

February 20, 2008

History of Toronto's Garment Industry at the Market Gallery

The City of Toronto, through the Culture Division's Market Gallery program, presents *A Common Thread: A History of Toronto's Garment Industry*, from March 8 to June 15, 2008. This exhibit chronicles the history of the garment industry that began more than one hundred years ago and centred around Spadina Avenue.

Photographs, vintage clothing and other items, including old sewing machines, provide a colourful backdrop to this fascinating aspect of Toronto's history. This exhibit explores a wide variety of issues such as immigrant opportunities, working conditions, union activity as well as individual stories of those who worked in this industry.

Curated by Dorion Liebgott of the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum, and supported with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, this exhibit highlights the Jewish community which was an integral part of the industry's development and which still closely identifies with the trade. The exhibit also looks at other immigrant groups including Italians, Greeks, Portuguese and Asians who have also contributed to the success of the local garment industry.

The Market Gallery is a program of the Culture Division and presents changing exhibitions dedicated to Toronto's art, culture, history and offers educational programs for school groups and adults. Located in Toronto's oldest neighbourhood, the main gallery occupies the 19th-century city council chamber, which is all that remains from the City Hall that stood on this site from 1845 -1899.

Admission is free. The Market Gallery is located on the second floor of the South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. E. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

For more information on museums and art centres in the City's Culture Division, visit www.toronto.ca/culture.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of more than 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years Toronto has won more than 50 awards for quality and innovation in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and livability for all its residents.

- 30 -

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