

TORONTO

 #SEETORONTONOW

150
BEST CANADIAN
THINGS
from Eh to Zed

**ALL
CANADIAN,**

**ALL IN
TORONTO!**

**HAPPY 150TH
CANADA!**





Interior Design Show

43

SARAH RICHARDSON

Canada's design sweetheart, Sarah Richardson is more than an HGTV superstar (check out her latest show, *Real Potential*). Richardson also runs her own design firm and designs a fabric collection for Kravet. Here's what the décor maven loves most about Toronto design.

Eclecticism

"Toronto's scene is both established and emerging. Whether your taste runs to conservative traditionalism or experimental modernism, you can find whatever you're in the market for."

The Festival Scene

"I never miss the **Art With Heart** auction for **Casey House**—it's a super way to buy great art from emerging and established artists in a fun environment. The **Interior Design Show** brings the design community every year and draws a variety of global talent and speakers."

Toronto Labels

"There are so many talented minds in the city: **Virginia**

Johnson [prints], **Smythe** [jackets], **brunswick+co.** [bags], and **Ridgely Studio Works** [lighting and furniture]."

The Retail Scene

"My favourite journeys are through the vintage, antique and consignment shops—the thrill of the hunt provides a great adventure! **The Door Store**, **Ribbehege & Azevedo** and **Decorum Decorative Finds** are great uptown spots.

The vintage scene on Queen East, West and downtown never lets me down: **Vintage Fine Objects**, **The Queen West Antique Centre**, **Guff**, **Bronze**, **Phil'z**, **Ethel 20th Century Living**, **Zig Zag**, and **Eclectisaurus**."



44–45

HUDSON'S BAY SWAG



Two iconic pieces of Canadiana come from the country's oldest department store: First, there's the **Hudson's Bay Company multi-stripe point blanket**, introduced into the fur trade in 1780. Its traditional green, red, yellow and indigo stripes, initially selected for their ease of reproduction, are as covetable a design today as they were then. More recently, it's those ubiquitous **Red Mittens**. Launched in 2009, the knitted mitts have raised more than \$27 million for our Olympic athletes. Get your hands on (and in) both at the Hudson's Bay flagship store on Queen Street West.

46–47

MAPLE TREES + "THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER"



Alongside a collection of fauna—the beaver, the moose, Mounties!—our ubiquitous maple tree is a heartfelt symbol of pride. We even have a song about it—"The Maple Leaf Forever," composed in 1867, the year of Canada's Confederation. The Leslieville-neighbourhood tree that inspired it toppled during a 2013 windstorm, but a carved portion lives on at the **Ontario Science Centre**.

HGTV (SARAH RICHARDSON); ISTOCK

INSTAGRAMMABLE PUBLIC ART

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Check out these quintessentially Canadian pieces around town.

► Relax at *The Pasture*, where Saskatchewan artist Joe Fafard created a herd of resting bronze cows to remind us of ties to farmers and the land, in the courtyard of the **Toronto-Dominion Centre**.

► A big, welcoming red canoe you can stand in by famed Canadian writer-artist Douglas Coupland peers over the Gardiner Expressway and offers a view of Lake Ontario at **Canoe Landing**, a park south of Fort York Boulevard.

► Near the ferries that take you to the **Toronto Islands**, hop on the front of the bronze tandem bike statue that is a memorial to much-loved hometown politician **Jack Layton**, former leader of the federal NDP party.

► On the side of an unassuming office building in midtown

(Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue West), the street artist **Phlegm** has created an **eight-storey mural** of a curled-up human figure that on closer view is an intricate composite of Toronto's landmarks and buildings.

► New this year is a statue of **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**, the only enthroned statue of her in the world, by artist Ruth Abernethy for the commemoration of Canada's 150th year of Confederation. Fittingly, the statue resides at **Queen's Park**.

► Vibrant, expansive and always evolving, the graffiti alleyway one block south of Queen Street West, starting at Spadina and stretching to Portland Street, is where you can experience the city's urban voice. This roughly 1 km (half-mile) stretch of street art is called **Graffiti Alley** (and also Rush Lane) and is city sanctioned.

► Experience a romantic and pastoral side of the city in Scarborough's lush **Guild Park and Gardens**, where salvaged architecture elements co-exist with sculptures such as *Bear* (1979) by E.B. Cox and Michael Clay, and *Spaceplough I* (1981) by Sorel Etrog.

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THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA



Karen Kain, Canada's ballet superstar and the artistic director of the **The National Ballet of Canada**, has put together an impressive lineup for 2017, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the Darwin-inspired *Genus*. The company's Sharing Dance Canada initiative, with its aim to get one million Canadians dancing, was chosen as a Canada 150 Signature Project in celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial.



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TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

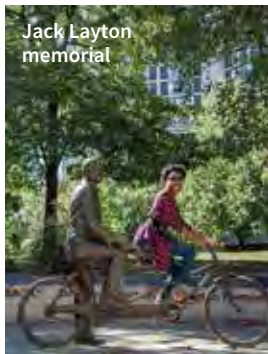
Since 2004, Peter Oundjian, the music director of the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**, has brought international acclaim to the organization and put Toronto on the map. The high note will come this year with the TSO's Canada Mosaic, a project that will reach into the music archive and commission Canadian composers, culminating in a series of themed concerts in honour of Canada's big 150th.



Canoe Landing



Graffiti Alley



Jack Layton memorial

85

INDIGENOUS ART

Toronto's public art, museums and landmarks include significant examples of Canadian indigenous (also known as First Nations) culture. Here are some of the finest.

