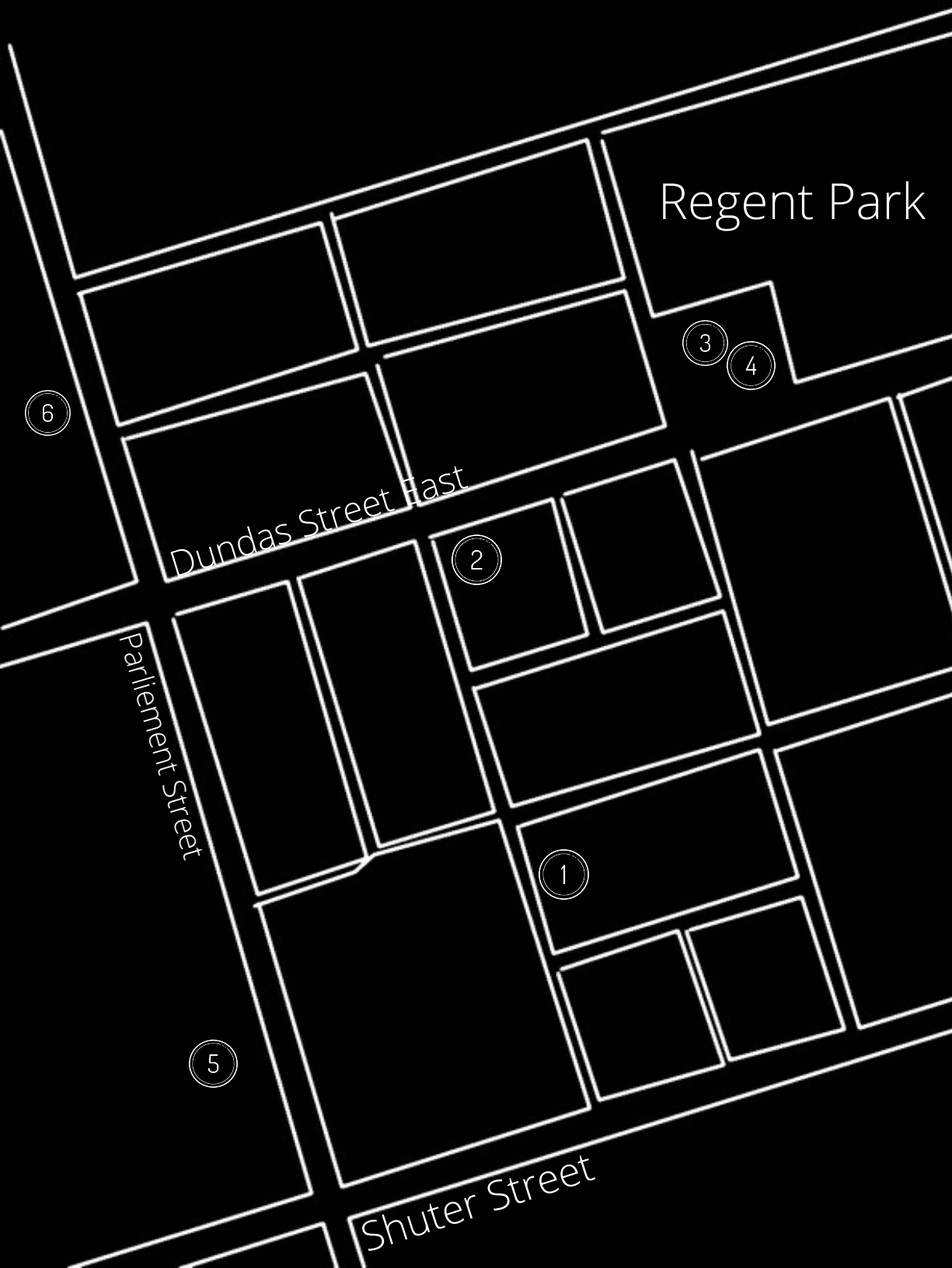


BY THE REGENT TURTLES



HOW DO PLACES OF
WORSHIP SHARE SPACE
IN THE COMMUNITY?

