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**IABC** INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS

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TORONTO



PROFESSIONAL *independent* COMMUNICATORS

# THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO SHOPPING IN TORONTO

You'll find many more stores in Toronto than are listed here, but the recommendations in this guide are based on the personal adventures of IABC/Toronto's own members and suggestions from friends, colleagues, [www.modernurbanguides.com](http://www.modernurbanguides.com) and publications like Toronto Life Shopping Guide. The recommended stores are also generally just a short walk, transit or cab ride away.

This guide is the kind of thing I have wanted in other cities while attending IABC World Conferences, and I hope you find it useful. Thanks so much to Christina Scicluna for her shopping expertise, and to Teri McMahon, R.G.D., for the layout. Enjoy!

Sue Horner, editor

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## SHOPPING AREAS

You can shop in Toronto seven days a week, and the larger department stores are generally open during the week from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday until 7 p.m. and Sunday until 6 p.m. Smaller stores may only be open until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Where an area has specific hours, these are noted below. For information on transit routes and schedules, call the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) at 416-393-4636; exact cash fares are \$3.

### Eaton Centre

If you're just sneaking out between conference sessions and have limited time, your best bet is the **Eaton Centre**. From the Sheraton, it's just a few minutes walk east to Yonge St. The mall stretches from Queen Street north to Dundas and holds more than 230 retailers, restaurants and services. Open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Distillery District

The historic Distillery District features brick-lined streets and restored Victorian industrial buildings, and is home to theatres, galleries, boutiques, cafes and restaurants. If you have time, it's about a 25-minute walk from the Sheraton. Otherwise, take the subway at Yonge St. south to King station; transfer to the #504 streetcar along King to Trinity St. Hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Kensington Market

Kensington Market offers cool vintage shops, books, rare vinyl and CDs, independent designers and inexpensive basics. It's about a 25-minute walk, north on Bay St. to Dundas, west on Dundas past Spadina to Kensington Avenue. By transit, walk five minutes north on Bay St. to Dundas; take the #505 Dundas West streetcar and get off at Spadina Ave. The market is open seven days a week, with best shopping between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### King Street West

King Street is a major east/west commercial thoroughfare named after King George III, the reigning British monarch when the street was built. The area is marked by edgy design, antique and vintage shops. From the Sheraton, it's about a 20-minute walk; go south on University one city block and head west. Or take the subway at Yonge St. one stop south to King, and go west, young shopper.

### Little Italy

This trendy district has a warm, European atmosphere. Most of the shopping — for innovative Canadian designs, hip fashion and more — plus restaurants and bars are found along College St., north of Dundas between Bathurst and Ossington. Not far from Kensington Market, it's about a 45-minute walk from the Sheraton. From Kensington Market, walk north to College St. and head west.

### Queen Street West and West Queen Street West

Queen West — named after Queen Victoria — is where you go to find everything trendy, cool, artsy and funky. Queen Street West covers roughly Yonge Street to Bathurst Street; West Queen St. West covers Queen west from Bathurst. Ride the streetcar west from the Sheraton or walk about 20 minutes.

### St. Lawrence Market

More than 120 specialty merchants meet at Front and Jarvis Streets. A farmer's market happens every Saturday and an antique market on Sunday. From the Sheraton, take the subway at Yonge St. south to Union station and walk east along Front St. for three blocks. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Yorkville

This area has been compared to Fifth Avenue in New York, Rodeo Drive in Los Angeles, and the Magnificent Mile in Chicago. The area is lined with labels such as Gucci, Hermes and Prada and Canadian retail icons Harry Rosen and Holt Renfrew. From the Sheraton, walk north on Bay St. (or Yonge, for a more interesting walk) past Bloor to Yorkville Ave., about 30 minutes. Or take the subway at Yonge St. and ride north to the Bloor stop.

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## DEPARTMENT STORES

Toronto's big department stores offer one-stop shopping for accessories, cosmetics, clothing (men's, women's and children's), jewelry, housewares and more.

