

the bridge

Connecting people, places and ideas across our city from the downtown east

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By Bruce Bell

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By Andre Berman

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By Phil Roth

Big changes coming to Jarvis-Parliament area



The intersection of Queen and Sherbourne illustrating some details of the potential changes under the new plan.

By Rosemary Frei

The most recent version of the King-Parliament Secondary Plan (KPSP) was unveiled at a November 21 public consultation. The plan will preserve the narrow strip of heritage buildings along Queen Street East between Jarvis and Parliament, and also will keep the retail focus of much of that street. However, many buildings along that strip will be completely replaced and/or extra height will be added to them. The rest of the approximately 40-block Jarvis-Parliament area -- bounded on the north by

Queen Street East, Power and Parliament streets on the east, Scadding Ave., Esplanade and Front St E. on the south, and Jarvis on the west -- is slated in the 25-year KPSP to be a 'regeneration area.' According to one of the paragraphs in the just three-paragraph-long section on the Jarvis-Parliament area in the KPSP, that area will be "targeted for significant growth, having a mix of compatible land uses including commercial, industrial, institutional, residential, live/work and entertaining uses within new buildings and existing ones, including the numerous historically and archi-

tecturally significant buildings in the area." The other regeneration area in the vicinity is the West Don Lands; however, most of that area is largely under-used former industrial land. The Corktown area is treated very differently in the plan. It "is regarded as a unique, small-scale, fine-grained community consisting generally of small properties, including several heritage buildings. The area will be considered stable and gradual change is encouraged," according to part of the 2 1/2 pages of the 33-page KPSP devoted solely to Corktown. "New development will consist

primarily of small scale infill development and building conversions that are sensitive to the existing character and form of the community." The Distillery District is treated with even greater care: eight of the KPSP's page focus on it. City of Toronto planners used circumspect language in an interview with the bridge publisher André Berman to describe what will happen to the Jarvis-Parliament area over the next 25 years.

[continued on pg 5]

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

With Dini Petty

Many years ago, a large boulevard on University Avenue hosted several homeless people each night. The boulevard plus a few grates downtown blowing warm air were occupied constantly. I recall people walking around those who slept on the grates as if they weren't there. They were ignored because we, and myself included, were not sure how to talk to them. But if we did, what should we talk about? Back then I worked with Operation Go Home, an organization who helped street kids return to their homes if they could, and if they couldn't, help was made any way possible. I went out on the streets with them one summer night and learned many of the kids banded together in families to take care of one another. I later assisted with a documentary they made and went to Ottawa for the premiere. There several girls revealed new and growing problems for homeless youth as Ottawa like Toronto had outlawed squeegee kids who furtively cleaned windshields at red lights hoping for a dollar or two. Once banned these kids still needed money for food, and so many turned to prostitution. The number of Toronto's homeless continues to grow and now approximately ten thousand live on the streets. Mel Lastman once coined the phrase; "Toronto the City with a Heart." That heart now lay broken on the streets of Toronto every night. I went to a Sidewalk Labs gathering a few years ago and asked where in their plans were the homeless? I never got an answer.

'in reply to the mayor' topsyturvy looks like 5g

By Anthony Van Zant

From: John Tory
Date: Wed, Jul 17, 2019, 5:00 PM
To: <anthonyvanzant1@gmail.com>

Thank you for your note with respect to EMR field exposure. I take note of the request made to the UN to have a more complete examination of the long term effects of EMR. I am very much guided by objective expertise of scientists on these matters so those opinions are

always welcome as we try to promote and protect health. I will look forward to whatever developments or reports may emerge on this matter and thank you for bringing it to my attention.