SHARING
REGENT
PARK



CONTENT

Regent Park At A Glance p. 3

Who we are and our mission p. 5

① St George's Church (Macedonian/Bulgarian) p. 7

② St Bartholomew's (Anglican) p. 9

③ St. Silouan Church (Orthodox) p. 10

④ Sts. Cyril and Methody (Macedonian/Bulgarian) p. 13

⑤ Masjid Omar Bin Al-Khattab p. 14

⑥ Masjid Rahmah p. 16

How do places of worship share space in the community? p. 19

REGENT PARK IS IN THE EAST END OF OLD TORONTO. FOR MOST OF THE 20TH CENTURY, REGENT PARK WAS A SOCIAL HOUSING-ONLY NEIGHBOURHOOD. OVER THE PAST DECADE, IT HAS TRANSITIONED INTO A MIXED-INCOME HOUSING COMMUNITY. REGENT PARK TODAY IS A DIVERSE NEIGHBOURHOOD, HOME TO BOTH LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES, AND NEWCOMER FAMILIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



THE NUMBERS

Population: 10803

Population Density: 16880
people/km²

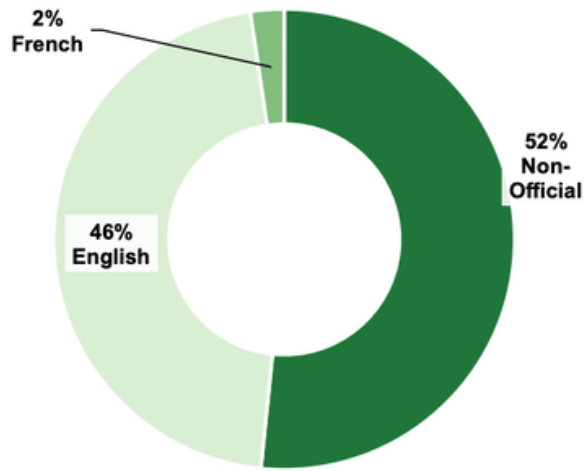
Medium Income: \$42369

Mother Tongue Not English: 54%
(2016 Census)

REGENT PARK AT A GLANCE

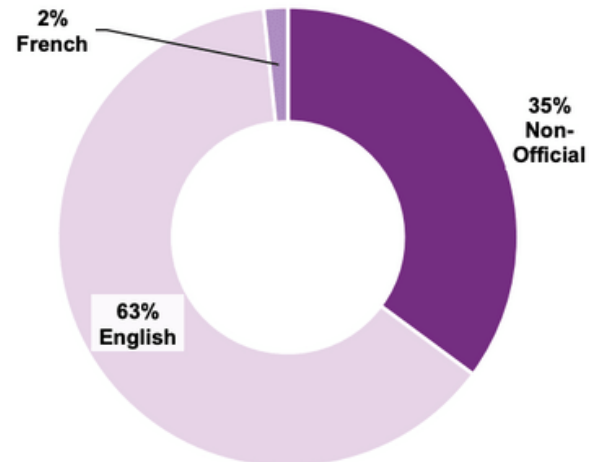
HISTORY AND NUMBERS

Mother tongue (single-response)



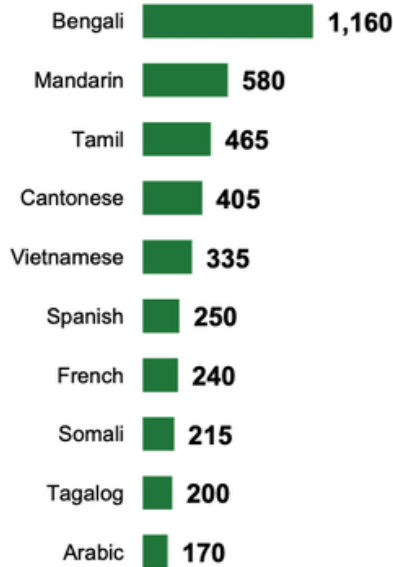
City rate for non-official mother tongue: **46%**

