



What's turning the city's
west end into the new hotspot

The Tastes

Bistros, cafes & resto-bars making
the West a culinary mecca

The Finds

Fashion-forward to eclectic
discoveries along Bloor West

The Buzz

What's on, what's coming,
what not-to-miss

The Leisureways

Trails, parks and fairways to
hit in your downtime

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BUILT FOR LIFE



BIG NITE
MONSTER
COOKIE

BLOORVISTA
AT ISLINGTON TERRACE

**Connect to sip,
savour & shop.**

From Bloor St. West to Kingsway on Bloor,
chic shops, cafes and restaurants await.
BLOORVISTA puts them all just minutes away.

A most connected address.

416.645.8862 | tridel.com

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BLOOR & ISLINGTON

Discover a neighbourhood where history mingles with modern to create an energy all its own.

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THE BUZZ ON THE STREET

From frappuccinos to caramel frappes, the neighbourhood's coffee houses are creating quite a stir.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

The Bloor and Islington area is home to larger grocery stores, smaller specialty shops and corner markets to help keep your menus inventive and fresh.

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SPAAAHFINDER

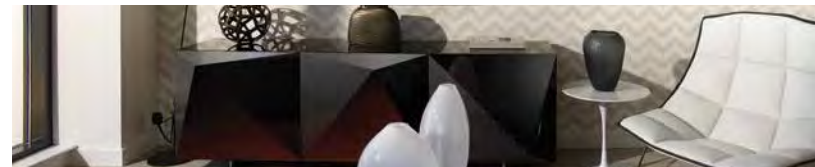
In search of somewhere to head for a little "me time"? You won't have to look too far to get pampered in this neighbourhood.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dan Mencións of II BY IV DESIGN shares tips on making small spaces seem larger, easy personal touches and the new decorating trends.

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SUNDAY DRIVES

Love the links? The Bloor and Islington neighbourhood is home to a multitude of courses to keep you challenged every time you tee off.



PUB CRAWL

Cheers to all the great places we found to enjoy ales, spirits and more.

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BLOOR & ISLINGTON:

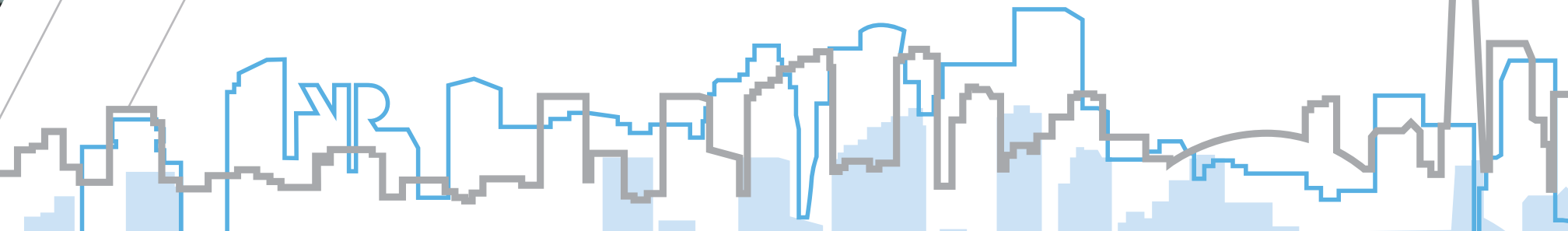
where history meets happening

Quick: name a Toronto neighbourhood where 200 years of rich history mingles with the fashionable zeitgeist of today. If Bloor and Islington wasn't on the tip of your tongue, it's because happily, this little gem of a neighbourhood seems to be flying under the radar.

Defined by Bloor Street West, this neighbourhood emits a vibe as urban as it gets, serving as a mecca for those craving the latest must-haves of today. As the second most recognized street in Toronto, Bloor Street West is home to fashionable boutiques, quaint cafés, and eateries that buzz with verve. Venture a bit farther west and explore The Kingsway on Bloor: here, fine shops, bars, coffee houses and restaurants line the streets beneath wrought-iron coach lamps – and there's even a retro-chic-cinema. After all, what other area can boast a fully functioning movie theatre originally built in 1939.

For a more concentrated blast of the past, head to Islington Village. Here, the historic and charming shops and restaurants have stayed wonderfully preserved, making it a vibrant and charming urban village. Not to mention 25 mesmerizing murals covering over 15,000 square feet and 5 blocks of century old buildings in the village, dozens of shops and quaint places to sip a coffee, take in a gourmet cooking class, pick up some groceries or grab a bite to eat.

Without question, Bloor & Islington has something for everyone – whether you crave the new or embrace the old. Just please ... ***don't tell everyone.***





KINGSWAY

let it reign

IN

our quest for cool things to do, great places to live, easy commutes, Torontonians have been branching out and a crown jewel in the city is quickly becoming The Kingsway. The sidewalks are lined with independent boutiques, java joints, bars and a multitude of restaurants serving up an eclectic mix of world cuisines.

The Kingsway is a great place to be all year round—where cocktails on summertime patios give way to hot toddies by the warmth of wintertime fireplaces. If it's good food and smooth drinks that you're after, all you have to do is decide what flavour and vibe you feel like indulging in. With a plethora of options to choose from, you may find you never want to venture outside of the

neighbourhood again. Stratosphere is the new kid on the block at the heart of Kingsway's busy food scene. This ultra-modern resto-lounge and bar has a sleek design with a prominent city backdrop, friendly staff and a stellar menu. You'll find yourself a regular for Martini Mondays and their live music and DJ sets.

No matter what you fancy, you'll find it in The Kingsway. Yoga and boxing studios, designer consignment stores, specialty bakeries and butcher shop, a cigar shop and even a winery. You get the neighbourhood feel and everything you can think of, all at your fingertips.

By [Janelle Watkins](#)
frequent blogger of [The Scene in TO](#)



10 Divine DINES

[1]

ANATOLIA, 5112 Dundas St W
416-207-0596

This is the real deal in Turkish cuisine! Swing by on the first Friday of the month and enjoy Turkish entertainment, complete with musicians, belly dancers, fortune tellers – and of course delish food!
anatoliarestaurant.com

[2]

AZARIAS, 3058 Bloor St W
647-352-8448

With an upbeat atmosphere and the most mouth-watering tapas around, Azarias' menu runs the gamut from caviar to cheese fondue, with Montreal smoked meat sliders thrown in for good measure.
azariasrestaurant.com

[3]

CASA BARCELONA, 2980 Bloor St W
416-234-5858

Take a trip to Spain without the costly airfare! Tantalize your tastebuds with more than 140 tapas dishes and 50 main courses. The perfect accompaniment to great Spanish cuisine? An extensive wine list.
casabarcelona.ca

[4]

BLACK ANGUS, 3277 Bloor St W
416-233-7406

Widely known as one of the best steakhouses in the GTA, They have been serving perfectly cooked steaks since 1964. Try the classic Caesar salad, shrimp cocktail, onion soup or oysters-- all equally superb!
blackangussteakhouse.ca

[5]

CHUTNEY'S, 3077 Bloor St W
416-231-1367

This place turns out fine Indian cuisine with Northern curries and tandooris delivered in elegant surroundings. Great premium Indian beers and wines help dial down the heat.
chutneysrestaurant.com

[6]

LA VERANDA OSTERIA, 946 Royal York Rd.
416-231-3800

Serving classic Italian and fresh seafood and steaks, this restaurant offers platters of food for a family feast. Dine inside, on the patio, or take out and pass it off as your own home cooking (our lips are sealed!)
laveranda.ca

[7]

MERLOT 2994 Bloor St W
416-236-0081

Foodies can't seem to get enough of the bistro food at this French restaurant with quaint rooftop patio. From duck confit to escalope de veau au calvados, Chef Alain Rechter does it right every time.
merlotrestaurantandpatio.com

[8]

OREGANO By Cirillo's, 4900 Dundas St W
416-232-2250

This casual and welcoming restaurant is run by award-winning Chef John Cirillo who also has an event venue and cooking school next door. Between mouth watering pastas, pizzas, seafood and meats, there's something for every appetite.
cirillosacademy.com

[9]

THE MUSKET, 40 Advance Rd.
416-231-6488

Love German cuisine? Head to The Musket for all the favourites --including wiener schnitzel and barbecue pork hox. A wide array of delicious, less exotic food too. Prost!
musketrestaurant.com

[10]

VIBO, 2995 Bloor St W
416-239-1286

All the raves about the food, the wine and the service at this authentic Italian spot are right on point. The delectable menu constantly changes to incorporate any fresh seasonal ingredients. A must-try: pizza from the wood burning oven in the winter.
vibo.ca



the buzz on THE STREET

Creme de la Creme Cafe

2991 Bloor St W
416-237-9414
cremedelacremecafe.ca

A diner style menu and all day breakfast. A favourite, no matter what time you get up.



