

# points of origin.

What is Points of Origin?

Points of Origin is a locally-based initiative, tracing the origin of how people and products end up in Scarborough's vibrant and up-and-coming Wexford Heights neighbourhood.

Located along the Lawrence Avenue East corridor, between Victoria Park and Birchmount Road, Wexford is a unique part of the city; rich in diverse cultures, languages, people, foods, shops, malls, businesses and restaurants. Seen as a living, breathing work of art, Wexford already transcends geographic and cultural boundaries. There are people and products from around the globe, mingling in one place and at one specific point in time, i.e., RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

Where did these people and products come from and how did they get here?

The Points of Origin People Murals

The Points of Origin murals represent the first output of our neighbourhood beautification project. The murals, painted by Ian Leventhal and his team of Toronto based artists, depict the geographic origins of 6 local residents who live/work in the Wexford area. Their places of origin provide the backdrop for the mural portraits, highlighting the connection between the local and the global in even the smallest corners of Scarborough. Wexford, like many other neighbourhoods in Toronto, has links which stretch back in time and which span large distances. The Points of Origin murals aim to make these otherwise unobserved connections visible for everyone to see.

In the course of designing these murals, we have also uncovered the story of each person's unique journey to Wexford. The Points of Origin Stories form the basis of the individual plaques found beside each mural. Take the time to read each story and you'll find that the world is literally at your doorstep here in Wexford.

Who is Responsible for Points of Origin?

The Points of Origin Project is the brainchild of a group of individuals committed to making cultural and urban renewal a priority in the city of Toronto. The project is a collaboration between several Toronto based organizations -- ThinkTankToronto, WorkWorthDoing, Stonevents -- working closely with Councillor Michael Thompson and his office, the Wexford Business Improvement Area and the City of Toronto. Everything from the Points of Origin logo (designed by Toronto based artist Jeff Szuc) to the original concept (ThinkTankToronto's 54east project), to the Points of Origin stories (written by journalist Michael Tamburro) are all 'locally grown'.

What Else is There?

Apart from murals, Points of Origin houses a number of specific projects rooted in and inspired by the local community. Throughout the course of twelve months (beginning in the summer of 2005 and coinciding with the start of the second annual Taste of Lawrence Festival) artists, students, local residents, photographers, digital storytellers and music composers will explore the neighbourhood through the Points of Origin theme.

The POINT is that every Wexford resident has an ORIGINAL story to tell, and the Points of Origin project will showcase this hidden world of wonder to local residents and the rest of the city.

Do You Want to be a Part of it?

We want to invite residents and passers-by to volunteer their own story of how they ended up in Wexford, or to tell us a story of an overlooked product or place in the area. These stories will be recorded and placed on the 54East\_Magazine website ([www.54eastmagazine.com](http://www.54eastmagazine.com)) and will form part of the broader Points of Origin project. And whether that journey was a small one (from East York to Wexford) or a long one (from Colombo via London to Wexford) we want to hear about it!

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