

BLOORDALE

Magazine | 2024

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Message from the Board

Enjoy this annual edition of the Bloordale Magazine with a fresh view of what's happening in this incredible community. In these pages you'll find:

- Front cover art that spells 'Community' in American Sign Language, and back cover art in a 'guess the object' theme, all by Katie Cobb
- Rediscover Bloordale's Indigenous roots and explore educational resources (p4-5)
- Commemorate local leaders: Michelle Senayah (p8-9) and Philip Sarazen (p22-23)
- Get the lowdown on what's to come for this year's BIG on Bloor (p16-17)
- See what new businesses are in the neighbourhood (p20-23)
- Learn about construction updates (p12-13)
- Get the inside scoop: 'A Look Back at Early Bloordale Businesses' (p18-19) and 'YKYK Bloordale' (p26-27)
- Learn about great project locals are undertaking through the Bloordale Microgrant Series (pg 24-25)
- Whet your appetite with the Bloordale Food Crawl (p30-31) and Coffee Crawl (p28-29)
- Discover dog-friendly destinations (p32-33)
- Explore local eco-initiatives (p36-39)
- Get our updated Business Directory (p40-44) and handy local resources (p14 and p46)

...and more!

#livebloordale

Bloordale Village BIA Board of Directors:

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Rediscovering Bloordale's Indigenous Roots: A Land Acknowledgement

Words by Vicky Auf De Meyer  by Richie Dos Santos  @rich3dee

Nestled within Toronto's Bloordale neighborhood lies a historical narrative often obscured by the urban landscape—a story of Indigenous presence and resilience that predates the city's modern landscape. At its core is Garrison Creek, a once-flowing waterway now confined beneath concrete, yet still echoing the Indigenous heritage that shaped this community.

The land we stand on today was once home to the Wendat (Huron), Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), and Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) peoples, who thrived along the banks of Garrison Creek for generations. This waterway was not merely a geographical feature but a vital lifeline, providing sustenance, transportation, and a gathering place for Indigenous communities.

Garrison Creek and its surrounding lands were rich in biodiversity, boasting a diverse array of plants and wildlife that sustained Indigenous peoples for millennia. Indigenous flora such as wild rice, sassafras, milkweed, and cranberries flourished along its banks, providing important food sources, medicinal plants, and materials for crafting. The surrounding forests also offered a bounty of resources, including acorns, hickory nuts, hazelnuts, and various berries, utilized by Indigenous communities for nourishment and cultural practices.

Archaeological excavations have unveiled fragments of this rich Indigenous history—artifacts, tools, and remnants of settlements that offer glimpses into daily life along Garrison Creek. These discoveries illuminate the resourcefulness and ingenuity of its inhabitants, whose connection to the land remains woven into the fabric of Bloordale's identity.

Despite the encroachment of urbanization, Bloordale's Indigenous heritage persists, a testament to the enduring spirit of its original caretakers. As we reflect on this history, we acknowledge the ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples to our community. We commit to amplifying Indigenous voices, recognizing their rights, and fostering meaningful relationships built on respect and understanding.



The 8th Fire and Original Family - Mural by Philip Cote, located at 615A Brock Ave (north side of Bloor at Brock Ave) in Bloordale (Photo credit: Richie Dos Santos)

Today, we invite members of the Bloordale community to connect with and honour the land and its original peoples. Acknowledge the Indigenous history of this place and the continued presence of Indigenous peoples in our community, reflect on the rich heritage, and take a moment to envision what life would have been like for the Indigenous communities who thrived along the banks of Garrison Creek—the sights and sounds of daily life, the connection to the land and its resources, and the resilience and ingenuity of its inhabitants. Through learning, listening, and collective action, a path of reconciliation and solidarity is strengthened, honoring the past as we shape the future of Bloordale together, for future generations to come.

About

Vicky auf der Mauer (she/her), a proud Inuk Woman from the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut, known as Baffin Island, now resides as a guest on Dish with One Spoon Territory, known as Toronto. Committed to honoring Indigenous peoples worldwide, she shares her rich Inuit culture and values across Canada. As a cultural educator, speaker, and consultant, Vicky empowers individuals to challenge mainstream narratives and create positive change within societal systems. Alongside her cultural advocacy, she offers guidance in financial wellness, helping individuals navigate their financial paths with cultural sensitivity. To collaborate or connect with Vicky, reach out vickyaufdermauer@gmail.com or ig: [@richindigauntie](https://www.instagram.com/richindigauntie). Through her work, she fosters awareness and celebrates the resilience of her heritage.

More Resources:

Whose Land: www.whose.land

The NCTR (The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation): nctr.ca

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

Calls to Action: https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Indigenous stories from Indigenous creators: watchaptnlumi.ca | www.uvagut.tv



Getting to Know Bloordale *Business* *Owners*

Words by Meg Marshall

by Selina McCallum @shotbyselina

Beginning in late summer and into the fall of 2024, the Bloordale BIA will embark on a project working with artists to create portraits of the owners of newcomer businesses. The art will be inspired by their stories and demonstrate their impact on the Bloordale community.

In this fast paced world, we often forget to slow down and learn about one another. The goal of this project is to create stronger connections with our small business owners - for friends, neighbours, visitors, and customers.

Visual assets will be created over the coming months which will be used to raise awareness and help strengthen connections. These may include poster art, window decals, transit shelters, and potentially some new pole banner art.

There are so many people here in our neighbourhood from so many different backgrounds, with this project we will get to know them better and celebrate them!







Michelle Senayah Laneway Naming

Contributed by the Bloor-dale BIA |  by Richie Dos Santos  @rich3dee

On Saturday April 20th, 2024, the Bloor-dale BIA was honoured to host the celebration of the unveiling of the Michelle Senayah Laneway.

Michelle Senayah was the co-founder and Executive Director of The Laneway Project (TLP) until her passing in June, 2021.

The BIA came together with local residents, city builders, urbanists, friends, and family from around Toronto and beyond to celebrate and commemorate the incredible legacy of Michelle Senayah with a laneway named in her memory and legacy. Some beautiful sidewalk art was also repainted by Victor Fraser to help commemorate the event.





