

## Toronto: Canada's Personality City

A city of many personalities, Toronto ranges from the cool and cultured to the loud, bright and outrageous.

A stroll down Yonge Street on a warm evening can help capture the everchanging personalities of Toronto. The 2 km (1.3 miles) from The Bay department store at Bloor Street to the Eaton Centre at Dundas is the place to see and be seen any night of the week, and especially on the weekends. Young people in the latest and wildest fashions mingle with business people in suits, tourists, senior citizens, joggers and street vendors.

Of course, Toronto is more than just a section of Yonge Street. It's 3.5 million people living in Canada's largest metropolitan area. It's a Canadian and international business, fashion, travel and entertainment centre, as well as the capital of the Province of Ontario.

### Family Toronto

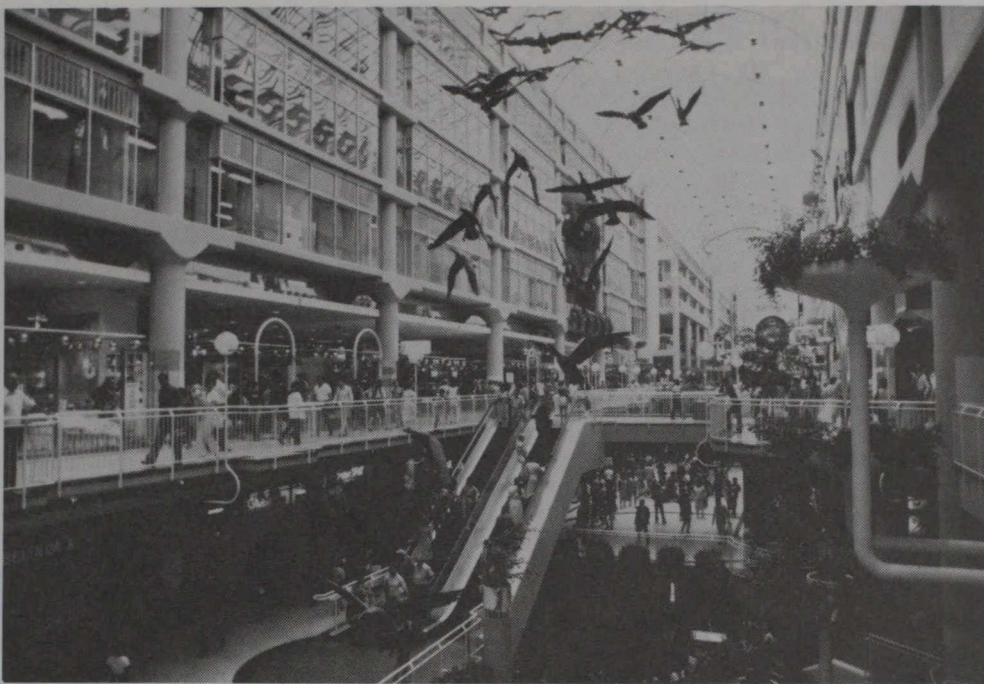
Toronto is a city for families of any size and budget. The Metro Toronto Zoo, a family favourite, is rated as one of the best in the world. The animals, birds, fish and plants are grouped by geographic origin so that a visit to "Africa" can be followed by a visit to another "continent". Most of the animals live in large natural outdoor enclosures. A full day or more is needed to see everything.

For a rainy day, or a day out of the sun, mix fun and education at the Ontario Science Centre. The admission cost is minimal, and lively "touch me" exhibits encourage visitors to conduct their own scientific experiments.

Ontario Place, three man-made interconnected islands on the shores of Lake Ontario, is a cool place on a hot day. One of the award-winning playgrounds keeps children busy with water squirters and swings that dip into the swimming pool. World-class entertainers perform at the Ontario Place Forum, an outdoor theatre with chairs and on-the-grass seating for thousands.

At Harbourfront, 37 ha (92 acres) of restored and refurbished dockside on Queen's Quay West, the entire family can come for an hour or a day to do crafts, picnic, sightsee and be entertained. As well as being great fun, everything including the craft supplies are free at Harbourfront.

The stars and planets are on display daily at the McLaughlin Planetarium on Avenue Road just south of Bloor. The adjacent ROM — Royal Ontario Museum — has now reopened after extensive renovations.



Eaton Centre, Toronto

### Cultural Toronto

Theatre, music and dance are integral parts of the Toronto personality. The National Ballet and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra make their homes here. The O'Keefe Centre, Massey Hall and a dozen more halls, auditoriums and theatres host a continuous parade of rising and established international stars. Small dinner theatres as well as the Royal Alexandria Theatre feature everything from contemporary musical revues and Broadway hits to Shakespeare. Jazz, blues, rock, country and classical music are well represented in clubs, restaurants and lounges.

The Art Gallery of Ontario sponsors special exhibitions by world famous artists and maintains a permanent collection of Canadian art. The Henry Moore sculptures are among those modern artistic efforts the viewer either immediately loves or hates.

The Canadian National Exhibition, in late summer, is a free-flowing, exciting and distinctly Toronto event that artfully mixes a carnival atmosphere with commerce and entertainment. The Sunday Harbourfront Antique Market draws thousands of Torontonians and visitors to look, touch and marvel over the objects and craftsmanship of an earlier day.

### Cosmopolitan Toronto

Toronto is a city of many cultures. Italian, Greek, Chinese, Caribbean, Jewish, Portuguese and Spanish are among the groups that lend their customs, languages and heritage to the city.

Kensington Market is a model of Toronto's ethnic diversity. There are a dozen or more languages, none of them English, reggae music from the Caribbean; fresh fish with their heads on; live chickens, rabbits and ducks, Oriental noodles and vegetables. The bright traditional costumes of Africa mix with the somber blacks of southern Europe in front of open air stalls, stopping traffic in the street.

Gourmet Toronto revitalizes even the most jaded palate. There is falafel from the Middle East, Chinese hot and sour soup and pastas from Italy, lamb dishes and retsina from Greece, cheesy raclette from Switzerland. The choices are limited only by the capacity to explore and enjoy.

### Bird's Eye Toronto

From the top of the 600 m (1815 feet) CN Tower, Toronto lies like a busy tapestry sweeping in a huge semi-circle along Lake Ontario. Scattered among the skyscrapers and residential streets are hundreds of green areas. Natural, wooded ravine areas stretch like long fingers running south to the lake.

Ferries from the foot of Yonge Street shuttle to the beaches, trees and paths of Toronto Island Park. Wading pools, an amusement park, bicycle and boat rentals — a city playground that is worlds away from the gold and silver glass office towers just across the water in the downtown heart of the city. It's just one more of the many personalities of Toronto.

(Article prepared by John W. Prince)