

Vote 2021 - Ward 13 Candidate Profiles See P5

Berczy Park’s reclined chairs raise accessibility concerns

Megan Camlasaran

Eight reclined chairs in Berczy Park that were replaced with upright chairs should be returned due to accessibility concerns, some frequent visitors say.

According to Shaun Pearan, a committee member of Friends of Berczy Park, the community group asked the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area to replace most of the reclined chairs with upright chairs due to frequent complaints.

“We have witnessed persons struggle with low-lounge chairs, often falling and risking an injury,” he said.

The park beside the Gooderham (Flat Iron) Building had 32 upright and reclined cafe chairs arranged around eight tables; a quarter of the total seats in the park are now low-back chairs. Berczy Park’s furniture is owned by the city, but

stored and repaired when needed by the BIA, and cleaned and maintained by Friends of Berczy Park.

Senior citizens from a park-based knitting and reading group want more accessible and safe furniture for those with mobility challenges, Pearan said. The low chairs were deemed unfair to citizens with disabilities; they wanted more functional and safe options.

According to its Parks, Forestry and Recreation division, the City of Toronto aims at balancing diverse community needs to make parks welcoming to all.

“If you brought an elderly loved one to the park, wouldn’t you suggest they sit in an upright chair since it will be easier and safer for them? That all or most of the park chairs should be safe, accessible and in functional style? That is our rationale,” said Pearan.

Berczy continued p6

Changing street names won’t change street culture

Andre Bermon, Publisher

In the last City Council meeting before the summer recess, our public servants put history to the test. In a 17-7 vote, council decided that the name Dundas, referring to an obscure 18th-century British politician, should be stripped from all Toronto signage.

Henry Dundas, accused of stalling the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, never set foot in Toronto but is now among the tainted names of John A. Macdonald and Egeron Ryerson.

Whether or not today’s punishment fits the past crime, council has zero practical solutions to solving the city’s social inequities. Tearing down statues and removing names from streets may please social justice groups, but the issues

these reactionary measures try to paint over are still visible.

Along the 25 kilometres of the soon to be renamed street, the intersection of Dundas and Sherbourne Streets is a good example of municipal failings.

Part of the Moss Park/Sherbourne corridor, this infamous juncture in the heart of the downtown east was a well-known “quarantine zone” long before Covid-19 arrived. Instead of containing a contagious influenza, Dundas and Sherbourne pens in the scourge of poverty.

Decades of gross mismanagement and willful neglect turned this once working-class neighbourhood into a catchment area of the city’s social ills.

Bermon continued p4



Images contained in the province’s Heritage Impact Assessment portray the use of high-rise towers over preserved sections of the Foundry site. Photo: Courtesy of CORE Architects

New agreement partially saves Dominion Foundry

Julia Simioni, Senior Reporter

Two of the four provincially owned Dominion Wheel and Foundries buildings are to be saved under an agreement announced August 20 between the City of Toronto and the Ontario government.

In January the Foundry site, at 153 to 185 Eastern Avenue near Corktown Common, became the centre of a fight between the city, the province and community groups when a provincial crew began demolishing buildings with no notice. After residents won a temporary court injunction to pause demolition, the hearing was postponed to allow for consultations among the province, the city and the community.

Stewart Linton, president of

the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), said he’s satisfied with the outcome. “We accomplished what we wanted in terms of stopping the wholesale demolition of the site.”

A cultural heritage report completed by the province, which it hadn’t done before starting demolition, found that the Foundry site meets the criteria for a provincial heritage property. The site “is the only remaining representation of an industrial complex associated with the theme of railway expansion (1920-1960) in the precinct,” the evaluation found. It “contributes to the understanding of the development of the area in the first part of the twentieth century into an industrial sector in the city that displaced

housing for the expansion of the railway industry.”

A heritage impact assessment (HIA) said the province can preserve some of the site while constructing three high-rise residential towers and demolishing two ancillary structures, the office building at 171 Eastern Avenue and the warehouse at 169 Eastern Avenue.

SLNA Development Chair Suzanne Kavanagh, also a member of the West Don Lands Committee and a spokesperson for the Friends of the Foundry community group, said she wasn’t disappointed to learn that those two buildings would be demolished. The heritage impact assessment recommendations “are very similar to the concept that [SLNA] and [the West Don Lands Committee] presented to the government,” she said.