“Michelle was a passionate, kind, and thoughtful placemaker who led the transformation of laneways and other public spaces across Toronto. She recognized the potential of this city’s underutilized spaces and dedicated her career to creating vibrant and thriving communities. Michelle was a leader, a mentor, and a friend to so many of us in the city building community. Michelle’s passing is a tremendous loss, not only for this community, but for the city as a whole.” - thelanewayproject.ca.

TLP is a not-for-profit organization that unlocks the potential of Toronto’s laneways. They work with public, private, and community-level stakeholders to transform laneways and other neglected public spaces into complete, living public places: building collaborative teams, implementing best practices and catalyzing policy changes. More at thelanewayproject.ca

The Michelle Senayah Laneway can be found just north of Bloor St W, between Brock St and Margueretta St, adjacent to Susan Tibaldi Parkette.

What is a BIA?

Contributed by the Bloordale BIA |  by Richie Dos Santos  @rich3dee

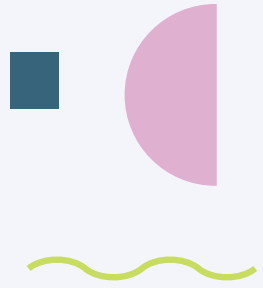
A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a “made-in-Ontario” innovation that allows local business people, commercial property owners and tenants to join together, with the support of the municipality, to organize, finance, and carry out physical improvements and promote economic development in their district. BIAs, in Toronto, are considered an Agency of the City, led by a volunteer Board. There are currently 84 BIAs in Toronto.

But what does this look like in practice in Bloordale? Here are some of the tangible programs and services the Bloordale BIA - founded in 1976 - delivers for the betterment of the business-community along Bloor St W between St. Helen’s Ave and Dufferin St:

- Graffiti tag removal program for commercial storefronts
- Sponsorship of BIG on Bloor
- Social media features
- Supplementary garbage cleanups
- Microgrant program
- Public art programming
- Pumpkins in the park event
- Harm reduction clean ups
- Rat mitigation program
- Tree pit cleanings
- Advocacy on key items with various elected officials
- Publication of this annual magazine!



Bloordale Construction Updates



Contributed by the Bloordale BIA

📷 by Kimberley Simmons 📷 @torontokas_photographer

There are a lot of exciting changes happening in Bloordale - from development at the Value Village site to a whole new community at and around the site of Dufferin Mall, here's the latest:

Value Village

📍 1319 Bloor St W

This site at Bloor's southwest corner with St Helens Avenue is a short distance west of Lansdowne subway station. The plan from developer KingSett Capital calls for a 33-storey tower located near the southwestern corner, and a 31-storey tower located at the northeastern corner of the site, both connected by a podium ranging in height from four to seven storeys. The designer is Hariri Pontarini Architects.





Church

📍 12 Pauline Ave

A series of 34 residential 4-storey townhomes is planned here by Portal Developments.

📷 Credit: Google Street View



Dufferin Mall & Bloor/ Dufferin Redevelopment

At the Dufferin Mall, Primaris Management Inc., a subsidiary of H&R REIT, is looking to leverage the Mall's location within 200 metres of Dufferin Subway Station, by redeveloping the north end of the mall property, currently home to a couple single-storey big box shops and drive-through fast food outlets.

The proposed complex consists of six mixed-use condominium and affordable rental buildings designed by Turner Fleischer Architects for Hazelview Investments, Fitzrovia Real Estate and AimCo. The site will include residential (affordable rental, market-rate rental, condo), commercial (community centre), and public/ park space.

For more information visit the City of Toronto's Development Application Centre:



HOW TO GET TO... BLOODALE



illustration by

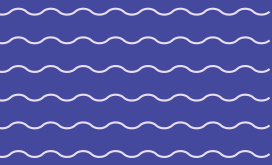


BLOOR ST W

DUFFERIN ST

DUFFERIN GROVE PARK

@leandracianci



Words and 📷 by Darren Leu

📷 @lookieleu

BIG ON BLOOR

The 17th year of the BIG on Bloor Festival returns **July 20th and 21st, 2024**, with an in-person pedestrian takeover of car-free Bloordale!

It's all happening on Bloor Street West, between Dufferin to Lansdowne. Celebrating community magic, creativity and diversity through arts and culture, providing opportunities to local disenfranchised artists and showcasing the small businesses that make Bloordale so amazing.



Public spaces meet more than one community need. We are excited to present an alternative community event that celebrates community-building, local businesses and the diverse arts and culture of the area. Calm down zones, less vendor crowding and environmental installations are a focus this year to emphasize the community, its creators and the local shops which makes Bloordale great.

This year's festival theme proposes an alternative understanding of "SPACE TIME".

Embark on a cosmic journey with us as we delve into the captivating realm of Space/ Time, where we challenge the boundaries of time and space, only yielding to the unique experiences of every individual. Inspired by the mysteries of the cosmos, this year's BIG on Bloor invites you to question the very fabric of your shared existence, what it means within a shared space and explore the infinite possibilities that can be created together.

Public spaces are at its best when the threads of many are weaved together, strengthening its common bonds through the times we shared together. Local artists will be your guide to your special journey, and celebrate others' journeys that diverge from our own.

The fabric of Bloordale will forever bend to the gravity of those that have come and gone. The spaces we are so familiar with are formed through the times that local artists have shared with us. We remember those that have come and gone.

Let's create a communal space where our differences aren't hurdles but threads in the rich tapestry of our shared existence. Our histories and experiences can be traced back from those threads no longer with us, but

their contributions allow new threads to thrive and continue forming Space Time.

Made possible by the Bloordale BIA, BIG on Bloor is free and welcome to everyone.

Learn more and come join us:

 [bigonbloorfest](#) and

 [bigonbloorfestival.com](https://www.bigonbloorfestival.com)

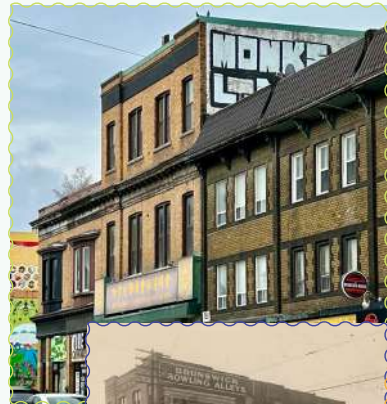


A LOOK BACK AT EARLY BLOORDALE BUSINESSES

Words and Modern Photos by Katherine Taylor
Vintage 📷 from Toronto Archives

📍 1330 Bloor St W

Built in 1912, 1330 Bloor W was originally home to Ryan's Theatorium, a movie theatre owned by the Thomas Ryan furniture company. In 1915, after the Ryan company failed, the building was renamed Mullin's Hall and became a popular venue for election meetings. Just a few short years later, it was taken on by the Castrucci family and rebranded as St Julien's Hall, which featured billiards, a bowling alley, and Friday evening dances. After the Second World War, the building's days as an entertainment venue began to wane as the site was taken on by a variety of businesses beginning, in 1948, with the Federal Moving and Storage Company.



