

CONSUL...TING

Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto—Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2015



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

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CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 205TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

The Consulate General participated in various activities in Toronto to commemorate the 205th anniversary of the beginning of the Mexican independence.

- Celebration in Yonge-Dundas Square

The Independence Day Organizing Committee held a enormous celebration on September 15 in Yonge-Dundas Square.

The event, which was open to the general public, featured a music program with Mexican artists and groups performing traditional music and folk dances. Notable among the more than 3,000 attendees was Toronto's mayor, John Tory.

The Consulate General set up a pavilion with information on the consular and community services it offers, together with the participation of representatives of ProMéxico, the Mexican Tourism Board and the Global Network of Qualified Mexicans Abroad, Toronto Chapter.

Consul General Mauricio Toussaint led the official ceremony of the "Grito" (the traditional shout of independence), followed by the Mexican national anthem.

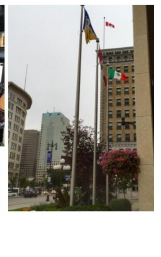
- Flag-Raising Ceremony at the Parliament of Ontario

The Mexican flag was raised in the gardens of Ontario's Legislative Assembly, in a ceremony attended by Premier Kathleen Wynne, among other members of provincial parliament (MPPs).

In his speech, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint made reference to the structural reforms that Mexico is implementing and highlighted its close economic relationship with Ontario, which represents 72% (\$26 billion USD) of the total trade between Mexico and Canada.

After the flag-raising ceremony and the singing of the Mexican and Canadian national anthems came a speech by Premier Wynne, who spoke of Canada's cultural diversity and offered her thanks in Spanish for the invitation to be part of this celebration. The Ontario premier concluded her speech by announcing her intention to visit Mexico during her term in office.

Among the special guests at the ceremony was MPP Bas Balkissoon, who gave some words of welcome on behalf of the Speaker of the Assembly Dave Levac, and also offering a few words of congratulations were MPP Catherine Fife on behalf of the New Democratic Party and MPP Steve Clark on behalf of the Progressive Conservatives. Also present were Ontario's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Sport, Michael Coteau, MPP Bob Delaney and MPP Christina Martins, as well as representatives of the consular corps and Mexican associations, business leaders, academics, directors of cultural organizations and the media.



- Mexican independence celebration

For the third year running, the community of the Davenport District celebrated a "Fiesta Mexicana", on Saturday, September 12 in Earls Court Park, located in the city's northwest.

Performing at the celebration were Mexican and Latin American dance groups and singers based in Ontario, including the folk groups Tonatiuh, Mexican Folk Ballet and Puro México. Mexican and Latin American food was offered for sale at the event, along with handicrafts and community services.

Consul General Mauricio Toussaint led the ceremony of the "Grito" ("shout") before a large crowd, and Ontario MPP Cristina Martins and the Toronto City Councillor for Davenport, César Palacio, also took part as speakers.

- Community celebration in Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Mexican organization Mex Y Can Association of Manitoba Inc. held an event to commemorate Mexican independence on September 19. The ceremony of the "Grito de Independencia" ("shout of independence") was led by Aline Tezcucano, the association's president, along with members of the Board of Directors and the Honorary Consul of Mexico, James Downey.

The event was attended by more than 300 people, including members of the Mexican and Canadian communities, as well as a group of Mexican seasonal workers from the farms of the province of Manitoba.

The Mexican flag flew atop Winnipeg City Hall on September 15.

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MEXICO PLAYS A MAJOR PART IN THE TIFF

Mexico played a major part in the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) this year, which took place September 10-20, with the screening of 11 Mexican productions or co-productions and the presence of four filmmakers, two producers, two directors and a scriptwriter, including Arturo Ripstein, Julio Hernández Córdón and Paz Alicia Garciadiego.

The 40th edition of the festival took place in various locations and cultural centres around Toronto. This year, the TIFF showed 300 films in two weeks, including the following Mexican films: Arturo Ripstein's *Bleak Street (La Calle de la Amargura)*, and Julio Hernández Córdón's *I Promise you Anarchy (Te Prometo Anarquía)*.



Consul Toussaint, Paz Alicia Garciadiego and Arturo Ripstein



Consul Toussaint and Julio Hernández Córdón

MEXICAN PRESENCE AT THE HOT & SPICY FESTIVAL

Mexican chef María del Carmen Sáenz performed exceptionally well in the Iron Chef Competition, as part of the Hot & Spicy Food Festival held September 4-7 at the Harbourfront Cultural Centre.

For the tenth straight year a Mexican chef has been featured in this important contest; this year it was Chef Sáenz, with the assistance of the Toronto-based Mexican sous-chef Paola Solorzano (head chef at Santo Pecado Mexican Catering), who represented our country, going up against the chef Kai Zynganiuk of Canada's First Nations.

