

CONSUL...TING

Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto—Monthly Newsletter

October 2014



USEFUL LINKS

- Visas and consular services:

consulmex.com

- Mexican Embassy in Canada

embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/

- Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

sre.gob.mx

- Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA

[\[click here\]](#)

- ProMexico

promexico.gob.mx

- Mexico Tourism Board:

visitmexico.com

- Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts

conaculta.gob.mx

ecultura.gob.mx

- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico:

cancham.mx

- Presidency of Mexico:

presidencia.gob.mx

Big celebration for the 204th Anniversary of Mexican Independence in Toronto

On September 13, as has happened every year for the past two decades, the festivities for the 204th Anniversary of Mexican Independence were held in Nathan Phillips Square, the site of Toronto's City Hall, with an attendance of around 2,500 people.

The event was coordinated by the *Comité Organizador de las Fiestas Patrias* (Independence Day Organizing Committee) and the Consulate General of Mexico.



Nathan Phillips Square

The outdoor event began at midday and continued until eight o'clock in the evening, during which time the attending public was able to enjoy traditional Mexican food offered by local restaurants and items with patriotic motifs sold by Mexican small enterprises and other businesses based in the city.

The crowd was also offered a musical program that featured



Official Ceremony of "El Grito" 2014

Mexican folk, mariachi and rock groups, as well as traditional dance troupes, folk dancing and a children's traditional dress contest.

At six o'clock, while the bells of the Old City Hall clock rang out, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint celebrated the official ceremony of "El Grito" (The Cry of Independence) followed by the Mexican national anthem.

The Consulate General set up an information booth serviced by consulate personnel, who



Mexican Folk Dance Company

answered questions about consular services from dozens of members of the public. Staff from Mexico's Tourism Board (CPTM) and from PROMEXICO also fielded queries and handed out brochures and promotional material.

Toronto mayoral candidate John Tory paid a visit to the festival and spoke for a few minutes with the Consul General.



Tonatiuh Folk Dancers

The event was covered by local media and by Mexico's Notimex news agency.

The Consul General gave interviews to the following media outlets: the online TV channel "Las Perlas del Mar"; Radio Voces Latinas; Ondas Hispanas 88.9 FM; the magazine *Revista Debate* and Univision Toronto.

The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment. For Mexican passports, Consular ID, birth certificates and powers of attorney, appointments must be requested through MEXITEL at:

https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/ or by calling: 1877 MEXITEL (1-877-639 4835).

For any other service, please request an appointment by writing to citas@consulmex.com or by calling: (416) 368-2875 ext. 236.

The Mexican flag was raised at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

On September 15, in commemoration of the 204th anniversary of Mexican Independence, a flag-raising ceremony was held at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, in the city of Toronto.

Moments before the event began, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint signed the ceremonial book of distinguished visitors to the Assembly.

The event brought together representatives of local Mexican associations, business men and women, members of the consular corps, academics and invited members of government, including Michael Coteau, Ontario's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and representative of the Toronto 2015 Pan-American Games, and MPP Cristina Martins, attending on behalf of Premier Kathleen Wynne.



Consul General, Mauricio Toussaint (right);
MPP Cristina Martins and Minister Michael Coteau (left)

Consul General Toussaint raised the Mexican flag and the national anthems of both Mexico and Canada were sung.

In the speech that followed, the Consul General noted that the year 1810 marked the beginning of the independence struggle that challenged injustice and oppression after three centuries of domination, and that 204 years later, Mexico is a modern nation with a prominent place among the world's largest economies.

He then listed the activities that have been undertaken by this Consulate General as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Canada, and stressed the successful collaboration between the two countries, after 40 years of operation of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, which during 2014 brought around 8,900 Mexican workers to the province of Ontario and 19,000 to Canada. He also made reference

to the twenty years of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the ten years of the Mexico-Canada Alliance.

In addition, he highlighted the increase in the number of Mexicans living in Ontario working in various professional fields, who have formed associations together and created a diverse range of businesses, contributing to the strengthening of ties between members of the Mexican community and their integration into Canadian society.