Home language (single-response)

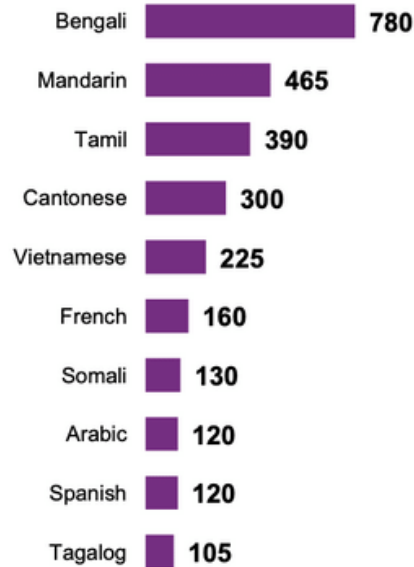


City rate for non-official home language: **29%**

Top-10 non-English mother tongue languages



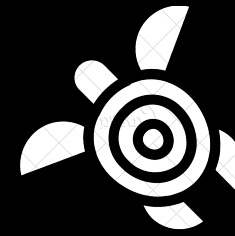
Top-10 non-English home languages



The City of Toronto's Neighbourhood Profile for Regent Park visualizes select data from the 2016 Census. While data regarding self-reported religious identity is not available, the diversity of languages spoken in Regent Park demonstrates the cultural vibrancy of the community. Many faiths are practiced in Regent park, with houses of worship serving the Christian and Muslim faiths located in the neighbourhood.

REGENT PARK AT A GLANCE

POPULATION IN REGENT PARK



WHO WE ARE

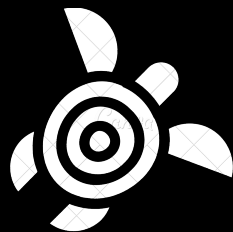
Our mission is to develop interfaith dialogue between religious institutions, across the Regent Park neighbourhood, and to share its unique stories of urban spiritual practice with the wider community.

We are a group of young enthusiastic students exploring how religious institutions share space in the Regent Park community.

Our group consists of four members: 3 students from the University of Toronto, and a member of Regent Park Focus' Diva Girls youth group.

- Kamila
- Rushay
- Xinyi
- Huda

OUR MISSION



LOCATION

**17 Regent Street,
Toronto (north of
Shuter)**

ST. GEORGE'S MACEDONO- BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

"Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese"



Serving the Macedonian and Bulgarian communities of the Eastern Orthodox faith, St. George's Church is the second Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox church established in Toronto, after Sts. Cyril and Melody Church. The church was established in 1940, after the primary emigration of the Bulgarian Orthodox community from the Ottoman Empire amid the Balkan Wars, according to "The Faces of Toronto" manuscript by the city's Bulgarian community. Most in the early years settled in Regent Park upon arrival in Canada, prior to the neighbourhood's post-war redevelopment into transitional public housing. Today, the neighbourhood remains an active hub of Bulgarian and Macedonian cultural practice. The church is located at the southern edge of Regent Park, on Regent St, north of Shuter. It is housed in a dedicated church building, surrounded by new townhouse developments to its north, and a small apartment block to its south. The church sits across from the now demolished Duke of York Public School. Across the empty lot yet to be redeveloped, St. George's is within view of Masjid Omar Bin Al-Khattab, sitting close to Shuter. But its physical presence is limited to the small plot where the historic church building is located.

It is primarily a house of worship, but the hall of the church is available for rent by anyone in the community for events and gatherings. One particular event open to everyone is the annual fall Bazaar, at which a Macedonian luncheon and Bulgarian cultural displays are shared with the community.

COVID-19

Amid the pandemic, St. George's has closed its premises - it is encouraging parishioners through its Facebook page and emails to continue prayer remotely from home, and stay connected with others of faith through virtual means.





ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Address: 509 Dundas St E, Toronto

Hours of Operation: 11:30 -13:30 Mon. to Fri.

