

THE CORKTOWN NEWS

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A Love Letter to the Don River

By Jacquelyn West, Hermann & Audrey



photo courtesy: Derek Akers

This summer, local and international artists produced riverside murals along a local stretch of the Pan Am Path, inspired by the resilience of the Don River. Through vibrant colour and environmental themes, the artists explored the ecological challenges and opportunities that we as a community face in renewing our relationship with this urban watershed.

The Don River site was part of Toronto's first international mural festival, titled 'A Love Letter to the Great Lakes'. The only fresh-water edition of the globally nomadic "Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans" public art mandate, created by the Pangeaseed Foundation, was produced for Toronto by a small team of international curators, cultural managers, artists, producers, sponsors and volunteers. For the festival, three collections of murals were created—the other two collections are at Queen and Ossington and Queen and Spadina. Using street art as an accessible visual tool the simple goal was to beautify neighbourhoods and stimulate a feeling

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Making Peace

By Ashley Woods, Curator, Making Peace

Front Street Promenade and Corktown Common | May - September 2017

Making Peace, the largest and perhaps most important photo exhibition of its kind in the world, is set to be presented in Corktown (Front St. Promenade and Corktown Common) in 2017. This will mark its debut showing in North America.

Making Peace has been presented in 12 major cities, including Basel, Cape Town, Geneva, Utrecht, Rio de Janeiro and Stockholm, where it attracted a record number of visitors to the Nobel Museum. The exhibit is coming to Toronto as part of Canada's 150th anniversary, when it will pay tribute to Toronto's very own Nobel Peace Laureate, Lester B. Pearson.

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A LOVE LETTER TO THE DON RIVER CONTINUED

of love, protection and broader public awareness of the critical issues facing the Great Lakes – a source of 95% of North America’s surface freshwater.

The week-long activation lineup of 21 renowned local and international artists focused toward well-researched dominant issues facing our precious

natural fresh-water resource: disappearing native species, polluted water and beaches, invasive organisms, and atmospheric pollution. The strong themes were presented through a positive lens, the works point toward long-term solutions for the city of Toronto.

“The way most people experience the Don River is by not experiencing

it at all, they just drive right over it,” explains Friends of the Pan Am Path curator Devon Ostrom. “We hope the murals draw people’s attention toward the Don River and promote a reaction about its current condition.”

The larger ‘A Love Letter to the Great Lakes’ festival came together with support of partner organizations such as lululemon, LUSH Cosmetic’s Charity



**BROOK TROUT IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT
BY YOUNG JARUS AND KWEST**

photos courtesy: Daniel Weintraub (@Halopigg)

The Corktown News

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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!

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“The way most people experience the Don River is by not experiencing it at all, they just drive right over it, we hope the murals draw people’s attention toward the Don River and promote a reaction about its current condition.”

What is Making Peace all About?

Making Peace essentially explains what key elements are necessary to create a ‘Sustainable Peace’, while paying tribute to the people who, all over the planet, devote their time, energy and resources to the cause of peace and how these persons and organizations have shaped and influenced the course of the 20th century.

In the words of Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and former Director-General of UNESCO, “this is an extraordinarily powerful exhibition that pays tribute to a century of peace making and a wide range of peacemakers across the globe. At the same time it serves as a call to action for ordinary citizens to become involved in peace activities of all kinds, and in so doing to promote a global culture of peace”.

The exhibition brings together 125 photographs presented in five distinct coloured sections each of which represents a key element of peace:

1. Disarmament and Nonviolence
2. Conflict Prevention and Resolution
3. Economic and Social Justice
4. Human Rights, Law and Democracy
5. Environment and Sustainable Development

.....
“in order to create a sustainable peace, all five elements need to be present; if one is missing then peace will always remain fragile.”

present; if one is missing then peace will always remain fragile.”

Importantly, a detailed school’s curriculum is available, and in cooperation with local organizations, including the CRBA, a larger program of family friendly activities including guided tours and artistic performances is in planning.

If you would like to support this event in any way please contact Michele at info@corktown.ca

The overall message of the exhibition is that “in order to create a sustainable peace, all five elements need to be

Pot program and Mexico’s Pinturas Osel among many others. The Don River site’s financial supporters include the Toronto Foundation, Waterfront Toronto, and Transportation Services’ StreetARToronto program. Led by Friends of the Pan Am Path’s ArtRelay Program, the site is a co-creation with Love Letter Projects, PangeaSeed Foundation, Surface Art / AMPLove, Hermann & Audrey, Andy + Oglia Melnyk, Osel Paints, Real Food for Real Kids and, of course, the Corktown Residents & Business Association.

To view the ‘Love Letter to the Don River’, walk or cycle the Lower Don Trail / Pan Am Path or catch a quick glimpse from the DVP-Gardiner westbound ramp or from any GO train crossing the Don River. ☺



AN INDIGENOUS WOMAN AND CHILD TOGETHER WITH 200 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE LANDLESS MOVEMENT ARE EXPELLED FROM PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND. MANAUS, BRAZILIAN AMAZON. 2008.

photo courtesy: Luiz Vasconcelos (www.makingpeace.org)

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Settling In

By Joanne Millard

On the evening of July 14, members of Little Trinity Anglican Church's Refugee Sponsorship and Support Committee headed out to the airport.

We were finally to meet Mosi and Elham, the couple from Iran with whom we had matched for sponsorship. They were supposed to have arrived on July 4, but a terrorist bombing of the airport in Istanbul a few days before that caused their flight to be delayed. Needless to say, we were glad when they arrived safely - just hours, as it turned out, before an abortive coup attempt closed the airports in Turkey a second time.

