

Arguably, no changing of the seasons is as meaningful as when spring tags out winter for what is hopefully a good six months. And despite it possibly taking some time for the temperature to match our mindsets, April is here and it's time to prepare!

I'm cracking the window open a little, turning the heat down, and packing away my boots, quite frankly. Excuse me while I'm pegged to the weather channel watching the week-long forecast...

Bring out the brighter colours and trendy new fashion shapes, the home accessories for entertaining and perhaps even taking the fun outside, plus the cosmetic products to give our ruddy skin a little boost after all this cold and wind we've endured.

Then, stop in to a household vegan favourite in Toronto that's part restaurant, part coffee shop, part pub and located on the animal-friendly Bloor West strip. The desserts are especially yummy! (Click the images to check out our fun features for the month.)



### **FASHION**

Spring usually brings to mind a new start... The flowers start blooming, the neighbours make more appearances outside and magically become friendlier, and you might even feel a slightly greater urge to clean! In keeping with this mentality, it's also not uncommon to make the switch to your seasonally-appropriate clothing from the year before and find you could really use some new items to help replenish your closet! Now is the time to make way for pretty pastels, adorable shoes and soft, drapey fabrics, after all—and update your look with a few trendy items (like a cute jumper and high-waisted pants) while you're at it, while packing away the heavy sweaters and boots.



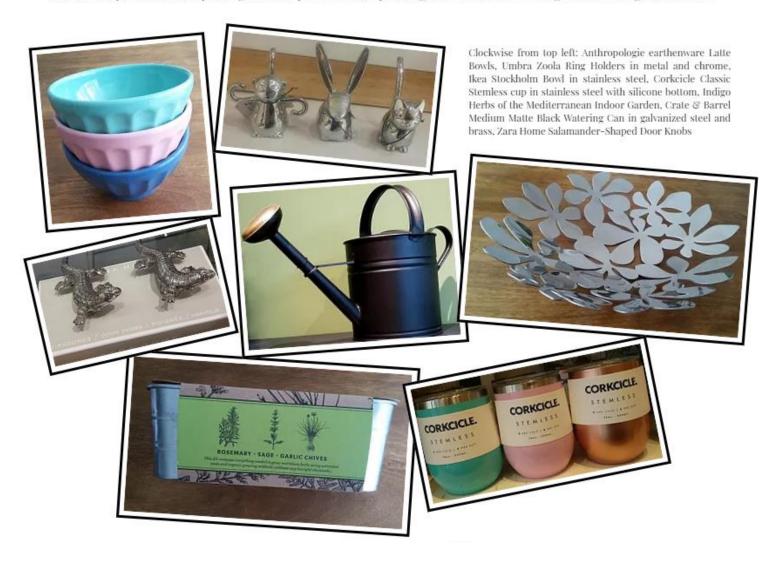
### BEAUTY

Since recently re-watching the movie "Bridesmaids", I can't help but quote the short line where Annie, the lead character, pulls up to her best friend's bridal shower and is greeted with a pink lemonade for the long trek up the driveway to her nemesis' home. She begrudgingly takes a sip and proclaims, "Shit, that is *freshhh*!" Long story short, I happen to think this is an excellent way to epitomize springtime. Not only does it start getting sunnier so we can get a mini tan without even trying and some vitamin D to go with it, but many aspects of the season are also pretty freshhh if you ask me: soft pinks, fruity smells, light perfume, and quick 'n easy makeup. Gotta love un-hibernating!



# DÉCOR

If you're anything like me, colour and brightness and warmth make a major difference in your overall life. Even though it may feel like we spend most of our time at work, on the subway, in our cars, at the grocery store, drug store, or mall, home is where the heart is and it should hopefully feel like a sanctuary! That's why it's important to surround yourself with the things that make you happy... at least to enjoy on the weekends. Pretty bowls, cool-looking functional items, floral accents, animal homages, and plants can make all the difference. If you're not already feeling at ease in your chateau, try making some these small—but significant—changes this season.



### DINING

It seems like once the weather warms up in Toronto, tons of local residents start reappearing from their homes! And Bloomer's is a good place to go when you finally want to break out... it's basically a coffee shop, restaurant and casual pub in one that has salads, rice bowls, bagels, pastries, booze, caffeine, and more (even free WiFi for patrons who are dining in or waiting for takeout). On top of all that, it's located on Bloor Street just east of Ossington so neither east- nor west-enders have too long to travel when they're in the mood for any of that good stuff. The vibe is quaint, friendly-hipster, and seems to attract all sorts of groups and solo goers. Spring is in bloom(ers)!