The HIA also recommends that the province not demolish the 1953 cleaning building, the 1935 and 1939 machine shop buildings and 1940s additions, and should hire a qualified heritage consultant to oversee the demolition that does occur.

Foundry continued p8



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Saint Luke's Church redevelopment draws mixed reviews

Fiona O'Flynn

Saint Luke's United Church at Sherbourne and Carlton Streets may be redeveloped into a mixed-use apartment complex. The proposed design, by KPMB Architects, on behalf of United Property Resource Corporation, includes adding a 12-storey apartment building in an L-shape around the church building.

The original church and Sunday school would be retained, though modified, but two additions – the 1929 narthex (the covered outdoor porch) and the 1962 gymnasium – would be removed to accommodate the plans. The church would continue to function as a place of worship.

The new building complex would offer 100 housing units, 30 percent of which would be affordable, and spaces for commercial and community use. On the second floor, a community hall would support "a wide variety of programming" with an outdoor terrace offering views of Allan Gardens, according to the planning rationale. On the ground floor at Sherbourne, below the terrace, a café is proposed.

Many Cabbagetown community members welcome the proposed transformation. "A development like this is so many local residents' dreams coming true," said David Saad, a board



Image via KPMB Architects.

member of the Cabbagetown South Residents Association.

Cabbagetown resident Tim Chase called the plan the "best thing that has hit the Sherbourne area in years."

However, some community members are hesitant about the stylistic aspects.

"I think the colour of the building is distracting," said Mark Shanahan. "It would be much better if it was similar or complementary to the colour of the church."

Another Cabbagetown resident called the building design "bulky" and "LEGO-ish in appearance."

Saint Luke's United Church hosts a variety of community events and programming, including dance classes, meal programs, and music recitals.

The church is a registered heritage property in Toronto, part of the Cabbagetown Northwest Heritage Conservation District. The property is owned by the United Property

Resource Corporation, which the United Church of Canada created to advise communities of faith on real estate.

"The proposed development is found to conserve the cultural heritage value of on-site and adjacent heritage resources," according to a heritage impact assessment by ERA Architects.

The "Romanesque Revival style" church was designed by Canadian architects Henry Langley and his nephew Edmund Burke in 1887. In the early 1900s it was called the "Millionaires Church" in reference to its parishioners' high social class.

The new complex, to be built south and east of the church, was designed by KPMB Architects, a Toronto-based practice with over 400 awards.

KPMB Architects submitted a zoning amendment application to the city on July 29. After feedback from city planners. City Council will decide whether it can go ahead.

the bridge

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

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the bridge

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the bridge strives to source up-to-date activity and diverse interests from heritage, planning, and development, to culture, arts and opinions.

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Elegant warehouses on Front Street



Bruce Bell, Senior Columnist

In the early 19th century a neighbourhood dry goods store was where one could buy a bag of chicken feed or a new hat. The town of York's most popular all-in-one dry goods store, owned by William Proudfoot, was on the southwest corner of Frederick and King Streets.

One the first merchants to move towards a more focused store was Jordan Post, who purchased land on the south side of King from present-day Yonge to Bay Street after arriving from Connecticut. In the 1820s or so, Jordan set up shop where One King West stands today as the town's first watchmaker.

Post purchased the entire block, worth millions today, for an estimated \$800.

One the first tradesmen to see the King and Yonge intersection as a potential shop-

ping district, Post is honoured today by Jordan Street one block west of Yonge running south off King. His wife, the former Melinda Woodruff, is remembered in Melinda Street, going from Jordan to Yonge.

King and Yonge became the new centre of Toronto's shopping district for the next century, with small family-run shops eventually growing into larger and more elaborate emporiums and arcades, forerunners to the modern shopping mall.

By the mid 1800s Toronto had an abundance of opulent shopping including the Golden Lion and Golden Griffith emporiums. These two magnificent shopping palaces, then the last word in customer service and exotic merchandise, were torn down in 1900 to build the King Edward Hotel.

By the beginning of the 20th century Eaton's and Simpson's built huge modern department stores, moving north on Yonge to Queen Street. However even these shopping behemoths had their day; as the Covid-19 pandemic has shown, the explosion of online shopping has changed the way many people



A photo of the 19th century warehouses that line Front Street East.

