



Historic Kingsway Walking Tour

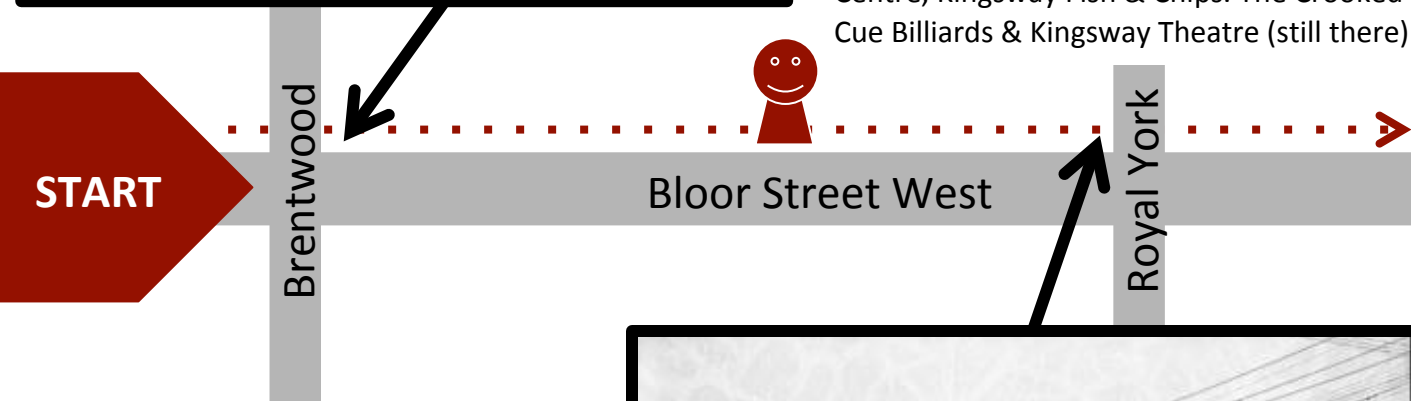


Bloor & Brentwood, looking NE, 1940s

In the late 1930s, Home Smith & Co., builders of the Kingsway Park subdivision, was offering prime retail & business sites along Bloor St. between Montgomery Rd. & Prince Edward Dr.

Then: Garbutt's Drugs, Spick & Span Laundry, a ladies' wear shop, Royal York Furniture, Kingsway Bowling with billiards in basement, Kingsway Theatre.

Now: Organic Foods, Kingsway Dental Centre, Kingsway Fish & Chips. The Crooked Cue Billiards & Kingsway Theatre (still there).



NW corner Bloor & Royal York, 1958

Then, going west: Woolworth's, Sally Girl, Bank of Montreal, Kingsway Cinema (opened 1941 and is a Designated Heritage property).

Now: HSBC, Dina Alonzi, Bank of Montreal & Kingsway Cinema.





Historic Kingsway Walking Tour

Bloor & Willingdon Blvd, NW corner, 1958

Then: Florist, Canada Paint, Kingsway Restaurant, Tamblyn Drugs (formerly Mainprize Dugs – 1st store to open in 1933 although on NE corner when first opened – first Kingsway post office where residents picked up mail until late 1930s before door-to-door delivery - moved to NE corner in 1939).

Now: Optician, Cos Salon & Spa, Merlot, Kingsway Variety.

Willingdon

Bloor Street West

Bloor & Humbervale Blvd, SE corner, 1958

Then: Harry LePage & Son Realtor (Harry was brother of A.E. Lepage), Hong Kong Gardens, Provincial Tire Co., Garage. Note Nash Metropolitan & truck from Silverwood's Dairy.

Now: Creme de la Creme, Hong Kong Gardens, ViBo, Kingsway Car Wash in former garage (note 6-storey condo behind). Hong Kong Gardens is still in business.

Humbervale



Historic Kingsway Walking Tour

All Saints Anglican Church

In 1940, the NE corner of Bloor & Prince Edward was the location of the real estate office of R.J. Thompson & Herbert Duern who specialized in houses in The Kingsway. Now home to All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church. They held their first services in Sunnylea Public School in 1944 (on Glenroy Av. south of Bloor. Made of Credit Valley sandstone and Indiana limestone. Roof made of Douglas fir, to match houses in The Kingsway. Church completed & dedicated in 1957. Gutted by terrible fire in 1966, but rebuilt and reopened 1967 – photo of church being re-built after the fire.