.....

Mosi and Elham have met and befriended many members of our congregation and are becoming a valued part of our church community.

■

Mosi and Elham had been living in Turkey for two years, after escaping the threat of imprisonment in Iran, where Mosi had worked in broadcast journalism and Elham was an architecture student. While waiting for their refugee claim with the United Nations, they lived in a small town near Ankara. Mosi continued to do freelance sports reporting and Elham worked part-time teaching fitness classes.

Everyone was happy to meet one another. What we could not have known, was how blessed we were to have been matched with these fine young people. They have now been in Toronto for three months. They participated in finding their own apartment, in the east end near the Danforth subway line. They've started English classes. Through a separate initiative, we were able to partner with an organization that brings over 'rescue' dogs from Turkey, and in September they were reunited with their little Jack Russell terrier, Lexi.

Mosi and Elham have met and befriended many members of our congregation and are becoming a valued part of our church community. As we continue to walk with them as they sort out this next stage of their lives, we know already that they will be assets to Toronto and to Canada.

Welcoming our New Residents

By Tricia Waldron, photos courtesy Spencer Wynn

Corktown has seen an influx of new residents into the former Pan Am Games residences. We thought you might like to meet some of them. This issue of Corktown News profiles a resident of the Canary District Condos as well as two George Brown College students who live at The George. We hope to profile a resident of the Fred Victor in the next issue.

The Canary District Condo Anne Beninger



Anne hails from Mildmay, Ontario, a village not far from Walkerton. She originally came to Toronto to attend Ryerson University. After graduation from the Architecture program, Anne headed to Vancouver. From there, she travelled to both Europe and New York. She returned to Toronto to join Oxford Properties in January 2016 and was one of the first owners to move into the Canary District condos in May.

We're glad Anne chose to invest and live in Corktown. We are also glad she agreed to meet with us and answer our questions about her early experiences as a resident.

Anne told us that she is very happy to have chosen Corktown as her new home. She looked on the other side of Yonge St but opted for the east. Anne has been taking advantage of the new retail outlets that have opened near her but she also looks forward to the arrival of more, in particular a grocery store.

The Canary District is quite new and Anne reports a few wrinkles yet to be ironed out. For example, storage for bicycles is not available indoors and parking is at a premium. Apparently Facebook is alive with bartering for underground parking.

The George Jenna Horlock and Jessie Sidhu



Jenna and Jessie were most gracious hosts, telling us a lot about the College and giving us a tour of The George. Jenna was even kind enough to show us her room.

The George is a refit of the facility used by the American athletes during the Pan Am Games. All units are doubles with separate bedrooms and a shared kitchenette, bathroom and lounge area. Common areas are found on every floor of The George including kitchens and games rooms. Laundry facilities are also shared and students can check on the availability of resources through their personal portals.

Jenna and Jessie both came from communities close to Toronto, Jenna from Pickering and Jessie from Brampton. Although it would be possible for them to commute to school, they both mentioned how fantastic it is to be able to live downtown.

In addition to being full time students, Jenna and Jessie are both Residence Advisors. This part time job includes support to the residents and monitoring use of the common areas.

When asked what they like about living at The George, their answers were quite similar - being central to the City where there are lots of events, many of which are free. The recent World Cup of Hockey activities at the Distillery District was provided as an example. Also mentioned were The Dominion, Sumach Espresso, Odin, Corktown Common and Underpass Park.

Seems that these new residents are glad to be in Corktown and we are glad to have them.

CRBA Quarterly Recap

By Michele Cummings, President CRBA

We thought you might be curious about what the Corktown Residents & Business Association (CRBA) has been doing. We are a small, but busy, group of Corktown residents that work to try and make a difference in our little corner of the City. We'll make this short recap a regular addition to the Corktown News.

After a much needed summer break, the fall has been very busy. In addition to the regular items of sending out the weekly newsletter, putting together the Corktown News, organizing the Monthly Public meeting and attending a myriad of other neighbourhood meetings, this is what we have been up to:

Development - meeting with City planners, developers and local residents about:

- » A new condo proposed for 18-32 Eastern Ave
- » A large mixed-use building at 77 River/7 Labatt
- » A large residential building at 48 Power St.
- » Redevelopment of 301 Queen St. E. (Berkeley Church) and more.

Arts, Culture and Events

- » Working to have the international exhibit, Making Peace, come to Corktown
- » Worked in conjunction with StreetArt to get the pillars on the west side of Underpass Park painted
- » Attended meetings to ensure that World Cup of Hockey Fan Village was not too disruptive to the neighbourhood
- » Organizing the annual Neighbourhood Holiday Party and silent auction

Parks

- » Representing the community, participating in the design of the new Sackville Park
- » Attending meetings about the Corktown Common Dog Park

Other

- » Working with the City and TTC to resolve squealing streetcars at King and Cherry St.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out so if there is something of interest in which you would like to become involved, please email info@corktown.ca.

Soulpepper's in a New York State of Mind

By Dennis Kucherawy

Soulpepper is Celebrating Its 20th Anniversary in Next Year's Canadian Sesquicentennial with Its Big Apple Debut

The world needs a little more Canada. Next June, sophisticated New Yorkers who think they have seen it all, will learn they could use a little more Corktown.

