

Coxwell Stables

My Daughter will turn 30 this March 30th. In 1981, during my pregnancy, I owned a property at Coxwell and Gerrard. Long walks and reflection through the neighbourhood were the soft edged moments of dreams. During that time in my life, I would walk north from Gerrard onto Coxwell Avenue. Always, I would stop, pause, and just think. 426-444 Coxwell Avenue back then was a somewhat abandoned looking grouping of brick buildings. I would look and try to imagine the past, never knowing the origin of the structure or its intended future. Architecturally, the buildings were intriguing to me and I was saddened by the loneliness of the structures; thinking that the site would accommodate great housing. I still, to this day, slow down when driving by.

No longer lonely, the buildings have the address proudly displayed with "Coxwell Stables" clearly marked next to the numeric. The stables were built in 1919 to house the city horse-drawn vehicles that were engaged for the benefit of the Toronto Public Works Department. Site photos from that era depict a very different street scape than what we see today. There were dirt roads and empty fields, with workers digging and laying the streetcar tracks for the populations yet to come.



The Stables on Coxwell were used mostly as a storage facility after the advent of automobiles, trucks and machinery. In 1981, the Historical Board designated the building as a historical site. Eventually, CityHome, a non-profit housing company, bought the site and retrofitted the interiors while preserving the integrity of the exterior. The Arts and Crafts architectural style has been maintained and a total of eleven residential units have been created. For every 4-stall space, one townhouse unit was created. Every unit has direct entry from the exterior. Upon entry, one is greeted with an open floor plan of living, dining and kitchen space and the upper floor offers two bedrooms and a bathroom. The second floor of all units was created by utilizing the original "hayloft" space of the 1919 stables. Each unit is approximately 1000 square feet.

Once complete, the stables offered affordable housing and yet preserved a little of our history at Coxwell and Gerrard. The Stables received Honourable Mention from the Ontario Reviews program in 1985 and an Award of Merit from the Toronto Historical Board a year later, in 1986. I am sure that the residential project would have received rave reviews from the men and women living in the community almost one hundred years ago.



Submitted by **Jallinda Greene**
Sales Representative, REMAX Hallmark Realty Ltd.
Tel: 416-230-3849
Pager: 416-699-9292

CHINESE NEW YEAR CARNIVAL CHINA 2012



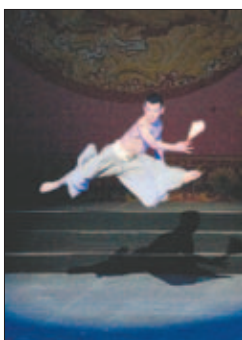
Rita & Christine



Enjoying the VIP reception at the Sony Centre for Performing Arts

To celebrate the 2012 Chinese New Year, Canada-China Cultural Development Association presented a spectacular performance of the renowned China National Performing Arts Group from Beijing's Chinese New Year (CNY) Carnival China. Prior to the electrifying show, special guests congregated on the second-floor of the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts for a VIP reception. The small gathering featured prominent members involved in the production of the performance, politicians as well as adoring fans. The sold-out concert featured over 80 top-level artists performing spellbound musicals with exquisite costumes. The extraordinary history of Ancient China was depicted through music, dance, acrobatics and visual performances, making this year's dazzling show a must see for the whole family.

Event by Lee Waddington
Event code: peccaf



An acrobatic performer entertains the crowd



Rudy Gao, Jiang Ping - President of China Broadcast Corporation, Charles Souza - Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Meifang Zhang



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COMMUNITY CENTRE HONOURS VOLUNTEERS

Community Centre 55 presented Jacob Kinsella with the 'Philosophiae Doctor of Christmas' Degree (PHD) in February. Jacob is the youngest recipient of the PHD at the age of 10 years old. He has volunteered at the community facility with his siblings and father for over 5 years. The degree recognizes the hard work and dedication of those who volunteered at Community Centre 55's annual Share-A-Christmas campaign.

Event Submitted to SNAP
Event code: peccpz



Nancy Culver presents Jacob Kinsella with the 'Philosophiae Doctor of Christmas' Degree at Community Centre 55