Starbucks

3079 Bloor St W
416-231-6116
starbucks.ca

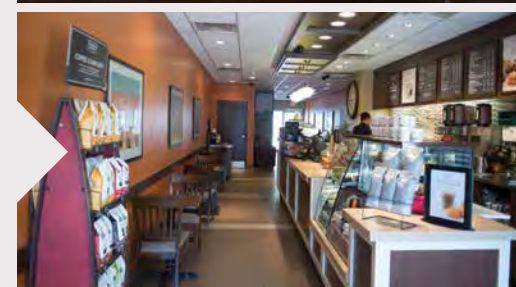
Whether it's a Grande, a Venti or a Trenta, you'll love this sunny location.



Second Cup

3300 Bloor St W
416-234-5528
secondcup.com

From mochachinos to latte's Second Cup always delivers in mouth watering style.



ZEE *best 3q*



Mamma mia! Deciding on top picks was a difficult (although definitely yummy!) task indeed. From thin crust to the more traditional, and gluten-free to deep dish, we sampled as many places as our tightening belts would allow. Here are the places that got our top votes before we had to throw in the towel ... er, napkin.

Lenny's

4748 Dundas St W
416-239-2222 | lasagnashop.com

Milano's on Bloor

3886 Bloor St W
416-622-0222 | milanos-pizza.ca

Capi's

4247 Dundas St W
416-231-2267 | capisgourmetpizza.ca

Sempre

3038 Bloor St W
416-234-8677 | semrepizzaandpasta.com





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AT ISLINGTON TERRACE

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the Islington Subway Station at Bloor
puts you anywhere in just minutes.

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Food *glorious food*

Foodies rejoice! Bloor and Islington has become home to a profusion of speciality food shops, organic grocers, butchers, patisseries and more. Big name grocery markets are also located nearby with all of their great selections of exotic edibles and private label lines. So whether you're in search of dragon fruit, ingredients for your signature Tom Yum, need that special cut of roast, are short on time and want to take home a delicious prepared dinner, or are just craving fresh buttery croissants to start off your Sunday, you're in the right place.





Ma Maison

French Culinary Boutique | 4243 Dundas St W | 416-236-2234



Medium Rare

Premium Meat Boutique | 5241 Dundas St W | 416-231-1500



Youngs

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

3008 Bloor St W | 416-256-9171

“Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first.”

- Ernestine Ulmer

If you dream of cookies, cupcakes, squares and cakes, lovingly made with fresh ingredients, head to one of Bake Sale's three delectable locations. This is the place to go if you want to celebrate a special occasion or the holidays with panache. Mouth watering cakes are available in 9 luscious flavours that range from salted caramel to red velvet, with delicious takes on the more traditional chocolate, lemon and vanilla. Come holiday time, Bake Sale offers up an array of seasonally-inspired creations to keep even the most discerning guests happy. Chat with the delightful staff as you dive into the sample tray. Gluten free options available.

Kingsway

3076 Bloor St W
416-232-2253

Six Points

5230 Dundas St W
416-792-6167

Bloor West Village

2300 Bloor St W
416-763-1818

bakesaletoronto.com





GLUTEN FREE
LEMON RASPBERRY
Cupcakes \$3.00

GLUTEN FREE
VANILLA
Cupcakes \$3.00

GLUTEN FREE
CHOCOLATE
Cupcakes \$3.00

GLUTEN FREE
STRAWBERRY
Macarons \$2.25

GLUTEN FREE
BIRTHDAY CAKE
Macarons \$2.25

GLUTEN FREE
COCONUT
Macarons \$2.25

GLUTEN FREE
CHOCOLATE MINT
Macarons \$2.25

GLUTEN FREE
PISTACHIO
Macarons \$2.25

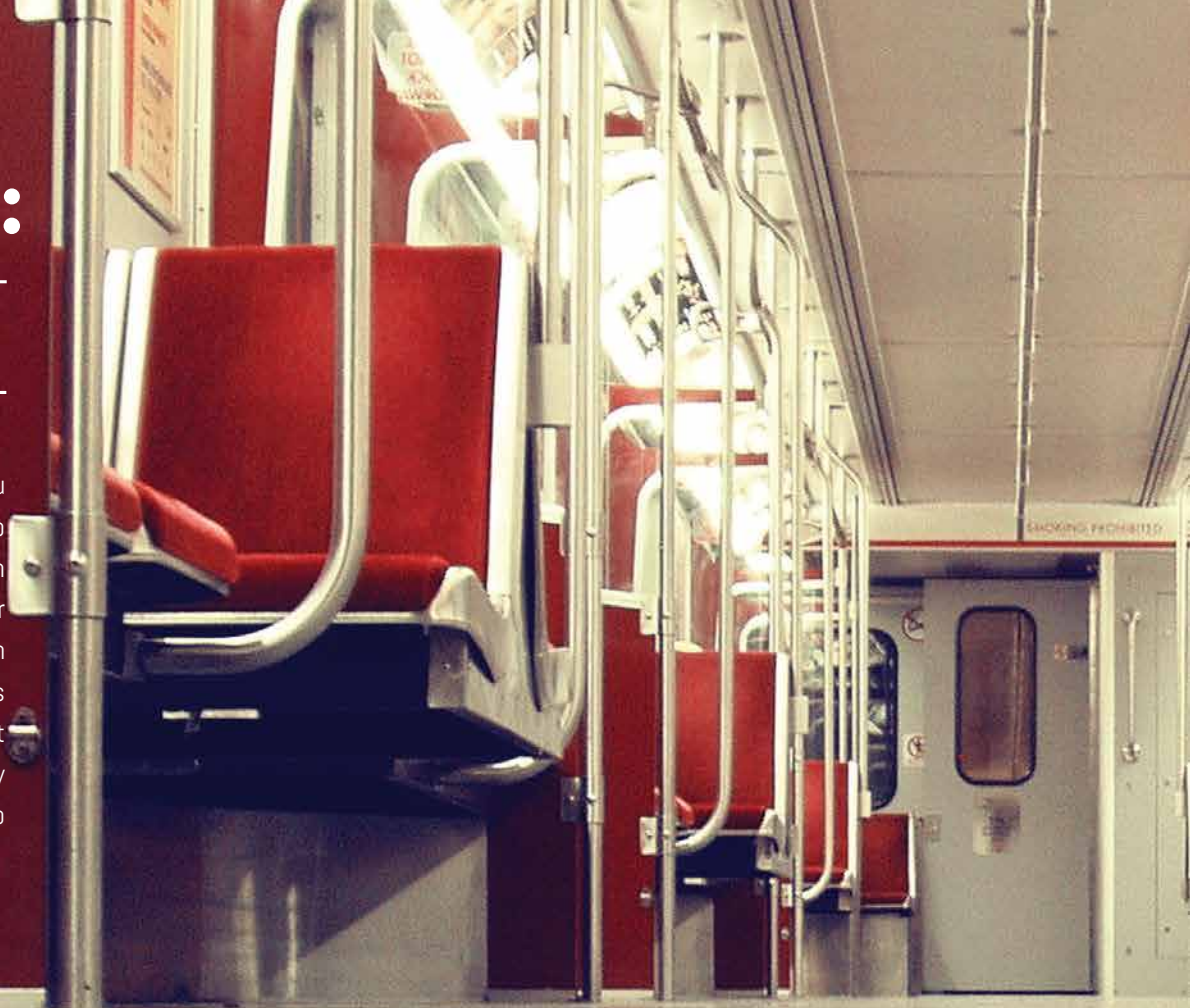
GLUTEN FREE
CHOCOLATE
Macarons \$2.25

RED VELVET
Cupcakes
\$1.60

RED VELVET
Cupcakes
\$3.10

DESTINATION: ANYWHERE

Got things to do, people to see, places to go? It helps when you live close to transit. Start at Bloor and Islington and you can hop right on the Bloor #2 line at Islington: get downtown to cheer on the Raptors in just 20 minutes. Prefer to stay around the Bloor & Islington neighbourhood? Hop on a TTC bus to get anywhere in Etobicoke or head further west for great places to eat, fun things to do, or just to visit family and friends. Or, if you prefer to get out of town, all-day express bus service to Pearson is just one subway stop away. Of course there's always the option to just grab a cab from the bus terminal or get where you want by foot.