That's when Toronto's Soulpepper Theatre makes its debut on the Big Apple's legendary 42nd Street for a month-long residency in The Pershing Square Signature Center, designed by acclaimed Toronto born and raised architect Frank Gehry.

Called the "Soulpepper on 42nd St.: Canada Crosses the Border Festival", the company will present six plays, including the hit "Kim's Convenience" as well as a series of its popular "docu-musical" concerts that mix music, narrative and visual design. Soulpepper will occupy all stages of The Pershing Square Signature Center. It will also engage New York's community in workshops, symposia, master-classes and outreach events throughout the month.

"It's amazing how far we've come together," said Albert Schultz, Soulpepper's founding artistic director. "What began as a two-play summer season at Harbourfront Centre has become the largest and most active theatre company in Toronto, performing year-round at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts."

Indeed, one of the pleasures of living in Corktown is having such a dynamic and consistently excellent theatre just a quick stroll away in the neighbouring Distillery District. Soulpepper deserves its reputation as one of Canada's largest and most celebrated theatres. It entertains more than 130,000 theatregoers annually and tours across Canada from coast to coast, on its way to establishing itself as Canada's "National Civic Theatre."

.....
"Diversity and gender equity are... very important to us, we will explore what role a cultural institution can play in the civic conversation and to continue to examine how the performing arts can change people's perceptions and lives."

Schultz announced a plan this June to build, over the next five years, "a national civic theatre, one in which the qualities of a civic theatre, which we have been creating here – engagement, involvement, commitment – will be explored on a wider canvas."

The National Civic Theatre model is committed to taking its work to communities, large and small, throughout the country, and to represent Canada on the world stage. It also plans to share its work with the nation through broadcast and digital platforms.

An example of that is already happening with the debut of the critically acclaimed "Kim's Convenience" sitcom on CBC-TV, based on Ins Choi's play of the same title, one of Soulpepper's greatest stage successes.

"Diversity and gender equity are... very important to us," Schultz told the Toronto Star. He said Soulpepper will "explore what role a cultural institution can play in the civic conversation and to continue to examine how the performing arts can change people's perceptions and lives."

The five-year strategic plan to expand its work countrywide requires a \$10 million creative capital campaign, 77 percent of which has already been raised.

December's Soulpepper Family Festival

While plans for its New York premiere are in full swing, there are still plenty of attractions for Toronto audiences. In

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

POPPED THE GOOD AND THE BAD



There are people and stuff happening in the West Don Lands! (AKA Canary District or, my preference, New Corktown.) I'm enjoying trying out the new shops and seeing the George Brown students around. Tabule and Dark Horse are my fave new places so far. It seems some of the planned food places are not opening up but I'm optimistic that other great shops will snag the leases and open up soon.



And with the new people, come more parking hassles. There are cars badly parked all over the place. I know it's paved, but Underpass Park is for kids, not cars. And how entitled must you be to park your car on the grass of Corktown Common? I'm happy to see the yellow slips to show that parking enforcement is out to discourage the worst of these parkers. The CRBA's working on the City to add more Green P spaces but it won't be enough. Maybe it's time for me to sell my car and go with one of the car share services – at least they have parking in the neighbourhood!



Who else is happy with the expansion of BikeShare? I love it! We've gone from two stations in Corktown – both around Front & Parliament – to nine! They literally go from one corner of Corktown (Queen & Berkeley) to the other (Corktown Common). BikeShare plus bike lanes are making it so much easier to get around. It's faster than the TTC. Plus there are stations across the bridge as far east as Leslieville. I'm so lazy, I'm even using BikeShare to ride the few blocks to the YMCA for my "executive workout" (no sweat: just a splash in the pool, shower & shave).



And sad changes for Queen & Parliament: the charming Keeffaa Coffee is also gone. Several of the remaining shops near here appear to be struggling. I hope they can hold on until Free The Children move in in 2017.



Nice changes for Queen & Parliament: Annie's bar is closed! And so is Wicked, the sex club which won't be missed by most Corktowners.



ALLIGATOR PIE

photo courtesy: Cylla von Tiedemann

Christmas Market kicks off Nov. 18

By Andrea Wightman

The Distillery District's annual Christmas Market is a month-long celebration of old world romance and holiday spirit. Candace Shaw, Outdoor Events Coordinator for the Distillery District, describes it as "a chance for the city of Toronto to embrace the cold and remember that winter is not only bearable, but fun".

With the giant tree, which hails from Northern Ontario, up as of November 2, and the Market – now in its sixth year – officially open from November 18 to December 22, Toronto residents and tourists will have plenty of opportunity

to stroll down the cobblestone lanes, shop the "cabins" for crafts, food and home decor, and soak in the holiday merriment.

For returning visitors, you can still look forward to many of the event's traditional elements. The same talented group of Toronto-based carollers are set to come back this year. The main stage will occupy folk dancers and music performers from around the world. Most importantly, Santa and his elves will be on hand to welcome the young (and young at heart) and pose for photos.

There will also be a few surprises introduced this year, but the Distillery District would not divulge any secrets. Best to visit the market for yourself and see what the fuss is all about!

When you do visit the Market, be prepared for crowds. This year, 500,000 visitors from around the world are

expected to walk through the Mill Street gates – each paying a \$6 entry fee as a way to control the high volumes during the weekend, and to offset the cost of running the event.

You can also expect to see many couples there with love on the brain. Though the Christmas Market can be a great pull for children, it's also a destination for romance. Many couples choose this spot to go on their first date, and later return to get engaged.

