



**CANADIAN TOUR GUIDE
ASSOCIATION *of* TORONTO**

Newsletter – April 2018

Contents

CTGA Members Visit the 'Newly Restored' Broadview Hotel.....	2
The Joy of an HST Number	3
CTGA Members do Volunteer Service at Good Shepherd Centre	5
Winter in Ecuador	7
Early Toronto Hospitals	8



CTGA Members Visit the 'Newly Restored' Broadview Hotel

by Pam Cook – Events Coordinator

TUESDAY, February 20th, was a very special day for approximately 20 of our CTGA Members when we visited the Broadview Hotel at the corner of Queen and Broadview!

This 126-year old building and 7-storey landmark has been restored to a 58-room boutique hotel. The beautiful 7th floor Rooftop Patio, with pastel-coloured couches, allows great views of the city!

We were welcomed by the General Manager, Murray Henderson, and the Group Sales Manager, Sabrina Budhu. We learned that this hotel started out as a soap factory. It was then sold and became 'Jilly's Strip Club,' which lasted for 35 years! A local company, 'Streetcar Developments,' purchased the deteriorating building. They polled the neighbourhood as to what the majority would like to see replace 'Jilly's.' An upscale boutique-style hotel was chosen. The developers kept the existing façade but totally renovated the interior. Everything was replaced with ultra-modern décor; even the height of the rooms was changed.

We began our tour in the Lobby Bar. When we commented on the wallpaper, our host told us that when they were demolishing the interior, they found 5 layers of wallpaper. One style was so



beautiful that the designers copied the pattern and reproduced it for this particular Restaurant and Bar!

The guest rooms are most tastefully done. Each guest room has one discreet wall with floral design. The comfortable side chair is upholstered in that same pattern—very eye catching! The beautiful floors had an older look but, once again, nothing is original. All is new and designed throughout to reference a previous era. Each room has a turntable record player with 4 LP records. If clients want to exchange records they can visit the 'record library' and exchange for their favourite choices. Nightly room rate for a Broadview Hotel room is \$309.

The developers also purchased the older building adjacent to the Hotel and merged the two together, forming an amazing venue for company events, meetings or weddings. Lincoln Hall, as it is

called, is joined by a long attractive hall leading to this large special events room. The Lincoln Hall décor has the 'original brick walls and beamed ceiling' unlike the rest of the fully restored facility.

We finalized our tour on the amazing Rooftop Terrace, where we were offered coffee and pastries while enjoying the great views of Toronto

and this unique neighbourhood. It was such a fitting climax to a most interesting tour!

I also suggest that you go on their website, www.thebroadviewhotel.ca. You will view some wonderful photos and be able to appreciate what we were so privileged to see in person!

The Joy of an HST Number

by Margaret Bryce – Recording Secretary

As you know, we all pay sales tax on what we buy. That tax is called HST.

If you are self-employed, you could collect HST on the money you are paid for the work you do. And the government would pay you to do it.

Really? It sounds like a scam.

No, it is perfectly legal. You get paid for collecting HST for the government.

I know that you have to have an HST number if you make more than \$30,000 a year.

Yes, you are right. But people who make less than that can also collect HST for the government.

Is it hard to get an HST number?

No, you apply online. It does not cost you anything. It could bring you joy, or at least cash.

Haha. What do you mean joy?

I increased my income by \$740 last year. I received a refund of the HST I paid for my work expenses! I call that joy. And it is perfectly legal.

What kind of expenses?

Computer expenses, car expenses, insurance and my home office. All of them.

But why did you get it back?

Because I charged HST on my work and sent that HST to the government.

Is the HST return difficult to understand?

No, it is only four lines.

Really? Do I have to save all my receipts?

You save them already for your income tax return. But you can use the **Quick Method of Accounting** where receipts are not required.

But isn't it too much work?

No. You charge your clients 13% on the work you do. You send the government 8.8% of your work income, usually only once a year. You keep 4.2%. How hard is that?

My employers will complain if I charge them HST.

No, they don't care. They get back the HST they pay for expenses.

Where can I find out more?

Talk to your accountant. Ask for advice on whether to use the quick method. Will there be an extra charge for preparing the four-line HST return?

I think that makes sense. What do I do next?

Apply online for an HST number or ask your accountant to do that for you. Here is the URL.
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/bn-ne/bro-ide/menu-eng.html>.

A few days later, start charging 13% on each invoice. Show your HST number on the invoice.

Complete your HST return and submit the tax owing, usually once a year when you do your income tax return.

IT IS EASY AND IT PUTS MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.