One's destination
is never a place but
rather a new way of
looking at things.

— Henry Miller



EXPRESS ROUTE TO MISSISSAUGA



Living ultra-connected also puts everything in Mississauga well within reach, thanks to the MiExpress bus routes. Got a student in the household? The MiExpress Route 101 – Dundas Express provides all day bus service between Islington Subway Terminal and South Common Centre via U of T's Mississauga Campus. Shoppers, note that Square One Shopping Centre is also within a short bus trip via MiWay. This transit service covers 179 square kms...connecting easily to GO Transit, TTC, Brampton Transit and Oakville Transit. So...where do you want to go?



GET TO KNOW YOUR BUS STOP

- 1- Red bands with TTC logo
- 2- Accessible Stop Pictogram/Badge
- 3- Bus Pictogram
- 4- Standard Route Numbers served by Stop (W/Yellow Backg / Asterisk Graphic)
- 5- Express Route Numbers served by Stop (W/Red Backg & E Character)
- 6- Express Route Information Badge (w/Red Background & "E" Character)
- 7- Next vehicle arrival module

Say CHEESE!

Cheese Boutique started in 1970 as a humble mom and pop corner store on Bloor Street. Having grown into a gourmet staple, 15 years ago it set up a new home in a former sausage factory on an industrial strip called Ripley Avenue off South Kingsway.


This epicurean emporium contains the cumulative knowledge of three generations. Over the years Cheese Boutique has augmented their offerings and people are noticing and appreciating. Pristine patriarch Fatos was recently honoured with the title of Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit and his son, Afrim, was made a chevalier by Confrérie des Chevaliers du Taste Fromage de France in 2007.


At Cheese Boutique, prosciutto hangs from the ceiling, truffles are flown in every Wednesday, foie gras sits under lock and key, beef is dry aged 60 days, there are olive oils from 80 different terroirs and jams made from green walnuts, the best artisanal breads of the city, not to mention the chocolate boutique, pastry temptations and daily handpicked produce - but it is for the cheese that one must really come here. This is a place where “best before” dates do not apply. Taking something good and making it great is a constant philosophy of Cheese Boutique.


Aging and curing everything from cheese to beef to Meyer lemons is done with the expert knowledge that only comes with years of experience. Patrons can get a glimpse of the process by visiting the unique Cheese Vault.


Cheese Boutique has been supplying Toronto with succulent selections for 45 years and appreciates fine food as one does fine art. At this food museum, one's allowed to not only take the art home, but to nibble it enroute.

The Cheese Boutique is located at 45 Ripley Avenue • cheeseboutique.com

 www.facebook.com/CheeseBoutique.45ripley

 [@Cheese_Boutique](https://twitter.com/Cheese_Boutique)

 [@cheese_boutique](https://www.instagram.com/cheese_boutique)

 (416) 762-6292





REEL HISTORY

KINGSWAY THEATRE

3030 Bloor St W | 416-232-1939



Walking into the Kingsway Theatre at 3030 Bloor Street West is like taking a trip back to the silver screen era, when people gathered at the local cinema as a primary source of entertainment. The 700-seat theatre first opened its doors in 1939; some of its original Art Deco design can be seen in the parapet at the top of the building.

In 1954, Twinex Century Theatre Company took over the theatre, with a staff of manager, two ushers, a doorman, a matron and three candy girls. Later, the theatre was bought by the Festival Chain,

also owners of the Fox, Revue, and the Royal. When this company closed in 2006, the Kingsway remained vacant for two and a half years before being purchased by current owner Rui Pereira.

Thanks to Mr. Pereira, the theatre's carpets were replaced, seats reupholstered, washrooms refurbished, front doors were replaced and a new candy counter installed. The theatre reopened in early 2009, and has been showing first-run films in a charming historic setting ever since. A small movie screen upstairs showcases foreign films and documentaries.

TAKING ART TO THE STREETS

If you haven't strolled through charming Islington Village as of late, do go — and discover a veritable outdoor art gallery! Aptly named the Village of Murals, the area boasts 26 breathtaking murals spanning an astounding 15,000 square feet, amounting to 5 city blocks. These stunning pieces of photo-realistic and impressionist style art are meant to give today's audiences a peek into the area's history; the majority of murals depict people, places and events from the early 1800's & 1900's. Although several artists have helped contribute over the years, the artist responsible for the majority of work is Toronto-based artist John Kuna. Tour on your own and note how seamlessly the art seems to flow into alleyways and onto the sides of buildings — you can download a walking tour guide from villageofislington.com or, join a free guided tour between June and October. Either way, you'll discover that history class was never quite this inspiring!



KIPLING AVE.

1918

ISLINGTON VILLAGE

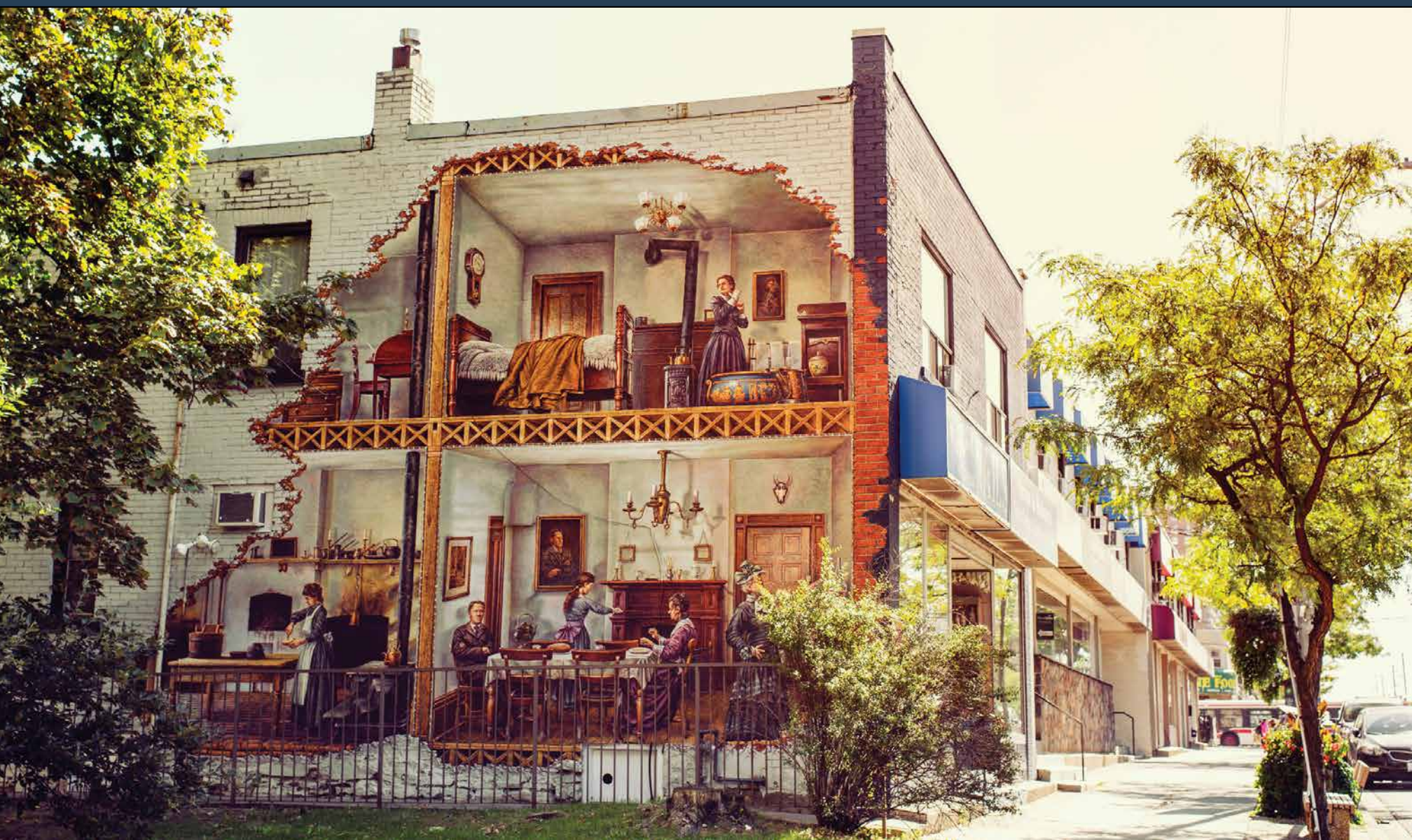
MESMERIZING MURALS
THAT SPAN 5 CITY BLOCKS





Create your own walking tour for a glimpse into the 1800's & 1900's.

