

The 500th anniversary celebrations have begun

The Caboto Trail festival started with a party and will end with costumes, dancing and a live band

The nine-day celebration of the discovery of Canada 500 years ago was kicked off with an opening dance June 13 and will close with another on June 21.

The festival, which includes roving street musicians, historical characters from the Italian and Newfoundland cultures, food and contests, is called Caboto Trail: A Voyage of Discovery.

Held in conjunction with the Toronto International Festival Caravan, it is the first time in Caravan's history that an entire street will have many pavilions, said Danny Villeneuve, chair of Unionville Main Street's BIA.

To get into the Caboto Trail pavilions, people must

purchase a passport. (People can still get into Main Street businesses without a passport.)

The passport is also the holder's ticket into the closing dance.

The Maudi Gras-style dance - personally sponsored by mayor Don Cousens - will be held on June 21.

Italian group Pino Cea will be performing at 8 p.m. in Crosby arena. People are invited to dress in traditional Newfoundland Mumpers costumes as well as costumes for the Italian Carnevale.

Mumpers are an old English/Irish custom that occurs over the 12 days of Christmas. People disguise themselves and go door to door, entertaining their neighbors with songs and dances. Their neighbors try

to recognize the mummer, before he disappears to the next house.

For Carnevale, people would dress in ornamental costumes with masks.

Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. The dance is on a first come, first serve basis.

A nine-day passport gives the holder access to special venues in Unionville as well as the 35 pavilions in Toronto. It costs just \$20. People can also purchase a one-day passport for \$10. The passports can be purchased from participating Main Street merchants or Markham and Unionville CIBC branches.

Cabot's ship will be in Canada for six months

As part of the 500th anniversary celebration of John Cabot's discovery of Canada, a reconstruction of his ship The Matthew will be staying in Toronto for six months, said the organizer.

"It was the intent a year ago of using the anniversary as an ideal opportunity to celebrate 500 years of Canadian Canadian achievement," said the organizer who contacted the ship's British owner about the idea of bringing it to Canada.

"I spent a lot of time overseas... and I found it very encouraging the way Canadians are viewed, not only by other governments but by other people."

Anyone who wants to see The Matthew should be able to

Barton said he has the support from all levels of government and said the only request he has had was from the federal government who

wanted as many people as possible to view the ship.

