

Discover Toronto's Vibrant Neighbourhoods in 4th Annual Urban Walk-fest

100+ Jane's Walks connect residents with city and each other

Toronto, ON – April 6, 2010 – On the May 1 and 2 weekend, thousands of Torontonians will take to the streets for the fourth annual [Jane's Walk](#), a series of more than 100 free neighbourhood walking tours that explore our collective history, architecture, planning and personalities. This year approximately 5,000 residents will go on 112 walks across the city.

Celebrating the legacy of Jane Jacobs, the foremost urban thinker of our times, Jane's Walk inspires citizens to get to know their city and each other by getting out and walking. Jacobs famously declared that walkable, diverse and mixed used neighborhoods are the hallmark of a healthy city and its people.

Jane's Walk is a thriving Toronto innovation that's going global. Last year 46 cities took part across North America, offering 315 tours to over 10,000 walkers. This year Jane's Walks will span 60 cities worldwide (28 in Canada, 27 in the USA, 5 international) with over 360 walking tours on offer. New Jane's Walk partnerships this year include Los Angeles, Brooklyn, Chattanooga, Saskatoon, Victoria, and Jane's Walk is also expanding internationally with walks scheduled in Mumbai, Goa, Dublin, Madrid and La Paloma Uruguay.

"For Jane Jacobs, the best way to get to know the city and the neighbours was on foot," says Jane Farrow, executive director of Jane's Walk. "Jacobs encouraged everyone to just get out and look around, to walk the sidewalks and talk about what they thought needed to happen to make their neighbourhood better."

"The unfortunate spate of pedestrian fatalities and collisions earlier this year in the GTA has made walking a hot topic with tour guides," Farrow adds. "Torontonians want to talk and explore ways that we can all share the roads and sidewalks safely and expand our understanding of 'walkability' and complete street design."

Volunteer tour guides, from aspiring municipal candidates to urban planners to recent immigrants and high school students, customize their tours with personal stories, local perspectives and insider hideaways to help bridge social and geographic gaps and create a space for Toronto to discover itself.

This year's walks have the town covered with everything from the formal to the far-out:

- Ontario Minister of Transportation Kathleen Wynne returns to co-host the very popular tours of Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park;
- Community-led walks of the inner suburbs are happening in such neighbourhoods as Scarborough Village, Malvern, Dorset Park, Lotherton, North Kipling, Jane-Finch, Peanut Plaza, Mount Dennis and Bathurst-Finch.

The Friends of Dufferin Grove Park share their tips on how to create a lively neighbourhood space with pizza ovens, cookouts, skating parties and more

- From Rosedale and Regent Park – a story of neighbourhoods told by the tree canopy – interpreted by the charming and genius 'tree-whisperer' Todd Irvine

- Not a Cakewalk – a tour of west end pastry shops led by Zahra Ebrahim who highlights the emotional relationship between architecture, people and food;
- And new this year – a self-guided MP3 audio tour all about Jane Jacobs and her Annex neighbourhood is available on our website.

Jane's Walk is made possible with the support of: Ontario Trillium Foundation, Toronto Community Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Department of Canadian Heritage, AVANA Capital, Metcalf Foundation, City of Toronto Cultural Services & Public Realm Section, media partners CBC Toronto and NOW Magazine and promotional partner Media Profile.

About Jane Jacobs

Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) was an urbanist and activist whose writings championed a fresh, community-based approach to city building. She had no formal training as a planner, and yet her 1961 best-seller, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, introduced ground-breaking ideas about how cities function, evolve and fail that are now common sense to today's architects, planners, politicians and activists. Foremost is her simple yet revolutionary idea that dense, mixed use neighborhoods are the key to the health and survival of a city.

About Jane's Walk

Jane's Walk cultivates a broad understanding of how cities – their economies, neighbourhoods, communities, and institutions – organically develop and thrive. It works to advance walkable neighbourhoods, to increase urban literacy and promote neighbourhood cohesion, civic engagement and leadership.

PHOTOS of last year's Jane's Walk are available upon request or at http://janeswalk.net/about/press/press_photos/

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