John Tory

In 'our' city mr.mayor 'topsyturvy' looks like; 5g n'its rather uninformed'whilst highly harmful' millimeter-wave'tech 'to -sustainable living mantra's-landmanage-

ment usage dogma's and u.s. based -"inclusionary zoning"- strategies(really'jus 'corporate 'opportunity zoning' tactics because)selecting'from a few architects cartoon'd doodle'art conceptions "does'not a 'public voice' nor 'legit clarity' make")yet'instill in-seam'ingly assimilât'd n' align'd with u.n.agendas'21/ n'30(ofwich'perhaps you'll 'provide clarity to our citizenery)as'somkind'of depopulation protocolling n'the

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pure madcrazy (iamaware') i.e. the kingstreet project ofwich'strangely(with so-much homelessness 'yet we've'constructed massiv'-structures whilst "the lights are on'and nobodys home in(again)dualitys perception management(inclussiv'to funneling'vehicl lanes that'push traffic to'all other streets(in'excess n'overflow)

[continued on pg 5]

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places and ideas
across our city from
the downtown east

the bridge

is an independent community newspaper published monthly and distributed by a mix of delivery services to a varying readership. Over 3000 copies are circulated throughout the downtown east - Moss Park, Corktown, The Garden District, South Cabbagetown, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood - and to community hubs that extend across Toronto.

the bridge strives to source up-to-date activity and diverse interests from heritage, planning, culture, development, arts and opinions that advocate a collaborative level playing field forum.

Publisher: Andre Michael Bermon

Contributing Editor:
anthony joseph vanzant

Photographer: Stefan Blondal

Questions, comments or queries?
thebridgedowntown@gmail.com

For all archived information and or past editions and articles contact anthonyvanzant1@gmail.com

From the Publisher

As we enter a new decade and reflect on years past, let us recall how we came to be here in Toronto; our city.

For many the city is something new, vast and unexplored. A veritable terra incognita – like the maps of ancient voyagers, only hearsay and imagination portray its mystery and unknown.

To residents and newcomers alike, we at the bridge welcome you.

The city maybe teeming with concrete, glass and steel but behind these cold facades of urban life lies the beating heart of the polis – the community.

Community is often defined by a sense of feeling. A result of common attitudes, interests and goals. History plays a big part in defining its physical character while culturally, neighbourhoods are shaped by those who settle them.

The future at times may look predominately vertical, but community actually thrives on the streets; at the local coffee shop, the halls of the rec centre, the playpen of the park or the at tables of your favourite eatery.

Get out and explore and welcome community’s embrace.

Homelessness

By Roberta Taylor

Most of the time, in Toronto, the homeless population is estimated at 10,000 people. But this number is not accurate, as it does not take into account people who return to live with parents and those people who stay with friends or couch-surf. So, the actual number of homeless is significantly higher. All of us know someone who has been homeless. I have been homeless on various occasions throughout my life. Once I was homeless in Winnipeg in March!

The shelter system is not the answer. When I was in shelter, I experienced physical violence, and people stealing from me. At one shelter a woman younger than myself hit me in the mouth because I snored. Instead of this woman being asked to leave, I was; so, I went and stayed at the home of some friends. On other occasions I have stayed with friends as well, and a few times I have slept in parks. It was a bit like camping.

No-one wants to be homeless. When one is homeless, the risks of death from exposure to the elements are higher. Homeless deaths occur both in summer and in winter, as extreme temperatures of any sort affect vulnerable people. The saddest statistic and an ongoing trend in the past few years is the number of people over 50 who, because of debt and failure to prepare for the future, become homeless. Often these people are women. As a woman over 50 who has already experienced homelessness, this is a frightening trend.

The other fast-growing group joining the homeless ranks are youth between the ages of 16 and 30, who for various reasons can’t live with their families. Seventy percent of homeless people are dealing with mental health or addictive issues. The government must acknowledge that everyone needs a roof over their heads to feel secure and safe.

In a country like Canada, and a city like Toronto, no-one should be homeless!

Amazing Moss Park

By Carol Mark

What part of Toronto attracts film crews, international travellers and history buffs? The surprising answer is Moss Park in Toronto’s unfashionable east end.

But look harder and a little deeper you will find that Moss Park and its environs harbour real gems. Just ask the producers of the Umbrella Academy, a Netflix hit. And how about Kim’s Convenience at 252 Queen St East. Presently, the area has been used for filming unique location shots for this hit tv show about an intergenerational Korean family and their convenience store. Streams of tourists from as far away as LA group around the front of the store to take selfies on a daily basis. A local story with an international following.