CTGA Members do Volunteer Service at Good Shepherd Centre

by Pam Cook – Events Coordinator



FOR MANY YEARS, our Annual Christmas/Hanukkah tour and lunch has held a raffle with funds going to the Good Shepherd Centre for Homeless on Queen Street East. We have contributed generously with donations of food, clothing, and toiletries.

Some CTGA members have been volunteering their time at the Centre. We do many tasks such as making beds, sorting donated food and clothing, and folding sheets and towels. In the laundry we call ourselves 'The Irish Washerwomen'.

We also volunteer in the kitchen for meal prep and for serving. The GSC feeds over 700 each day, and at the all-day Christmas and Easter meal...over 1,500!! The kitchen patrol is a task that really shows how glamorous our guides can be wearing our oversized aprons and required hair nets.

Our days working at GSC are rewarding and, being tour guides, the GSC staff have labelled us their chattiest volunteers. A wise statement says it all... 'always be of service to others, not just through words, but through actions!' This quote describes all our wonderful, willing volunteers.



More photos from the Good Shepherd Centre . . .



Winter in Ecuador

by Marcy Desroches

MARCH 2018—I have just come back from my 3rd visit to Ecuador. Though I am an avid traveler, Ecuador is the only place I have returned to so many times.

- ❖ Ecuador is Spanish for the word ‘equator.’ It is extremely hot, especially on the beach-lined coast where I stay. It’s a great place to escape a harsh Canadian winter.
- ❖ Even though the currency is USD, Ecuador is a very economical place. If you like wine, you’ll pay \$5 USD for a litre of Chilean Merlot or Sauvignon Blanc. If you prefer beer, how about a tall Pilsner for under \$2? Local crafts include beautiful handmade Alpaca blankets for under \$25 USD.
- ❖ If you are an adventurous foodie, you won’t be disappointed. Did you know that Ecuador has the most exotic fruits in the world? Food is plentiful and fresh. We shop at the Mercado each week and our grocery bill is under \$50 USD.
- ❖ The Ecuadorian people are quite friendly and are very ‘family-oriented.’ There is little to no crime here, so feel free to roam. We take the local bus for 30 cents each ride on a regular basis!
- ❖ We try to give back to the Ecuadorian people, especially those in need. We worked as ‘Christmas elves’ who help with local community fundraising and by packing gifts and hampers for needy children.
- ❖ This year, we took part in a project that helped a local man, who has a life-threatening disease, and his 11 year old daughter. Our group built them a new house so they no longer sleep in a cesspool and have an indoor bathroom. The smiles on their faces were heartwarming.

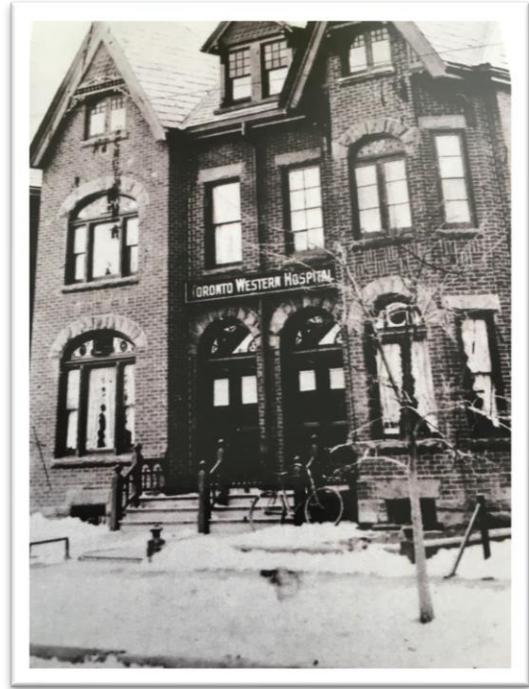
Ecuador continues to enchant us and will draw us back in 2 years.

Early Toronto Hospitals

by Marilyn Perlman – Membership Coordinator

FROM A PUBLIC DISPENSARY, to a farmhouse, to Toronto Western Hospital—thanks to the philanthropy of Torontonians.

In 1895, 12 doctors signed a pledge to build a full hospital facility in Toronto's west end. The hospital opened as a public dispensary, before expanding to operate out of two vented properties. Generous citizens then raised enough money to acquire a nearby farmhouse, and began building the hospital on its present site. Back then, patients were treated in tents! Today, the hospital occupies a full city block.



Toronto General Hospital started as a small shed used as a British Army military hospital during the Anglo-American war of 1812. The Local and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada decided to melt war medals into gold bullion, organizing a trust fund to construct a new hospital on that site. Their philanthropy paved the way for the exceptional Canadian health care we have today.