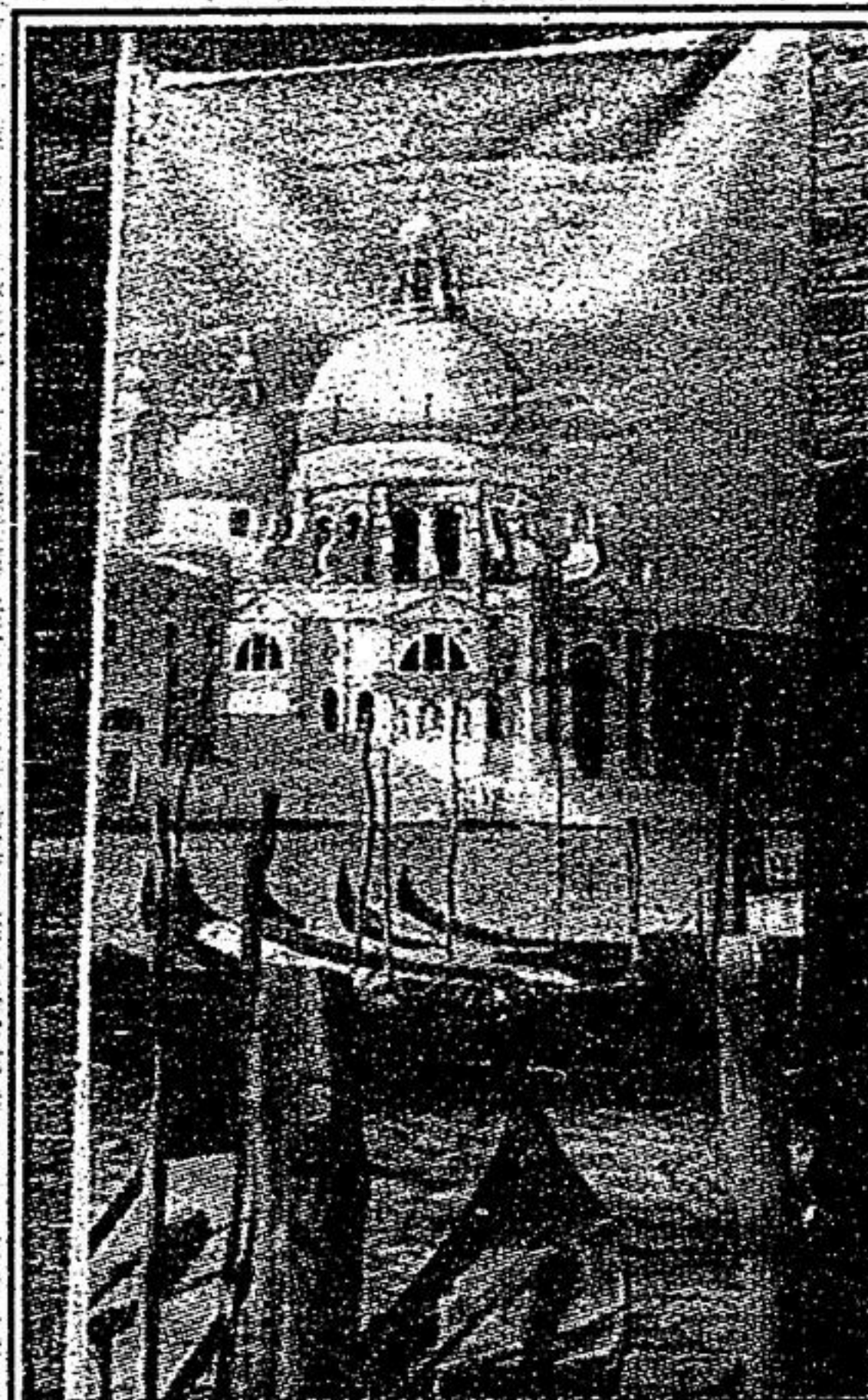
So now The Matthew is stopping in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario before docking in Toronto over the winter. It will stay a few days in each place before

An exhibition will be built around The Matthew

When the ship comes back to Toronto, it will remain in the water. An exhibition - filled with books representing different aspects of Canadian culture - will be built around it.

People will be able to board the Matthew as well as see exhibits such as mining, agriculture, fishing as well as festivals like the Chinese New Year, Black History month and a Cabot exhibit, said Barton.

~ articles by Lisa Cartwright



This is just one of 10 air brushed murals that will line Main Street Unionville.

Murals depict famous scenes

Ten murals depicting famous scenes from Newfoundland and Italy will be on display along Main Street Unionville during the Caboto Trail festival June 13-21.

Air brushed by Joe Falzon, Jason Pope and Stewart MacLaren, the eight by four feet canvas murals took between one and four days to complete.

10 different scenes from Newfoundland and Italy

"What the committee wanted was to depict scenes from Newfoundland and Italy that people would instantly recognize and think of," said Falzon. Going through books and magazines, the three would first sketch the scene on the canvas and then air-brush over top. When the festival is finished, the murals will be sold at a silent auction.



Markham Italian-Canadian Association

Invites you to join the adventure...