One day I met a young couple who just got off the plane from LA and their first destination was not the CN Tower! Not what you’d expect at Queen St East, two blocks from Moss Park. But on the same block as the famed convenience store unique store fronts designated as heritage properties line Queen East. Acadia Books, a destination for art lovers since the nineteen thirties, is only a few doors down from where portions of The Umbrella Academy were filmed.


No matter how much locals may feel that the area has not changed, it is growing up on the international stage. In many respects the street is reminiscent of New York’s lower east side where the first immigrants made their homes in the

new world. Today the entire area has been gentrified. Gone are the drug dealers selling on their front stoops. Gone are the knife carrying street gangs that once plagued the neighbourhood.

Today you would not recognize the area with its gentrified and scrubbed up look. Now the focus is on the area’s historical character. It is even the location of the Tenement Museum which celebrates the history of the area with detailed reconstructions of its early years, all in a totally renovated building whose rooms seek to capture the essence of its once shabby neighbourhood. And there are other museums just a short walk away. The New Museum, the International Centre of Photography and the Museum at Eldridge Street are all attractions in a neighbourhood that most people shunned not so long ago. There’s even an eyeglass store that advertises they’ve been in business on the lower east side for over 100 years; Moscot Eyewear. All this along with trendy coffee shops and upcoming condos.

The point is that a neighbourhood can have many lives and go through transformations that are truly amazing. The Moss Park area is in such flux right now. Most people see what they look for. So, if you come to East side Toronto with a fixed idea of what it is, you will miss some of the most interesting parts of our city.

Sign up www.amazingmosspark.ca for upcoming historical walks, local gardening and surprise pop up art events.





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Mystic Muffin

By Bruce Bell, Senior Columnist

Most of us know this historic structure at 113 Jarvis (SE corner of Jarvis and Richmond) as the Mystic Muffin, a tasty Middle Eastern eatery. However, when it was first built back in 1832 it was the home of the first Catholic priest in Toronto, Father Alexander Macdonell.

Toronto's Catholic roots date back to the early 1700's when French fur traders settled on the banks of the Humber River during the reign of King Louis XIV (the Sun King). In 1793 the British arrived and even though the Anglican Church became the dominate religious force for the next 100 years, Catholicism did flourish.

In 1806 the Reverend Alexander Macdonell, the only Catholic Priest in Upper Canada, left his parish in Glengarry in eastern Ontario to visit York.

On his return he reported to his superior the Bishop of Quebec that York had only 37 Catholics in a town of approximately 500 people; and many of whom had never seen a priest.

Catholic trustees on March 28, 1806 for the purpose of erecting a chapel for public worship.

No records show how the church looked or even its official opening date (approx 1807) but the church was there by the time the Americans arrived in April 1813 for their weeklong occupation of the Town of York during the War of 1812.

The church was destroyed by fire after the war and the lot went unused with services held in the home of various church elders. In 1827 the unused lot was sold to the Bank of Upper Canada who built the present structure that stands there today.

By 1828 after further visits to York, Father Macdonell arrived to stay and by 1832 built a fine home on what is now the Jarvis and Richmond Street corner.

In 1839 he left for Scotland and Ireland with hopes of raising funds for his seminary, Regiopolis College, but took



As the 19th century came to a close, the former Bishop's home on Jarvis underwent a radical change with the addition of a French inspired mansard roof still seen today.

By the 1920's the once glamorous Jarvis Street was now in decline and Bishop Macdonell's former home was transformed into the Service Sandwich Shop owned by Al Pivnick.

During the Great Depression of the 1930's Al sold his business to John Dimson who took over the running of the sandwich shop, remodeled the upstairs and rented it out to a jeweler. John arrived in Canada from Greece in 1919, married Beatrice Porter and had 6 children.

Following a lifetime of making sandwiches for the neighbourhood John Dimson died in 1963.