The Inukshuk is a familiar, sculptural figure that serves as a multifaceted guide to the Inuit, both practically and symbolically. Traditionally, they were built to act as landmarks on the featureless tundra in the Far North. **Toronto Inukshuk Park** features a 50-tonne mountain rose granite version—one of the largest in North America—created by Kellypalik Qimirpik of Nunavut.

Four totem poles carved by members of the Nisga'a and Haida communities of the Pacific Northwest tower above the stairways at the **Royal Ontario Museum**. A special gallery influenced by Native



Toronto
Inukshuk
Park

Royal Ontario Museum



advisors resides in the Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples and features more than 1,000 artifacts that tell the story of Canada's First Peoples.

The oldest professional indigenous theatre company in Canada, **Native Earth Performing Arts** has a full slate of theatre, dance and multi-disciplinary art programming planned for 2017.

The **imagineNATIVE film + Media Arts Festival** happens to be the world's biggest presenter of indigenous screen content. The event, which influences content at other Toronto film festivals, like TIFF and Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, celebrates its 18th birthday in 2017.

Last year was significant for the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, as it hired its first curator of indigenous and Canadian art. Wanda Nanibush, whose roots are Anishinabe from Beausoleil First Nation, has mounted her first exhibition, *Toronto: Tributes + Tributaries*, 1971–1989, which runs until May 2017.

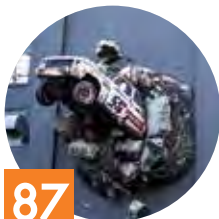
Other strong supporters of Inuit and First Nations art include the **Craft Ontario Shop**, as well as **Gallery Indigena** in The Distillery Historic District.

86



THE CBC

Since 1936, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) has provided Canadians with a window to our country and the world. Much of that radio and television perspective is produced from its downtown broadcast centre, whose public attractions include the CBC Museum and performances in the Glenn Gould Studio.



87

MUCH

Much's studios proudly occupy a landmark building at the corner of Queen and John. The epicentre of youth pop culture, Canada's music channel throws the one-night street party known as the iHeartRadio Much Music Video Awards each year, with fans snapping up entry wristbands in less than a minute (in earlier years, fans would line up for days to score them). For a classic photo, take a pic of the CP24 news truck "crashing" out of the brick wall above the building's parking lot.



106 SQUIRRELS Love 'em or hate 'em (c'mon, only grouches hate them!), squirrels are a familiar species of urban wildlife. Toronto's squirrel population consists mainly of red squirrels and eastern grey squirrels (which come in grey and black), plus the mythical white (albino) squirrel, unique to Trinity Bellwoods Park and the name of a café across the street.

107 POLAR BEARS The snowy ursine is the Great White North personified. Canada hosts about two-thirds of the world's population of this threatened species. The Ontario population calls the sea ice of Hudson Bay and James Bay home from late fall to early summer (they roam farther during winter), but you can find them in Scarborough, too. Head to the **Toronto Zoo** to see baby Juno, as well as mom Aurora, in their Tundra Trek habitat.

108 BLUE JAYS Canada's only MLB team is named after the boisterous bird, found in local forests and backyard feeding stations year-round. Head to a mixed evergreen/deciduous wooded area to spot one—try **High Park** and the **Don Valley**.



109 BEAVERS There would be no Canada without the beaver. The earliest explorers came in search of the animal's dense, soft pelt, and well before that, the indigenous population had been utilizing this precious natural resource. Beavers are

also key players in Canada's regional ecosystems: by felling trees and creating dams, they open up dense forests to other plant and animal species, creating new habitats and increasing biodiversity. One of Canada's emblems, the world's second-largest rodent still resides in Toronto's urban wilderness. Head to the **Leslie Street Spit** or **High Park** to try to spot these iconic creatures or at least their dams.



110 THE EX The **Canadian National Exhibition**, fondly referred to as The Ex, is at the heart of many a Torontonian's childhood memories. While nowadays it's perceived as a giant carnival with a midway, air show and wacky county-fair menu (highlights have included deep-fried butter, cricket-covered hot dogs and pulled-pork cinnamon rolls), it was founded in 1879 to foster development of agriculture, industry and the arts. Glimpses of the original goal are revealed at The Farm's animal exhibits and 2016's innovation hub. The Ex's Labour Day closing heralds the unofficial end of summer.

111 FIRST NATIONS Toronto has an extensive indigenous (a.k.a. First Nations) history. Rather than belonging to one First Nations community, it's been home to many since the 1600s, including the Hurons, Iroquois (i.e., Seneca and Mohawk) and Anishinabe (Mississauga and Ojibwa). In fact, the word *Toronto* is said to originate from the Mohawk word *Tkaranto*, meaning "where there are trees in water."

Want to learn more about the city's indigenous roots? The **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** operates the guided **First Story Toronto Bus Tour** (for groups only), which includes stops at significant historical landmarks. You can also download the free **First Story** app on iTunes or Google Play.



112 THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR Each November, animal lovers flock to the Royal Horse Show and the trick-happy President's Choice SuperDogs, but the fair is also a culinary hot spot, with food and wine sampling, cooking demos and a gourmet market.

SO CANADIAN!

113 MOUNTED POLICE Ever been pulled over by a horse? While you're unlikely to spot a traditional red-jacket-clad RCMP officer in Toronto, it's not uncommon to see a member of the Toronto mounted unit on patrol. The best place to spot one is near Exhibition Place, where the stable, the Horse Palace, is located.



ISTOCK; DERRICK WEE; BILL BROOKS/ALAMY; SEBASTIEN BAUSSAIS/ALAMY