

# OPEN STREETS TO

NEWSLETTER  
September 15th 2017



**WE MISSED YOU AND CAN'T WAIT TO REUNITE ON SUNDAY!** Check out this edition of **OSTO** to see what's in store

# WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

We interviewed those involved with Open Streets TO to find out what Open Streets means to them, how they came to be involved, and what YOU can expect this year!! Read through to learn more about what these dynamic two days of fun are all about!

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# PROGRAMMING PARTNER PROFILE: ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Interview with Heather Kelly, Director of Marketing for the Performing Arts

## 1) So to start off, could you please give a bit of background about yourself, the Royal Conservatory of Music, and how you came to be involved in Open Streets TO!

Sure! I am the Director of Marketing for the Performing Arts Division at The Royal Conservatory of Music, and I am also the Founder and Director of the Bloor St. Culture Corridor. The Bloor St. Culture Corridor is a cluster of arts and culture organizations along Bloor St. West, forming an arts district between Bathurst and Yonge Streets. The Open Streets TO route goes right through the Corridor! As such, Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, a fantastic advocate and ambassador for Open Streets TO, asked us to get involved. Thanks to Councillor Wong-Tam, and our wonderful team at The Royal Conservatory, we have hosted a fun activity hub in front of The Conservatory during every Open Streets TO program so far. There are other hubs on the Bloor St. Culture Corridor as well, such as Bloor and Spadina!

## 2) What does Open Streets TO mean to you and what do you like most about the program?

Open Streets TO is a wonderful chance for everyone to get outside and connect with our city in a new way. No traffic, no barriers, no special training or equipment - just fun! For us, the activity hubs are a great opportunity to connect with people outside in shared public space, to have some fun with adults and kids, and to be part of the health and vitality of our city. It's important for us to recognize the vital role that the arts and music have in healthy living, healthy communities, and healthy cities. It's also pure fun for the little kiddies to bang on our drums, and for people of all ages to dance when the Royal Conservatory's samba group is performing in the middle of the street! As well, I love seeing people of all ages come up and play the red piano - you never know who will play it!

## 3) It looks like you had some great activities at our first OSTO this year! Can you please share more about what you organized and what participants can look forward to this upcoming Sunday?

Yes! It's going to be another super fun activity hub! We will have The Royal Conservatory's famous red piano in the street for anyone to play. The Conservatory School will bring the new Harmony Yoga program outside with yoga and classical music between 10:30am-11:30am. There will also be "bang on a bucket" percussion fun for kiddos, with the great University of Toronto Busking Band performing in the street between 11:30am-12:30pm. We will also be leading short walking tours through the TELUS Centre building. The Royal Conservatory's samba ensemble led by Alan Hetherington will come out at 12:45pm-1:30pm and perform their totally irresistible rhythms.

## 4) Finally, what are you the most excited for this Sunday or what has been your favourite memory of OSTO so far!

All of the above!



# PROGRAMMING PARTNER: INVICTUS GAMES

Interview with Kristen Larkin, Manager, Special Projects

## **1. Hi Kristen, so just to start off, can you please share a bit of background information about yourself and how you came to be involved with Open Streets TO!**

The Invictus Games Toronto 2017 became involved with Open Streets TO last year. We immediately recognized this as a fantastic community that provided an opportunity to really connect with families and talk about the Invictus Games Toronto 2017 and the mission to “transform empathy into empowerment”. We also saw the potential to work with Open Streets TO as a host for a portion of our community relay, marking the beginning of Games activities in Toronto. While the formal arrival of the Invictus Games in Toronto will be marked by the Invictus Games flag being raised above City Hall on Sept 22nd, participation in Open Streets TO will create awareness of the upcoming weeks activities and be a good joining of two significant community events in our city.

## **2. Toronto is preparing to host the Invictus Games!! Could you please describe what the games are and how they are connected with Open Streets TO this year?**

The Invictus Games are Prince Harry’s international Games for ill, Injured and wounded service men and women and veterans. From the 23rd to the 30th of September, 550+ competitors and their friends and family will be in Toronto. Competitors from 17 nations will compete in 12 adaptive sports. Invictus Games Toronto 2017 will be hosting our community relay for partners, supporters and sponsors as part of the Sept 17th Open Streets TO!



**3. Is there anything that participants should specifically look out for?**

Participants should watch for the Invictus Flag as it travels through Open Streets TO! And take a second to cheer on the men, women and youth who have been long time supporters of the Games. This is a great moment to thank them and their organizations for the work that they have done to make these Games a reality.