The Caboto Trail

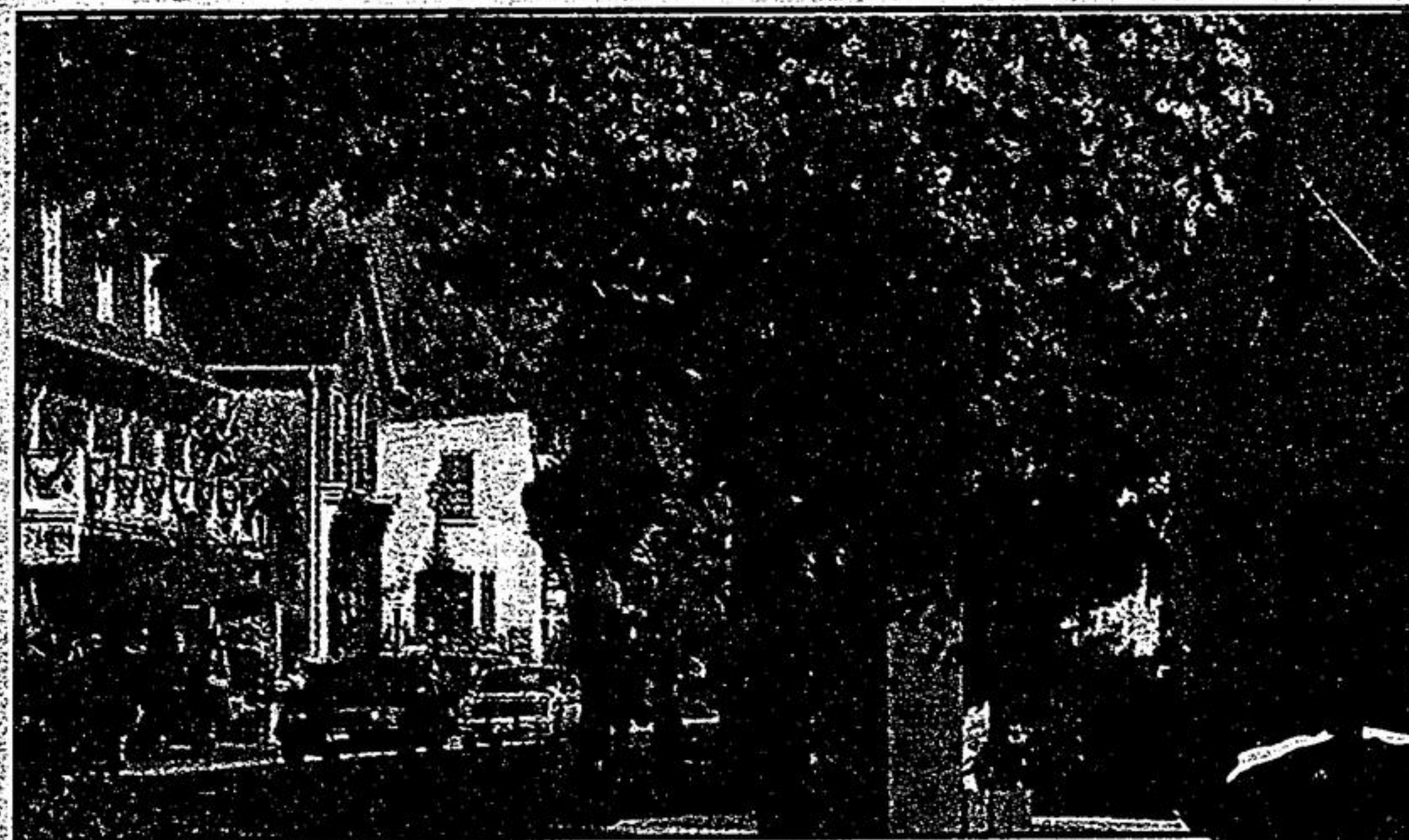
Toronto International Festival Caravan



Come celebrate a nine-day festival honoring the combined heritages of Newfoundland and Italy. There will be food, dances, activities for the entire family and entertainment. Get your Caboto Trail passport at Unionville Main Street merchants. Call (416) 410-7148 for information.

and join the fun... Italian Dance
Saturday, June 21st
Venetian Pavilion ~ 8:00 p.m.
Music by: Pino Cea & his band
June 13 - 21
Main St. Unionville
(Admission: Caravan Passport or \$10. at door)

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA



Main Street, Unionville is part of this year's Toronto International Caravan - it's basically business as usual on Main St.

June 13 - 21 with just a Little Extra -

Main Street will be decorated, roving street musicians, contests, murals for photo shoots, special discounts & opening and closing night dances.

PASSPORTS ONLY required to access Special Main Street activities and the 35 other Toronto Pavilions.

SUPPORT YOUR MAIN ST. Purchase your Toronto Caravan Passport on Main St.

Antique shops, unique craft and gift stores, clothing boutiques, services and delightful dining establishments.

Info (416) 410-7148



CABOT

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