

A Guide to Toronto

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This document is a brief visitors guide to Toronto for attendees of the 14th Conference on Advanced Information Systems Engineering. It is intended as a local supplement to the various official Toronto guides that the attendees will receive.

Getting Around Toronto

Walking Toronto is generally a clean, safe city. It is entirely practical to walk to many of the locations mentioned in this guide.

TTC The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) operates a network of subways, busses and streetcars that provide convenient transportation throughout Toronto. There are two major subway lines. The *Yonge/University/Spadina line* is a U-shaped loop that runs under Yonge Street and University Avenue in the downtown area. There are subway stations where major cross streets intersect Yonge St. and University Ave. The subway stations closest to downtown hotels are in Union Station, and at the intersection of major streets (King, Queen, Dundas, College) with University Avenue and Yonge St. The *Bloor/Danforth line* runs east/west underneath Bloor Street. There are free interchanges between these two subway lines at the Yonge/Bloor station and at the St. George and Spadina stations. Street car or bus lines run east and west on major streets. Obtain a transfer where you pay your fare if you plan to switch between subway and street car/bus.

There are two TTC streetcar lines that start in Union Station. The Harborfront 509 line runs through the Harbor Front area along Queens Quay to the CNE grounds. The Spadina 510 line runs along Queens Quay and then north along Spadina Ave to Bloor St. The Bay bus that runs north and south on Bay St is a convenient way to reach many of the places described in this guide.

The stops for surface (bus and streetcar) routes are marked with a vertical red and white TTC sign. Current TTC fares are \$2.25 cash (bus and streetcar drivers do NOT carry change) or tokens/tickets at 5 for \$9.00. There is also a day pass (\$7.50) good for unlimited rides. Tickets and passes may be purchased at subway stations or from small shops that display the TTC Tickets sign. For TTC information call (416) 393-4636.

GO transit operates a number of rail lines that provide extended commuter service outside of Toronto. See GO transit information in Union Station for details.

P A T H is a sprawling underground complex that connects most major buildings and attractions in the area between Yonge St. and University Ave. south of Dundas Street. Look for the P A T H signs that mark the entrances to PATH. Full of interesting small shops. Enter through the below ground mall in almost any major downtown building.

WWW Guide My favorite online guide to Toronto is Joel Chan's add-free guide:

<http://www.math.toronto.edu/toronto>

It has links for most of the places described in this guide.

Emergencies The telephone number for fire department, police and ambulance service is 9 1 1.

TeleHealth Ontario operates a 24-hour free medical advice service staffed by registered nurses at (866) 797-0000. There are several major hospitals with Emergency Rooms on University Avenue between Dundas St and College St.

Shopping - Near the Conference Hotel

Wine and Beer In Ontario all wine, liquor and most imported beer is sold by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO). Many LCBO stores include a Vintages section that specializes in less common wine and liquor. Three small LCBO stores near downtown hotels are at 176 Yonge St [at Queen], 87 Front St East [between Church and Jarvis], and in the First Canadian Place underground mall [King and Bay]. The flagship LCBO main store on Queens Quay at Cooper St [Church St extension] is a large store that carries all of the brands that the LCBO sells.

Beer is sold in Ontario by THE BEER STORE, a brewers cooperative. The Beer Stores nearest the downtown hotels are in the Loblaws grocery complex at Queens Quay and Jarvis and at 350 Queens Quay West near Spadina Ave.

Groceries There are small convenience stores in the PATH complex and on Front Street east of Yonge. There is a large Dominion grocery store on Front St just east of Church St. Loblaws has an even larger grocery store on Queens Quay at Jarvis St.

Office supplies, presentation materials Staples/Business Depot has a very large office supply store on University Avenue at Armoury St. between Queen and Dundas. There are several smaller Grand & Toy office supply stores in the downtown area including one in the PATH complex in BCE Place.