Part of the magic and wonder of the Christmas Market is the sense of nostalgia that it conjures up, a feeling of childhood Christmases where everything was easy and carefree. But the planning and organization that goes into the event is anything but. The Distillery District is hard at work all year-long to ensure the market continues to deliver a high quality experience. Artisans are booked in August, and planning begins in earnest in October. By the time the market opens in November, a small army of roughly 150 ticket sellers, greeters, sound production crew and more work around the clock to deliver another season of joy, romance and excitement.

For more information, visit www.torontochristmasmarket.com.

The Personal Side of Fitness

By Andrea Wightman

Corktown News sat down with Brent Bishop, founder of Think Fitness and Kevin Thorne, onsite manager for the studio's new location at Canary District.

Think Fitness sets itself apart from other gyms through its personal approach to fitness, which includes a mix of high-level athletic training and foundational small group classes for beginners. But their true distinction from other facilities is arguably in what they do outside the studio. Aside from the group running races throughout the city, Think Fitness can take you on life-changing excursions. Brent and his team have accompanied small groups of adventure-seekers to the Grand Canyon, Mount Kilimanjaro, and several spots in between.

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“If you don’t attach an experience to your fitness, it becomes a chore,” claims Brent. “Being healthy is more than just how much you can lift or what you look like. It’s a lifestyle.”

The excursions also create a sense of community for those who attend them, which may be why the trend towards group training has taken off. Though the Think Fitness studio in Bloor West Village has seen a lot of success through personal, one-on-one training in its eight years, the Canary District studio will focus more on small group classes. The team is also looking to start offering “Mom and Baby” classes for new mothers, and utilising Corktown’s many parks and trails to get their customers training outside.

With Brent setting up shop amongst the neighbourhood’s newest condo buildings, he’s come full-circle from his early days of giving private training sessions in condo gyms. Having grown up in British Columbia, the active lifestyle is one he seemed destined to lead. And he’s found a like-minded business partner in Kevin, who also grew up leading an outdoor lifestyle in Toronto’s west end.

Together, they’ve been busy recruiting their new team, which includes several seasoned staff members from the Bloor Street location, and new employees from in and around Corktown. “Both our customers and our staff are serious about results. They have a range of personal fitness passions, and are ready to work hard,” says Kevin.

Grab your running shoes and drop in to check out their new studio, check out their new studio at 467 Front St. East.



Through the eyes of two young entrepreneurs

By Bruce Lee and Stephanie Duong

Stephanie and I opened Roselle Desserts in Corktown in February 2015. The experience of living and working in this neighbourhood has changed our lives.

When we opened, it was the culmination of the journey that began four years prior at George Brown College. Stephanie completed the Baking & Pastry Arts Program while I graduated from the Chef Training program. Both of us were young, (single!), adventurous, and hungry to learn more about our craft so we packed our bags and headed off to France. During the year we spent there, we worked in some of the top establishments in the country. We worked 12-hour days, under intense pressure, for very little pay. We loved it.

After a brief return to Toronto in the summer of 2012, we packed our bags once again (this time as a couple) and set off to Hong Kong, a city with one of the most vibrant dining scenes in the world. Again, we worked in some of the top establishments in the city. We worked six days a week, under intense pressure, for even less pay. Although we loved the work, it was at that point that we planned to work for ourselves.

We returned to Toronto again in February 2014 and wrote a business plan, started menu planning, and looking for neighbourhoods in which to set up our shop. I wish we could say that we immediately had our hearts set on Corktown but we didn’t. We spent many fruitless months looking at properties west of Yonge Street. They seemed better suited for our retail pastry concept and that’s where other young entrepreneurs/chefs/colleagues were setting up.

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We loved the idea of setting up shop so close to George Brown College. It gave a poetic and circular touch to our story: we travelled the world and ended up where we started.

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In late November 2014, nine months after our search began, we chanced upon a small space very close to our old college. It had been a catering kitchen in its prior life and with a large south-facing window that overlooked the Little Trinity Church, one of the oldest churches in the city. We loved the idea of setting up shop so close to George Brown College. It gave a poetic and

circular touch to our story: we travelled the world and ended up where we started. We loved the idea of starting something new across the street from an old church that had stood the test of time.

