

## **(Online) Toronto the Weird**

Stuck for something to do in Canada's biggest city? Forget the CN Tower and try some of the city's more unusual cultural experiences.

### **Take part in an urban pillow fight**

When the Toronto city planners met to re-design Dundas Square, positioning it as "Toronto's newest entertainment venue," pillow fights probably weren't on the agenda.

But pillow fights is what they get when the folks at Nevermindspace ([www.newmindspace.com](http://www.newmindspace.com)) organise communal pillow-fests ("pyjamas optional").

Surely everyone's seen an urban pillow fight, but for the few who haven't, search for "pillow fights" on Flickr.com.

There are even rules: "Soft pillows only! Do not hit anyone who does not have a pillow. Do not hit people who are holding cameras. Swing lightly, there will be many people swinging at once! Remove expensive glasses beforehand. Extra pillows may come in handy. Feather pillows are even more fun. Disclaimer: As with all things, participating in a pillow fight is risky."

Surreally, the 2005 feathery fisticuffs took place on a Dundas Square painted with the chalk outlines of bodies. There had been a double-booking with a group demonstrating against violence of the nastier gun variety.

### **Paint an abandoned bike**

One evening, every year, the Toronto Public Space Committee invites people to a specific location, arms them with paint and a map showing the whereabouts of Toronto's discarded and unloved bicycles, and sends them out into the night to find the rusty, two-wheeled (sometimes) transporters... and get Picasso on their frames.

Well, what else is there to do with abandoned bicycles? Participants even get a lesson in how to "beautify abandoned bikes" beforehand, and you have to admire the sentiment behind the idea:

"Our urban landscape is full of grey. Grey, grey, grey. This is our way of bringing life and colour to the streets with no other motivation than trying to make your stroll down the street that much more enjoyable. Instead of rusting junk, they become a special, imaginative, and integrated part of the streetscape."

And if you come back from an extended holiday one day and find your bike is now completely yellow, you know who to call.