Shopping - Downtown Toronto

Toronto Eaton Centre Toronto's largest downtown shopping mall. Good for souvenirs, clothes and gifts. [west side of Yonge St, between Queen and Dundas ; TTC Dundas St. or Queen St. stations]

The Bay The Toronto flagship store for the Bay department store chain. Very large department store. [Yonge and Queen ; TTC Queen St. Station]

Camping Equipment All of the major Toronto camping goods merchants (Mountain Equipment Co-op, European Outfitters, Trail Head) have stores on King Street West near Spadina. [TTC west on the King Street Car]

Book Stores Chapters/Indigo is the local big box book store. There is a large Chapters store on Richmond Street at John St. west of University Avenue. Toronto also has many smaller stores specializing in particular subjects. Bakka SF Bookstore [598 Yonge Street, north of Wellesley ; (416) 963-9993] specializes in science fiction. The Cookbook Store [850 Yonge St 2 blocks north of Bloor; (416) 920-2665] carries thousands of cooking related titles. Books for Business [120 Adelaide St. W; (416) 362-7822] specializes in business and computer books. Worlds Biggest Book Store [official name, not fact] is an interesting large bookstore. [Edward Street between Bay St. and Yonge St., north of Dundas St.] The Sleuth of Baker Street [1600 Bayview Ave; TTC north on the Yonge subway then west on the Davisville 11 bus to Bayview; (416) 483-3111] specializes in mystery and adventure fiction. Nicholas Hoare is an exceptional traditional bookstore [45 Front Street East near Church St.; (416) 777-2665].

CD/Video Two of Toronto's largest CD/DVD/Video stores: *Sam the Record Man* and *HMV* are located near each other on Yonge St. north of Dundas.

Shopping & Strolling Areas

There are several areas of Toronto that are good for strolling and browsing at interesting small stores and eating at local restaurants.

Yorkville An eclectic collection of up-scale shops, boutiques and restaurants. [the three block area north of Bloor Street between Avenue Road and Yonge St. [TTC Museum Station on the University line or Bay Station on the Bloor line.]

Queen Street West Queen Street west of University Avenue contains many small shops. Emphasis is on mod clothing, CD/Video, computers.

Harbor Front Lakefront shopping in Toronto. Emphasis on clothing, souvenirs, nautical themes.

Bloor Street West Bloor Street West of Spadina is the start of a very long shopping area with a wide variety of shops.

Spadina China Town Spadina Avenue between Queen Street and College Street is home to a very large number of Chinese and Vietnamese shops and restaurants.

College St. Where UofT shops for computers. A dense collection of small computer shops. [College St. west of Spadina Ave.]

Attractions and Places of Interest

Near the Conference Hotel

Sky Dome Toronto's largest stadium with a retractable roof. Home to the Toronto Blue Jays. [entry from Front St. West]

CN Tower World's tallest building and freestanding structure (553+ m, 1815+ ft). On a clear day the public observation tower offers views over Toronto and as far away as Niagara Falls. The revolving restaurant at the top of the tower offers a panoramic view of the city. Toronto food critics generally find the view better than the food. [entry through the CN Tower walkway at the west end of Union Station]

Toronto Islands A very large park on an island offshore. Includes restaurants, a children's amusement area and some long pleasant walking areas. Bicycles, roller blades, canoes and paddle boats can be rented in season. [Access via the Toronto Island Ferry at Bay Street and Queens Quay]

Nathan Philips Square A large public square featuring seasonal entertainment and nice ambience. On Wednesdays during the summer fruit and vegetable farmers from the Niagara Region run a Farmer's Market here to sell their produce.

Harbour Front Toronto's waterfront park. Very pleasant waterfront atmosphere. [Queens Quay, between Bay St. and Spadina Ave.]

Entertainment District The main theater district in Toronto. Also home to *many* clubs and restaurants. [between King St and Queens Street, west of University Avenue.]

St. Lawrence Market Toronto's traditional old style market. Butchers, bakers and fruit & vegetable vendors. Several interesting and unique specialty food shops. On Saturdays the market doubles in size when local farmers come in to sell their produce [Front Street at Jarvis St.]

Downtown Toronto

Royal Ontario Museum The ROM is Ontario's largest traditional museum. [On University Avenue just south of Bloor Street. TTC Museum Station on the University subway line.]