Photo: BB



shop.

As King and Yonge became more fashionable, the area around St. Lawrence Market once dotted with dry goods stores started to evolve into a warehouse district for the wholesale trade.

At first these warehouses were nothing more than hastily built shacks at the end of a crumbling dock in the harbour. However, the arrival of railroads starting in the 1850s spurred construction of more elaborate and fashionable warehouses.

While many of these spectacular buildings are gone, a few stunners still survive. The 19th-century warehouses on Front Street East between the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and the Berczy condominium at Church Street are some of the most sophisticated examples of high Victorian Romanticism left in Toronto.

In 1872 the Dixon Building at 45-49 Front Street (former home to the Nicholas Hoare bookstore) is one of Toronto's few remaining structures with a totally cast-iron façade. This late 19th-century architectural innovation enabled intricate designs cast in iron that could make the exterior look like stone carving, only less expensive.

During renovation in the early 1970s, one of Dixon's exterior iron pillars was badly damaged and replaced with a wooden replica, but it's noticeable only when knocked on.

Next door is the Perkins Warehouse (41-43 Front Street), built in 1874. With its cut-stone and brick façade it's a perfect example of what business leaders wanted Torontonians and visitors to see: prosperity in the guise of a Venetian palazzo.

Artist David Besant portrayed the Perkins warehouse on the back of the Gooderham (Flat Iron) Building in his landmark mural facing Berczy Park.

Next to the Perkins is the Beardmore Building (35-38 Front Street), built in 1872 and now a Winners store. It was originally a world-renowned harness and saddle-making factory and warehouse. Leather king George Beardmore also

built one of the most beautiful homes in Toronto, on Beverly Street. It now houses the Italian consulate, across from the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Today the former warehouses share stripped-down, bare-bricked and exposed beam ceiling interiors. But in their day, dark walnut paneling and heavily detailed ceilings made these interiors as sumptuous as their exteriors.

The warehouses were built only 50 years after Toronto was considered a backwater colonial outpost. In that short span, a metropolis with the look and feel of an ancient imperial city was starting to emerge. The remaining warehouses with their powerful façades are a true testament to that time.

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Cannabis shops fight for identity in local market

Donald Higney

In Toronto's downtown east, stores that sell cannabis have proliferated since the drug was legalized in October 2018. The Ontario Cannabis Store locator finds at least 10.

How can each store carve out its own niche when other stores compete in close proximity?

The draw for Tokyo Smoke, at 250 King Street East, is the High Roller Club, a rewards program that offers a 75 per cent discount after a certain number of purchases. The Tokyo Smoke franchise operates 57 stores in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, including 18 locations in Toronto.

"Canadians enjoy being able to interact with cannabis products and education specialists within a retail brick-and-mortar setting," said Melissa Gallagher, director of corporate and franchise stores for Canopy Growth, which owns the Tokyo Smoke brand along with others such as BioSteel Sports Nutrition and Ace Valley, another cannabis brand. "And they like having a range of options."

Another franchise in Toronto is House of Cannabis, on the same block as Tokyo Smoke



Cannabis shops in the downtown east compete for local market share. Photo: AB

just east of Sherbourne Street. Like Tokyo Smoke, it emphasizes establishing relationships with customers.

"We formed and trained our team members to listen to the customer to ensure they walk out of the store happy with the purchase," said Benjamin Tran, House of Cannabis' president and CEO.

Tran admits that the retail market is becoming saturated, saying the high number of stores nearby has affected original business projections. House of Cannabis has five stores in Ontario with two more opening up in the incoming future.

1922 Cannabis, an independent retailer at 120 Sherbourne Street south of Queen Street, designed its store "to create an open welcoming environment"

and hired "capable people we genuinely trusted and believed in," said Luke Sinnott, general manager of retail operations.

The name 1922 Cannabis originates from the last year cannabis was legal before prohibition.

"Our goal was (and still is) to demystify and destigmatize cannabis, and its use, by reshaping an understanding founded on knowledge and social connection," said Sinnott.