In 1993 husband and wife team Elias and Annie Makhoul bought the restaurant and are

still in business today.

After almost two centuries of numerous renovations the one-time residence of an 18th century priest from Scotland

stands today as a testament to the true essence of our city, a tangible multicultural link to our past and home to the best apple cake in Toronto.



Alexander Macdonell house circa 1840.

Immediately a plot of land on the northeast corner of George and Duke (now Adelaide) was granted from the Crown to four

sick while in Dublin, returned to Scotland and died there from pneumonia on January 14, 1840 at age 77.



Mystic Muffin today.



Uncertainty builds, with residents at 90 Ontario Street

By Andre Bermon, Community Enthusiast



(Left) Karel Vondra, Rasmus Groth and Emma Vredenburg.

Nearly four years have past since the Edmonton based company, ONE Properties, proposed a massive mix-use condominium development in the Moss Park community. And for residents of 90 Ontario Street, sitting in the crosshairs of gentrification, the uncertainty of impending eviction is unnerving. “Our lived experience in the building is in limbo,” admits Emma Vredenburg, a five year resident.

Nestled between abandoned storefronts on Queen East and high-rise condominiums on Richmond, 90 Ontario is a little known Edwardian era factory building that once provided industrial printing and shoe manufacturing. In the late 1980s, the building was converted to live/work loft apartments which attracted the interest of local artists.

Today the building is a genuine artist colony, reminiscent of the bohemian days of Queen West and Liberty Village. And perhaps one of the city’s last.

Joan McNeil has spent the last 25 years living at 90 Ontario. The live/work space has been instrumental not only to her creative pursuits, but also to her livelihood. “I made my living here,” says Joan. “I won’t find another place like

this once the building is gone.”

Similar sentiment is echoed by others as well. Joe Flasko, a painter and superintendent of the building, is now dealing with his 5th eviction. “Every time I’ve been evicted, my rent has gone higher and the place has gotten smaller,” he says. “Live and work spaces are becoming harder to find.”

In a city struggling to provide affordable housing, finding adequate live-in-studio space is beyond the means for many. However, in the attempt to protect their rights as renters and secure accommodation in the new development, residents of 90 Ontario have incorporated a tenant’s association.

The process of navigating the system in a three way negotiation between the developer, the city and themselves, has not been easy.

“We are fortunate to have a [productive] dialogue with the developer,” says Rasmus Groth, member of the tenant’s board, “because we have organized in a proper fashion.

The day when shovels hit

the ground is suspected to be years away. A process that has delayed eviction but has left residents pondering about their futures.

When asked if residents need to find accommodation during the interim of construction, the common response is, “we don’t know.”

“When people are evicted it can take anywhere from 3-5 years to build these buildings,” says Rasmus. “They start lives somewhere else...moving back is something that not often happens.”

On the top floor overlooking the colourful strip of retail shops of Queen and Sherbourne, Karel Vondra, a painter of provocative “selfie” portraits, sits and brews. “Artists make for a complete neighbourhood,” he explains, suggesting new development needs to be inclusive to the arts.

Realizing such a prospect is unlikely, the conversation turns to his displacement.

“I think about the idea of having to leave on a daily basis.”

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... continued from page 1

n'unnecessarily bogging'-down congestion inplainsight' and(again)inseam'ingly in-concert'with city councils' rouse in'staged opposition of'the provincial upload of the t.t.c. n'the ontario lines 'integrât'd automation digitizing/autonomous self'driving public transit)n'further overall city employment decline n'dehumanizing globalization via regionalizing municipal governance n'dampering community'voice(ofwich be'a brightlights n'bigcitg 'mistake whilst attempting to handover property tax collection to private corps,like 'googl's sidewalk labs

ofwich with'googl n'governance 'insanity' quickly rings 'tru)to green project ideologies that inseam'ingly try restrict movements n'voice

(on'a politically'correct arbitrary'whim)to'city services n'a record constructon budget'that'preceded this summers record construction work that'included 5g'fiber optic wireless milimeter tech infrastructure(referenced in the science document i handed to you'with

