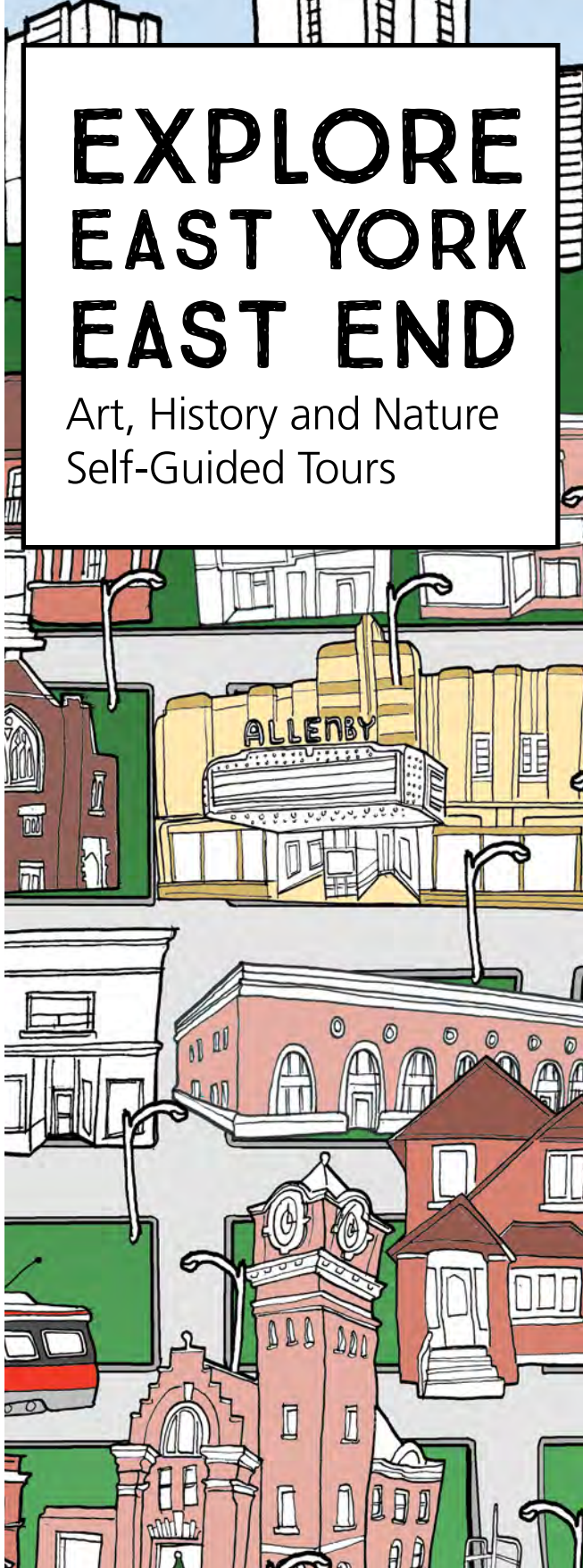


EXPLORE EAST YORK EAST END

Art, History and Nature
Self-Guided Tours

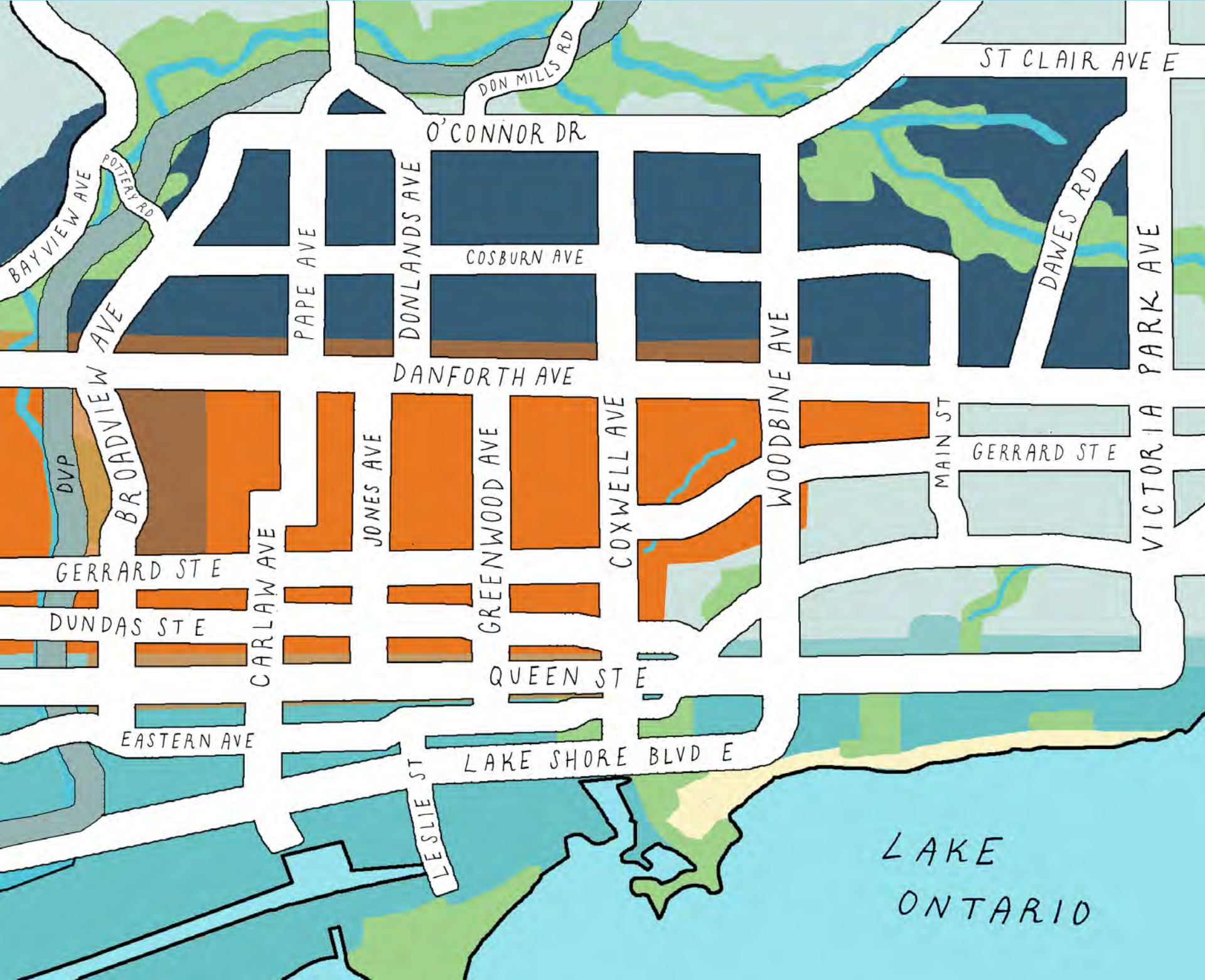


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Cover art and interior maps: Daniel Rotsztain. Cover illustration is an artistic rendering inspired by community, culture and creativity in Toronto's East York and East End.



ST CLAIR AVE E

DON MILLS RD

O'CONNOR DR

DAVES RD

PARK AVE

COSBURN AVE

WOODBINE AVE

DANFORTH AVE

MAIN ST

GERRARD STE

VICTORIA

DVP

BROADVIEW AVE

CARLAW AVE

JONES AVE

GREENWOOD AVE

COXWELL AVE

GERRARD STE

DUNDAS STE

QUEEN STE

EASTERN AVE

LESLIE ST

LAKE SHORE BLVD E

LAKE
ONTARIO

ABOUT CULTURAL HOTSPOT

Cultural Hotspot shines a spotlight on arts, culture and community by celebrating, connecting and investing in diverse neighbourhoods outside Toronto's core. Each year the initiative moves to a new area of the city and:

- **Celebrates** local culture, heritage, creativity, business and community with special events, festivals and art happenings, building community pride
- **Connects** the Hotspot community, promotes new partnerships and shares this exciting area with all of Toronto through community gatherings, events, outreach and media campaigns
- **Grows** creative capacity in the area with workshops, courses, youth employment and mentorship, and legacy projects like the Cultural Loops Guide

Visit toronto.ca/culturalhotspot for details.

ABOUT THE CULTURAL LOOPS GUIDE

From May through October 2017 Toronto's East York/East End area was celebrated as one of the city's Cultural Hotspots. The Cultural Loops Guide for East York/East End invites you to explore the areas' diverse neighbourhoods, from Old East York to Taylor Massey Creek, from Riverside to the Beach and beyond. This Cultural Hotspot covers the area from Lake Ontario north to O'Connor Drive, from the Don Valley east to Victoria Park Avenue. This guide invites you to tour the wealth of historical, architectural, natural and cultural sites in Toronto's vibrant East York/East End area.

The guide is designed as a series of walkable, bikeable and driveable self-guided tours. You are invited to start at the first tour location on any loop in the guide and follow your preferred mapping system to find each site – GPS, Google Maps, or the old reliable fold-out paper map (check Tips for Exploring the Hotspot on page 3 for more info). The tours are designed to take you on the most straightforward route, but we encourage you to mix it up, get off the beaten path and get to know East York/East End.

LOOP 1

Loop One looks at the historical roots of East York, highlighting the natural and cultural destinations along two major waterways bordering East York: the Don River and Taylor Massey Creek. Put on your walking shoes to explore woodlands, wildflowers and parklands on Loop One's recreational trails, or step back in time with a stroll along scenic local streetscapes. Find out about the many



innovative ways East York residents are caring for their environment and preserving their heritage. Loop One also covers the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site, the Don River Valley, the East York Civic Centre, Children's Peace Theatre, and many other historical and cultural landmarks.

LOOP 2

Loop Two highlights the area's most dynamic and diverse arts and cultural neighbourhoods, from the bustling GreekTown on the Danforth, to the lively East Chinatown and to Little India on Gerrard Street East. The Loop Two area has been shaped by its early industrial history. Today these neighbourhoods have grown into residential and commercial hubs that embrace and share their culture and creativity through public art initiatives, community festivals and events. Use the mural map on page 57 to explore the area's thriving street art scene.

LOOP 3

Loop Three takes you through some of Toronto's earliest neighbourhoods to see where the areas' iconic railways and streetcars, plants and factories, market gardens and resort towns originated. Discover how urban developments and environmental initiatives changed the shoreline over the past century. Travel along Queen Street East through the distinct neighbourhoods of Riverside, Leslieville and the Beach Village to explore historical buildings, boutique shops, murals, local eateries, parks and ravines. Or take a stroll and soak up the rays along the beautiful, sunny waterfront.

HOT EATS

East York/East End is an ideal place in the city to grab a bite. The local restaurants serve diverse cuisines at a range of prices and there are many lovely cafes and bakeries to discover. So, if you need some fuel while you're out exploring or just want to check out some great eateries in the neighbourhood, go to the HOT Eats section on page 93, featuring over 80 HOT local spots.



TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE HOTSPOT

- Almost every loop begins and ends at a TTC stop. Visit ttc.ca for information on routes, trip planning, fares, unexpected service changes and other information.
- East York/East End is a great place to cycle. Visit toronto.ca/cycling for cycling maps and more.
- If you're driving get Green P Parking info at parking.greenp.com
- Maps in the guide are not drawn to scale, use as a reference only.
- Places highlighted in this guide include private homes and buildings not open to the public. Please observe these from the sidewalk.
- Note that the Explore More sections feature nearby destinations, which will take you off of the regular tour route.
- Hard copy maps can be found at civic centres, City Hall, INFOTOGO mobile kiosks, the Toronto Tourism Information Centre (Union Station), as well as various hotels.
- Digital and downloadable maps can be found at seetorontonow.com/maps-and-guides.
- Cross streets safely at traffic lights and crosswalks.
- Use caution on all routes, as recreational trails may be slippery or obstructed.
- Cyclists must use streets with caution; consider your level of experience and your comfort level in traffic and weather conditions.
- Take care to stay on paths and well-worn trails in parks and woodland areas as the sap of the Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed can cause severe burns. Both plants resemble the common Queen Anne's Lace and should not be touched.
- Respect our environment and keep Toronto beautiful.



COUNCILLORS' MESSAGE

This guide is a legacy of the Cultural Hotspot Project – a partner-produced initiative that, from May through October 2017, put a spotlight on the vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods of East York and East End Toronto.

Highlighting the art, architecture, culture, history and nature of the area, the self-guided tours in this guide empower residents to re-discover their own neighbourhoods and assist visitors in exploring this vibrant part of the city.

The lively arts scene in East Toronto and East York offers so many opportunities to enjoy theatre, festivals, art markets, public art and more at places like Streetcar Crowsnest, GreekTown on the Danforth, Jimmie Simpson Park and the Zhong Hua Men Archway.

Nature fans can relish heritage trails along Taylor Massey Creek and the Don River, as well as the Beaches' scenic parks and ravines, and the breathtaking city view from Chester Hill Lookout; while learning about the extraordinary efforts of community groups to preserve and restore this natural environment in their city.

History buffs can explore historic sites that reveal the past and are full of new life at Todmorden Mills Heritage Site, Children's Peace Theatre, East York Civic Centre and The Broadview Hotel and also explore unique communities such as the Gerrard India Bazaar and Crescent Town.

Food aficionados can satisfy their appetites at a wide variety of restaurants and food festivals that feature cuisine from around the world, such as the famed Taste of the Danforth festival or the HOT Eats restaurants featured in this guide.

What really makes East York and the East End hot are the many local groups that animate this thriving and growing cultural area. We encourage you to explore the activities, people and sites of this wonderful and special part of the city through the Loops Guide.

Sincerely,

Councillor Mary Fragedakis (Ward 29 Toronto-Danforth)
Councillor Paula Fletcher (Ward 30 Toronto-Danforth)
Councillor Janet Davis (Ward 31 Beaches-East York)
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon (Ward 32 Beaches-East York)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin this guide by acknowledging that the 2017 Cultural Hotspot area is on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and home to many diverse Indigenous people.





Tkaranto Past/Tkaranto Future Mural

LOOP 1

DEVELOPMENT AND THE DON





The Don Valley region has changed over time from rugged wilderness, to lush farmland, to industrial centres and finally to becoming the urban oasis it is today. On this tour, you will be introduced to the area's natural habitat, see how industries have harnessed the area's resources and witness how transportation infrastructure has connected and transformed this urban community. You will also discover the many innovative ways people have preserved and restored the built and natural heritage of this ever-changing area.

Location: Don Valley, Lower Don River, Riverdale

Interests: History, Nature

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



From the west, take Bayview Avenue and turn onto Pottery Road, then turn right and head south into the driveway at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site when you see the red brick smoke stack. From the east, drive on Broadview Avenue and turn west onto Pottery Road, then turn left at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Site. Follow the driveway to park in the lot.



Catch the 8, 62, 87, 100 or 322 bus northbound from Broadview Station and get off at Mortimer/Pottery Road. Turn left and head west, walking down the hill on Pottery Road. Please note that Pottery Road turns into a fairly steep hill at Broadview.

1. DON RIVER VALLEY



One of Toronto's most remarkable features is the 400-metre-wide Don Valley, formed 12,000 years ago when the area was covered in ice. As the climate warmed, glacier meltwater eroded deep valleys, forming several rivers in the area. In the nearby Evergreen Brick Works quarry, geologists have discovered evidence of



three glaciation periods that took place over 120,000 years, creating the distinct Don Valley we see today.

It took thousands of years for nature to form the Don Valley landscape. However, since the arrival of Euro-Canadian settlers just two centuries ago, it has been significantly altered by local landowners and major City initiatives in efforts to harness this natural resource. From the 1880s to early 1900s, City Council established initiatives to straighten and widen the river below Gerrard Street East, opening up land for developments such as railways and the Don Valley Parkway, and addressing run-off that was polluting the Don River waters.

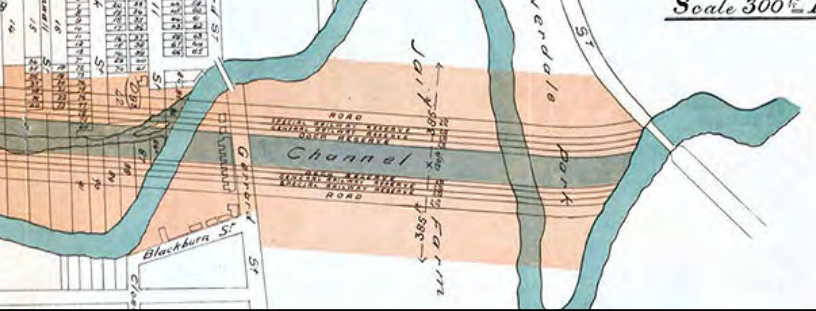
Despite earlier efforts, pollution, erosion and flooding continued to be a problem throughout the 1900s. To address this, the Don Valley has undergone one of the largest regeneration projects in the world. Initiated in the late 1980s, this effort has seen the restoration of native plant species, wetlands and the establishment of recreational trails, with the help of community groups such as the Todmorden Wildlife Preserve and the Don Watershed Regeneration Council.

Today, the Don River is the most urban river in Canada, with over 800,000 people living in its area.

2. TODMORDEN MILLS HERITAGE SITE, 67 POTTERY RD.

The Todmorden Mills Heritage Site is a collection of historic buildings from one of the earliest industrial communities in Toronto. The Helliwell family settled in the area in 1821 and constructed a brewery and distillery, naming the area Todmorden after their hometown in England. In 1855, the mills were taken over by the Taylor family, who later constructed a brick works (brick factory) nearby. The heritage site and City of Toronto museum now consists of two historic residences, a brewery and the renovated Paper Mill Theatre and Gallery.

Note that the interior of Todmorden Mills can be seen by guided tour only. Book your tour at the front desk in the Paper Mill Theatre and Gallery building.



Brewery Gallery

English immigrant Thomas Helliwell purchased land in the Todmorden area and established one of Toronto's first breweries in 1821. The majority of the Don Brewery building burned down in 1847, but this structure still survives and has been restored and repurposed as a public gallery space.



Helliwell House

Helliwell House, built in 1838 by William Helliwell, is a rare example of mudbrick construction in Toronto. It served as residences for senior

staff from the nearby brick works and was inhabited by numerous tenants until 1965. Today, the interior has been curated to show it in its 1890s state.



Regency Cottage

Regency Cottage is a quaint one-storey cottage built in 1850 and was used as a residential property until around 1965. It was recently

re-interpreted to reflect its 1940s post-Second World War state. For authenticity, interviews were conducted with Helen Brookfield, who lived at the cottage between 1921 and 1952.



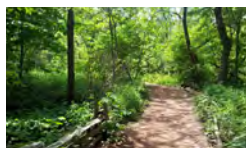
Paper Mill Theatre and Gallery

This historic mill was the first of its kind to produce machine-made paper in Upper Canada and provided

newsprint for some of the country's earliest publications. Constructed in 1795 by Isaiah and Aaron Skinner, this building originally served as a grist (grain) mill. After being sold to Thomas Helliwell Sr., John Eastwood and Colin Skinner, it was converted to a paper mill in 1826. In the 20th century, it became the stables for the nearby Don Valley Brick Works until it was repurposed in the 1970s to accommodate a theatre and gallery, run by City of Toronto Museums

and Heritage Services. Today, the Paper Mill Theatre is home to the East Side Players, a community theatre company.

3. TODMORDEN MILLS WILDFLOWER PRESERVE, 67 POTTERY RD.



The wildflower preserve was established in 1991 to restore nine hectares of the Todmorden Mills area to its pre-settlement natural condition, including

wetlands and forest areas. Rapid industrial and residential developments throughout the 19th and 20th centuries had destroyed much of this natural landscape. Today, volunteers preserve and reintroduce native species and also use the site as an educational space to demonstrate the importance of ecological conservation. Keep an eye out for reintroduced native flowers such as purple trillium and ox-eye daisies on your adventures.

To learn more about native plant species, see the Wildlife Activity on page 89.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1940s, during the Second World War, a small German prisoner-of-war (POW) camp was located where part of the Wildflower Preserve is today. Many of the German POWs were put to work at nearby brick yards, including the Don Valley Brick Works.

4. POTTERY ROAD UNDERPASS MURAL (2016), POTTERY ROAD, NORTH OF TODMORDEN MILLS



Artist Drew Mosley's mural, on the south pillars of the Pottery Road Underpass, celebrates the wildlife of the Don Valley area. The artist used fantastical imagery to illustrate and animate the animals, resulting in a whimsical and beautiful piece, created with support from StreetARToronto.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, hundreds of unemployed men made their way to Toronto looking for work. Homeless and unable to find employment, they formed their own community by creating makeshift shelters in the Don River Valley. During the colder months, many men sought refuge by the kilns in the Don Valley Brick Works nearby. This provisional village lasted until 1938.

EXPLORE MORE



EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS, 550 BAYVIEW AVE.

Follow Pottery Road west of Todmorden Mills and walk or drive one kilometre south on Bayview Avenue to the Evergreen Brick Works.

The original Don Valley Brick Works was founded in 1889 by the prolific Taylor family of East York and was operational for almost a century. The bricks were used to build many significant Toronto landmarks such as Massey Hall and Casa Loma. Evergreen, an environmental development organization, transformed the existing heritage buildings, kilns, and quarry into the Evergreen Brick Works and surrounding parklands, which opened in 2010. The site is home to the Young Welcome Centre, Evergreen Garden Market, weekly farmers' markets, Bike Works and Café Belong. The main facility, the Centre for Green Cities, is an award-winning environmentally-designed building and an educational centre teaching sustainability and stewardship of healthy urban environments. Take a minute to stroll through the park and wetlands, which support a variety of animals such as painted and snapping turtles, great blue herons and beavers.