In her speech, MPP Martins offered an official welcome on behalf of the provincial legislators and of Premier Wynne, and read a letter of best wishes to the Consulate General and to all members of the Mexican community in Ontario for the Independence Day celebrations.

Finally, the Consul General received a token of recognition from Dave Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.



Consul General Mauricio Toussaint signs the
ceremonial book of distinguished visitors



Mexico participates in the Word on the Street Book Festival

With the support of the Consulate General in Toronto, Mexico took part for the second time in the Word on the Street Book Festival, held on September 21 at Queen's Park, home to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, with a dynamic program for children that ran from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival is one of the biggest events promoting books and magazines in Canada, with the participation of around 270 exhibitors, and three big stages with activities for children, special guests and the sale of literary materials. This year it was attended by approximately 100,000 people.



At the Consulate's stand, children had the opportunity to colour and decorate their own notebooks and to do handicrafts. Free stories and books were also handed out to the children present and to everyone who took part in the activities.

The event was covered by the following local media outlets: *The Toronto Star*, Classical 96.3, TVOKids, CIUT 89.5, SkyWords Media and *The Epoch Times*. Local sponsors of the book fair included Scotiabank, the Giller Prize, Sony Reader, Random House of Canada Ltd., the City of Toronto, the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), and the Toronto Arts Council of Ontario.



The Mexican program included a storytelling segment presented by Celina Gutiérrez, who was promoting an online bookstore for children with stories in English and Spanish (TapPeques); the launch of the book *Lotería Jarocho* at which Mexican-Canadian singer Alec Dempster played the jarana guitar while displaying the 60 images that comprise the book, and gave a brief explanation of each one. Later, the Spanish teacher Raquel Avilés also offered a reading of several stories in Spanish for children of up to 12 years of age.



Ontario's new Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, takes office

On September 23, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint attended the swearing in of the 29th Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, which was held at the Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Dowdeswell is a prestigious environmentalist with both Canadian and international experience. She has held a number of positions in the United Nations, where she served as Undersecretary-General. As a Canadian public servant she has served as Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth in the province of Saskatchewan, and as Assistant Deputy Minister at Environment Canada.

She was the founder and CEO of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, and her most recent position was as President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies. She has received several national and international honours, notable among which were the appointments she received in 2012 as Officer of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Attending the event were senior officials of the provincial government, business leaders, academics, the consular corps and distinguished members of the community.

After a series of formalities that form part of the ceremony, Senator for Ontario Victor Oh offered a few words of welcome on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne, then congratulated Ms. Dowdeswell and praised her appointment in view of her exceptional record in public service at provincial, federal and international levels,

working on the implementation of public policies that have helped to protect the environment, improve the quality of education and promote sustainable energy development.



In her inaugural speech, the new Lieutenant Governor recognized the work of her predecessors and said that she would begin her mandate by calling on different community groups in Ontario to hear their ideas about the place that the province should have in the world.

She stated that the aim of her office would be to provide a forum for reflection on the province of Ontario, and in time she would be able to identify what her priority themes would be. She mentioned that her position as Undersecretary General of the United Nations had helped give her a clearer vision of the world and had convinced her that "the world's most important problems are Ontario's most fundamental challenges."

Outgoing Lieutenant General David Onley, who left the position after seven years, was applauded for his fine work and for bringing attention to the issue of the hiring of people with disabilities. Mr. Onley has indicated that he will remain very much involved in accessibility issues, and will be teaching classes in political science at the University of Toronto.

Mexican community in Winnipeg celebrates Mexican Independence

On September 13, the association of Mexicans in Manitoba, *Mex Y Can Association of Manitoba Inc.*, organized and celebrated the traditional ceremony commemorating the 204th anniversary of Mexican Independence.

The event was attended by more than 270 people, including members of the Mexican community in Manitoba and agricultural workers in the region, as well as Minister for Multiculturalism and Literacy Flor Marcelino and the Honorary Consul of Mexico, James Downey.

The traditional ceremony of the "Grito" (the Cry of Independence)



Mr. James Downey, Honorary Consul



MexyCan Association of Manitoba members

was coordinated by the association's board, led by its Chairperson, Aline Tezcucano.