- 1 Everyone Everywhere
- 2 Welcome Mural
- 3 Aftermath
- 4 Portraits from the Past
- 5 Battersby's March
- 6 The Pub with No Beer
- 7 Gordon's Dairy / Islington Seniors' Centre
- 8 The Way We Were, Islington ~ 1900
- 9 The Way We Were, Part II ~ 1912
- 10 Mimico Creek ~ 1920
- 11 Honouring Islington's Volunteer Fire Brigade
- 12 Ontario Gothic
- 13 Harold G. Shipp's First High Flier!
- 14 Prodigy
- 15 Fishing in Mimico Creek
- 16 Riding the Radials
- 17 Toboggan Hill
- 18 The Old Swimming Hole
- 19 The Golf Club
- 20 Timeline: Islington Then and Now
- 21 Briarly – Gone but not Forgotten
- 22 The Faces of Islington
- 23 Faith of Our Fathers II
- 24 The Art Alley Mural Project
- 25 The Manse Committee



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tower to join the highly successful
Islington Terrace condominium community.

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TRIDEL
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Top 10 UNDER \$20

NOTEWORTHY WINE PICKS
from LCBO | 2946 Bloor St W



SALUD!

Travel to Spain without the nasty jet lag. Head to the newly renovated LCBO at 2946 Bloor St W. The third of LCBO's "Products of the World" destination stores, this location will feature over 160 different kinds of Spanish wines and spirits -- possibly the best assortment available outside of Spain. Venture in and say "hola" to Product Consultant Joe Gentile, who offers up his great priced wine picks below:

1 Sada Baldoro \$19.95 | *Vintages Essential*

This is one of the least expensive "Super Tuscan" wines available. Round and full, you can taste black cherry and plum.

2 Conspiracy Foreign Affair \$17.95 | *Vintages Essential*

Made the same way as Barolo, this well done wine offers concentrated flavour. Medium to full body.

3 Palazzo Maffei Ripasso Valpolicella \$18.95 | *Vintages*

A best seller, this wine offers the taste of raisins and rich ripe figs.

4 Brazil Zinfandel \$19.95 | *Vintages*

Ripe and ready with soft acidity, this wine will not disappoint.

5 Aquinas Pinot Noir \$18.95 | *Regular List*

Taste vanilla, raspberry and plum in this medium to full bodied wine.

6 Cave Spring Riesling \$17.95 | *Vintages Essential*

World class Riesling; taste soft stone fruit with a crisp fresh edge.

7 Flor de Vetus Verdejo \$15.95 | *Vintages*

Crisp, with citrus and fruit, this would go well with sautéed seafood.

8 Attitude Sauvignon Blanc \$18.95 | *Vintages*

A Sancerre-like taste; this wine is ultra dry, with crisp grassy notes.

9 Villa Maria \$16.95 | *Regular List*

With passion fruit notes, this wine provides a lovely rounded mouth feel.

10 Ghost Pines Chardonnay \$19.95 | *Regular List*

A deft touch of oak and notes of ripe apple and pear make this a favourite.



SPAAAHH FINDER

Looking to indulge in a little “me time”? You won’t have far to travel. From threading to waxing, massages to manicures and everything in between, the area around Bloor and Islington offers up heavenly destinations to nurture the spirit and pamper the soul. Listed at right are just a few of the divine spots we discovered.





MMMMASSAGES

Islington Wellness

3329 Bloor St W
416-854-0596

islingtonwellness.com

Just Pur Wellness Spa

4864 Dundas St W
416-220-4885

justpur.com

Body & Soul Massage Therapy

2195A Bloor St W
416-761-9000

bodyandsoultherapy.ca



CUT & STYLE

ONE Salon & Boutique

1020 Islington Ave. #6
416-236-0663

onesalon.ca

Village The Salon

4924 Dundas St W
416-234-1160

thevillagesalon.ca

Salon Daniel

3391 Bloor St W
416-231-6900

salondaniel.ca



TIPS & TOES

Ana's Nail Boutique & Spa

2300 Bloor St W
416-239-0431

anaboutique.net

Zen Nails & Spa

1A Willingdon Blvd.
647-346-5585

Nails Couture & Spa

3319 Bloor St W
647-430-5333

nailscouture.com



THE WORKS

Spa at the Old Mill

21 Old Mill Rd. | 416-232-3700

oldmilltoronto.com/services-amenities/services/spa

Cattiva Hair & Esthetics

270 The Kingsway | 416-239-7741

cattivasalon.com

Pushpa's Aesthetics

3343 Bloor St W | 647-435-3834

spaonbloor.com

Capucci Salon

2254 Bloor St W | 416-766-0296

capucci.com



D SPA

4242 Dundas St W

416-236-7720

Get pampered from head to toe in a most indulgent setting. Go traditional with a massage, personalized facial or mani/pedi ... or turn up the unusual with a Chocolate Blitz Body Wrap (no calories!), Moor Mud Body Sculpture, Glycolic Facial Peel, Indian Head Massage or a heavenly Hot Stone Massage. Also available: manis, pedis and facials for gentlemen, holistic healing therapies, and spa packages to pamper yourself to the max!

dspas.ca

Best in the WEST

IT'S OUR OWN VERSION OF THE "O LIST"! WE'VE SCOURED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON COOL COLLECTIBLES AND MARVY MUST-HAVES.



LUCIA Soy Candle
| \$20.00
Vanderfleet Floral
270 The Kingsway
416-234-0550
vanderfleet.com



Riani | \$435.00
Carriage Trade
2958 Bloor St W
416-231-2238
carriagetradeshop.ca



