



# Consul...ting

Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2013

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## USEFUL LINKS

- **Visas and consular services:** [consulmex.com](http://consulmex.com)
- **Mexican Embassy in Canada**
- **Twitter ConsulMexTor**
- **Facebook Consulmex**
- **Secretary of Foreign Affairs:**  
[sre.gob.mx](http://sre.gob.mx)
- **Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA** [[click here](#)]
- **ProMexico (former Bancomext):**  
[promexico.gob.mx](http://promexico.gob.mx)
- **Mexico Tourism Board:**  
[visitmexico.com](http://visitmexico.com)
- **Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts:**  
[conaculta.gob.mx](http://conaculta.gob.mx)  
[ecultura.gob.mx](http://ecultura.gob.mx)
- **Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico:**  
[canchammx.com](http://canchammx.com)
- **Presidency of Mexico:**  
[presidencia.gob.mx](http://presidencia.gob.mx)

## Day of the Dead Celebration

On November 9 and 10, the Harbourfront Centre hosted their annual Day of the Dead celebration in collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto.

Hundreds of people came to participate in the festival, which included altars to the dead, music, folkloric dance, films, children's workshops and stalls selling food and handicrafts.

Community groups and people interested in Mexican traditions created altars dedicated to the composer Francisco Gabilondo Soler, "Cri-cri"; Gilberto Hernández, the founder of Alianza Mexicana; the musician Billy Bryans; and the artist Arlan Londoño.

The Consulate General dedicated its altar to the Mexican lithographer, illustrator and cartoonist José Guadalupe Posada. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Posada's death.

The altar displayed copies of Posada's engravings, such as the famous "Catrina," as well as two large paper sculptures entitled "Las dos Fridas" (The Two Fridas), made by artist Sergio Otero. Otero has exhibited his work at the Georges Pompidou Museum



of Modern Art in Paris, France (1989), the Expo in Seville, Spain (1992), and at Europalia, Brussels, Belgium (1993) among other sites around the world.

As part of the homage to Posada, Chicago-based art historian and curator Dr. Diane Miliotes gave a talk entitled "Calaveras, Catrinas and Dandies: José Guadalupe Posada and his Legacy." Dr. Miliotes specializes in Mexican popular culture.

For the first time this year, in addition to the altars made by the Mexican community and the Consulate, the Harbourfront Centre placed a public altar to the dead in Ontario Square.

The celebration included performances by the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, Ballet Folklórico Puro México, and by the Mariachi group México Amigo.

The musical lineup featured the Toronto debut of Mamselle Ruiz, a Montreal-based singer with Mexican roots.

There was also a screening of the film "Calling Home the Dead: Día de los Muertos," directed by Jim Hills, and short films about the Day of the Dead festival in Mexico.

At the children's workshops, families learned to make *papel picado* (perforated tissue paper), *flores de cempasuchil* (paper marigold flowers) and skeleton masks, and there were storytelling and children's dance activities.



Also at the celebration were vendors selling Mexican food, as well as handicrafts from various regions of Mexico, and silver jewelry.

Staff from the Consulate General gave out pieces of *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) on both days of the festival.

For another year, the Mexican Day of the Dead - a tradition which has been passed down from generation to generation - was shared with a multicultural audience, and visitors were amazed by this remarkable example of Mexican popular culture.



## “First Latin American Health Week” was a success

The “First Latin American Health Week: Let’s Talk About Prevention,” organized by the Consulates General of Argentina, Columbia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru, took place from October 19-26 at the YMCA in downtown Toronto.

The event offered free talks on health as well as doctor’s appointments to the Spanish-speaking communities of Toronto, particularly the most vulnerable sectors, such as those who cannot access health services because they do not have immigration documentation for their stay in Canada.

At Health Week’s inauguration, Lucía Madriñán Saa represented the Latin American consulates taking part in the event. She thanked the 30 Spanish-speaking doctors who would not only give talks on illness prevention but would also provide over 300 free check-ups.

Consul Madriñán gave a special nod to Mexico for having begun organizing health days 13 years ago. Mexico started health days as a way



*Consul General of Colombia Lucía Madriñán at the inauguration ceremony*



*Consul General Mauricio Toussaint at the closing ceremony for Health Week*

to help Mexican citizens living in the United States without immigration documents, who were therefore unable to seek medical attention.

In addition to the free medical appointments, Health Week offered 25 talks on illness prevention and nutrition, that drew over

200 people.

The Consul General of Mexico, Mauricio Toussaint, led the closing ceremony on October 26. Also taking part in the ceremony were the Consuls General of Argentina and Colombia, as well as many members of the Latin American community living in Toronto and the surrounding areas.

Consul Toussaint thanked those who had contributed to Health Week’s success: The Spanish-speaking doctors who had given talks or provided free medical advice, the 20 volunteers who had worked on event logistics, and the local media agencies that had helped spread the word about this important event.



*Community Affairs coordinator Natalia López Sosa hands out health pamphlets*

## 2013 Ibero-American Gala

On October 16, the Consulate General of Mexico, along with the Consulates General of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Venezuela, participated in the third annual Ibero-American Gala in Toronto, sponsored by Scotiabank.