📍 1186 Bloor St W

In 1923, William Barefoot moved his studio into 1186 Bloor W, after nearly a decade in business nearby. Both a retail and commercial photographer, Barefoot was also an early member of the Ontario Society of Photographers and a regular contributor to the Toronto Daily Star. In 1930, he sold his studio and became manager of the Simpson's department store's photography centre. But he must've missed his own studio on Bloor W - in 1947, he bought it back and would continue running it until his retirement in 1953.



BAREFOOT STUDIO
Specializing in Weddings and Baby Photos
1186 Bloor Street West
Tel. 531-1413
Visit our new Photo Department
Full line of Flash Bulbs, Films, etc.

📍 1215 Bloor St W

In 1936, partners Frederick Clancy and Frank Ryan opened their Hotel La Salle on the SE corner of Bloor W and Margueretta. The small hotel featured a restaurant and bar on the ground floor, with rooms above. By 1948, the La Salle was run by Frank Ryan's widow alone and advertising rooms, by the week, to men only. The hotel remained in operation until 1974 when it became the Molly & Me nightclub, which featured Country and Western musical acts. In the early 1980s, the House of Lancaster moved in and occupies the site to this day.



📍 1182 Bloor St W

In 1923, Wilfred Packham opened his drug store at the NE corner of Pauline and Bloor W - the first in a row of seven newly built storefronts built that same year. Packham was still there on July 30th, 1934 when an unfortunate accident garnered the shop a spot on the front page of the Toronto Daily Star. A new driver, skidding on wet pavement, crashed into the storefront, taking out the front window and two display cases. Luckily, Packham and his clerk were in the back of the shop and unharmed by the incident. After that eventful day, the rest of Packham's tenancy appears to have been quiet. He'd remain at 1182 Bloor W until 1947, when the Filwood Pharmacy moved in.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Words by Meg Marshall

📷 by Marla Warner 📷 @rebelhowlstudios

9 Mile Jamaican and International Cuisine

📍 1334 Bloor St W

Serving up authentic Caribbean Food from hot dishes, to grab and go snacks and sweet treats too!

📷 @9_mile_ja



BLUE COLLAR BAKERY

Blue Collar Bakery

📍 1230 Bloor St W

A bakery operation from the talented team of Bar neon, this business focuses on using quality natural ingredients to create the tastiest, most wholesome staples and treats.

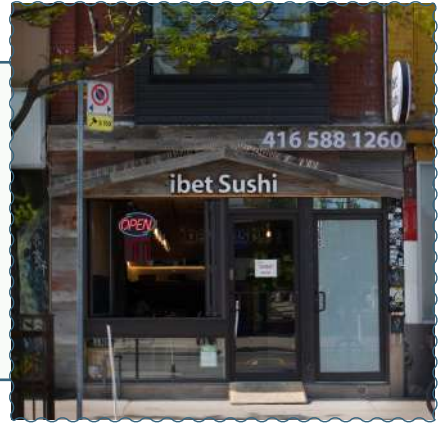
📷 @bluecollar.bakery



ibet Sushi | 📍 1260 Bloor St W

Adding a new cuisine to the Bloordale scene, this sushi and Japanese restaurant serves up dishes for lunch, dinner and takeout.

📷 @ibetsushibloor



Momo Heart

📍 675 Lansdowne Ave

With a mix of traditional Tibetan cuisine and fusion North American flavours, enjoy delicious momos with many sauce options

📷 @momoheartat675

Wear6ix

📍 1303 Bloor St W

Bloordale loves vintage! Operated by a sister duo, they source and sell great fashion and home decor pieces. Check back often for a new selection, as they always are getting new things in!

📷 @wear6ix





Philip Sarazen

Bloordale's IRON MAN INVENTOR

Words and 📷 by Liza Lukashevsky

Phil Sarazen was a man of boundless energy, mind blowing ideas, and of great generosity who left a lasting legacy here in Bloordale.

Phil was a brilliant, creative, and highly educated man who spent a good chunk of his life living in downtown homeless shelters. Strangely, this downturn in luck didn't pull him down, instead, it energized him, igniting a project to produce artistic street infrastructure for cyclists made by people who were experiencing life's hardest challenges.

In a city where every change needs a permit and bureaucracy can seemingly take a lifetime, Phil's energetic charisma was able to convince the City and numerous BIAs to let him and his merry group (which included unhoused, post-incarceration people struggling with addiction) build and install over a hundred one-of-a-kind steel welded bike parking racks all over downtown Toronto.

His most photographed piece is Kensington Market's large sculptural rack made of bike chains, but Bloor is home to a good portion of his work which he produced from designs he created with art students at Bloor Collegiate.

Phil was paid for his work, but didn't keep any of the money, instead he disbursed the funds amongst the people he trained in iron work and bike post installation.

Phil genuinely cared about people, in particular children. Along with a group of local welders and friends, Phil created the Zoosemobile, a large musical instrument made up of bikes, drums, and electronics which has been bringing joy and wonder to children at every BIG on Bloor festival.

Phil died in January, 2024: he was an important part of the Bloordale community and will be greatly missed.



Phil was a pacifist, he dedicated this bike rack in front of the mosque in Bloordale to a future of global peace.

BLOODDALE MICROGRANTS SERIES

LANEWAY PARTY

Words and 📷 by Katie Didyk



For a day, the laneway stretching between Emerson and St. Clarens, just North of Bloor, transformed into a spirited Halloween bash for neighbouring residents. Over 50 children and parents adorned in imaginative costumes mingled, while youngsters eagerly hunted for hidden Halloween treats.