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(@least there 'was' a plethora' prior to'hitting the send button('natch)n'all' inclusiv to'our own UofT profesor and'a phalanx'of scientists globally(relating to the field) n'to the unprecedented damage

of'the 'wireless' and the 'wifi' and'the militarygrade milimeterwave directly connected'to said; 'unprecedented radiation and unrepairabl' electro magnetic frequency damage to our bodies n'to our dna(especially in'children n'the unborn)

to'proven carciogenic blood'brain barrier breaking cancerous causal'effects directly'conducted@ all carbon based life and@ all living organisms.cove-ring plants animals'humans n'the environment)'its jus that simpl' yet(need'to mention)googl's quayside'type red herring 'ish 'smartcity'(n'its impending october'31/019 'continuation' deadline in toronto(*now'moved to'march31st/2020*)with a 'project city' that is power'd by radiation levels that far n'away exceed practical'levels

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A)-5g's rollout is'posturing to 'increase quicker then'our reactionary time B)-the damage is global'(n' so'must our solutions 'be'(ofwich)ibeleiv'faithfully that there 'are' innovativ'and effectiv solutions inrealtime'to explain to you(n'to collaborate with you'sir;

asanôte;) radioactiv'products 'services and/or 'infrastructure should'never be accept'd and/or silenced by 'authentic leadership of its peopl'(*all information required to inform on reveiws n'science fact is'attached to this 'e-mail*)you ask'd for urgency



and'for science and (again)the science has'been givin' to you with all'the 'urgent continuance 'thiskid' can muster' as'i hav'with numerous'folks in-clussiv'to our citys councillors/ cheif saunders/tps chairman/ t.o.'s health officer/federal health minister/waterfront group etc. etc. etc. as'they 'all should'be@cityhall's oversight n'representative governments transparency to its peopl'

we'lost som'ground mr.mayor inloosin'fellas like joe.mehevic(cause'joe is'legit (period)instill join'-growing citizenry concerns with honest moral financial n'technical accountability cause we need'our citys truest leaders inforefont'pilgrimage to'integrities dignified chang'(betchya youd'score 90+% of populus'support with faith 'inhonesty@theehelm'. .trust peopl'with thee-truth n'theywill trust you in numbers never'befor seen'and then pass that torch to thee'-next mayor; cause(again)its-simpl' we needya(n'ibeleiv@ this'juncture in human history we all need eachother as discovery'will reveal'that 'we' here below 'capstone politics' are all on thee'sameteam(as'are; all'of 'todays children'. .(ibeleiv *these are important n'essential understandings in

leading a'city effectively from yesterday to'today inthrough 'tomorrow)

<https://emfscientist.org/index.php/emf-scientist-appeal> (EMF u.n. Scienist appeal document)[now included in-waterfrontgoup appendix#3

as considered material@the march'31st/2020 deadline in-procedural process with the quayside projects 'considerations' and approval process 'as a direct result of'this writer']

*Part#3(continued in next months 'edition series']

... continued from page 1

"I think we would still say that the area" -- including the area around the planned Moss Park Station on the Ontario Line rapid-transit route -- "is still an area of incremental growth," said Michelle Drylie, Senior Planner, Strategic Initiatives, at the City of Toronto. "It's different in nature from the Financial District for example, and it will continue to be. Not to say that growth won't come [t]here," but it will be somewhat different.

Igor Dragovic, also a Senior Planner, Strategic Initiatives, admitted "there will likely be some pressures" on small businesses from future increases in commercial and property taxes. However, he said the economic-development arm of the city is creating a report on the future of that area, and the report "should devise some sort of initiatives or programs that can help businesses [along

Queen E.] with high property-tax increases filtered [down to them] through their rent."

This doesn't reassure Christina Quezada, owner of Balloon Queen on Queen E. near Parliament.

"They want to build density ... get us to pay more taxes or push us out to get more revenue from others coming in," Quezada told the bridge in a telephone interview. "It's discouraging. It's going to break up the community environment.... It's no longer going to be a place where families can stay and grow in."

