit names and colours from ancestors and Creator in ceremony. When my daughters became women, they were taught about moon time and given other traditional teachings about womanhood to guide them on their life's journey. My grandson has been going to AHT with me since he was 3 months old," comments Rachael.

Rachael's children have all attended the Oshkii Okitchiidak (Young Warriors) youth program at Anishnawbe Health Toronto, which provides counselling support, an opportunity to connect with other Indigenous youth in the city, advocacy with schools, and access to cultural programming.

When Rachel's grandson reached school age, they were referred by AHT to a land-based learning program where, as a family, they learned about plants, traditional medicines, and participated

in ceremonies. "It was a very positive experience for me, and it has given me confidence as a grandmother knowing that he is starting out life strongly connected to culture and community."

Recently Rachel found out she was borderline diabetic, and she turned to the Diabetes Prevention Program at AHT for support. "I am not alone in dealing with this new diagnosis, I have been supported by the Dietitians, and have access to the Social Worker and Outreach Worker when I need it. The team provides traditional, culturally based programming, community kitchens, and diabetic education.

"Going to Anishnawbe Health – it's like going to church for me, a sense of respect, wisdom love, honesty, truth, bravery, because I was able to face my fears and talk about my feelings and humanity in a place where all the staff and clients come together to help each other and offer judgment free supports. I am very grateful for all the staff and all their hard work and their dedication for helping others."

To find out how you can contribute to the life-changing programming and a vital Indigenous community at Anishnawbe Health Toronto, visit [SupportAnishnawbe.ca](http://SupportAnishnawbe.ca).

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NEW BUSINESS OPENING

# The Lost & Found Art Space

By Nurielle Stern

The Lost & Found Art Space launched in Corktown with its inaugural exhibition 'Other Tigers', which featured 25 artists who contributed to the creation of the new community-oriented gallery. They are proud to announce their grand opening as Toronto's newest art space. Located in Corktown, the gallery aims to provide exhibition space for artists in a city where space is at a premium.

The Lost & Found is a new project space accepting submissions from independent curators, artist-curators, and organizations. Centrally located at 420 Queen St E, The Lost & Found aims to provide exhibition opportunities for emerging and established contemporary artists working in any medium. Founded by local artist Nurielle Stern, The Lost & Found was made possible by the City of Toronto Commercial Space Rehabilitation Grant Program and the gallery launch has been generously supported by Tucker's Pottery Supplies Inc. and by Robert Grant.

The gallery's inaugural exhibition, Other Tigers, opened on Saturday, April 15, 2023. The exhibition features the work of 25 Canadian artists working in a variety of media including interdisciplinary sculpture, photography, printmaking, craft-based media, and painting.

Contributing artists include: David C. Salazar, Marlene Zagdanski, Nicholas Crombach, Helen Liene Dreifelds, Sami Tsang, Phil Pax and Hannah Enkel, Rashmi Baird, Ninat Friedland, Tonya Corkey, Monica Wickeler, Nurielle Stern, Emily K Iseman, Shay Salehi, Erin Candela, Garrett Owen Gilbert, Andrew Rowat, Alice Phieu, Dayna Gedney, Jason Bomers, Keenan O'Toole, Doris Chu, Nadine Maher, Micah Donovan, Timothy Manalo.

The opening reception was well attended with members of the community, neighbours, and arts professionals dropping in or driving in from other municipalities in Ontario, including Hamilton. The exhibition will run from April 15th to May 7th, and will be open by appointment or as posted on the website from noon to 6 pm daily. For more information or to book an appointment please visit [www.tlaf.ca](http://www.tlaf.ca). Admission is free.

The artists in Other Tigers were all involved in the creation of The Lost & Found and were instrumental in every step of the process, from laying the concrete floor to plasma-cutting a sign, painting walls, providing graphic design, hauling things, and offering their support, experience,

The opening reception was well attended with members of the community, neighbours, and arts professionals.

and expertise. Our beautiful hand-cut steel sign was donated by Garrett Owen Gilbert ([burnisland.ca](http://burnisland.ca)).

"We would like to extend our gratitude to all the artists in Other Tigers who were involved in making The Lost & Found possible," says artist and founder Nurielle Stern, "It's amazing to have everyone come together like this. People have really believed in this project."

In addition to exhibitions, The Lost & Found will also host artist-led workshops, including the use of the on-site ceramic studio facilities. These workshops will provide opportunities for members of the community to

engage with artists and learn new skills, while fostering a sense of creativity and collaboration. Along with workshops, other types of events like book-launches and participation in city-wide events like Nuit Blanche will be an important way for the gallery to give back to the community and build lasting relationships.