To learn more about wildlife and plants in the area, see the Wildlife Activity on page 89.

LOWER DON RIVER TRAIL



This multi-use pedestrian and cycle path follows the Don River through the Lower Don Parklands and Crothers Woods, all the way down to the Keating

Channel at the lakeshore. The trail is home to a wide array of plant and animal species and a significant example of Carolinian forest. As you continue to walk south, you can see the evidence of heavy industrialization and urbanization, such as the Don Valley Parkway, on the banks along the river. The Lower Don is the site of one of the largest urban environmental restoration projects in the world.

DON RIVER VALLEY PARK ART



Follow the Lower Don River Trail southward and keep an eye out for the Don River Valley Park Art Program artworks. This curated

program displays temporary site-specific public artworks by local and international artists who interpret the Don Valley and its surrounding communities from ecological, cultural, industrial and Indigenous perspectives. The artworks can be sculptural installations, murals or even performance. Some artworks are displayed for years, whereas some, for only a day. Find the permanent installation of cast gargoyles replicated from prominent buildings in downtown Toronto by artist Duane Linklater.

5. CHESTER HILL LOOKOUT, AT THE WESTERN END OF CHESTER HILL ROAD



Visit Chester Hill for a breathtaking view of the Toronto skyline. This hidden lookout reveals the juxtaposition of nature and urban development in Toronto. From here you can see the Don River, the natural views of the surrounding forest and the wetlands, with the downtown skyline as a backdrop. The view also reveals the engineering feats connecting the east to rest of the city over the Don Valley, including the Don Valley Parkway, the Prince Edward Viaduct and the now defunct half-mile bridge, originally constructed in the 1880s for the Canadian Pacific line. Don't forget to look beneath your feet at the astrology wheel by local artist Victor Fraser.

6. PLAYTER FARMHOUSE, 28 PLAYTER CRES.

Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

The Playter Farmhouse was built in the mid-1870s and remained in the Playter family for over a century. The



Playters were a prominent family of farmers and market gardeners who were influential in East York business and politics through the 19th and 20th centuries. The Playter Farmhouse was built by John Lea Playter on land originally granted to United Empire Loyalist Captain George Playter in 1793; the land remained in the family until 2006. This grand red brick farmhouse stands out with its unusual yellow brick arrowhead pattern and alternating brickwork around the windows. The Playters' farmland was sub-divided around 1912 and became the neighbourhood known today as the Playter Estates.

7. DANFORTH CHURCH, 60 BOWDEN AVE.



The Danforth Baptist Church was founded in 1884 and opened its doors to a congregation just before the First World War. Today, it is known as the Danforth Church and is an important part of the community. The church is a trans-denominational, alternative, progressive, Evangelical, LGBTQ-affirming community church that values social justice, contemporary worship and expression through art.

The building houses a painting, gifted in 1919 by nationally renowned local artist Owen Staples, which commemorates Canada's fallen soldiers of the First World War. The large-scale painting depicts a soldier kneeling in a field of poppies looking towards an image of Jesus, with the inscription, "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." Poppies are included in the frame and between the names of congregation members who died in the First and Second World Wars.

8. PLAYTER SOCIETY BUILDING, 91 DANFORTH AVE.



In 1910, brothers Albert and William Playter strategically erected the Playter Society Building where the streetcars intersected at Broadview Avenue and Danforth Avenue, capitalizing on this new centre of activity. It originally served multiple purposes with retail space, medical offices, and a hall for public meetings and community groups. In the post-war years, the hall was known for its big bands and dancing. This created a hub for the community and helped establish the area as the commercial and social centre it is today.

9. PRINCE EDWARD VIADUCT



Also known as the Bloor Street Viaduct, this iconic, high-traffic bridge connects East York to the downtown core. This concrete and steel arch bridge spans 494 metres across the Don

Valley, 40 metres above the valley floor. The design, by Edmund W. Burke, is notable because it anticipated future transportation needs. Completed in 1918, a lower deck was also included to accommodate a subway, even though there was no east-west line until 1966.

In 2003, the Luminous Veil was added to prevent suicide attempts from the bridge. Designed by artist Dereck Rivington, this dramatic feature consists of over 9,000 steel rods. Environmentally-responsive lights were added in 2015, in celebration of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, illuminating the bridge at night. A complex system of LED lights and sensors enables the lights to change colour according to the wind, temperature and season.

10. WILLIAM PEYTON HUBBARD HOUSE, 669 BROADVIEW AVE.



Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

This historic house was once occupied by William Peyton Hubbard, the first African-Canadian on City Council, elected in 1894. Throughout his political career, Hubbard was elected to City Council 15 times, occasionally serving as acting mayor. One of his most significant contributions to the city stemmed from his belief that utilities should be publically owned and his advocacy for the founding of Toronto Hydro. William Hubbard retired to this house, which was designed by G. W. Gouinlock, an architect known for designing many of the Canadian National Exhibition buildings.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1989, the City of Toronto established the William Peyton Hubbard Award for Race Relations. Recipients have included dub poet Lillian Allen, Black Lives Matter, Queen's Council lawyer Leonard Braithwaite, Toronto Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke, former Ontario Cabinet Minister Alvin Curling and author Adrienne Shadd.

11. OWEN STAPLES STUDIO, 69 HOGARTH AVE.

Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

This house and artist studio were designed by local artist Owen Staples, best known for his watercolours, etchings, sketches, illustrations and paintings of Toronto. His work is preserved in collections at the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, the John Ross Robertson Collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library and in various private collections. The house was built in the Arts and Crafts movement style, which typically uses features that highlight craftsmanship and design over machine-made materials. Of particular note, the house was constructed from assorted rejected stock of the Don Valley Brick Works.

12. WITHROW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PLAQUE, 25 BAIN AVE.

The Withrow Archeological Site was an unexpected find that emphasizes the significance of the waterway to Indigenous people of the area. Discovered during road construction in 1886, the dig uncovered artifacts from Indigenous peoples around Riverdale Park and the Don River, including artifacts from when the land was used as hunting grounds over 4,000 years ago, as well as slate tools and pottery from more recent Indigenous settlements. Look for a plaque on the front of Withrow Avenue Public School recognizing the importance of this site.

EXPLORE MORE

RIVERDALE COURTS

Further east on Bain Avenue, the Riverdale Courts are heritage buildings designed in the picturesque English Cottage style. Originally built as affordable rental housing in 1913, the courts were influenced by the Garden City Movement, a popular urban planning method in England at the time. Because of this urban design strategy, all apartments have street level access onto shared grass courts and gardens. After a period of private ownership, the resident-run Bain Apartments Co-operative took possession of the entire complex in 1977.

13. RIVERDALE PARK, 550 BROADVIEW AVE.



The City of Toronto purchased this land in 1856 from farmland once owned by John Scadding, known for his role as estate manager for John Graves Simcoe,

a former Governor of Upper Canada. The purchase, which included land on both sides of the Don River, was used to build both Riverdale Park and the nearby Don Jail. The parklands opened in 1880 but, during the 1920s, the eastern edge of the park along Broadview Avenue was used for landfill. Since the 1990s, the Task Force to Bring Back the Don has led efforts to regenerate the park, with reforestation, restoration of a small marsh and the installation of prominent green exhaust pipes along Broadview Avenue, north of Withrow Avenue. These pipes vent methane gas from the now filled-in dump under the park. This renewed park has access to the Lower Don Recreation Trail and a pedestrian footbridge that connects the two sides of the valley. Today, Riverdale Park offers a wide variety of recreational facilities and is known for its spectacular view of the downtown skyline.

14. JOHN COX COTTAGE, 469 BROADVIEW AVE.



Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

John Cox Cottage is one of the oldest houses in Toronto still used as a residence. Built circa 1807 of square-cut logs, the original structure, including the exterior walls and pine-shingled roof, remains intact today. Builder Edward Langley installed an addition on the north side of the house in the 1870s and transformed it from a rudimentary log cabin to a Regency cottage typical of Ontario at the time.

15. DON JAIL, 550 BROADVIEW AVE.



When the Don Jail opened in 1864, it was the largest jail in North America. It was designed in the Italianate style, popular in Ontario at the time. Architect William

Thomas also designed St. Michael's Cathedral and St. Lawrence Hall. The building was designed with a central pavilion and vermiculated columns, and the sculpted head of Father Time frames the main entranceway. Today, the historic Don Jail houses the administrative offices of Bridgepoint Active Healthcare.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1952, a group of bank robbers called The Boyd Gang escaped from the Don Jail by sawing through the bars on their cell windows. It was the group's second successful escape from the jail. The biggest manhunt in Canadian history was launched with a \$26,000 reward for their capture. This escape was the first news story ever broadcast on CBC television. On September 8, 1952, CBC anchor Lorne Greene announced the story, launching this Canadian institution with a bang.

16. HUBBARD PARK, 550 GERRARD ST. E.

Named after William Peyton Hubbard, Toronto's first elected African-Canadian politician, this park was dedicated and opened in 2016 in front of an audience that included 16 of Hubbard's descendants. Only a few blocks from Hubbard House (see 10 on page 15), the park was established after the closure of the historic Don Jail buildings in 1977 (the east wing was in use as a jail until 2013), when the land in front of the facility was restored. Today, this well-manicured greenspace still hosts two historic properties associated with the Don Jail.

Governor's House



The Governor's House was built in 1888 to house the Don Jail's first Governor, George L. Allen. The Governor's House was designed in the Queen Anne

Revival style characterized by its inviting asymmetrical façade, cross-gable roof and decorative brick patterns, which highly contrasts with the imposing, symmetrical style of the historic Don Jail nearby. In 2012, the house was renovated by the Phillip Aziz Centre, and today, houses the children's hospice called Emily's House.

Gate House



The nearby Gate House sits at the former entranceway to the historic jail where a wooden fence was built around the perimeter. The house is now used by the Phillip Aziz Centre as administrative offices.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Don Watershed Regeneration Council: discoverthedon.ca
- East York Historical Society: eastyork.org/eyhs
- Evergreen Brick Works: ebw.evergreen.ca
- First Story Toronto: ncct.on.ca
- StreetARToronto: toronto.ca/streetart
- Todmorden Mills Heritage Site: toronto.ca/todmordenmills
- Toronto Field Naturalists: torontofieldnaturalists.org
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority: toronto.ca/trca

Sources

- Bridgepoint Active Healthcare
- Don Watershed Regeneration Council
- East York Historical Society
- East York History Bike Ride, Ward 29 Bikes and East York Historical Society
- East York Public Library, "Fascinating Facts about East York"
- Evergreen Brick Works Geology Tour, Evergreen Brick Works
- Evergreen Brick Works
- First Story Toronto
- Heritage Toronto
- Scott Kennedy, "Don Mills: From Forest to Farms to Forces of Change"
- StreetARToronto
- Todmorden Mills Heritage Site
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Toronto Public Library Board
- Virtual Museum of Canada, "Twentieth-Century Todmorden: A Community in the Don Valley"

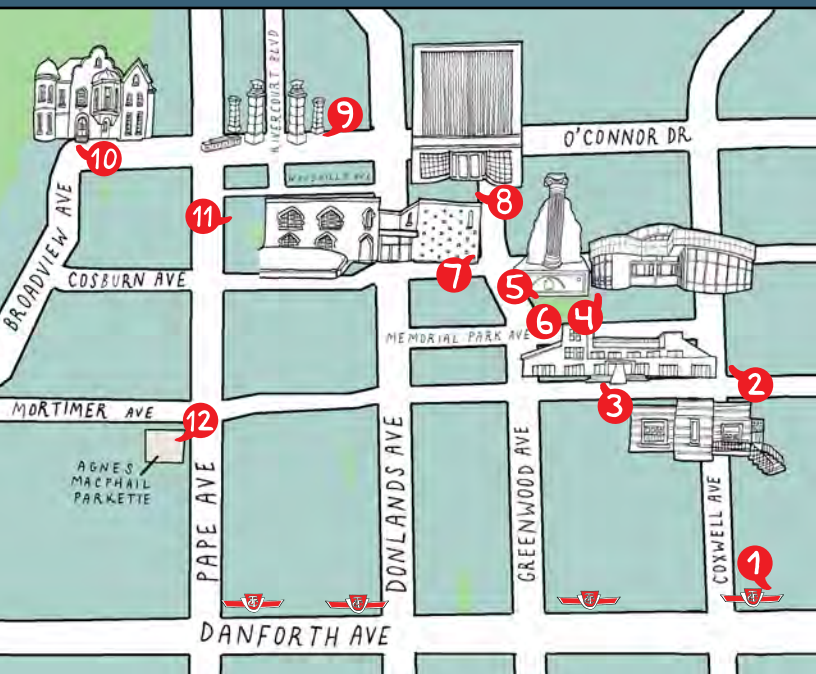
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- Evergreen
- SimonP
- Toronto Public Library
- Todmorden Mills Heritage Site
- Yuula Benivolski



Riverdale Park

EAST YORK INTO THE FUTURE



While the majority of Toronto's East End was annexed by the city in 1908, the Borough of East York was only amalgamated into the City of Toronto in 1998, and the historic roots of this former municipality are still cherished by its communities. This can be seen in the many surviving historic buildings that have been restored and repurposed. Collectively, these sites tell the story of how this former municipality and its communities preserve and remember the past, even as East York and its residents move into the future.

Location: East York

Interests: History

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



Drive to the intersection of Coxwell and Danforth. The first tour destination is in the Green P Parking lot east of the intersection at 1601 Danforth Ave. If you wish to proceed on foot or by bike, you can park in this lot.



Take the subway to Coxwell Station. Exit Coxwell Station onto Strathmore Boulevard. To your left (westward) there is a path that leads behind the station. Walk down the path south towards Danforth Avenue. Your first destination is at the end of this path.



1. “PODS THROUGH TIME” MOSAIC MURAL, 1606 DANFORTH AVE.



This mosaic mural is a celebration of the Coxwell and Danforth neighbourhood, recognizing its East York history, its current community and culture, and its future potential. Using the imagery of pods and seeds, rounded images of historical moments dot the wall to the east and abstract images representing the future dot the wall to the west. The mural was designed and created by artist Cristina Delago in partnership with StreetARToronto and East End Arts. The south wall includes two quote by Agnes Macphail, former MP for York East and the first woman elected to Parliament, which read, “Equal Rights to all, special privileges to none” and “We meet all life’s greatest tests alone.”

2. FIRST BRANCH OF THE EAST YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, 833 COXWELL AVE.



This modest building was the first public library in the Township of East York, opened on April 26, 1950. The Township of East York’s Public Library Board, established in 1946, quickly realized the growing community would need a bigger library, closing this facility only a decade later with the opening of S. Walter Stewart and Todmorden libraries nearby. The Township of East York’s Public Library Board continued to operate the libraries in East York until amalgamation.

3. EAST YORK CIVIC CENTRE, 850 COXWELL AVE.

The East York Civic Centre opened in 1990, replacing a smaller Civic Centre constructed in the 1970s. It housed municipal offices for the former Borough of East York until amalgamation into the City of Toronto in 1998. A cenotaph created in 1948 sits in front of the entrance to commemorate Canadian soldiers lost in war and is used for Remembrance Day ceremonies. Today, the Civic Centre houses municipal offices for local city councillors and provides a number of services for residents. The building is surrounded by the Memorial Gardens, a lush and peaceful greenspace

that is home to the weekly East York Farmers' Market each May to October.



DID YOU KNOW?

The True Davidson Chambers at the East York Civic Centre are named for Jean Gertrude “True” Davidson, first mayor of the Borough of East York. True Davidson was one of Toronto’s most colourful politicians, known for her directness and candour, in a career spanning 25 years. Local media often referred to her

as the “grandmother of East York.” One of her most significant contributions to the community was organizing the donation of Todmorden Mills as a heritage site to the Borough of East York, in honour of Canada’s Centennial in 1967. Davidson was active in local politics and environmentalism until she passed away in 1978. She was awarded the Order of Canada in 1973 and the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 for her distinguished service to her community and to Canada.

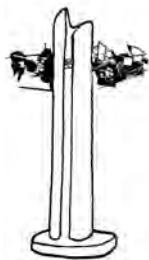
**4. S. WALTER STEWART LIBRARY,
170 MEMORIAL PARK AVE.**



Inspired by space exploration, this circular building was designed by local architect Harold Witmer to evoke the image of a flying saucer. Constructed in 1960, the building replaced the first branch of the East York Public Library. Today, the library houses a collection of A.Y. Jackson (Group of Seven) paintings on permanent loan from the East York Foundation. Also on display is the red cardinal logo of the East York Public Library, designed by renowned Canadian illustrator Thoreau MacDonald and restored during renovations in 2008.

**5. PYLON BY GERALD
GLADSTONE, 170 MEMORIAL
PARK AVE.**

Another space-themed landmark, the Pylon is a public art piece by Canadian sculptor Gerald Gladstone inspiring observers to contemplate our place in the galaxy. The large concrete-and-steel sculpture was commissioned in 1960



by the East York Public Library Board and was installed the same year that the S. Walter Stewart Library opened, with both structures showing the impact of the Space Age on art and design in the area.

6. PANAGIA SOUMELA 1914-1923, 170 MEMORIAL PARK AVE.



The Panagia Soumela 1914-1923 memorializes the hundreds of thousands of Greek people who died or were displaced during the Pontic genocide in the Greco-Turko War. This solemn stone memorial incorporates the sculpture of an ionic column with a black polished granite base. The memorial was commissioned in

2000 by descendants of refugees of the Pontian Greek settlements that were uprooted during the Greek genocide. Toronto's East End has a large Greek population who arrived in the late 1960s when many immigrants were fleeing political unrest in Greece. Greek residents have continued to shape the culture and community of this area for over 50 years.

7. COSBURN ARTS CENTRE, 1108 GREENWOOD AVE.

Cosburn Arts Centre is a community space running financially accessible social, recreational and learning programs for various age groups that focus on arts and community. The Centre supports many local community groups, artists and artisans through events hosted in their space in the Cosburn United Church's sprawling basement, with multipurpose rooms and a stage. The site is also home to Cosburn Community Art Time Studio (CATS), an arts-based outreach program run by Cosburn United Community.

8. DONLANDS THEATRE, 397 DONLANDS AVE.

In the early-to-mid 1900s, dozens of local cinemas added to the cultural life and architectural fabric of the city. Built in 1948 and designed by architect Herbert Duerr, the Donlands Theatre was one of Toronto's many "nabe" theatres – lingo for neighbourhood movie houses. Legendary Canadian actor John Candy, who lived nearby, is said to have frequented this theatre as a child. Many of the surviving nabes have since been repurposed. The Donlands remained a cinema until the 1980s and is now Pie in the Sky Studios – a Toronto film studio. The lobby still contains the original mural of a Chinese mythological scene on the domed ceiling, as well as the Chinese symbol for prosperity in mosaic on the floor.

9. RIVERCOURT PILLARS, RIVERCOURT BLVD. AND O'CONNOR DR.

The stately Rivercourt Pillars are an example of how changing history and ambitions for urban development have shaped East York. Installed at Rivercourt Boulevard and O'Connor Drive they were to be the entrance to a new planned community after the First World War. Though the Great Depression forced the city to halt and later scrap the development, the pillars remain as a neighbourhood quirk.

10. JOHN F. TAYLOR HOUSE, 2 O'CONNOR DR.



This remarkable house was designed in the Queen Anne Revival style by Toronto architect David B. Dick, with an asymmetrical design, distinctive corner tower and shaped gables. It

was built for John F. Taylor, of the area's notable Taylor family, a prominent local businessman and land owner who inherited the brewery and paper mill at Todmorden Mills. He and his brothers also founded the Don Valley Brick Works. Both Todmorden Mills and the Brick Works, located in the valley, are visible from this building. After operating as a care home for the aged for 80 years, the house was converted to a residence for the Sisters of St. Joseph in 2013.

11. CHILDREN'S MURAL, EAST YORK CIVIC CENTRE, 1080 ½ PAPE AVE.



Unveiled in 2017, this whimsical mural was created by VIBE Arts with students in grades 2 to 5 from William Burgess Elementary School and children from the after school

visual arts program at East York Community Centre. This 2017 Cultural Hotspot Signature Project was led by VIBE Arts and artist Rob Matejka, in partnership with East York Neighbourhood Initiatives and youth from the Kennedy House Youth Shelter, to adorn the south wall of the East York Community Centre above the Children's Community Garden, which was initiated by William Burgess Elementary School in 2014.

DID YOU KNOW?



On June 11, 1906, volunteers from St. Barnabas Church, led by the Rev. Frank Vipond, constructed a wooden church in a single day, just in time for an evening service in the new building. The church was later named

St. Andrew's and in 1914 became the parish church for the Village of Todmorden. After the congregation

was moved to St. Luke's Church in the 1930s, the "Church Built in a Day" was dismantled. A plaque on the side of the McDonalds Restaurant at 1046 Pape Ave. celebrates this incredible story of community-building in East York.

12. AGNES MACPHAIL SQUARE, 900 PAPE AVE.



This humble square was named for Agnes Campbell Macphail – one of Canada's most notable politicians. Commemorated during Canada's sesquicentennial with her portrait on the ten-dollar bill, Macphail was the first woman elected as a

Member of Parliament. After her first victory in 1921, she went on to win five successive elections, including becoming MPP for York East in 1943. Macphail is recognized for her contributions to health insurance, low-rental housing, workers' rights, penal reform, women's rights, and seniors' pensions. As a member of the World Disarmament Committee, she was also the first Canadian woman delegate to the League of Nations.

