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Corktownner

SUMMER EDITION

CORKTOWN'S SEASONAL NEWSPAPER

JUNE 2014

Our oldest schoolhouses

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What will be the legacy of the Pan Am Games?

By Bert Archer



Redevelopment of the West Don Lands to be used initially for the Pan Am Games

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| July – August 2014
NO MEETINGS – VACATION MONTHS

| September 02, 2014
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Big sporting extravaganzas are always meant to be good for the host city. It's how the evangelists that make up the bid committees sell it to governments and residents. And during the bidding process and the lead-up to the games, whether they be Olympics, Commonwealth, or Pan Am/Parapan, everyone gets worked up into an optimistic froth about how awesome all the new stuff they're getting is going to be.

But we're Canadians. We hosted what were arguably the world's most infrastructurally disastrous Olympics. It may have been way back in 1976, but since Montreal only ended up paying them off about a decade ago, the memory's still fresh. So when the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games came up for grabs, we were going to need a little more than happy froth and a pretty velodrome to sell us.

What we got, thanks to a whole coalition of remarkably effective people, was an entirely new neighbourhood on the Waterfront, the games acting as a sort of accelerator for an already planned overhaul of the formerly industrial port lands. As a result, the contributions being made by these games are more organic, contributing to the ongoing process of city building rather than setting itself up as a standalone wonder.

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This doesn't mean that it just might work; it means it's already working.

Take the athletes' village, for instance.

"Redevelopment of the West Don Lands began with the area being identified as one of four priority project areas for Waterfront Toronto, when formally created by the three orders of government in 2001," says Tari Stork, a communications manager for Waterfront Toronto who once described herself to the National Post as an infrastructure wonk.

"Waterfront Toronto was given a 20-year mandate to transform 800 hectares (2,000 acres) of brownfield lands on the waterfront, including the West Don Lands, into beautiful, sustainable mixed-use communities and dynamic public spaces.

"Following the province's successful bid for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, the West Don Lands area was identified as the ideal location for the Athletes' Village because of its state of readiness—planning and approvals were well underway—and its ideal

location in the heart of the city, with great connections to the surrounding GTA where Games venues would be located. West Don Lands revitalization has benefited from being chosen as the location for the Village."

.....
"The development timeline has been accelerated by five or more years, and now more than half of the area will be complete by 2015."

Dundee Kilmer is the developer for the area that will, temporarily, be the village, and will, ultimately, be the Canary District.

"There are two stages," says Dundee REIT CEO Jason Lester, whose company is under contract with Infrastructure Ontario. "The first stage is that we have to build for the Pan Am Games. We have to finish that by Jan. 15."

Working with Ellis Don-Ledcor, his company's delivering 175,000 square



feet, including 787 housing units that will ultimately be market value, in addition to 253 designated for the affordable rental market (ultimately to be managed by Fred Victor and Wigwamen). They're also building all the public realm amenities and infrastructure, including roads, under which they're installing what Lester refers to as the "deep utilities," including sewers, Hydro and the Internet infrastructure for which Waterfront is already being recognized.

And then there's the transit.

"Eventually, the streetcar tracks will be laid down on Cherry Street to allow the King Street East car to turn down Sumach and to the Distillery District," Lester says.

The connection to the Distillery District is of particular significance. Until now, the neighbourhood has been largely recreational, both for tourists and Torontonians. But lacking an easy connection to other neighbourhoods,

it's remained a destination location rather than a walk-by. But once the 35-acre Canary District infrastructure is in place, along with the rest of the Waterfront, the Distillery (which was also owned and developed by Dundee) may finally take its place among Toronto's integral neighbourhoods.

"Utilizing the West Don Lands for the Athletes' Village is an exceptional way to create a really positive legacy from hosting the Games," Stork says.

"During the Games, the Village section of the West Don Lands will provide accommodations and training space for the 10,000 Pan Am and Parapan Am athletes and officials expected to attend. After the games, the buildings will be converted into their permanent state—and what is was always planned for the area—a lively mixed-use riverside neighbourhood that offers a range of housing for people at all stages of life and income levels. Each of the Village component parts/buildings is designed to meet Waterfront Toronto's core objectives, which include triple-bottom line sustainability. The neighbourhood design includes important features such as pedestrian-friendly woonerfs, new transit in close proximity to residences and businesses, and street designs that



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encourage walkability and encourage transit-use and cycling.”

But the infrastructural legacy of the games will not be limited to the Waterfront or, in fact, to the physical realm.

Markham is getting the Markham Pan Am Centre, a 147,000 square foot multipurpose community and athletic centre, including a 34,000 square foot triple gymnasium and a 10-lane, 50-metre pool. And Etobicoke’s Olympium is getting an overhaul, mostly infrastructural (electricals, mechanicals) to be used as a training facility for the games.

