

WHAT'S NEW & HAPPENING IN TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA – SUMMER 2017

TORONTO, CANADA (June 2017) – Re-connect with **Toronto, Canada's Downtown**, as the ever-changing city gears up to add three hotels and four attractions to its already extensive repertoire. Between the new additions, the Caribbean Festival's 50th anniversary, and the Invictus Game, summer 2017 is guaranteed to be a blockbuster. Read through our latest What's New for a full list of updates and happenings around Toronto. Click the hyperlinks to skip for updates on [hotels and transportation](#), [attractions](#), [tours](#), [exhibits](#) as well as [one-time events](#) and [annual festivals](#).

HOTELS AND TRANSPORTATION

Three years after the **Broadview Hotel** was purchased by Toronto's Streetcar Developments, the 126-year-old building has been fully restored to its former glory and is scheduled to re-open in June. The 58-room boutique hotel will feature a café and bar on the ground floor during the day; at night the room transforms into a cocktail and champagne bar featuring an oval bar and neon sculptural lighting. streetcar.ca/broadview-hotel/

Bisha, a new luxury lifestyle hotel brand is set to open a hotel in Toronto this summer of the same name. **Bisha Hotel** will offer innovative cuisine ambitiously offered across four restaurants led by ICONINK, including a signature restaurant with a soon-to-be announced celebrity chef. Public spaces include a 44th floor rooftop restaurant, infinity pool and 2,200 square foot lobby bar. bisha.com/

Hotel X Toronto is set to open its waterfront property at the end of summer. Hotel X Toronto, the only property in Exhibition Place, will be a unique lakefront urban resort bringing a cutting edge mix of hospitality, sports and entertainment. Located just inside the iconic Princes' Gates and opposite the Enercare Centre, Hotel X Toronto is divided into three buildings: the 30-story Hotel Tower, TEN X TORONTO, and the historic Stanley Barracks. The property's sports and entertainment concept along with a lavish garden setting and spectacular lake views create an unparalleled environment for visitors and locals alike. hotelxtoronto.com/

The **Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)**, Toronto's transit system, will open six new stations along the Toronto-York Subway Extension by the end of 2017. The \$3.18 billion dollar project will take commuters along the 8.6 km stretch with additional stops at York University, Pioneer Village, Highway 407 and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. ttc.ca

Westin Hotels & Resorts completed a multi-million dollar renovation and renaming of **The Westin Toronto Airport**, May 2017. The renovation of the hotel at Pearson International Airport includes updates to all guestrooms and suites, and the property's on-site restaurants, Crosswinds Restaurant & Bar and Atmosphere Restaurant. The refresh also includes updated meeting spaces and modernized lobby space. westin.com/

The Omni King Edward restored and re-opened its famous Crystal Ballroom after an extensive \$6.5 million renovation this past April. The space is set to revive the glitz and glamour of Toronto's thriving social scene. Home to the city's most prestigious functions from the 1920s through the 1970's, the Crystal Ballroom unveiled its new look almost 100 years after its initial debut in 1922. omnihotels.com

ATTRACTIONS

The **Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** will re-open this fall in its new permanent home located in the Lower Junction. MOCA will occupy 25,000 square feet of the iconic Tower Automotive Building which is being restored as part of an eight-acre community build by Castlepoint Numa. The expansion will double the museum size, enabling it to meet the increased demand for existing programs, plus a café, retail shop and exhibition areas. museumofcontemporaryart.ca/sterling/

The Drake Hotel opened its latest addition to the chain, **the Drake Commissary**, on June 9th in the Lower Junction. The 8,000 square foot space completely rethinks the foodservice typology, breaking down the traditional barriers between kitchens and dining spaces and encouraging guests to be a part of the culinary experience, while surrounded by art and creativity; essentially, a gastronomic town square. Guests are welcome to dine in one of the warm, eclectic dining and living room areas – options include table or counter service – or pick up ready-to-eat and packaged meals to take home or to the office. thedrake.ca/commissary/