To Find Out More, Visit

- East York Historical Society: eastyork.org/eyhs
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- VIBE Arts: vibearts.ca

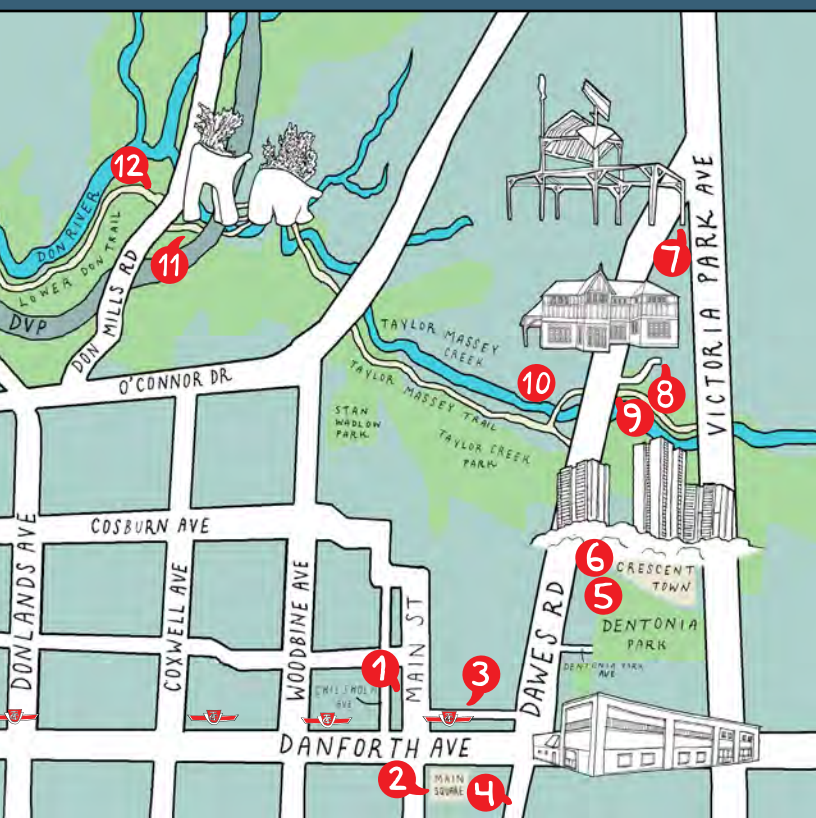
Sources

- City of Toronto (media release), "Mosaic Mural Unveiled at Coxwell Subway Station in Ward 31"
- East York Historical Society and Ward 29 Bikes, "East York History Bike Ride"
- East York Public Library, "Fascinating Facts About East York"
- Heritage Toronto
- John Warkentin, "Creating Memory: a Guide to Outdoor Public Sculpture in Toronto"
- Rob Matejka
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Public Library, "S. Walter Stewart District Branch: A Space Odyssey"
- VIBE Arts

Photo Credits

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • Ann Brokelman | • Cosburn Arts Centre |
| • City of Toronto | • Todmorden Mills |
| • City of Toronto Archives,
Fonds 1244, Item 43
(Agnes Macphail) | Heritage Site |

NATURE IN THE CITY: TAYLOR MASSEY CREEK TRAIL



This tour begins in the vibrant urban environment of Danforth East, taking you back down a historic road and nature trail into some of East York's most beloved parks and wetlands. Along the way you will see the impact of nature on the formation of communities as well as the efforts of those communities to preserve native wildlife and plant life in the area.


Location: Danforth East, Taylor Massey Creek, Lower Don River

Interests: Nature

Time: 2 hours

Type: Walk, Bike

▼ Starting the Tour

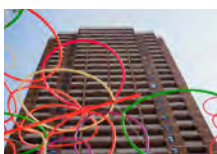
 Take the subway Line 2 to Main Street Station and exit onto Main Street. Turn left and walk south to the crosswalk at Main Street and Danforth Avenue. Cross to the northwest side of the street and walk north to the first destination on this tour.



1. STANLEY G. GRIZZLE PARK, 21 CHISHOLM AVE.

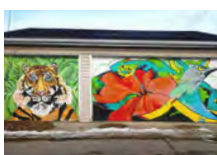
In 2007 this hidden oasis was dedicated to Stanley G. Grizzle (1918-2016), a community leader known for his political career and activism around civil rights and labour unions. Born in Toronto to Jamaican immigrants, Grizzle started working as a railway porter and soon helped form the Young Men's Negro Association of Toronto, starting his career as a leader in Canada's civil rights movement. After serving in the Second World War, Grizzle became an active campaigner for union rights. He worked with the Joint Labour Committee to Combat Racial Intolerance and founded the Railway Porters' Trade Union Council. For over 15 years, Grizzle was president of the Toronto Canadian Pacific Railroad Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. In 1978 he became the first Black Canadian appointed as a Citizenship Judge and was awarded the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada in recognition of his accomplishments.

2. MAIN SQUARE, 2575 DANFORTH AVE.



In recent years, Main Square has been creatively reimagined as an arts and community hub by East End community groups in an effort to engage the thousands of people living around the square and to revitalize the space. Main Square is a public area and a complex of four apartment buildings at the busy intersection of Main Street and Danforth Avenue, next door to the Main Square Community Centre. During the 2017 Cultural Hotspot, Main Square hosted a number of cultural and arts events including the Danforth Village Fair and Main Squared Arts Festival showcasing local artists, businesses and community organizations.

3. ALLEYWAY OF DREAMS, BARRINGTON AVENUE AND DANFORTH AVENUE, EASTWARD ALONG ALLEY BEHIND BUSINESSES



This somewhat hidden urban gallery features a number of murals on the back walls and garages of local businesses. This creative initiative was championed

by the Danforth Village BIA, supporting the long-term community art project started by local residents Mark Kerwin and Sarosh Anwar. The murals bring colour to the area, creating a safe public space and fun outdoor art gallery. Make sure to see the Bangladesh Centre and Community Services' collaborative youth mural, a SPARK project of the 2017 Cultural Hotspot, at the western end of the alley.

4. SILVER MILL GALLERY, 10 DAWES RD.

The Silver Mill Gallery is devoted to providing innovative art programming, connecting traditional artistic practices and new technologies. Exhibitions and programs focus on supporting emerging digital artists in Toronto. The gallery is located in a former grist mill, built in the 1890s, called Chalmer's Flour Mill. The pulleys and gears from the original grain elevator in the tower remain in place today.

INSIDER TIP

The Danforth East neighborhood has many community services working to create a vibrant and healthy neighbourhood.

Bangladesh Centre and Community Services, 2670 Danforth Ave.

The Centre aims to empower South Asian newcomers living in Toronto by providing social and community services. The Bangladesh Centre and Community Services is run by volunteers and community partners to provide South Asian newcomers and the larger community with specialized workshops, counselling services, settlement services, and cultural events.

Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services, 2899 Danforth Ave.

This organization is a nonprofit, charitable, multi-service organization that provides services to the local South Asian community. Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services focuses on providing community services and programs for newcomers, youth, women and seniors.

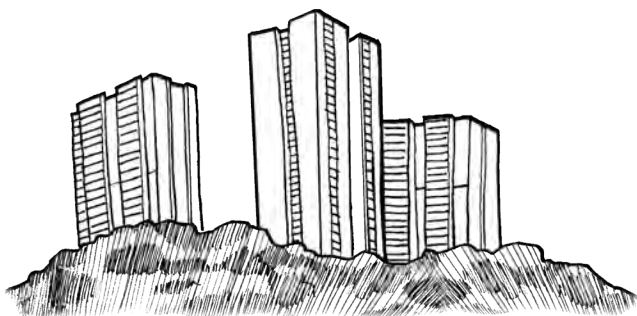
AccessPoint on Danforth, 3079 Danforth Ave.

This is a multi-service community hub, conceived through United Way Toronto's neighbourhood development strategy, for residents of the Taylor Massey neighbourhood. For a quiet moment of green in the city, visit the Hub's peaceful and innovative rooftop community garden. The Green Access Program uses the green roof to teach youth and community groups about healthy food and gardening practices and provides access to gardens for local residents with limited access to green space.

5. DENTONIA PARK, 80 THYRA AVE.

In 1926 Susan Denton Massey, of the well-known Massey family, gifted this former Dentonia Farm land to the City of Toronto for use as a park. Known today as patrons of the arts in Canada, the Masseys gained prominence as a successful farm equipment manufacturing company. In 1901, they were the first dairy farmers in the country to produce pasteurized milk, an essential process for staving off harmful bacteria. Today, Dentonia Park is a popular neighbourhood spot with a club house, basketball court, football field, cricket pitch, baseball diamond, playground, splashpad and even a City-run golf course.

6. CRESCENT TOWN, DAWES ROAD TO VICTORIA PARK AVENUE ON CRESCENT TOWN ROAD



Built on former Dentonia Farm land, Crescent Town is a self-contained, vibrant, multicultural neighborhood made up of high-rise apartment complexes and condominiums. The neighbourhood features a unique network of walkways, all located above street level, connecting the residential buildings with local public schools, recreation centres, parks, market places and Victoria Park Station.

DID YOU KNOW?



Named for Clem Dawes, who owned a hotel at the busy intersection of Danforth and Dawes, Dawes Road was

central to the commercial development of East York and northern areas of Toronto. In the 1830s, the road was a major thoroughfare for farmers in Scarborough and North York taking produce and livestock to the St. Lawrence Market. The road was also used to transport lumber from Scarborough and northern areas of Toronto, as well as sand and gravel from the East End.

7. DAWES CROSSING, 1052 VICTORIA PARK AVE.



Part building and part art installation, this environmentally friendly public art project interacts with its natural surroundings while functioning as a

community meeting place. The structure is an event space with shelter, benches and free Wi-Fi, generating its own power through solar panels and wind turbine. Commissioned by the City of Toronto and created by artist Noel Harding in 2012, the sculpture is located in a patch of green space at the intersection of Victoria Park and Dawes Road.

8. THE GOULDING ESTATE (CHILDREN'S PEACE THEATRE), 305 DAWES RD.



The Goulding Estate was built in 1927 in the brick-and-timber Tudor style, using solid beams of Georgian pine. Originally the home of Dorothy and Arthur Goulding, it is the

last remaining structure of the former Dentonia Farm. The site is now home to the Children's Peace Theatre, which provides a wide range of arts programs, events and mentorship opportunities for young people and artists. The surrounding green space has some of the largest oak trees in the Taylor Massey Creek Park (see 10).

9. TAYLOR PARK WETLANDS, 260 DAWES RD.

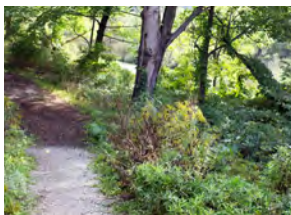


As you start along the trail, you can see how revitalization efforts in the area have created a marsh between Victoria Park and Dawes Road. Wetlands are areas saturated by ground

water and are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth. The wetland environment supports a diversity of water-loving plants and pond life, including mallard ducks, red-winged blackbirds, dragonflies and damselflies. Look for interpretative signs along the trail to learn more about the Taylor Park Wetlands. Many native plants can be found in this area, including cattails, blue flag iris, Joe pye weed and swamp milkweed.

To learn more about native plant species, see the Trees and Shrubs section on page 90 and the Wildflowers section on page 91.

10. TAYLOR MASSEY TRAIL, 260 DAWES RD.



The 3.5 kilometre Taylor Massey Trail follows the southeastern section of the 16 kilometre long Taylor Massey Creek, a tributary of the Don River, named for the Taylor and Massey

families, each of which had a significant historical impact on the area. This public greenspace is a special section of the creek, with much of its remaining length channelized or piped underground in urban areas or private property. The Taylor Massey Project, led by Friends of the Don East, is a regeneration project to expand the public trails, regenerate natural systems and reduce pollutants in the stream, which today has the most contaminants leading to Lake Ontario from storm runoff. The Taylor Massey Trail is significant for its natural environment, including wetlands, meadows, woodlands and parks. The trail is also a great spot for hiking and walking, off-road cycling and snowshoeing.

EXPLORE MORE

STAN WADLOW PARK

This large park is one of many connected to Taylor Massey Creek. Like others in the area it is a lively centre of the community with a variety of facilities, including sports facilities, off-leash dog area, children's playground, Kiwanis outdoor pool, ice rink and clubhouse. The Stan Wadlow Clubhouse also offers a range of social, educational and support programs for all ages.

11. ELEVATED WETLANDS



Art meets function in the Elevated Wetlands, another environmentally themed public art installation by artist Noel Harding (see 7 above). Commissioned by the Canadian Plastics Industry Association in 1997, the installation uses solar power to pump water up from the Don River through the two standing abstract animal-shaped sculptures. As the water trickles through the sculpture's artificial wetlands, it is filtered by waste plastic and foliage, which removes the pollutants before it re-enters the Don River environment.

12. FORKS OF THE DON

Follow the Lower Don River Trail to where it passes beneath Don Mills Road, to see where the West Don and East Don meet to form the Lower Don River. The intersection of the Don River's two main tributaries is known as the Forks of the Don and is a significant geographical feature of this area. Taylor Massey Creek is another of the many tributaries feeding into the Don River a little north of this location. Many native wetland plants are located in this area such as staghorn sumacs, blue vervain, swamp milkweed and lobelia.

To learn more about native plant species, see the Wildlife Activity on page 89.

To Find Out More, Visit

- AccessPoint on Danforth: accessalliance.ca
- Children's Peace Theatre: childrenspeacetheatre.org
- Dawes Crossing: dawescrossing.ca
- Don Watershed Regeneration Council: discoverthedon.ca
- East End Arts: eastendarts.ca
- East York Historical Society: eastyork.org/eyhs
- Friends of the Don East: fode.ca
- Toronto and Region Conservation Association: toronto.ca/trca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks

Sources

- AccessPoint on Danforth
- Children's Peace Theatre
- Dawes Crossing
- East End Arts
- East York Historical Society
- Friends of the Don East
- Toronto and Region Conservation Association (TRCA) and Don Watershed Regeneration Council, "Walk the Don"
- Toronto Parks

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Parks



Taylor Massey Trail

A TOUR OF BELL BOX MURALS



The Bell Box Murals Project is a community-engaged project using original works of art to reduce graffiti and vandalism on the city's ubiquitous Bell utility boxes. By painting the grey boxes, the project produces colourful artworks for the public to enjoy, celebrates local cultures and histories, and provides income and opportunities for local artists. The Bell Box Murals are an innovative collaboration between community organizations, local artists, private businesses and local governments, led by Community Matters Toronto and Bell Canada.


Location: Danforth Avenue


Interests: Art, History

Time: 1 hour

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour

 From Danforth Avenue, turn north onto Linsmore Crescent. Take the first left turn westbound onto Strathmore Boulevard just past Greenwood Station. The first tour destination is on the north side of the station.

 Take the subway to Greenwood Station. Exit the station to Linsmore Crescent and turn left to walk to the north. The first tour destination is on the sidewalk in front of Greenwood Station's north side.



1. CHARLES WEISS (2012), 10 LINSMORE CR.



2. OKSANA OLESKI (2017), 201 MONARCH PARK



3. MONICA WICKELER (2017), 218 PARKMOUNT RD.



4. GREG MARSHALL (2012), 1675 DANFORTH AVE.



5. JUNGLE LING (2012), 126 ROSEHEATH AVE.



6. MONICA WICKELER (2012), 331 WOLVERLEIGH BLVD.



7. JENNIFER ROGERS (2012), 1985 DANFORTH AVE.



8. TAK BUI (2012), 3 BARRINGTON AVE.



9. COMMUNITY CENTRE 55 ARTISTS (2017), 175 MAIN ST.



**10. MAHJABEEN
KABIR (2017),
1623 CRESCENT
TOWN RD.**

To Find Out More, Visit

- Bell Box Murals Project:
facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject
- Community Matters Toronto:
communitymatterstoronto.org

Sources

- Bell Box Murals Project

Photo Credits

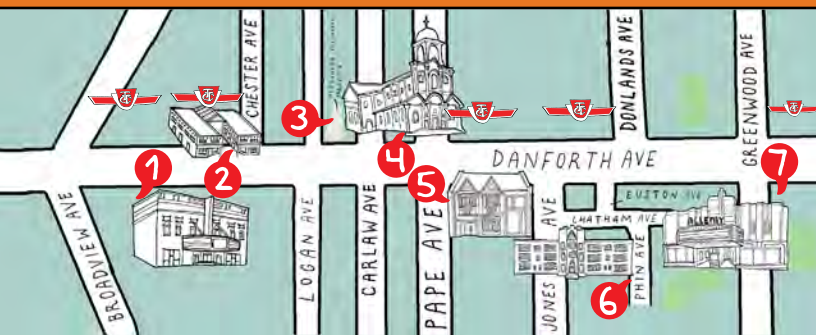
- Bell Box Murals Project



Mahjabeen Kabir

LOOP 2

LIFE ON THE DANFORTH



Danforth Avenue has something for everyone. This tour takes you through the animated streets of the Danforth area, where you can see how its lively and eclectic neighbourhoods have shaped life on this well-known streetscape. From community-focused shops like the Carrot Common to the Danforth's own small Greek amphitheatre and from the widely attended Taste of the Danforth Festival to local events at East Lynn Park – Danforth Avenue is full of hotspots to explore.

Location: Danforth Avenue, from Broadview Avenue to Main Street

Interests: Community, History

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



When you arrive at the intersection of Broadview Avenue and Danforth Avenue, drive along the Danforth eastbound towards the first destination, located on the south side of the street approximately 150 metres away. Green P Parking is available a little farther east at 242 Danforth Ave.

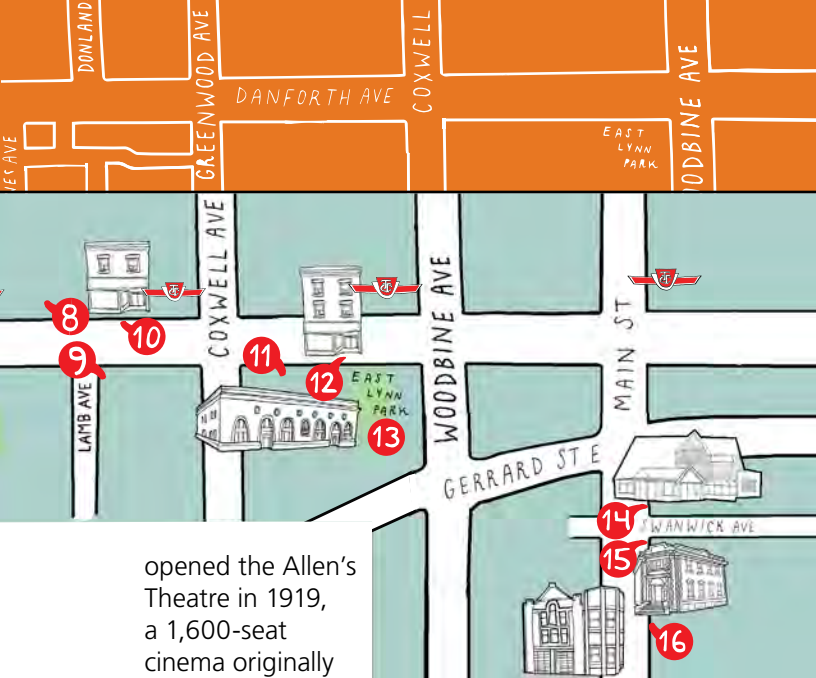


Take the subway to Broadview Station and exit to Broadview Avenue. Walk south to Danforth Avenue and cross to the south side of the street. Walk east approximately 150 metres to the first tour destination.

1. DANFORTH MUSIC HALL, 147 DANFORTH AVE.



Danforth Music Hall has changed hands and names many times over the past century, but has always been an entertainment hotspot. It's hard to miss this large theatre with its simple Georgian-style ornamentation and large double-door entrances off of Danforth Avenue. Brothers Jules and Jay Allen



opened the Allen's Theatre in 1919, a 1,600-seat cinema originally screening silent films accompanied by vaudeville acts. In the 1970s, it began hosting live shows with performances by music legends like James Brown, The Clash, The Police and The Ramones. Renamed the Danforth Music Hall in 1978, it was a popular entertainment venue until it closed in 2004, due to disrepair and financial problems. The building was renovated and reopened in 2011 and has since hosted some of the biggest names in music and entertainment, including Billy Bragg, Dave Chappelle, FKA Twigs, Iggy Azalea, Justin Bieber, Metric, Rihanna, Run The Jewels and RuPaul's Drag Race. Make sure to look for the stylized "AT" (Allens Theatre) inscription above the windows on the front of the building.

2. CARROT COMMON, 348 DANFORTH AVE.



Completed in 1987, Carrot Common has become a neighbourhood hub with community-focused businesses that provide a welcoming space for the public. The Big Carrot, the enterprise's original store, is co-owned by over 70 workers. The Carrot Common Corporation is especially unique in the city with over 50% of the co-op's profits given to community-based organizations, such as small organic farming projects, social justice initiatives, and community and economic development initiatives. Stop by the natural health centre, healthy food shops or browse the boutiques.

DID YOU KNOW?



Toronto's GreekTown runs along Danforth Avenue between Chester Avenue and Dewhurst Boulevard. The neighbourhood earned its name in the

1960s as a wave of Greek immigrants moved in and opened businesses, making their mark on the area. By the 1980s, Toronto had one of the highest populations of Greek people living outside of Greece. This lively walking neighbourhood is the largest Greektown in North America and plays host to the celebrated Taste of the Danforth event, an annual Greek food and cultural festival that attracts over 1.5 million visitors to the city. Taste the scrumptious food every August or wander down the streets any time to try one of the many restaurants in the area, several of which are listed in the HOT Eats section on page 93.