.....
But the most exciting aspect of these games’ legacy, at least for a certain type of urban advocate, is what might be called the human infrastructure.

Rahul Bhardwaj was vice president of Toronto’s 2008 Olympic bid and, as a result, spent a good deal of time studying what went on in Sydney, as well as—later—the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and Vancouver’s Olympics. So by the time he became president and CEO of the Toronto Community Foundation, and the city won the Pan Am/Parapans, he had some pretty clear ideas about legacy.

“What we took away from [those other games] was that there will be a legacy,” he says. “The legacy can mean a lot of things. The physical legacy is self-evident: the transit, the stadiums, the pools. But there was a bit of narrative around the social legacy, and there weren’t the same level of resources put into those. They had a way of falling off the table.”

He had noticed that all the games had recruitment programs for volunteers but that once the games were done, so were the volunteers. Bhardwaj saw this as a

waste of both human and social capital, and vowed to do it differently here.

He started from a simple premise. People love to play. The Pan Am/Parapan Am Games are simply play writ large. Go.

So the TCF went out and talked to people, and came up with Playing for Keeps, using the Ontario Summer Games of 2012 as a trial run. In conjunction with communities in Toronto, Hamilton and Ajax, the TCF has been recruiting volunteers—more than 650 of them to date—to organize games in their own neighbourhoods. These volunteers are being trained in various community outreach, organization, and leadership skills.

“The neighbourhood game is a pathway,” Bhardwaj says. “It’s a moment in time when people get to know each other get to trust each other, and build trust to leverage doing more important things. It’s like a street hockey game. People are

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Our oldest schoolhouses

Adapted from the 2013 Corktown Heritage Study: Interim Report, prepared by students at Ryerson's School of Urban and Regional Planning. Read the full report at Corktown.ca.

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

106 Trinity St.

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse was the first free school in Toronto, opening in 1849 with space for 240 pupils. It was a joint creation by Little Trinity Church, which donated the land, and Enoch Turner, a wealthy brewer and philanthropist who supplied the funds for construction. Provincially supported free public education officially began in 1851, and the school was transferred to the City. In 1859, it was returned to Little Trinity parish, and from the 1860s to the 1960s the schoolhouse served as a parish hall and Sunday school.

Other uses over the years included a Boer War recruitment centre in 1899, a serviceman's home away from home for both World Wars, a soup kitchen serving 1,500 people a week in the 1930s and a youth clubhouse in the 1950s.

By the late 1960s, the schoolhouse had fallen into disrepair and was threatened with demolition. The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation was established in 1971. After extensive interior and exterior renovations, the schoolhouse opened as a living history site and a venue for conferences and receptions.



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

Courtesy: Wikipedia

Trinity Gala

If you have spent any time in and around King Street East where Little Trinity Church is located, you will know that there have been some tremendous changes to the church and the surrounding buildings. The storefront building at 403 King East opened to the public on May 25 with much fun and fanfare. Burgers were flipped and the jazz band played as we celebrated the renovation and restoration of these historic buildings. After the ceremonial ribbon cutting, people streamed inside to take a look at not only the restoration, but at our first gallery offering of a local artist. The art of Ali Chapman was the first to be hung in our space, and more local artists will be exhibited beginning in late summer. This is just the beginning.

The people at Little Trinity are passionate about the Corktown 'hood and want to continue to beautify our surroundings, make new friends, and build community. We are open, and will welcome warmly all who we meet, whether it is at the doors of the church or while walking the dog in the park.

With this in mind, this summer, starting June 19 at 7pm, and every other Thursday night thereafter through to September, we will be hosting local bands in our park to share their musical talents. The event is free – just pull up a piece of grass and enjoy the sounds of jazz, folk, rock, bluegrass or whatever the night has in store.

Are you a soccer fan? This summer we will be broadcasting World Cup soccer on the big screen. Come on out and cheer on your favourite team! We hope to have this outdoors in the park as well, but if weather or equipment don't cooperate, we will host a pub night indoors.

For more information on these and other community events planned, watch our storefront window at 403 King East, or check out the website at littletrinity.org

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Sackville Street School

19 Sackville St.

The Sackville Street School, the third in the neighbourhood, opened in 1887 with an enrolment of 49 children. The number rose to 269 the next year.



The school's construction has withstood the test of time. The original building is still intact and, most notably, the separated girls and boys entrances are still visible. Today, the school operates under the name Inglenook Community High School. It is Toronto's oldest school still in use.

Palace Street School

409 Front St. E.

The Toronto Board of Education opened the Palace Street School (Palace Street became Front Street) to supplement the free school built by Enoch. But after 30 years, it found a new life. Robert Irvine remodeled the building in 1890, for use as a hotel called the Irvine House. In 1893, it became the Cherry Street Hotel. With the demise of that business in the early 20th century, industrial tenants took over the building and a warehouse was added along Cherry Street. The building has seen a number of uses since then. Most famously, the Canary Restaurant occupied ground-level space from 1965 until 2007, when the changing conditions of the neighbourhood prompted the proprietors to close it.