This festive gathering, born amidst the Covid era, has become a cherished tradition, marking the transition from summer's end to winter's onset with a communal celebration.



Spearheaded by a dedicated group of neighbours, it holds a special significance for many.

Events like these aren't just about Halloween - they're about growing a community together, creating spaces that welcome everyone and fostering a sense of belonging.

Supported by the Bloordale Microgrant program and by local businesses like The Hermit's Lamp, attendees enjoyed tarot card readings, and offerings from Monte Bianco and Easy Health.

Yet, beyond the lively attractions of bouncy castles, smoke machines, and themed music, laneways serve as vital arteries in our community. They are more than mere paths; with events like this, laneways act as community connectors, ensuring vibrant neighbourhoods thrive.

Katie Didyk is a local resident and one of the event's co-organizers.

BLOODDALE MICROGRANTS SERIES

BLOODDALE PHOTO WALK

Words and 📷 by Bryan Brock 📷 [bryanbrock_](#)

In December 2023 we hosted a Photo Walk in Bloordale as part of the Bloordale Microgrants program. The Photo Walk featured photo challenges throughout the neighbourhood and was well-attended by about 30 photographers.

Some of the highlights included enjoying local baked goods from Bakerbots Home Baking, a tour of Dead Dog Records shop and surprise gift card giveaway, and shooting in the rain!

Check out a couple featured photos from the walk - it was a great way to explore the neighbourhood and connect with local businesses.



About Bryan Brock:

Bryan Brock is a multi-disciplinary artist and photographer who documents the beautiful and often untold stories of everyday life in the city.

IYKYK BLOORDALE

Words and 📷 by Shari Kasman 📷 smkasman

Bloordale isn't just home to storefront businesses, but there are hidden businesses in our neighbourhood, too.

Bloordale Apothecary

Judie Craig prides herself on making soap that's vegan, organic, and fair trade.

In her "soap garden" in Cosmos Nature Lane, she grows lavender, mint, and lemon balm, which she infuses into her soaps. When that laneway's community members asked her to develop a Cosmos Nature Lane soap, she was happy to oblige. She created a soap for gardeners that's available for sale at Saponetti on Brock Ave. This general cleansing soap will remove dirt and enrich your skin, plus it contains loofah for added scrubbing power.

Craig also works with private clients to develop specific scents and creates exfoliating bath salts and facial serums to match particular soaps.

✉️ craigjudie@yahoo.com



Roncy Packs


It all started in 2020 when Kim Nguyen's three-year-old grandson asked her to make a fanny pack. She wound up creating one for each family member, plus extras, which daughter, Le Ching Vuong, began selling on social media, from her Roncesvalles home. People loved Nguyen's upcycled, one-of-a-kind creations, and the venture expanded, with daughter Lyli Vuong joining the business, too.

Nguyen had worked for 40 years as a seamstress and pattern drafter for local designers, and now she finally has the chance to sell her own creations. These



days, the operation is run from her Russett Avenue home, where she has her studio and boutique shop, with fanny packs, totes, and accessories.

Roncy Packs prides itself on sustainability and accepts textiles and recycled packaging by donation. Shop online or book by website for an in-person appointment.

✉ roncypacks@gmail.com |  [roncypacks](https://www.instagram.com/roncypacks) | www.roncypacks.com

Bagel Chef Joel

What started during the pandemic out of Joel Presant's apartment, turned into something he never expected. This Bar Sugo chef and former Bloordale resident just wanted to develop a bagel he really enjoyed. All the experimentation left him with a surplus of bagels, which he sold through local Facebook groups, with his goods becoming so popular that he outgrew his kitchen. Luckily, Bar Sugo offered their space as his new bagel-baking headquarters.

Presant's bagels are unique, having created them to suit his own tastes, rather than modelling them after traditional or local offerings. His bagels contain a unique flour mixture, including rye, making them darker in colour. He also developed stuffed bagels, which are essentially buns with various fillings, such as tzatziki, red pepper jelly with a whipped cream cheese, and a BLT cream cheese containing bacon, basil, and sundried tomato. He's even made a cinnamon raisin bagel with brown butter cinnamon cream cheese inside.



Presant normally bakes every two weeks. Follow and order through his Instagram.

 [bagelchefjoel](https://www.instagram.com/bagelchefjoel)

Coffee Crawl

Words and 📷 by Monica Khalil 📷 @snapturethis @monicasnep

The Daily Grind 📍 426 St. Clarens Ave

This top brunch spot in Toronto offers classic brunch with Vietnamese influence. I went with “The Daily”, avocado toast, Vietnamese iced coffee, and an iced Americano (my favourite).



Buco Cafe Mercato 📍 615A Brock Ave

Discover a hidden gem with a cozy Italian cafe ambiance, where the community favourite is the coffee and pistachio croissant. Enjoy their charming patio, ideal for sunny days.

Solkatt Cafe

📍 679 Lansdowne Ave

Experience Solkatt, a bright and trendy brunch spot near Bloor, decorated with colorful glassware and quirky cat decor. Indulge in their avocado toast and iced Americano made with Canadian roasted beans. This spot is perfect for coffee enthusiasts and foodies!



Bakerbots Baking

📍 1242 Bloor St W

Good luck picking just one or two items here; you'll end up walking out with a box full of goodies. I recommend the cinnamon bun, croissant, and key lime pie, but you REALLY can't go wrong with anything on the menu.

Nofa's Coffee and Bakery

📍 699 Lansdowne Ave

Escape to Nofa, an ideal cafe hide away complete with a bookshelf of vintage books, fireplace, and scenic window. Enjoy an iced Americano and a cookie as you settle in for a relaxing coffee experience.



About Monica

Monica is the owner and founder of SnaaptureThis, a paper goods and gift shop located in the heart of downtown Toronto. She opened her business in 2014 on Etsy and since then has opened a storefront. She is known for exploring the city's cafe scene and has visited over 150 cafes across Toronto. She is especially known for ordering an Iced Americano with EXTRA ice and loves supporting local shops. Keep an eye out on her iconic Toronto Coffee Shop print series featuring cafes across Toronto and other fun industries.