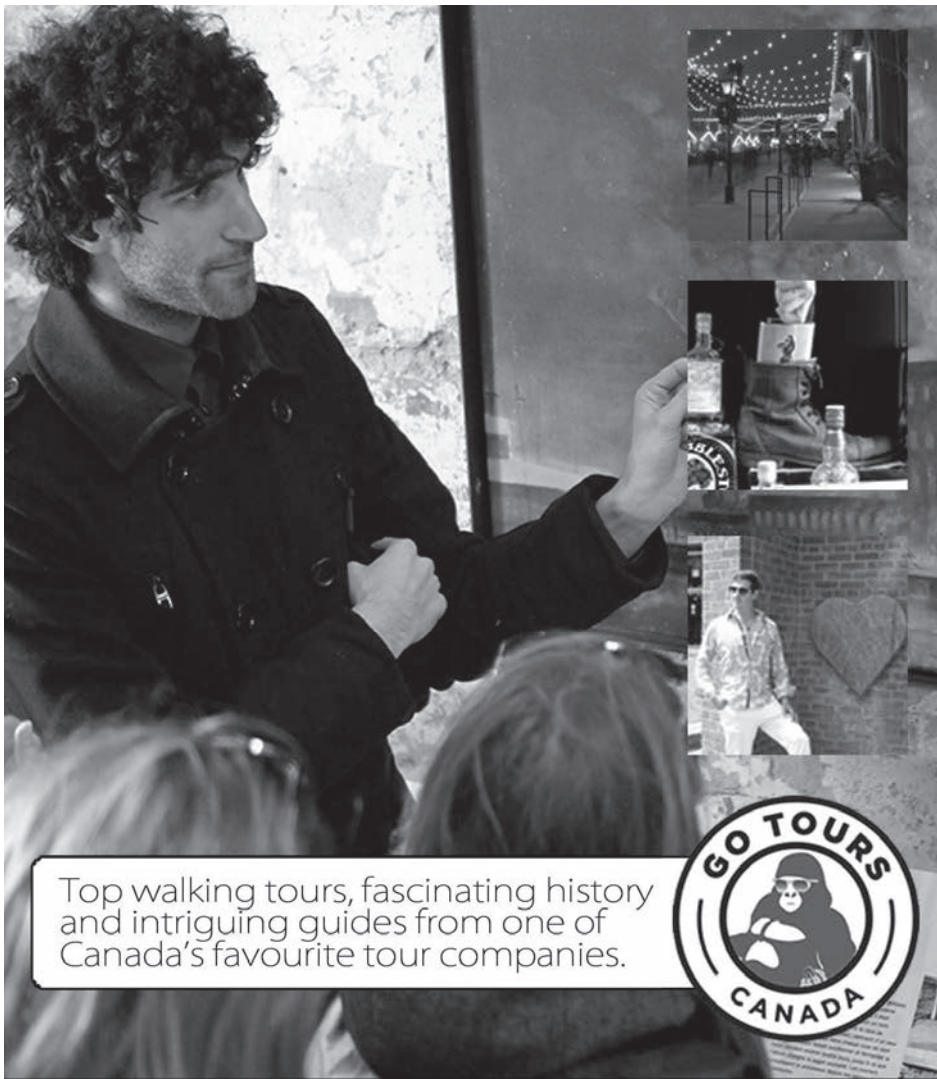
A few months after the opening, we moved to Corktown and now live and work here. We love the neighbourhood and its residents. It’s a wonderful mix of people: those who have lived here for many years as well as young people who have recently moved in. There’s an energy and vibrancy that is invigorating. This neighbourhood is a fantastic place for small businesses and we have become friends with our neighbours at Tandem Coffee, Linden Grove, Corktown Kitchen, and Feast. I hope that Corktown continues to be a neighbourhood with thriving small businesses.

We arrived at one of the most exciting periods of this area’s growth. We witnessed the 504 King Streetcar resume service after a long hiatus, the establishment of Corktown Common, the Pan Am Games came and went, the continued growth of the Distillery District, the impending occupancy of the West Don Lands and the Globe & Mail building.

We’re excited about the future in Corktown and hope to spend many more years living and working in this neighbourhood.



photo courtesy: Antonio Lee



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Development Update

By Larry Webb

Although the PanAm Games and related development activity is now over, activity in and around Corktown is picking up speed. The following is an update on the CRBA's activity related to development.

HOME

This is the working name given by Great Gulf to their Power Street project. We've been in discussions with them since early 2014. They re-designed twice after acquiring the rest of the block – Power to Parliament, Adelaide to Richmond – and then after a request by the City's Design Review Panel for a redesign in March 2016. After another presentation we felt that the overall redesign was an improvement. The City Planning department wants them to be less tall than the building under construction opposite on Parliament and the new design has removed the "bridge" between the two towers previously at the top of the building. The net result is a less massive building which still retains some good features from the original including space on the second floor which has a height which is intended to attract a major grocery store. It will come back to a statutory public meeting to be held at City Hall.

77 River/7 Labatt



The CRBA was able to defer the City's decision on this development proposal for a month in order to explain changes and consider feedback from the community. While the original application had two towers where the approved Queen/River Secondary Plan allowed for only one and of lesser height, the revised submission has only one tower but is 14 floors higher than the Secondary Plan at 38 and 13 floors higher than the tallest buildings on the west side of River in the proposed Regent Park Phase 3 work. Apart from the visual

and privacy impacts on the immediate neighbours to the south and north, all of them within a four floor context, our main objection is that the Secondary Plan was recently approved and these applications which were submitted in the same timeframe appear to ignore that Plan.

1-25 Defries Avenue

We have filed an objection with the City to the proposal for this site, almost adjacent to the previous proposal, and on the same basic grounds regarding the new Queen/River Secondary Plan except in this case, the developer has not made any advance at the City, as far as we know, following the community consultation now 18 months ago.

41 River Street

We have received preliminary plans for development of this infill site immediately south of the Corktown Mews townhouse development. It calls for a 25 unit residential with commercial (live/work) units at ground floor all in 5 storeys. We have concerns about the impacts on the new and existing neighbourhoods to north and south and are following up with the developer.

501 King Street East

There is some activity on what was called Gusto 501 with a renewed Committee of Adjustment application which we support. We have finally connected with the owner and hope to have them come and present to the public meeting in January or February 2017.

18-32 Eastern Avenue

An application was filed with the City for a 13-storey building on this site, which stretches from Gilead to Eastern and up Sackville to the old studio building, with no discussion with the community. The CRBA has met with the developer and expressed multiple concerns, chief among them being the overall height and massing (building lot-line to lot-line) as well as the demolition of the old Hotel building at Gilead and Eastern. Pam McConnell has expressed similar concerns to ours. This has all been followed up in writing to the City in advance of meetings with the developer. We are looking for

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a maximum height of eight storeys, in keeping with Trinity Lofts and the height of buildings in the West Don Lands precinct plan on the south side of Eastern, plus retention of the old Hotel and greater consideration of the existing built fabric by use of stepbacks. We expect to hear back on the developer's response to our concerns by year end.