Our next exhibition is scheduled for July, 2023 and will feature delicate hand-woven illustrations by Elicia SFA ([elyciasfa.com](http://elyciasfa.com)).

For more information, please contact Nurielle Stern at [thelostandfoundto@gmail.com](mailto:thelostandfoundto@gmail.com) or visit [www.tlaf.ca](http://www.tlaf.ca). Instagram: [@thelostandfound\\_to](https://www.instagram.com/thelostandfound_to)



OPENING NIGHT ON SATURDAY APRIL 15, 2023



ARTIST AND FOUNDER, NURIELLE STERN (R)



NEW CRBA BOARD... CONTINUED

**Andre Berman**  
President/Chair & Area Development Delegate



Community enthusiast and resident of Queen Street East since 2011, Andre is the publisher of the bridge newspaper for Toronto's downtown east neighbourhoods. As President, one of his personal goals is to position the CRBA as a community facilitator. This would entail relaying the interests of both residents and businesses to find solutions alongside other stakeholder entities such as developers, Toronto Police Service, nonprofit groups and our municipal/provincial leaders. Open and consistent dialogue is the means to secure a more safe and pleasurable place to live, work and play. His personal interests include heritage and urban development, First Take with Stephen A. Smith and Max Kellerman, and cycling the streets of the city. Favourite foods: Pickled herring and pork schnitzel.

**Coralina Lemos**  
Vice-President & Heritage Lead



Serving as Heritage Lead for the CRBA since 2018, Coralina's goal is to continue efforts that will preserve and safeguard the area's history, its historic and listed buildings. Despite the pandemic, last year, the Corktown neighbourhood witnessed the installation of a new street sign dedicated to Myer Willinsky and following that the reinstallation of our missing Virgin Place street sign—both made possible with the agreement of local residents and businesses.

Currently, there's a CRBA Work Group whose focus is to lead discussion with city and TDSB staff for the improvement of the chain link fence at Inglenook Community High School (details forthcoming). Other heritage projects to be announced. If you have a heritage related concern feel free to contact Coralina.

**Veronica Lasanowski,**  
Fundraiser



A Corktown resident since 2018, Veronica brings strategy, communications and resource development expertise to the CRBA, having worked across various levels of government, intergovernmental systems, and United Nations agencies for 15+ years. Passionate about Corktown's unique cultural and historical heritage, she additionally works as a freelance tour guide and Toronto travel specialist for educational travel companies and corporate hospitality groups. She is working to grow Corktown's reputation as a great place to live, work, learn and play, with special interest in cultivating a sustainability action plan to improve the neighbourhood's approach to environmentalism through a number of green initiatives currently under development.

**Ron Levy**  
Treasurer & Volunteer Coordinator



Ron is a new member of the CRBA Board, but a long-time resident of Corktown. He looks forward to leveraging decades of professional experience communicating and promoting issues that support strong, healthy communities to the well-being of this unique and historic, yet quickly evolving corner of Toronto. In addition to acting as treasurer, he will contribute to efforts that include attracting resources used to bring people together, maintain and improve our local environment, celebrate the successes and lives of past residents, and empower current and future ones to continue making Corktown a great place to call home.

**Kristin Halliwill**  
Secretary & Dogs of Corktown Lead



Kristin Halliwill has been Secretary of the Board for the CRBA for the past two years. She is also co-founder of the Dogs of Corktown advocacy group advocating for a suitable dog off leash facility for the area since 2016 and serves on the Toronto Dog Park Steering Committee. She and her dog Fanny have been members of the Toronto Saint John Ambulance Therapy Dogs team since 2017 visiting seniors homes, schools and businesses throughout the GTA.

**Julianne Chester,**  
Social Media



Julianne Chester moved to Corktown in the spring of 2021. She has been an interim board member since August 2022, and was officially voted in this past March. Julianne works in Wealth Management, but with the CRBA she has been managing the social media accounts. You may also see Julianne around the neighbourhood with either a glass of wine or coffee, but always reading a book.

**Selmin Kara**  
Pollinator Project



Selmin is an Associate Professor of Film and New Media Studies at OCAD University, a Corktown resident since 2014, and new member of CRBA. Having lived in cities like Istanbul and Detroit, she has a deep appreciation of Corktown and its post-industrial, historical fabric. Her academic research is in environmental cinema, so she is also interested in restoring natural habitats, creating pollinator gardens, and using documentary media for generating interest in sustainable futures. Her vision for Corktown is a vibrant district with wildlife corridors and laneway film screenings for community engagement.