3. ALEXANDER THE GREAT PARKETTE, LOGAN AVE. AND DANFORTH AVE.



Named for the conquering king who ruled the largest empire in ancient history, this quaint parkette is a community meeting place, an event venue and a great place to sit

and enjoy ice cream on a summer day. Standing as a symbol of the Danforth's proud Greek community, the parkette's small amphitheatre is inspired by ancient Greece, with an elaborate fountain, a raised stage, Greek columns and concrete seating. The bust of Alexander the Great on the amphitheatre stage was created by Greek artist Dion Zachariou and donated by the Pan-Macedonian Association of Ontario in partnership with Toronto's Greek community in 1990.

4. HOLY NAME PARISH, 71 GOUGH AVE.



This impressive limestone church, built in 1926, stands out as a distinctive landmark in the East End. The Italian Renaissance-style structure and façade were designed by prominent Roman Catholic architect Arthur W. Holmes, who was inspired by the Basilica di Santa

Maria Maggiore in Rome. The parish can seat over a thousand people and was originally founded in 1913

by primarily Irish Catholics. Today, Holy Name Parish has a diverse and vibrant Catholic congregation and is also home to the African Catholic Community.

INSIDER TIP

If you are looking for arts and entertainment, the nearby Withrow Park at 725 Logan Ave. is host to many festivals, events and performances throughout the year.

Shakespeare in the Ruff – a SPARK partner of the 2017 Cultural Hotspot – animates this park space in late summer with outdoor Shakespearian theatre. The company incorporates educational programs into their performances, and particularly values community building and accessibility in their art.

Dusk Dances is a week-long festival that brings high quality contemporary and traditional dance performances into the community, staging choreographed performances in the park at dusk.

5. PAPE AND DANFORTH LIBRARY, 701 PAPE AVE.



Step away from the busy Danforth Avenue into this idyllic library, completed in 1929 and designed to evoke the image of a quaint English Tudor-style shop. It includes

features typical of the style such as bay windows, an overhanging second storey, a timbered-front and a gabled-roof. The library is known for its large collections in Chinese, French and Greek languages.

6. FIRST NATIONS SCHOOL OF TORONTO AND ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CENTRE, 16 PHIN AVE.

Just south of the Danforth is the province's first publicly-funded school offering an Aboriginal education from kindergarten through to grade 12. The First Nations School of Toronto teaches the Ontario Curriculum while being grounded in Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and cultures. The school's vision is "to empower students with a strong cultural identity to be tomorrow's leaders in our global society." Originally called Wandering Spirit Survival School, it was founded in the 1970s by Elders Pauline Shirt and Vern Harper.

Also on site is the Aboriginal Education Centre, which works to increase opportunities for Aboriginal students by infusing Aboriginal perspectives across

the curriculum. It also offers a wide range of support services to First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. The centre houses the Aboriginal Education Library, with resources in a variety of media for Toronto District School Board staff and students.

7. ALLENBY THEATRE, 1213 DANFORTH AVE.



Opened in 1936, this yellow-brick art deco building was the work of Kaplan and Sprachman, who famously designed over half of all theatres in Canada from 1921-

1950. The Allenby theatre was a centre for cinematic entertainment in the East End for much of its history, changing hands and names a number of times – at one point renamed the Roxy and then the Apollo. Designated a heritage site in 2007, the building has been preserved and converted to a Tim Horton's coffee shop, but you can still get a taste of that old cinema experience when you walk by the elegant façade, box office and marquee.

8. THEN & NOW - MURAL (2016), 1298 DANFORTH AVE.



Then & Now, created by artists Jim Bravo and Lula Lumaj, focuses on themes of history, nature and urbanization. The mural depicts a precolonial historical scene with three

First Nations people crossing a creek, in reference to the historic creek that ran south down Linsmore Avenue all the way to Ashbridges Bay. The mural's historical scene is contrasted by the depiction of a busy streetscape located at the top of the mural. The streetscape references changes since the early-to-mid 20th century, when the creek was filled in and the area was urbanized to make way for roads and other infrastructure.

9. ARTCAVE, 155 LAMB AVE.

ArtCave is an artist collective and studio that provides year round quality art programs for children, youth and adults. The friendly and community-oriented studio runs workshops, classes and camps in drawing, painting, animation and comic book publishing. ArtCave hosted Animating Danforth East, a SPARK project of the 2017 Cultural Hotspot, which was a week-long festival that turned Danforth Avenue into an outdoor gallery exhibiting animations created by children and youth in local businesses.

10. COAL MINE THEATRE, 1454 DANFORTH AVE



Toronto has a vibrant and celebrated live theatre scene with a number of new independent playhouses in the East End. One example is the Coal Mine, founded by Canadian theatre actors Diana Bentley and Ted Dykstra. The Coal Mine Theatre provides opportunities for local artists and focuses on bringing contemporary and new works to the stage.

11. DANFORTH CARHOUSE AND GARAGE, 1627 DANFORTH AVE.



Built in 1915, this streetcar storage facility was key to the expansion of Toronto Civic Railway's streetcar network in the East End and operated as a public transit vehicle barn for 87 years. After the streetcar system was taken over by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) in 1921, the carhouse was expanded until it was able to store and service 54 streetcars on 17 tracks in the yard, handling streetcars for major routes. In 1967, after the closing of many of these streetcar routes, the TTC set to work converting the facility to an all-bus garage. The refurbished 60,000 square foot complex could handle 134 buses at its peak. No longer used to serve vehicles, the building is still owned by the TTC and is used for offices and equipment storage.

12. TORONTO TOOL LIBRARY, 1803 DANFORTH AVE.

Ever wanted to build or fix something but didn't have the tools to do so? The Toronto Tool Library loans specialized tools and technology to community members to remove the barrier of purchasing equipment for repairs, gardening, cooking, building and community projects. Part of the DIY movement, the library also offers affordable workshops to help people learn new skills. Over 40 tool libraries have been established in North America since 1979, reducing the costs of improving and greening homes and neighbourhoods.

13. EAST LYNN PARK, 1949 DANFORTH AVE.



East Lynn Park is the heart of the Woodbine and Danforth neighbourhood. The park is animated by active community organizations like the Danforth East Community Association (DECA) and The Danny BIA, which run festivals, events, farmers' markets and arts markets in the park all year long. With a playground, splash pad and toboggan hills, the park is always a popular spot for local families.

14. MAIN STREET LIBRARY, 137 MAIN ST.



This quaint library is housed in an Arts and Crafts-style cottage set back off the street, giving visitors a peaceful escape in the middle of a busy neighbourhood. With many British immigrants in the area in the early 1900s, libraries and other public buildings, such as the Coxwell Stables (see 15 on page 54), often used architectural styles in keeping with historical British traditions, such as using half-timbered gables and an overhanging second floor. Originally called the Eastern Branch, the library moved to this location in 1921, and was renamed the Main Street Library in 1939.

15. COMMUNITY CENTRE 55, 97 MAIN ST.



Designed by Robert McCallum in 1911, who also designed the Riverdale Library (see 3 on page 48), this Beaux-Arts style building stands out because of its corner entrance and ornate detailing. Replacing the East Toronto Town Hall built on this site in 1888, the building opened as Police Station Number 10 – you can spot the inscription above the entranceway – later becoming the headquarters for 55 Division of the Metropolitan Toronto Police

Service. Today, Community Centre 55, named after the former headquarters, is a neighbourhood hub that has provided a variety of services and programs since 1975. Look for the delightful police car mural on the decorated planters outside.

16. FIRE STATION 226, 87 MAIN ST.



Station 226 has been in active use as a fire station for over a century. Built in 1910, this picturesque two-storey building features red brick with stone detailing and trim, as well as a rounded central window and a steep gabled-roof. It is one of the few remaining fire stations in Toronto built in the Amsterdam School and Romanesque Revival style. Look closely to see the original Fire Station No. 22 inscription on the front.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Coal Mine Theatre: coalminetheatre.com.
- Community Centre 55: centre55.com
- GreekTown on the Danforth BIA: greektowntoronto.com
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- Toronto Tool Library: torontotoollibrary.com

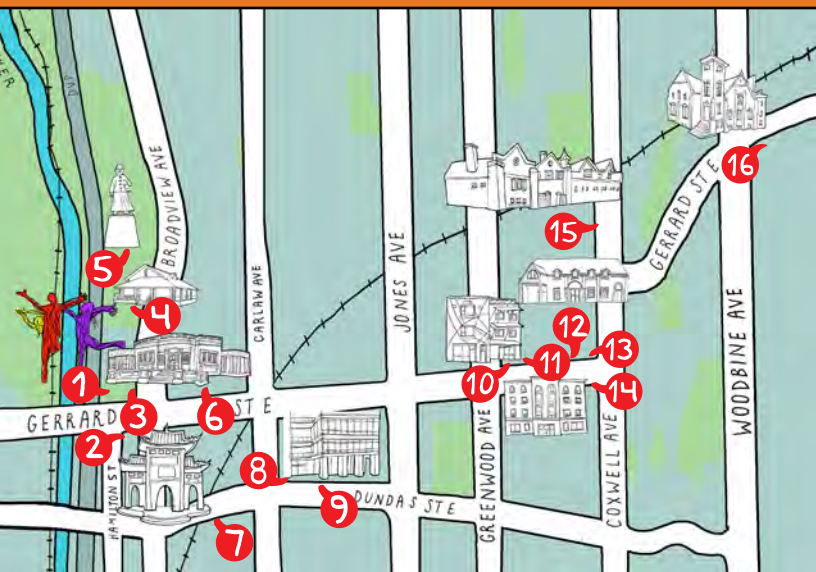
Sources

- Bridgepoint Active Healthcare
- Carrot Common Corporation
- Coal Mine Theatre
- Community Centre 55
- Doug Taylor, "Toronto's Local Movie Houses of Yesteryear"
- GreekTown on the Danforth BIA
- Holy Name Parish
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Fire Services
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Tool Library
- Transit Toronto

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Coal Mine Theatre
- Dahlia Katz
- Toronto Public Library

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY ON GERRARD



Gerrard Street East has arguably become the East End's centre for cultural communities and artistic expression. It began as a working-class residential neighbourhood and grew to become a commercial and creative thoroughfare. This tour invites you to visit the incredible local restaurants and shops in East Chinatown and Little India as you explore the superb public art pieces that enliven the area.

Location: Gerrard Street East

Interests: Arts, Community, Culture

Time: 1 hour

Type: Walk, Bike

▼ Starting the Tour



Drive eastbound or westbound on Gerrard Street East to Hamilton Street. Parking is available at the Green P Parking at the corner of Gerrard and Hamilton Street. For the first tour destination, exit your vehicle and cross to the north side of Gerrard at the crosswalk. Walk to the northwest end of Hubbard Park to Bridgepoint Active Healthcare and enter the building through the front doors to get to the first tour destination.



Take the 506 streetcar westbound from Broadview Station or the 506 streetcar eastbound from College Station to the intersection of Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street East. From the northwest corner of this intersection, walk through Hubbard Park towards Bridgepoint Active Healthcare and enter the building through the front doors to get to your first tour destination.

1. MAX TANENBAUM SCULPTURE GARDEN AT BRIDGEPOINT ACTIVE HEALTHCARE, 1 BRIDGEPOINT DR.



Head through the main entrance of Bridgepoint Active Healthcare to find this incredible art installation of 20 life-size human figures painted in bright colours, overlooking

the Don Valley from the western terrace. Designed by renowned Canadian artist William Lishman for rehabilitation hospital Bridgepoint Active Healthcare, this inspiring piece celebrates the capabilities of the physical form through depictions of dance, sport and other movement. The sculptures are a gift from the Tauba and Solomon Spiro Foundation, designed in memory of businessman and philanthropist, Max Tanenbaum, for whom the garden is named.

2. ZHONG HUA MEN ARCHWAY, 573 GERRARD ST. E.



This ornate 13-metre tall gateway at the entrance to East Chinatown welcomes visitors with messages of goodwill and wisdom engraved onto its columns.

The Zhong Hua Men Archway, which means Chinese Gateway, stands as a symbol of the history and contributions of Chinese-Canadians to Canada, specifically commemorating the exploited Chinese labourers who built the railways across Canada. Erected in 2009, the archway was a joint project between the City of Toronto and the East Toronto Chinese Chamber of Commerce. The People's Republic of China donated the two marble lion statues, weighing three tons each, to the project. In 2013, Canada Post featured this gate in a special edition of stamps.

3. RIVERDALE LIBRARY, 370 BROADVIEW AVE.



Built in 1909, the library is one of many public buildings in Toronto designed by official City Architect Robert McCallum, who also designed

Fire Station 226 and Fire Station 227 in the East End (see pages 46 and 74 respectively). McCallum's best-known work is Allen Gardens Conservatory. In keeping with the Georgian-Revival style, Riverdale Library is simply ornamented and features beautiful and distinctive stone railings along the top of the rounded-corner entrance. Riverdale Library was one of the first branches to provide children's services in the East End, resulting in the children's wing expansion in 1927. In 1973, in response to the areas changing demographics, a large Chinese language collection was established.

4. EAST END ARTS AT ST. MATHEW'S CLUBHOUSE, 450 BROADVIEW AVE.

East End Arts supports the arts community in Toronto's East End by partnering with initiatives and artists, running arts programs and projects, engaging with communities and promoting cultural events. The organization's goal is to encourage artistic growth in both emerging and established artists, contribute to the economy and local tourism, promote inclusion and equity, support healthy social change, and help create audiences for the future. In 2018, East End Arts moved to its new home in this 1906 clubhouse. For a century, the building, designed by Robert McCallum, was a clubhouse for the local lawn bowling club.

5. SUN YAT-SEN STATUE, RIVERDALE PARK, 550 BROADVIEW AVE.



This stately bronze statue of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic of China, was installed in Riverdale Park in 1985. Designed by local sculptor Joe Rosenthal, the monument shows Dr. Sun Yat-sen holding a book of his famous ideology "The Three Principles of the People," symbolizing his beliefs on

nationalism, democracy and socialism. The monument celebrates the area's Chinese community, which continues to thrive today.

DID YOU KNOW?

The culturally distinct neighbourhood of East Chinatown developed in the 1970s, with the opening of Charlie's Meat, the first Chinese-run store in the East End. Opened in 1971 by Charles Cheung at 383A Broadview, it was the first of many stores. As unaffordable properties in downtown's Old Chinatown brought an influx

of Chinese residents and businesses to the area, East Chinatown quickly expanded from Broadview Avenue eastward along Gerrard Street East.

EXPLORE MORE

The New7Wonders Mural Series on Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street East brings a splash of colour to the area. They depict famous landmarks from around the world including Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, the Great Wall in China, the Taj Mahal in India, the Colosseum in Italy, Petra in Jordan, Chichen Itza in Mexico and Machu Picchu in Peru. The project was led by artist Mike Kennedy and painted by 20 local artists and students. Use the Mural Art Map on page 57 to find all seven, as well as other murals in the area.

6. LAST APARTMENT OF GRAND DUCHESS OLGA ALEXANDROVNA, 716 GERRARD ST. E.



The upstairs apartment of this unassuming building was the last home of the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, sister of Tsar Nicholas II. The Duchess was the last of the royal Romanov family, which ruled Russia from 1613 to the Russian Revolution of 1917. She fled Russia after her family were overthrown and executed, coming to Canada during the Second World War and settling on a cattle farm outside of Campbellville, Ontario. Despite being exiled, she was still invited to dine with European royalty when they visited Canada, including Queen Elizabeth II. She never went back to Russia. On November 24, 1960, at the age of 79, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna passed away in this Gerrard Street East apartment while staying in the care of friends.

7. OBSIDIAN THEATRE, 1089 DUNDAS ST. E.

Obsidian Theatre is dedicated to the exploration, development and production of the Black voice, focusing on producing plays by Black playwrights. The theatre showcases the work of both emerging and established Black artists working in Canada and worldwide. Obsidian offers artistic support and training opportunities through mentoring and apprenticeship programs for emerging artists and playwrights.

8. CROW'S THEATRE, 345 CARLAW AVE.

The Streetcar Crowsnest is a new, multipurpose arts hub and facility serving Toronto's East End. A partnership between Crow's Theatre and Streetcar Developments, it opened in January 2017. Crow's Theatre prides itself as a content-led theatre company showcasing some of the most provocative and contemporary theatre works in the city.

9. PROJECT GALLERY, 1210 DUNDAS ST. E.

Project Gallery is one of the largest commercial art galleries in the area. It features a studio and gallery that showcases and collaborates with local emerging and mid-career artists for exhibitions, creative projects and special events. Project Gallery focuses on supporting artists whose work reflects new and innovative developments in contemporary art.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1912, the Toronto Railway Company began operating streetcars on Gerrard Street East. By 1921, the Toronto Transit Commission took over streetcar operation and connected the Gerrard route to the rest of the city's transit system. By 1925, the streetcar, now known as the College Car, was operating along most of its present-day route, and today it connects 15 distinct neighbourhoods across the city including Little India, East Chinatown, Little Italy, Portugal Village, Chinatown, Kensington Market and High Park.

10. RIVERDALE HUB, 1326 GERRARD ST. E.



The Riverdale Hub is a social enterprise located in a century-old building that has been adapted to offer co-working space, offices and event space for local entrepreneurs, community groups and artists. It also houses a community gallery and the environmentally-conscious Social Gardener Café, which uses its own rooftop garden for ingredients. The Riverdale Hub shares its location with the Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre (RIWC), which is committed to supporting Asian and South Asian women, children, youth and families. The RIWC also uses the rooftop garden for its programming as a safe space for women to volunteer, learn and help build their community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Also known as Little India, the Gerrard India Bazaar is one of the largest main street marketplaces of South Asian goods and services in North America, and hosts the annual Festival of South Asia that highlights literary arts, visual arts, live music, performance and cuisines from the region. In this unique enclave of Toronto, culture, art and community come together through the area's diverse businesses, beautiful public art and friendly local meeting places. In the early 1970s, the many Indian businesses, as well as Afghani, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Sri Lankan businesses, formed a hub for South Asian communities. This led to the formation of the Gerrard India Bazaar BIA in 1981, one of Toronto's oldest Business Improvement Associations. By 1985, there were over 100 South Asian shops and restaurants receiving 100,000 visitors a year.

11. NAAZ THEATRE (EASTWOOD THEATRE), 1430 GERRARD ST. E.



In the 1970s, the Naaz Theatre stimulated the commercial growth of South Asian businesses in the area, leading to the formation of the Gerrard India Bazaar.

Businesses on Gerrard Street East were declining in the late 1960s until, in 1972, local entrepreneur Gian Naz rented the 750-seat Eastwood Theatre and began screening movies in Hindi and other South Asian languages. The screenings became extremely popular with the South Asian community. Naz raised money from the community to purchase the theatre in 1974, renaming it Naaz Theatre and creating a social centre for Toronto's South Asian community. The cinema closed in the 1980s, but the vibrant South Asian community hub that it helped create continues today. Built in the Beaux-Arts style, the original building had plain faux arches on the symmetrical front façade and three windows topped with Roman arches were located behind the marquee. Although the building has a new façade, the use of faux arches echoes back to this past.

12. GERRARD AND ASHDALE LIBRARY, 1432 GERRARD ST. E.

East End arts, culture and community come together at the busy Gerrard and Ashdale Library. Built in 1924, the original building was designed to look like an English manor house in the Arts and Crafts style,



which was typical of many libraries in this era; however, a modern extension and outdoor patio have since been added. This branch was essential to the development

of the neighbourhood, built after years of advocacy by community members to local authorities and the City of Toronto. In the 1920s, the neighbourhood was home to a large working-class population whose access to education was limited, and the library offered important learning opportunities for both children and adults. From the mid-1920s, university extension courses were offered and the Worker's Educational Association and Unemployment Educational Association ran free lectures that were inclusive and available to everyone in the community. By 1994, the library included collections in Chinese, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali.



While you visit, take in the Caravan of India mural by Shayona Panth in collaboration with Suparna Ghosh, located along the concrete sides of the patio. The mural features a caravan procession led by elephants with various South Asian symbols on each caravan such as a peacock, the national bird of India. It was sponsored by the Gerrard India Bazaar BIA and unveiled at the annual Festival of South Asia in 2009.

13. WOMEN IN THE WALLS MURALS, 1460 GERRARD ST. E.



Women in the Walls All Female Street Art Jam was a SPARK Project of the 2017 Cultural Hotspot in partnership with artist Monica Wickeler and StreetARToronto that featured

18 women painting murals through the weekend-long live paint event. On the side of 1460 Gerrard St. E. is a large 66' x 12' mural, by Bareket Kezwer and Monica Wickeler, featuring a quote by Malala Yousafzai, a Nobel Prize laureate for activism in human rights and female education. It reads, "In a silent world even one voice becomes powerful" with the word "powerful" 30-feet long and ten feet high – that's powerful!

Explore the alley behind the businesses on the north side of Gerrard Street East from Woodfield Avenue to Craven Road to see over a dozen more murals from

this project, which has reinforced this neighbourhood's reputation as a hub for local mural artists. Mural artists included Monique Bedard (Aura), Stephanie Bellefleur, Courtney Binns, Kim Dolan, Erika James (Nixo), Mahjabeen Kabir, Bareket Kezwer, Jieun June Kim, Stacey Kinder, Nancy King (Chief Ladybird), Anya Mielniczek, Fatima Mohiuddin (Fats), Maria Nador, Janelle Newbold, Kerry O'Meara, Shafia Shaikh, Caitlyn Taguibao and Monica Wickeler.

Find the Mural Map on page 57 to see more murals in the neighbourhood, including the nearby Graffiti Alley East on the south side of Gerrard Street East.