River City Phases 3 and 4

River City 3 construction continues and we are excited to see the finished product, which will make architectural sense of both Phases 1 and 2. Design of Phase 4, provisionally called The Harris, progresses and is very exciting also. While a small building, it is also architecturally stunning, will contain a full floor restaurant at 2nd floor, and is designed to be somewhat transparent at the ground plane to present as little visual obstruction between Underpass Park and Lawren Harris Square.

NOT IN CORKTOWN BUT HAVING IMPACT ON US:

301 Queen Street East

This is a new proposed redevelopment of the old Church event space on the south side of Queen immediately west of Berkeley. We have written to the City in support of the objections of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) whose area this falls into. Its height at 25 floors is out of context with the surroundings and the design is uninspiring.

East Harbour (Unilever site)

We had an update at the October public meeting; the plans continue to evolve. Of particular note for Corktown is the intended new pedestrian and bicycle bridge connection with Corktown Common and the residential development in Corktown. Our residential will already be in place when East Harbour comes on stream and will be a major part of their activity to attract new office tenants for their 100% commercial development with ancillary community and cultural uses. They also have designed a major transit hub into the north edge of the development.

53-65 Ontario Street/102 Berkeley

The developer of this building has appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board whose decision is now public. The issue is the overall height and the height of the podium relative to the existing uses opposite. It is a precedent-setter very close to our area. We have worked with the SLNA in support of their actions.

This is a partial summary of the activity of the CRBA Development Committee's work on behalf of the community. It is getting busier and we welcome expressions of interest from local residents who wish to help. Please contact info@corktown.ca.

Organic Garden

By Anette Christensen



photos courtesy: Sunil Issac

When I first learned about the Good Shepherd Community Garden in Regent Park, I was excited. It seemed a perfect fit for me and the timing just seemed so right. I had time on my hands and I do love gardening. To me gardening is therapeutic. It reduces stress and calms the nerves. It is so satisfying to see plants grow and flourish and be used eventually to feed someone somewhere.

We garden every Tuesday morning. This is our first gardening season. Initially, it was a lot of work for several reasons. First, building consensus among different people around what to plant and our roles. Second, preparing soil that almost seemed dead: tilling, turning, raking, preparing before planting. We had to be willing to alter plans. Together we learned about ourselves and learned about gardening.

We planted eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, lavender and marigolds. I was happy the way the garden looked in the end.

This gardening experience has reconnected me to the idea of giving back to the community. It has also allowed me to appreciate the gardening skills I developed when I used to work in my country farm years ago; amazing memories indeed.

If I am able, I would love to volunteer again next year. It's been such a memorable experience building relationships with other people as well as building relationship with the soil. I can easily call it an 'organic experience.'

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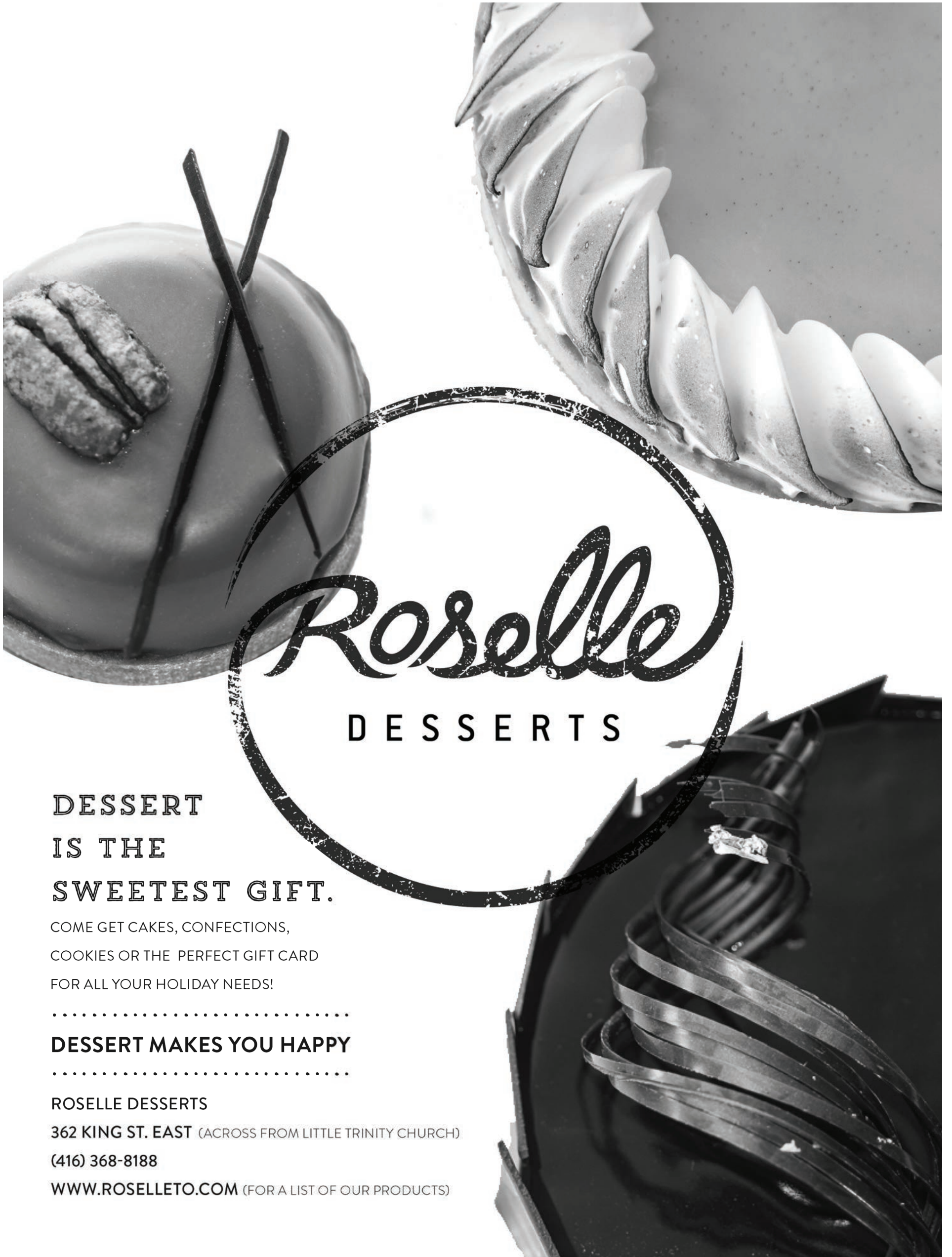