**BUILDING UP...** CONTINUED

Toronto is a city of change, and from a global perspective, it's a young city, yet one rich in immigrant history, stories, and diverse cultures. It's gone through many of the similar boom and bust cycles of its counterpart North American cities; destruction and development, modern buildings and old, new voices contesting with the ones that came before. Old voices helping new ones to their feet. From its roots in colonialism to post-war urban sprawl. Corktown has long been front and center of that change, with its connection to the Don River, an area rich with an Indigenous history going back thousands of years, to the locations of early settlements in the region... its link with important industry, later welcoming a diverse set of migrants seeking cheap rents, factories and altruistic institutions, to its scarring for the Richmond/Adelaide overpasses, and beneath those scars eventually emerges, Underpass Park, a beloved public space, new homes and Corktown Common – a jewel in the City's downtown.

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In the years to come, Corktown will welcome a new subway station at the corner of Parliament and King, via the Ontario Line.

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The polishing reverberations of time revise everything in due course, and so the drums march forward. Amongst the changes are a few that may set off reactions in the community.

First up, Wilkins Avenue, currently a collection of 20-row houses, the Corktown News has learned that residents, who formed a group for representation, have collectively accepted a conditional offer of sale at 2.5x market value. This kind of situation is uncommon.

Today Wilkins Ave. sits in what has become to be known as the 'Yellow Belt' - or, for the unfamiliar, untouchable swaths of the city that have long been zoned for single-unit housing. It's shown often in yellow on the maps. It's not typical to swoop up single-unit houses in the yellow belt for development - you have to go through many years, sometimes decades of rezoning. It's costly. Typically those looking to develop opt for areas along avenues, mixed-use areas or former industrial sites that are already zoned, or easier to rezone for multi-unit. These bring high land costs, which makes it a capital-intensive endeavor, but the rezoning battles in the yellow

belt would cost more, to uncertain outcomes. This has long shaped our uneven landscapes. So this is unique. New housing going where housing already is? Interesting. We have learned the purchaser is looking to demolish and develop on Wilkins. Information is sparse, but this is one to keep an eye on. (May 13th update): The 'Yellowbelt' as we knew it is no more: On May 10th City Council voted 18-7 on a policy referred to as EHON. "Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods" - allowing up to 4 units on residential lots city-wide.

In the years to come, Corktown will welcome a new subway station at the corner of Parliament and King, via the Ontario Line. Coming with it, new developments on the First Parliament site - and Doug Ford's provincial conservative party has brought new guidances focused on higher-order transit. Transit Oriented Communities, or TOCs, related to Major Transit Station Areas or MTSAs. With these, the municipality (Toronto) sets out new zoning frameworks in proximity to transit and submits them to the provincial minister for approval or modification. Density targets, population, employment etc. TOCs will bring new homes, commercial and institutional uses, centred around the public transit investment. Sitting just 250 metres away from this future Corktown Station, Wilkins Avenue may very well be a developer getting ahead of the shape of TOCs to come.

However, many of the developments active in Corktown today are not yet part of this - they are remnants of the high demand for housing in the region as our global population becomes more urbanized, migration is high, family unit sizes shrink and it remains a highly lucrative industry for investors seeking appreciation. There is only so long you can sit on a parking lot or a car dealership in the center of Canada's largest city without pressure to evolve. That's what's happened at Parliament and King. Yet, simultaneously, we are seeing historical buildings seemingly make way for parking lots. Here's a rundown.

Corktowners will be familiar with the fire that occurred at 471-475 Queen St E., the site of 143-year-old historical buildings that burned down in 2020, supposedly still being investigated, as arson has been confirmed. Preserve Corktown has been pressuring (Brad) Lamb Dev. Corp's plans to build a 15-storey building on the property, to some success. A new modified proposal has been submitted, and in a positive change, no vehicle access will be available on Queen, retaining the street frontages. This is excellent

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The polishing reverberations of time revise everything in due course, and so the drums march forward. Amongst the changes are a few that may set off reactions in the community.

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for pedestrian activity. Vehicles will instead access the site through the rear alley, via Sumach. 146 units are proposed, up from 143 with a greater mix of unit sizes, 10% three-bedroom, 15% two-bedroom, but reserves the right to change.

Lamb Dev. Corp is heavily active in the Corktown neighbourhood. On the western edge of Corktown, at 296-300 King St E, the corner of Berkley and King, they are proposing a 34-storey building with 364 units. This one is likely to go through revisions as well, though first intentions seem to be to keep the heritage retail strip intact.

A block and a half north, at 102 Berkley St., Lamb Dev. Corp has proposed a 20-storey building with 181 units. This site is currently a one-storey luxury furniture store.

Lamb Dev. Corp has yet another Corktown application at 130-134 Parliament St., and 529 Richmond St. E., the site is currently row houses, a small building and a parking lot, auto-spa. This time they are proposing a 44-storey building with 327 units.

