



Old storage and factory spaces at Liberty Street and Hanna Avenue were converted into commercial spaces in the 1980s and 1990s and make up Liberty Market.

Give me Liberty (Village)

Former industrial area now a creative, tech hub

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It's located on one of Toronto's oldest settlements but Liberty Village has a decidedly youthful vibe. And no wonder: this former industrial and manufacturing area has become a creative and tech hub that naturally draws a younger-skewed demographic.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, soccer fans were watching a World Cup match at Local Public Eatery, one of numerous neighbourhood pubs. Across the street, some folks seemed oblivious to the easygoing revelry as they were catching rays at Balzac's Coffee Roasters.

Toronto Wolfpack rugby fans — some sporting kilts — made their way to a game at Allan A. Lamport Stadium. Added to the mix were Toronto Argonauts fans en route to BMO Field Stadium. Countless others were walking their four-legged friends in this dog-friendly neighbourhood, where French bulldogs seem to abound.

"It's trendy, fun and cool," Breanne Graham, a sales representative at Right at Home Realty Inc. told us during an open house in Toy Factory Lofts, a converted Irwin Toy factory that boasts original features like thick brick walls, steel ceiling beams and Douglas fir posts.

"It's got lots of parks, dog parks and green space... We see a lot of single professionals and young families. Some commute downtown but want to live in a community setting."

Liberty Village truly has everything you want, from a grocery store and



Liberty Village is bordered to the north by King St. W., to the west by Dufferin St., to the south by the Gardiner Expressway and to the east by Strachan Ave.

LCBO to growing number of new restaurants, many with outdoor patios. Craft beer bars and pubs are located within a few blocks of one another.

Big Rock Brewpub brewing manager Dan Ellis believes Liberty Village is the ideal location for craft breweries. Big Rock offers signature brands but a couple taps are dedicated to nano beers that are rarely brewed more than once — an offering that appeals to its patrons.

"That's what craft beer is all about — the variety and finding new sensory experiences," Ellis says.

"We see people from the business side coming for lunch and we also have a great night life with people coming home from work, not to mention our proximity to Exhibition Place... Having lived here for five years, Liberty Village definitely feels like a community but you venture out and you've got Queen West and King West right there. It's a great location."

While some old factories have been repurposed as lofts, others are enjoying a second life as restaurants, gyms, furniture stores and galleries.

The Toronto Carpet Factory building and its surrounding campus of industrial structures — an example of 1900s turn-of-the-century industrial architecture — is home to a mix of design, technology, media and marketing companies.

An exciting community of new-culture companies is located in Liberty Village. Universal Music Canada will open recording studios and performance space here early next year.

"It's a very creative and innovative community. That's our mantra: connect, create and innovate," says Deborah Thompson of Liberty Village Business Improvement Area (BIA).

The country's only non-retail BIA, it represents 600+ businesses that together employ 10,000 employees. In partnership with the city, it has ushered in street improvements, sidewalks, trees and annual street parties that help create a sense of community that workers and residents alike appreciate.

Offices are mostly concentrated in the west end and new residential developments are currently focused on East Liberty Street, which begins east of Hanna Avenue.

Its location is one of Liberty Village's finest assets. It's just steps from GO Transit's Exhibition Station, a 15-minute walk to the Lakeshore, 20-minute often crammed streetcar ride to the financial core and a 20-minute walk to King Street West's entertainment district.

It offers pristine views of the CN Tower and its proximity to the recently-renamed Budweiser Stage means summer is just a little bit more fun for avid concertgoers.



Countless pet-owners can be seen walking their four-legged friends in this dog-friendly neighbourhood,



Big Rock Brewpub is one of numerous craft beer pubs and breweries in Liberty Village.



The Liberty Village Business Improvement Area's 'Give Me Liberty' street party is a signature event held annually in June.