The gala aimed to further the integration of communities with roots in Ibero-American countries and to celebrate their cultures within Canadian society.

Attending the event were over 350 community leaders, business professionals and public figures.

The gala began with food and drink tastings featuring the specialties from each of the participating countries, provided by their Consulates General.

Mexico was represented by two distinguished chefs: Indalecio Marro-



*Mexican Folkloric Dance Company proudly representing Mexico*



*Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and his wife Marcela Paz y Puente (right), Rodrigo Esponda, the Canada Director of the Mexico Tourism Board, and his wife Ana Fremont*

quín and Adalberto Aguilar, who prepared Mexican *antojitos* (snacks) and traditional *pan dulce* (sweet bread).

Guests were also given tastings of tequila and agua de *jamaica* (Hibiscus tea).

Mexico kicked off the musical portion of the evening with the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company and Mariachi Mexico Amigo.



## Mexico's presence has grown on the Toronto food scene

A new Mexican restaurant has opened its doors to great success in the fashionable neighbourhood of King Street East in downtown Toronto. The restaurant, named "Olé Olé," seeks to expand the presence of Mexican food in Toronto through offering a varied menu and the unique concept of a fusion of Mexican and Spanish food. Consul General Mauricio Tous-saint spoke at the opening, noting the high quality and complexity of Mexican cuisine, which is on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Andrew López, who has a Mexican mother and Spanish father, said that the Mexican and Spanish blood running through his veins inspired him to create this new culinary concept. López wants to share this new taste with Canadian diners -- a gastronomical inheritance of two of the world's great cultures.

Coincidentally, Chef Rodrigo Aguilar Salas also has a mixture of Mexican and Spanish roots, since he was born in Barcelona and raised in Mexico City.

Andrew López, who

## New Consular Officers

**Natalia López Sosa Montes de Oca, Community Affairs Vice-Consul**

Shr is from the State of Mexico and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law with Honours from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, and is close to completing a Master's Degree in Philosophy from the Universidad Anáhuac del Sur. López Sosa has over seven years' experience in Public Administration, with a focus on social issues. Since 2005, she has worked for the Government of the State of Mexico where her responsibilities brought her in direct contact with the public, particularly in the areas of assistance for Mexicans living abroad and social services such as education, health, employment and nutrition. She headed the Gender Equality and Violence Prevention portfolio at the State of Mexico's Ministry of Education from 2008 to September 2013. She also taught "Introduction to the Study of Law" and "Administrative Procedural Law" at the Faculty of Law at the UAEM.



**Arlette García Ramos, Administrative Vice-Consul**

García is from the state of Aguascalientes. She holds a Bachelor's degree with honours in Administration and Marketing as well as a Master's degree with honours in Project Evaluation and Administration from the Aguascalientes campus of the Universidad Panamericana. García began her career as the Coordinator of the Department of Development at the Universidad Panamericana, where she was responsible for economic resource and project administration, as well as developing proposals from the Board of Promoters and coordinating financial campaigns. She was a retail sales coordinator at a large company in Aguascalientes. In 2009, García entered the Mexican Foreign Service and began her first post at the Mexican Embassy in Israel, where she was the administrative coordinator of human resources, finance, and material resources for nearly four years.

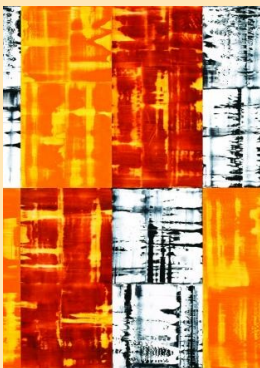


## Ricardo Mazal exhibition coming to Toronto

The Mexican painter Ricardo Mazal will present an exhibition of his work at the Odon Wagner Contemporary Gallery in Toronto (198 Davenport Rd) from **November 21 to December 14**.

A recent exhibition of Mazal's work at the Indianilla Cultural Centre in Mexico City included paintings, music, photography and video (see the video here). Mazal has also exhibited in galleries in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore. His work is strongly influenced by the visual language of Mexico and by abstract expressionism. Mazal uses tools from digital media to express his ideas on the canvas.

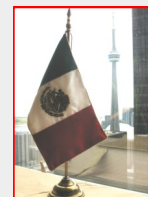
The Odon Wagner Contemporary Gallery highlights the Mazal's work as "strongly influenced by the visual language and culture of Mexico. He



is fixated with the potential to explore far into the fabric of the canvas emphasizing pure line and color and has accomplished the need for, the "spiritual in art". Text and individual lettering become an integral component of the image. Mazal's work also explores the process of visual perception as it takes form in the human consciousness. His paintings depict the passage of time, not by illustrating events but by leaving their residue to dissipate in space like a still photograph of a speeding object blurred to abstraction. When attempting interpretation, the viewer must abandon one-dimensional thoughts and search further into the many dimensions that are prevalent in the art to grasp the vastness of depth and incandescent beauty that Mazal creates."



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