### **Holt Renfrew** / Yorkville

50 Bloor St. W. at Bay  
416-922-2333

The Canadian equivalent of Saks in New York, or Harrods in London. If it's a big designer name, you'll find it here. Check out the newly launched The Room for designer wear, and the West End Shop for men's wear.

### **The Bay** / Yonge St.

176 Yonge St. at Queen  
416-861-9111

The flagship store of the iconic Hudson's Bay Company chain, commonly known as the Bay, is just down the street from the Sheraton. Quality merchandise and stylish brands at mid- to upper-prices. Official supplier of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics wear.

### **Sears** / Eaton Centre

290 Yonge St. at Dundas  
416-349-7111

The flagship store of this chain anchors one end of the Eaton Centre. Fashions for everyone, jewelry, beauty products, bedding, luggage, housewares, tools and electronics.

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## SHOPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Accessories

#### **Accessity** / Yorkville

136 Cumberland  
416-972-1855

Jewelry, scarves, gloves, belts, hosiery.

#### **Big It Up** / King St. West

55 Spadina Ave.  
416-591-0964

Men's and women's hats and accessories.

#### **Kumari's** / Yorkville

94 Cumberland St.  
416-324-9830

Hand-dyed pashminas in every colour, silk and cashmere scarves, jewelry.

#### **Lilliput Hats** / Little Italy

462 College St.  
416-536-5933

Traditional custom millinery. Canadian-made.

#### **Mink** / Little Italy

550 College St.  
416-929-9214

Modern and vintage-inspired jewelry and accessories.

### Books

#### **Nicholas Hoare** / St. Lawrence Market area

45 Front St. E.  
416-777-2665

Elegant bookshop offering carefully chosen books of all kinds: fiction, current affairs, biography, food and wine, design, travel and unusual books for children. Check the House Favourites, which are titles warmly recommended by the staff.

#### **This Ain't the Rosedale Library** / Kensington Market

96 Nassau St.  
416-929-9912

Billed as Canada's best independent book store and "One of the 10 best bookstores in the world," according to U.K. paper the Guardian.

### Clothing - Children's

#### **Gap Kids** / Yorkville

80 Bloor St. W.  
416-515-0668

Adorable tees, sweaters, dresses, pants, jeans, sleepwear, shoes, flip flops and more. Baby Gap line covers infants to toddlers.

#### **Kol Kid** / Queen St. West

674 Queen St. W. at Bathurst  
416-681-0368

Clothes, shoes, books and handmade toys for infants and toddlers.

## Clothing - Men's

**Boomer** / Queen St. West  
309 Queen St. W.  
416-598-0013

Small but well-stocked shop with a finger on the pulse of men's fashion.

**Brooks Brothers** / Financial district  
200 Bay St. at Wellington  
416-368-0162

Business and casual clothing, with beautiful no-iron cotton dress shirts, ties, pants and sweaters.

**Buckler** / West Queen St. West  
700 Queen St. W.  
416-551-8441

Jeans, shoes, cardigans, jackets, tees and Sexy Bastard underwear.

**Simon Carter** / West Queen St. West  
754 Queen St. W.

A branch of the UK label, with fine British clothing for men.

**Gotstyle** / King St. West  
489 King St. W.  
416-260-9696

A one-stop shopping emporium for men, with interesting fashion-forward casual and dress wear plus spa services.

**Grrreat Stuff** / West Queen St. West  
870 Queen St. W.  
416-533-7680

Reasonably priced jeans, casual pants and shirts.

**Green Shag** / West Queen St. West  
670 Queen St. W.  
416-360-7424

Bespoke men's clothier. Custom cufflinks and other cool accessories for men.

**Harry Rosen** / Yorkville  
82 Bloor St. at Bellair  
416-972-0556

Classic and fashion-forward suits, cashmere sweaters, silk ties and elegant casual wear.

**Model Citizen** / Kensington Market  
279 Augusta Ave.  
416-553-6632

Canadian clothing designs, hand-printed t-shirts.