Bloordale Food Crawl

Words and 📷 by Melissa Ayisi | 📷 bigbellymel

Ruru Baked | 📍 659 Lansdowne

Ruru Baked is at the top of my list for best ice cream in Toronto. Once a small ice cream pop-up that operated out of a 100 sq ft kitchen (with popular ice cream drops) it has become a spacious shop at Bloor and Lansdowne. They specialize in Asian-inspired, custard-based ice cream that is rich, dense, smooth and incredibly creamy. Explore flavours like Matcha & Shortbread, Miso Butterscotch, and Yuzu Raspberry, and baked goods like Sticky Toffee Cake and Hawaiian Butter Mochi. Expect pure joy with every scoop and bite.

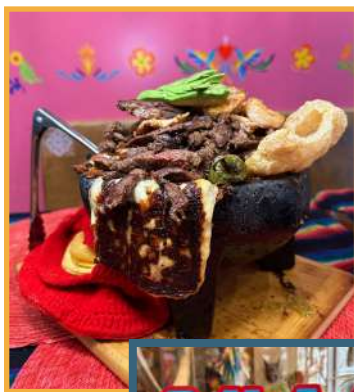


South Indian Dosa Mahal 📍 1285 Bloor W

This family owned restaurant serves delicious Indian vegetarian dishes. Find generous traditional Thali plates with sides like Coconut Chutney, Masala Potato Curry, and Eggplant Tomato Curry. Their colourful plates are packed with flavour and vibrant spices. You can also indulge in their fusion items, such as their Spicy Masala Fries and Indian Poutine. Their restaurant walls are decorated with photographs of the family behind these dishes, serving the community for over three decades. Be sure to check out their daily Bloor Specials.

Latin World | 📍 1229 Bloor W

If you're looking for a taste of Mexico in Toronto, this is a great spot to start. The second you walk in, you are met with vibrant, bold colours, stunning decor, and a warm, homey atmosphere. This family owned restaurant shares their delectable recipes packed with exquisite flavours all the way from the streets of Cuernavaca, Mexico. Many menu items are perfect for sharing, especially their Molcajete - a heaping mountain of asada, chorizo, shrimp, chicken, chicharon, jalapeños and cheese packed into a volcanic stone bowl typically used to grind spices. The front of the restaurant (as well as their original location just across the street) has unique Mexican candies, spices, and sauces.



Mesobs Restaurant | 📍 685 Lansdowne #1

Mesobs Restaurant opened less than a year ago, adding Ethiopian cuisine to Bloordale's diverse food scene. Here you can find a traditional dish called Injera, a slightly sour fermented flatbread made out of teff flour. My favourite has to be their Vegetarian Mix Injera that comes with multiple sides like lentils, Gomen (collard greens), and Shiro Wat (stew). Add their Cha Cha Tibs (seasoned slices of beef) which comes on a sizzling hot plate. You can also participate in a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony in a communal circle at the front of the restaurant. Expect bold, full-bodied sips of rich coffee.

Melissa, also known as Big Belly Mel, is a food and travel blogger based in Scarborough who combines her love for both food and community to support and promote the growth of restaurants and businesses in Toronto and beyond.

📷 📺 🎵 BigBellyMel

Discover Bloordale's Dog-Friendly Destinations

Words and 📷 by Ingrid Castro 📷 @torontodogmoms



Welcome to Bloordale! Whether you're a local or just passing through, this vibrant neighbourhood is bursting with excitement. Grab your pup and embark on an adventure through this dog-friendly oasis:

1. Bike Depot | 📍 1222 Bloor St W

Start your day on the right paw with a visit to Bike Depot. Browse through their selection of bike gear that even includes dog bike trailers. With their dog-friendly atmosphere, Bike Depot is the perfect spot to gear up for a day of exploration.



2. Dead Dog Records

📍 1209 Bloor St W

Continue your journey down Bloor Street and make a pit stop at Dead Dog Records. This music haven not only offers a vast collection of vinyl but also extends a warm welcome to canine companions. Let your pup browse through the aisles as you search for your next favourite album.



3. Dee Tails Dog Grooming

📍 1264 Bloor St W #2

Treat your furry friend to a spa day at Dee Tails Dog Grooming. Their expert groomers will pamper your pooch from nose to tail, leaving them looking and feeling their best and ready for your day of adventure.

4. Duffy's Tavern Patio | 📍 1238 Bloor St W

As the sun begins to set, head over to Duffy's Tavern for some well-deserved refreshments. Sit back, relax, and enjoy a cold drink on their dog-friendly patio. With its laid-back atmosphere and welcoming staff, Duffy's Tavern is the perfect spot to unwind with your furry companion by your side.

5. Sweet Pete's | 📍 1204 Bloor St W

Sweet Pete's has been a staple in the city for decades. They not only welcome dogs but celebrate them, they even have a set up with dogs in their window. This unique bike haven doesn't just welcome dogs; it celebrates them! You can grab new gear or get your bike serviced and repaired. They offer a variety of products to go on adventures with your dog.



From morning coffee to evening sunset drinks Bloordale offers a plethora of dog-friendly experiences waiting to be discovered. So leash up your pup, explore our vibrant neighbourhood with hidden parks to play, and create unforgettable memories together.

About Toronto Dog Moms: a dedicated organization, strive to make the city more dog-friendly, one bark at a time. With passion and advocacy, they pave the way for a more dog-friendly city. Toronto Dog Moms: leading the pack towards a more inclusive and dog-loving metropolis. Their TDM Dog-Friendly verified program helps pet parents find dog-friendly shops, cafes and more check their website toronotdogmoms.com for listings.



BEST OF BLOOR

Words by Bloordale BIA

Keep an eye out for this fun project! Best of Bloor is a hospitality-focused marketing program geared at supporting and highlighting all of the great cafes, cocktail bars, brunch/ lunch/ date night spots, bakeries, sports bars and more! The project will span across both Bloordale and Bloocourt (Bloor St W from St. Helen's St to Montrose St).

Some of the project's initiatives will include interviews with local chefs or business owners, documenting great local recipes, hosting food tours, and discovering or re-discovering the stories of beloved local spots.

The Bloor St W corridor has had some new, great hospitality business additions over the years, and we want to showcase as many as possible as part of the Best of Bloor!





Bloordale Breaks up with Plastic



Words and by  Liza Lukashevsky

Do you have a kitchen drawer filled with unwanted bags, chopsticks, straws, plastic cutlery, and condiment pouches that you keep because you don't want them to become landfill?