14. CORNERSTONE STUDIO, 1519 GERRARD ST. E.

The Cornerstone Studio is a dance and fitness studio open to community members of all ages and skill levels, known for their artistic integrity in their professional workshops and performances. The studio teaches a wide variety of dance styles and programs for kids, including Acro, Bhangra, Breakdance, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Lyrical Ballet, Musical Theatre, Pivotal Motion Dance Theatre and Young Movers. Cornerstone Studio is also a home and rehearsal space for the Alias Dance Project, a performance group bridging communities and dance forms through collaboration and creating original works that are powerful, exciting and risky.

DID YOU KNOW?

The East End is home to many dance studios and schools for people of all ages and experience levels. Residents can get moving at the Beaches Dance and Music Studio, Cadence Dance Academy, Joy of Dance Centre, Pegasus Studios and Leslieville School of Dance, to name a few.

15. COXWELL STABLES, 426-444 COXWELL AVE. E.

Note: Private property, observe from street only.



Designed by official City of Toronto architect W. W. Pearce in 1919, the Period Revival stables combine many architectural features that echo popular European historical styles such as the cross-gabled roofs and large pyramidal cupola vents with a chevron pattern jutting out from the top. The stables were originally a municipal building to accommodate the horses that pulled Toronto's Public Works Department vehicles.

However, not long after it was built, many horse-drawn vehicles were replaced with automobiles and the stables were converted to a storage facility. The painted Coxwell Stables sign appears to have been created at the time the stables were erected, but was in fact a recent addition to the building. The Coxwell Stables is now owned by Toronto Community Housing.

16. GRANT AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2029 GERRARD ST. E.



The Grant African Methodist Episcopal Congregation (Grant AME) was formed in 1833 and is one of the oldest Black churches in Toronto. Many

members came to Toronto from the United States through the Underground Railroad. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was originally founded in 1797 in Philadelphia by Richard Allen, a former slave who bought his own freedom, and today, the Church has three million members worldwide. At first, members of the Grant AME congregation met in each other's homes for worship until the church moved to a permanent space on Soho Street in downtown Toronto in 1929. It relocated to Gerrard Street in 1991. The church is a lively centre of the community with over 300 members, 40 ministries, many choirs, praise ministries, dance ministries, active youth groups and a band. The Women's Missionary School conducts outreach, and the Lay Organization and Harriet Tubman Organization works with youth to provide educational and mentorship programs and financial support.

First constructed in 1926 and home of the Glenmount United Church for 74 years, it was purchased in 1985 by the progressive Metropolitan Community Church, resulting in the first LGBTQ group in Canada to own property. At the time, the church was under the leadership of Reverend Brent Hawkes, who is known for conducting the first same-sex marriage ceremony in Canada on January 14, 2001 (although the marriages were not registered until 2003). In 2008, Reverend Hawkes received the Order of Canada for championing human rights and social justice for decades. The Metropolitan Community Church relocated further west in 1991, selling the church to its current owners, Grant AME.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Cornerstone Studio: cornerstonestudio.ca
- Crow's Theatre: crowstheatre.com
- Gerrard India Bazaar: gerrardindiabazaar.com
- Grant AME: grantame.com
- Metropolitan Community Church: mcctoronto.com
- Project Gallery: projectgallery.ca
- Riverside BIA: riverside-to.com
- StreetArtToronto: toronto.ca/streetart
- The Riverdale Hub: riverdale-hub.wixsite.com
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca

Sources

- Cornerstone Studio
- David Chuenyan Cai, "Chinatowns: Towns within Cities in Canada"
- Doug Taylor, "Toronto's Local Movie Theatres of Yesteryear"
- Elizabeth Gillan Muir, "Riverdale, East of the Don"
- Gerrard India Bazaar
- Grant African Methodist Church
- Harald Bauder and Angelica Suorineni, "Toronto's Little India: A Brief Neighbourhood History"
- Joanne Doucette, "Leslieville: Pigs, Flowers & Bricks"
- John Warkentin, "Creating Memory: a Guide to Outdoor Public Sculpture in Toronto"
- Leslieville Historical Society
- Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
- Oleson Worland Architects
- Riverside BIA
- Streetcar Developments
- The Riverdale Hub
- Toronto Star, Patty Wisna, "Brent Hawkes's Successor knows He Has Big Pews to Fill at Metropolitan Community Church"
- Toronto Public Library
- Transit Toronto
- TVO, "Exile in Ontario: How the Russian Royal Family Came to an End in Toronto"

Photos


- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Grant AME
- Monica Wickeler
- Simon Pulsifer
- Toronto Public Library


MURAL ART IN THE EAST END



Explore the murals in this artistically and culturally spirited section of Toronto's East End, where street art has flourished, bringing different groups of people together to form a community and celebrate their neighbourhoods. Large-scale murals are often a collaborative process between artists, residents and businesses, as well as sponsors and organizers. There are so many murals in Toronto's East End, these are just a few.

▼ Starting the Tour

 Drive eastbound or westbound on Gerrard Street East to Hamilton Street. Parking is available at the Green P Parking at the corner of Gerrard and Hamilton Street, where the first tour destination is located.

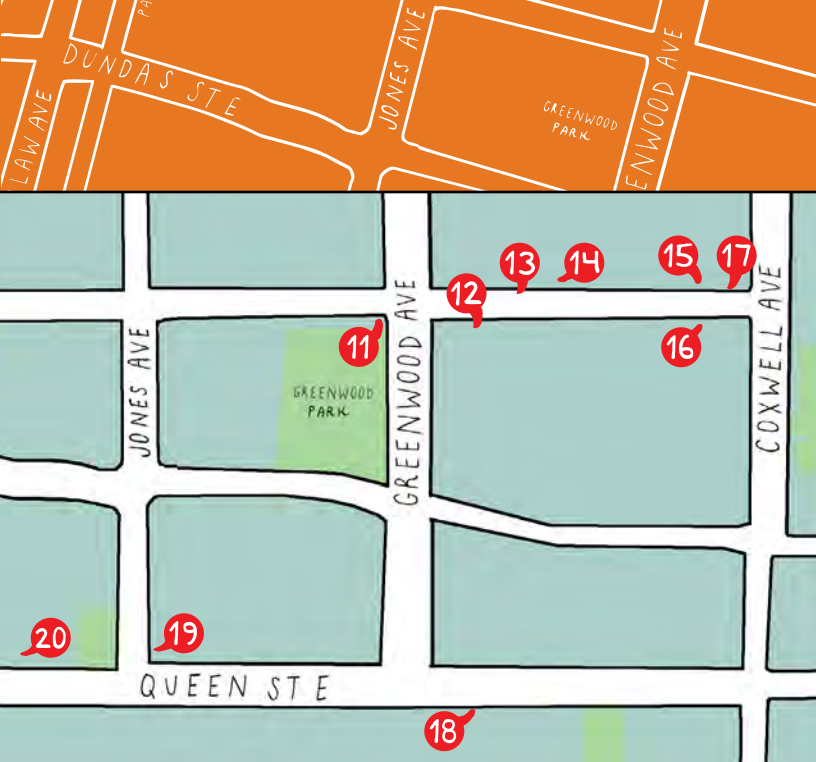
 Take the 506 streetcar westbound from Broadview Station or the 506 streetcar eastbound from College Station to the intersection of Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street East. From the intersection, walk west on Gerrard Street East and turn south on Hamilton Street. The first tour destination is in the Green P Parking lot.

1. PROJECT PICASSO (2015), 225 HAMILTON AVE.



Lead Artist: Mike Kennedy

Located in the Green P Parking lot behind the large Zhong Hua Men Archway, Toronto Police 55 Division initiated the Asian-inspired mural project, working with artists and youth from Riverdale Collegiate Institute to combat graffiti.



NEW7WONDERS OF THE WORLD MURALS (2016), EAST CHINATOWN

Artist: Mike Kennedy

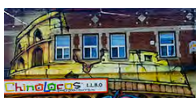
Where else can you see the wonders of the world in a few city blocks? This series of large-scale murals is spread out around East Chinatown, painted by 20 artists and students.



2. GREAT WALL OF CHINA, CHINA, 318 BROADVIEW AVE.



3. PETRA, JORDAN, 349 BROADVIEW AVE.



4. ROMAN COLISEUM, ITALY, 577 GERRARD ST. E.



5. CHRIST THE REDEEMER, BRAZIL, 585 GERRARD ST. E.



6. CHICHEN ITZA, MEXICO, 590 GERRARD ST. E.



7. TAJ MAHAL, INDIA, 651 GERRARD ST. E.



8. MACHU PICCHU, PERU, 665 GERRARD ST. E.

9. HERAKUT (2012), 1135 DUNDAS AVE. E.

Artists: Hera and Akut (Herakut)



This mural was painted as part of an international mural project called The Giant Story Book, which connects a series of fantasy-based murals around the world. The mural depicts the protagonist of the story series, Jay, encountering his creative spirit.

10. JIMMY CHIALE MURAL (2016), 248 PAPE AVE.



Artist: Jimmy Chiale

Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

A private resident commissioned the artist, known for his bright colourful shapes and bold black lines, to create a pop of colour on what had been a blank white wall. Chiale has designed many murals in Toronto, but is particularly known for his “Make Good” mural in Kensington Market.

11. BELL FLOWER (2013), 208 GREENWOOD AVE.

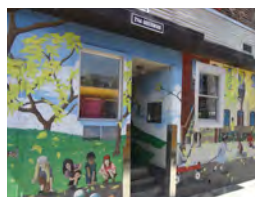


Artist: William Lazos

Note: Private property, observe house from street only.

A private property owner of this business hired Lazos, who worked with local designer Alvin Wong, to create a mural that reflects the building’s interior décor.

12. BRICKS AND WAGONS MURAL (2012), 1289 GERRARD ST. E.



Artists: Jim Bravo, Anthony Delacruz and Em Ciobanica

Initiated by business owners who were concerned about minor tagging on this wall, the mural was unveiled at a community street-art event, and aims to inspire positive change and artistic potential within the community.

13. GERRARDART PROJECT MURAL (2012), 1322 TO 1330 GERRARD ST. E.



Artists: Adrian Hayles and JAH, with mosaic artist Anna Camilleri, Red Dress Productions

This mural spans the entire block and is influenced by the

South Asian heritage of many local business owners. Its imagery includes Islamic calligraphy and iconic images typically associated with henna designs.

14. FOUR-D (2013), 1386 GERRARD ST E.



Artists: Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson

In partnership with the Gerrard India Bazaar BIA, this colourful mural uses imagery of South Asian textile design.

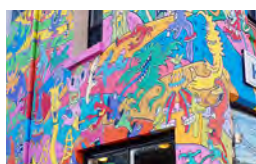
15. WOMEN IN THE WALLS (2017), 1460 GERRARD ST. E.



Lead Artist: Monica Wickeler

Starting at the powerful mural at 1460 Gerrard St. E., Women in the Walls All Female Street Art Jam was a live paint event that expanded down the alleyway between Woodfield Avenue and Craven Road with dozens of murals by 18 female artist. To learn more about the event and murals, see 13 on page 53.

16. AL RUNT MURAL (2016), 1600 GERRARD ST. E.



Artist: Al Runt

Al Runt's masterful and playful neon creatures inject a sense of mischief and humour into the streetscape. This well-known Toronto artist is famous for his iconic mural on Lee's Palace located downtown.

17. GRAFFITI ALLEY EAST (2015), 1463 GERRARD ST. E.



Artists: Monica Wickeler, Nicolas Sinclair, Tim Skynz & Eskape Reality Collective, Kerry O'Meara, Angel Carrillo, Minha Maconha

Located in the alleyways on the south side of Gerrard Street East between Craven Road and Rhodes Avenue, the project was modelled on the Graffiti Alley West at Rush Lane.

18. LESLIEVILLE MURAL (2017), 1401 QUEEN ST. E.



Artist: Dmitry Bondarenko

The mural depicts a map of the Leslieville area with an illustration of the human history of the area

below. In a shout-out to the famous Leslieville mural by Elicser nearby, the word “Leslieville” is written across the mural in lights.

19. LESLIEVILLE MURAL (2016), 1160 QUEEN ST. E.



Artist: Elicser

The mural is a celebration of the neighbourhood’s history, with the word Leslieville written in a large script and celebrated local poet Alexander Muir sitting under the tree that inspired the “Maple Leaf Forever” song, a Canadian classic. Read more details about this mural on page 69.

20. STREETCAR MURAL (2011), 1128 QUEEN ST. E.



Artists: Lindsay Bess, Rebecca Chan, Julien Jodoin-Eng, Graeme Longland, Rohan Sowamber, Keeley Whitehead

Located on the side of OK OK Diner, this quirky retro-style mural features an old streetcar model and robot-people hybrids inspired by the diner’s display of vintage television sets. The nostalgic imagery on the screens includes stars such as Muhammad Ali and Billie Holiday.

21. GUIDANT (2017), 1014 QUEEN ST. E.



Artist: Mediah

This dynamic mural is located beside a Bike Share Station. Graffiti artist Mediah was inspired by motion and energy and the mechanical gears and spokes that you find on a bicycle.

22. POLLINATOR MURAL (2016), 777 QUEEN ST. E.



Artist: Nick Sweetman

Not many murals combine the motifs of beekeeping and timekeeping, but the Riverside neighbourhood celebrates its history of both in this art piece. Read more about this mural on page 68.

23. SPORTS HERITAGE MURAL (2014), 1 MUNRO ST.



Artist: Monica Wickeler

This piece celebrates Riverside’s rich history in sport. Riverside is home to one of Toronto’s oldest

bicycling and curling clubs, as well as the site of its first professional baseball team and stadium.

24. TKARANTO PAST/TKARANTO FUTURE (2017), 650 QUEEN ST. E.

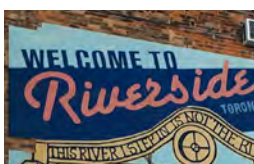


Lead Artist: Odinamaad

The mural was designed in collaboration with Chief Lady Bird and Dave Monday Oguorie and was a SPARK project of the Cultural

Hotspot. Learn more about this mural on page 65.

25. WELCOME TO RIVERSIDE MURAL (2013), 651 QUEEN ST. E.



Artist: Jessie Durham, painted by Melissa Luk

Located near the entrance to Riverside from the Queen Street Viaduct, the mural

welcomes visitors coming from downtown. The design was a collaborative effort based on community feedback at the annual Riverside Eats & Beats Festival.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Gerrard India Bazaar: gerrardindiabazaar.com
- Leslieville BIA: leslievillebia.com
- Mural Routes: muralroutes.ca
- Riverside BIA: riverside-to.com
- STEPS Initiative: stepsinitiative.com
- StreetARToronto: toronto.ca/streetart

Sources

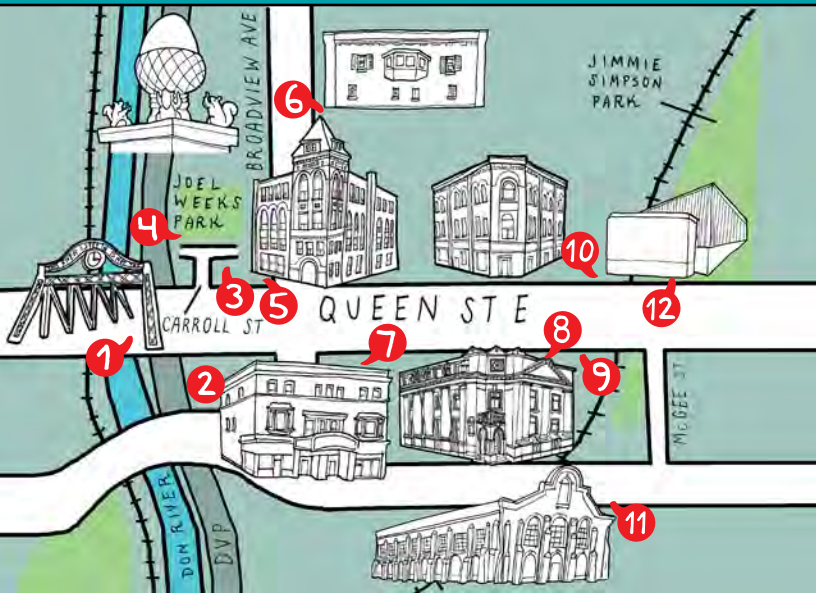
- ERA Architects
- Herakut
- Leslieville BIA
- Mediah Studio
- Move Smartly, Realosophy Realty, "Leslieville Recap Unveiling of a Mural Queen East and Bertmount"
- Mural Routes
- Ralph Thornton Centre
- Riverside BIA
- STEPS Initiative
- StreetARToronto
- Streetcar Developments

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- Monica Wickeler
- Mural Routes
- Riverside BIA
- StreetARToronto

LOOP 3

STROLLING THE QUEEN STREET STRETCH



This tour of Queen Street East takes you through two of Toronto’s oldest East End neighbourhoods, starting in Riverside and heading east along Queen Street into Leslieville. Riverside and Leslieville began as working class communities built around light industries in brickmaking, metal processing, tanning and market gardening. Today, these rapidly growing neighbourhoods are blending old with new, repurposing commercial and factory buildings in creative new ways. Discover these lively neighbourhoods, known for their great restaurants, artisan markets, street festivals and film studios.


Location: Riverside, Leslieville


Interests: Art, History, Nature

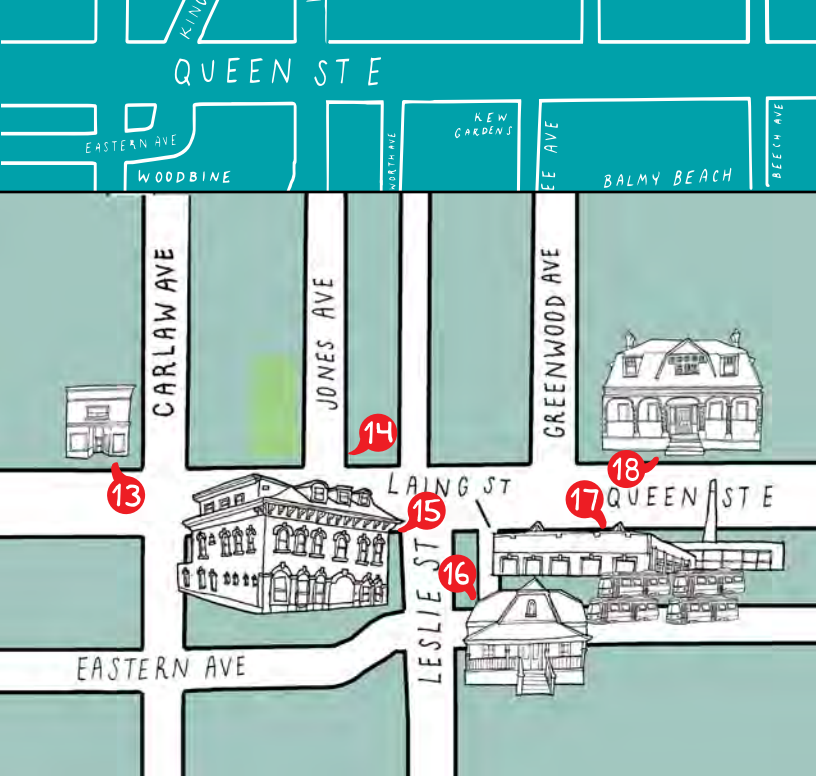
Time: 1 hour

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

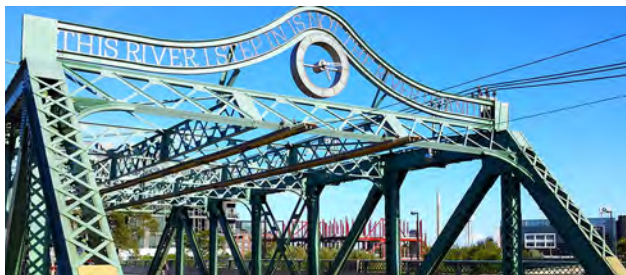
▼ Starting the Tour

 On the west side of the Don River, drive east along Queen Street East or King Street East. The two roads merge as you approach the first tour destination on the Queen Street Viaduct over the Don River. Parking is available at 677 Queen St. E. or in the Green P lot at 136 Broadview Ave.

 Take the 501 Queen Streetcar eastbound from Queen Subway Station or 503 or 504 streetcars eastbound from King Station to the River Street stop. Continue walking east over the Queen Street Viaduct. Your first tour destination is on the bridge.



1. TIME: AND A CLOCK (1996), QUEEN STREET VIADUCT



Time: And A Clock is a three-part public art installation by Eldon Garnet clustered around the Queen Street Viaduct. Built in 1911, the Viaduct is one of only a few steel truss bridges in Toronto. The bridge raised Queen Street across the Don River and over the railway tracks, eliminating a dangerous street level crossing. In the 1990s, the first part of Time: And A Clock was installed during a renovation of the bridge, with a clock mounted on the old steel truss and the inscription "This River I Step In Is Not The River I Stand In." The quote, by Greek philosopher Heraclitus, uses the flow of water as a metaphor for time and change.

Two more installation art pieces in the Riverside neighbourhood, all by Eldon Garnet, explore the passage of time. The first is a sidewalk installation with popular sayings about time inlaid with steel into the sidewalks at all four corners of Queen and Broadview. The second piece is a series of four adjacent posts on the sidewalk in front of Jimmie Simpson Park. Each

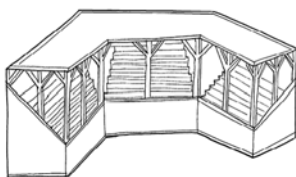
post is topped with a letter that spells out time and a steel flag with a verb associated with the passage of time.

DID YOU KNOW?



