



FORD CITY FLASH

ISSUE #3
F/W 2025

FREE!
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Bye Bye Bunch,
Neighbour Profile: Ryan Sinasac,
and Kitty's Komic!

FORD CITY WISHLIST

by Sabrina Roberts



Ford City Mural by Derkz (@derkz)

Stepping into the neighbourhood over the last decade, there's often something new to take in. We've met new faces, welcomed and said goodbye to businesses, passed by buildings under various degrees of reconstruction, and hosted many different street events. This community is reliable for its internal support, from the residents to the businesses to the BIA. It isn't easy to build -and maintain- projects and businesses worth being proud of. In this day and age, there's often a higher priority for cost efficiency and quick deadlines than for a well thought out, carefully executed plan.

In speaking with Ford City residents and regulars, I found spaces looking to be filled, both in terms of storefronts and needs. One that received multiple mentions, probably more sought after than anything else, is a breakfast diner. Windsor-Essex has some incredible diners that know how to make a classic breakfast special, and we need something like that in Ford City. This neighbourhood was built on night shifts and long hours, and there is no better place to start (or end) your day than a booth with a hot plate of bacon and eggs.

Meanwhile, our beloved Charron's has been singlehandedly carrying the neighbourhood through the food desert for a long time now. They have all the essentials you could need, and are some of the nicest people you'll find in the city. If I've needed something for the cafe, or for home, or even just on a whim while spending

time on the block, Charron's has always been able to provide. But it's unreasonable to ask them to cover all of our bases. A bakery or butcher shop would help pull some of the weight to sustain the community. Ford City may also benefit from a farmer's market of sorts, somewhere to pick up fresh produce without having to take a bus to the next neighbourhood.

Another request from the community is a dog groomer or dog daycare. Spend twenty minutes on the street and you'll see just how many four legged friends we have around here. And don't they deserve a little TLC, too? I know it would brighten my walk to work seeing a weiner dog or a pittie getting pampered through the storefronts available on the 1000 block of Drouillard.

In terms of pastime, the community is itching for more to do in the evenings. While we already have a solid pub crawl lineup from Brown's all the way down to International Tavern, multiple Ford City regulars wish for a sports bar or comedy club, somewhere to enjoy a game with friends over a beer.

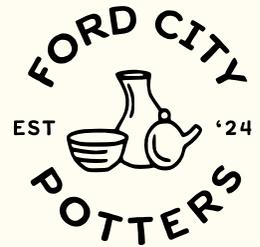
"I want this community to thrive."

I want this community to thrive. I want it to keep being itself. There is so much for this neighbourhood to be proud of; it has grown and outgrown time and time again. When I think about Ford City, I think about love. About all the ways we express it, in the words we speak, the actions we commit, and the dreams we make up. Ford City is loved by so many people that these dreams could cover a whole block in businesses and projects and groups. We have the space for it, too. This is where my caveat lies; far be it from me to police what kind of businesses join the neighbourhood, but there are needs to be met here. I believe it's important to have conversations like this, to hear what is needed from the very people who spend their money and time here. As of now, at least 6 buildings and spaces are up for sale or lease. We've had to see some wonderful people and passionate businesses go, but I hold out hope that there are others to come.

A SMALL NOTE

Here we are, the third and final Flash of the year. I would like to thank everyone who read our issues, supported our work, sought for more, and encouraged us to keep creating. We see each and every one of you and you have such a special place in our hearts. Seeing the Flash in front of me each time it releases still feels surreal, and I consider myself incredibly lucky to have the support and funding for this project, especially from our beloved Shane Potvin, the BIA, and Standard Printing. I am so grateful to collaborate with my oldest and dearest friend, our talented graphic designer. I am thankful for our beautiful comic artist, whose observational skills and appreciation for the world around them breathes life into the Flash and our friendship. And to MY editor, and my greatest teacher; thank you. I never stop learning through you. This project is much more challenging than I expected it to be, and it is exponentially more rewarding. I can't wait to return with the Flash in the new year, and I hope we see you then. In the meantime, stay safe this winter, look out for your neighbours, and be generous.

Sabrina Roberts



CLASSES | MEMBERSHIPS | EVENTS

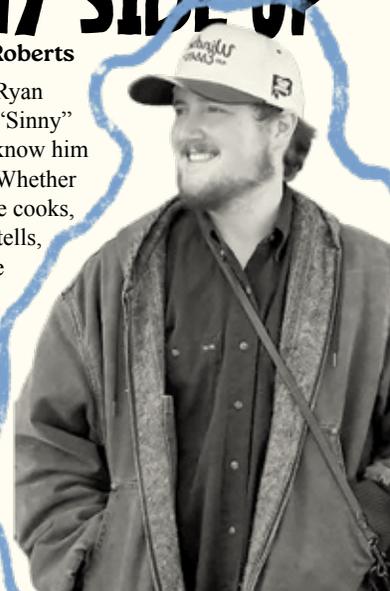
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Neighbour Profile:

SINNY SIDE UP

by Sabrina Roberts

Introducing Ryan Sinasac, or "Sinny" as we fondly know him on the block. Whether it's the food he cooks, the stories he tells, or the jokes he makes; Sinny always has something to offer to make your day better. I remember seeing how quickly Sinny integrated with the neighbourhood. He stepped onto Drouillard as a line cook for Sawyer's Craft BBQ in the summer they opened. In those initial months, I never saw Sinny without a bandana