Bloor Street West

Parklawn Cemetary

Park Lawn Cemetery was established in 1892 as Humbervale Cemetery with 75 acres of land. It was funded by selling shares in stock, and many of the stocks were held by local farmers. The cemetery was sold in 1912 to a new owner who promised to maintain the cemetery, but actually wanted to develop the land as a subdivision. The former shareholders formed the Humbervale Cemetery Defense Association, took the new owner to court, and won. The cemetery was then sold in 1915 to a new corporation called Park Lawn Cemetery.

Prince Edward

+

Parklawn Cemetary

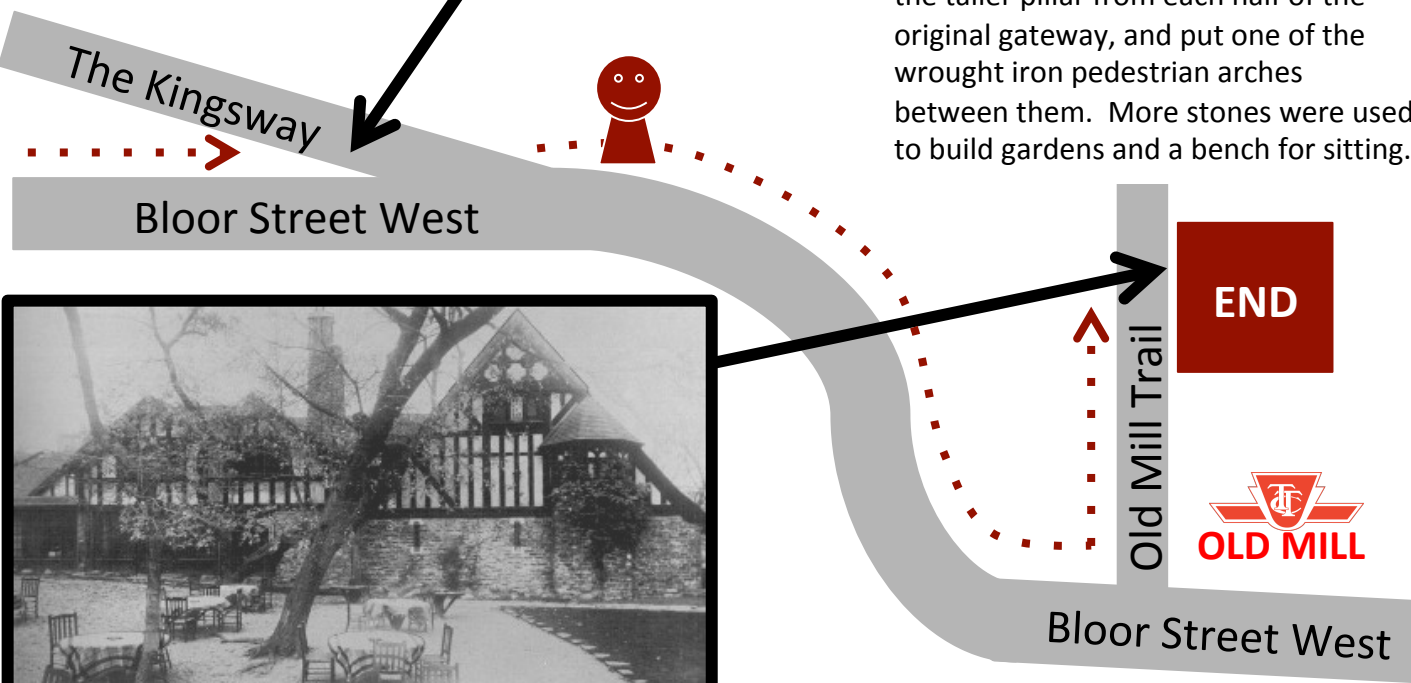




Historic Kingsway Walking Tour

Kingsway Gates

Gateway originally had one large section on each side of the road, each with a wrought iron arch for pedestrians to pass through. In 1960, when they needed to widen the intersection of The Kingsway/Bloor/Old Mill Rd., they demolished the original gateway and reconstructed parts of the original structure in a small parkette created in the triangle formed by the roads on the west side of the intersection. They kept the taller pillar from each half of the original gateway, and put one of the wrought iron pedestrian arches between them. More stones were used to build gardens and a bench for sitting.



The Old Mill (END OF TOUR)

On August 4th, 1914, Robert Home Smith, who developed “The Kingsway” area, opened his Old Mill Tea Garden restaurant at **21 Old Mill Road**. It happened to be the day war was declared. Two years later the picturesque stone Old Mill Bridge over the Humber River was opened. Until then, crossing was made by small bridges connected to an island in the river. The high level Bloor Street Bridge came many years later.