Sinnott doesn't think the number of stores in the neighbourhood has hurt business so far due to their loyal customer base and neighbourhood support of small businesses. However, "We do believe the number of stores and their geographical locations will negatively impact retailer's success – at least until the volume and density of stores balances out," said Sinnott.

A culture of despair permeates the Moss Park community

Berman from p1

A place where a high concentration of government housing sits adjacent to shelters, social services and now pandemic hotels and encampments. Idling drug dealers and sex workers are staples around this intersection.

In an effort to decolonize Toronto's past and promote reconciliation among historically marginalized groups, City Council chose the path of least resistance. Why confront real systems of oppression, i.e., poverty, when a name change will do? How about Not Our Problem Street?

Instead of fixing a social service sector that is more inclined to profit off the poor than help those in need, let's squabble over how many dead old white dudes should stand 21st-century trial.

According to the City of Toronto website, council has budgeted \$663.2 million on homelessness and Housing First supports and services for 2021, almost double the amount spent in 2019.

But ask any resident, business owner or encampment occupant in Moss Park where

that money has gone, and they would probably shrug their shoulders. Even if a few shekels managed to find their way down to the streets, the complexities of poverty, homelessness, crime, addiction and mental trauma won't be solved by signing a few cheques.

What besets communities like Moss Park is not just a problem of housing but problems with being human. Finding self-worth and place in the world is as valuable as a key to a new apartment. Sure, these intangibles are better realized when you've got money in the bank, food on the table and a roof over your head. But while Moss Park provides some of those safeguards, as residents of the Toronto Community Housing complex can attest, a culture of despair permeates this community and prevents people from wanting more.

The city clearly has a lot of work to do. But with 60 other street names flagged as problematic, including Toronto's flagship north-south axis, Yonge Street, finding faults with the past will only distract from obtaining solutions to the present.

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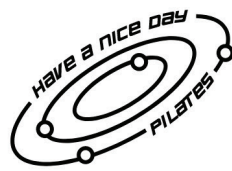
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Ryan Lester

A local volunteer and longtime advocate, he has a reputation for getting results – for setting goals and working hard to meet them. As an LGBTQ2 candidate, Ryan is proud to bring his true, authentic self to Canada's Conservatives and looks forward to building an inclusive, safe, and prosperous future for Toronto Centre and Canada.

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NDP
Brian Chang

COVID has shone a light on the major gaps in our social safety net that have gone unaddressed by successive Conservative and Liberal governments, and Toronto Centre has been hit especially hard. I'm running to be your MP because you deserve representation that works as hard as you do.

green
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Annamie Paul

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Party of Canada



Animal Party
Peter Stubbins

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As both a young worker and a post-secondary student, Ivan has been active fighting for workers' rights, including the "Fight for \$15 and Fairness" campaign to raise the minimum wage, and the complete elimination of tuition and related fees for all levels of education from early learning and childcare all the way to post-graduate studies.



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Friends of Berczy Park did not consult park visitors

Berczy from p1

However, Larry Budd, a frequent park visitor who is also a senior, wants the city to return all the reclined chairs, because his physical condition prevents him from sitting in straight-back chairs.

It's an accessibility issue either way, he said; if the chairs are removed from Berczy Park then the same ones should be removed all around the city. He doesn't advocate removal of the new installed upright-chairs, but wants a "fair" choice between the two.

Due to social distancing, one person in one of the four reclined chairs at a table means

the other three are not available for other park visitors, except in the first person's social circle. There are not many options for more reclined seating, Budd says.

Budd is also bothered that Friends of Berczy Park didn't consult frequent park visitors, including himself, before deciding on the issue. Ontario's accessibility standards require municipalities and businesses to consult the public when redeveloping outdoor public eating or waiting areas, or fixed seating.

The Friends group acknowledges that it lacks authority over the park, but voluntarily advises the Parks division, city

councillor's office and the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA.

"We felt [the] Parks department would agree based on our experience and awareness of park users, but we failed to confirm that with them first. Our intentions were good, but miscommunications can happen," said Pearan.

After hearing from another group of seniors, the city's parks division said the BIA will place an additional four reclined chairs in the park. The remaining chairs will remain in storage awaiting more feedback about the appropriate mix of upright and reclined chairs.

Fourth annual Overdose Awareness Day proceeds at City Hall

Irene Reilly-Paterson

International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held annually on August 31 to campaign to end overdoses, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of family and friends.

