

Lea Events May 2016

Lea Talk: Leaside Architecture: The Path to Modernization

Our Lea Talk focuses on the architecture of Leaside and its evolution into the 21st century. What is the architecture of Leaside, its origins, its value and how can it be updated into the modern era through design? The consistent architectural character of Leaside's streetscapes is intrinsic to its success and reinforces the Garden City principles used by landscape architect Frederick Gage Todd in his 1913 plan. How can design support modern living while retaining this cohesive community quality that attracts many people to Leaside?

Lea Exhibit: Leaside: The Life of a Garden City

When Frederick Gage Todd laid out the town of Leaside in 1913 using the Garden City principles he created a framework for the holistic life of a community. In the evolution of the municipality from 1913 to the 1950s, the town of Leaside built on this Garden City framework to create a verdant, and socially and economically diverse community. Singles, semis and multi-unit building types existed next to thriving industrial and commercial sectors, and a strong sense of local identity. In our exhibit, we show the many layers of Leaside and demonstrate the significance of the Garden City elements that frame the Leaside of today.

Jane's Walk: Leaside: A Garden City Revealed

Leaside was laid out in 1913 by the landscape architect Frederick Gage Todd who based his design on the Garden City principles, best exemplified by Letchworth in England. The Garden City differs from suburbs in that, along with curvilinear tree-lined streets, public green spaces, and cohesive streetscapes, it also included an industrial area to provide employment and commercial streets for convenient shopping. When people walk through Leaside today they see it as a neighbourhood of Toronto. But what is the experience when you examine Leaside through the lens of the Garden City framework as a designed landscape?