

Let library help you discover T.O.

Milton Public Library is the gateway to many world destinations, since we have many travel guides, DVDs, road maps, audio books, electronic databases to search for reviews or information on tourist destinations, a travel link on our Web site, and books on individual countries, cities, and tourist spots.

Although it is fantastic to plan a real or imaginary trip to far off places, sometimes we have to remember that we live close to a large city bustling with excitement and home to many famous and hidden gems. Most of us have visited the CN Tower and been to the Toronto Zoo, but have you been to the Allan Gardens Conservatory or the Toronto Police Museum? Let's discover some lesser known gems of Toronto using library resources.

A starting point to planning a trip in Toronto would be to take a look at various guidebooks. These provide readers with an overview of what T.O. has to offer in a variety of categories such as food, what there is to see and much more. Once you have decided on the spots you want to visit, use other resources for more detail. For example, to learn more about the founder of the Bata Shoe Company before visiting the museum, search the library's catalogue using the

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keyword "Bata". This search will retrieve a book titled, Bata: Shoemaker to the World by Thomas J. Bata with Sonja Sinclair. Try searching for information related to these lesser known Toronto destinations: David Dunlap Observatory, the CBC Behind the Scenes Tour, Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, The Pier, R.C. Harris Filtration Plant, Toronto Aerospace Museum, and Toronto's First Post Office.

The Allan Gardens Conservatory transports visitors to hot spots around the world. Cacti, tropical plants, palm trees, vines, and lush exotic plants will impress all ages. Interested? Try using the library's electronic databases to find out more.

From the library's homepage, click on Online Databases and Internet Links. Choose a database from the list. For this particular location, use keywords such as "Allan Gardens Conservatory Toronto" in EBSCO HOST Canadian Reference Centre. It searches

Canadian magazines, newspapers, newswires, and reference books.

Most of these tourist locations will have Web sites that will be of great assistance to you for hours of operation, admission costs, etc. The library has many public Internet computers available for you to use. Milton Public Library now has wireless capabilities, so bring your laptop and relax while you research your next trip. There is a great "Travel" link on the library's Web site under Best of the Web. Whether you are traveling here or abroad, this link will assist in your planning.

Milton is so close to our provincial capital, and yet it is likely that you haven't visited all of the tourist spots mentioned in this column. People say that when destinations are in your backyard you just never get there. Milton Public Library would like to assist with providing the information needed to plan your next trip. When you get back, be sure to let us know all about high tea at the Four Seasons Hotel or how you helped hoist the mainsail on the Kajama schooner on your voyage to the Toronto Islands.

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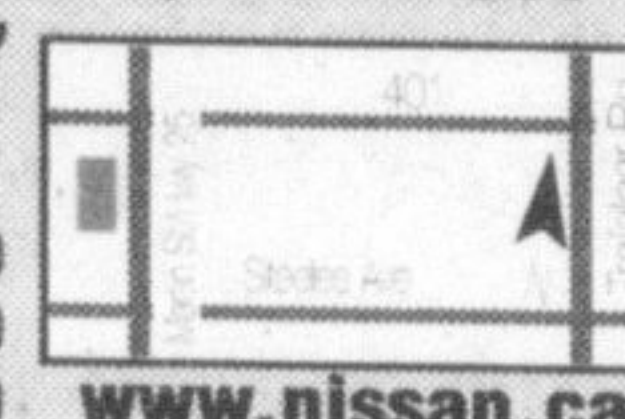
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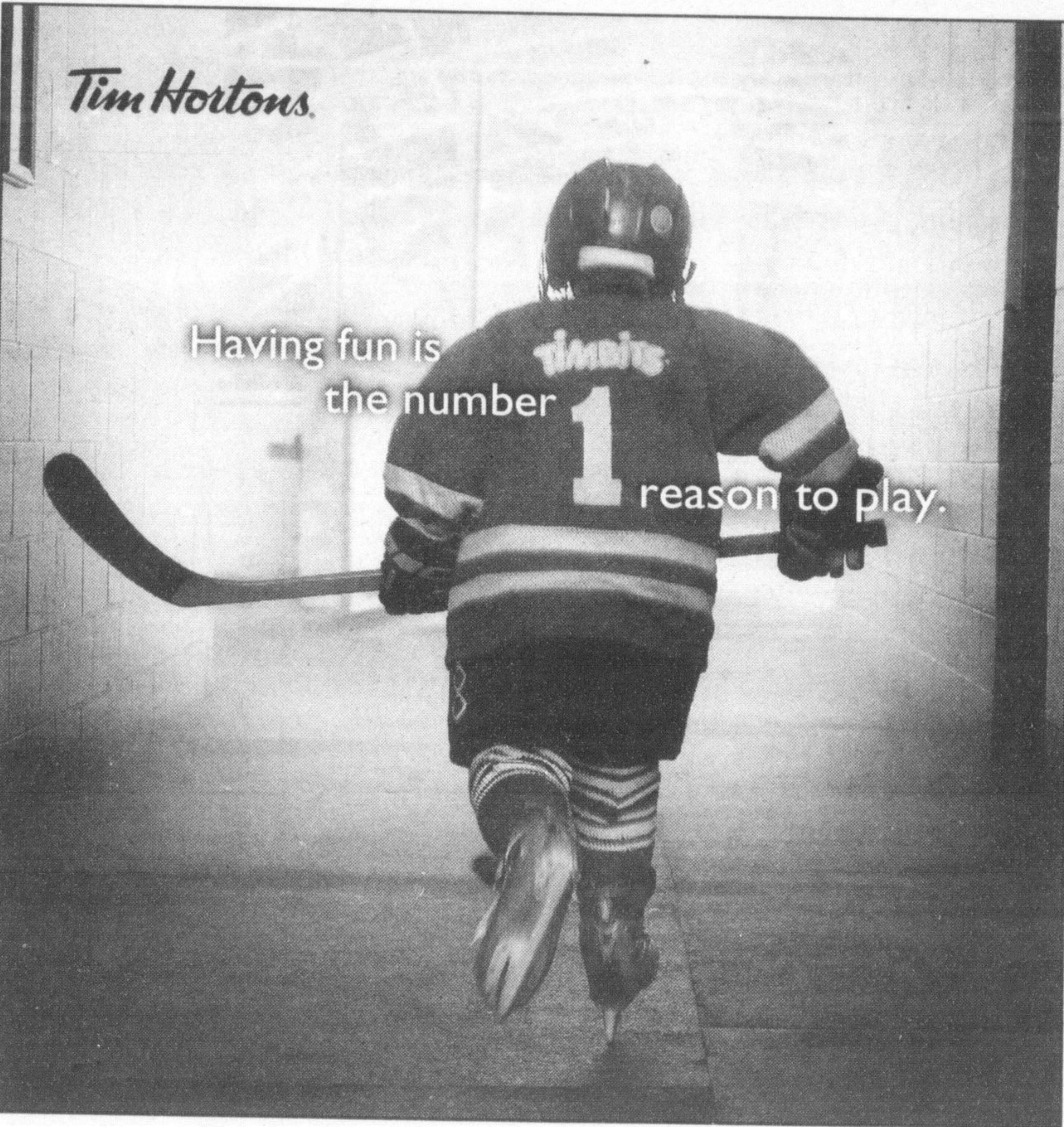
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