

EXPLORE ETOBICOKE

Art, History and Nature
Self-Guided Tours



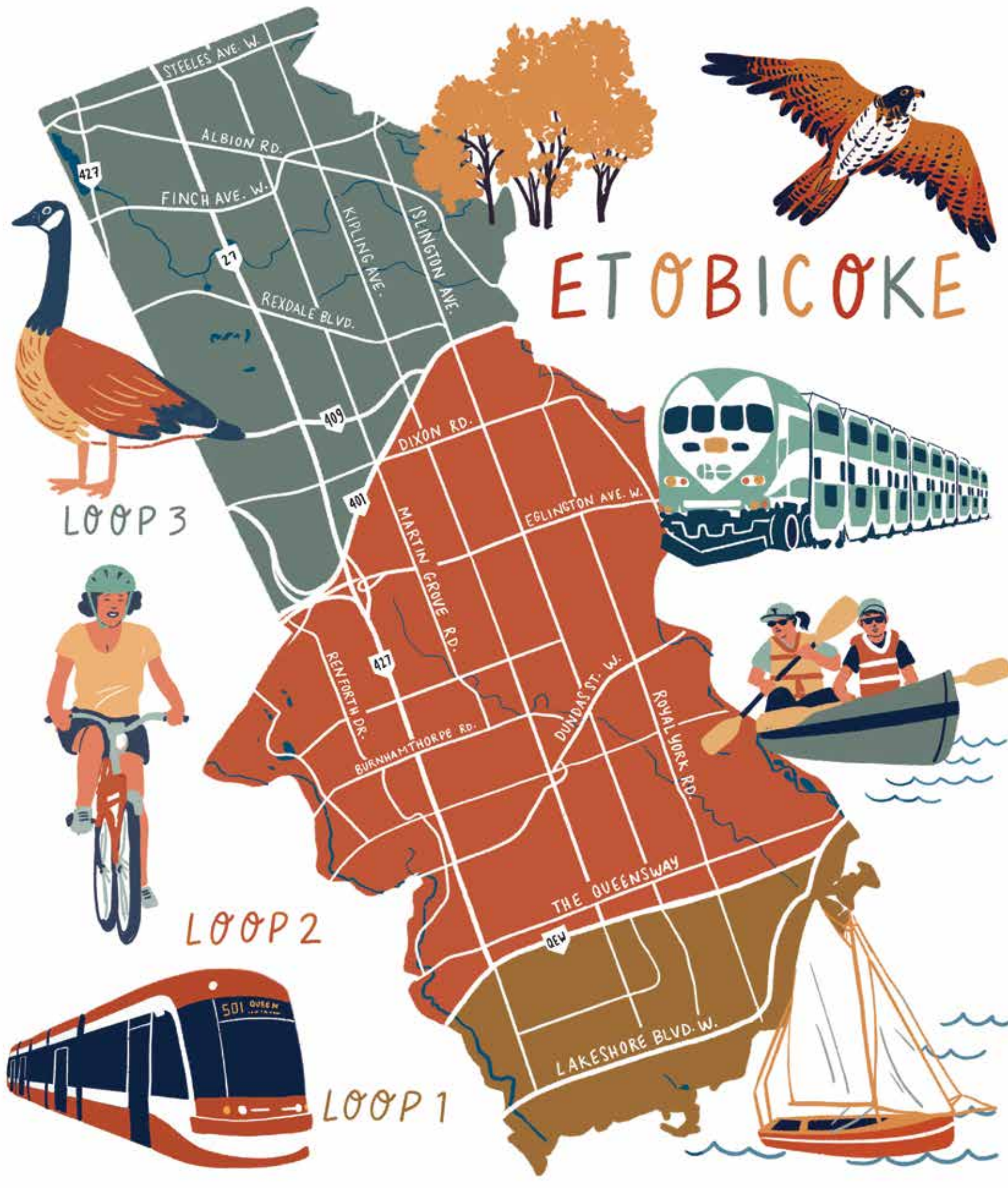
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For more information visit toronto.ca/culturalhotspot

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ETOBICOKE

LOOP 3

LOOP 2

LOOP 1

STEELES AVE. W.

