

## Our Neighbours in nearby Condos and Apartment Buildings:

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, on whose land we gather to talk, listen, learn, worship and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

**Psalm 24:1** “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

People have lived in Toronto for thousands of years; the Indigenous peoples called it “The Carrying Place” because the Humber River provided a link between Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe and the upper lakes. The first European explorers arrived circa 1615, led by Etienne Brule.

Modern Toronto has grown rapidly from the 1793 settlement established by John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. The city continues to change around us, constantly reinventing itself with new buildings and a diverse population. Some things remain constant: we all have access to nature through the magnificent ravines that reach into the heart of the city!

St. Paul’s has ministered to our city for 175 years. This series of walks introduces us to our neighbours in prayer, celebrating Toronto’s vitality, growth, the beauty of our natural setting and hope for the future.

### We have many neighbours in the towering buildings surrounding St. Paul’s Bloor Street:

- **Route: East along Bloor Street from St. Paul’s, turning south on Jarvis two blocks to Charles St, turn right and walk west, crossing Church and Yonge Streets to Balmuto St, turn right to Bloor St, then right again and walk back to St. Paul’s.**  
**Walk duration: 30 minutes.**
- The older high rise beside St. Paul’s to the east is a rental building dating from the 1960’s. The buildings on the north side of Bloor, to the east of the Manulife complex are condominiums, dating from the early 2000’s and late 1990’s. They are largely owner-occupied. Many people from these buildings attend St. Paul’s.
- The two tall buildings on the west side of the street were built within the past few years – If you attended The Bridge service in the Great Hall you would have noted the sunlight pouring into the hall decreasing as the buildings went up!  
*Condo – highrise – living can be lonely, Deuteronomy 31:8* “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
- The taller building, the X2 Condo has been in the news recently as an example of condo flipping: over half of the buildings are investment properties, rented out at high rates to business people attracted by the central location.  
*Many in condos and downtown apartments may be working very hard just to stay afloat. Let us pray that they may know contentment: 1 Timothy 6:6* “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”
- Turn right onto Charles St: The older, low-rise rental buildings are being knocked down and the street is now lined with large new condos. Watch your step on the uneven pavements as we pass construction sites!
- At Yonge Street we encounter two of Toronto’s newest, super-tall condo buildings. Several blocks to the south the 78-storey Aura building looms over the skyline – this building has been plagued with elevator breakdowns, a crisis for residents of the upper floors. The recently completed One Bloor condo is 76

storeys; an 80 storey building is under construction across from it on the south west corner.

*Given that many condo dwellers live far above the ground, let us reflect on the tower of Babel pray for those living "in the clouds";* **Genesis 11:4** "Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

- Turn right on Balmuto Street: The Manulife Centre residential tower is ahead of us at 44 Charles Street West. This 51-storey luxury rental building was completed in 1974, over the years many residents have attended St. Paul's.
- **Turn right on Bloor Street and walk back to St. Paul's. Duration: 30 minutes.**