Opening at the Toronto Roundhouse this summer, Cineplex Odeon's **The Rec Room** combines over 40,000 square feet of unique event space, Canadian-inspired cuisine, endless entertainment and state of the art virtual reality gaming, designed to infuse fun and team building. therecroom.com

Located in one of Canada's most prestigious neighbourhoods, **Yorkville Village**, owned by First Capital Realty (FCR), announced new tenants and retailers coming to the redeveloped shopping centre in summer 2017, most notably Soul Cycle, Belstaff and Eleventy, as well as the opening of a new full-service restaurant, Palm Lane, by The Chase Hospitality Group. The mall has received a \$600 million transformation of its 400,000 square foot space. bloor-yorkville.com/

Canada's Wonderland will be showcasing two new unique and adrenaline-pumping attractions in 2017, with the addition of towering water slides in Splash Works and a new thrill ride that will be the first of its kind in North America. Muskoka Plunge, a 60 feet (18 m) tall waterslide complex features four speed slides. Riders will feel the adrenaline rush when they step into an enclosed launch chamber and suddenly plummet into a high-speed free fall through S-curves and 360° loops at speeds of approximately 40 km/h.

For thrill-seekers that prefer to stay dry, Canada's Wonderland will be adding to its arsenal of world-class thrill rides with Soaring Timbers. This unique ride experience will send guests spiraling through the sky on two massive rotating gondolas that swing riders through sweeping arcs while rotating 360 degrees. canadaswonderland.com

Get ready to put your ninja skills to the ultimate test in the all-new LEGO® Ninjago City Adventure at **LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre Toronto**. The over \$750,000, 2,300-square-foot interactive play area is the Centre's 5th interactive experience added since opening four years ago. Modeled after the Temple of Airjitzu, the two-story play structure puts guests' physical skills to the test as they fight to save Ninjago City. legolanddiscoverycentre.ca

Starting this Canada Day, a free bus service will connect downtown Toronto and **Rouge National Urban Park**, which will operate every Saturday, Sunday and statutory holiday between Canada Day and Thanksgiving. Parks Canada staff will accompany every bus to provide on-board programming and introduce visitors to Canada 150 programming and to the national parks system. toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=7509dada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD

TOURS

Go Tours Canada is launching a Distillery District Ice Cream tour, featuring an array of different styles including a taste of Sake Ice Cream and a light history on ice cream across the globe. www.gotourscanada.com

Gone Sailing Adventures is launching its newest addition to their luxury sailing yachts this summer. Australian Kiss is a 2017 Beneteau Oceanis 41. With a capacity for 10 guests, GSA provides intimate and personal sailing excursions along the Toronto Waterfront, Lake Ontario and Island Lagoons. This addition increases the Gone Sailing Adventures fleet to five luxury yachts ranging from 22'-41' and a capacity of 50 guests for multi-yacht racing/team building events. Their professional crew will cater to your personal desires and share their world sailing experiences.

www.gonesailingadventures.com

EXHIBITS

The NHL Centennial Exhibit at the **Hockey Hall of Fame** is a tribute to 100 years of NHL hockey, highlighting some of the most memorable players and moments in league history. Artifacts on display include the stick used by Wayne Gretzky to score his NHL single-season record 92nd goal, the gloves worn by Sidney Crosby to capture the 2009 Stanley Cup and Gordie Howe's 700th-goal puck. Plus, on display for the first time in the last quarter century, is the original Minute Book of the National Hockey League – the only behind-the-scenes account of hockey's forefathers and their task in shaping the NHL from its inception in 1917. On until December 31. hhof.com/htmlNewsPromo/NHL-100-Display.shtml

The **Toronto Railway Museum** has a new display, a railway that runs across the country and is famous for its luxurious views. In addition, they have a GO Transit exhibit celebrating their 50th anniversary. This new exhibit includes a new cab car in the park and a display within the museum itself. torontorailwaymuseum.com/

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO):