Bra : 30 | \$59.50

Simply Chic, 2912 Bloor St W
416-233-2900
simplychicfinelingerie.com

Nicole Miller
| \$695.00

Carriage Trade
2958 Bloor St W
416 231-2238
carriagetradeshop.com



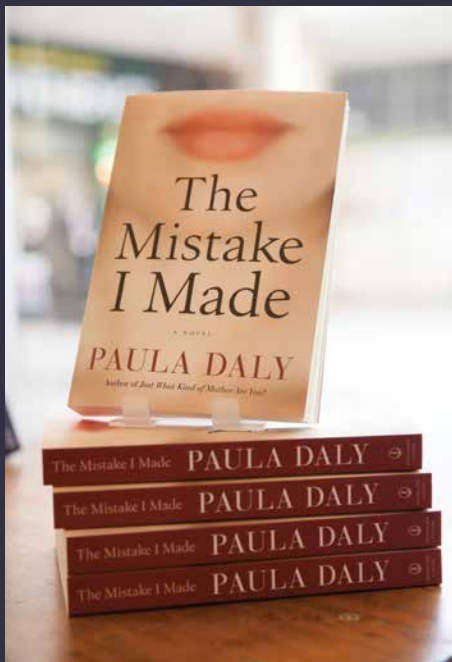
Leil and Lentz | \$165.00

Bill Miles Menswear, 2966 Bloor St W
416-239-4410 | billmiles.ca



The Mistake I Made
| \$24.95

The Novel Spot Bookshop
270 The Kingsway
416-233-2665
novelspot.ca



Suzi Roher | \$370.00

Carriage Trade | 2958 Bloor St W
416-231-2238 | carriagetradeshop.com



Rayban RB3362
| \$188.00

Rayban RB8301
| \$238.00

Rayban RB3025-J-K
| \$228.00

Queen Spectacle
3000 Bloor Street West
416-233-8152
queenspectacle.com



Earrings | \$29.50

Simply Chic, 2912 Bloor St W
416-233-2900
simplychicfinelingerie.com



Save the date

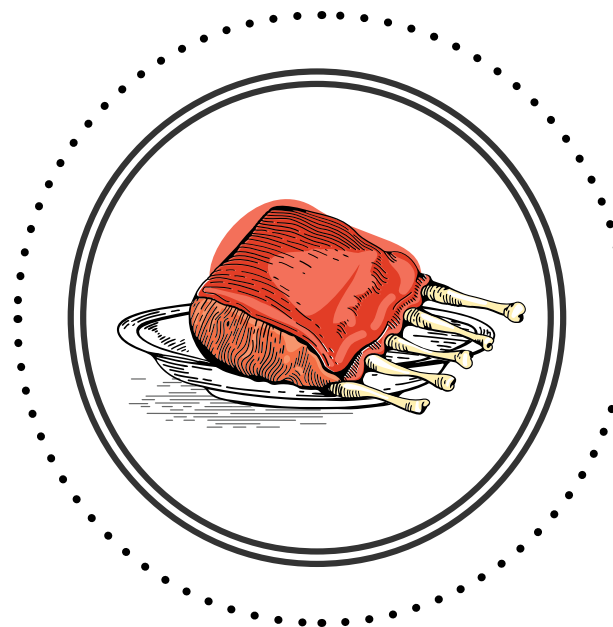
Mark your calendar for...

All year long, the west end of the city pulses with excitement as foodies, concert lovers, and fun-seekers of all ages pour in for the area's many cultural events, food festivals, seasonal happenings, concerts, charity events and more.

SHOREFRONT FESTIVAL

June - Lake Shore Blvd

Every June, thousands of Torontonians flock to Lake Shore Blvd for this huge celebration by the lake. All-day music, Star of the Shore talent competition, spirited hockey games, a bustling Market Place, Skateboard Street, Youth Zone and food galore guarantee that there's something for everyone at this fun event.

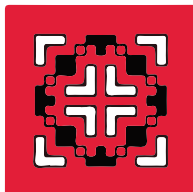


TORONTO RIBFEST

June - Centennial Park

Kick off summer in sizzling style at the huge annual Ribfest in Centennial Park. Chefs from across North American compete and show off their signature ribs, great performers, a midway and a huge kidzone keep wee ones entertained.



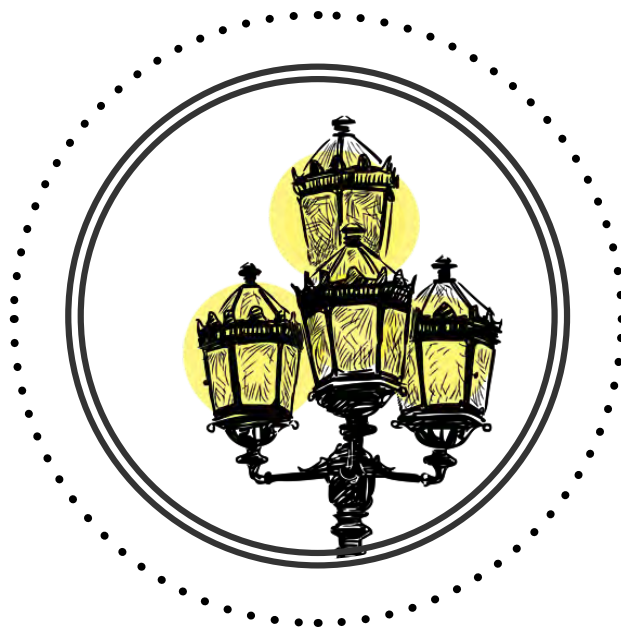


TORONTO UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

September - Bloor West Village

Each September, the area becomes home to North America's largest street festival dedicated to all things Ukrainian: music & dance, crafts vendors, food, a cultural pavilion – and a huge midway.

" SIP, SAVOUR, SHOP, SEE
& DO ... THE WEST IS A
VERITABLE MECCA FOR ALL
THINGS ENTERTAINMENT,
ALL YEAR LONG."



— TASTE OF THE KINGSWAY —

September - Bloor Street West

You know it's Fall when crowds flock to Bloor St. between Prince Edward Dr. and Montgomery Rd, for great concerts, 200 exhibitors, Beer & Wine Gardens, midway rides, even a dog show!



— KOERNER HALL CONCERTS —

Throughout the year - Bloor Street West

Enjoy jazz, pop, opera, classical, world music and more in this 1135 seat venue of acoustic perfection. Dubbed the "temple of tone", Koerner Hall strikes the perfect balance between dramatic and intimate, during concerts throughout the year.





ON THE AVE



Etobicoke CI

Montgomery Rd

Memorial Pool & Health Club

Brentcliffe Public Library

Sempre Pizza

Kingsway Theatre

The Crooked Cue

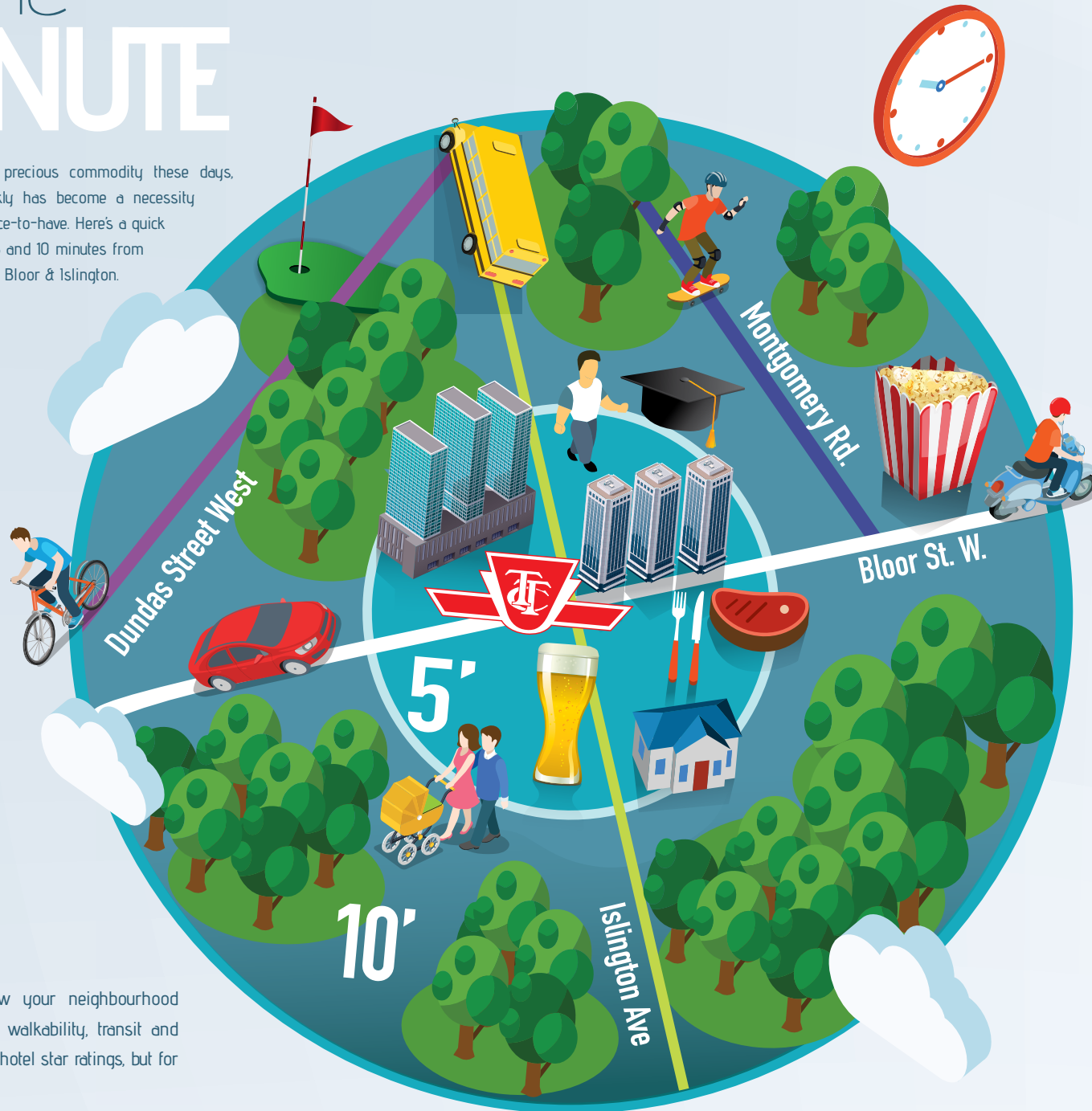
Starbucks

Running room

Kingsway on Bloor

to the MINUTE

With time such a precious commodity these days, getting places quickly has become a necessity rather than just a nice-to-have. Here's a quick peek at what's just 5 and 10 minutes from neighbourhoods like Bloor & Islington.