ALBION RD.

FINCH AVE. W.

KIPLING AVE.

ISLINGTON AVE.

REXDALE BLVD.

DIXON RD.

MARTIN GROVE RD.

EGLINTON AVE. W.

RENFORTH DR.

BURNHAMTHORPE RD.

DUNDAS ST. W.

ROYAL YORK RD.

THE QUEENSWAY

LAKESHORE BLVD. W.

427

27

409

401

427

QEW

501 QUEEN

ABOUT CULTURAL HOTSPOT

From May through October, the **Cultural Hotspot** initiative shone a spotlight on arts, culture and community in north Etobicoke. The Cultural Hotspot began in 2014 and has rotated annually, highlighting communities beyond downtown and inspiring new ideas about where culture thrives in the city. The Cultural Hotspot:

- **Celebrates** local culture, heritage, creativity, business and community with special events, festivals and art happenings, building community pride
- **Connects** the Hotspot community, promotes new partnerships and shares this exciting area with all of Toronto through community gatherings, events, outreach and media campaigns
- **Grows** creative capacity in the area with workshops, courses, youth employment and mentorship, and legacy projects like the Cultural Loops Guide

Visit toronto.ca/culturalhotspot for details.

ABOUT THE CULTURAL LOOPS

The Etobicoke Cultural Hotspot spans a vast geographic area comprising many neighbourhoods. The Cultural Hotspot was located in south and central Etobicoke in 2015 and four years later celebrated north Etobicoke. This guide combines the knowledge from the 2015 Cultural Loops Guide with the 2019 Cultural Hotspot initiative to highlight historic, architectural, artistic, cultural and natural hot spots throughout Etobicoke. Designed as a series of self-guided tours, the Cultural Loops encourage residents and visitors to explore the area and discover many local gems.

LOOP 1

Loop One encompasses neighbourhoods like Mimico, New Toronto and Long Branch. With their proximity to Lake Ontario and many greenspaces, this loop focuses on the natural beauty of the area as well as highlights the mural art that enhances the streetscape. This community is home to many arts organizations such as the Assembly Hall, Lakeshore Arts, Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre and the Lakeshorts International Short Film Festival.

LOOP 2

This Loop features the historical landmarks of central Etobicoke, including Montgomery's Inn. The area's greenspaces, including Mimico Creek and the Humber River, also play a prominent role in understanding the history of the area over thousands of years. The tours also shine a light on the vibrant arts and cultural scene found in these neighbourhoods, including art organizations operating in central Etobicoke such as the Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery, MABELLEarts, Neilson Park Creative Centre and Arts Etobicoke. Stroll through the collection of murals in Islington Village that form an impressive outdoor gallery that celebrates the community and its history.

LOOP 3

Loop Three showcases north Etobicoke's historical sites, community hubs and greenspaces. The tours showcase the development of many neighbourhoods from farmland to the suburbs and subdivisions that define the area today. Discover the artistic side of the community by visiting the outstanding murals in Thistletown, the Franklin Carmichael Art Centre or Humber Galleries. Or delve into the natural world by exploring the West Humber River Trail, which is home to many rare native plant species.

HOT EATS

Etobicoke has a wide array of cuisines. On your travels, you can discover over 75 restaurants, cafés and bakeries.

TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE HOTSPOT

- Almost every loop begins and ends at a TTC stop. TTC directions are given throughout the Loops Guide, however, it's best to check the TTC Trip Planner prior to your visit in case of unexpected service changes. For information on routes, fares and trip planning, visit ttc.ca/Trip_planner
- Etobicoke is a great place to cycle. For cycling maps and more go to toronto.ca/cycling
- Places highlighted in this guide include private homes and buildings. Stay on the sidewalk to observe.
- Maps are not drawn to scale; use as a reference only.
- Cross streets safely at traffic lights and crosswalks.
- Use caution on all routes, as recreational trails may be slippery or obstructed.
- Cyclists must use streets with caution; consider your level of experience and your comfort level in traffic and weather conditions.
- Take care to stay on paths and well-trodden trails in parks and woodland areas as the sap of the Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed can cause severe burns. Both plants resemble the common Queen Anne's Lace.
- When walking in nature areas, take care not to come in contact with Poison Ivy, which has leaves in groups of three.
- Respect our environment and keep Toronto beautiful.



MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HOLYDAY

From May through October 2019, the Cultural Hotspot, a City of Toronto and partner-produced initiative, spotlighted the vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods of north Etobicoke. In 2015, the Cultural Hotspot focused on the bustling areas of central and south Etobicoke.

This Cultural Loops Guide is a legacy of the Cultural Hotspot, with a series of self-guided tours that invite residents and visitors to explore the area. The self-guided tours feature beautiful green spaces, architecture, public art, local history and cultural and community centres. These tours are just a sampling of what Etobicoke has to offer.

The tours offer something for everyone. Explore the area's natural beauty along the lakeshore, as you follow the Waterfront Trail, or birdwatch in Colonel Samuel Smith Park. Enjoy the Humber River Recreation Trail and the Arboretum.

History buffs will enjoy visiting sites such as the Old Mill, Applewood Shaver Homestead and Montgomery's Inn, while the Village of Islington offers historic buildings and an award-winning collection of murals.

Arts aficionados can enjoy arts and culture locally at sites like Assembly Hall, Franklin Carmichael Art Centre and Neilson Park Creative Centre. Food lovers can enjoy a wide variety of cuisines at local restaurants.

I encourage you to put on your walking shoes, hop on a bicycle or jump on transit to discover all that Etobicoke has to offer.

Councillor Stephen Holyday
Ward 2 – Etobicoke Centre
Deputy Mayor





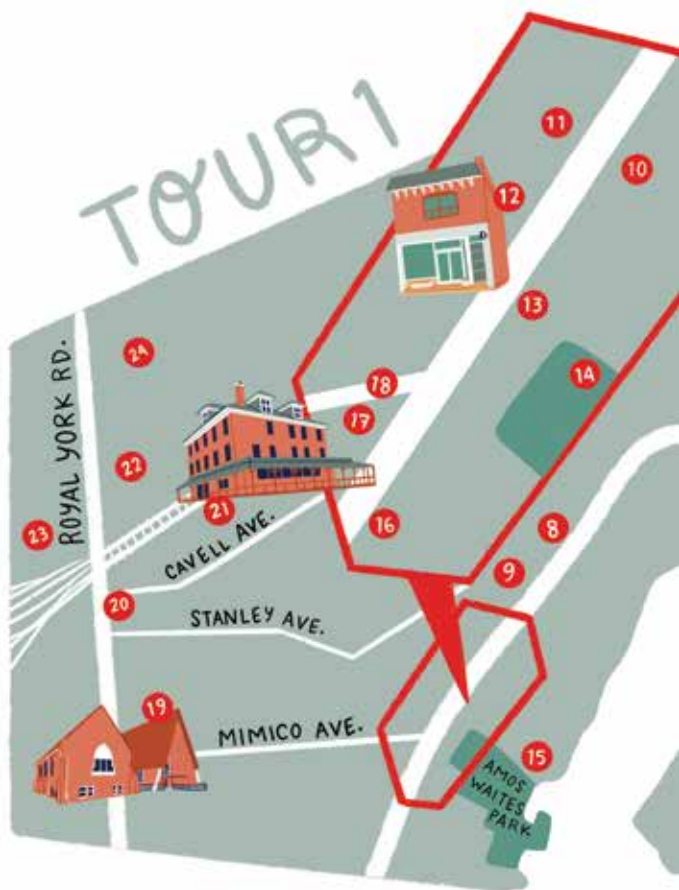
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin this guide by acknowledging that the 2019 Cultural Hotspot area is on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



LOOP 1

FLORA AND FAUNA IN MIMICO



Travel through the scenic Humber Bay Shores parks and Mimico area. The parks offer a chance to escape the urban environment, with vistas of Lake Ontario. The reclaimed parkland includes naturalized habitats that support resident and migratory wildlife. Throughout Mimico, mural art animates the streetscape, celebrates the local community and highlights the history of the area.