During the competition, Chef Sáenz prepared a dish made with chicken marinated in a sauce of chapulines and hibiscus syrup, using vegetables from different regions of the province of Ontario and incorporating a secret ingredient defined by the jury as "chili popcorn".



Chef María del Carmen Sáenz and sous-chef Paola Solórzano

The jury was made up of experts in international cuisine, including Elizabeth Baird and Donna Dooher.

Hosting the event was the chef Carmine Accogli. Also present were the Harbourfront Centre's Executive Director of Educational and Cultural Activities Melanie Fernández, festival programmers Umair Jaffar and María Luz Mejía, and members of the Canadian and Mexican communities (500 attendees).

During the event, the acclaimed chef Carmine Accogli, host of the program, acknowledged the richness of Mexican cuisine, whose centuries-old cultural sources represent a major innovation in Canadian culinary culture. She also applauded the fact that Mexico was represented by a female chef, who received Accogli's praise for her performance and for wearing a Mexican smock embroidered with colorful flowers on the day of the competition.



Consul Toussaint and chef Sáenz

PRESENTATION OF THE FILM *EL EVANGELIO DE LAS MARAVILLAS* AND IN CONVERSATION WITH: ARTURO RIPSTEIN AND PAZ ALICIA GARCIADIEGO

On the initiative of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto and in collaboration with York University's Glendon College, two academic and cultural events were held on September 17, 2015: "Presentation of the film *El Evangelio de las Maravillas*" and "In conversation with Arturo Ripstein and Paz Alicia Garciadiego", taking advantage of the presence of the Mexican directors at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The program began with the screening of the film *El Evangelio de las Maravillas* ("The Gospel of the Marvels"), followed by an academic talk led by the filmmaker Arturo Ripstein and the scriptwriter Paz Alicia Garciadiego. On the panel were the academics Dr. Alejandro Zamora from Glendon College's Department of Hispanic



Studies, Dr. Susan Antebi, Director of the Latin American Studies program at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Lilia Granillo Vázquez from the Department of Humanities, Cultural and Gender Studies at Mexico's Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana.

Also speaking at the event were the Principal of Glendon College, Dr. Donald Ipperciel; the Director of International Projects and Events at the Mexican Institute of Cinematography (IMCINE), María Monserrat Sánchez Soler; and Mexican Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, who noted that this initiative was created to promote knowledge of Mexico in Toronto through Mexican film.



CONSULATE GENERAL BRIEFS

Desierto, by Mexican filmmaker Jonás Cuarón, wins prize at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)

The film *Desierto* by Mexican director Jonás Cuarón took the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) prize in the Special Presentations category.

The FIPRESCI jury was made up of its president Engin Ertan (Turkey), Pierre Pageau (Canada), Francisco Ferreira (Portugal), Kerstin Gezelius (Sweden) and Alissa Simon (USA).



Guillermo del Toro on Gothic Master Class @ TIFF

Guillermo del Toro joined TIFF for an extended introduction and post-screening discussion on Hitchcock's masterful adaptation of the Daphne du Maurier classic, *Rebecca*; on David Lean's Oscar-winning adaptation of Charles Dickens' rags-to-riches tale, *Great Expectations*; and the 1943 adaptation of the Charlotte Brontë masterpiece, starring Joan Fontaine and Orson Welles, *Jane Eyre*.

"Internationalization Expo" Academic Show at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University

The Consulate General of Mexico took part in the "Internationalization Expo" academic show organized by the Balsillie School of International Affairs, together with the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, on Thursday, September 24, 2015.



OPENING OF CARLOS AMORALES' *BLACK CLOUD* EXHIBITION AT THE POWER PLANT

The contemporary art work *Black Cloud* by Mexican artist Carlos Amoraless opened on September 25 at the Power Plant, as the main display for this contemporary art gallery's fall season. On the first day, 5,400 people from the Canadian and Mexican cultural communities visited the exhibition.

The President of the Power Plant's Board of Directors, John Matheson, and Power Plant Director Gaëtane Verna, highlighted the work of the Mexican artist, made up of 30,000 life-



Carlos Amoraless and Consul Toussaint



size cuttings of black paper representing ten types of butterflies, which were stuck individually onto the walls and ceilings of the gallery.

According to the artist himself, the work is a three-dimensional composition representing beauty and terror, calm and calamity, the potential for harm, destruction and the irreversible fatality of death.

The work will be exhibited from September 25, 2015 to January 3, 2016.
www.thepowerplant.org

The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment.

For Mexican passports, 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

USEFUL LINKS

- Presidency of Mexico: presidencia.gob.mx
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: sre.gob.mx
- Mexican Embassy in Canada: embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/
- 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: canchamx.com
- Mexico-Canada: <http://mex-can.sre.gob.mx/>
- Visas and consular services: consulmex.com
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