

New lofts and mid-rises meet Corktown's old-world charm

Eastern downtown. Historical treasures give community a rich traditional feel

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Some say that Corktown got its name from its community of Irish immigrants from County Cork. Others say the nickname came from the local distilleries and a cork-stopper manufacturer in the area. In any case, Corktown is one of the oldest parts of Toronto, with its 19th Century row houses nestled along tiny streets and laneways.



The Kingsbrae Diner
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For years, this neglected little slice of Toronto's east-

ern downtown was a mixed-use, industrial and residential area. Now it is being brought back to life with a rapid transformation into a desirable urban landscape. The area is home to such historical treasures as the Little Trinity church and Enoch Turner schoolhouse that give it a rich, traditional feel. Little gems like the often-filmed Kingsbrae Diner on King Street, provide

an ambience of old-world charm. The pie-shaped area just east of Parliament, "Where King meets Queen," Corktown is bordered by The Distillery District and the rapidly developing West Don Lands. The neighbourhood is currently a hive of development activity, with numer-



Toronto's eastern downtown is being brought back to life as a desirable urban landscape. DUNCAN MCALLISTER

ous new low-rise condo projects that blend in well with the fabric of the neighbourhood.

Streetcar developments has been active in developing the area along King Street with a series of contemporary low-rises and lofts. They've just released 10 units at 510 King Street

East, with interiors by Seven Haus Design and architecture by Quadrangle Architects. The Corktown District Lofthouses will appeal to urbanites seeking the loft lifestyle, but with all the amenities of a new develop-

ment. And with only six storeys, Streetcar's recently completed 569 King Street East has 46 roomy, 824-square foot units.

Toward the western edge of Corktown, the King East, a new project by Lamb Development Corp., is currently under construction at King and Parliament across from the original site of the former Derby Tavern. This

unique, cubist-styled mid-rise will have 215 units and is slated for completion this summer. And at the eastern end of Corktown at the Don River, Urban Capital's prominent River City complex is well

underway on the border with the West Don Lands.



River City complex DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Another interesting feature is the recently-opened underpass park on lower River Street, with its radical playground equipment and mirrored ceilings. A clever example of how city planners are making creative use of these unsightly and underutilized spaces beneath Toronto's elevated roadways.



Underpass park on lower River Street.
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