Location: Humber Bay Shores, Mimico


Interests: Nature, Art, History

Time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive



▼ Starting the Tour

 Take the 501 Queen westbound streetcar and exit Opposite 2111 Lake Shore Boulevard West. Travel one block East to Marine Parade Drive. Turn right and head south to Humber Bay Park East.

 From the Gardiner Expressway, exit onto Lake Shore Boulevard West and turn onto Marine Parade Drive. Street parking is available along Marine Parade Drive.

LOOP 1

1. HUMBER BAY SHORES PARK, 15 MARINE PARADE DR.



Humber Bay Shores Park is part of the Martin Goodman Trail system, which connects Etobicoke to Toronto's east end along the waterfront. The park is located on artificial land, created

by the depositing of lakefill at the mouth of Mimico Creek. The park is used for recreational activities by community members, but it has also been developed for urban wildlife, including butterflies and birds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Built in 1922, the Humber Loop was significant, as it provided a gateway to the west from downtown. A loop mechanism allows trains to change direction without stopping. This Loop has had many iterations since its beginnings and took nearly 50 years and six different major modifications until the modern loop was fully established. Today, it serves as a station for the 501 Queen streetcar.

2. HUMBER BAY BUTTERFLY HABITAT, 15 MARINE PARADE DR.



Directions: From Humber Bay Shores Park, head southwest following the trail by the lake. The trail leads into Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat (HBBH), located inside Humber

Bay Park East. If driving, park your car at Humber Bay Park East parking lot and cross the footbridge on the north shore of the pond.

The HBBH provides a critical habitat for a variety of butterfly species with its diverse range of wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. With over a hectare of land, natural elements are available to support butterflies in every stage of development. A series of interpretive signs are located throughout the park to lead you through a self-guided tour and provide insight into the value of habitat conservation in urban environments. Four environments are represented in the park, including tallgrass prairie, shortgrass prairie, wet meadow and upland meadow. Each area includes native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees.



Located in the garden is a beautiful birdhouse and series of five raven sculptures, called the Guardians, created by artist Amy Switzer in 2002.

DID YOU KNOW?



May. The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail prefers nectar from lilacs, common milkweed and butterfly bush.



Another butterfly common to Toronto is the Monarch butterfly (*danaus plexippus*). Monarchs are well known for their lengthy migration from Toronto to the Monarch Biosphere Reserve in central Mexico for the winter. Monarch butterflies return to the Greater Toronto Area in late May and some go on to migrate as far as James Bay, Northern Ontario.

3. AIR INDIA SUNDIAL, 100 HUMBER BAY PARK RD. E.



Directions: Cross a small footbridge on the southeast of the HBBH and follow the trail to the Air India Sundial.

The Air India Sundial commemorates the 329 victims of the bombing of Air India Flight 182 on June 23, 1985. The flight was on route to Delhi from Montreal, when it was bombed over the Atlantic Ocean off the southwest coast of Ireland. A memorial was constructed in Ireland in 1986, featuring a sundial as a key component. The Canadian monument was installed in 2007. The sundial reads, "Time flies, suns rise, and shadows fall, let it pass by, love reigns forever over all." The monument also includes two walls bearing the names of the victims.

The federal government of Canada declared June 23 as the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

DID YOU KNOW?

This land was developed in 1941 as the Palace Pier, an amusement and recreational destination designed in elegant Moroccan-style architecture. The Palace Pier was a popular dance hall until it was destroyed by fire in 1963. Today, the land is used for condominiums and a public park, however, a monument from the original concrete pier footings of the Palace Pier and a plaque were installed in the north end of Humber Bay Shores Park to commemorate this history.