The City's new Single-Use and Takeaway Items Bylaw, requires all retailers to "ask first" before providing shopping bags and other single use items. This bylaw is the first stage of Toronto's plan to address our plastic pollution problem. Just 9 % of plastic is recycled, with most of it ending up in landfill; leaching into our soil, rivers and lakes, and creating toxicity in our natural environment and leaving microplastic fragments in our drinking water.

Torontonians are taking this issue seriously, with 75 % of 20,000 residents surveyed supporting a compulsory reduction in the use of plastic and styrofoam. Residents and business owners in Bloordale are taking their own steps to cut out single-use plastics; going beyond the City's planned elimination of straws, stir sticks, and plastic shopping bags.

How Businesses Are Reducing Plastic in Bloordale

Saponetti |  615c Brock Ave

Typical household cleaning and beauty products are high on the toxicity list in terms of both ingredients and packaging. But at Saponetti, you can find eco friendly, refillable cleaners, dish soaps, body soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, and more. Owners Nikki Self and Christian von Seydlitz are passionate about sustainability and know a lot about how to clean without using harmful chemicals. They've got all the ingredients to make your own soaps and detergents. They also have their own deposit/mason jar system, although they prefer that their clients bring in their own containers (reduce/reuse!). Their refillery/retail store is a beautiful little spot on Brock Ave, or find their products at Fiesta Farms, The Sweet Potato, and Crisper Kits. Saponetti is also a drop off spot for the Circulr jar return program and Suppli reusable take out containers.



Nuthouse | 📍 1256 Bloor W

Roughly 40 % of plastic produced every year is designed for food packaging which will be thrown out minutes after we eat. Alex and Liza Lukashovsky hope that instead of being thrown out, food containers can be reused and reused, and reused again through their bulk store, Nuthouse. They have over 400 bulk products to choose from, including flours, grains, pastas, spices, snacks, sweets, nuts, dried fruit, coffee, tea, oils, vinegars, soaps and more. The shop allows customers to buy as little or as much as they need, discouraging food waste. They also sell milk and yoghurt in returnable glass bottles, have a drop off box for donation jars, encourage customers to bring in their own clean reusables and offer a deposit/return option for their own nuthouse mason jars.

Queen's Shop | 📍 1169 Bloor W

The hairdressing industry, with its dyes, heating tools, and hair washing, has traditionally been a big polluter; so, it was important to Queen's Shop owner, Alicia Lumsden, to create an eco-friendly salon. She uses plant derived products and incentivizes clients to bring back their empty Davines hair product bottles for refill by offering a 10% discount. Understanding that most waste doesn't get recycled through the City's program, she also pays Green Circle, a private company which guarantees that 95 % of her salon waste is recovered and repurposed. You can bring back any empty bottles purchased at her salon and they'll be added to her waste.

Burdock Brewery | 📍 1184 Bloor W

Beer can clips are not recyclable, and can live in landfill for 100s of years before breaking down. Burdock brewery will take back your old plastic can clips for reuse and offers biodegradable/compostable 6 pack rings made entirely from plant fibres.



Bakerbots@Home | 📍 1242 Bloor W

The disposable paper coffee cup can't be recycled by 99.75 % of paper recyclers, however the cups still carry the recycling symbol, leading the majority of coffee lovers to dispose of them in the recycling bin. They all end up in landfill, releasing microplastics into our environment. In fact, the plastic film in these cups begins to degrade just 15 minutes after being poured into your hot mocha or latte, releasing up to 25,000 microplastic particles into your drink.

If that's not enough to motivate you to start bringing your own stainless steel, glass, or ceramic mug with you to your favourite cafe, perhaps a discount will do it? In addition to their out-of-this-world pastries, pies, and cakes, Bakerbots@Home offers a discount to customers who bring in their own reusable mug and/or reusable pastry container. You can also purchase a pie in a glass dish with a refundable deposit.

Practical Tips



"Treat reusable shopping bags like your wallet and keys, never leave home without them. I like the Baggu bags which fold up into a little pouch, they also make a small bag with a zipper that I bring my lunch in (both products we sell here!). I make my own espresso at the store; if I want to get a take out coffee, I bring my own Baltic Club cup made from bamboo and corn—all of the cafes in Bloordale allow reusables" **Shelly Town, Town**

"I'm a re-filler. I like to refill my old containers at local places like Saponetti and Nut-house...making waste makes me feel icky" **Alicia Lumsden, Queen's Shop**

"Try to buy foodstuff without plastic packaging or netting. If they don't have what you want, be curious, buy something else that looks interesting" **Alex Lukashevsky, Nuthouse**

"You can save money and make terrific cleaners with DIY ingredients. I like Sodium Carbonate—it's a great degreaser and cleaner; it's also good for soaking beans" **Christian von Seydlitz, Saponetti**

"Shopping at local farmers' markets supports small business and cuts down on packaging waste that comes with shipping/handling" **Nikki Self, Saponetti**

"Try not to order products online—these items are usually packaged in excessive plastics like bubble wrap and are delivered in huge polluting trucks. Also, if you have space, grow your own food" **Ken, Residentfro**



LAVENDER
EUCALYPTUS
HAND/BODY
SOAP

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S

SAPONITEX

BLOODALE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Updated as of April 2024