Moving over to 550 Adelaide St E., a Volkswagen dealership and parking structure sit on the northeast corner of Berkley and Adelaide. Here, a 29-storey development is proposed with 240 units. The unit breakdown is 137 one-bedroom, 73 two-bedroom, and 30 three-bedroom. It will be condos, with what appears to be a car dealership and auto shop at grade, which makes sense considering the site's current use, but isn't exactly a neighbourhood amenity.

Back to the northeast, a development consuming most of the city block is proposed at 161, 167 Parliament St., 351, 363, 371, 373 Queen St. E. and 80, 90, 92, 94 Power St. This is where the Shoppers Drug Mart and a number of other buildings currently sit. A 27-storey building with setbacks at 10, and 13 storeys with a large, mixed-use podium is being considered on this site by ONE Properties. 459 condo units, 8 rental replacement units and 38,800 sqft. of retail use. Including a second-floor grocer-type amenity.

Moving back east, we have learned that the Foundry site, which was sold to a company associated with the De Gasperis family, and partially demolished by the province in a much-maligned deal may be set to become a parking lot for at least two years. Word is that representatives of the site have been leasing spaces to local businesses. All the rush to demo, for a parking lot?

A few blocks north at 28 River St., 550 Queen St E, the site of the Beer Store and a heritage office building an 18-storey mixed-use development is proposed, retaining the office use and designation of 544-550 as buildings of heritage cultural value. 380 units with the majority of the massing facing Queen St. E.

Just a bit north at 39 River St. an application is in for a 3-storey stacked townhouse rental building with 10 units, which would replace the current house on the property.

Further up the street, at 77 River St. and 7 Labatt Ave., a 38-storey tower and podium with 295 condos, and 252 rentals is proposed. This one has been working its way through various stages and owners for a while. Current uses of the building are artists, offices, and a mix of other tenants. Parts of the building on this site are over 110 years old, and it's also the location of the company that manufactured and installed Toronto's first-ever traffic light system, Crouse-Hinds which was installed on August 8th, 1925 at Yonge and Bloor.

Oh, how things change. 🌀





# Then & Now

## BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, QUEEN AND RIVER BRANCH (1910-1998)

By Coralina Lemos, Historian and Author, corktownhistory.com

Whenever I stand at the Queen Street Viaduct looking towards Corktown, the one building that always stands out from my vantage point is a buff brick, two-storey structure at the junction of Queen and River Streets.

Identified as the Bank of Nova Scotia it first opened two doors west from its current location at 533 Queen Street East in 1910, while plans for the construction of the current building got underway. Increasing the number of bank branches throughout the city was part of an expansion plan from head office following its move from Halifax to Toronto ten years earlier. Overseeing the financial day-to-day operations of the branch was Norman W. Berkinshaw, a ten-year bank veteran.

“...the aim of the directors and management has always been to [make] the Bank of Nova Scotia a safe depository for the savings of the public ...” (1910, The Globe)

Although the neighbourhood was already serviced by a Bank of Toronto branch at Queen and Parliament Streets, the future of a Nova Scotia branch at Queen was well positioned as the city got ready for the construction of a “high level bridge over the Don,” also known as the Queen Street Viaduct that was completed in 1911. To protect the passage from flooding, the grounds on both sides of the bridge were elevated and its steel construction accommodated double tracks for the weight of newer streetcars. The upgrade also helped to increase passenger travel along the King and Queen Street corridors.



Following the purchase of a vacant lot architects Andrew Sharp and James H. Brown, business partners, were commissioned to design a building in the Edwardian Classical style that was completed by 1912. Initially known as the ‘Don Branch’ its name was later changed to the ‘Queen and River Branch’.

“...officers found guilty of immoral practices, or visiting gambling houses or saloons will be dismissed...” (1902, Manual of Rules and Regulations)

After years of servicing the financial needs of individuals and businesses the Bank of Nova Scotia at 544 Queen

Street East closed in 1998. The building was ‘heritage listed’ in 2019 and is now subject to Ontario’s Bill 23 rules. Like many throughout the city it will be removed from the municipality’s heritage register unless it is ‘designated’.

As of August of 2019, River Street Endodontics is the site’s newest occupant. Dr. Sara Markovic is a solo practitioner specializing in root canal therapy, microsurgery, and management of trauma. She chose to open her practice in Corktown due to the area’s growth and office location. Markovic says, “We love the community and greenspace nearby.”



photo courtesy: Toronto Archives

# K Club

By Glen Bullock

Since 1921, the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club has been dedicated to working with and enhancing the lives of children, youth, and their families.