In 1896, the Canadian Pacific Railway opened a stop called Don Station on the west side of the Queen Street Viaduct. By the 1920s, it was a regular stop for all Canadian Pacific Railway passenger trains travelling between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. When the station was taken out of service in 1969, the entire building was moved to Todmorden Mills Heritage Site, where it remained for decades. Today, you can see a refurbished and repainted Don Station at the Toronto Railway Museum at Roundhouse Park on 255 Bremner Boulevard.

2. SUNLIGHT PARK, TORONTO'S FIRST BASEBALL GROUNDS, 655 QUEEN ST. E.



Toronto's first professional baseball team, the Torontos, played in a stadium at this site from 1886 to 1897 and won Toronto's first International League baseball

championship in 1887 against Newark, New Jersey. The stadium's grandstand was four-storeys high and seated 2,250 people, and the field was surrounded by a 4-metre-tall wooden fence. When the stadium opened in 1886, the opening pitch was thrown by Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor John Beverly. The stadium was soon renamed Sunlight Park, after the nearby Sunlight Soap Works. In 1897, under the new ownership of the Toronto Ferry Company, the Torontos were renamed the Toronto Maple Leafs Baseball Team (before the hockey team donned the name) and moved to a new stadium at Hanlan's Point before ending up at their current home in Christie Pitts Park.

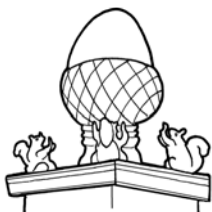
3. TKARANTO PAST/TKARANTO FUTURE MURAL (2017), 650 QUEEN ST. E.



Tkaranto Past/Tkaranto Future explores Tkaranto (Toronto) as a meeting place, beginning with Indigenous peoples, who met, travelled and hunted here, and later as

a place where people from around the world come to live. The mural acknowledges that today we gather on the traditional territories of those who first occupied the land. Painted by artist Odinamaad, in collaboration with Chief Lady Bird and Dave Monday Oguorie, the mural was a SPARK project of the Cultural Hotspot in partnership with Riverside BIA. The mural concept was developed in collaboration with Traditional Wisdom Keeper Philip Cote and youth from Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

4. ECHO, JOEL WEEKS PARK (2015), 10 THOMPSON ST.



This installation by artist Mary Anne Barkhouse consists of three bronze and granite sculptures – a beaver, a fox and four squirrels – located in different corners of Joel Weeks Park. The sculptures represent the flora and fauna of Canada. While the beaver and fox sculptures are realistic representations, Barkhouse playfully depicted the squirrels worshipping a giant acorn.

5. BROADVIEW HOTEL, 106 BROADVIEW AVE.



This elaborate red brick building has always been a landmark in the area. In 1891, when Archibald Dingman opened it as Dingman's Hall, it was the tallest building east of the Don River. A commercial centre and social hub for prominent Torontonians, this grand hall was built in Richardson Romanesque-Revival style, with Victorian features such as terra cotta relief sculptures. From 1907 to the 1970s, the hotel changed hands and names numerous times before becoming the infamous Broadview Boarding House and Jilly's Strip Club – a neighbourhood feature until 2014. After extensive renovations and restoration of much of the original architecture, the building reopened in 2017 as the Broadview Hotel, a boutique establishment with an upscale restaurant, bar and café.

6. ROYAL CANADIAN CURLING CLUB, 131 BROADVIEW AVE.

The Royal Canadian Curling Club actually started out as the Royal Canadian Cycling Club, or the Royals for short. The cycling club started meeting at the Broadview Hotel in the 1880s but moved across the street to 131 Broadview Ave. in 1907. After installing

an ice rink in 1929, the Royals' expanded their activities to include skating, ice hockey and curling, officially changing from cycling to a curling club in 1953. Many extravagant trophies are on display in the building, including a two-metre tall trophy awarded by the mayor on the clubhouse's opening day. The Royals have sponsored many winning teams at provincial curling championships and have hosted the Canadian Mixed Curling Championship since 1964.

7. THE OPERA HOUSE, 735 QUEEN ST. E.



One of the area's long standing entertainment hubs, the Opera House opened in 1909 as La Plaza Theatre, a vaudeville-style entertainment venue with live theatre and silent movies.

The simple red brick building contained residential apartments on the third floor and shops on either side of the entrance at street level. From the 1930s to the 1960s, it became a movie house and was renamed several times, including the Acropolis, the Dundas and Cinema Ellas. In the 1990s, it became the Opera House, the live music venue it is today. Inside, the original 35-foot proscenium arch frames the stage, and the old entrance doors and mosaic floor tiles still adorn the lobby.

8. RALPH THORNTON CENTRE, 765 QUEEN ST. E.



Ralph Thornton Centre is an active and welcoming community hub that happens to be situated in an imposing and stately neoclassical heritage structure. Opened

in 1913 as Postal Station G, it was designed by E.J. Lennox, one of Toronto's iconic architects, who also designed Casa Loma and Old City Hall. The grand sandstone structure has giant Ionic columns to create colonnades on the north and east sides. The heritage clock was designed and built in 1913 in the United Kingdom and was restored by Lloyd Hovey of Toronto thanks to a community fundraising campaign in 1995. Today, the building is home to Ralph Thornton Community Centre and also houses the Queen/Saulter branch of the Toronto Public Library. It is named after a prominent community activist and taxi driver in the Riverdale area.

9. POLLINATOR MURAL (2016), 777 QUEEN ST. E.



This vibrant mural is designed by street artist Nick Sweetman to highlight the importance of pollination and the Riverside area's culture of green spaces, beekeeping and wildflower gardens. The mural incorporates elements of timekeeping as an homage to one of Riverside BIA's founding board members – clockmaker Albert Edelstein. It also complements Eldon Garnet's Time: And A Clock public art pieces (see 1 on page 64) and Riverside's two historic clocks on the Queen Street Viaduct and the Ralph Thornton Centre.

10. POULTON BLOCK, 798 QUEEN ST. E.



This beautiful red brick building was designed in Gothic Revival style and used as the Masonic Orient Lodge until 1912. It was constructed by William B. Poulton, a painter and a Freemason, and you can find the inscription "Poulton Block, 1885" on the Queen Street side. The third floor, with pointed arches on the middle windows, was used by the Freemasons. Early occupants also included ground floor shops. From 1888 to 1910, an addition to the building housed Toronto's first library branch east of the Don River, before it was moved to what is now the Main Street Library.

11. 433 EASTERN AVE., BUILDING B



Typical of Toronto's industrial architecture at the time, this red brick Edwardian factory has decorative stone lintels inlaid into the round brick window arches and a monitored-roof raised across the top of the building. In 1912, the site opened as Consumers' Gas Station B factory. Today, it is used for municipal offices as well as a maintenance facility for public works vehicles, such as snow plows, garbage trucks and street cleaners. The site also houses part of the city's road salt supply.

12. JIMMIE SIMPSON PARK AND RECREATION CENTRE, 872 QUEEN ST. E.

The busy Jimmie Simpson Park and Recreation Centre are located at the intersection of Riverside and



Leslieville
Bench

Leslieville areas, serving both lively East End neighbourhoods. The park has become one of the most popular sites for community, arts and cultural activity in the area. It is animated by community and arts festivals throughout the year, including the Riverdale ArtWalk. The Park and Recreation Centre features a ball diamond, multipurpose sports field, lit hockey rink, two lit tennis courts, basketball courts, wading pool and children's playground.

13. RED SANDCASTLE THEATRE, 922 QUEEN ST. E.

Opening in 2011, this humble storefront theatre showcases approximately 40 shows a year by a variety of local artists and independent theatre companies. It is an affordable space for rentals and a creative hub focusing on emerging talent and small independent theatre companies. Owner Rosemary Doyle opened the theatre with the intent of giving theatre artists a canvas and a feeling that anything is possible.

14. LESLIEVILLE MURAL (2016), 1160 QUEEN ST. E.



This mural by Elicser depicts the poet and songwriter Alexander Muir who lived in the Leslieville neighbourhood and is famous for composing the "Maple Leaf Forever"

song, sitting underneath the maple tree that inspired him. Due to essential building repairs, the previous outdated and faded Leslieville mural, a much-loved local landmark, was replaced and reinterpreted by Elicser. The process to replace the mural focused heavily on community feedback because of concerned residents' strong connection to the old mural. An unsolicited proposal for a new mural a couple of years earlier received a lot of protest by the surrounding community. After an open call for artists by a committee, the final three designs were displayed at a public open house, where community feedback led to the selection of Elicser's design to replace the old mural.

15. DUKE LIVE, 1225 QUEEN ST. E.



A former stagecoach stop and inn, this is the oldest continuously running business in Toronto's East End, open since the 1870s. Originally the Morin House Tavern,

this tavern and inn was named after local brick businessman James Morin, who built the structure with his own pressed bricks. In 1912, the building was renamed the Duke of York Inn (after Prince Edward, Duke of York and Albany). Today, the Duke Live is a popular neighbourhood tavern that features live entertainment and showcases local bands.

16. MAPLE LEAF COTTAGE AND MAPLE LEAF FOREVER TREE STUMP, 62 LAING ST.



Alexander Muir's "The Maple Leaf Forever" is said to have been inspired by a silver maple tree – the 170-year-old stump of which can be found to the northeast of Maple Leaf Park.

In 1867, the year of Confederation, Muir and his friend George Leslie, for whom Leslieville is named, were walking together when a leaf fell from the silver maple and inspired Muir to write what became a powerful symbol for Canadians. The cottage was constructed in 1873 in the rustic Ontario Cottage-style popular in Ontario at the time. Today, Maple Leaf Park and Cottage are run by the City of Toronto, with programs such as visual arts classes held inside the heritage building.

17. TTC RUSSELL CARHOUSE, 1411 QUEEN ST. E.



In 1967, when the Danforth Carhouse (see 11 on page 44) became exclusively a bus operation, Russell Carhouse became essential for storing the city's streetcar fleets. Today, it services half of the system's streetcars. The facility was built in 1913 by the Toronto Railway Company as a vehicle paint shop, but the Russell was rapidly converted into a carhouse when the King Carhouse burnt down in 1916. After the TTC took over the Toronto Railway Company in 1921 and amalgamated all the existing streetcar systems within the city limits, the foundations were found to be faulty and in 1924, the new carhouse you see today was constructed on the site.

18. ASHBRIDGES ESTATE, 1444 QUEEN ST. E.



Ashbridges Estate has a remarkably long history. An archaeological dig of the property found evidence of Indigenous settlements in this area extending back a

thousand years. The dig revealed that a longhouse and hearth were located on the land and used by local First Nations peoples approximately 800 years ago. In 1793, the Ashbridge family, one of the founding families of Toronto, immigrated to the area from York, Pennsylvania. Jesse Ashbridge House is the oldest structure on the site, built in 1854. When the family donated the estate to the Ontario Heritage Trust in 1982, they had occupied the estate continuously for over 200 years. Today, many events, including farmers' markets and the Leslieville Flea, are hosted on the grounds in the summer.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Heritage Toronto: heritagetoronto.org
- Leslieville BIA: leslievillebia.com
- Leslieville Historical Society: leslievillehistory.com
- Ontario Heritage Trust: heritagetrust.on.ca
- Riverside BIA: riverside-to.com

Sources

- Duke Live
- Heritage Toronto
- Leslieville BIA
- Leslieville Historical Society
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Riverside BIA
- StreetARToronto
- Toronto Railway Historical Association
- Toronto Star, "Leslieville's Muir mural gets a facelift"
- Transit Toronto

Photo Credits

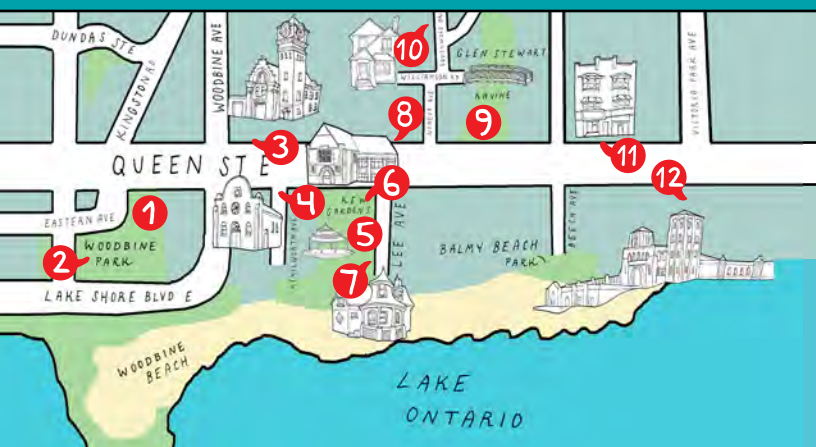
- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Riverside BIA
- Toronto Public Library



Russell Division
1433 Queen St. E.

4210

VILLAGE BY THE BEACH



During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Beaches was one of the most popular beach resort areas in the region, with a variety of amusement parks, hotels, sailing clubs, summer cottages, swimming beaches, race tracks and other tourist attractions. This tour explores life in the Beach neighbourhood, taking you through the beautiful parks that are the lively centres of their neighbourhoods, to historical buildings deeply rooted in the community, and past stunning artworks that brighten the urban streetscape. An exploration of the tree-lined streets today reveals that the architecture, atmosphere and attitude of this community still resembles that of a small lakeside resort town.

Location: Beach Village

Interests: History, Nature

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



Drive to Eastern Avenue, and turn into the parking lot at 1141-1167 Eastern Ave. From the parking lot, walk north towards Eastern Avenue. Once on the street, walk west to the northern entrance of the park beside the parking lot.



From Coxwell Subway Station, take the 22 Coxwell Bus southbound to the Queen Street East stop. Alternatively, take the 501 Queen Streetcar eastbound to the Coxwell Avenue stop. From either bus stop, walk south toward Woodbine Park. Enter the park from the entrance at the corner of Coxwell Avenue and Eastern Avenue.



1. WOODBINE PARK, 1695 QUEEN ST. E.



For 150 years, Woodbine Park was the site of a popular horse-racing track before becoming the park and residential neighbourhood it is today. Woodbine Raceway was built in 1874, becoming the Greenwood Racetrack in 1963 until it was demolished in 1994. In 2002, the land was developed into a residential neighbourhood with a large 28-acre park on the west side. Today, Woodbine Park is an active community space with playgrounds, a splash pad, climbing wall and a soccer field. It has a bandstand for hosting live entertainment, concerts and festivals, such as Afrofest, the Beaches International Jazz Festival and Waterfront Blues Festival. Woodbine Park also has a boardwalk along a large pond that is home to wetland plants and pond life. Look for park wildlife such as swans, turtles, beavers, foxes and coyotes.

To learn more about wildlife and plants in the area with the Wildlife Activity on page 89.

2. CIRCLE OF TREES - TIME PIECE (2000), 1695 QUEEN ST. E.



Circle of Trees – Time Piece is a public art installation in Woodbine Park by artist Laurie McGugan, consisting of seven mature maple trees, which she planted in a circle, and one tree cast in bronze. This sculpture speaks to themes of permanence and time.

As the natural trees in the circle continue to grow and sprout foliage, the bronze tree remains bare and leafless. Look for the plaque mounted on a nearby boulder for more information on the artwork.

3. FIRE STATION 227, 1904 QUEEN ST. E.



This beautiful fire station is still operational, despite being built over a century ago. Originally Toronto Fire Department 17, this fire station was built in 1905 and is known to locals as Kew Beach Fire Hall. The three-storey structure and 80-foot clock tower were built in the Queen Anne style popular at the time, but it is also influenced by

the Dutch Colonial Revival architectural style seen in the Fire Station 226, nearby on Main Street – you can see this influence in the stepped-gable roof, a signature of this style. Clock towers were common for fire stations at the time because the height made an ideal spot for hanging fire hoses.

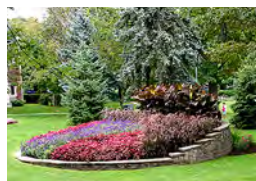
4. BEACH HEBREW INSTITUTE, 109 KENILWORTH AVE.



Since the 1920s, the Beach Hebrew Institute has been a hub for the Beach area's Jewish community. Initially built in 1895 as a Baptist church, the congregation quickly dissolved and for years the site was used as a warehouse and community

centre. It was purchased in the 1920s by the area's growing Jewish community, reoriented to face east, converted to a synagogue and renamed Beth Jacob in Hebrew and the Beach Hebrew Institute in English. Several years after becoming a synagogue, the façade was altered to resemble the more traditional shtetl architectural style of small European communities, and the arched stained-glass windows, large Star of David, rounded parapet and entrance were added.

5. KEW GARDENS, 2075 QUEEN ST E.



This remarkable park has been central to the community as a popular site for recreation and entertainment for over 125 years. In 1879, Kew Gardens, named after the royal

botanical garden in England, began as a privately-owned park and resort on former farmland belonging to Joseph Williams. He transformed his property into a tourist destination for the many visitors who craved escape from the city, creating beautiful summer cottages, a resort near the lake, recreational facilities and campgrounds. Williams' resort operated privately for over 25 years with a wide variety of activities, including camping, cottaging, picnicking, hiking, baseball, swimming, boating, and other sports such as tennis and lawn bowling. In 1907, Kew Gardens was purchased by the City of Toronto and converted into a public park. Today, it is a popular site with a gazebo for concerts, spectacular castle-themed playground for families, various sports facilities and shaded paths for leisurely strolls.

INSIDER TIP

There is something magical about watching outdoor theatre in this city's green spaces. Bard in the Park has been performing for over a decade, focused on performing Shakespearean plays at Kew Gardens and Norwood Park in the Beach area.

6. BEACHES LIBRARY, 2161 QUEEN ST. E.



This charming and eccentric building is actually one of three identical libraries built with money granted to the Toronto Public Library by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1915. All three branches – Beaches, High Park and Wychwood – opened in 1916 and were built with the same layout. The libraries were designed in the 17th-century English Collegiate style, taking inspiration from English Tudor and Gothic buildings to create the feeling you have stepped back in time or into Hogwarts. The Beaches Library's brick and stone structure features an upper floor modelled on a Tudor Gothic great hall with an impressive timber hammer-beamed ceiling, a plain stone fireplace, lead casement windows and a balcony over the stacks.

In 2005, a cast-bronze owl sculpture with a 1.8-metre wingspan was installed outside the front doors during renovations to the library. The renovation architect, Phillip H. Carter, designed the owl with artisan Ludzer Vandermolen and it was named Wordsworth through a public contest.

7. GARDENER'S COTTAGE, 30 LEE AVE.



When the City of Toronto purchased Kew Gardens in 1907, this enchanting cottage was the only building not moved or demolished. Kew Williams, Joseph Williams' son, built the cottage around 1902 for his wife using mostly shale and limestone that he and his brothers gathered from Lake Ontario. The two-storey building was designed in the Queen Anne Revival style and features an asymmetrical front façade, a variety of window types, a corner tower with a bell-shaped roof and a round verandah. The house was a residence for the park caretakers from 1911 to 2002.

8. BEACH GOT RHYTHM MURAL (2008), 2040 QUEEN ST. E.



Beach Got Rhythm Mural, by Rudolf and Errol Stussi, is a 100-foot long mural on the wall at Queen Street and Lee Avenue. The mural celebrates the Beaches International Jazz Festival, an annual event that has featured local, national and international musicians for 30 years and counting. Look closely to find local landmarks depicted in the mural, including Fire Station 227, Leuty Lifeguard Station and Kew Gardens.

9. IVAN FORREST GARDENS AND GLEN STEWART RAVINE, 131 GLEN MANOR DR.



Take a detour from the main street for a walk through one of the area's largest green spaces. From the Queen Street entrance, stroll past the beautiful rock garden and

water fountain of Ivan Forrest Gardens. Follow the path north to Glen Manor Drive East and walk north through this residential street to reach the beautiful 11-hectare Glen Stewart Ravine and its remarkable raised boardwalks. Designated as an Environmentally Significant Area, the ravine's raised trails take you through the heavily wooded park, which has a wide diversity of native plant and bird life, including many species rare in Toronto. The trail follows Ames Creek, which is one of the few remaining natural streams in the city. The magnificent red oaks and red maples dominate the forest and are some of the largest and oldest trees in the city. Today, the City of Toronto is restoring the native plants and removing invasive species in the area. Sections of the park are on an elevated wooden boardwalk that bridges over the delicate wetlands, giving visitors access to the park while protecting newly planted areas.

10. GLENN GOULD'S FAMILY HOME, 32 SOUTHWOOD DRIVE

Note: Private property, observe house from street only.



Celebrated pianist Glenn Gould was born in Toronto and lived in this house throughout his childhood. He was one of the best-known and celebrated classical pianists of the 20th century, most notably for his J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations, recorded in 1955. He played concerts around the world until 1964, spending the latter part of his career as a writer, broadcaster, conductor and composer. Glenn Gould passed away in 1982 and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

11. FOX THEATRE, 2236 QUEEN ST. E.



The Fox Theatre is the second-oldest movie cinema still operating in Toronto (the oldest is the Revue). This single-screen cinema opened over a century ago, in 1914, as a neighbourhood theatre playing silent films; it was converted for sound in 1929. When it opened, the theatre was simply called "The Theatre Without a Name" until a contest was held to name it with a prize of \$25 in gold for the winner. The winning name was the Pastime, but it was short-lived; another contest was held the following year, renaming it the Prince Edward. When King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in 1936, the theatre became the Fox, in reference to the Fox Theatre chain in the United States. Today, it is a popular site for cinephiles who want that old-fashioned cinema experience, showing second-run movies, classics, independent and foreign films.