4. HUMBER BAY PARK EAST, 100 HUMBER BAY PARK RD. E.



Directions: Follow the trails around the park freely.

Humber Bay Park East and West are man-made land extensions at the mouth of Mimico Creek. Humber Bay Park East offers great views of Lake Ontario, the city's

skyline and trails for walking, hiking and biking. It is also home to a variety of wildlife. Learn more about Etobicoke wildlife on page 127.

5. THE SHORELINE, 100 HUMBER BAY PARK RD. W.



Directions: Follow the trails to the southwest tip of Humber Bay Park East, located at the mouth of Mimico Creek.

The lake offers great views and recreational opportunities like kayaking, sailing and kiteboarding. The

southern half of the Humber Bay Park East was created as a spit out of clean landfill at the mouth of Mimico Creek. The resulting rocky shoreline waters provide a naturalized habitat for numerous species such as carp, the freshwater drum, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and pike.

DID YOU KNOW?

Freshwater drum are a member of the Sciaenidae fish family, which are commonly called drums or croakers for the repetitive throbbing or drumming sounds they make. This noise comes from a special set of muscles within the body cavity that vibrate against the swim bladder.

6. MIMICO CREEK BRIDGE, 100 HUMBER BAY PARK RD. W.



Directions: Head north-west along the trail to the Mimico Creek Bridge. Alternatively, if driving, you can pick up your car and park in Humber Bay Park West.

Located at the southern end of Mimico Creek, this bridge connects the two Humber Bay parks. Designed by internationally celebrated Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the bridge has a one-sided tilted arch that complements the nearby Humber Bay Pedestrian Bridge (see #20 on page 96). Mimico's name originates from the Ojibwe word "Omiimiikaa," which means "place of the wild pigeon," in reference to the abundance of passenger pigeons native to the area that are now extinct.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over a century ago, millions of wild pigeons migrated annually to Ontario. The mouth of Mimico Creek was one of the two wild pigeon nesting places; the second was Whitchurch Township east of Aurora. Mimico offered an abundance of food including maple and elm seeds in the spring, berries and roots in the summer, and oak and bechnuts in autumn. As the area was settled by Europeans, many birds were hunted and sold at farmers' markets. At the same time, their natural environment was destroyed due to deforestation and the wild pigeons became extinct in the late 1800s.

7. HUMBER BAY PARK WEST, 2225 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Head straight from Mimico Creek Bridge and turn left at Humber Bay Park Road West to access the park. If driving, there are several lots in the park.

With its trails, picnic areas and an off-leash area for dogs, Humber Bay Park West is a great spot to enjoy a stroll or a fun family activity. The park has scenic views of Lake Ontario. A number of private boating facilities are located in the marina on the west side of the park including the Etobicoke Yacht Club, Humber Bay Sailing Centre and Mimico Cruising Club.

8. INSPIRATION (2006), 2318 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: From the north end of Humber Bay Park West, exit the park onto Lake Shore Boulevard. Head west or take the streetcar one stop to Burlington Street. The mural is located on the west side of the building.

Student Artists of the Lakeshore Area (SALA) painted this mural, collaborating with local community members, business owners and other stakeholders to develop a theme. The mural can be read from left to right. On the far left are a red snake and two figures struggling. At the top of the snake is a white dove, a symbol for a progressive future, hope and new beginnings. In the middle is a child with two birds, representing the new generation in the community. On the right are two angels painting a golden path of unlimited possibilities by the water along with a message to the community from SALA.

9. MIMICO MURAL (2017), 2336 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard.

This abstract-style mural was designed by artist and designer Herman Mejia as a tribute to the Mimico neighbourhood. The mural depicts the Toronto skyline, Mimico's main streets, the lakeshore and a pigeon. It includes the name Omiimiikaa, the Ojibwe name for the area from which the name Mimico was derived.

10. JEN BULTHUIS' UTILITY BOX (2017), SUPERIOR AVENUE & LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD WEST



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard and cross to the south side at Superior Avenue. The utility box is located on the southwest side of the intersection.