*The snack was late.*

*Normally there was an older man named Rick that delivered the food—every weekday, just after three o’clock. He’d pull up in an old, tired-looking school bus, his forehead covered in sweat. He’d give a few honks and then swing the doors open and hand Myles a crate of food.*

*It was one of those big plastic crates you see in the supermarket that holds loaves of bread, but this had pre-bagged snacks on it. Things like pizza pockets, or beef patties, or slices of fruit.*

*But today he was late.*

\*\*\*

*Since 1921, the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club has been dedicated to working with and enhancing the lives of children, youth, and their families.*

*The Club takes a preventative approach to tackling a broad range of issues facing young people in our city today, including child poverty, youth education, and youth violence.*

\*\*\*

*The children sat around the classroom, yelling, grabbing onto each other. Getting restless.*

*“Keep them busy, will you?” Michelle said to Myles, and then went out into the hall to try calling Rick again. And Myles stood in front of the classroom, both hands on his hips.*

*“What’s the snack today?” one of the little girls asked. She had long braids running down her back.*

*“It’s a surprise,” Myles replied. And the girl raised her eyebrows, giving him an unimpressed look.*

*“Where’s the food?” another boy asked. “I’m hungry!”*



# Undercover Archeology

## AT CORKTOWN STATION

By James Moore, Metrolinx senior communications advisor

Two tent-like structures on the site of the future Corktown Station are keeping the elements at bay while archaeologists comb the site for potential historic artifacts.



Sheltered from the elements by a pair of oversized tents, a team of licenced archeologists meticulously work at the corner of King and Berkeley streets, the future site of Corktown Station. As one of 15 stops on the 15.6-kilometre Ontario Line subway, work is being completed to comb the area for potential historic artifacts before construction begins.

The site is historically and culturally significant and located on the traditional and treaty territories of many Indigenous Nations. Indigenous peoples have been living in this area for thousands of years, predating the establishment of European settlements on this land. Indigenous people continue to be stewards of these lands and maintain enduring relationships to their traditional territory.

Upper Canada's first Parliament Buildings were built on the site in the late 1700's and in the mid-1800's the site served as the location of a jail. The Consumers' Gas Company would later move onto the land and build facilities to manufacture gas. With the original structures long since demolished, the site became home to businesses like a car dealership, car wash and public parking lot.

Teams of archaeological experts will document and appropriately commemorate findings as part of Corktown Station, which will put about 26,400 people within a short distance of the subway and connect to popular surface routes like the King Street streetcar line and the Parliament Street and Cherry Street TTC bus routes.

Upper Canada's first Parliament Buildings were built on the site in the late 1700's and in the mid-1800's the site served as the location of a jail.

The tents are of industrial proportions and have peaks that crest site perimeter fencing that lines the sidewalks along Berkeley, Parliament, King and Front streets. The tents are constructed with a sturdy metal frame that is covered by a flexible, durable material and are all enough for machines like excavators and giraffe-like boom lifts to operate inside. The tents shield the soil from snow, rain and wind; keeping the area dry and warm so teams can spend more time investigating rather than managing muddy or frozen conditions. The spaces enearth the white peaks of the tents are also brightly lit so any artifacts can easily be located as teams carefully dig down into a deeply historic part of Toronto.

Completing the archeological studies will allow tunnelling and station construction teams to move in and get to work. Work for the Ontario Line will continue to prepare sites for major construction throughout 2023.

Visit [Metrolinx.com/OntarioLine](https://www.metrolinx.com/ontarioline) for more information on the project.

### K CLUB... CONTINUED

Myles could practically hear the kids' stomachs grumbling from across the classroom. So he thought for a moment, looking back and forth, then he made his way to the table in front of him.

\*\*\*

The Boys and Girls Club (K Club) operates multiple program sites across Toronto's inner-city; including in the Regent Park and Cabbagetown communities.

The after-school program, for kids grades three to six, includes a healthy snack each day, followed by homework club, sports, and arts programming.

\*\*\*

"Hey, do any of you want some of these?" Myles asked, holding out his palm.

And the girl with the braids looked down at his empty hand, confused.  
"What the—" another boy said.

"No? Fine, suit yourselves," Myles said, then pretended to pick up a tiny object out of his hand, about the size of a grape, and placed it in his mouth. He bit down, making a large chewing motion with his cheeks, and then he tilted his head back and swallowed. Gulp.

"You're weird," the girl said.

Myles smiled and turned to another table. He stood in front of the group of kids and picked up another tiny, transparent grape out of his hand, and popped it into his mouth. "Mmm, these are good," he said.

The children looked at him with the same confusion.

Then he took another one and threw it up in the air, catching it in his mouth and smiling.

"Anyone want one? They're really good." Myles called, looking around. He was walking back and forth around the room, holding out his hand, hoping that his plan would work.

