



(1) Woofstock



(2) Fountain by Front Street



(3) Solferino on Wellington



(4) Flatiron Building



(5) Flatiron's gift shop on Front

EUROPEAN FLAIR

“Ze reel ting!”

If you've been to a European city, you know the feeling: when everywhere you lay your eyes, everything is man-made and beautiful.

This is the exact feeling I get when I sit by the large fountain in the middle of the public place nestled in the V at the intersection of Front and Wellington. (During the **Woofstock** event (see p. 54), this fountain is a real dog magnet (1).)

From my view point, the 4-storey brick buildings on Front are elegantly framed by the trees of the park (2). Dogs are barking at pigeons.

The kids and I are enjoying a gelato from **Solferino** (3) (38 Wellington St. East), where we always make a point of each choosing differently so we can taste a maximum number of flavours!

On the east part of the park is painted an amazing trompe-l'oeil (4) of windows, on a 5-storey wall. Which ones are real?

This wall is part of the **Gooderham “Flatiron Building”** (which used to belong to the owners of **The Distillery**). It was built in its trademark triangular shape in 1892, ten years prior to the one with the same name in New York!

Hernando's Hideaway (52 Wellington St. E., by the Flatiron building) offers a great colourful decor and mexican food the whole family will enjoy.

Across Front Street, kids will have a blast exploring **Flatiron's** (5) unique gift shop (51 Front East). (Note that a **Winners** store now sits where the **Timbuktu** store used to be

on Front.)

East of Church Street, on the north side, you'll see a great view of **St. James Cathedral** (6) at the foot of the paved path by the **Dominion** on Front Street.

I often go to this grocery store to get a picnic to eat by the fountain. It includes a huge section of food-to-go (pre-packaged fruit, salads or sandwiches, warm counter, etc.).

The paved path leads to the **Sculpture Garden** and its waterfall, by King Street.

You never know what installation awaits you in this garden! Once, we saw a spectacular web stretched over our head (7). I've seen a Ford painted into a Porsche, a weird sculpture which turned out to be the replica of the tip of the **CN Tower** buried as it could be, hundreds of years from now. Whatever the artwork, make sure you read the artist's rationale. It always adds to the fun.

St. James Cathedral, with the best stained-glass windows (8) in the city (see p. 119), and the adjacent gardens (9) are not to be missed, right across King Street.

The strip along King Street between Church and Berkeley abounds with home decor stores (not any kids' favourite part, but make a mental note to come back with girlfriends!).

I really like **Le petit déjeuner** offering original all-day breakfast in funky decor with booths (191 King St. E., across from George Brown College). My kids prefer **The George Street Diner**, straight out of the 50's (129 George St., at the corner of Richmond, north of King).