

## **Hidden Gem - Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**

If you walk quickly you may miss the building on the corner of John and Front Street. To the outsider it blends in quite well with its surroundings, with its white outer shell walls, "waterfall like" windows and stripes of red threaded throughout the building like a huge Christmas present. The building is a homage to Canadian broadcasting, but as they say, "It's what's inside that counts."

The main headquarters for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, known affectionately to Canadians as the CBC, is located at 250 Front Street West. Not only is it a creative workplace where journalists, actors, designers and technicians produce radio and television programming, but there are many facets to this multipurpose centre that are open to the public.

The most striking is the Barbara Frum Atrium which was named in honour of one of Canada's most celebrated journalists. This impressive space soars 10 storeys high and is often used for special broadcasts and events.

The Glenn Gould Studio is an intimate concert hall and recording studio where many iconic Canadian artists have performed. It seats 341 comfortably, theatre style, and is also ideal for meetings and hosting events.

The CBC Museum houses 4,000 physical artifacts of the national broadcaster's heritage, dating back over 70 years of Canadian broadcasting. Some of the collections include the Marconi Mark II TV camera and microphones that were used in the 60s and 70s. This is a popular spot for tours by teachers and their students, and the best part of the museum is that admission is free!

CBC radio and television production is the main component of the CBC building. This is where the public has the opportunity to participate in live tapings of shows like *The Rick Mercer Report* and *Steven and Chris*.

It is here where television magic happens. And on this particular Thursday afternoon, when I attended, it is where one can be a part of the live audience and taping of *The Hour* with George Stroumboulopoulos. The late night talk show is about current events that cover everything from politics, pop culture, the environment, human rights, entertainment and sports and has won six Gemini Awards.

I cannot describe how enthralled I was to attend my first live taping of *The Hour*. The fact that Morgan Freeman was one of the guests being interviewed only fuelled my excitement. It is really cool to be a part of a taping of a show and then watch it on your television later on. But more importantly I uncovered a gem in Toronto that I had known nothing about. Rest assured that I will be back to visit the CBC building very soon. Now if I could only get someone to take a picture of me and the sculpture of Glenn Gould on the bench it would be perfect!

For further information on CBC and their live shows go to [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca).

This month's hidden gem from Les Clefs d'Or is by:

**Amy Collier**

Chef Concierge

155 Cumberland Street

Professional Affiliate, Les Clefs d'Or Canada