The artist painted this utility box with a number of large marine mammals, including a humpback whale, manatee and narwhal.

11. LAKESHORE ON THE LEVEL (2000), 2404 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Cross to the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard. The mural is on the east side of the building.

This hardware-themed mural was commissioned by Lakeshore Arts and Home Hardware. Artist Matthew Hansen painted this mural depicting a person's hand holding nails, with a toolbox in the foreground. Water is a theme common to many of the local mural and this one features sailboats on the lake in the background.

12. LAKESHORE ARTS & SMITH ZONE GALLERY, 2422 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard.

Lakeshore Arts was founded in 1993 to improve access to arts and cultural activities within their neighbourhood. The organization uses free and accessible arts programs and exhibitions as a way of enriching the lives of people in their local community. Lakeshore Arts also engages in arts advocacy and professional development and mentorship opportunities for local artists. Lakeshore Arts operates the Smith Zone Gallery, a 1,000 sq.ft. space for exhibiting a range of work by emerging and established local artists, youth and community organizations.

13. MIGRATORY BIRD MURAL (2006) AND FOWL PLAY (2013) MURALS, 2413 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions:

Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard. Use the cross-walk at Mimico Square to cross to the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard.

The upper east wall and the second-storey façade are painted with a beautiful mural that takes inspiration from migratory birds and coffee trees. The mural was created in 2006 by local artist Gordon Roy, and depicts a landscape on the east wall and various natural features on the front façade. Carved birds were added to the wall to give the mural a 3D effect.

The Fowl Play mural is on the west side of the building. In 2013, artists Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson explored the theme of water by creating a vista depicting the underwater marine life found in the lake given the site's proximity to Lake Ontario. Patrick and Alexa's work spans the globe and they have worked with the Inuit community of Nunavut to produce numerous murals.

INSIDER'S TIP

Along Lake Shore Boulevard, the Lakeshore Village, Longbranch, Mimico Village and Mimico-by-the-Lake business improvement areas work in a distinctive collaboration to enhance communities in South Etobicoke. The BIAs support their local business owners and host community events, such as a tree lighting festival, pumpkin parade and various summer festivals.

14. WAVE (2012), 2441 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: From Mimico Square head east into Amos Waites Park.

In 2012, Artists Patrick Thompson and Alexa Hatanaka designed this 7.32-metre-long art installation on a fence adjacent to Amos Waites Park, named for a former Mimico mayor. This mural visually interprets the waters that surround the neighbourhood as a continuous wave in a playful and whimsical way, bringing the lake to the street.

15. GREAT LAKES WATERFRONT TRAIL



Directions: Continue to the southwest of Amos Waites Park to the paved trail.

The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail is part of an interconnected network of trails spanning over 3,000 kilometres along the shores of Lake

Ontario and the surrounding bodies of water, including Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron and the Niagara, Detroit and St. Lawrence Rivers. The Great Lakes Waterfront Trail is mostly paved and connects over 140 communities and hundreds of green spaces. The trail traverses through the park. It connects along the waterfront to the Martin Goodman Trail to the east. The trail continues west, alternating off-road and on-road, to connect with Etobicoke's other waterfront parks.

16. DOWN THE CREEK WAY & MORNING ICE HARVEST ON THE HUMBER (2012), 2491 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Head back north through the park to Lake Shore Boulevard, turn left to head west. The mural is located on the east side of the building.

Artists Jim Bravo and Emanuel Ciobanica designed and painted both murals to highlight the neighbourhood's proximity to the lake and its historical importance in the community. Down the Creek Way is the colourful mural on the right depicting a nostalgic view of swimmers about to bathe in Mimico Creek in the 1920s. Morning Ice Harvest on the Humber honours



those who gathered ice from the Humber River – a necessary commodity in the days before air conditioning and refrigeration.

17. IN PERSPECTIVE (2010), 2458 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Travel east to the crosswalk at Mimico Square and cross the north side of Lakeshore Boulevard. The mural is located on the west side of the building.