Bike Depot

📍 1222 Bloor St W
(416) 531-1028

Sweet Pete's Bike Shop

📍 1204 Bloor St W
(416) 533-4481



**CAFE/BAR/ RESTAURANT/
FOOD TAKEOUT**

9 Mile Jamaican International

📍 1334 Bloor St W
(437) 880-5312

African Delight

📍 1180 Bloor St W
(416) 537-4063

Ali Baba's

📍 1283 Bloor St W
(416) 913-4463

Alma

📍 1194 Bloor St W
(647) 346-1881

Bakerbots

📍 1242 Bloor St W
(416) 901-3500

Bar Neon

📍 1226 Bloor St W
(647) 748-6366

Bar Sugo

📍 1279 Bloor St W
(416) 792-1279

Blue Collar Bakery

📍 1230 Bloor St W

Buco Cafe Mercato

📍 615A Brock Ave
(647) 919-8685

Burdock

📍 1184 Bloor St W
(416) 546-4033

Caribbean Queen of Patties

📍 1294 Bloor St W
(416) 538-1732

Chito's

📍 1308 Bloor St W
(416) 530-7777

Club Paradise

📍 1313 Bloor St W
(416) 535-0723

Daily Grind

📍 426 St Clarens Ave
(416) 546-6933

Duffy's Tavern

📍 1238 Bloor St W
(416) 628-0330

Fresh Leeko Bistro + Roll & Bowl

📍 685 Lansdowne Ave
Unit 2
(416) 531-0166

Galaxy T&T

📍 1227A Bloor St W

Gino's Pizza

📍 1158 Bloor St W
(866) 310-4466

Green Bamboo Vietnamese Cuisine

📍 1266 Bloor St W

Grey Tiger

📍 1190 Bloor St W
(647) 925-3310

Happy Cup Bar & Restaurant

📍 1274 Bloor St W
(647) 350-0287

House of Lancaster

📍 1215 Bloor St W
(416) 534-2385

Island Oysters

📍 1165 Bloor St W
(416) 534-6061

Latin World

📍 1229 & 1262 Bloor
St W
(416) 603-3311

Mesobs Restaurant

📍 685 Lansdowne
Ave #1
(647) 550-8993

Momo Heart

📍 675 Lansdowne Ave
(365) 228-2126

Monte Bianco

📍 1201 Bloor St W
(647) 748-6000

Penny's

📍 1306 Bloor St W
(647) 350-2337

Pizza Pizza

📍 1193 Bloor St W
(416) 967-1111

Ruru Baked

📍 659 Lansdowne Ave

Sad Songs Cantina

📍 1211 Bloor St W
(416) 516-8000

Seoul Shakers

📍 1241 Bloor St W
(416) 535-8606

Shakers Club

📍 1261 Bloor St W

Solkatt Cafe

📍 679 Lansdowne Ave

South Indian**Dosa Mahal**

📍 1285 Bloor St W
(416) 588-4147

Subway Restaurant

📍 1171 Bloor St W
(416) 535-9559

Sugo

📍 1281 Bloor St W
(416) 535-1717

Taqueria**"El Pastorcito"**

📍 1160 Bloor St W
(437) 299-0139

The Burger Bros

📍 1316 Bloor St W
(416) 533-4044

The John

📍 1174 Bloor St W
(416) 532-7583

The Three Speed

📍 1163 Bloor St W
(647) 430-3834

Tim Horton's

📍 1251 Bloor St W
(416) 551-9329

Uncle Sid's Deli

📍 1263 Bloor St W
(416) 516-2327

**GALLERY****Mercer Union**

📍 1286 Bloor St W
(416) 536-1519

Super Wonder Gallery

📍 1162 Bloor St W
(416) 516-5457

**COMMUNITY SERVICE/FAITH
BASED /ORGANIZATION****Alejandra Bravo
City Councillor -
Ward 9 - Davenport**

📍 1240 Bloor St W
(416) 392-7012

**Bloor Lansdowne
Christian Fellowship**

📍 1307 Bloor St W
416-535-9578

**Islamic Information
& Dawa Centre**

📍 1168 Bloor St W
(416) 536-8433

**Julie Dzerowicz
MP - Davenport
Constituency Office**

📍 1202 Bloor St W
(416) 654-8048

**Marit Stiles
MPP - Davenport
Constituency Office**

📍 1199 Bloor St W
(416) 535-3158

**Midwives Collective
of Toronto**

📍 1203 Bloor St W
(416) 963-8842

New Horizon's Tower

📍 1140 Bloor St W
416 536-6111

Safe Haven

📍 1173 Bloor St W
(416) 535-8525

**TESOC Multicultural
Settlement Services**

📍 685 Lansdowne Ave
Unit 1 A
(416) 536-5678

**The Buddhist
Association of
Canada & Hong Fa
Temple**

📍 1330 Bloor St W,
(416) 537-1342



GROCERY/ CORNER STORE

Bangladesh

Corner Variety

📍 611 Brock Ave
(416) 537-2661

Bengal Grocery

📍 1220 Bloor St W
(416) 534-9868

Easy Health

📍 1276 Bloor St W
(416) 474-2526

Economy Fruit

📍 1170 Bloor St W
(416) 534-4889

Family Fruit & Flower

📍 1180 Bloor St W
(416) 531-2188

Five Star Variety

📍 1210 Bloor St W
(416) 532-3461

Harar Grocery

📍 1320 Bloor St W
(416) 220-4442

Hasty Market

📍 1310 Bloor St W

Nuthouse

📍 1256 Bloor St W
(647) 352-3385

Super Mart Convenience

📍 1205 Bloor St W
(416) 531-3771

Tower City

Dollar & Variety

📍 1232 Bloor St W
(416) 533-7007



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Anatomica

📍 1302 Bloor St W
(416) 890-1505

Bloordale Pharmacy

📍 1290 Bloor St W
(416) 538-9962

Discount Optical

📍 1312 Bloor St W
(416) 532-7997

Dr. Tri Tang Ngyuen

Dental Office
📍 1198 Bloor St W
(416) 536-8523

Redefine Fit

📍 1270 Bloor St W
(647) 539-9439

Ultra-Bloor Pharmacy

📍 1254 Bloor St W
(416) 792-3021

YDO - Your Dental Office

📍 1196 Bloor St W
(416) 588-2880



SPA/BEAUTY/HAIR/ BARBER SHOP/ TATTOO

Aces Hair Studio

📍 430 St Clarens Ave
(647) 448-7877

B Side Barbers

📍 428 St Clarens Ave
(416) 564-5191

Beyond Beauty

📍 346 Margueretta St
416-281-8996

Comfrey Spa

📍 1252 Bloor St W
(416) 792-8457

Corner Pocket Tattoo

📍 1185 Bloor St W

Glossix Nail Spa

📍 1296 Bloor St W
(416) 532-2421

Shred Salon

📍 1265 Bloor St W
(647) 444-6096

Magic Touch Beauty Salon

📍 1250 Bloor St W
(416) 588-0632

Mona Lisa Hair Salon

📍 1179 Bloor St W
(416) 530-0247

Nail Spa & Massage

📍 1203b Bloor St W
(647) 352-3689

Pravda Tattoo

📍 1275 Bloor St W