12. R.C. HARRIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT, 2701 QUEEN ST. E.



R.C. Harris is not only an important piece of infrastructure – purifying over a third of Toronto's tap water – it is a beautiful example of an art deco structure. The plant was designed by architect Thomas Canfield Pomphrey, who also designed the Victoria Park filtration plant, the pump house at the St. Clair Reservoir and the Parkdale Pumping Station. The exterior design uses buff brick and limestone with tall arching windows and a copper-banded roof, giving it a clean and dignified appearance. The interior of the building is just as grandly designed, with marble entryways and vast halls. Situated on the former site of Victoria Park, a waterfront amusement park that closed in 1906, the

Water Treatment Plant was constructed in the 1930s, but was not operational until 1941 due to political and financial complications. Named for the long-time Commissioner of Toronto's Public Works, R.C. Harris, the building is nicknamed "The Palace of Purification," which was given to the plant by Michael Ondaatje in his famous novel *In the Skin of a Lion*.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Beaches Hebrew Institute: beachhebrewinstitute.ca
- Fox Theatre: foxtheatre.ca
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- TRCA: trca.ca

Sources

- Beaches Hebrew Institute
- City of Toronto, "Fast Facts about the City's Water Treatment Plants"
- Doug Taylor, *Historic Toronto*
- Fox Theatre
- Laurie McGugan
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Parks
- TRCA

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Don Hunstein, Glenn Gould Foundation
- Laurie McGugan





Inside the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant

MORE TO EXPLORE ALONG THE SHORE



Location: Ashbridges Bay, Beaches

Interests: History, Nature

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike

▼ Starting the Tour

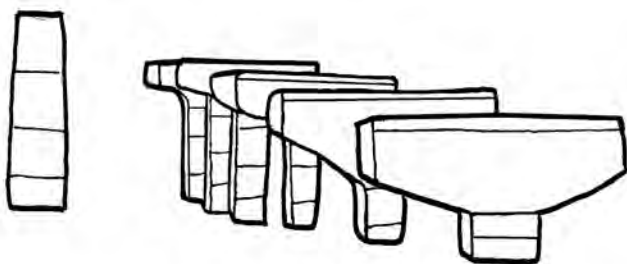


From Lake Shore Boulevard, turn on to Leslie Street and take the first left into the parking lot on the west side. On foot, exit the parking lot on the south side and walk west on the Lower Don Trail approximately 180 metres to the first destination.



Take the 83 bus southbound from Donlands Station to the Lakeshore Boulevard stop, or alternatively take the 501 Queen Streetcar to the Leslie Street stop. Walk south towards Lake Shore Boulevard. Turn right to walk west on the Lower Don Recreational Trail and follow the trail approximately 180 metres to reach the first destination.

1. GARDINER EXPRESSWAY CELEBRATION OF ABSENCE, LAKE SHORE BLVD. E. AND LESLIE ST.



GARDINER POSTS

In 1960, a construction project to extend the Gardiner Expressway farther east into the suburbs along the shore was terminated because of growing costs and traffic concerns. Only a 1.3- kilometre section of the extension was built, ending at Leslie Street. Eventually, the east section of the highway was dismantled because of the high cost of maintaining the unused structure. City planners recognized the artistic merit of the remaining pillars so, in 2000, these columns were saved from demolition. Today, they stand as dramatic public art pieces, lit by floodlights at night. The Martin Goodman Trail leads pedestrians and cyclists between the columns.

2. MARTIN GOODMAN TRAIL, LAKE SHORE BLVD. E.



Opened in 1984, this waterfront trail extends 22 kilometres along Toronto's shoreline. It was named after Martin Goodman, former president and editor-in-chief of the Toronto Star, who passed away three years before the path was opened. The path is part of an interconnected network of trails, called the Great Lakes Trails, that extends 2,100 kilometres along Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron and the Niagara, Detroit and St. Lawrence Rivers. In total, the Great Lakes Trails connect 114 communities and hundreds of green spaces. In the East End, you can follow the multi-use Martin Goodman trail – ideal for biking or walking – through shoreline destinations

such as the Lower Don Parklands, Tommy Thompson Park, Cherry Beach, Ashbridges Bay, Woodbine Beach Park, Kew Gardens and Balmy Beach.

3. LESLIE STREET ALLOTMENT GARDENS, 9 LESLIE ST.

Located at the bottom of Leslie Street, this City-run allotment provides a much needed outlet for East Enders’ green thumbs. This passion for gardening speaks to the area’s deep historical roots in market gardening and farming industries. The City of Toronto has 12 allotment gardens around the city, enabling residents to grow vegetables and fruit in the urban environment.

EXPLORE MORE

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK/LESLIE STREET SPIT, 1 LESLIE ST.



Tommy Thompson Park is a man-made peninsula, named after Toronto’s first Commissioner of Parks. The peninsula was originally constructed as a breakwater for port-related facilities and erosion control. Today, this park is an urban oasis designated as an Environmentally Significant Area that supports a wide variety of plant species and wildlife. In 1959, the Toronto Port Authority began construction of the peninsula, filling in the lake with dredged sand and construction waste and extending the spit 5 kilometres into Lake Ontario. In the 1970s, it became apparent that the land would no longer be needed for port facilities and by this time plant and wildlife had begun to take over the peninsula. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority was granted care of the land from the Toronto Port Authority and developed the land into a public park, though sections continue to be used for landfill.

Tommy Thompson Park is an important stopover for migrating birds and insects, particularly the Monarch Butterfly. The park is on the Monarchs’ migratory route from Mexico to Canada. The species, which

numbered in the billions a couple of decades ago, had declined by 95% by 2012. The City of Toronto has planted milkweed and other pollinator-friendly vegetation in Tommy Thompson Park and around the city in an effort to recover the Monarch Butterfly populations. In late summer, you can attend the Butterfly Festival at Tommy Thompson Park to see Monarchs congregate before their migration south to Mexico. Tommy Thompson Park will continue to play an even more valuable role in restoration and conservation as its natural ecosystems continue to grow and mature.

To learn more about wildlife and plants in the area with the Wildlife Activity on page 89.

DID YOU KNOW?

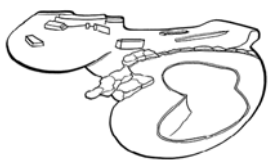
For decades the East End's shoreline communities have been popular for their recreational sailing and boating clubs, some of which date back to the 1930s. At that time, many recreational facilities, resorts and amusement parks were developed for tourists from the city, while others became membership-based clubs for locals. Today, people wanting to get out on the water can try sailing at the Aquatic Park Sailing Club, Mooredale Sailing Club and Westwood Sailing Club; paddling at the Balmy Beach Club; and yachting or sailing at Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club.

4. ASHBRIDGES BAY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, 9 LESLIE ST.



Ashbridges, currently serving a population of 1.5 million people, is one of Canada's largest and oldest wastewater treatment plants. Until the early 1900s, Toronto sewage was pumped directly into Lake Ontario, filling Ashbridges Bay with sewage and causing health problems, including a typhoid outbreak. Morley Avenue was the first sewer treatment plant built in the area, but by the time it opened in 1912, it was already unable to keep up with demand and although it successfully reduced some pollutants, thick sewage water continued to fill the bay. With Toronto's drinking water coming from Ashbridges Bay and Lake Ontario, this continued to be a serious public health hazard. The City of Toronto decided to replace the plant, building the Main Sewage Treatment Plant in Ashbridges Bay in 1943. This updated facility greatly improved the quality of Toronto's drinking water and, in 1999, was formally renamed the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant.

5. BEACH SKATEPARK, 1420 LAKESHORE BLVD. E.



The Beach Skatepark is one of the largest concrete skateboard parks in Ontario. The park was constructed in the style of a street plaza, so

that skaters have a variety of features on the course including ledges, banks, stairs, rails and a full size eleven-foot deep kidney-shaped bowl. The park also includes several replicas of skateboarders' favourite downtown Toronto skate spots.

6. ASHBRIDGES BAY PARK, 1561 LAKESHORE BLVD. E.



The landscape of Ashbridges Bay Park has changed drastically over the last two centuries. It is located on land that is part of a large sand dune chain caused by sediment from the Scarborough Bluffs and it used to contain one of the largest wetlands in Eastern Canada. During the 19th century, heavy industry polluted the bay's marshlands. In 1912, public health concerns about this pollution led the Toronto Harbour Commission to drain the marsh and fill the bay in one of the largest engineering projects at the time in North America. In the coming decades, the former marsh would become 1,000 acres of useable land. This land was transformed into a new industrial district and remained a hub for industry until the 1970s. In 1977, the City of Toronto developed the land at Ashbridges Bay into the current waterfront park for recreational uses, such as walking, birdwatching, picnicking, fishing and sailing. Today, conservation projects have been undertaken by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Waterfront Toronto to improve aquatic habitats and naturalize the shoreline of the parklands.

7. BEACHES COMMUNITY EDIBLE GARDEN, 1561 LAKESHORE BLVD. E.



Located in Ashbridges Bay Park, on the southwest tip of Woodbine Beach, is a community garden dedicated to growing fruits and vegetables. The garden is run

by a small group of residents of the Beach community. The goal is to give community members an opportunity to garden and to encourage healthy living – especially through camp initiatives that teach kids about organic gardening and cooking healthy foods. Surplus vegetables from the programs are donated to local shelters and food banks. Many neighbourhoods in the East End also have community gardens started by local residents or community groups.

8. WOODBINE BEACH, 1675 LAKESHORE BLVD. E.



The early neighbourhoods that developed around Woodbine Beach were originally cottage communities. Until the 1950s, Woodbine Beach itself remained a wooded area, known as “The Cut,” though many other nearby waterfront beaches, such as Kew and Balmy Beaches, had been beach resorts and tourist destinations for decades. Today, Woodbine Beach is one of Toronto’s largest beaches and remains a favourite spot for catching some sun, with facilities including picnic shelters, fitness equipment, beach volleyball courts, a playground and swimming.

DID YOU KNOW?



In 2017, 20 Sakura, known as Cherry Blossom Trees, were planted to create a cherry blossom tunnel at Woodbine Beach. Anonymously gifted by two Torontonians of Japanese descent, the Sakura tree is a symbol of peace and love. The trees bloomed in Toronto’s East End for the first time in late April, 2018.

9. BOARDWALK, SHORELINE, FROM WOODBINE BEACH TO SILVER BIRCH AVENUE



While many of the beaches and resorts had their own boardwalks in the early 20th century, it wasn’t until 1932 that the City built a continuous wooden boardwalk along Toronto’s waterfront from Woodbine Avenue to Silver Birch Avenue – connecting all of the East End’s waterfront parks and beaches from Woodbine Beach to the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant. Today, it

is a popular spot for residents and visitors, used by runners, dog-walkers and people taking a leisurely stroll by the shore.

10. DONALD D. SUMMERVILLE PUBLIC POOL, 1867 LAKE SHORE BLVD. E.



The City of Toronto built this impressive elevated pool in the 1960s with Olympic aspirations in

mind. Toronto did not secure an Olympic bid, but the building of the pool gave the community a distinctive public facility. The unusual modernist architecture of the elevated pool and the overhanging deck added to the popularity of the site – from the main deck swimmers have a treetop view of the beaches below and can admire the lakeside vistas.

11. THE LEUTY LIFEGUARD STATION, 1 LEE AVE.



This simple structure has become a symbol of the Beach area and is much loved by the local community. Built in the 1920s, the clapboard cottage with green trim and red cedar

shingled-roof was designed by Chapman and Oxley Architects who, ironically, are known most for their grand, iconic structures such as the Princes' Gates at the CNE and Palais Royale on Toronto's western lakeshore. In 1993, it was designated a historical site and restored with community-raised funds. While it was operational, around 6,000 lives were saved at this lifeguard station.

INSIDER TIP

WinterStations is an annual winter festival and international design competition turning the lifeguard stations along the beach into temporary public art installations. From February to April you can find these intriguing installations across Balmy, Kew and Ashbridges Bay beaches.

12. KEW BEACH BOATHOUSE, ON THE BOARDWALK BELOW LEE AVE.



One of the last standing boathouses on Toronto's shores, the beautiful Kew

Beach Boathouse stood right at the water when it was built in 1932. When Hurricane Hazel hit in 1954, the boathouse was severely damaged and the remains

were moved to its current location on the north side of the boardwalk. Today, it is used for recreational and community events.

13. BALMY BEACH CLUB, 360 LAKE FRONT



In 1903, Sir Adam Wilson incorporated the Balmy Beach Club non-profit organization. It opened for members in 1905, with social facilities including a lounge and

banquet hall as well as a diversity of sports facilities. The first Balmy Beach club house was a two-storey building with a wrap-around wooden veranda, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1936. The rebuilt clubhouse was also the victim of a fire in 1963, so the current building only dates back to 1965. For over a century, it has been known for its amateur athletics with clubs in canoeing, kayaking, paddling, rugby, hockey, squash, football, basketball, surfing and more. Many athletes that started out at the club have gone on to professional teams, with several Olympians and other international champions. Today, the Balmy Beach Club is situated in a 7.3-hectare public park that is home to many recreational facilities including lawn bowling, a playground and outdoor fitness centre.

To Find Out More, Visit

- Beach Village BIA: thebeachvillage.com
- Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority: trca.ca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Waterfront Toronto: waterfronttoronto.ca

Sources

- Beach Historical Society
- Beach Village BIA
- Don Valley Historical Mapping Project
- Heritage Toronto
- John Warkentin, "Creating Memory: a Guide to Outdoor Public Sculpture in Toronto"
- Leslieville Historical Society
- M. Jane Fairburn, "Along the Shore: Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage"
- Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority
- Toronto Parks
- Waterfront Toronto

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto

WILDLIFE ACTIVITY

Toronto's East York and East End offer amazing opportunities to explore the city's natural environment. The area's many trails and parks take you through diverse natural habitats, including beaches, meadows, forests and wetlands, to discover a wealth of native plant and wildlife.

There are many ways to take in these green spaces and enjoy the urban wildlife of the East York/East End. Parks and hiking trails such as the Don River Valley Recreation Trail, Taylor Massey Creek Trail and Tommy Thompson Park are easily accessed by foot or by bike. You can search for frogs and turtles at the Evergreen Brick Works, go bird watching or butterfly spotting at Tommy Thompson Park, enjoy the views on the boardwalk in the Beaches or spot deer and beavers on the Taylor Massey Creek trail.

Note that there are numerous Environmentally Significant Areas within these boundaries that were restored and are preserved by local environmental groups such as the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, Todmorden Mills Wildlife Preserve, Friends of Glen Stewart Ravine and others. To respect new growth of native plant species and wildlife habitats, we recommend that you to stay on the path and be respectful of the nature around you while you enjoy the splendour of these green spaces.

Can you find the plant or animal species listed below on your travels through the East York and the East End's trails and parks?

Birds



American Goldfinch



American Redstart



Baltimore Oriole



Blue Jay



Cardinal



Downy Woodpecker



Eastern Screech Owl



Great Blue Heron



Kingbird



Mallard



Red-tailed Hawk



Red-winged Blackbird



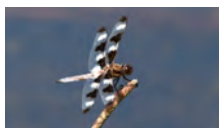
Animals and Insects



Beaver



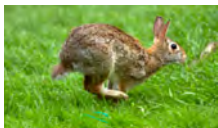
Coyote



Dragonfly



Eastern Chipmunk



Eastern Cottontail



Garter Snake



Green Frog



Groundhog



Monarch Butterflies



Muskrat



Painted Turtle



Red Fox



Red Squirrel



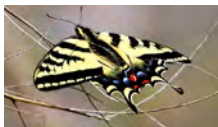
Snapping Turtle



Virginia Opossum



White Tail Deer

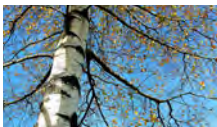


Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Meadow Vole

Trees and Shrubs



Birch



Black Walnut



Choke Cherry



Pussy Willow



Red Oak



Sakura Tree



Staghorn Sumac



Sugar Maple



Tembling Aspen

Wildflowers



Blue Flag Iris



Common Boneset



Coneflower



Joe Pye Weed



Lobelia



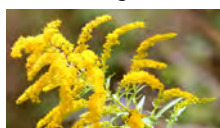
Marsh Marigold



Ox-eye Daisy



Purple Trillium



Zigzag Golden Rod

To Find Out More, Visit

- Don Watershed Regeneration Council: discoverthedon.ca
- Friends of Glen Stewart Ravine: friendsofglenstewartravine.wordpress.com
- Todmorden Mills Wildlife Preserve: hopscotch.ca/tmwp/nature
- Tommy Thompson Park: tommythompsonpark.ca
- Toronto Field Naturalists: torontofieldnaturalists.org
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority: trca.ca

Sources

- Toronto Field Naturalists
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman



Coyote

HOT EATS

The **HOT Eats** program celebrates arts, culture and community by highlighting eateries in the Cultural Hotspot. The East York/East End Hotspot neighbourhoods are filled with delicious foods and tasty treats with a diverse selection of bakeries, cafes and restaurants. Tantalize your taste buds by indulging in one of 80 local **HOT Eats** eateries while exploring the Cultural Loops. Stop along the way or make a detour to enjoy one of the area's many hotspots.

LOOP 1

BLACK BEAR PUB

1125 O'Connor Dr.
416-219-5182
blackbearpub.ca

A family restaurant and a neighbourhood pub offering all day breakfast and delicious pub fare. Enjoy live bands every Thursday and jam nights on Sundays.

An eclectic menu and global fare prepared with pride and passion. Enjoy classic food with a signature twist. You will love what you taste here.

KNUCKLE SANDWICH

969 Coxwell Ave.
647-748-7999
knucklesandwich.ca

Sandwiches made with locally-sourced and naturally-raised meats. Accompanying ingredients are made in-house.

GOAT COFFEE CO.

893 Pape Ave.
416-551-7737
goatcoffeeco.com

Your friendly neighbourhood cafe, serving fine espresso and wholesome food. Delicious breakfast and lunch offerings made fresh to order.

LITTLE COXWELL RESTAURANT

986 Coxwell Ave.
416-916-2565
littlecoxwell.ca

Authentic Vietnamese and Thai food in East York.

HENRY'S CHICKEN

2881 St. Clair Ave. E.
647-479-7911
henryschicken.com

Come find delicious and fresh grilled chicken, sandwiches, wraps, burritos, beans, salads and much more.

MR. DOUBLE PIZZA AND CHICKEN

1117 O'Connor Dr.
647-351-5141

Try standout dishes such as cheese crust pizza, super wing special, or the potato wedges. Order a Mr. Double deal for great value pizza and wings.

JAWNY BAKERS RESTAURANT

804 O'Connor Dr.
416-285-1165
jawnybakers.com



NOSTALGIA COFFEE COMPANY

855 O'Connor Dr.
416-755-3675

A range of delicacies, coffee, espresso, pastries and lunches. They are proud of their fair trade coffee and teas.

ORIGINALS ALE HOUSE

1660 Bayview Ave.
416-481-0371
originalsalehouse.com

Located in the heart of Leaside, Originals is an established pub/bar and a local destination for food and fun. Live music with no cover on Saturdays.

PAVILLION PASTRIES

2554 Danforth Ave.
416-901-3001

A bakery with a Greek menu located conveniently by Main Street Station.

PHO CHALLENGE

1025 Pape Ave.
416-792-3682
torontophochallenge.ca

Come enjoy good food and atmosphere. Pho Challenge is proud to serve great Thai and Vietnamese food.

PRESS BOOKS COFFEE VINYL

2442 Danforth Ave.
647-352-5200
pressbookscoffeenvinyl.com

Coffee, books and vinyl records. What else do you need in life? Come for the freshest coffee in the hood, new and used vinyl records and used books.

SERANO BAKERY

830 Pape Ave.
416-462-2735
seranobakery.com

Retail bakery – breads, pastries and cakes.

SI ESPRESSO BAR

748 Broadview Ave.
647-892-5037
siespresso.com

Italian style cafe, inspired by Italian culture.

TOPHAM CORNER

963 O'Connor Dr.
647-748-7922
tophamcorner.ca

Family-run restaurant in East York's best kept secret of Topham Park. Enjoy a meal in a quieter, TV-free atmosphere. Patio is open for the season.

LOOP 2

ASTORIA SHISH KEBOB HOUSE

390 Danforth Ave.
416-463-2838
astoriashishkebobhouse.com

A family business since 1972, offering great quality food and huge portions. Visit one of four locations in the GTA.

BIG HOUSE PIZZA

962 Danforth Ave.
416-759-8484
bighousepizza.com

Big House focuses on in-house-made products and a higher quality standard of food with the goal of giving Toronto a unique experience.

BRICKYARD BISTRO

1289 Gerrard St. E.
416-778-4440
brickyardbistro.ca

Relaxed coffee shop during the day and a unique restaurant at night with delicious French-inspired comfort food and local Ontario wines.

BURGER STOMPER GOURMET BURGER & MILKSHAKE BAR

364 Danforth Ave.
647-347-7867
burgerstomperbar.com

All the items on the menu are made with great pride and care using the finest fresh ingredients. Beef prepared daily, burgers made by hand, fries are cut fresh.

CAFÉ COCORO

1989 Danforth Ave.
416-358-9862
cafecocoro.ca

Come check out amazing coffee and European drinks. Also offering homestyle Korean food, gelato and various pastries in a relaxing atmosphere, with free WiFi.

CELENA'S BAKERY

2036 Danforth Ave.
416-425-2895
celenasbakery.com

A full-service café and traditional bakery. Fresh-baked goods including treats and pastries are made by hand from scratch in-house.

DANFORTH DRAGON

861 Danforth Ave.
416-461-9238
danforthdragon.com

A fusion of Indian and Chinese cuisine.