Since losing her son Roger to fentanyl poisoning in 2017, Irene has channeled her grief into Flags of Hope and Moms Stop the Harm, to raise awareness of the opioid crisis and to end the stigma of addiction. She worked with the city and is proud that the Mayor John Tory proclaimed Toronto's fourth Overdose Awareness Day and raised its flag at City Hall on August 31 at 11 a.m.

This year, Irene also collaborated with Sistering and the York Heritage Quilters Guild to craft remembrance quilts from her Flags of Hope. The 10 quilts were displayed at Nathan Phillips Square for the flag-raising ceremony and at Roundhouse Park at 8 p.m. for a candlelight vigil while the CN Tower was illuminated in purple. Holding these events joins us in a global movement for understanding, compassion, awareness and change.

The York Heritage Quilters Guild, with over 200 members, typically donates over 400 quilts a year to charitable causes including shelters, group homes and refugee settlement centres. In the past year, members also donated quilts and other items to west coast fire victims and to Quilts for Survivors, which is making and distributing quilts to residential school survivors.

A major project this year has been turning flags from Ontario's Flags of Hope campaign into quilts for display. Contact-

ed by member Mical Pearlman, the guild worked with Sistering to develop a prototype quilt with the original flags, bordering all quilts in purple, the Flags of Hope's signature colour.

The original flags, intended to be hung on a line, not included in quilts, had to be carefully trimmed and stabilized in order to produce neat blocks for quilting purposes. Ornamental items, such as feathers and other ornaments, had to be carefully removed before the quilting process, and then, just as carefully, reattached to their original blocks. Irene Paterson produced a central "Flags of Hope" block for insertion in the centre of each quilt top.

One very talented quilter/designer, Bev Stevens, prepared every quilt top for quilting, using different colours for the interior sashing of each quilt, all edged by purple borders. Several very experienced, talented quilters, Jacintha Bennell, Wendy Dines, Irena Hopper, Mical Pearlman and Ann Sutherland, completed the sandwiching, quilting, and binding of each quilt, and added sleeves to the top and bottom of each quilt so they could hang properly. It was a labour of love, especially for Bev Stevens, who lost her beloved nephew to an opioid overdose shortly after this quilting project began. York Heritage members are proud to have been a part of this project.

Flags of Hope, began in Calgary with Change the Face of Addiction after Karen Huggins lost her son, Nathan, to opioid poisoning. She wanted to start a project that spread hope and love in tragic times. Flags of Hope brings those in grief together and honours those they have lost.

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Une Belle Rue Can art change the world?



Ben Bull, Columnist

For those in search of adventure or a new frontier, the phrase ‘Go west’ is often used. But it was to the east that I recently discovered a new outlook.

My wife and I just returned from Montreal. On the second day of our vacation, we trekked across town to Le Plateau/Mont-Royal neighbourhood, just east of Mont Royal on the north edge of the downtown.

I didn’t want to go. I’d only just clambered down from the summit of Mont Royal and was almost certainly hypoxic. But my wife threatened to take me to the, ‘Centre Eaton’ – whatever that was – to buy her a new purse, so I gave in.

As we strode through the McGill University campus, I asked my wife why she was dragging me over to this part of town. She told me all about the famous Schwartz’s Delicatessen with its Montreal-style smoked meat sandwiches, and raved about the area’s bakeries and cafés, and the cool hippy vibe.

“It’s like Kensington Market,” she explained, “only better.”

We approached Le Plateau from the west side, through Jeanne-Mance Park and into Little Portugal. The first thing we noticed was the people: The streets were teeming with foot traffic. Dog walkers, joggers, people ambling along, chatting on park benches. The roads were narrow and tree-lined. Bikes meandered down the middle. There was barely a car in sight.

Looking across the road we saw duplexes, triplexes and low-rise apartments. Unlike in Toronto, people were sitting on their balconies and lounging in their front yards. It was almost like they wanted to be here.

We rounded the corner onto Mont Royal Avenue East. As we peered down the road, we were wowed by the iconic Olympic Park at the end, with its unmistakable scorpion-tail roof.

But something else caught our eye: There were no cars.

We learned that the city had cordoned off a 2.7-kilometre stretch of the avenue as part of its Covid-19 business recovery plan.