The music program featured several well-known groups of artists, including Jaime Vargas, a member of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Rusalka Dance Ensemble, Ana Karen López, the Lazos Spanish Dance Ensemble and the Salsa Explosion Dance Company.

The people attending also had the opportunity to learn about the meaning and history of Mexican independence through a cultural exhibition prepared by Víctor Ramírez and Ingo Lamerz. A wide variety of traditional Mexican food was also provided.

Ibero-American Gala 2014

On October 2, the Consul General of Mexico, together with the consulates of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Venezuela, participated in the fourth edition of the Ibero American Gala in Toronto, sponsored by Scotiabank.



Consuls General of Latin American nations

The aim of the event was to foster the integration of the communities from Ibero American countries and to promote our cultures in the Canadian community. Around 350 business leaders and personalities from the financial, cultural, educational and media sectors attended the event.

Notable among those who took part were the Consuls General of the participating countries, Liberal Party MPP Cristina Martins, and Fabiola Sicard from the Consultative Council of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (CCIME).

During the event, traditional dishes and beverages from the different participating countries were served, and attendees were also able to enjoy performances by a range of music and dance groups. As part of the music program, the group Café con Pan performed classics of Mexican Son.



Ibero-American Gala 2014

Mexican presence at the Canadian Coffee and Tea Show

On Sunday, September 28, as part of the Canadian Coffee and Tea Show 2014 held on the 28th and 29th of last month in the city of Toronto, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and the representative in Canada of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), Raúl López Mercado, officially opened the Mexico Pavilion.

Participating in the trade show were tea and coffee retailers, restaurant owners,



Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and Raúl López Mercado of SAGARPA

Most of the exhibitors were producers of organic coffee and tea, which makes them appealing to the Canadian market since Canadians are among the world's biggest consumers of organic products.

The exhibitors in the Mexican pavilion included: Café Solo Dios, Café Zihuatlán, Kolavali Green Coffee, Manolo Gourmet Organic Coffee, Café Camila, Los Portales de Córdoba Gourmet Coffee, Comercializadora Chunhuas, and the Montreal-based Mexican tea distributor Exo Tea Coffee.

food services operators, buyers and members of the general public. The event offered an extensive educational program aimed at new entrepreneurs, independent retailers and coffee lovers.

The Mexico pavilion, organized by SAGARPA, was clearly an important initiative for the promotion of Mexican coffee makers, and benefited from the participation of producers from the states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Nayarit.



Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, Raúl López Mercado of SAGARPA and Mexican coffee producers



Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, Raúl López Mercado of SAGARPA and Mexican coffee producers

Mexico's successful participation in the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)

The 39th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) was held September 4-14 and included the screening of four films with Mexican participation. The first was *Los años de Fierro* ("The Years of Fierro"), directed and produced by the Mexicans Santiago Esteinou and Alejandro Durán, respectively. The other three were co-productions: *Dólares de Arena* ("Sand Dollars") by Israel Cárdenas and Laura Amelia Guzmán (Mexico/Dominican Republic/Argentina); *Jauja* by Lisandro Alonso (Mexico/Denmark/USA/Argentina) and *Night Noon* by Shambhavi Kaul (Mexico/USA).

The screening of *Los años de Fierro* was attended by the director Santiago Esteinou, producer Alejandro Durán and editor Javier Campos, while the filmmaker Israel Cárdenas was present at *Dólares de Arena* thanks to the support of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and the coordination of the Consul General of Mexico in Toronto.

This year's festival was enhanced by the presence of Salma Hayek, who produced and acted in the animated film version of Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*, and Gael García Bernal, star of *Rosewater*.

The British-US co-production *The Imitation*



The Years of Fierro (2014)

Game won the People's Choice Award. It is worth noting that three of the last six winners of this award have gone on to receive the Oscar for best film: *12 Years a Slave*, *The King's Speech* and *Slumdog Millionaire*.

The TIFF has become one of the most internationally important events for the presentation (in most cases for the first time) of the best in contemporary cinema from around the world, making it an ideal platform for the distribution and promotion of new films.

A total of 392 films from 79 countries were screened during the eleven days of the festival, which benefited the city with estimated earnings of 170 million US dollars.



"Consul...ting" is the monthly e-publication of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto.

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