DUMPLING HOUSE

619 Gerrard St. E.
416-901-0288
dumplinghouse619.com

Fresh hand-made dumplings in a variety of flavours and a menu featuring a wide range of other Chinese dishes.

GREENWOOD SMOKEHOUSE

673 Danforth Ave.
416-469-2270
greenwood
smokehouse.com

Southern-style BBQ – ribs, pork, brisket and wings slow-smoked over a log fire with plenty of sides and fixings. Eclectic rec-room atmosphere. Home of R2BBQ.

HOLY CHICKEN

1028 Danforth Ave.
416-469-4659
holychicken.ca

Premium locally-sourced chicken, marinated in a blend of special spices. A variety of different menu items to appease every palette. Always freshly prepared.

HUNTER'S ON THE DANFORTH

647 Danforth Ave.
647-376-7029
danforth.hunters
pizza.com

Great old-fashioned, hand-made food including breakfast, lunch and dinner specializing in pizza and souvlaki. Catering also available.

KARMA'S KITCHEN

1411 Gerrard St. E.
647-345-2762
karmaskitchen.ca

Karma's brings you food made from recipes over a century old. Experience great taste from the Roof of the World (Tibet) to Himalayan Ranges of Nepal.

LA DIPERIE

372 Danforth Ave.
416-901-7130
ladiperie.com

Ice cream shop specializes in dipping cones in 30 flavours of Belgian chocolate plus toppings.

LADY MARMALADE

265 Broadview Ave.
647-351-7645
ladymarmalade.ca

Unique Eggs Benedict, Mexican-inspired breakfasts and inventive lunches served in a bright, art-filled space.

LAZY DAISY'S CAFE

1515 Gerrard St. E.
647-341-4070
lazydaisyscafe.ca

Lazy Daisy's is a family-friendly café serving locally-sourced, farm-fresh, homemade-style food. Breakfast, brunch, lunch. Space available for evening rentals.

MAGIC OVEN

1450 Danforth Ave.
416-462-0333
magicoven.com

Premier pizza restaurant serving Toronto for over 20 years. Great food, good service and community are just a few things Magic Oven is passionate about.

MIKE'S FISH AND CHIPS

2162 Danforth Ave.
416-429-4665

Serving delicious classic fish and chips and homemade burgers.

MOCHA CAFÉ & PASTRY

1292 Danforth Ave.
416-516-7842
mochacafeandpastry.ca

Café and bakery on Danforth offering espresso, organic coffee, specialty tea, cake, sandwiches and breakfast.

MORGANS ON THE DANFORTH

1282 Danforth Ave.
416-461-3020
morgansonthe
danforth.com

Enjoy great food, craft beer, unique wines, funky cocktails and personable service in a relaxed atmosphere.

PATISSERIE LA CIGOGNE

1419 Danforth Ave.
416-487-1234
patisserielacigogne.com

Authentic fine French patisserie run by the French Master Pastry Chef Thierry Schmitt. A perfect location for breakfast, brunch, crepes and more.

PIZZERIA VIA MERCANTI

1501 Gerrard St. E.
647-352-2206
pizzeriaviamercanti.ca

It's simple like the old days, and with the best ingredients.

RENDEZ-VOUS RESTAURANT

1408 Danforth Ave.
416-469-2513
ethiopianrendezvous.com
Travel to Africa while in Toronto. Visit Rendez-Vous Ethiopian Restaurant to immerse yourself in traditional African cuisine and coffee-roasting rituals.

SAKAWA COFFEE

867 Danforth Ave.
647-347-4932
sakawacoffee.com
Japanese comfort food and popular regional cuisine in a casual dining setting. Take part in a culinary journey across Japan without leaving Toronto.

SALA MODERN THAI KITCHEN & BAR

1262 Danforth Ave.
416-405-9999
Sala Modern Thai Kitchen & Bar extends a warm welcome to experience authentic Thai food and Thai culture with happy smiles.

SARAH'S CAFÉ & BAR

1426 Danforth Ave.
416-406-3121
sarahsondanforth.ca
Since 1995, Sarah's café is the neighbourhood favourite for chef-crafted meals and an excellent selection of craft beer and quality wines.

SAUCE

1376 Danforth Ave.
647-748-1376
sauceonthedanforth.com
A Victorian-Goth-Bordello-Chic lounge serving 20s-style cocktails, craft draught and snacks and live music.

SWEET SERENDIPITY BAKE SHOP

1335 Danforth Ave.
416-837-3254
sweetserendipitybakeshop.com
Sweet Serendipity is proud to bake fresh from scratch using quality ingredients and offers a variety of sweets along with full-size and special occasion cakes.

TEA-N-BANNOCK

1294 Gerrard St. E.
416-220-2910
teanbannock.ca
One of the few restaurants in Toronto offering Aboriginal/First Nations cuisine.

THE BOROUGH

1352 Danforth Ave.
416-901-1429
borough.ca
British-inspired gastropub serving locally-sourced food and drink.

THE SOCIAL GARDENER CAFE

1326 Gerrard St. E.
416-465-6021
socialgardenercafe.wixsite.com/socialgardener
East End vegan cafe serving up garden fresh food that's so tasty you'll forget that you're feeding your body. Using only the highest quality ingredients.

TUNG HING BAKERY

353 Broadview Ave.
416-465-9103

A Chinese and Vietnamese bakery known for delicious pastries, Bánh mì sandwiches and BBQ pork.

LOOP 3

ASCARI ENOTECA

1111 Queen St. E.
416-792-4157
ascarienoteca.ca

A neighbourhood locale where people come to linger over a simple, delicious meal washed down by a superb bottle of wine (or two).

BEACHSIDE GRILL

1922 Queen St. E.
416-686-7153
beachsidegrill.ca

A neighbourhood restaurant with a great atmosphere that has served the community for over 25 years. Offering great breakfast, lunch and dinner all day.

BOBBETTE & BELLE

1121 Queen St. E.
416-466-8800
bobbetteandbelle.com

Artisanal pastry shop in the heart of Leslieville, featuring a wide selection of fresh baked, homestyle and high-end pastries.

BONJOUR BRIOCHE BAKERY CAFÉ

812 Queen St. E.
416-406-1250
bonjourbrioche.com

A bakery café where everything is made fresh in-house daily. Try the French cuisine inspired soups, pastries and sandwiches.

BRAISED RESTAURANT

896 Queen St. E.
416-519-6280
braised.ca

Enjoy modern comfort food at Braised Restaurant. Interior features beautiful decor of exposed brick and rotating art exhibit from Mark Gleberzon.

BREAKWALL BBQ

1910 Queen St. E.
416-699-4000
breakwallbbq.ca

Come get cozy and taste the true passion for quality food at Breakwall. Enjoy home-cooked style food with natural smoke flavours and top-notch service.

BURGER SHOPPE

688 Queen St. E.
416-850-7026
bqmburger.com/riverside

A neighbourhood joint known for hand-crafted burgers, wings, hand-cut fries, deep fried pickles, poutines and sandwiches.

EADREY FOODS

1129 Queen St. E.
416-462-1204
eadreyfoods.ca

Come enjoy traditional fare, gourmet appetizers, upscale entrées and international cuisine.

EASTBOUND BREWING CO.

700 Queen St. E.
416-901-1299
eastboundbeer.com

Brewery. Kitchen. Beer Shop. A newcomer to Toronto's Riverside neighbourhood offering well-crafted food and fresh local beer.

FARMACIA HEALTH BAR

2096 Queen St. E.
647-341-3276
farmaciahealthbar.com

A health bar offering organic juices, smoothies, elixirs, tonics and tinctures, focusing on longevity and vibrant health.

GABBY'S FOOD & FUEL

2076 Queen St. E.
416-699-5699
gabbys.ca

Welcome to Gabby's, a local family-owned restaurant with a strong focus on neighbourhoods and quality food.

GREEN BASIL

2120 Queen St. E.
416-698-2120
greenbasilrestaurant.com

Serving a menu rich in fresh ingredients and traditional quality, whether you are looking for a quick Thai salad or a full-course Asian meal.

GRETA SOLOMON'S

1118 Queen St. E.
647-347-8640
gretasolomons
diningroom.com

An intimate 28-seat French restaurant located in the heart of Leslieville.

HANOI 3 SEASONS

1135 Queen St. E.
416-469-3010
hanoi3seasons.com

Voted Best Vietnamese Food in Toronto 5 years in a row. Serving North Vietnamese cuisine in a family-friendly and casual atmosphere.

HOGTOWN SMOKE

1959 Queen St. E.
416-691-9009
hogtownsmoke.ca

Serving southern-style barbecue dripping with flavour. Guests dig in with both hands at this BBQ joint.

HONEY BEE CHINESE FOOD RESTAURANT

1976 Queen St. E.
416-698-5567
honeybeerestaurant.com

Superb Chinese food: Cantonese & Szechuan. Honey Bee has been serving the Beaches for over 35 years.

IL PONTE CUCINA ITALIANA

625 Queen St. E.
416-778-0404
ilponte.ca

Located in the east neighbourhood of Riverside. Serving authentic Italian cuisine in Toronto.

KABOOM CHICKEN

722 Queen St. E.
416-546-9899
kaboomchicken.com

An eatery that combines a fusion concept of the Korean culture with western food practices. The Korean Fried Chicken is a must try for all.

LA SALA RISTORANTE

1975A Queen St. E.
416-694-0004
lasala.ca

La Sala Ristorante offers casual dining with Italian tradition and modernity in an elegant and friendly atmosphere.

LESLIEVILLE PUMPS GENERAL STORE & KITCHEN

929 Queen St. E.
416-465-1313
leslievillepumps.com

Leslieville Pumps is the most unique BBQ smokehouse in Canada. Located in Toronto's only boutique gas station, serving classic southern food with a twist.

LUCKY STAR RESTAURANT

739 Queen St. E.
416-466-8688

Serves delicious Szechuan and Cantonese cuisine. Come for the lunch special. As low as \$6.35 per person.

MURPHY'S LAW PUB & KITCHEN

1702 Queen St. E.
416-690-5516
fabrestaurants.ca/
restaurant/murphys-law

The local in the Beach. Home to 24 taps of craft beers and hand-crafted cocktails featuring daily specials and chef's plates. Offering local live music weekly.

PATTAYA THAI KITCHEN

2326 Queen St. E.
416-694-5000
pattayakitchen.ca

Upscale casual Thai restaurant offering authentic dishes.

PULP KITCHEN

717 1/2 Queen St. E.
416-461-4612
pulpkitchen.ca

Fresh-pressed juice and smoothie bar plus takeaway vegan food.

PURPLE PENGUIN CAFÉ

889 Queen St. E.
416-465-8448
purplepenguincafe.com

Comfy, cozy, independently-owned café. Try homemade apple fritters, espresso and paninis. Many items are baked and cooked in-house.

RORSCHACH BREWING INC.

1001 Eastern Ave.
416-901-3233
rorschachbrewing.com

A craft brewery with an internationally-inspired menu of constantly evolving tapas-style dishes.

STRATENGERS

1130 Queen St. E.
416-466-8934
stratengers.com

In the heart of Leslieville, come for breakfast or an all-day menu. Stratengers also has a wood-burning pizza oven, Maharaja Indian menu and kids menu.

SUGAR LOAF BAKERY

729 Queen St. E.
647-847-6122
sugarloafbakery.ca

Sugar Loaf Bakery is a non-traditional artisanal bakery. Unique sweet and savoury offerings. Lunch specials on weekdays and brunch on weekends.

THE CANNONBALL

641 Queen St. E.
416-463-0500

Expect a friendly atmosphere, good food and drinks at Cannonball. Make sure to check out the licensed back patio.

THE CEILI COTTAGE

1301 Queen St. E.
416-406-1301
ceilicottage.com

Shucker Paddy's local in the heart of Leslieville. Lovely large patio, traditional Irish music, house made meals, and oysters. Everyone is always welcome.

THE PEASANT TABLE

782 Queen St. E.
647-343-7022
thepeasanttable.com

A Northern Italian, rustic-food restaurant with a wood-fired pizza oven. Offering lunch, brunch and dinner service. Open 7 days a week.

TORI'S BAKESHOP

2188 Queen St. E.
647-350-6500
torisbakeshop.ca

An eat-in, vegan bakery and cafe celebrating all things natural and organic (with gluten-free options), baked with love in an environmentally-aware space.

TULIP STEAKHOUSE

1606 Queen St. E.
416-469-5797
tulipsteakhouse.com

Family-owned diner that has been serving for over 5 decades. Steaks are AAA Canadian beef. Also known for their breakfast.

VELOUTÉ BISTRO & CATERING

2343 Queen St. E.
416-696-7392
veloute.ca

An intimate community vibe, Velouté is contemporary and chic, promoting the farm-to-table slow food movement using locally-sourced ingredients..

YAYA

1186 Queen St. E.
416-463-9292
yayafarmfresh.ca

Healthy organic breakfast, lunch and brunch restaurant. Local farm-to-table meals with no processed ingredients.



LEARN MORE

Thanks for exploring East York/East End. Loving this area? Learn more about arts, culture and community in this vibrant area with some of the following resources* below:

ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS/SITES

- Airsa Art and Thought Association: facebook.com/Airsa.Art.Thought.Association
- ArtCave: art-cave.ca
- ArtReach Toronto: artreachtoronto.ca
- Arts in the Park: artsintheparksto.org
- Ashbridges Estate: heritagetrust.on.ca/en/index.php/properties/ashbridge-estate
- Bangladesh Centre and Community Services: bangladeshcentre.ca
- Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services: bangladeshi.ca
- Bard in the Park: bardinthepark.com
- Beach Community Edible Garden: beachcommunitygarden.wixsite.com/grow
- Beaches Living Guide: beachesliving.ca
- Blank Canvases: blankcanvases.org
- Blue Crow Gallery: bluecrowgallery.com
- Children's Peace Theatre: childrenspeacetheatre.org
- Coal Mine Theatre: coalminetheatre.com
- Community Children's Choir: facebook.com/CommunityChildrenChoir
- Cornerstone Studio: cornerstonestudio.ca
- Cosburn Arts Centre: facebook.com/CAC1108
- Crow's Theatre: crowstheatre.com
- Danforth Music Hall: thedanforth.com
- Dawes Crossing: dawescrossing.ca
- DramaWay: dramaway.com
- Dreamation: dreamation.ca
- Dream House Collective: facebook.com/dreamhouseto
- Dusk Dances: duskdances.ca
- East End Arts: eastendarts.ca
- East York Historical Society: eastyork.org/eyhs
- East Side Players: eastsideplayers.ca
- Evergreen: evergreen.ca
- First Story Toronto: ncct.on.ca
- Heritage Toronto: heritagetoronto.org



- Indigenous InSight - Africa: facebook.com/IndigenousInSightAfrica
- inPrint Collective: inprintstudio.ca
- Laurie McGugan: lauriemcgugan.com
- Leslieville Historical Society: leslievillehistory.com
- Monarch Park Arts and Music Festival: facebook.com/FestivalHappening
- Mural Routes: muralroutes.ca
- Ontario Heritage Trust: heritagetrust.on.ca
- Ontario Historical Society: ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
- Pie in the Sky Studio: piestudios.ca
- Project Gallery: projectgallery.ca
- RED Sandcastle Theatre: redsandcastletheatre.com
- Riverdale Hub: riverdalehub.ca
- Shakespeare in the Ruff: shakespeareintheruff.com
- Shwasti: shwasti.ca
- Silver Mill Gallery: thesilvermill.com
- SPORE Contemporary Art Centre: sporecontemporary.com
- STEPS Initiative: stepsinitiative.com
- StreetARToronto: toronto.ca/streetart
- The Carefree Black Boy Project: carefreeblackboyproject.org
- The Opera House: theoperahousetoronto.com
- The Social Capital: socap.ca
- Todmoden Mills Heritage Site: toronto.ca/todmordenmills
- VIBE Arts: vibearts.ca
- Women in the Walls: All Female Street Art Jam: facebook.com/events/240133063148189
- Yellow House Gallery: yellowhousegallery.ca

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS

- Danforth Village BIA: dvbia.ca
- Gerrard India Bazaar BIA: gerrardindiabazaar.com
- GreekTown on the Danforth: greektowntoronto.com
- Leaside Village BIA: bayviewleasidebia.com
- Leslieville BIA: leslievillebia.com
- Pape Village BIA: papevillage.com
- Riverside District BIA: riverside-to.com
- The Beach Village BIA: thebeachvillage.com
- The Danny BIA: thedanny.ca
- The Danforth BIA: thedanforth.ca
- Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas: toronto-bia.com

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Accesspoint on Danforth: accessalliance.ca
- Bridgepoint Active Healthcare: bridgepointhealth.ca
- Crescent Town Club: crescenttownclub.com
- Community Matters Toronto: communitymatterstoronto.org
- Danforth East Community Association: deca.to
- Don Watershed Regeneration Council: discoverthedon.ca/DWRC
- East York Neighbourhood Initiatives: eyckitchen.wordpress.com
- Friends of Glen Stewart Ravine: friendsofglenstewartravine.wordpress.com
- Friends of the Don East: fode.ca
- Friends of the Spit: friendsofthespit.ca
- Friends of Woodbine Park: woodbinepark.net
- Lost Rivers: lostrivers.ca
- Ontario Trails: ontariotrails.on.ca
- Park People: parkpeople.ca
- Ralph Thornton Community Centre: ralphthornton.org
- Royal Canadian Curling Club: rccc.on.ca
- Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office: thorncliffe.org
- Tommy Thompson Park Guide: tommythompsonpark.ca
- Toronto Field Naturalists: torontofieldnaturalists.org
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- Toronto Tool Library: torontotoollibrary.com
- Waterfront Toronto: www.waterfronttoronto.ca
- Woodgreen: woodgreen.org

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

- Afrofest: afrofest.ca
- Culture Days: culturedays.ca
- Danforth BIA Thrill of the Grill: danforththrillofthegrill.com
- Danforth East Short Film Festival: danfortheastshortfilmfestival.com
- Doors Open Toronto: doorsopentoronto.on.ca
- Festival of South Asia: gerrardindiabazaar.com
- Jane's Walk: janeswalk.org
- Riverdale ArtWalk: riverdaleartwalk.ca
- Taste of the Danforth: tasteofthedanforth.com
- The Beaches International Jazz Festival: beachesjazz.com

***Websites and links valid at time of print.**

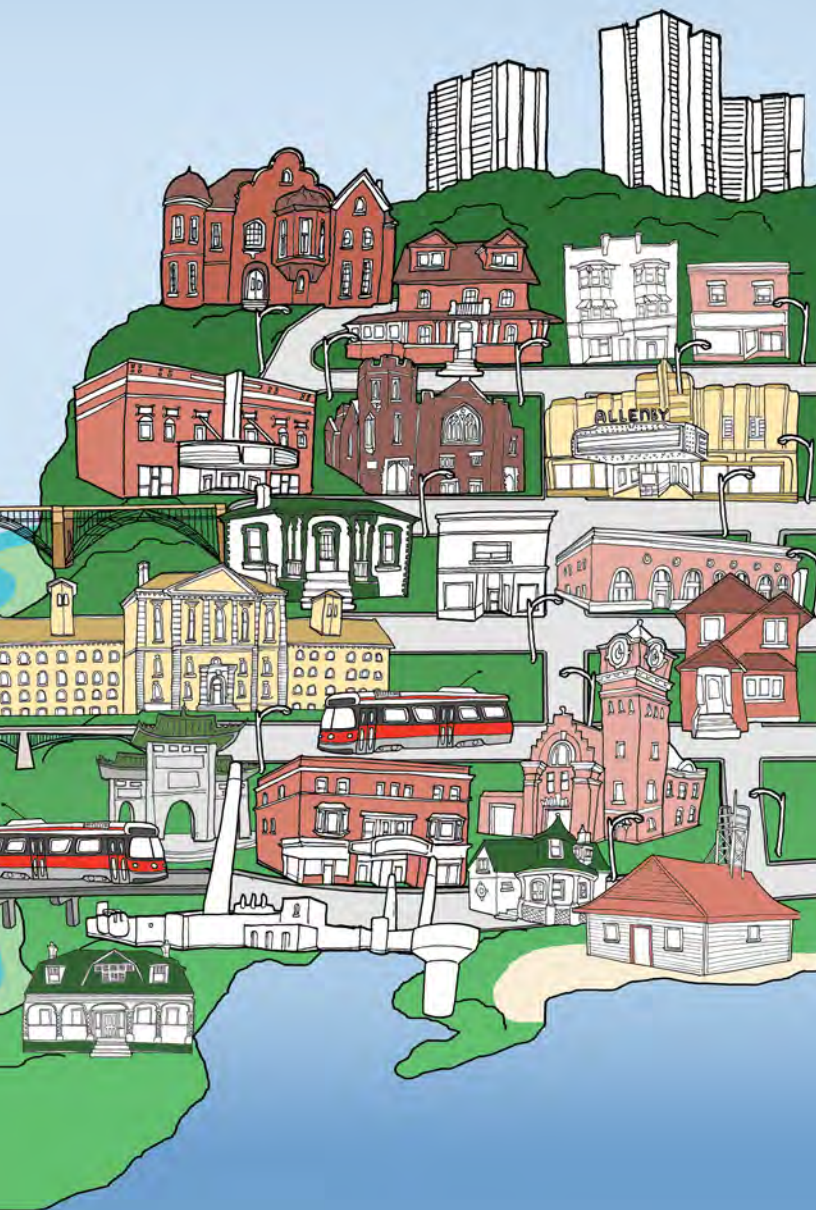
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CULTURAL **HOT** spot

celebrating creativity and community

toronto.ca/culturalhotspot