**4. What does Open Streets TO mean to you and what are you the most excited for this year!**

Open Streets TO and the community relay mark the imminent arrival of the Invictus Games Toronto 2017 National Flag Tour into Toronto. When Toronto was awarded the Games, we made a commitment to deliver the Games to the entire country, and not only to Toronto. To that end, since August 16th our National Flag Tour team has travelled over 12,000 km by air, land, rail and sea visiting 22 CAF bases, 17 Royal Canadian Legions and over 50 communities. On the 18th, the National Flag Tour will arrive in Toronto to begin a number of legs around the GTA concluding with the official Flag Raising Ceremony at Nathan Phillips Square at 12:30 on Friday September 22nd!



# ONTARIO 150 HUB PROFILE: CASA CULTURAL PERUANA

Interview with Betsy Monterrosa

## 1) So to start off, could you please just give a bit of background about yourself, Casa Cultural Peruana, and how you came to be involved in Open Streets TO!

CASA CULTURAL PERUANA INC is a non-profit organization of volunteers that was founded on July 6, 2001 and whose goal is to maintain and promote Peruvian Culture in Canada through cultural events such as folk dance performances, social events, good fairs, native arts, crafts displays, and through cultural exchanges between Peru and Canada.

We heard of OpenStreets TO through an email sent from the Consulate of Peru in Toronto to Peruvian Cultural Organizations. The email provided a link to register to participate in this event!

## 2) What does Open Streets TO mean to you and what do you like most about the program?

Open Streets TO is a powerful opportunity that opens the door for our organization to immerse itself with Canada's multicultural society and show who we are and what we do. For us, it is a unique experience!!



## CASA CULTURAL PERUANA

### **3) You had a great performance at our first OSTO in August! Can you please share more about what your group did and what participants can look forward to this upcoming Sunday?**

Once more again “Casa Cultural Peruana” is part of the diffusion about Peruvian Culture in Toronto!!! Because we have courage and we love our Peruvian Cultural Expression in Canada !!!

Our team offered an “Open House” on Yonge and Bloor Street on the last Open Streets TO event on Sunday 20th August. Many people enjoyed our traditional folklore in a 30 minute show with 3 different dance styles, as well as participating in the free classes!

Would you like to take classes with us again this coming Sunday September 17, 2017 at 10:30am? If so, join us!

### **4) Finally, what are you the most excited for this Sunday or what has been your favourite memory of Open Streets TO so far!**

For the unique experience to express and speak about what we do! Usually, we have a master of ceremony who does the presentation for us. Open Streets TO provides a unique opportunity to explore other doors that we never thought about it in the past.

# ONTARIO 015010



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: KHANH TUDO

### 1) So to start off, could you please just give a bit of background about yourself and how you came to be involved in Open Streets TO as a volunteer.

I'm currently a 4th year student at Ryerson University for Film Production, and spend a lot of my time trying to volunteer and reach out to different fields of work to broaden my scope of what I know about Toronto, and how different communities experience the city. Two years ago was the first time I helped out with Open Streets TO by putting up flyers and campaigning for the program and after that, I've just been doing miscellaneous jobs trying to contribute anything I can to the event!

### 2) What does Open Streets TO mean to you and what do you like most about the program?

To me, Open Streets TO means community building by inviting communities and people from all different walks of life to enjoy being outside and support local businesses. For me, as a city biker, it feels liberating to be able to ride across the city during Open Streets, without being limited to the side of the curb.

### 3) What is your favourite part about volunteering?

My favourite thing about volunteering is being able to talk to folks who just stumbled upon Open Streets TO on their morning walk and seeing their eyes light up when they discover all the activities that are available to them. Being able to be a part of, and contribute to, the positive energy that is in the air when people are encouraged to discover their city in a new, exciting way.

### 4) Finally, what are you the most excited for this coming Sunday?

This Sunday I am most excited for the giant yoga session in the middle of Yonge and Bloor! It was so fun in the August event and cant wait to see it happen again. There is something so magical about everyone collectively working together to create a peaceful and welcoming environment.



Don't miss out on the fun! Skip on over to  
<https://www.openstreetsto.org>  
to learn more!

Want to stumble onto something new? Check out  
<https://www.openstreetsto.org/activity-hubs>  
for the lo-down!!



SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 17th 2017  
for Toronto's LAST SUMMER BASH!