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SOULPEPPER'S IN A NEW YORK... CONTINUED

December, the theatre's annual Family Festival returns. Soulpepper calls it "a holiday mix of theatre, concerts, and magic shows." Among the plays is the company's beloved production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," adapted by Michael Shamata, beginning Friday, Dec. 2nd. A week later, previews begin at the St. Lawrence Centre of the Arts of "It's a Wonderful Life," a stage adaptation by Philip Grecian of Frank Capra's classic film of redemption and love that starred Jimmy Stewart.

Other shows include Soulpepper's Dora Award-winning "Alligator Pie" for all ages, based on Toronto poet Dennis Lee's poems; a return of last year's wildly

successful concert "A Very Soulpepper Christmas" led by the company's gifted musical director, Mike Ross and featuring a company of some of Toronto's best singers and musicians; "Hocus Pocus," a new magical show with David Ben; and the debut of "Rose," a whimsical musical presentation from Mike Ross and Sarah Wilson based on Gertrude Stein's children's book "The World Is Round."

Beginning Jan. 6th, Soulpepper will present the three-day Winter Waves family program that will transform the Young Centre through music, theatre and interactive experiences.

Soulpepper is located in the Distillery District's Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 50 Tank House Lane.

La Vela Bella Lights Up Xmas

By Andrea Wightman

Five years ago Natalie Mancini switched careers and started her own business. She is the founder and CEO of La Vela Bella, and one of the artisans at the upcoming Christmas Market.

La Vela Bella is a candle company based in Mississauga that specializes in giving new "light" to discarded objects. Specifically, Natalie collects antique tea cups, old tins, cups or bowls and transforms them into beautiful candles. She sells her creations online, at stores throughout the GTA and of course, at the Toronto Christmas Market.

2016 will mark Natalie's fourth year as an artisan at the market. She returns

every year because "people are in such a great mood, everyone is spreading the holiday spirit, and [she is] happy to be a part of it".

Natalie took a few weeks off after last year's showing, then starting making candles in January in preparation for this November. It's her own business, but she has close, supportive family members to help throughout the month-long event.

If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind gift for someone this holiday season, stop by La Vela Bella's cabin near the giant tree. Her candles range in price from \$13 to \$55.