5'

- Bloor Islington Subway Station
- Tom Riley Park
- Etobicoke Collegiate Institute
- Islington Village
- Black Angus Steak House
- La Petite France Restaurant
- The Longest Yard
- Subway
- Thai Express
- The Flight Centre
- The Beer Store
- Second Cup
- CIBC

10'

- Kingsway on Bloor
- Rabba Fine Foods
- Islington Golf Club
- Running Room
- Central Arena
- Fairfield Park
- The Village Trattoria
- Montgomery's Inn
- Kingsway Theatre
- Merlot Restaurant
- Monk's Kettle
- Starbucks
- Embu Hair
- VIBO

Ever wonder how your neighbourhood rates in terms of walkability, transit and bikeability? Think hotel star ratings, but for neighbourhoods.

The number crunchers at Walk Score® actually do the heavy lifting for the rest of us, by analyzing how friendly neighbourhoods are for walkers, commuters and cyclists, with scores between 0 and 100. See how Bloor and Islington fared!



Very Walkable

Most errands can be accomplished on foot.



Rider's Paradise

Worlds class public transportation



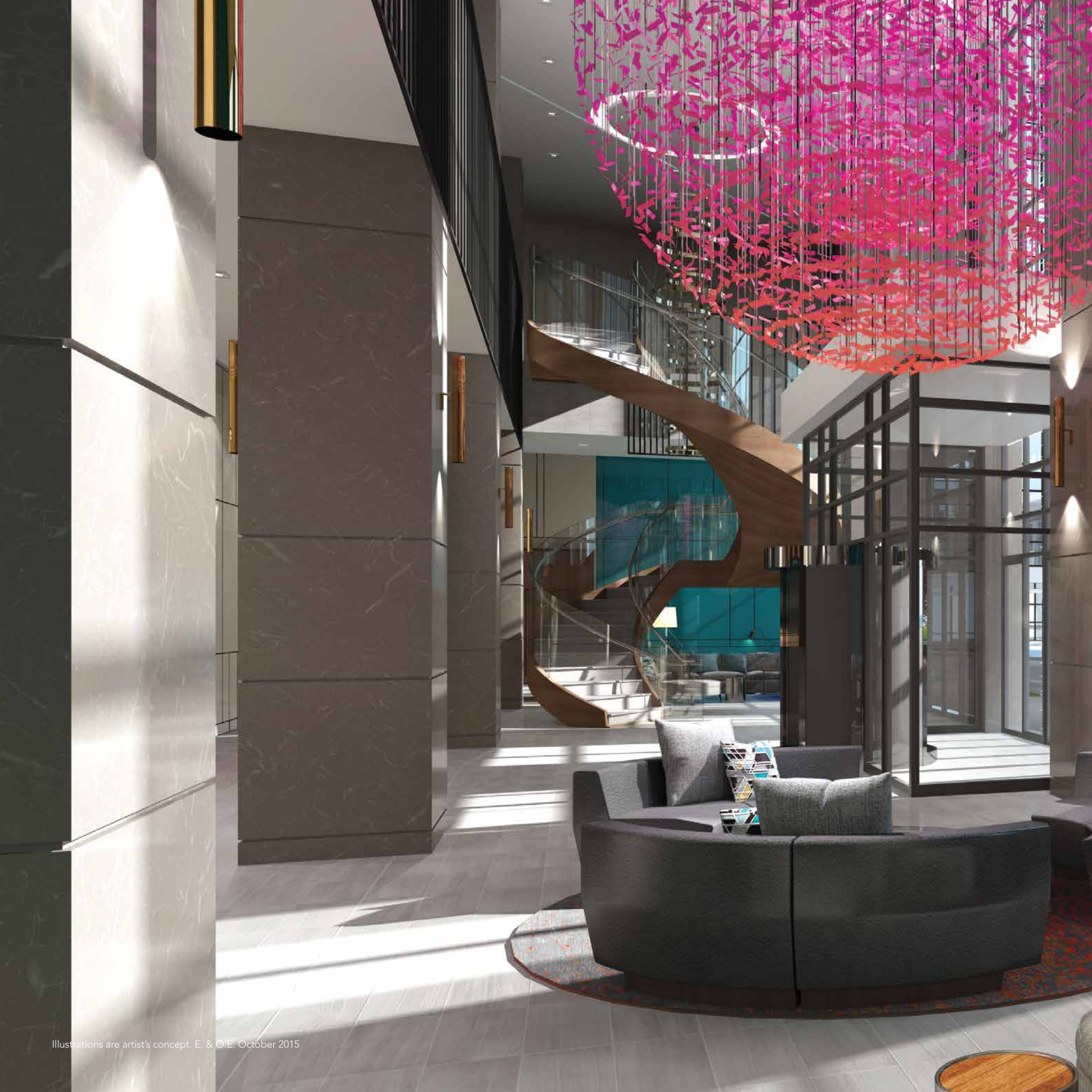
Very Bikeable

Flat as pancake, some bike lines



MYOB BLOOR ISLINGTON PLACE

Welcome to the number one business address in Etobicoke! Located at the corner of Bloor and Islington, this prime address keeps the wheels of industry turning with anchor tenants like Moneris Solutions, Real Estate Council of Ontario, ADP and GoodLife Fitness. The Centre's retail spaces draw traffic from a work force of over 4500, and 1000 residential units in the adjoining properties. The daily commute is a breeze, thanks to the Centre's direct access to Islington Station on the Bloor Subway line, and its proximity to the QEW and Highway 427. Add in the recent \$1.2 million food court upgrade, and doing business here is a definite pleasure.



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**II
BY
IV
DESIGN**



BIG IDEAS FOR DECORATING SMALLER SPACES

Who says you can't go big on style within a smaller space? Certainly not Dan Menchions, celebrated Interior Designer at Toronto's renowned II BY IV DESIGN. We tapped into his expertise for tips on how colour, pattern, furniture and accessories can all work to beautifully add va va voom to smaller sized rooms.

Q. What are today's big décor trends?

A- Open concept living has been trending for some time, and is how most condominiums are designed these days. The living area has become the centre of the home (more than the kitchen!) and as such, the furniture has become more relaxed with plush, tactile fabrics. Blending new and old by combining found or vintage objects with sleek contemporary pieces is a definite trend. And geometric hexagons and honeycomb patterns are definitely hot right now – they feel both modern and organic at the same time.

Q. What are some new "design inventions" that small space dwellers should look for?

A- The Wall Bed and Sofa has the look of built-in millwork and an Italian styled sofa – great idea! Storage beds are another great option, though usually available in King and Queen sizes. If you only have room for a double bed, consider rolling storage drawers. Storage ottomans are a great place to rest your feet and hide clutter. One last tip: make the most out of the storage you have with closet organizers; it's always easier to install these before you move in.

Q. Any do's and don'ts to share about colour?

A- Whether you embrace or ignore a trend is really about your personal style. In general, a lighter colour palette will make a space feel brighter and larger, while a darker hue will create a moody, intimate feel. In the year ahead, watch for deep rich muted colours, mixed with 1960's pale hues (think sorbet), and of course neutrals like greys, whites, charcoals and blacks, which never go out of style.

Q. What are some things we can do to make a suite feel more personalized?

A- Swapping out standard light fixtures that the unit came with is one of the easiest ways to make a space your own. Think about adding a dramatic chandelier or a pair of sconces in the bedroom. Use a jolt of colour or pattern to reflect your style. Be daring and cover an entire wall or sofa, or play it safer by introducing smaller hits in accessories and textiles. Incorporate mementos from your experiences: a piece of art from your latest trip, a chair you found in a vintage store, or display your favourite books and create a personal narrative.