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience the beautiful innovative art of **Georgia O'Keeffe**, a trailblazing figure in American modernism. Making its only stop in North America at the AGO, Georgia O'Keeffe features more than 80 works of art capturing the essence of her deeply personal connection to the landscape, architecture and nature that inspired her iconic style. On until July 30. ago.net/georgia-okeeffe

For the first time ever, the AGO presents its extensive collection of **Latin American contemporary art** as the focus of its own exhibition. The artists, originating from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, are each influenced by the specific geographic, political and social contexts and artistic legacies of their respective countries. Brought together, these artists' works provoke visitors to reflect upon issues of time, place and identity and to question issues of belonging, precarity and transience. On until August 6.

ago.net/latinamerica

Free Black North features photographs of men, women, and children living in Ontario in the mid-to-late 1800s, descendants of Black refugees who escaped enslavement in the Southern United States. These portraits, drawn from collections at Brock University and the Archives of Ontario, many shown here for the first time, reveal how these chiefly unknown individuals presented themselves with style, dignity, and self-assurance. This exhibition highlights how historic Black Canadian communities utilized photography as an important tool to visualize and lay claim to their complex histories. On until August 20. ago.net/free-black-north

Critically acclaimed, **Rita Letendre** is one of the most eminent living abstract artists. Her painting career began in Montreal in the 1950s, when she associated with Quebec's prominent abstract artist groups Les Automatistes and Les Plasticiens. Often the sole female artist in their group shows, she broke away from their approach to painting, finding it restrictive. Seeking to express the full energy of life and harness in her powerful gestures an intense spiritual force, Letendre worked with various materials including oils, pastels, and acrylics, using her hands, palette knife, brushes and uniquely the airbrush, which she began using in 1971. On June 29-September 1. ago.net/rita-letendre-fire-light

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM):

In celebration of **Canada 150**, The ROM is opening its doors to all visitors on July 1 with free admission to the Museum's permanent galleries and select special exhibitions. From 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, visitors are invited to discover the Museum's more than 40 permanent galleries and exhibition spaces at no charge, including access to the ROM-original exhibitions The Family Camera and Anishinaabeg: Art & Power.

rom.on.ca/en#/gallery/recent

The ROM's feature exhibition, **Out of the Depths: The Blue Whale Story** will be available at an admission rate of \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4 to 14, and \$8 for youth ages 15 to 19, students and seniors. Members continue to receive free admission to this feature exhibition. On until September 4. rom.on.ca/en

Ontario Science Centre:

Step into the rescue and recovery efforts of people who dedicate their lives to saving animals with **Wildlife Rescue**. From seabirds to turtles and orangutans to pandas, this wildly interactive exhibition explores the innovative ways used to capture, raise and release endangered animals back to the wild. Experience the science behind global efforts to address species decline and see how you can make a difference in the rehabilitation of diverse wildlife across the planet. On until September 4. ontariosciencecentre.ca/wildliferescue/

Celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial at the Ontario Science Centre with our newest installation **Canada 150: Discovery Way**. Through amazing artifacts, ranging from the lightbulb to the flight recorder, you'll gain a better understanding of Canada's unique scientific achievements. ontariosciencecentre.ca/Calendar/336/

Legacy is a life-sized, anatomically correct orca skeleton carved entirely from reclaimed cedar. Created by award-winning Canadian artist Ken Hall, Legacy comprises more than 200 carved cedar bones based on 3D digital scans of orca bones and is the result of six months' full-time fabrication. The sculpture's medium honours coastal First Nations totem carvings, which have a role in passing knowledge and guiding future generations. This visually compelling piece explores our relationship with the natural world and asks visitors to reflect on our current environmental practices and the changes we want to inspire for the future.