**Uncle Otis** / Yorkville  
26 Belair  
416-920-2281

British, American and French brands, with tees, shirts, shoes and eyewear.

## Clothing - Unisex & sportswear

**Abercrombie & Fitch** / Eaton Centre  
416-591-6305  
Trendy American clothing chain.

**American Apparel** / Queen St. W.  
499 Queen St. W.  
416-703-5146

Sweatshop-free cotton basics: tees, tanks, hoodies, jeans and more.

**Covet & Crave** / King St. W.  
803 King St. W.  
416-860-9898

Premium denim and tops for teen label hounds and thirty-somethings.

**Fred Perry** / West Queen St. West  
964 Queen St. W.  
416-538-3733

The iconic UK label's first Canadian outpost.

**French Connection** / Yorkville  
11 Bloor St. at Yonge  
416-925-9020

Affordable trendy clothing with European flair.

**H&M** / Eaton Centre  
416-593-0064

Translates runway trends into affordable fashions.

**Lacoste** / Yorkville  
131 Bloor St. W. at Avenue Rd.  
416-513-1212  
Preppy chic.

**Lululemon** / Eaton Centre  
Eaton Centre  
416-587-0422

BC-based chain famous for flattering yoga-inspired clothing.

**Mango** / Eaton Centre  
416-595-7130

Translates runway fashions into fab on a budget.

**Nike Store** / Yorkville  
110 Bloor St. W.  
416-921-NIKE

Canada's flagship Nike store, with three floors of Nike products.

**TNA** / Eaton Centre  
416-597-9227

Find the perfect hoodie, tank or track pants here.

**Urban Outfitters** / Queen St. West  
481 Queen St. W. at Spadina  
416-203-8633

Jeans and t-shirts. Check the sale rack.

**Winners** / Yorkville  
110 Bloor St. W.  
416-920-0193

Department-store quality and savings up to 60 per cent off retail. Like U.S. chain TJ Maxx.

## Clothing - Women's

### **Anthropologie** / Yorkville

80 Yorkville Ave.  
416-964-9700

High-end clothing, jewelry, shoes and bags, home décor.

### **Aritzia** / Eaton Centre

416-204-1318

The latest trends, from sweat gear to party clothes.

### **Cat's Meow** / Yorkville

180 Avenue Rd.  
647-435-5875

High-end vintage wear.

### **Champagne & Cupcakes** / West Queen St. West

1114 Queen St. W.  
416-533-2253

Find the perfect little dress here, plus lingerie and jewelry. The cupcakes are cleverly packaged bubble bath bombs.

### **Comrags** / Queen St. West

654 Queen St. W.  
416-360-7249

Canadian designs and impeccably cut jackets, skirts and dresses.

### **Courage My Love** / Kensington Market

14 Kensington Ave. at Dundas  
416-979-1992

Vintage. Cheap, quirky, fashionable. While you're there, stop at Wanda's Pie in the Sky for a bit of sugar heaven!

### **Club Monaco** / Yorkville

157 Bloor St. W.  
416-591-8837

Trendy fashion company with reasonably cheap versions of runway fashions. Housed in an old bank.

### **Divine Decadence** / Yorkville

128 Cumberland  
416-324-9759

Party frocks and costume jewelry.

### **Eleven** / Yorkville

116 Cumberland  
416-966-3935

Home of Canadian designer Linda Lundstrom and her beautiful, wearable clothing. Best known for the stylish LaParka winter coat.

### **Femme de Carriere** / Yorkville

50 Bloor St. W. (Holt Renfrew Centre)  
416-975-4955

Feminine and sophisticated women's fashion, including high-end suits.

### **David Findlay** / West Queen St. West

899 Queen St. W.  
416-214-9770

Caters to career women, with suits, dresses and blouses in easy shapes.

### **Fresh Baked Goods** / Kensington Market

274 Augusta Ave.

Fashion, jewelry and accessories by a collective of about 30 Toronto designers.

### **Girl Friday** / West Queen St. West

740 Queen St. W.  
416-364-2511

Modern, feminine clothes. A showcase for local designer Rebecca Nixon.