A lush green forest with a gravel path on the right side. The trees are dense and vibrant green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The path is made of light-colored gravel and is bordered by green foliage.

GO FOR GREEN

Most neighbourhoods offer a bit of green space, but only the rare neighbourhood can lay claim to having an incredible six parks nearby! Bloor and Islington keeps everyone from nature lovers to fitness buffs happy with parklands that offer up a huge array of amenities.

Thomas Riley Park connects right to the Mimico Creek trail network and conservation lands; it's also home to the historic Montgomery's Inn, an arena, tennis courts, a pool, the YMCA and the Etobicoke Lawn Bowling Club. Venue in the 2015 Pan Am games, Centennial Park has a ski and toboggan hill, golf course, arena, stadium and Etobicoke Olympium Pool. Get on to the Mimico Creek trail network via West Deane Park or access the Waterfront Trail through Humber Bay West and East Parks, located at the mouth of Mimico Creek. James Gardens Park is home to lawn bowling and cross country skiing and gorgeous flowers at every turn. Crave something a little more contained? Head for Kenway Park or the baseball diamond at Queensway Park.



PARKS



Thomas Riley Park
Centennial Park
West Deane Park
Kenway Park
Queensway Park
Humber Bay West & East Parks
James Gardens

BIKES



Thomas Riley Park
Mimico Creek
Scarlett Mills Park
Humber Bay Shores Park
Humber Bay Park West
Etienne Brule Park
South Humber Park

TRAILS



Mimico Creek
Scarlett Mills Park
James Gardens
South Humber Park
Etienne Brule Park
West Deane Park
Waterfront Trail

STOREY TELLING

A HISTORIC LOOK AT
THE KINGSWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Bounded by Bloor St to the south, Dundas St to the north, Mimico Creek to the west and the Humber River to the east, The Kingsway is without question, one of the premier neighbourhoods in Toronto's west end. One only has to look at the grand stone and brick homes set way back along the majestic oak-lined streets to get a sense of the wealth of the area. But this is a neighbourhood rich in history too.

It's a little known fact that the neighbourhood got its name from being situated on lands that were deeded to the Church of England back in the early 1880's. At the time, it was described

as "a little bit of England, far from England" -- likely in large part because of the tudor and victorian architecture prevalent in the area. Today, the quiet streets still give off a somewhat royal feel. Come see for yourself... it's all just across the Bloor Street bridge!

“Don't buy the house, buy the neighborhood.”

-Russian Proverb



A close-up photograph of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with a frothy latte, sitting on a matching saucer with a silver spoon. In the background, a golden-brown cinnamon roll is visible on a white plate. The scene is set on a light-colored surface, possibly a table, with a white cloth partially visible on the right.

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Sunday Afternoon DRIVES

Fancy the fairways? There are 2 public golf courses and no less than 5 premium private golf courses within easy reach of Bloor and Islington. Hop in the car or catch the TTC, and get to the links in just minutes.

Scarlett Woods Golf Course

(Public)

Executive-length par 62 course, clinics.

Centennial Park Golf Centre

(Public)

Challenging Par 4's & Par 3's, driving range, practice greens.

Islington Golf Club

(Private)

18 hole, par 72 golf course immediately north of Islington Terrace.

Lambton Golf & Country Club

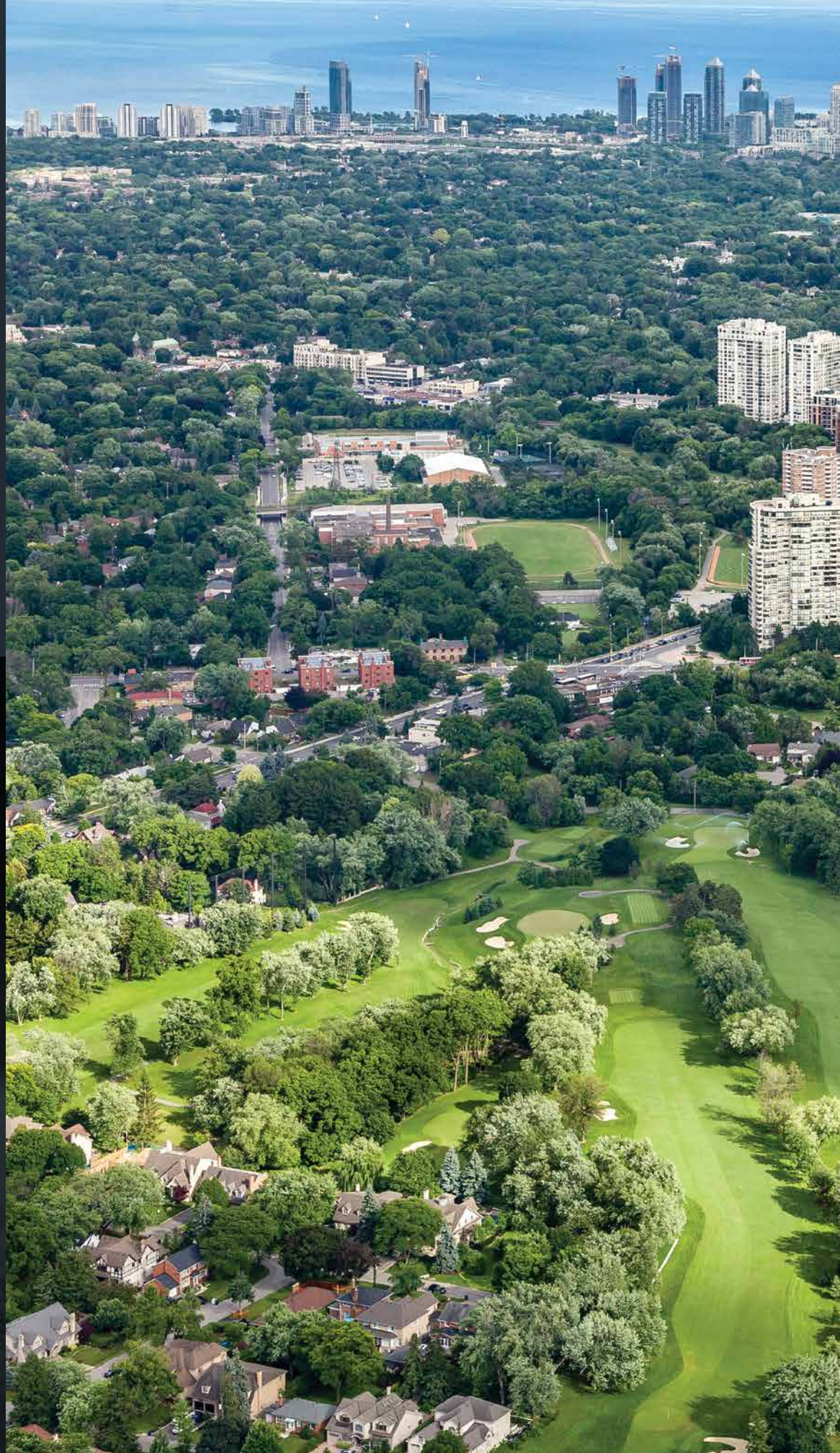
(Private)

28 hole Championship Course & 9 hole Valley Course. Has hosted Canadian Open for 4 years.

St. George's Golf & Country Club

(Private)

Ranked #30 in 2014 World's 100 Greatest Golf Courses. Has hosted Canadian Open for 4 years.





This rendering has been visually enhanced to better represent the architectural features of the Islington Terrace community. The building located at 50 Cordova Ave. has been removed. E. & O.E. October 2015

Schools Rule

Public or Private? Elementary or Secondary? Catholic? International? Whatever type of school you're seeking, there's a plethora of options around Bloor and Islington. Our search turned up a mind-boggling 13 private schools ... not to mention 4 post secondary institutions nearby. So do your homework and suss out the options. Happily, there will be no pop quiz on this.