\*\*\*

Through their involvement in the program, disadvantaged children and youth get access to better resources and are able to develop their leadership skills so that they can contribute to and participate in their community.

\*\*\*

Finally, at one of the tables to his right, a little boy with a mohawk made eye contact with Myles and stuck his arm. So Myles shuffled over - he pinched his index finger and thumb together, slowly picking up the

pretend grape and placing it in the boy's hand.

The boy looked down at his own palm, then back up at Myles. And Myles smiled and nodded in encouragement. Then the boy placed it in his mouth and started chewing, keeping eye contact with Myles.

"Good, huh?" Myles said.

The boy smiled, trying to hold in his laughter.

"Anyone else want one?" Myles called.

Another little girl on the other side of the room put her hand up. So Myles ran over and opened his palm. She picked up a grape and held it to her eye to examine it, then she tossed it up in the air and caught it in her mouth.

"Nice one!" Myles said, watching her chew.

"I want one," a boy called from another table. So Myles underhand tossed a grape across the room and the boy jumped up, catching it in his mouth.

Then all of a sudden hands started going up all around. "I want one! I want one! Over here!"

Myles walked around, dropping the grapes into open palms, or throwing them to different tables. The kids caught them and shoved them into their mouths. They were chewing and making loud 'mmm' sounds, rubbing their stomachs.

Lola had her mouth open, chomping down in one big circular motion. Hani crushed the grape in his hand and started drinking it, sucking the juice from his palm. Damien was eating what appeared to be a giant hamburger - Myles wasn't sure how he got it - but he had both hands wrapped around the burger, biting into it, spilling fake ketchup down his shirt.

Everyone was chewing and swallowing, rubbing their bellies, holding in their laughter.

"Throw me one Myles! Over here! Can I have another?"

Then finally Michelle walked back into the room, and everyone froze. "Snack is here."



# TDSB Trustee Update

By Deborah Williams

The start of my 4-year term as Trustee for TDSB Ward 10 (University Rosedale and Toronto Centre) has been full of celebrations and challenges. One example of the amazing work being done in our schools is the student nutrition program at Lord Dufferin Public School. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, staff and parents - students have a nutritious breakfast and lunch. The pandemic and inflation have deepened economic disparities and food insecurity. TDSB is

part of growing advocacy for a national school food program as essential for students and families.

During the pandemic, the TDSB spent over \$70 million on measures like smaller class sizes which were not funded by the Ministry of Education. As the TDSB faces a deficit of over \$60 million for the 2023-2024 school year, it is more important than ever that pandemic-related costs be reimbursed by the province to stop cuts to staffing. The Ministry plans to end funding of \$31.5 million which is 485 staff (including teachers, social workers, child and youth workers, caretakers, and vice-principals). Cutting that funding now during the need for pandemic recovery seems reckless and harmful to students. We need properly funded public education.

Visit my TDSB web page for more updates at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward10>.



# Towards Cleaner and Greener

## CORKTOWN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SPRING INITIATIVES

On April 22, the Corktown Residents and Business Association organized a Corktown Community Clean Up with the support of the City of Toronto and The Neighbourhood Group.

The clean up was part of a neighbourhood strategy aimed at transforming some of Corktown's more challenging areas into cleaner, greener, more sustainable public spaces. A registered event for the 2023 Clean Toronto Together spring cleanup, the goal of the event was to improve the well-being of the Corktown community by improving spaces and safety through community action.

On April 29, the free tree giveaway took place as part of the City of Toronto's Neighbourhood Planting Program. Building on the Pollinator Grant awarded for our Sackville Playground Pollinator Garden project, the goal of this event was to educate local

area residents on opportunities for increasing green canopy in Toronto's downtown East core in support of a move towards improved sustainability awareness, activities, and community engagement.

And lastly, save the date! This Victoria Day, May 22, join us at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse for a green block party at which we'll be celebrating what makes Corktown one of Toronto's most unique neighbourhoods, where old is increasingly meeting new. In 2023, the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation and Ontario Heritage Trust is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Schoolhouse, and we plan on leveraging this space as an opportunity for green advocacy while providing light refreshments and entertainment for resident Corktowners. Be sure to look out for updates in the coming weeks, and we hope to see you there!

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# Gusto 501's Burrata Vignarola

By Pasquale Russe, Chef de Cuisine

Springtime is here, and what better way to celebrate the season's arrival than with a delicious and refreshing recipe like Gusto 501's Burrata Vignarola?



This Italian-inspired dish is a perfect combination of creamy burrata cheese, tender asparagus, sweet spring peas, hearty fava beans, tangy artichokes, and refreshing mint. The dish is finished with a light dressing of lemon juice and olive oil, making it a flavorful and healthy option for any meal of the day. Whether you're looking for a light lunch or an impressive appetizer, Burrata Vignarola by our Chef de Cuisine, Pasquale Russo is a must-try recipe that will leave your taste buds wanting more.