### **I Miss You** / West Queen St. West

63 Ossington Ave.  
416-916-7021

Best store for vintage formalwear. Haute couture gowns, beaded purses, pillbox hats.

### **Images That Suit** / Queen St. West area

19 Duncan St. at Adelaide  
416-593-5287

Sophisticated business suits and business and casual wear for women. Open house for IABC members noon to 7 p.m. on June 9, or book an appointment; 30% discount for IABC members.

### **Jacob** / Eaton Centre

416-977-7602

Montreal-based retailer offering updated classics and smart fashion.

### **Betsey Johnson** / Yorkville

102 Yorkville Ave.  
416-922-8164

Frilly, girlie, playful clothes.

### **Lileo** / Distillery

55 Mill St., Building #35  
416-413-1410

Fairly traded goods and organic lines for fussy fashion lovers with a social conscience.

### **Mendocino** / Yorkville

131 Bloor St. W. at Bay  
416-927-8618

The latest looks from New York, L.A. and Paris.

### **Pho Pa** / West Queen St. West

698 Queen St. W.  
416-979-9444

Smart, original, well-made office-appropriate basics and sharp accessories.

### **Preloved** / West Queen St. West

Eco wear. Reconstructed vintage wear turns old trenches into strapless dresses and men's shirts into halter tops, for example.

### **TNT Woman** / Yorkville

87 Avenue Rd. at Yorkville Ave.  
416-975-1810

Short for "The New Trend," TNT offers fashion straight out of Vogue.

## Cosmetics

### **Sephora** / Eaton Centre

Eaton Centre  
416-595-7227

Beloved French chain that is candyland for cosmetic fans!

### **Shoppers Drug Mart** / Eaton Centre area

10 Dundas St. E. at Yonge  
416-591-1733

Most major brands of makeup, skin care and fragrances, including Smashbox, Estee Lauder, Lancome, Lise Watier and more.

### **MAC Cosmetics** / Queen St. West

363 Queen St. W.  
416-979-2171

A Toronto original that was conceived for professional makeup artists.

## Gifts/collectibles

### **AGO Store** / Queen St. West area

Art Gallery of Ontario  
317 Dundas St. W.  
416-979-6648

Unique gifts, prints, posters, books, jewelry and stationery. Closed on Mondays.

### **Bergo Designs** / Distillery

55 Mill St.  
416-861-1821

Home accessories, interesting jewelry and watches.

### **Blue Banana Market** / Kensington Market

250 Augusta Ave.  
416-594-6600

A wide selection of one-of-a-kind gifts, jewelry, decorative home accessories and creative works of art.

### **Drake Hotel General Store** / West Queen St. West

1144 Queen St. W.  
416-531-5042

Unusual Canadian souvenirs and trinkets, like a maple syrup candle in an authentic syrup tin, a Toronto map tote and Mountie cocktail napkins.

### **Thomas Hinds Tobacconist** / Yorkville

8 Cumberland St.  
416-481-6909

Cigars, tobacco and smoker's accessories.

### **Ivory Parade** / Little Italy

760A College St.  
416-533-4144

Gifts, trinkets, pretty jewelry, unusual greeting cards, quirky home furnishing items.

### **Red Pegasus** / Little Italy

629 College St.  
416-536-3972

Unique gifts, jewelry and cards featuring local and Canadian designs.

### **Rolo** / Yorkville

24 Bellair Ave.  
416-920-0100

Kitchenware, lamps, funky Swatch watches.

### **ROM Store** / Yorkville area

Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queen's Park

Wide selection of special books, artwork, stationery, ceramics, home décor and more. Closed Sundays.

### **Silver Snail Comics** / Queen St. West

367 Queen St. W.  
416-593-0889

The place to go for comics, action figures and collectibles.

### **Soma Chocolatier** / Distillery

55 Mill St.  
416-815-7662

Various gifts, including some of the finest chocolates in Toronto. The only chocolatier in Toronto to make chocolate straight from the beans.