She said several small businesses found refuge on the Queen E. strip after having to leave the west end due to escalating property taxes, but that the KPSP implies tax increases likely will follow them.

"This is where I raised my family. My kids said [to me] one day, 'I don't think that we'll be able to raise our children here.' And that was sad to hear."

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Who is truly the author of their own creative ideas?

By Phil Roth



Paul Steves, artist and film maker.

“Do you want to see Paul?” was the greeting I received exiting the streetcar at the intersection of Queen Street East and Sherbourne Street; before knocking on what used to be a storefront door. It was an unexpected friendly welcome,

Fresh and affordable on Queen East

By Jayne Kitchen

On the corner of Queen and Sherbourne is a restaurant new to its area, Chamsine. The falafel and shawarma restaurant used to be located around St. Clair but has since moved and boasts a second location on Dundas East. Moving to the area of Queen and Sherbourne has been an adjustment for the management, says managing partner Vincent Ashkan, but they hope to be a positive influence on the contentious area of the city.

The location has previously been home to bars and watering holes, but Chamsine does not serve alcohol, and takes pride in their very affordable and high quality food. Using only local produce and ingredients, they hope to bring a healthful change to the history of the intersection. Chamsine is above all, a family business. With a warm atmosphere and a welcoming outdoor decoration to the restaurant, the area is hopeful and responsive to the newcomers.

All Halal, Chamsine’s cuisine is synonymous with gathering, sharing, and enjoying their food together. The unique strengths of Chamsine all combine for one simple and gracious goal, delicious and economical food that all the different people of Toronto can enjoy.

warm and familiar; courtesy of one of the local corner handlers. It was received without pretense as an overwhelming surprise given the logistical stereotypes attached to neighborhood residents.

Having accepted an invitation to meet international/local filmmaker and artist Paul Steves in his very personal and eclectic art gallery, a converted former commercial space, was a pleasant eye opener all by itself. Artists are present in abundance in most parts of this vast city, yet their art is often treasured by few and recognized and appreciated by even scarcer numbers. Why is that? Isn’t the very process of transforming imaginative ideas into art something we’ve all done from childhood on? How does

something so intrinsic and natural get buried in an increasingly streamlined linear work and play space? Perhaps now more than ever the presentation of inventive responses through art has greater significance to counter contemporary developments such as AI driven business and pleasure solutions to bring balance to a world that has increased in speed and intensity through computing machines?

Paul Steves is an originator of vision, gifted with courage and confidence when it comes to the pursuit of creating and experimenting in the visual art form. Like most teenagers he grew up reading and admiring graphic novels and comic books. Influenced early on by the styles and works of Dave McKean, Steves embraced the fantastical and all the possibilities that accompanied it by designing and shaping his expressive derivative versions of his own. Thus he set out to pursue this passion with focus and dedication, uncommon to most maturing adolescents of his age. Fuelled and propelled by the drive to create led him into the world of film, of which his first publicly displayed project rendered his art class schoolmate audience speechless. This very impactful reaction gave substance to further dabble in experimentation and testing opportunities to capture freedom of artistic expression in film and other media.

This exact modus operandi still is the underlying force that keeps his mind and art creation process pivoted on endless explorations of ideas. After his month long film projects are completed, which earn his keep, Steves is continually and passionately involved in a se-

ries of three projects all running parallel of each other in a simultaneous time line. “The Portrait Series” The Portrait Series on film and his relaxation project of reconnecting with LEGO® STAR WARS®. The latter is of immense detail and scale; to be exact more than 50,000 individual pieces are utilized in his tower construction. His love for the adventure to go beyond into the journey of the future is evident in every playfulness imagined. When asked if there was enough time in the day to do all this, a smile of disagreement met the interviewer. Steves further elaborated, “When the creative mind is exposed to diverse

sources on an endless scale to a multitude of artistic outlets – Who is truly the author of their own creative ideas?”