Founded in 1910, moved in 1983

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church is located at the corner of Regent St. and Dundas St. E. The church and the basketball field located to its south are two of the very few places which remain unchanged since the revitalization program began in Regent Park South.

The building was fundraised by a group of Anglican citizens in 1910, which was unusual in a city of a Catholic majority.

St. Bart's operates a food ministry for the most vulnerable people in the neighbourhood, including during Breakfast, through an Emergency Food Bank, and through Christmas Hampers.

St. Bart's also offers a Children's Centre, geared towards children at-risk who might be facing challenges at school. The primary goal is to support the emotional growth of children in the community through programming. Both programs aim to help all members of the community, regardless of religion.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, starting Mar. 15th 2020, St. Bart's cancelled all services and events, except for the Breakfast Food Ministry and Food Bank to support vulnerable community members.

Instead, St. Bart's now offers live streaming on YouTube for weekly worship. During the recent Holy Week (Apr. 6th to Apr.12th), services were operated throughout.

Click below for to see more:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9NIn_hvAvz9-kMY6NYr3Rg





237 Sackville St

ST CYRIL & METHODY + ST SILOUAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

+Momentum Montessori (non-religious school)

Hours of Operation

**St Cyril & Methody Macdeono-
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church**
Every Sunday after 10 AM and
special holidays

St Silouan the Athonite Orthodox Church

Monday 6:30-10PM

Wednesday 6:30-10PM

Thursday 9AM-4:30PM

Every Other Saturday 4-6PM

Sunday 8:30AM-2PM



The two domes of the building on 237 Sackville St reflects its shared housing of two Orthodox churches of different origins. St. Silouan Church, the secondary tenant, shares the building informally with an early childhood program, a preschool, and kindergarten programs.



ST CYRIL & METHODY MACEDONIAN-BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The church was founded in 1910, when an assembly of 200 parishioners, featuring speaker Hieromonak Theophilact, set the beginning of a campaign to collect funds to build a place of worship. This began the Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church parish of Sts. Cyril and Methody in Toronto.

Today, "Church services are attended approximately by 30+ people, with many more on bigger religious holidays, as Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas", according to representatives from Sts. Cyril and Methody. Ceremonies and spiritual services they provide include divine liturgies, communions, confessions, baptisms, weddings, funerals, prayers, and memorial services.

The church "[does] not share our sanctuary with other institutions, but some of the banquet halls are rented to other institutions (tenants) on a permanent basis, [while] the Church Policy does not allow to share our sanctuary with other institutions."

The "church is locked, due to COVID-19, [and does] not provide online church services, but tries to accommodate all church and administrative needs over the phone, as the employees are working from home until further notice."

ST SILOUAN THE ATHONITE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Established in Toronto in 2002, the church is a mission parish of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Many traditions are reflected at St. Silouan's -- Greek, Romanian, Serbian, Coptic, Ukrainian, Arabic, Russian - - and like Canada, they take pride in welcoming all: converts, cradle Orthodox and Christianity curious.

They offer big meals on feast days like Christmas, Pascha (Easter), and their parish saint's "Slava", or anniversary. Through worship and prayer, particularly through Liturgy of the Eucharist, the church has stated that it "strives to have a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and offer our lives back to the Trinity."

A representative of St. Silouan's stated that they "are tenants within another church which shares space with the landlord and other tenants. [The church has] no formal relationship with other tenants or the landlord." However, they do not mind sharing the space with other congregations.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church is offering live streaming of its services. Before the lockdown began, about 60 – 80 people regularly attended Sunday service.





Address: 509 Dundas St E, Toronto

Hours of Operation:

According to prayer times, 7 days a week

Founded 1993

**MASJID
OMAR BIN
KHATTAB**

"MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF DOWNTOWN TORONTO"



Masjid Omar Bin Al-Khatab was founded by a group of Muslims living in Toronto's downtown core, growing to form the "Muslim Community of Downtown Toronto". Beginning with approximately 25-30 attendees in its early years, the mosque has over 1000 regular attendees for Juma'a prayers.