### **Swarovski** / Yorkville

2 Bloor St. W.  
416-850-6072

Crystal jewelry, watches, figurines and home accessories.

### **Teatro Verde** / Yorkville

100 Yorkville Ave.  
416-966-2227

Unique decorative goodies and high-end home accessories.

## Handbags

### **Coach** / Eaton Centre

416-944-8773

Handbags, wallets, belts, sunglasses.

### **M095** / Yorkville

23 St. Thomas St. at Bloor  
416-920-4001

The star attraction is the selection of handbags. Men's and women's clothing. The name references the owner's first initial and birthdate.

### **Roots** / Eaton Centre

416-593-9640

High quality handcrafted leather bags, handbags, briefcases, belts, wallets. Distinctive Canada collection of tees and sweatshirts.

### **Rudsak** / Queen St. West

315 Queen St. W.  
416-595-9661

Supple leather goods, including handbags, laptop bags and wallets.

## Jeans

### **Body Blue** / West Queen St. West

724 Queen St. W.  
416-703-7601

A denim mecca, with brands like Citizens of Humanity, Diesel, Fidelity, Mavi and more.

### **Over the Rainbow** / Yorkville

101 Yorkville Ave.  
416-967-7448

Toronto's unofficial denim destination for more than 35 years. You name it, they have it: Citizens of Humanity, Rock & Republic, Mavi, True Religion, plus Juicy Couture and other casual wear.

### **Show Room** / Queen St. West

278B Queen St. W.  
416-977-3888

Premium denim from all over the world.

## Jewelry

### **Cat's Cradle** / Yonge St.

596 Yonge St. near College  
416-920-8216

Funky well-priced jewelry and unique women's clothing.

### **Distill** / Distillery

55 Mill St.  
416-304-0033

Canadian-designed, well-made jewelry, art, accessories and clothing. Unique Canada souvenirs.

### **Eko** / Queen St. West

288 Queen St. W.  
416-593-0776

Everything from Lucite bangles to diamond earrings.

### **Daniel Espinoza** / Yorkville

21 Avenue Rd. (in Four Seasons Hotel)  
416-323-9127

A showcase for this Mexican designer. Mostly sterling silver, often with unique materials and colours.

### **Love of Mine** / West Queen St. West

791 Queen St. W.  
416-369-4999

Affordable and on-trend pieces such as bib necklaces and hair bands.

### **Made You Look** / West Queen St. West

1338 Queen St. W.  
416-463-2136

Eclectic mix of jewelry from Toronto's Sarah Hamel. Also a collective workspace, the store stocks pieces from more than 100 local artisans.

### **Propaganda** / Yonge St.

686 Yonge St. at Isabella  
416-961-0555

Quirky handbags and funky jewelry.

### **Tiffany & Co.** / Yorkville

85 Bloor St. W.  
416-921-3900

Sterling silver, gold plus gifts and stationery. Designer pieces from Frank Gehry.

### **Toronto Antiques on King** / King St.

284 King St. W.

Jewelry, silver, decorative accessories and furnishings.

## Kitchen/housewares

### **Anthropologie** / Yorkville

80 Yorkville Ave.  
416-964-9700

High-end clothing, jewelry, shoes and bags, home décor.

### **Bergo Designs** / Distillery

55 Mill St.  
416-861-1821

Home accessories, interesting jewelry and watches.

### **Good Egg** / Kensington Market

267 Augusta Ave.  
416-593-GOOD

Books and gear for the kitchen.

### **High-Tech** / St. Lawrence Market

106 Front St. at Jarvis  
416-861-1069

Emphasis on industrial chic, compact design and space-saving features.

### **Morba** / West Queen St. West

667 Queen St. W.  
416-364-5144

Full of furniture and fun accessories, with a mix of modern and retro lights, chairs, tables and more.

### **Williams-Sonoma** / Yorkville; Eaton Centre

100 Bloor St. W. at Bay  
416-962-9455

Stylish, classic and contemporary dishes and cookware.

