# **Cultural Toronto**

National Historic Sites Urban Walks: Toronto



- (1) Eaton's 7th Floor Auditorium and Round Room
- St. George's Hall (Arts and Letters Club)
- Massey Hall
- Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres
- 5 St. Lawrence Hal
- (6) Royal Alexandra Theatre
- 7 The Grange

#### **Extensions:**

- A The Studio Building
- Royal COnservatory of Music
- St. Anne's Anglican Church

Toronto is a creative city – and an important place for music, theatre, film, and visual arts. The city's rich history and diversity have no doubt provided Canadian artists with much inspiration.

Take a walk and get to know National Historic Sites that are culturally significant to Canadians. Stops include the city's first purpose-built concert hall, Massey Hall, the Studio Building in which members of the Group of Seven revolutionized Canadian painting in the thirties, the Royal Conservatory of Music from which pianist Glenn Gould graduated and many more! These sites have contributed to putting Toronto and Canada on the cultural map!

Estimated distance: 4.5 km

Estimated walking time: 90 minutes

# **Cultural Toronto**

National Historic Sites Urban Walks: Toronto

## 1. Eaton's 7th Floor Auditorium and Round Room National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: Toronto Archives

#### The Designation:

The Eaton's 7th Floor Auditorium and Round Room, built 1928-31, are outstanding examples of Art Deco interior design. In 1983, they were designated as a National Historic Site.

#### Opening hours:

The original Eaton's Department Store complex is open to the public. The 7th floor Auditorium and Round Room, however, is open to the public for special events only. Visitors can get a glimpse of the 7th Floor by attending an event. Alternatively, the 7th floor participates in the annual Doors Open Toronto.

Address: 444 Yonge Street, 7th Floor

Telephone: 416-597-1931
Email: events@thecarlu.com
Website: www.thecarlu.com

# 2. St. George's Hall (Arts and Letters Club) National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: Arts and Letters Club

#### The Designation:

St. George's Hall, built in 1891 (now the Arts and Letters Club), has been – and continues to be - an important venue for artistic activity, and a catalyst for the organization of artistic communities. In 2007, it was designated as a national historic site.

#### **Opening hours:**

Activities at the Arts & Letters Club are for members and their invited guests only. For membership information, please consult the website.

Address: 14 Elm Street Telephone: 416-597-0223

Email: info@artsandlettersclub.ca
Website: www.artsandlettersclub.ca

# 3. Massey Hall National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: J. Butterill, Parks Canada

# The Designation:

In addition to being one of few remaining examples of period concert halls (it was built in 1894), Massey Hall is also renowned for its outstanding acoustics. Over the years, the concert hall has been a key venue for cultural life in Canada. In 1991, Massey Hall was designated as a National Historic Site.

# Opening hours:

Massey Hall is not open to the public during off hours, though management will give tours to groups who book in advance. Those who want to see the building can simply buy a ticket and thus experience the building as it was meant to be experienced!

Address: 178 Victoria Street

**Telephone:** 416-872-4255 (Box Office)

416-593-4822, ext. 322 (To book a tour)

Email: reachus@rth-mh.com

Website: http://www.roythomson.com/home.cfm

# 4. Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: Photographer: Hill Peppard, City of Toronto Archives, Series 881, File 53 Item 0001

## The Designation:

The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, built in 1911, is a unique double-decker complex designed for both vaudeville and silent films. In 1982, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

## Opening hours:

The best way to experience the theatre is by attending a performance. However, guided tours of the theatre are also available. For information about what's playing and **guided tours**, please consult the website.

Address: 189 Yonge Street Telephone: 416-314-2874

**Email:** ewg@heritagetrust.on.ca

Website: http://www.heritagefdn.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\_1\_2374\_1.html

# 5. St. Lawrence hall National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: B. Morin, Parks Canada

## The Designation:

St. Lawrence Hall is an excellent example of a mid 19th-century Renaissance Revival social and cultural centre. In 1967, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

### Opening hours:

Monday thru Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Address: 157 King Street East Telephone: 416-392-7130

Website: http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/hall/index.html

# 6. Royal Alexandra Theatre National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: www.torontohistory.org

## The Designation:

The Royal Alexandra Theatre, built in 1906-07, is a lavish example of a Beaux-Arts playhouse. In 1985, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

## Opening hours:

To visit the interior of the theatre, you must purchase a ticket to a performance.

Address: 260 King Street West

**Telephone:** 416-593-0351

Website: www.mirvish.com/OurTheatres/Royal.html

# 7. The Grange National Historic Site of Canada



Credit: J. Butterill, Parks Canada

## The Designation:

The Grange is an example of an early 19th-century residence in British classical tradition. In 1970, it was designated as a National Historic Site.

## Opening hours:

The Grange is currently closed to the public as the Art Gallery of Ontario is undergoing reconstruction. It is due to reopen later in 2008.

Address: Beverley Street (attached to the Art Gallery of Ontario)

Website: http://www.ago.net/www/information/grange/grange\_frame.cfm