At the moment, the intersection has been cleared for construction related to the 2015 Pan Am Games.

No one knows what the future holds, but perhaps the building could provide a reminder of Corktown's past while interacting harmoniously with the area's contemporary development.

The evolution of Corktown's skyline

By Socrates Apallas, local realtor and advocate of Corktown Living

Have you seen this? This spring, developer Urban Capital released a jaw-dropping rendering of RC3, the 3rd phase of the award-winning RiverCity complex. Already creating quite the buzz, this project will alter Corktown's skyline forever.

Just Imagine 28 storeys of extreme architecture towering over the Richmond and Eastern Avenue overpass.

I believe this might be the coolest building ever built in Toronto.

It will for sure be one that everybody talks about.

The RiverCity complex is filled with forward-thinking design, and RC3 seems set to continue on the same path, luxe finishes and uber modern design. Creating the vision is Montreal-based architecture firm Saucier & Perrotte, which took home a Governor General's Medal earlier this year for the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Other notable clients include the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium and McCord Museum. Clearly, this team knows how to make a mark.

RC3 will be in a prime location. Imagine Underpass Park right in

front of your lobby, stellar views of Corktown Common and a short stroll to the planned Front Street Promenade (spearheaded by LiveWorkLearnPlay), where you'll lounge for hours at one of the many proposed cafe and restaurant patios.

Do you want more details of this on this project? Ask me! It's going to be amazing.

QUICK DETAILS

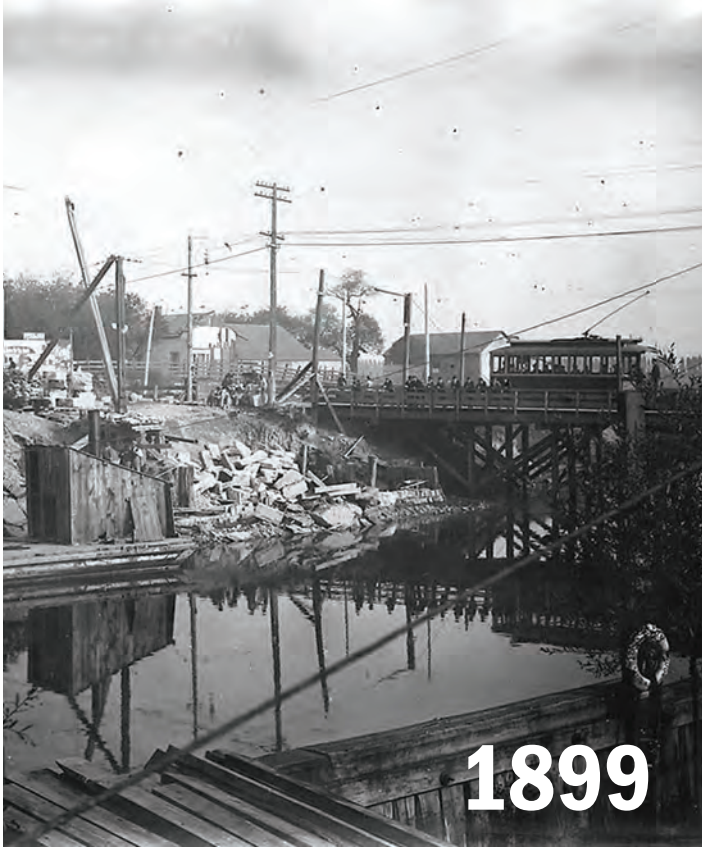
- » Occupancy scheduled for 2017
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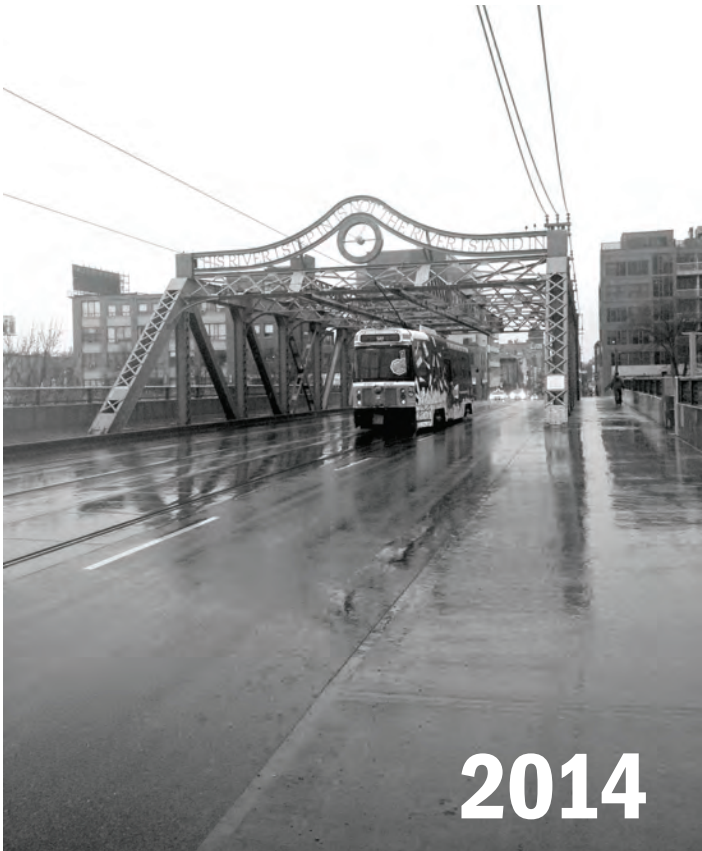
The Corktown 7