DECEMBER EVENTS IN FORD CITY

- 4TH** Christmas Tree Lighting
Gino Marcus @ 6pm
- 12TH-14TH** Mistletoe Market
Water's Edge Event Centre
12th (2-8pm), 13th (11-6pm),
14th (10-5pm)
- 20TH** Santa Con Pub Crawl
Details at cookiebar.ca

Photo by Yu Ngo (@sellingyng)

on his head and a smile on his face. By the end of their first patio season, he seemed to know the names of all our neighbours. “I used to be a very quiet person,” Sinny divulges. It’s hard to imagine, but he insists it took effort to step outside his own solitude. “I can’t even think about what started it, probably just the pure lack of

“I think Ford City is capable of so much.”

connection. I try really hard to just put it all out there because I’ve [recently] been of the thought that I’d rather do it than regret not doing it.”

Something I respect about Sinny is his sense of responsibility to the community. He is constantly involved in the world around him;

organizing a booth for the Ford City Flea, hosting a block party for his neighbourhood on Canada Day, and always raving about his favourite local spots to anyone who will listen. “I’ve lost count how many times I’ve gone to Charron’s,” he says of the convenience store across from Sawyer’s. “Ninety percent of the time they have what I’m looking for, it’s very rare that they don’t. I love those guys. They’re also very nice, and everything’s reasonably priced too.” The give and take of Sinny’s personal economy is well balanced. For as many green teas with honey as I’ve made him over the years, he’s often stopped by with his latest menu taste test, asking for insight and second opinions. His joy in offering a well cooked meal is apparent, saying, “very few things you can make with your hands and then give it to someone and they have an immediate reaction to it. I enjoy that. I like serving good food to good people so they can have a good time.”

It’s nice to have a person like Sinny around. There are far too many moments that get eaten up by our stress, our distractions, our frustrations. And it’s not that Sinny is exempt from these experiences. It’s that he outshines them. The compassion and curiosity that he brings to the people around him, friend or stranger, cannot be undermined. A conversation with Sinny reminds me to slow down and listen to my surroundings. While sitting at the parkette on Whelpton and Drouillard, he openly admires the trees around us and the leaves changing colour. As ever, Sinny is present and humble in his appreciation for where life is taking him. “I think Ford City is capable of so much. And I have such anticipation to see what happens in the future,” he reflects. “Wherever my future takes me, a little bit of Ford City is always going to be there.”



Photo by Nicole Harris Photography

Lauren Potvin, Owner of Bunch

BYE, BYE, BUNCH!



by Sabrina Roberts

All too often, I take for granted the present moment. It isn’t until something is gone and veiled by nostalgia that I finally look and appreciate the full scope of what it provided. When Lauren Potvin announced that Bunch is shutting its doors, that nostalgia packed a whallop. Bunch’s selection of vintage and wares was second to none, but it was more than that. It was one of the best spots to stop in on a day off, to catch up with friends in the neighbourhood, to learn something new about the community.

When Bunch first opened, the storefronts of Ford City were still largely vacant. “I felt like it would be devastating to the street to take away one of the only retail stores,” Lauren reflects on the past four years here. “And I’m doing that now, but I have faith now because of all the other businesses here. There’s going to be somebody else who will fit in here just great, too.” While Lauren’s commitment to her business helped the neighbourhood, Bunch helped her personal growth, too. “At the time it also helped me heal emotionally; I was overworked and burnt

out,” she says of the transition from her previous work. “This was the perfect opportunity to put my energy and my anger and my excitement over the things that I already did into something that maybe could turn into something great.”

I love Bunch because I love Lauren. I love what she provides to the neighbourhood. She has given so much of her time and invested so much joy into Ford City, and you see it everywhere you turn around here. It’s in the community garden she captains, gathering volunteers on spring Sundays to tend to the weeds and make sure the beds are in good shape. It’s in the custom drink Chance Coffee has for her, labelled “The Lauren” because it is a concoction ordered by her and her alone.

“There’s going to be somebody else who will fit in here just great, too.”

It’s in the way she brings people and businesses together, from co-hosting the neighbourhood’s bi-annual clothing swap to welcoming World Peace Collective into her space. It’s in the way I can’t even think about Dropped on Drouillard without picturing Lauren donning a walkie talkie and clipboard. Ever since Lauren announced

Bunch’s close at the end of September, I have seen firsthand the neighbourhood’s sadness in processing the news. Countless questions about why and when and what will happen next, what will we do without that reliable little hub, what’s next for Lauren? At least we can answer that last one. She’ll still have her hands in the thrift bins, curating and collecting. Her new job as the General Manager at Society of St. Vincent de Paul Windsor Essex offers greater outreach in the community, giving secondhand its time to shine. “When the position came up, it was kind of like, oh, this was made for me,” shares Lauren. “That whole job is made for me because I’m able to do what I do here, but on a bigger scale.” We’re all so proud of you, Lauren. I hope this new chapter brings every opportunity you deserve and more. Thank you for helping shape Drouillard into what we have today.



Would you like to open a business or invest in Ford City?

Interested in discovering more about businesses in the neighbourhood?

Contact us: info@fordcity.ca | fordcity.ca | [@fordcitybia](https://www.instagram.com/fordcitybia)

KOMICS by Kitty



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM FORD CITY!