## Ingredients

- » 1 pc Burrata
- » 1 bunch asparagus
- » 200g spring peas
- » 200g fava beans
- » 3 pieces jarred artichokes
- » 5 leaves mint
- » 15ml lemon juice
- » 75ml olive oil
- » Salt to taste

## Method

1. Remove the fava beans from the shell and set them aside.
2. Cut the asparagus on a bias into 2-3 cm pieces.
3. Fill a medium pot with water and put it on high heat. Bring it to a boil.
4. Once the water has come to a boil, lightly season it with salt.
5. Add the spring peas, asparagus, and fava beans to the boiling water for 1-2 minutes until tender.
6. Strain all the ingredients and put them into a bowl filled with ice and water to cool.

7. Once cooled, remove all the ingredients from the ice bath and put them into a small mixing bowl. Tear the mint leaves and add them to the mix.
8. Add 50 mL of the olive oil and the lemon juice to the bowl. Season with salt and mix well.
9. Cut the artichokes into quarters and add them to the mix.
10. Place all the ingredients on a serving plate and place the burrata ball in the middle of the plate.
11. Pour the remaining olive oil on top of the burrata and lightly season with salt.
12. Serve with toasted bread

While the Burrata Vignarola may not be currently featured on our menu, we have served it before and may offer it as a special in the future. If you're craving even more delicious Italian cuisine, we invite you to visit our sister restaurant, Café ZUZU, just a few blocks from Gusto 501 at 555 Dundas Street. At ZUZU, you'll find Italian classics with a modern twist, complemented by Gusto 54's lively and nostalgic nod to 1950's Italy. ZUZU restaurant and bar are an exciting addition to ZUZU Café, which opened in the fall of 2022. The café offers fluffy pastries, pizza, sandwiches, espresso martinis, and more, with a co-working area and bottle shop on-site.

Stay up-to-date on Gusto 501's current hours and menu offerings by following us on Instagram @gusto501. And remember to check out our newly launched Gusto 501 brunch, available from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Happy spring!

# Real Estate Report

## CORKTOWN, DISTILLERY & CANARY DISTRICT

By Jonathan Edwards, Re/Max Urban Toronto Team Realty

### Sales

From January 1st to April 1st: There were no freehold homes sold during this period of time within our stated boundaries. We have had 40 condo units sold since the beginning of 2023. For bachelor units, we only had one sale at \$478,500. We had 13 one-bedroom units sell. The highest one-bedroom unit sold for \$683k while the least expensive sold for \$525k, averaging out to just over \$575k. There were 7 one plus den units sold during the same period. The highest selling one plus den sold for 873k, while the least expensive sold for 625k, for an average of \$724k. For 2-bedroom units, we had 9 sales, with the highest being \$1,035,000 and the least expensive at \$650k, the average worked out to just over \$840k. For 2-bedroom and den units, we had 8 sales, with the highest topping out at \$1,750,000 and the lowest sale at \$715,000, which works out to \$995k on average. There were only 2 three-bedroom sales for this time period at \$1,150,000 and just over \$901k.

### Expectations

The sales volume for the last 3 months was somewhat expected. We knew, given the current landscape of the market, that the sales volume for Q1 would be less than in years past. The most extreme month we saw this year in comparison was February, sales volume was down a whopping 47% from February 2022, and prices were down 18% from February 2022. This is due to the fact that February 2022 was the peak for the market, which was the last month before the first rate hike. Generally, we always stampede to purchase right before the first rate hike takes place.

Historically, real estate prices increase by 4% per year. Two factors are responsible for this: the cost of new housing, which is always higher than resale due to

Bidding wars are back on condos and homes, and we are starting to see more and more competition.

inflation, and immigration, which increases the demand for housing. Over the past 3 years, we have seen an increase of 30-40% followed by a decrease of 15-25%. The net effect is an average annual increase of 5%, slightly above the long-term average.

### Future

The rest of 2023 looks bright. Inflation is down to 5.2% from its peak of 8.1% in June, and we believe it will continue to trend downward. A direct effect of that was the Bank of Canada pausing rate increases, which has given current buyers a boost of confidence and optimism. Bond yields have also taken a beating lately, which directly affects fixed-term mortgages. We have seen them come down close to half a point, with some lenders predicting you could see fixed rates in the low 4% range by April.

The result of all of these great signs... Bidding wars are back on condos and homes, and we are starting to see more and more competition. Of course, anything can happen if the Bank of Canada takes an unexpected different direction. But if inflation continues to trend downward, then expect variable rates to come down later this year, and fixed rates to come down further, which means a strong rebound for the rest of 2023.

