

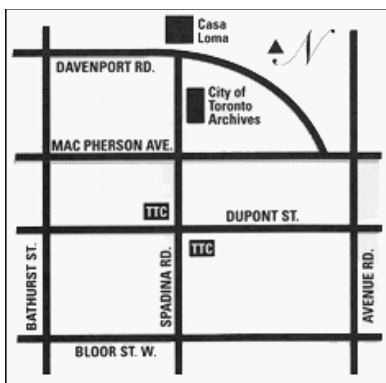
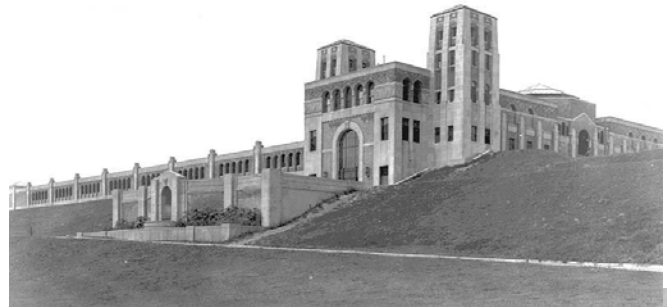
In the Skin of a Lion

Michael Ondaatje's novel, *In the Skin of a Lion*, is one of the few mainstream books that examines aspects of the working-class immigrant experience in Toronto in the early 20th century.

Come to the City of Toronto Archives to explore some of the actual archival documents used by the author for his work.

This program will bring to life the characters and locations within *In the Skin of a Lion*, and give a new sense of realism to events in the novel.

It will allow those reading and studying *In the Skin of a Lion* to understand how and why an author uses archival resources in the development of a novel, and will give students the necessary skills to conduct their own research.



This program is free and lasts for 1½ hours. Advance booking is required. To book a visit or for more information, please contact the Archives.

The recommended size of groups is 30 or less.

City of Toronto Archives
255 Spadina Road
Toronto, ON
M5R 2V3

Tel: (416) 397-5000 ext. 3

On a visit to the City of Toronto Archives, students will see archival photographs documenting the construction of the Bloor Street Viaduct and the R. C. Harris filtration plant, the two major settings in *In the Skin of a Lion*.

Students will look at images of real immigrant workers and their homes from early 20th century Toronto.

Students can view maps and examine records from the early 20th century. These documents allowed the author to develop the realistic and accurate locations and settings used within the novel.

This program is designed for high school classes reading *In the Skin of a Lion*, but can be adapted for other groups interested in the background of this award winning novel.

Curriculum Expectations

Grades 9-11

Reading and Literature Studies

- Read a text from an historical perspective
- Identify important ideas and details in texts
- Understand texts and make connections between knowledge and experience
- Analyse text, explore themes, issues and ideas
- Identify and analyse perspectives and bias within text

Writing

- Generate and focus ideas for potential writing tasks using archival resources.
- Locate and select information to research and support ideas for writing.

Grade 12

Canadian Literature

Studies in Literature

The Writers' Craft

Please contact the archives for more information