


**NEW HOMES & CONDOS**

# Everything old is new again



NATALIE DEANE

## DECOR AND MORE

There is no doubt when you look around the city of Toronto that condos and offices are going up everywhere. There should be one big sign as you enter saying ‘Welcome to Toronto — the whole city is under construction.’

While it seems every corner has a floor to ceiling glass skyscraper going up, there are a few new builds that are breathing fresh life into older, historic buildings.

If you look around the city some of the best architectural designs come from the merging of modern with classical designs — One King West, Maple Leaf Gardens, Summerhill LCBO and one of my favourites — Brookfield Place. More recently there have been two very talked about renova-

tion refreshers — The Brunswick House and Jilly’s.

### Rexall Brunswick House

“For many years, the Brunswick House was synonymous with good times. We’re very proud to be a part of the community and build on that legacy by providing excellent health and wellness services to the community,” says Paul Dale, Executive Vice President, Rexall Store Operations.

When Rexall took on the ownership of the Brunswick house, a truly beloved drinking hole of many a student, they knew it meant a lot to the student community, Toronto’s music culture and the history of Toronto.

They worked closely with Toronto’s Heritage preserva-

tion service to maintain and even restore some of the structure’s wonderful elements.

The chandeliers, tin ceilings, iconic interior signage, and even the famous keg barrel bar (now the store’s main checkout area), have all been restored and are featured prominently in the new drugstore’s layout and design.

As an honour to its musical past Rexall created the ‘Rexall Brunswick House Music Artifacts Exhibition’ that displays musical memorabilia from some of Canada’s most renowned musicians including Jeff Healey, Oscar Peterson, Downchild Blues Band and Peter Appleyard to name a few.

“The Brunswick House is hallowed ground for music fans, not just in Toronto but across Canada,” explains Alan Cross, curator for the Rexall Brunswick House Music Artifacts Exhibition. “With Rexall’s support, this exhibit is a fitting tribute and homage to those artists who graced its stage.”

### The Broadview Hotel

Built in 1891 in the Romanesque revival style with arched windows, Dingham Hall

opened as one of Toronto’s premiere social clubs. In 1907, the building was sold and turned into the Broadview Hotel.

It went through many hands before the 1970s, when it had turned into a boarding house with a seedy strip club, ‘Jilly’s’ on the ground floor.

In 2014, the property was purchased by Streetcar Developments, who saw the potential in a heritage conversion and set about renovating the building into a boutique hotel with a ground-floor restaurant space.

Les Mallins, president of Streetcar Developments and hotel proprietor states: “Our vision is to create a destination that honours the building’s history and transforms the space into a landmark hub that reflects east end culture. The building has been a cornerstone in the community and we’re excited to welcome people back inside.”

The restoration has not been an easy one, though the façade looked beautiful — there was still a lot of restoration needed to the gargoyle and trim. As well, the building was structurally unsound and they couldn’t keep any of the existing floors or walls.



The Broadview Hotel’s recently restored facade.

Award-winning studio DesignAgency took on the restoration of the iconic 126-year old façade — the 58 guest rooms, a lively lobby Café + Bar, the Civic ground floor restaurant, a rooftop lounge and 4,000+ square feet of event space.

They’ve worked at blending classic elements with eclectic accents. Designed to offer a warm welcome, each room features bold, luxurious textiles that add subtle nods to the past.

The Broadview Hotel’s notorious history will not be completely erased — like Brunswick House — a museum-like space with Jilly’s memorabilia, including posters, poles and entertainers’ lockers will share some of the mysteries of the building’s seedy past.

A timeline of the building’s history will run through the stairs. Beginning in 1891, the timeline starts in the basement where the exposed foundations are still present.

“We’ve restored it to its original purpose — a neighbourhood gathering place and hotel — while keeping in mind its various incarnations through its history,” says Jeff Schnitter, Streetcar’s VP of architecture. “We want to be authentic to the building, the neighbourhood and the people in the neighbourhood.”

The Broadview Hotel is scheduled to open July 27th.

— *Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.*

# Toronto teen takes road to success in construction



RICHARD LYALL

## RESCON

Riley Nicole Miljure is a beacon of hope for high school students thinking about a career in construction.

The 18-year-old is on track for a successful career in electrical work and is one of the success stories of Toronto’s Construction Trades Exploration Program (CTEP), which gives TDSB high school students the opportunity to work on construction sites to test the waters in up to a dozen trades, including plumbing, sheet metal and carpentry.

After graduating from Richview Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke last June, Riley chose to enroll for a fifth year at Northview Heights Sec-

ondary School in North York to pursue the CTEP program from September to January.

Despite never having set foot on a construction site, she tried a variety of trades and found her niche with electrical work on Mattamy Homes’ Lago site in Etobicoke, and that ultimately is leading to a career path in new construction.

“You’re harnessing a natural element and getting it to do what you want, and I thought that was really cool,” Riley says.

Last month (in June), Riley was accepted into the pre-apprenticeship program for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 353), one of under 100

accepted into the program out of 900 applicants.

“She deserves this,” says Elvy Moro, CTEP co-ordinator and a teacher at Northview. “She is one of just a handful of students over the 10 years of CTEP to be given a 100% score. Riley just hit it out of the park with Mattamy and look what it led to. I’m not surprised that she would get into the Local 353 program, even with all of that competition.”

But for Riley, the work has just begun. She’ll have to complete a year of electrical pre-apprenticeship with the Joint Apprenticeship Council, followed by a full 9,000 hours to complete the apprenticeship. So, about four years on the job will make Riley a journeyman — a fully licensed electrician.

Riley is still amazed that she got the call.

“When I went for my aptitude test and the interview, I was the only girl there and some of the guys looked like they were 15 years older than me. So for them to choose an 18-year-old female is pretty



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surprising to me,” Riley says.

Riley’s father, Jonathan Miljure, says he had no idea how skilled she would become in the last year.

“Not having any kind of mechanical inclinations before, that was very surprising that she wanted to go into the trade and that she did so well with it,” says Jonathan, a plumber in Toronto. “Personality wise, I’m not surprised — she always gets a long really well with her teachers and co-workers. This has opened up a

whole new world for her.

“She started working on electrical light switches — I had to make her stop,” he adds with a laugh. “She’s certainly becoming handy around the house.”

Proud mother Monica sums up the future of construction: “Women have the ability to do those jobs; we’re going to see a lot more. The younger generation — there’s nothing that they feel they can’t do. No is not an option. If you want to do something, you’ll do it.”

With her confident eyes

beaming, Riley adds: “Once you have a mindset that it doesn’t matter what other people think, you can do anything. Some people say, ‘What do you mean you’re not going to university?’ or ‘That’s not a girl’s job.’ But I love it, so I’m going to do it.”

— *Richard Lyall is president of the Residential Construction Council of Ontario and has represented Ontario’s residential construction industry since 1991. Visit [www.rescon.com](http://www.rescon.com).*