Buffalo undergoes an urban renaissance

Canadian love to visit the Queen City, but its upgraces now make visits even better

LOISI SCHERER writes in the Buffalo News

RE: 6-9-15...Toronto tourists love Buf-

falo. We love shopping for clothes. No

laws flying out of its airport. And of course, we love these bagels...but now there are two more reasons for To-

ronto tourists to show some Buffalonian- 

Larkinville and Canalside.

These are two of the city’s newest outdoor attractions that are bringing locals and tourists alike to parts of the city that had once been dead and deserted.

“Buffalofana are excited by what’s happening,” says Lowell Rosenbaum, a community activist and founder of Buffalofana, the city’s premier online resource for news and information on all things Buffa-

lo. That was not always the case. Buf-

falo fortune was built on auto manufac-

turing plants and steel mills. When those industries collapsed in the 1960s, so did the Queen City. The downtown emptied out. Buffalo left, as did countless Buffalo lost half its population.

“Today, we’re muscling the old with the new,” says Rosenbaum. “Many of the buildings in Larkinville are standing. Nineteenth-century former-

Though Buffalo’s waterfront is packed with social, cultural and recreational activities. Think Theatre District with local

trucks, live music and South Beach-

inspired patio furniture. The brand new local developer Howard Zemsky, Larkin-

ville’s success is a tribute to his vision

for a revitalized neighborhood and his determination to make it happen. “Thanks to events such as Food Truck Thursdays and Live at Larkin Wednesdays, thousands of people are showing up any night for great food, live entertainment and family fun,” says Leslie Scootby, the Square’s “Director of Fun.”

Two miles to the west on the shore of Lake Erie, stands Buffalo’s other go-to destination Canalside. More than eight hectares of park-

land, promenades and waterways, the area is a celebration of Buffalo’s maritime heritage. As the “portal to the west,” Erie Canal Harbor was a go-to destination: Canalside.

Bike trails, walking paths, fitness classes, concerts, and winter skating are just a few of the activities on offer. And if you didn’t get your Timmy’s before crossing the border, don’t fret. Buffalo has a flagship Tim Hortons, complete with hockey memorabilia, located in the former Bathurst armada of Canalside.

Stand on Immigrant Steps, the original spot where, on a compar-

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