Who or what influences artists to create may not be as important as the significance that an artist finds inspiration to express in a language of his or her own, devising a message to their audience that we have a need to connect that can only be perceived through human senses. Paul Steves certainly accepts this insurmountable task with vigor and enthusiasm and many in the world of art would certainly agree that his works reflect this very message for us to discover.



Steves’ Lego Star Wars creation measures nearly 8’ in height.

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John Innes, a tale of Moss Park

By Andre Bermon, Community Enthusiast



John Innes Community Recreation Centre was built in 1951 and shares the footprint once belonging to William Allan's Estate

History is everywhere. It often lingers in places we least expect. The John Innes Community Recreation Centre located in the downtown neighbourhood of Moss Park is one such place where the past yearns to tell its story.

Built in 1951 and dedicated to the late Toronto politician, the building was commissioned by City Council to replace the former Moss Park Recreation Centre; a rundown public school from the early 1880s.

The task of designing the new facility was given to then Commissioner of Buildings Kenneth S. Gilles and his staff. K.S. Gilles is credited with many city buildings in the progressive modern style, including the City of Toronto Waterworks Maintenance Complex located on Richmond Street West.

When the community centre officially opened in May 1953, it became the first purpose-built community centre in Toronto. Hailed by contemporaries as one of the most modern recreation facilities in all of Canada, John Innes had an immediate impact benefiting the underprivileged in neighbouring communities.

Situated on the footprint once belonging to William Allan's Estate, one of Upper Canada's wealthiest men, he would later christen his property as Moss Park; the name the future community would adopt.

John Innes' physical connection to the past and the vital role the rec centre has played are two important elements contributing to the historical continuity of the neighbourhood. A story rich and complex but overshadowed by decades of urban decline.

The eventual redevelopment of the John Innes Centre as outlined in the City's Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (2019-2038), would be an ideal opportunity to begin a positive narrative in an area long beset by social ills. With a visual display highlighting Moss Park's diverse past, heritage can be the tool that builds social cohesion and binds this neighbourhood together. An important step to anchor a community now the subject of major gentrification efforts.

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"I don't have much family here, so for me Building Roots has become my family"

By Lisa Kates, Partner, Building Roots

When a resident of Moss Park made this comment at an event it filled us with sheer joy.

Building Roots has been focusing on making lives better in Moss Park and Downtown East for 4 years and counting.

As we start 2020 let's take a moment to think about families. Currently the word has many meanings but what's constant is the concept of people caring about one another, creating opportunities to gather around good food and lively conversation. Perhaps being part of a family means learning new skills, listening to lovely music, attending special events that make one or two days a month extra special.

Family to many of us means having a safe space to express ourselves when we are happy, or sad, or challenged by something extraordinary that happened that day or that week. Being safe is like holding hands with your heart; allowing yourself to be a bit more vulnerable than you would normally be and expecting your feelings to be recognized but not judged.

Building Roots takes thoughtful steps, working diligently and creatively to create safe spaces for all regardless of culture, gender identity, economic situation and other life challenges.

Anyone can visit Moss Park Market for affordable fruit and vegetables, attend unique DIY workshops, view art from groups such as Creative Works Studio and read a book from our mini library. Burrito Project comes the first Saturday of the month to give away delicious vegan burritos.

Winter weekends in 285 Shuter brings ongoing dynamic programming with Story Planet, TPL Tech Time, Karma Kitchen etc. Drop in any time. From the Building Roots family, wishing all the best of 2020 to everyone.

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Visit the Moss Park Market



Check out our events
buildingroots.ca

Facebook Instagram Twitter @BuildingRootsTO



Market Winter hours

Saturdays 11-4pm



\$5 Produce Baskets

Free Books

Art exhibits

Workshops

Photographs from the downtown east

By Stefan.Blondal



Moss Park, Queen and Sherbourne



Man forages in dumpster, McFarren Lane



Maintenance on a Vespa



Regent Park redevelopment

Schnitzel
Queen

Extension Date: January 17th

www.schnitzelqueen.ca

#Schnitzelqueenrestaurant

211 QUEEN ST EAST