

THE **six**

HOT AND TRENDY

IN TORONTO

GUEST WRITTEN BY
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As the new president and CEO of international development agency Plan International Canada, Caroline Riseboro is passionate about the rights of children and empowering girls and women globally to help lift them and those around them out of poverty. With Mother's Day fast approaching, Plan International Canada's Gifts of Hope are a great way to give the mom in your life a meaningful gift that can help mothers and newborns in the developing world.

1 High Park

I've been going to High Park since I was born, and have fond memories of playing on the swings, feeding the swans and visiting the zoo. Now I'm continuing the tradition by doing these things with my son. Every time I visit High Park, as I see children playing and enjoying life, I feel a deep sense of gratitude having grown up in a country where I've had the chance to thrive, be safe and grow.

2 Rogers Centre

I still affectionately refer to it as the Sky Dome, and remember the excitement when it was announced — the first of its kind in the world with a retractable roof! It may have seemed like a far-fetched idea at the beginning but with enough persistence, it became a reality. Whenever I look at it, I'm reminded that we can do anything if we dream big enough.

3 University of Toronto – St. George Campus

Every time I walk through the campus, I'm taken back to my time as a summer student

(even though I am officially a McGill grad). The St. George Campus is so incredibly beautiful and every time I'm there, I feel the vibrancy and energy of students, excited to learn and to embrace the opportunities ahead of them. It's the hope of a brighter future because of education. This is truly inspiring to me because education is an important part of the path that Plan International Canada is building to improve the lives of children around the world.

4 Toronto Island/Centre Island

I love everything about the Island in the summer — it reminds me of my childhood, and of being able to escape into nature while being so close to downtown. No visit is complete without a turn on the "flume" ride! It's a family tradition — that ride is older than me and is timeless.

5 Kensington Market

I love the eclectic and artistic vibe of Kensington Market. I used to love buying vintage clothing and unique jewelry there when I was a teenager. It's such a privilege to be able to support local artists. I've taken this habit with me when I travel overseas — I always go to the local market and support local and women-owned businesses.

6 Harbourfront

On a perfect summer day, Harbourfront can make you feel like you're on the ocean. I could spend hours on a patio down there, just taking in the sight of the boats buoyed on the crystal blue water of Lake Ontario. There's no better place in the city to reflect and gain perspective.