University
of Toronto
Mississauga



Etobicoke
School of Arts



Etobicoke
Collegiate
Institute



Hazel McCallion
Academic Centre



Bloor & Islington AREA SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Islington Junior Middle School (JK-Gr8)
- Karen Kain School of the Arts (Gr6-Gr8)

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Etobicoke Collegiate Institute (Gr9-Gr12)
- Central Etobicoke High School (Gr9-Gr12)
- Etobicoke School of Arts (Gr9-Gr12)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- Saint Pius X Separate School
- Our Lady of Sorrows (JK-Gr8)
- Our Lady of Peace, French Immersion (SK-Gr8)
- Bishop Allen Academy, French Immersion/Extended French (Gr9-Gr12)

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Kingsway College School (Gr1-Gr8)
- Lambton-Kingsway Junior Montessori Middle School (JK-Gr8)
- Islington Junior Montessori (JK-Gr8)
- Bloor West Montessori (JK-Gr8)
- Rosethorn Junior School (JK-Gr8)
- Olivet School (PS, SK-Gr9)
- Kinglsey Primary School (PK-Gr8)
- Holy Angels School (JK-Gr8)
- West Toronto School of Excellence (JK-Gr8)
- Alderwood Toronto Private School (SK-Gr8)
- Leonardo Da Vinci Academy of Arts & Sciences (PK-Gr8)
- Great Lakes College of Toronto (Gr9-12)

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- Imperial College of Toronto

POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus
 - York University
 - Sheridan College
 - Humber College

HAVE TREADS Will Travel

By **blogger Teresa Westlake**

I'm a bit of a wimp when it comes to cold weather. Once the temperatures drop below -5, I move much of it inside to the treadmill. I've had some great runs indoors, and caught up on whole seasons of my favourite shows. But truth be told, I definitely get the best results when I run outside. It's hard to do hill training on a treadmill....

Luckily, the neighbourhood around BLOORVISTA is a fantastic area for runners of all types. If you're looking for a scenic route, this is a great location for it.

Bloor St. West – there are a seemingly endless supply of quiet, tree-lined residential streets that wind through this neighbourhood, both north and south of Bloor Street West.

Humber River Trail - for those longer runs, enter the Humber River Trail, about 2 kms east of Bloorvista. Heading north, the trail follows the Humber River Valley up to Finch Avenue. Heading south will take you along some mixed road / trail surface that connects to the Waterfront Trail.

West Deane Trail - from Islington Terrace, head north on Cordova, then along Burnhamthorpe to Kipling Avenue. Just off Wingrove Avenue (opposite the Islington Golf Course on the west side of the street) you'll find a discreet entrance to the West Deane Trail, which extends to Eglinton Avenue and the Eglinton West Trail at the north end.



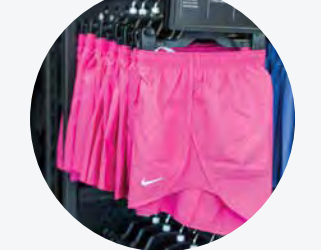
Gear Guidelines from Running Room

2100 Bloor St W | 416-762-4478

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Especially in the warmer months when you need to replenish the fluids you'll naturally lose. Best practice – drink throughout the day. Guzzling a bottle of water just before you leave on your run doesn't really cut it

Equipment check. Your shoes are undoubtedly the most important piece of equipment you use, so make sure they're the right ones. Best practice – get fitted for the right shoes and remember to replace them at approximately the 300 – 500 km mark.

Dress for Success. There's nothing worse than being uncomfortable when you run, whether it's overheating, chafing, etc. Best practice – dress for 10 degrees warmer than the actual temperature, remember to use body glide for those longer runs and pack water for anything over 10 km, depending on your own comfort level and experience.



Tap the APP



mapmyrun

MapMyRun. Great app for runners, cyclists and hikers which can be downloaded for free, with option to upgrade for more functionality. Plan routes, find routes and track your runs.

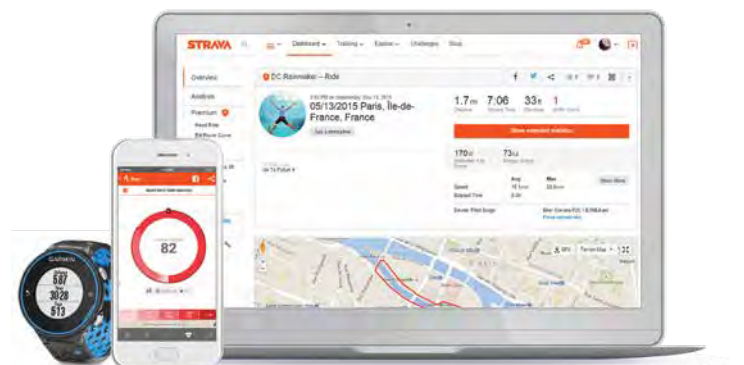
mapmyrun.com



STRAVA

Strava App tracks multiple activities, including running and cycling. Initial sign up is free, with the option to upgrade for more usability. In addition to finding routes and tracking runs, Strava also allows you to find and follow friends and comment on their progress.

strava.com



Pub Crawl

By **blogger** | Night Crawler



Looking for the perfect place to down a drink with some pals? How about 11 places?

The right pub crawl route can make any day feel like St. Patrick's Day - and there's a wealth of awesome bars lining Bloor West, ready for your drinking pleasure. Kick things off near Bloor and Runnymede at the **Kennedy Public House**, a modern after-work joint that rotates the beer selection and menu seasonally. Then pop next door to their sister bar, **The Sparrow**, for a round on the upstairs pool table ("the only one in the neighbourhood", the staff proudly tell me), a \$4 Jameson or Jager shot, and some AC/DC pinball.



Shakey's is a classic sports bar that's packed on game nights, especially during NHL season: Original owner Mike "Shakey" Walton played for the Leafs during their 1967 playoff run. Save your dough with a \$5 house lager, or splash out on rotating craft pints or gourmet Caesars – but their secret weapon is the food, including a burger made with local Rowe Farms beef.

A few blocks away near Jane is **Bryden's**, a hot spot for beer lovers thanks to their 17 rotating taps, which often feature limited-edition brews from Great Lakes Brewery. (Snack alert: Their gloriously messy nachos are more topping than corn chip.)

For a game of pool, check out the **Crooked Cue** near Royal York station, which recently ditched its ancient all-brown-everything interior for a sleek, modern look, complete with a retractable roof. The beer selection skips all over the world, including some Belgians, and they've got plenty of big-screen TVs in case you want to keep tabs on a game.



The Squire & Firkin
3335 Bloor St W
416-233-6531
firkinpubs.com

Bryden's
2455 Bloor St W
416-760-8069
brydens.ca

Crooked Cue
3056 Bloor St W
416-236-7736
crookedcue.ca

The Kennedy Public House
2199 Bloor St W
416-769-3888
thekennedy.com

The Longest Yard
3313 Bloor St W
416-239-9484
thelongestyardrestaurant.com

Monk's Kettle
3073 Bloor St W
647-348-4848
monkskettle.com

Orwell's
3373 Bloor St W
416-236-3339

Shakey's
2255 Bloor St W
416-767-0608
shakeys.ca

The Sparrow
2197 Bloor St W
647-349-2211
sparrowrestaurant.ca

St. James' Gate
5140 Dundas St W
647-350-5140
www.sjgtoronto.ca

Fox & Fiddle
4946 Dundas St W
416-207-9990
foxandfiddle.com



Across the road is the **Monk's Kettle**, a stately pub that takes its food and beer seriously. Their menu signature is a game burger special: It might be wild boar, duck with apple-fennel slaw, or jerk goat with mango salsa. The beer list is stellar, with three taps that change weekly; if you can't decide on what to drink, they offer themed tasting flights, along with a respectable lineup of scotches.

Bloor and Islington is home to **The Longest Yard**, a loungey bar with a wide beer selection and a gussied-up pub food menu; grab a pint and a pound of wings for \$14 if you're there Monday, or \$5 Goose Island pints on Fridays.

Just up the street is **Orwell's**, the oldest of the old-school pubs, complete with wood paneling and dartboards. The beer selection is heavy on the mass-market lagers; stop in on Sunday, Monday or Wednesday and you can load up on meaty wings (try the suicide sauce) for 69 cents each.

Still got gas left in the tank? Pile into the subway or DD-mobile, or stumble for 10 minutes through an office park, and a visit to **St. James' Gate** will be your reward. Take advantage of their nightly two-for \$10 pint specials, and bask in the warm, homey glow as you wind down your night.

Slainte!



BLOORVISTA
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Illustrations are artist's concept. E. & O.E. October 2015

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