

An Early Spring Adventure in Toronto

Awe, the perfect early spring day here in Canada. A light jacket was still needed to stroll around the magnificence and beauty of the Toronto streets as they awaken after a long and cold winter. It was too early yet for flowers or greenery but the day was warm and the people were out reminding me of the many things I love about this city.

With camera in hand and a very loose stroll route planned, Kat and I hopped the train into the city, and then a quick subway ride north to the heart of Queen Street. We love this area for the variety of shops, the smorgasbord of culture and a different visual adventure on every block. Did I mention the total vibration of creative energy in this neighborhood?



A piece of graffiti, one of hundreds we saw that day. Graffiti, if it hasn't already, should be classified as a legitimate form of art as much of what we saw truly are works of art. It's amazing what can be done on a wall with cans of spray paint.

Wayne listening to the vibration of the art; wonder what he hears...

Artists of all sorts showing up on our path: Wall artists, street painters, performance people, vendors of all sorts, make for an exciting day. Knowing what you know about Wayne and Kat, or will find out, we are never ones to snap a photo and move on. We love finding out more about these folks and exchanging email addresses, before we continue on our way.





A Street artist doing his thing in public; as far as we are concerned, this is one of the most powerful forms of marketing any artist can undertake. People like us will talk about his art work when we see it.

Another mode of transport, the skateboard always looks like so much fun.

That day was so cool to be out and around; spring's arrival was apparent in the smiles and footsteps of many on the street looking at the wares of the street vendors and artists. If I were to hazard a guess, I think all 2.5 million people of Toronto were in the streets enjoying that first glimpse of life in the spring.

Talk about *Living out Loud*; the young are so very creative and quite willing to be their own creations. Gotta love that!!



There were a group of people having a whipped cream pie throwing fest in support of theatrical play that was taking place in the city. What an inventive way to advertise as everyone was stopping by to see what was happening. The fun

they displayed was probably only a portion of what the play was all about.



These two proudly wore the aftermath of a whipped cream pie throwing fest. What fun to watch!!

There came a time when we needed to quench our thirst and so we headed into a small but authentic Irish pub and immediately felt at home. The endless taps of all sorts of beer I have never heard of, the friendly folks and staff, the old style wrap around bar, the wooden floors that I am sure was never level. This bar dates back into the early days of Toronto and judging by the smell of beer, many have enjoyed more than a few drinks and stories here. We rested for a bit over a glass of spirits and conversation before heading out again. On our way out we spotted a gentleman sitting with his guest who had the most unique look of all the day and was so suited to the environment he was sitting in. At first glance, I could have mistaken him for a leprechaun; a typical looking



Irish man with the entire garb to match. He agreed to have his picture taken for this magazine which brought great delight and joy to both Kat and I.

The Leprechaun sat enjoying his beer with a friend in the old Irish pub, looking like he had just walked out of the past into the present.

Glancing at our watches, it would soon be time for dinner with friends, so off in that direction we strolled. Just about a block away, we encountered another photographer who was in town for a concert that evening, taking some shots of wall graffiti.

Throughout the day we had taken many pictures of wall art but to come across another doing the same thing was quite amazing. We spoke about cameras, lifestyles, the talented artists out there using blank walls as their canvas, tattoos and about everything and everyone from music to the arts. What a gift this youngster has and it always makes me so energized to listen to someone talk about their passion for life at such a young age; thank you Nathan for turning up on my path today.



Nathan stands beside one of the many walls in this alley that were colorfully decorated by unknown artists.

Nathan and Wayne quickly became friends as they discovered their mutual respect for graffiti artists.

As we were already late for dinner, we continued to saunter up the road to our meeting place, feeling a bit weary from endless stopping and taking in all the gorgeous sights of this vibrant city.



While we made our way down the busy street towards the restaurant, we came across this sign that we loved and which speaks to how we really do feel about life.



Let me take a moment here and highlight a wonderful tool that is allowing us to share more of our story than have ever been able to before. A state of the art digital camera made by [Canon](#), which is always ready to accommodate us at a moments notice, backed up with a spare battery, and literally holding over 1500

pictures. This little marvel has shown me that there is a whole new way of seeing and for that I am very appreciative. Somehow the world looks a whole lot different when I put the camera around my neck.

'Hey Kat, can I have one of these all to myself?' I said smiling... maybe even Canon is listening and reading my words and will give me a free one. Now there's an intention; I'll let you know how it turns out. :-)

Peace and Love

[Wayne Parker](#)

[Email Wayne](#)

Kat's 2 cents:

There is just so much that I love about Toronto or any big city I have ever been in for that matter. The chaotic feel of all of the different people, cultures and lifestyles inspires me in a very unique and powerful way.

I love to watch the young adults from the art world as they play out their fantasies and entertain the milling crowds. There is a playful energy about these people that deserves to be seen and cherished by thousands. They are a lesson to us all about the fun we can have in our lives – that we don't have to be so serious about life all of the time. In part it is these very people that offered Wayne and I the inspiration to create this magazine and share our lives where everyone can see us.

The many different forms of art that the street artists lovingly create before our very eyes remind me that there are many people in the world that are willing to share their talents freely and they have inspired me to share them with the world. As we go forward it is my fondest hope that we can assist these incredibly talented people in getting their beautiful work in front of more people. We will be making a more concentrated effort to get names and web addresses as we go forward, so we can share them with you.

There are so many wonderful characters in the world and I feel honored every time I meet one. They each in their own way remind me that it is ok to just be myself and that I don't have to meet anyone else's standards as to how I look, how I speak or how I live, I just need to do it to the best of my ability.

Thank you Toronto, for being a kaleidoscope of life that I can enjoy and experience till my heart is content; it's just another way that the magic happens.

In Gratitude

[Kat McCarthy](#)

[Email Kat](#)