Art Gallery of Ontario Home to a large collection of Canadian and World Art. [Dundas Street between University Avenue and Spadina.]

University of Toronto Canada's largest University. The St. George campus is north of College St, (mostly) west of University Avenue. [TTC Queens Park Station on the University subway.]

Gay Town Toronto has one of the largest gay/lesbian communities in North America. Gay Town on Church Street between Carleton St. and Bloor St. is one focal point for this community. [TTC College St or Wellesley St stations on the Yonge subway.]

Elsewhere

Ontario Science Centre A science museum featuring exhibits of interest to all ages. [770 Don Mills Road ; TTC east on Bloor Subway to Pape station then north on the Don Mills 25 bus or north on the Yonge subway to Eglinton station then east on the Eglinton East bus to Don Mills Road; (416) 696-3127]

Metro Toronto Zoo On of the top ten zoos in North America and the 3rd largest in terms of area (comfortable walking shoes are recommended). On Meadowvale Road north of Highway 401 in the north east corner of Toronto. [TTC Take the Bloor/Danforth/Scarborough LRT east to Kennedy Station. Take the 86A bus from Kennedy station to the Zoo. GO TRAIN: take a GO train from Union Station to Rouge Hill station in Scarborough, TTC buses connect this station directly to the Zoo.; (416) 392-5900]

Paramount Canada Wonderland A major amusement park featuring rides and shows. On Highway 400 about 15 Km north of Toronto. [Express GO busses run from Yorkdale and York Mills subway stations. An alternative is to take the GO train from Union Station north to Maple Station and then take the Vaughn Transit #4 bus to Canada Wonderland.; (905) 832-8131]

Lunch near the Conference Hotel

Toronto has over 2,000 restaurants. I have tried to recommend a few places that I particularly like that are convenient to the Conference. The Toronto Health Department has instituted a mandatory restaurant inspection program. Restaurants that have passed this inspection display a large green PASS sign. Accept no substitutes. Many of the restaurants listed here are only open for lunch Monday through Friday.

Mövenpick Marché A unique open cafeteria restaurant in BCE place. An experience! Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Warning: unlike all other Toronto restaurants, Marche automatically adds a service charge to your bill so tipping is not appropriate. [East end of the street level in BCE place; (416) 366-8986]

Marché Lino a smaller take out version of Marché in the PATH underground in BCE place. Faster if Marché upstairs is crowded.

Young Thailand A small chain of very good Thai restaurants. Two locations nearby: 81 Church St (between King and Queen; (416) 368-1368) and 165 John St (north of Queen St.; (416) 593-9291).

Denison's Brew Pub Three restaurants sharing one location and beer brewed on the premises. [75 Victoria St, one block south and east of Yonge and Queen; (416) 360-5877]

Montreal Delicatessen Noted for Montreal smoked meat and Montreal-style bagels. [160 Adelaide St. West, just east of University; (416) 365-1212]

Avalon An excellent (expensive) high end restaurant. One of the best restaurants in the city. Open for lunch only on Thursdays. [270 Adelaide St. West (at John St.); (416) 979-9918]

Barberian's Steak House Carnivore's delight. One of Toronto's top steak restaurants. Expensive. [Elm Street between Yonge St and Bay St. a couple of block north of Dundas; (416) 597-0335]

Bangkok Garden Another very good Thai restaurant. Very good food and great atmosphere. [18 Elm St, between Yonge St and Bay St north of Dundas St.; (416) 977-6748]

Bombay Palace A good Indian restaurant with a buffet lunch. [71 Jarvis St. north of Front St.; (416) 368-8048]

Sangam Restaurant An Indian restaurant with a good selection of vegetarian dishes. [788 Bay St at College St.; TTC Bay bus north to College St. ; (416) 591-7090]

St. Lawrence Market There are several bakeries/cafes in the St. Lawrence market that sell sandwiches and other light snacks. Try a peameal bacon (real Canadian bacon) sandwich or from Canada's north try an Arctic Char sandwich. [Front Street at Jarvis St.]