The Energy Show is a new theatrical presentation that explores potential sources of energy. From solar to wind, and from transformation to storage, this live interactive show uses the scientific method and highly engaging experiments to uncover the world's most ultimate source of power. See a seven-foot Tesla coil, a hair-raising Van de Graff generator, burning bubbles and much more in action. ontariosciencecentre.ca/energyshow/

Inventorium: This dynamic space is actively driven by you. Be inspired by experts, artists, researchers, staff and the scientific process itself as you take part in creative activities. Build a circuit, take part in real-world research, wind packing tape into a beautiful structure, and contribute to collective artworks and more. ontariosciencecentre.ca/inventorium/

EVENTS: ONE-TIME ONLY AND MAJOR MILESTONES

Odysseo by Cavalia makes its debut run in Mississauga on June 21 Under the White Big Top next to the Hershey Centre. Odysseo – the largest touring production on earth – is a true revolution in live entertainment that expands the definition of performance into an epic and soulful experience. Under its massive White Big Top tent the size of a football field, Odysseo features 65 magnificent horses and 48 riders, acrobats, aerialists and musicians, immersing you in a beautiful sensorial journey to some of nature's greatest wonders. Odysseo's technological and scenographical effects will leave you captivated and touched by the splendour created in front of your eyes. hersheycentre.com/events/odysseo-by-cavalia/

The **TD Toronto Jazz Festival** honours its 30th anniversary. Since it launched, it has become known as one of North America's premier jazz festivals. From June 23-July 2 enjoy over 1500 musicians at 40 locations around Toronto offering a range of styles of music and venues from funky bars to elegant halls. New in 2017: The festival is moving to the Yorkville area and reopening the historic Concert Hall, the site of many renowned acts back in the day. Opening the festival at the Concert Hall this year is Randy Bachman with special guests Walter Trout and Laila Biali. torontojazz.com/

Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are expected to be the largest sporting and cultural gathering of Indigenous Peoples in North America. The Toronto 2017 NAIG will host more than 5,000 participants, 2,000 volunteers and countless spectators for 14 sport categories being held within world-class venues located across the Greater Toronto Area, including the Region of Hamilton and Six Nations of the Grand River from July 16-23. naigcouncil.com/index.php

Every summer the streets of Toronto come alive with the sights, sounds and spirit of the Caribbean at **Peeks Toronto Caribbean Carnival**. And every year it draws carnival fans young and old, near and far to celebrate their heritage, music and, of course, food. 2017 marks the 50th anniversary, which means an extra-special year that you don't want to miss – catch all the action July 11-August 7. torontocaribbeancarnival.com/

The **Invictus Games** will include more than 550 competitors from 17 nations for 8 days of fierce competition in 12 sports. Established by Prince Harry in 2014, the Invictus Games are the only international adaptive sporting event for ill, wounded and injured active duty and veteran service members. Toronto will host the games from September 23-30. invictusgames2017.com/

EVENTS: ANNUAL

From June 1-30 enjoy days of food, fun and fabulous at **Toronto Pride**. The heart of the celebration is in Toronto's gay village but opportunities for entertainment can be found in LGBTQ-friendly bars, restaurants and nightlife spots across the entire city. During the final weekend of Pride, Church Street in Toronto's Gay Village shuts down to become a pedestrian-only party zone. PrideToronto.com

Toronto's international multi-arts festival **Luminato** runs from June 14-25 at venues across the city. New this year to usher in its second decade, the festival opens with Tributaries, a large-scale celebration of Indigenous arts and dance marking the month of the Strawberry Moon. Free and open to all on June 14 starting at 7pm, David Pecaut Square comes alive with the four-part open-air program, featuring more than 70 Indigenous artists, all in tribute of respect to the traditional Indigenous custodians of the land. Tributaries is a part of Luminato's new Artistic Director Josephine Ridge's vision to honour and spotlight the diverse and multicultural makeup of Toronto. luminato.com

