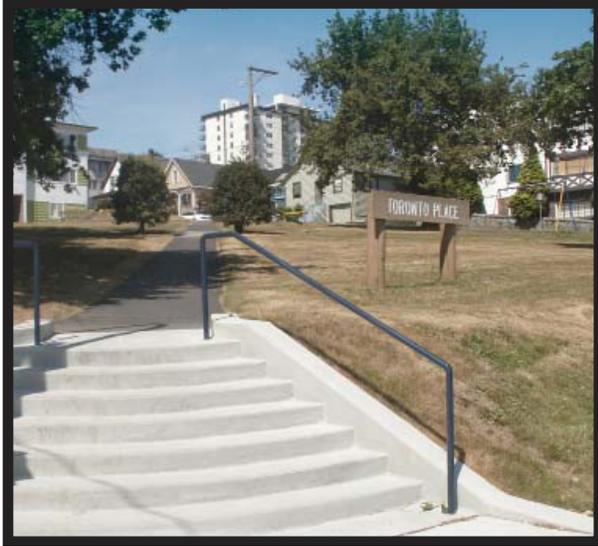


TORONTO PLACE



IHP

Established 1910
Size 0.5 acres
location Royal Avenue & Eighth Street

Ammenities

- Open grassy area
- Trees
- Playground
- Benches
- Floral display
- Public art
- Trails & Greenways

Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers designed Toronto Place as a major civic square in the suburban extension to their original city plan in 1863. Located at the intersection of Royal Avenue and Eighth Street, the square originally included the diagonal Simcoe Street and Simcoe Park, now adjacent to John Robson School. The square mirrors its twin at the east end of Royal Avenue, which encompasses Clinton Place and Park Row and leads to Queen's Park.

Grand public squares like this one were intended to signify the importance of the Royal City as the capital of the Colony of British Columbia. It was located on the crest of a hill to take advantage of the sweeping views of the Fraser River delta.

The name Toronto Place, as well as the adjoining Simcoe and Ontario streets, were named to pay tribute to British Columbia's entry into the Dominion of Canada in 1871. Toronto was the largest and oldest city of Ontario (originally known as Upper Canada) and Lord Simcoe served as that colony's first governor.

Toronto Place was left rough and undeveloped during the city's early years, but was finally cleared of stumps and leveled in 1889. During the Great Fire of September 10-11, 1898 this large open space provided refuge to citizens escaping the flames and smoke spread by westerly winds from the downtown. It also provided a fire-break by preventing the spread of the fire to the residential areas above Royal Avenue.

Toronto Place was formally transformed from a street right-of-way in 1910 when city council allocated the first funding to create this pleasant grass park for the enjoyment of local residents.

Behind the Name...Toronto:



The place name of Canada's largest city, Toronto comes from the Mohawk phrase "tkaronto," meaning "where there are trees standing in the water." Governor Simcoe, who disliked aboriginal names, changed Toronto's name to York on August 26, 1793.

However, his anglophile preference was not shared by the city's residents. In 1804, after Simcoe's return to his beloved England, the legislature was petitioned to change the name back to Toronto so that York would be confused with New York, and because residents became tired of others calling their city Muddy York and Little York. The name Toronto was restored in 1834.