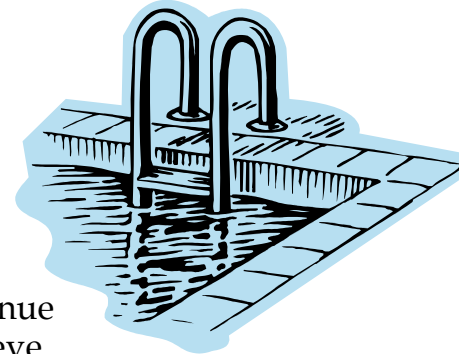


Danforth East Update

Danforth East Community Association (DECA)

School Pools

Toronto's 78 school pools are at risk including the pool in the Earl Beatty Community Centre. Local pools are a huge benefit to the community, contributing to the health and well being of people young and old. DECA has written to the provincial government encouraging it to continue funding our community pool because we believe it's an essential part of our neighbourhood. To read the letter, visit www.danfortheast.ca



Do you want to know **what's happening** in your 'hood? Do you have something happening that you want **to share**?

Meander your mouse over to danfortheast.ca and click on 'What's Happening In Our Neighbourhood.' That will take you to our website's new best friend, danforthlife.ca.

It will tell you where to play, where to eat and who you might want to do it all with.

On March 4th, the **Danforth Development** group met at the always warm and welcoming, Quattro Regazze (1792 Danforth). This group of people would like to improve our little strip of the Danforth. Lots of ideas were tossed around while we drank coffee and wine and ate delicious bruschetta. Many great ideas came out, but most focused on the idea that we, as residents, need to support the good businesses that we have before we can hope for any new ones to set up shop. So one of things we're doing is sharing our favourite spots through this newsletter. Turns out Heather Whetsone is an uber local shopper so we asked her to write a regular column about her best finds. Other Danforth secrets will be revealed here in the coming months.



Heather's Shopping Cart – Deals from the Danforth

By Heather Whetstone

Three years ago, I was lucky enough to take a wrong turn onto East Lynn and found myself at an open house. We purchased the following Tuesday. It may sound impulsive, but it was my eye for a bargain that made me snatch it up. I love the view into East Lynn Park, it reminds me of the Hamilton neighbourhood I grew up in. To truly feel happy I need to have a personal link with my neighbourhood. I like to know the people in it, have that small town feeling and I think our area is really starting to have that feeling.

That is why I prefer to shop locally at smaller shops because it gives me a chance to talk to people and see how my purchase directly provides a livelihood. I walk or ride my bike and leave the car at home, and can bring my own containers and bags. I know our end of the Danforth is not as trendy as Greektown but I am here to tell you about a few of our hidden gems.

It is ironic that I am writing tips about shopping because outside of weekly grocery shopping I probably only shop 4 times a year, including Christmas. I rarely visit the mall because everything is the same. I love to explore the road less traveled so our end of the Danforth is a treasure trove.

After Christmas I noticed that my well-loved flannel sheets were starting to look too loved. I started by checking the flyers to see good quality queen size, deep pocket sheets ranged from \$59 - \$89. The **Mattress & Linen Inc at 1769 Danforth** looks like one of those liquidation places with a make-shift sign and sale flyers stuck to the windows, which gives a feeling of sub-quality goods. Not very inviting, but past experience tells me to never judge a book by its cover.

When I opened the door I was pleasantly surprised. Display shelves were filled with beautifully coloured sheet sets, duvet covers and towels. There was a selection of high quality mattresses, down and synthetic filled duvets and great pillows. Closer inspection of the labels revealed that many of the items were from Highland Feather Manufacturing Inc., a Scarborough company (www.highlandfeather.com). It can't get much more local than that. Many of the Highland Feather duvets are made from Canadian Hutterite white goose down; the Hutterites are synonymous to goose down like the Amish are to quilts. I almost forgot that I was shopping for flannel sheets because I couldn't put down the 400 thread count Egyptian cotton set in that trendy, crisp hotel white. Due its small size, the store doesn't keep an inventory of flannel sheets but I ordered some from a sample book. I had to pay in advance (\$59.99) but I wasn't too nervous having been given a receipt and verbal guarantee. I ordered on Saturday and picked them up on Tuesday. The sheet quality was excellent and fit the mattress perfectly. The shop is open Monday to Saturday, 9 to 6, and payment is cash, debit or credit card and the prices are very competitive. With spring approaching my old house will soon be warm again and I can start thinking about exchanging my flannel sheets for a nice set in Egyptian cotton.

I invite you to explore other diamonds in the rough and I'll do the same.
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