North by Northeast (NXNE) is a 10-day (June 16-25) summer festival destination for emerging artists and major-label headliners and for digital interactive innovators, bridging the gap between technology and the arts. NXNE is an essential gathering spot for artists, industry professionals and fans. In 2017, NXNE includes a major three-day music festival June 23-25, situated in the Port Lands at Cherry and Commissioner Streets. Among the dozens of major acts coming, the 2017 headliners are Passion Pit, Tyler The Creator and Post Malone. This "festival within a festival" also features comedy, food, art installations and midway rides. NXNE Game Land is Canada's largest-ever, free outdoor eSports competition in the heart of the city at Yonge-Dundas Square. The fest also takes over Toronto's live music clubs with its Club Land series of emerging musicians with extended last calls at your favourite sweaty club/bar/pop up venues. nxne.com/

Join the fun from July 1-3 at the **Redpath Waterfront Festival** for Canada's 150th birthday as the Royal Canadian Navy brings a 440-foot naval frigate and lots of interactive on-land activities. Rhythm of the Nation entertains, the West Coast Lumberjack Show amazes you with feats of prowess and the World's Largest Rubber Duck floats into the harbour. tewaterfrontfest.com/

One of the largest Latino-themed cultural celebrations in Canada, **TD Salsa in Toronto Festival** spans over a three week period (July 3-27) and features mucho music, dance, food and family fun. What started as a local two-day event (TD Salsa on St. Clair Street Festival) in 2005, has grown into a nationally recognized celebration that has attracted hundreds of thousands of salsa lovers from near and far to the streets of mid-town Toronto. The jam-packed calendar of cultural events throughout the city includes a series of Latin dance and art exhibitions, salsa cruise nights, concerts, and dance parties, culminating with the Annual TD Salsa on St. Clair Street Festival. <http://www.salsaintoronto.com/>

Toronto Fringe Festival has a new home for 2017. From July 5-16, the Scadding Court Community Centre will be the hub of the festival. The Fringe Festival features more than 155 indie shows in every genre of theatre in venues across the city. There are new plays and old favourites, experimental works and fresh hits. Dance lovers can check out dance productions and families can look forward to FringeKids! shows for even the littlest Fringer. fringetoronto.com/festivals/fringe

PRESS RELEASE



Bud Light Dreams Festival is a 19+ boutique festival experience for a discerning electronic music fan, taking place at RBC Echo Beach in downtown Toronto, on the shores of Lake Ontario from July 7-8. A new luxury festival with a familiar feel, Dreams is a two day, three stage, outdoor, sensorial celebration of Toronto's music and arts community.

dreamsfestival.ca/

Summertime in Toronto means festivals, sun-drenched patios and events to suit every style. For locals and visitors from near and far, summer in the city also means that Toronto's tastiest tradition is just around the corner. Enjoy the tastes of the city at **Summerlicious** from July 7-23.

toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=4cc95f5923be1410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD

Unfolding each summer in the heart of the lakeside neighbourhood, **Beaches International Jazz Festival** is the celebration of music which features a dynamic roster, multiple stages, a popular street fest and an enticing line-up of gourmet food trucks. Enjoy all of this from July 7-30 for free. In 2017, the fest celebrates its 29th anniversary and will feature an unparalleled musical roster, multiple stages and venues and the return of festival favourites.

beachesjazz.com/

Toronto Summer Music Festival (July 13-August 5) is one of the city's most eagerly-awaited classical music events, with concerts performed by Canadian and international artists, plus masterclasses, lectures, interviews, workshops and free outreach concerts. In 2017, in celebration of Canada's 150th, the festival will explore the music of Canada and feature the very best of this country's world-renowned classical performers. torontosummertime.com/

The **Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition** is Canada's largest, longest running juried contemporary outdoor art fair. Founded in 1961, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition was established to nurture artistic excellence and artists' entrepreneurial spirit, and to showcase contemporary art to the general public. This free public event showcases works by over 320 contemporary visual artists and makers, ranging in medium from painting, photography, and mixed media to jewellery and ceramics, and attracts 100,000 visitors each year to Nathan Phillips Square from July 14-16. torontooutdoorart.org/

