



» ACCESSIBILITY

Providing new access to retail

Many storefronts across the city have a small step at their entrance, a small step, which for some, might as well be a mountain. It's a problem that Luke Anderson and Michael Hopkins, the founders of StopGap, are trying to bring attention to.

StopGap is a community-based project that provides free ramps to retail locations across the city. You might

have already seen the brightly painted ramps in Roncesvalles or the Junction that edge up to store fronts to create accessibility for people who use wheelchairs. Materials are donated from local hardware stores and assembled by volunteers. The ramps are painted bright fluorescent colours to help bring awareness to the issue of accessibility.

StopGap ramps are not, as the name suggests, the perfect solution to the problem, but they do create curiosity and invite dialogue about design and accessibility issues. The project is also designed so that it can be copied in any community across the country. ↑

JONATHAN ZETTEL

photo by Luke Anderson

Could Casa Loma be the future home of a museum focused on Toronto's history?

need to know there is a civic contribution and civic involvement," he says, "and it's been hard to manufacture that."

In the past, most museum location ideas fell apart after initial discussions. Proposed buildings included St. Lawrence Hall and a space near the foot on Bathurst Street on the waterfront. As a councillor in 1970, Crombie fought unsuccessfully for a Toronto museum at Old City Hall. A 2011 City staff report mentioned it as a possible future location.

Stephen Otto, co-chair of The Friends of Fort York, believes that other buildings should be considered in case Casa Loma falls through. He says that the Fort York Armoury, currently leased by the Department of National Defence until 2031, has the space and the flexibility that a future museum requires. "I think you have to keep a number of possibilities alive until you find one that works," he says.

Whether Casa Loma manages to become either an interim or a long-term home for a museum, Mihevc says that the City should not let this opportunity pass by. "Let's start here. Let's display what we can," he says. "It's not going to be the biggest museum in the world, but it's going to be something — it's going to start something." ↑

DANIEL VIOLA

photo by Benson Kua

ON THE LOOKOUT

City Councillors say the darnedest things

"It's going to be too much. First and foremost is my job."

— **MAYOR ROB FORD** on September 16, 2010, before he was elected mayor, talking about coaching high school football in the future.

"I only missed two hours. A semi-final football game. It's the playoffs. We're undefeated. We're number two in the city. We're in the championship game. If I'm [not there], what are we gonna do, just forfeit the game? I made a commitment. And I'm not a quitter."

— **MAYOR ROB FORD** on November 2, 2012 talking about coaching high school football for Don Bosco

"I'm a Liberal. I'd like to focus on the values that I hold. It's a great opportunity to just be an independent councillor."

— **MICHELLE BERARDINETTI** (Ward 35, Scarborough Southwest) states her political affiliation before declaring her independence. She quit the mayor's executive committee in early November.

COUNCIL WATCH VIEW OF THE CLAMSHELL



METROLINX AGREEMENT
Council authorized next steps to support a master agreement between the City, the TTC, and Metrolinx, defining the roles for the construction and operation of the LRTs on Sheppard East, Finch West, Eglinton, and the Scarborough LRT (replacing the Scarborough RT).



OMBUDSMAN EXTENDED
Council adopted a motion to extend Fiona Crean's appointment as Toronto's Ombudsman to November 16, 2015. While the extension should've been a full four year extension, council's decision demonstrates the value of Crean's work, despite the venom spewed by Mayor Ford and his raging brother.



MORE SUBWAY STUDIES
When TTC commissioners (the new gang installed after the February 2012 transit rebellion) decided in October to request another study of a possible Sheppard and/or Scarborough subway they undermined the credibility they had garnered since taking control of the TTC board.