

The Best In The West

The complete list of your choices for all our neighbourhood has to offer

Oh Parkdale Liberty reader, you are fickle. Well over half the categories in this year's contest, our fourth annual, sport new winners - a clear indication that the competition for your local shopping dollar (or just your admiration) is fierce. Several are new businesses that have won your hearts, but many are established businesses (and even past winners) who have earned your loyalty for years. We tip our hats to all the winners, and you, dear reader, for sharing your treasures that make this place so damn good.

Shops, Food & Drink

Best hip bar: Fat Cat Wine Bar
 Best unhip bar: Gino's Pizza
 Best bar/restaurant patio: Cadillac Lounge
 Best place for brunch: Mitzi's Sister
 Best greasy spoon: Stavro's
 Best lunch under \$10: Tibet Kitchen
 Best place for dinner: Thai Spring Roll
 Best takeout: Bacchus Roti
 Best kid-friendly eatery: Daddy-O's
 Best deli: Benna's Fine Foods
 Best health food store: Qi
 Best coffee shop: Alternative Grounds
 Best video store: The Film Buff
 Best dollar store: Dollarama
 Best clothing store: Frock
 Best vintage clothing store: Stella Luna
 Best hair salon: Helen's Unisex
 Best home décor store: Koma
 Best children's store: Scooter Girl
 Best new business: Another Story Bookshop

Hot Spots

Best place to people watch: Sunnyside
 Best place to take the kids: The libraries (High Park and Parkdale)
 Best public space: High Park
 Best place to pick up (without having to pay for it): Mitzi's Sister
 Best place to take your date: Thai Spring Roll
 Best local gallery: Gallery 1313
 Best place to get fit: Active Yoga
 Best place to listen to live music: Mitzi's Sister
 Best place to spot a celeb: The Drake Hotel

People

Best local artist: Iner Souster
 Best local musician: Jim Bish
 Best doctor: Dr. Shelley Burns
 Best dentist: Dr. Bailey
 Best bartender: Sean McClellan @ Mezzrows
 Best server: Anna @ Topsy McStaggers

Community

Best street: Roncesvalles Ave.
 Best landmark: The Globe
 Best park: Sorauren Park
 Best free entertainment: Sunnyside
 Best festival: Roncesvalles Harvest Festival
 Best local organization for social change: Parkdale Community Legal Services

These readers take the prize

Sometimes sharing is not just its own reward, it gets you free stuff. In this case, businesses are giving back to our lucky readers, selected at random from people who took the time to send in their entries.

\$50 gift basket from Good Food and Care Packages: David Smaller

\$50 gift certificate from I'm With Stupid: Kelly Shipman

\$35 gift pack from Second Cup: Mavis

Embroidered bathrobe from The Serenity Group: Joe Middleton

Some of our favourite things

Sometimes it amazes us how smart our readers are. These answers prove it.

Areas Best Avoided: McDonald's, Train tracks (you might get run over)

Best Volunteers (they all deserve acknowledgement): Lori Henderson, Charlene Roach, Jehovah's Witnesses

Favourite local heros: Martin Tielli (Rheostatics), Natalie Waddell (lawyerlocate.ca), Vicki (The Little Paper)