Lai Wah Heen Very good Chinese restaurant with inventive (and expensive) dim sum. In the Chestnut Hotel [108 Chestnut St. one block east of University Ave, one block south of Dundas. (416) 977-9899]

JK@ROM A lunch-only restaurant run by Jamie Kennedy, one of Toronto's finest chefs. [inside the Royal Ontario Museum on University Avenue just south of Bloor St. ask at the museum information desk for directions to the restaurant; (416) 586-5578 ; TTC north on the University line to Museum station]

Gallery Grill An excellent lunch-only restaurant in the Hart House student union on the University of Toronto Campus; (416) 978-2445 ; TTC north on University line to Queens Park or Museum stations.

Dundas Street China Town The area on Dundas Street between Bay and University has many other interesting Chinese restaurants.

Front Street There is a good selection of inexpensive to moderate priced restaurants on Front Street, west of University Avenue. These are mostly mass market restaurants catering to the crowds attending events at the Sky Dome.

Entertainment District There are many good restaurants and pubs in the Entertainment district.

PATH food courts For something fast and simple, there are a number of fast food lunch places (as well as some serious restaurants) in the PATH complex underneath the downtown area.

Harbour Front There are a number of restaurants with a pleasant waterfront ambience in the Harborfront area. The restaurants tend to have better ambience than food. Still a pleasant place to have a sandwich and a beer and watch the waterfront activity.

The Kitchen Table convenience store [10 Queens Quay West; (416) 777-9875] sells a nice selection of sandwiches and other portable food for taking with you while you walk along the waterfront.

Dinning in Toronto

A few pointers for those of you who will be staying in Toronto after the conference. Most of the lunch restaurants mentioned above are also a good bet for dinner.

Boba One of the finest restaurants in Toronto. Mediterranean/Asian fusion cuisine. Expensive. [90 Avenue Road, 3 blocks north of Bloor; TTC north to Museum station on the University line ; (416) 961-2622]

Pangaea Restaurant High end nouvelle (fusion) cuisine. Expensive. [1221 Bay Street, north of Bloor; TTC north on the Bay Street bus to Bloor St. ; (416) 920-2323]

Scaramouche High end Italian restaurant. Expensive. Wonderful view overlooking downtown Toronto. [Avenue Road at Benvenuto Place; (416) 961-8011]

Canoe High end restaurant on top of a major office tower. Stunning view of Toronto. Very good food and excellent wine cellar. Expensive. [66 Wellington St. W.; (416) 364-0054]

Patriot Features very good Canadian cuisine. Pleasant dining experience. [131 Bloor St. W (near University Ave); (416) 922-0025]

Lee Garden Chinese (Cantonese) restaurant, very popular. [331 Spadina Ave, between College and Dundas; (416) 593-9524]

Naturaj A good Indian restaurant in the Bloor Street West area. [394 Bloor St West, west of Spadina ; (416) 928-2925]

La Bodega A good French restaurant. Moderate to expensive. [30 Baldwin St; east of Spadina Ave, south of College St; (416) 977-1287]

Avli An upscale Greek restaurant in Toronto's Greektown Inexpensive to moderate. 401 Danforth Ave. TTC east on the Bloor line to Chester station; (416) 461-9577]

Mezes Very authentic Greek restaurant. Moderate. [456 Danforth Ave; TTC east on the Bloor line to Chester station; (416) 778-5150]

Le Trou Normand A French provincial restaurant specializing in the cuisine of Normandy. [90 Yorkville Ave; TTC north on the Bay bus to Yorkville ; (416) 967-5956]