As we strolled past the patios and cafés, we checked out the street art and floral displays. In between the potted plants and colourful murals weaved an array of BIXI bikes, rickshaws, rollerbladers and pedestrians. Strategically placed planters induced everyone to slow down. At the intersections, cars nudged forward, tentatively, while pedestrians stepped back and waved them through.

We peeked down the side streets and spied rows and rows of duplexes, many with external staircases and front stoops – two architectural trademarks of this beautiful city.

Le Plateau-Mont-Royal is the most densely populated borough in Canada, with more than a hundred thousand people living in an 8.1 square kilometre area. And yet - we saw a lot of sky. Somehow the city has crammed all these people together with barely a condo tower in sight.

Trees were plentiful and mature. We learned that tree planting in Le Plateau started in the early 1900s. The adjacent Saint Joseph Boulevard was the first tree-lined street in the city.

At the end of the avenue, we plonked ourselves down on a patio and spent an enjoyable hour people watching. After 18 months of isolation, it was nice to see some new faces.

We ambled home through the vast expanse of La Fontaine Park and slept for the rest of the vacation.

Strolling along Yonge Street a week later, I wondered how our streets could be so crammed with pedestrians and yet still have to share the road with other traffic. Why can’t we get a street all to ourselves?

The YongeTOMorrow plan to pedestrianize parts of Yonge Street is slated to begin in 2023 and be completed by 2025.

In Toronto, pedestrianized streets are a long time coming.

Neighbourhoods like Le Plateau are the new frontier. They show us what streets can become when we put pedestrians first.

I hope to walk down a street like Mont Royal Avenue in Toronto one day. Until then I can always go east.

Carol Mark, Columnist

Can art change the world? That is a tall order and may be overshooting reality. Art can make a difference in the short term, encouraging viewers to pause and think outside their own space and beliefs into another person’s viewpoint.

The past year and a half of pandemic has altered every one of us. Confined to our personal spaces, we re-examined what home means. No longer just a place to eat and sleep, home was a refuge from all the “bad” outside — a personal place of safety.

The BLANK WALLS mural project in the Moss Park neighbourhood offered artists Michael Jenkins, Colour Blots by Angela, Farzana Aziz, Michael Sillers, Maziar Mohajer and Rachelle Soloway an opportunity to review our homes in times of Covid-19. They depicted their personal journeys on house-shaped panels within the mural.

Giselle Silvestri, our design lead along with Dan Philips, states:

“The mural is about Covid and how our homes took on a whole new meaning during 2020 and 2021. For some it became a prison, for others a refuge. In some homes there was death and in other homes there was new life.

“For some, Covid destroyed their livelihood and they became homeless, adding to the already homeless population. Tent cities sprung up all across

our city, and for some these tents are the only homes they have.

“The mural reflects the hopefulness I have been feeling, slowly seeing life return to normal.”

My own panel reflects anger at anti-Asian remarks and outrage when Asians were blamed for Covid-19. As a third-generation Chinese-Canadian, I was reminded of the racist attitudes my grandfather would have endured with the 1923 Exclusion Act that barred Asians from immigrating to Canada, thus separating families. My grandfather was separated from my grandmother until 1948 – years of survival with no rights, no votes and no voice.

My grandfather, like many men who came to work in Canada to help their families dur-

ing famine and war in China, was stuck. Limited access to education meant taking laundry or restaurant jobs.

My house image within the mural, “The Red Dragon Rises,” pays homage to my Chinese-Canadian heritage and to my father, Doon Jin, who was Chef at the Red Dragon Restaurant in Oakville from the 1960s. I also wanted to show that I am proud to be Canadian and to stand up for our rights during this time of #StopAsianHate.

Moss Park was the site of one of the early Chinatowns, in 1911.

The murals will be launched in the Moss Park neighbourhood in September. Check for updates at www.amazingmoss-park.ca

Check out our new website!

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New deal applauded but some expressed disappointment

Foundry from p1

Any developer who purchases the property from the province will have to agree to a Heritage Conservation Agreement, the HIA says.

"The city and the province are committed to ensuring that any future purchasers of the property respect the vision for its redevelopment," according to a City of Toronto statement.