2nd Floor
(647) 430-5891

Queen's Shop Fine Hair Dressing

📍 1169 Bloor St W
(416) 539-0660

TCM Spa

📍 1218 Bloor St W
(416) 538-1331

Virgo Beauty

📍 1156 Bloor St W
(416) 532-8132

Vito's Barbershop

📍 1258 Bloor St W
(416) 531-4771

**SPECIALTY RETAIL
& SERVICE****African Modern & Traditional Dresses**

📍 1346 Bloor St W
(647) 719-9134

Amkay's Textiles

📍 1181 Bloor St W
(416) 532-3130

Bloor Army Surplus

📍 1212 Bloor St W
(647) 350-3322

Bloordale Village Laundromat

📍 1268 Bloor St W
(647) 456-8965

BMO Bank of Montreal

📍 1293 Bloor St W
(416) 531-3561

Cell Phone Clinic

📍 1212A Bloor St W
(416) 997-6162

clayArt Studios

📍 1243 Bloor St W

Dead Dog Records

📍 1277 Bloor St W
(647) 748-0748

Dee Tails Grooming

📍 1264 Bloor St W
(416) 887-3590

Flowertopia Cannabis

📍 1278 Bloor St W
(416) 535-4274

Fohr Design Studio

📍 1348 Bloor St W
(416) 670-3047

Furniture Emporium

📍 1237 Bloor St W
(416) 535-3844

Growers Retail

📍 1239 Bloor St W
(416) 537-4116

Hazetown Vapes

📍 1189 Bloor St W
(437) 880-6783

Hermit's Lamp

📍 1209 Bloor St W
(647) 286-8739

International Cellular Ltd

📍 1192 Bloor St W
(416) 588-0710

Mackie Biernacki

📍 1244 Bloor St W
(416) 816-4661

Music Therapy Centre

📍 1175 Bloor St W
(416) 535-0200

New Way Upholstery

📍 609 Brock Ave
(416) 532-0195

QT Jewellery & Watches

📍 1183 Bloor St W
(416) 459-2779

Saponetti Refill Depot

📍 615c Brock Ave
(647) 344-1875

Shivaa's Rose Cannabis

📍 457 St. Clarens Ave
(416) 619-7673

SL Graphics & Printing

📍 1246 Bloor St W
(416) 531-4377

SPAR Marathon

📍 1360 Bloor St W
(416) 534-8421

Sonali Currency Exchange

📍 1284 Bloor St W
(416) 536-7266

Sunny Buy & Sell

📍 1273 Bloor St W
(416) 539-9170

Sun Dry Cleaning

📍 673 Lansdowne Ave
(416) 532-3222

The Bee Shop

📍 1340 Bloor St W
(416) 533-2337

The Spot

📍 1280 Bloor St W
(416) 901-4070

The Sword & Board

📍 1193 Bloor St W
(647) 350-7529

Take Cannabis

📍 1332 Bloor St W
(416) 530-7750

Town

📍 1187 Bloor St W
(647) 748-8696

Tram Anh Studio

📍 1198 Bloor St W
(647) 346-2649

Value Buds

📍 1287 Bloor St W
(416) 534-2304

Vape Pub

📍 1250 Bloor St W
(416) 660-6046

Wear6ix

📍 1303 Bloor St W
(647) 327-5544

Wine Rack

📍 1298 Bloor St W
(416) 538-0314



THRIFT & VINTAGE

Eyesore Cinema

📍 1176 Bloor St W
(416) 955-1599

Lucky Tiger Vintage

📍 1269 Bloor St W

Odd Finds

General Store

📍 1178 Bloor St W
(647) 345-1178

Ransack the Universe

📍 1207 Bloor St W
(647) 703-6675

Re-Life Vintage

📍 1284 Bloor St W
#1282
(416) 536-3899

Salvation

Army Thrift Store

📍 1219 Bloor St W
(416) 533-9553

Tara Thrift

📍 1292 Bloor St W
(647) 832-8006

Tribal Rhythm Vintage

📍 1275 Bloor St W
(416) 595-5817

Value Village

📍 1319 Bloor St W
(416) 539-0585

Uncle Vintage

📍 1342 Bloor St W
(416) 546-2205

Waybach Vintage

📍 1344 Bloor St W

96 Tears Vintage

📍 1267 Bloor St W
(416) 829-4778



SIDEWALK ART

Art by Victor Fraser

📷 by Kimberley Simmons 📷 @torontokas_photographer

Exploring the sidewalks of Bloordale, you will come across art pieces by celebrated Toronto-based artist Victor Fraser who has painted sidewalk murals for over 20 years in many countries. Find these playful art pieces right here in Bloordale!



Laneway north of Bloor
next to Saponetti

East side of Susan
Tibaldi Parkette



YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES



Emergency Situation

e.g. fire, medical emergency, crime in progress



Call 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Issue

e.g. broken window, stolen merchandise

416-808-2222

OR

www.torontopolice.on.ca/core

Report an Issue, Question or Comment

e.g. noise, litter, Streets to Homes



Call 3-1-1

OR Get the App

e.g. street light out, downed power lines



416-542-8000 x 1

Community Programs & Services

e.g. mental health supports, food banks

Call 2-1-1

OR Text 211 or Live Chat 211central.ca



Your Local Elected Officials

Councillor Alejandra Bravo (Municipal)

416.392.7012 Councillor_Bravo@toronto.ca

MPP Marit Stiles (Provincial)

416.326.7202 MStiles-QP@ndp.on.ca

MP Julie Dzerowicz (Federal)

416.654.8048 Julie.Dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca





ANSWERS to “Find the objects in Bloordale” on back page

From top to bottom:

- Crane-construction site Bloor/ Dufferin
- Brooms-Tower City Dollar and Variety, 1234 Bloor St West
- Bike Parking Post-1192 Bloor Street West
- Dried flowers- corner garden, 1219 Bloor Street West
- Flowers- family fruit and flower, 1182 Bloor Street West
- Face- Virgo Salon, 1156 Bloor Street West
- Water bottle label- litter on Bloor
- Drain cover- sidewalk, 1274 Bloor Street West
- Pigeon-don't feed pigeons sign, 1140 Bloor Street West
- Water bottles-litter on Bloor
- Green soldier-street art/graffiti, 1172 Bloor Street West



"Find the objects in Bloordale"
find the answers on p47.