



Economic Development & Culture  
 Michael H. Williams  
 General Manager

RECEIVED  
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
 METRO HALL, 2ND FLOOR  
 55 JOHN STREET  
 TORONTO, ONTARIO M5V 3C6  
 2015 APR 28 PM 3 41

Lawrence Ostola  
 Director, Museum & Heritage  
 Services  
 Tel: 416-392-9135  
 Fax: 416-392-6834  
 Email: lostola@toronto.ca

April 22, 2015

Request for recognition of event of municipal significance  
 From: Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens

**Statement of Significance**

Spadina Museum: Historic House and Gardens requests that Spadina After Hours: A Speakeasy be listed as an Event of Municipal Significance.

**Historical Significance**

Between 1916 and 1927 the Ontario Temperance Act banned the sale of alcohol in Ontario. This did not mean that there was no drinking in the province for over a decade; instead the citizens of Toronto and Ontario found ways around the law and none have stayed in the collective consciousness as much as the speakeasy. It was said that all that was needed to open a speakeasy was a bottle of liquor, a table and two chairs but speakeasies soon developed into social hubs; bars were no longer solely the domain of men, new music and dance styles were born and different ethnic and social classes intermingled.

Prohibition in Toronto was not as flashy as it was in the United States or for the people of Windsor. Rumrunners and bootleggers concentrated all their effort on the border as the American market would always be more profitable. That is not to say that there were no speakeasies or illegal drinking going on in Toronto, it just was not as well recorded as the higher stakes action of Windsor and Niagara. The city was never the strongest proponent of prohibition and by 1924 there was a clear majority against prohibition in Toronto.

**Name of the Event**

Spadina After Hours: A Speakeasy

**Exact Address or location of the Event**

Spadina Museum  
 285 Spadina Road  
 Toronto, Ontario  
 M5R 2V5



TORONTO 2015  
 Pan Am/Parapan Am

HOST CITY



toronto at your service

### **The Purpose of the Event**

Spadina Museum's restoration and interpretation focuses on 1920s and 1930s Toronto, exploring how Torontonians lived during times of great social, economic and technological change. The Speakeasy event will help Spadina Museum meet its interpretive goals and increase attendance and awareness of the museum.

The event is a costume party which recreates a 1920s speakeasy and includes instruction in period dance, extensively researched and authentically prepared cocktails and appetizers representing the culinary history of 1920s Toronto, silent films from the era and a display detailing facts and figures about prohibition in Toronto.

The Speakeasy serves as an opportunity to explore the changing social norms of the period. While a tour of the house and the display panels tell the story of Toronto during prohibition, the dances taught during the workshop and the menu are carefully selected to allow one to be immersed in the social culture of the 1920s.

### **The date and time of the Event**

Saturday, August 15, 2015

Start time: 7pm

End time: 11pm

### **Contact**

Karen Edwards

Museum Administrator

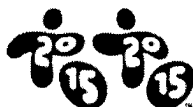
Spadina Museum

Museum and Heritage Services

Economic Development and Culture

City of Toronto

416-392-6910 x303



TORONTO 2015  
Pan Am/Parapan Am

---

HOST CITY



toronto at your service