For any further real estate questions, don't hesitate to come down to our office at 502 King St. East or you can reach me at [jonathan@remaxurbantoronto.com](mailto:jonathan@remaxurbantoronto.com)

# Volunteer today!

Missed your opportunity to be part of the board? That is perfectly alright.

We are always in the need for volunteers like yourselves to manage the various committees. We have such a busy community with so much

going on that we can always use your talents. Whether it be for the parks, the newspaper, development issues or any of the others, you could be the driving force behind new initiatives that you want to see blossom in Corktown.

Let us know what you would like to champion at [info@corktown.ca](mailto:info@corktown.ca).





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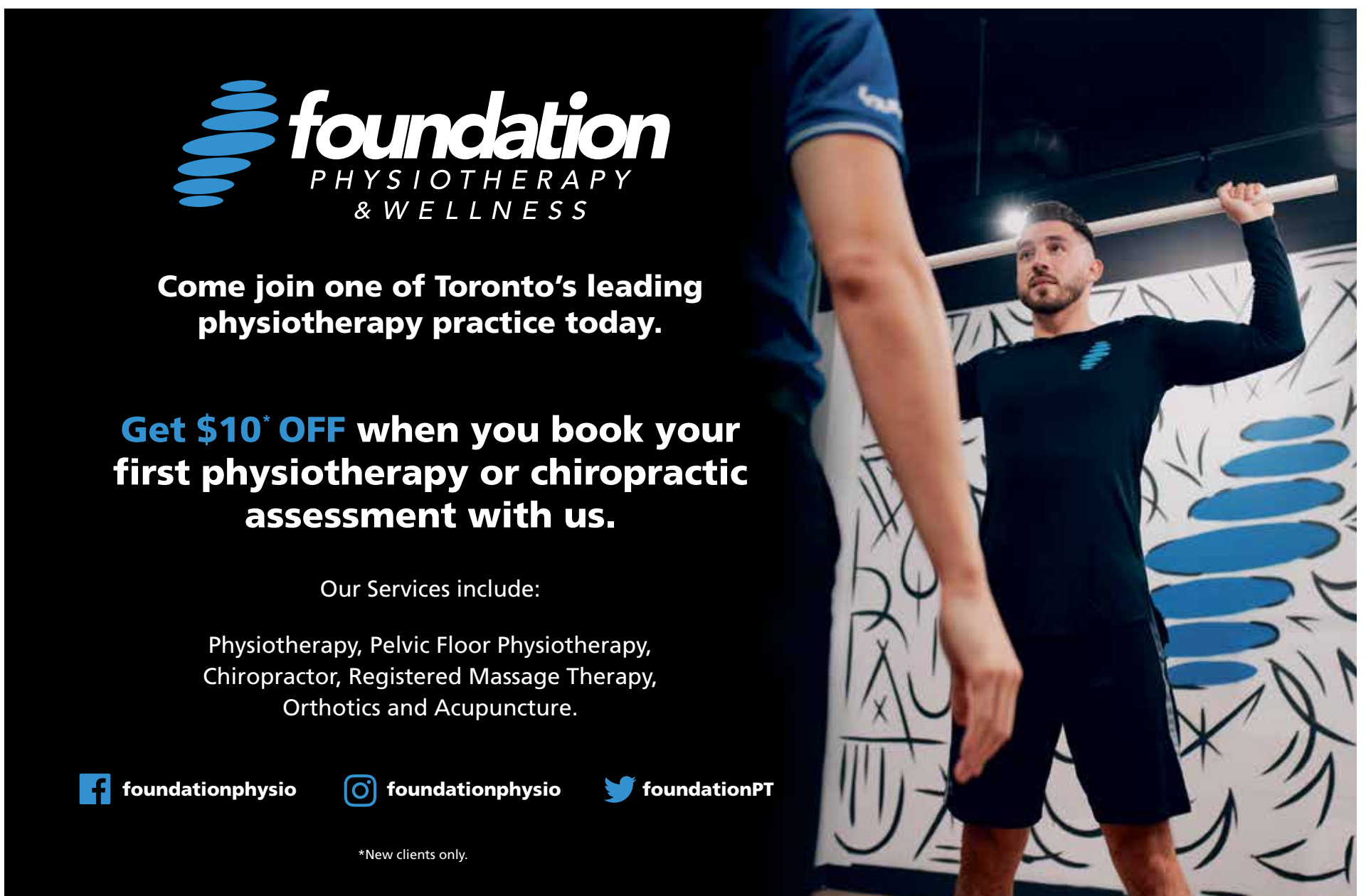
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