The **Honda Indy Toronto** takes place on the streets surrounding Exhibition Place near Lake Ontario and downtown Toronto from July 14-16. This is among the most respected motorsports events in North America and features a week-long festival-like atmosphere that includes the fastest racing series on the planet, celebrity athletes, live entertainment and interactive activities. hondaindytoronto.com

Toronto's Festival of Beer, also known as Beerfest, is an annual event that takes place at Exhibition Place in Toronto July 28-30. The festival celebrates Canada's rich brewing history by featuring more than 120 brands from around the world as well as many Ontario craft brewers. The event has become Canada's largest beer festival with 30,000 people attending every year. Established in 1994, the Toronto Festival of Beer has been sampling beer for those aged 19+ for 17 years. beerfestival.ca

Roger's Cup, presented by National Bank, is a prestigious professional tennis tournament organized by Tennis Canada. Since 1881 for the men and 1892 for the women, the best players in the world have showcased their skills on Canadian courts. Each year, Toronto and Montreal alternate hosting the men's and women's tournaments which are held during the same week (August 5-13). rogerscup.com/

Krinos Taste of the Danforth celebrates the fun flavours of Greece and summer in the city from August 11-13. Every year in August, the city of Toronto flocks to GreekTown on the Danforth. Everyone who comes to the Danforth gets to be Greek for the day. There are a number of exhibitors offering contests, prizes and free samples and, of course, dozens and dozens of tasty food stations from the Danforth's amazing array of multi-ethnic restaurants.

tasteofthedanforth.com/

A popular end-of-summer ritual, the **Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)** offers a wide variety of colourful interactive experiences. From August 18-September 3 indulge in classic fair foods and kooky culinary concoctions. Flip inside out and upside down on a kaleidoscope of midway rides. Try your luck at vintage CNE games and the casino, then shop 'til you drop as you scoop up bargains galore. Take in all the attractions including concerts, celebrity chef demonstrations, international performances plus comedy and animal shows. Interact with park entertainers, farm animals, colourful characters in Kids World and so much more. theex.com/

Fan Expo Canada is the largest comics, sci-fi, horror, anime and gaming event in Canada, and the third largest in North America. Packed with exciting family-friendly activities and celebrity guests, fans interact with the likes of Patrick Stewart (Star Trek: The Next Generation), Richard Dreyfuss (Jaws), Stephen Amell (Arrow), Ian Somerhalder (The Vampire Diaries), Danai Gurira (The Walking Dead), and more. Enjoy it all in Toronto from August 31-September 3.

fanexpocanada.com/

Toronto International Buskerfest has comedy, spontaneity and a dash of the unbelievable. It is 4 days and 4 nights of non-stop, action-packed, fun-filled entertainment from September 1-4. Comedians, contortionists, musicians, magicians, fire jugglers, acrobats, aerial artists, clowns and daredevils all come together for North America's largest street performer festival. torontobuskerfest.com/

Get the blues along with 50,000 others at **Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle** in beautiful Port Credit from September 8-10. Also enjoy the great upbeat jazz and R & B acts throughout the festival. Over 150 Canadian and international acts showcase their sounds. southsideshuffle.com/

The **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)** is the biggest and brightest public film festival on the planet. World premieres, cutting-edge film, galas and industry shmoozes all go in to making TIFF the illustrious event it is. Whether you're a cinephile or just love to see the celebs, TIFF is the place to be. Enjoy it all in the city September 7-17.

tiff.net/tiff/

For more story ideas, images or future information, please visit media.seetorontonow.com.

About Tourism Toronto

Tourism Toronto is an industry association, with more than 1,000 member businesses, and the official destination marketing organization for Toronto, "Canada's Downtown." With sales and marketing programs in key markets around the world, Tourism Toronto promotes the Toronto region as a remarkable destination for tourists, convention delegates and business travellers. Tourism Toronto operates in partnership with the Greater Toronto Hotel Association and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. For more information, please visit SeeTorontoNow.com.

PRESS RELEASE

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