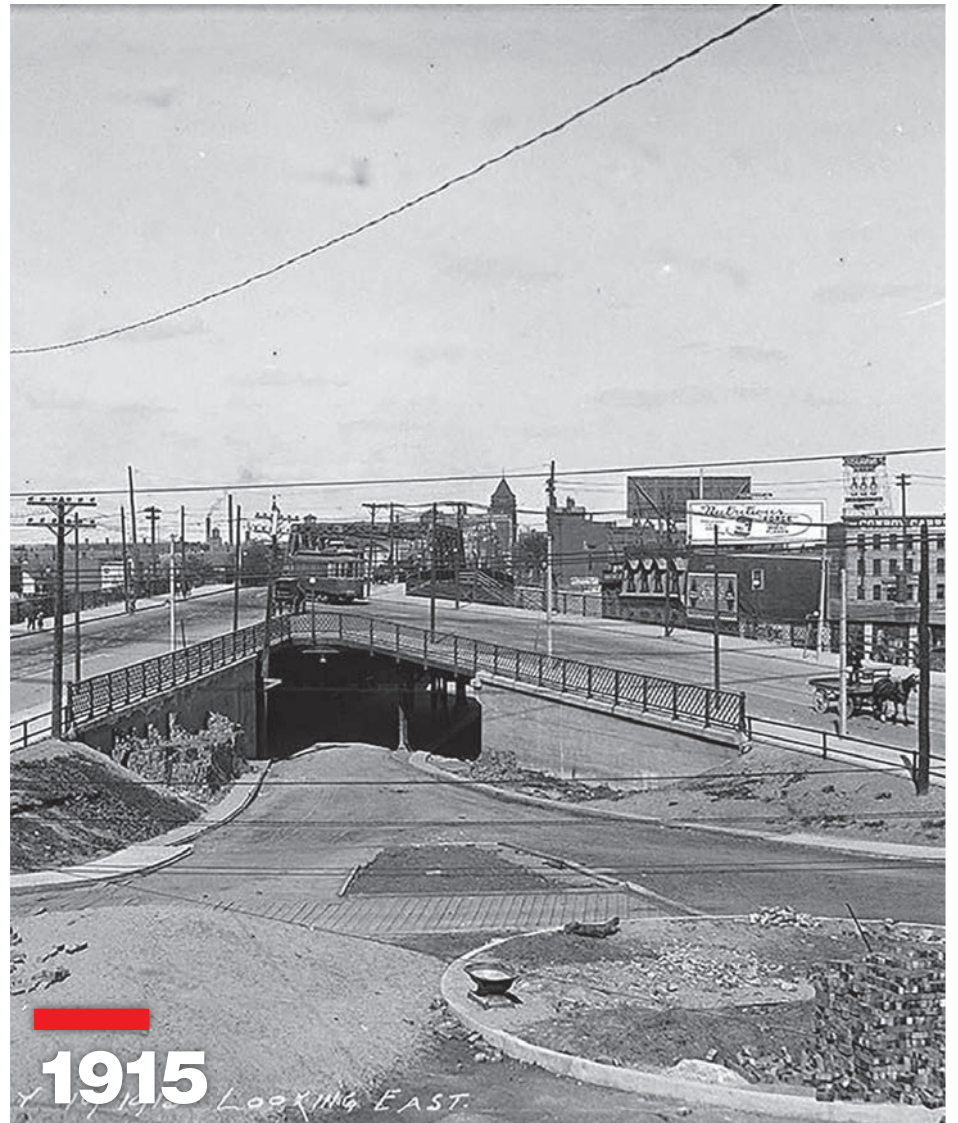
AT THE MARKET

photo courtesy: Loic Nicolas

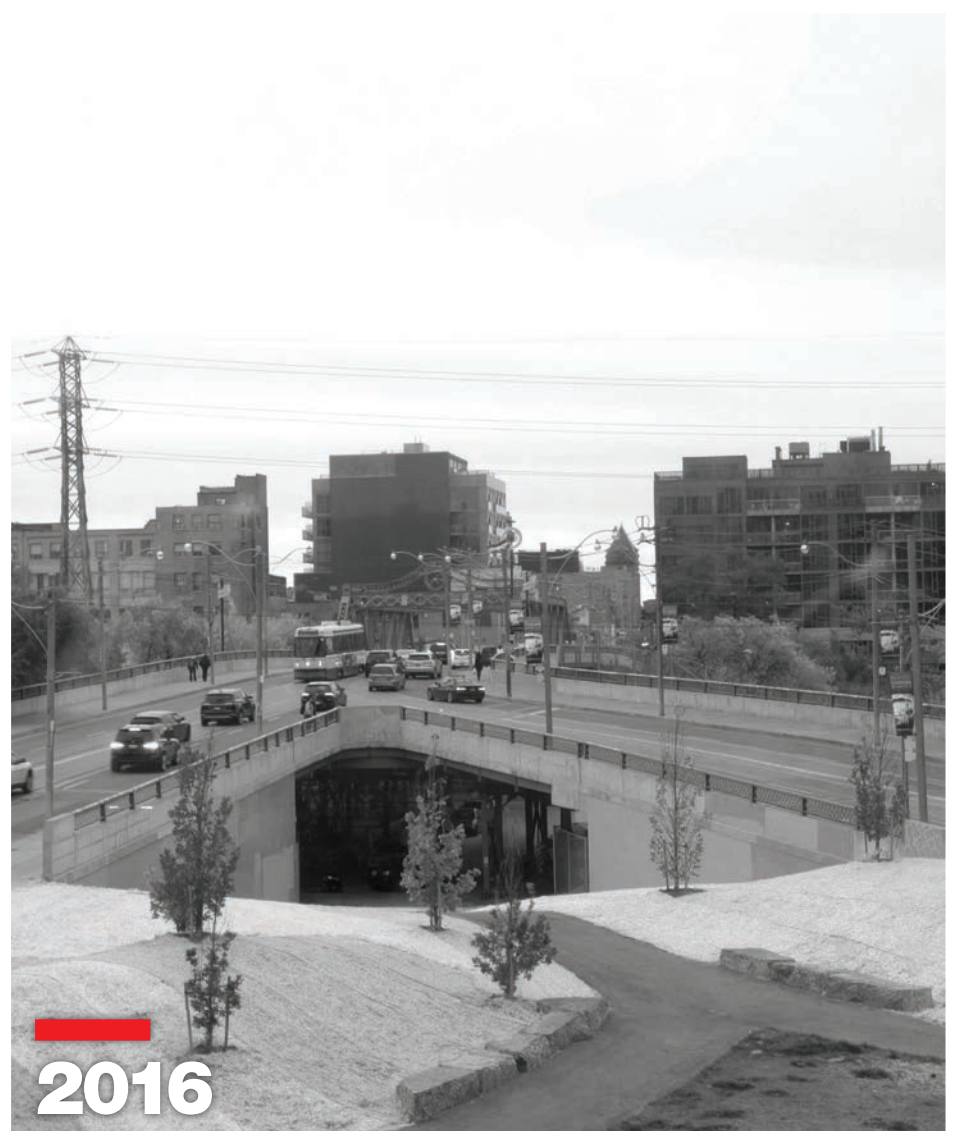
Then & Now

KING-QUEEN INTERSECTION

by Michele Cummings



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