Masjid Omar Bin Khatab has, in recent years, catered to serving Muslims of Arab and North African backgrounds. The mosque has separate places for different genders according to Islamic tradition. Visitors are also asked to dressed according to Islamic principles. It operates mentorship and leadership program for at-risk Muslim youth in the Regent Park community.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the mosque is closed until further notice.

Masjidur Rahmah is the mosque of the Central Toronto Islamic Foundation (CTIF), and is open to the full diversity of the Muslim faith. As compared with Masjid Omar Bin Al-Khattab, prayer goers here tend to be of South Asian cultural backgrounds, and particularly the Bengali community.

Masjidur Rahmah was founded in December 2011 as the permanent house of worship for the Foundation, after three decades of operation in the Greater Toronto Area, with particular focus on supporting the Islamic spiritual presence and practice of faith in Regent Park, and more broadly, downtown Toronto.

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MASJIDUR RAHMAH

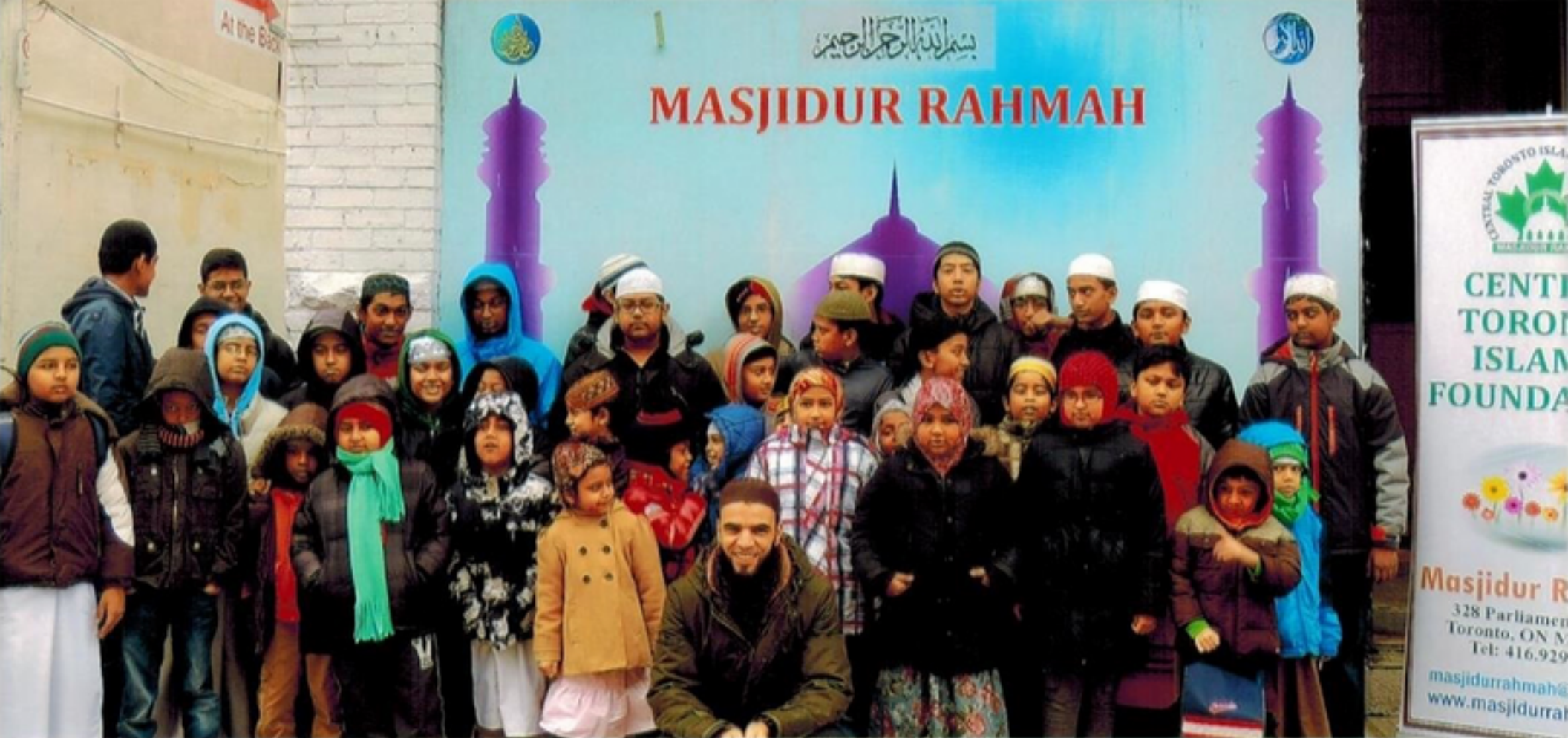
"Central Toronto
Islamic Foundation"