Don Valley Bridge

by Domini Clark



1899



2014

Café haiku challenge

by Alex Bartlett

Recognize this dish? On which Corktown restaurant's menu will you find it? The poem and photo are clues. Identify the restaurant and the dish and win a gift certificate to the restaurant for the value of the dish.

*Barenaked Ladies,
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Enter by emailing the name of the dish and the Corktown restaurant that offers it to editor@corktown.ca or go to corktown.ca and look for Café Haiku. Don't forget to include your name and email address, or phone so we can track you down if you win!

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Corktown.ca is also where you'll find previous Café Haiku dishes and winners revealed.

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hanging out together, getting to know each other, and as they do, they'll start doing other things together. It could actually be learning to take pride in their community, and when that community is threatened, or challenged by something, they'll organize and open a dialogue. As communities change, we know it strains, and this creates trust to manage that change."

According to research done in conjunction with George Brown College (its new residence a part of the games' infrastructural legacy, with its Waterfront health sciences campus adjacent to the future Canary District), 90 per cent of these volunteers have said they picked up new skills, 86 per cent are positively inclined to give back to their communities, and 80 per cent feel more connected to people in their neighbourhoods.

And that's all more than a year before the games begin.

A new Waterfront, new facilities across the GTA, and a new spirit of community engagement and volunteer leadership that could last for years: It might just be enough to make up for Montreal.

This article first appeared at YongeStreetMedia.ca. Bert Archer is Yonge Street's development editor. 

What's up in Corktown?

The Corktown Residents & Business Association is a not-for-profit and non-commercial volunteer neighbourhood organization. We follow the latest developments in Corktown on a wide range of topics and serve as a liaison between Corktown, the City and other key organizations.

The CRBA is an inclusive organization open to all local residents and businesses. Join us and add your voice to the community discussion!

Learn more: www.corktown.ca

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Next Corktown meetings!

September 2nd, October 7th

Join your neighbours at 7PM on the first Tuesday of every month (except August) in the back room of the Dominion on Queen, at Queen St. and Sumach. Check www.corktown.ca for agendas and other details.

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Easter egg hunt

by Alex Bartlett

The first ever Corktown Easter Egg Hunt held at the new playground in Corktown Common was a lot of fun and a big success in April!



We had wonderful weather and it was great to share the beautiful Corktown Common with friends, neighbours, newcomers and – of course – the children.

A big thank you goes to the Corktown Residents and Business Association for organizing and sponsoring the chocolate egg hunt, and to Socrates Apallas of Royal LePage Realty for arranging a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Please keep an eye on Corktown.ca for more activities in the park this year, including a community BBQ in June and a Halloween haunt in the fall.



THE GOOD AND THE BAD

POPPED



Get out your ironic large-rimmed spectacles and wax your moustache:

Corktown appears to be the new Junction. Hipster hot spots from Queen and King West are starting to move in. As well as the new location of a superhero espresso bar mentioned below, a hip King West restaurant is applying to put in a three-storey restaurant at 501 King Street East. Cool food and drink options within Corktown? We're all for this kind of gentrification.



Sigh. It's as if King Street takes a step forward and Queen Street takes a step back. We can't fault

Douglas Poole for retiring and closing his antique shop. But we're still sorry to see another shuttered storefront. And then Poole's neighbour, Even & Odd, shut its doors to go online only (cute objects still available at evenandodd.ca). In the same block, Que became Atelier became "event space available," which apparently is code for "out of business." And ... what?! After months of work going on behind the windows, Il Panettone Fine Italian Pastries was closed by the landlord before it even opened!



We're cautiously optimistic about some new businesses coming to King Street East near The Healthy Road.

A dentist office should be open by the time this Corktown hits your mailbox. And we hear that also in the works are a national sandwich chain, the second location for a powerful Norse-west-end espresso bar and a spa. Sounds good. We'll be watching for the openings and be there with our wallets to support them.