## Shoes

### **Australian Boot Company** / West Queen St. West

791 Queen St. W.  
416-504-2411

Home of the Blundstone boot. Also has a small selection of outdoor clothing.

### **Balisi Fashions** / West Queen St. West

711 Queen St. W.  
416-203-2388

Great store with unique and fashionable clothes, shoes, boots and accessories.

## SHOES (continued from page 7)

### **B2** / Queen St. West

399 Queen St. W.  
416-595-9281

The edgy offshoot of Brown's. Reasonably priced – takes on runway trends and high-end labels.

### **Cole Haan** / Yorkville

101 Bloor St. W.  
416-926-7575

Footwear, handbags and accessories.

### **Csquared** / Queen St. West

365 Queen St. W.  
416-595-5606

A large selection of Camper shoes, the Spanish brand adored for making fashionably flat-soled footwear.

### **Davids** / Yorkville

66 Bloor St. W. at Bay  
416-920-1000

Name brand shoes, like Louboutin, Valentino and Zegna.

### **Geox** / Eaton Centre

416-599-4369

An Italian brand of shoes that breathe.

### **Get Outside** / Queen St. West

437 Queen St. W. at Spadina  
416-593-5598

Running shoes, moccasins and boots.

### **Heel Boy** / West Queen St. West

682 Queen St. W.  
416-362-4335

Moderately priced stylish women's staples such as Kenneth Cole, Steve Madden and Franco Sarto, as well as flat-soled Hush Puppies. Great sales rack in the back.

### **Left Feet** / Kensington Market

99 Nassau St.  
416-360-5339

Sweatshop-free, vegan footwear that looks like Doc Martens, Blundstones and Mary Janes.

### **Stolen Riches** / West Queen St. West

734 Queen St. W.  
647-428-7497

For the sneaker-head. Hard-to-find styles from Nike, Adidas and Reebok.

### **Town Shoes** / Eaton Centre

416-979-9914

Everything from sandals and sneakers to party pumps and dressy loafers.

## Stationery/crafts

### **Kid Icarus** / Kensington Market

75 Nassau St.  
416-977-7236

Handprinted greeting cards, stationery, journals, posters, art prints and custom screenprinted goods.

### **The Paper Place** / West Queen St. West

887 Queen St. W.  
416-703-0089

An unparalleled selection of decorative and handmade Japanese papers and unique papers from around the world, paper crafting tools, journals, guestbooks and accessories.

## Toys

### **Science City** / Yorkville

50 Bloor St. W. (under Holt Renfrew)  
416-968-2627

A great place to pick up "smart" toys. The selection of games and models is unmatched in the city.

### **The Toy Shop** / Yorkville

62 Cumberland Ave.  
416-961-4870

Friendly environment, unusual selection of toys. A Yorkville fixture since 1908.

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## PAMPERING SERVICES

### **Benefit Brow Bar** / Yorkville

50 Bloor St. W. at Bay  
416-922-2333

In Holt Renfrew. Amazing 20-minute brow treatment.

### **Buff Nail Lounge** / St. Lawrence Market

117 Front St. E.  
416-913-9990

Chemical-free polishes and scrubs made in-house. Caters to time-pressed clientele. Drop-in service. Be sure to add on the while-you-dry massage! Manicures from \$20, pedicures from \$40.

### **The Great Canadian Backrub** / Eaton Centre

416-963-0101

Massage, including 20-minute back or foot rub for only \$28.95.

### **Lux Spa** / Yorkville

25 Bellair St.  
416-921-1690

Focus on your hands and feet. Manicures from \$35, pedicures from \$45.

### **Ten Spot** / West Queen St. West

749 Queen St. W.  
416-915-1010

Manicures, pedicures, waxing, facials and blow dries.

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*The insider's guide to shopping in Toronto* was produced by IABC/Toronto and IABC/Toronto's Professional Independent Communicators. June 2010. <http://toronto.iabc.com/about-iabc/pic-independents/>

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Map courtesy of Tourism Toronto. Not to scale.