LOCATION

28 Parliament Street,
Toronto (north of Dundas)

Hours of Operation:
according to prayer times,
7 days a week
(approximately 4:30am-
6:30am, 11:30am-10pm)





The masjid itself is not available for use for community events: Islamic prayer times hosted 5 times through the day means it is mostly a dedicated prayer space. However, for Muslims in the community, a religious school is available, providing evening weekday and weekend classes to youth and adults. Throughout the year, however, the masjid occasionally hosts community events around times of religious festivals, such as Eid, as the home of the broader work of its Foundation.

COVID-19

Amid the pandemic, Masjidur Rahmah has fully closed its daily Salaah prayer services, and encourages prayer from home as a means of building solidarity during this challenging time.



HOW DO PLACES OF WORSHIP SHARE SPACE IN THE COMMUNITY?

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church (on the left) and St George's Macedonian Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church (above) standing uniquely as separate institutions in historic buildings, in their own contexts.



Both St. George's (on the left) and (on the right) and Sts. Cyril & Methody Macedono-Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Churches offer halls available to rent for events. However, these are not restricted to religious events. Members of the wider Regent Park community are able to rent the churches' spaces for a variety of personal and neighbourhood events.

"HALL FOR RENT" SHARING PLACES OF WORSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

SERVING THE VULNERABLE

SHARING PLACES OF WORSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church operates a food ministry for the most vulnerable people in the neighbourhood. While the program is guided by religious principles, the program itself is accessible to anyone who seeks assistance with food in the neighbourhood.

St. Bart's shares its place by helping all people, irrespective of their creed or religious practice.



Stained glass window from St. Bartholomew's Church

Masjid Omar Bin Khatab is situated further south on Parliament, just north of Shuter. The finely-grained retail spread along this stretch of Parliament Street means many local businesses are integrated by the masjid. Restaurants like Hyderabad Palace are located in the attached building to its north, while the essential Kabul Farms supermarket, specializing in Halal meats, is situated directly to its south. Situated across from the vacant lot of the former Duke of York Public School, the masjid anchors the community presence in this southern part of the neighbourhood.

INTEGRATING WITH COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

SHARING PLACES OF WORSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

Both Masjidur Rahmah and Masjid Omar Bin Khatab share their physical space on Parliament Street with local commercial and residential tenants. The mosques are thus finely woven into the cultural fabric of the neighbourhood, interacting with businesses and community institutions integrally.





**INTEGRATING
WITH COMMUNITY
INSTITUTIONS**

**SHARING PLACES OF
WORSHIP WITH THE
COMMUNITY**

Masjidur Rahmah is located at the western edge of the neighbourhood, on the west side of Parliament Street, just north of Dundas. The masjid is located on the lower level of a mixed residential-commercial building on Parliament, one of three commercial spaces shared with other Bengali businesses - the Surma supermarket, and a combined tax business with the Alisha Video and Gifts convenience store. While physically attached to other businesses, the masjid has no external presence on the street, behind a closed door and walled front. However, it is very tightly integrated with the row of Bengali businesses leading from its building down to the intersection with Dundas, and across the street from the new condo development and the Sultan Samosas and Tim Hortons anchoring the Dundas-Parliament intersection.

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