"In the event that the property becomes privately owned, the city has the option to designate it under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, as well as having the future owner enter into a Heritage Easement Agreement (identifying elements of the buildings that must be retained and what changes and types of development may be allowed), as a condition of future planning approvals."

The city will decide if it wants to seek formal heritage designation for the properties.

Concept images by CORE Architects show how the Foundry's heritage attributes could be incorporated into a new development that includes affordable housing.

"In a separate Provincial Contribution Agreement, the Province will bind any future potential purchaser to provide much needed affordable housing. This will meet the City's requirement that 30% of the gross floor area would be dedicated to affordable rental units," says the HIA.

Kavanagh says that once a



View from Eastern Ave.

Photo: Courtesy of CORE Architects

developer is selected by the province, she's looking forward to having them work with the community and hopes to sit down with the developer and "get into some of the more nitty-gritty things around site plan application, the materials, the public realm, and the community space."

While some community members applauded the new deal on social media, others expressed disappointment.

"Saving a couple of outer walls, 2 buildings completely demolished, and adding a 141-metre tower - I won't be celebrating this as any kind of 'victory' #disappointing," said Twitter user @barkoh.

"This is all great news as far as the Foundry is concerned. But as far as the community is concerned, the province, city and developers get what they want," tweeted @wmcwonca. "The people of Corktown get nothing for all our trouble. Our wishes have been once again ignored."

Community activists said that they are not opposed to building affordable housing on the site as long as it maintains the heritage components of the property.

"We succeeded in preventing the complete demolition of the #FoundrySite!" tweeted the Friends.

"The Province is now pivoting to an adaptive-reuse approach to the Foundry."

The group called the deal "a big step forward."

Both Kavanagh and Linton said this outcome shows that communities need to speak up.

"The big lesson with the Foundry is that the community has put [the province] on notice," said Kavanagh. "They're actually starting to dial back some of their other provincial projects."

"This story demonstrates that there is still a bit of a David-and-Goliath opportunity in residents and citizens expressing opinions that are meaningful to them and actually being heard," said Linton.

the bridge: Book Review

Glenda MacFarlane, Columnist

Missing from the Village
By Justin Ling
McClelland & Stewart, 2020

This year's shortlist for the Toronto Book Awards features an impressive collection of novels, poetry, short fiction and non-fiction. The judges have a tough decision to make before the winner takes home the \$10,000 prize.

The two non-fiction finalists are Rinaldo Walcott's *On Property*, which an upcoming issue of *the bridge* will review, and Justin Ling's powerful *Missing from the Village: The Story of Serial Killer Bruce McArthur, the Search for Justice, and the System That Failed Toronto's Queer Community*. Ling, an award-winning journalist who covered the story for more than five years, also hosted the CBC podcast *Uncover: The Village*, which examined the McArthur case and several cold-case murders in Toronto's gay village.

Ling profiles McArthur, the murderer, who grew up with a harsh father and a religious mother and concealed his homosexuality until his late 40s. McArthur haunted bars in the village and had been convicted of assault.

Missing from the Village also takes readers into the lives of the men who fell victim to McArthur: charismatic Skanda from Sri Lanka, who created a 'chosen family' of Toronto friends; Basir from Afghanistan, married with

two small children; Hamid, also from Afghanistan, who loved to serenade fellow bar patrons with Bollywood tunes; Selim from Turkey, recovering from drug addiction; Andrew, who worked for People With AIDS and was well-loved by the gay community; Soroush, an Iranian refugee with a big heart; Dean, who grappled with homelessness and mental illness while attempting to reconnect with his daughter; and Kirushnakumar, a Sri Lankan whose refugee claim Canadian authorities had denied.

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of Ling's book is his account of how systemic racism and homophobia led to numerous failures in the police investigation. Unlike many journalists who reported on McArthur, Ling is a member of the gay community, and he goes beyond details of the case to explore the underlying issues that kept it unsolved for far too long. Although the queer community is overpoliced, it is also under-protected. The McArthur case illustrates many ways in which police are failing Toronto's vulnerable communities.

The final chapter covers the court case and McArthur's conviction, with a poignant postscript excerpting impact statements of the eight victims' family and friends. The men who went missing from the village, whose lives were brutally cut short, were loved. Some of them might still be alive if the system hadn't failed them.

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