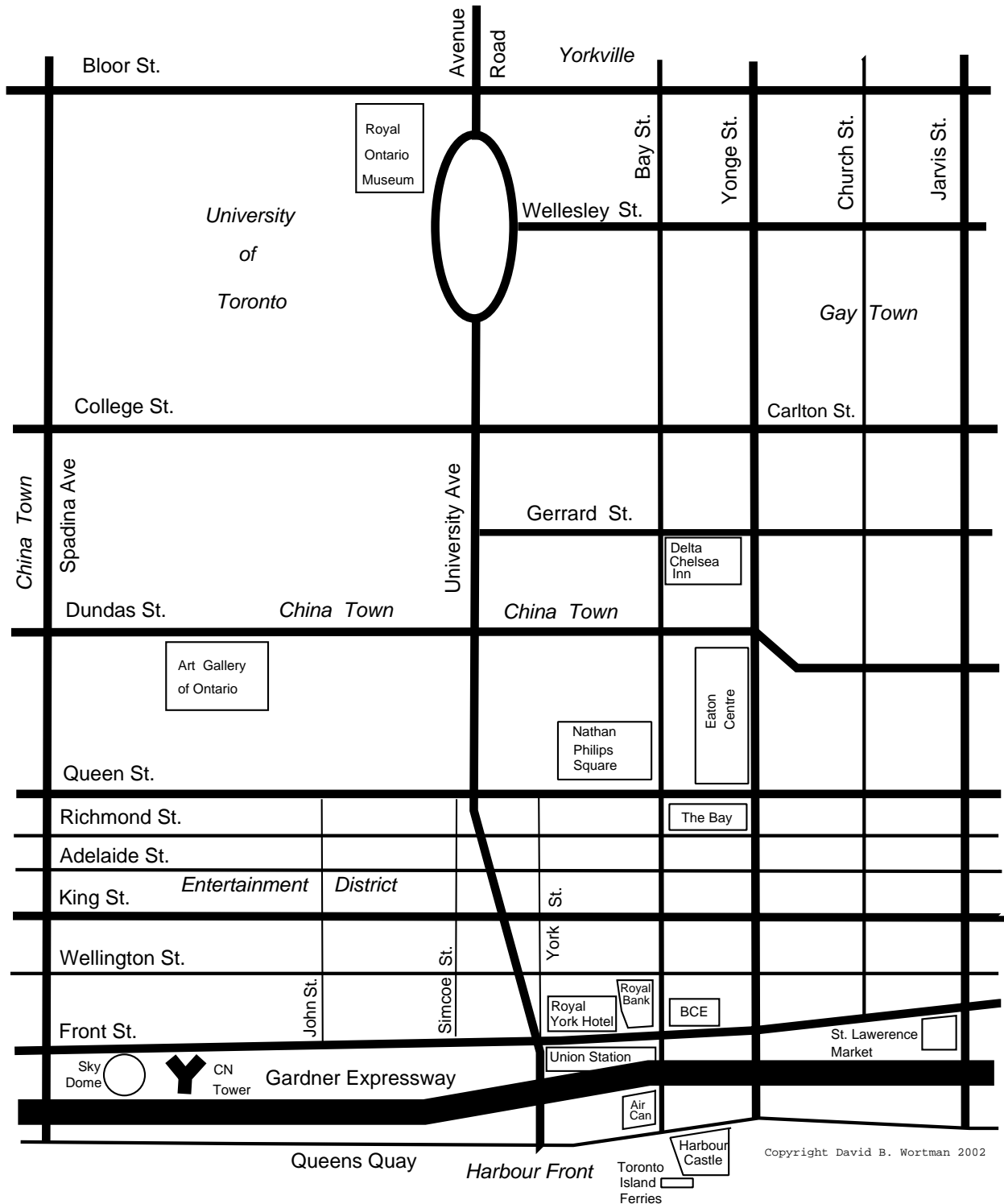
Caveat

I have tried to make this guide as correct and current as possible. However I cannot be responsible for changes beyond my control that may render this information inaccurate. You are encouraged to verify the time/locations/directions given here, especially if you intend to take any of the major journeys I have described.

Acknowledgment

This guide contains recycled post-consumer information. I have freely reused material from Michael Godfrey's *Eating in Toronto - A Guide for Software Engineers* that he wrote for the ICSE2001 conference.

Downtown Toronto Map



Notes: includes major streets only. East/West streets divide at Yonge St.
 This map describes an area that is approximately 2 Km (1.25 mi) wide
 by 3.6 Km (2.25 mi) high. NOT to scale.