As part of a Lakeshore Arts project, a contest was held for residents to submit their photos for a chance to have their likeness included in this mural painted by local artist Matthew Hansen. Pictured in the mural is a bearded man walking on the path and a woman at a café – the local residents that won the contest.

18. LAKESHORE AQUARIUM (1999), 2454 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue east and turn left onto Mimico Avenue. The mural is located on the north wall of the building.

The Equally Healthy Kids Graffiti Transformation

Project Team painted this mural with leadership from Lakeshore Arts. It shows sea life such as dolphins, different types of seaweed, coral and tropical fish, providing an inside view of a fish tank at an aquarium. Four blocked windows on the wall were incorporated as the windows of the tank, giving the viewer the feeling of being in the water.

19. SIRIUS THEATRICAL COMPANY, 119 MIMICO AVE.

Directions: Continue west on Mimico Avenue to Mimico Presbyterian Church near Royal York Road.

Sirius Theatrical Company rehearses and performs in Donald Hendry Hall located inside Mimico Presbyterian Church. In 1989, Artistic Director Heather Dick founded the Sirius Theatrical Company to produce exciting works by emerging Canadian playwrights. Along with their performances, Sirius also facilitates a wide variety of workshops and training opportunities for both professional and recreational actors of all ages. In 2015, Sirius Theatrical Company presented My Lakeshore – My Home, a Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot, leading a series of workshops and mentorships in costume design, directing, set design,

stage management, writing and more, and presented pop-up performances within the community that were created by local residents.

20. MIMICO POST OFFICE, 285 ROYAL YORK RD.



Directions: Head north on Royal York Road to Stanley Avenue. The building is on the northeast corner.

Once serving as the Mimico Post Office, the building's exterior has not changed much. On March 2, 1929, a truck from the Mimico Post Office made its way towards Mimico's railway station to meet the westbound train. Harold Douglas was helping his father Thomas to deliver mail when suddenly a hardtop sedan stopped in front of their truck, forcing Harold to slam on the brakes. Two armed young men forced the victims into a stolen car and took five mailbags from the truck. The post was an attractive target for criminals since large quantities of valuables were shipped regularly. Eventually, the victims were dropped off in High Park and the robbers drove off. The crime was never solved.

21. BLUE GOOSE TAVERN, 1 BLUE GOOSE ST.



Directions: From Stanley Avenue, travel one block north on Royal York Road to Cavelle Avenue and turn right to head east. Turn right to go north on Blue Goose Street and find Blue Goose Tavern at the end of the street.

The Blue Goose Tavern has been a local fixture since 1892. Built originally as the Windsor Hotel, it was placed adjacent to Mimico's first train station, picking up business from people waiting to catch a train the next morning, railway management and railway workers on layover. In July of 1905 it burnt down, but was rebuilt in 1909. The bustling pub was later known as the Windsor Public House. The pub was given the nickname "The Goose" after a blue steel train whose engineer was a loyal patron. The Windsor Public House was officially renamed the Blue Goose in 1971, and in 1989, the street name was changed from Vincent Street to Blue Goose Street.

22. MIMICO MEMORIAL GARDEN AND CEMETERY, 329 ROYAL YORK RD.



Directions: Follow Cavelle east to Royal York Road and turn right to head north to the Christ Church Mimico Memorial Garden.

Although there is no longer a church here, this park commemorates the oldest Anglican congregation in Mimico, established in 1827. Christ Church Mimico was built in 1832. The inscribed cornerstone from the original church is in the stone entranceway of the park. The cemetery that originally surrounded the church is now the memorial garden. The garden features a pergola and displays the historic parish's bell.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the spring and summer months, the Mimico Village BIA hosts the Mimico Tulip Festival. Large tulip sculptures are displayed annually and the BIA offers many family-friendly activities and events.

23. MIMICO TRAIN STATION, 10 JUDSON ST.



Directions: Continue north on Royal York Road and cross to the west side of the street at the crosswalk at Newcastle Street. Go back south on the west side of Royal York to Coronation Park.

In the mid-19th century, many railway routes were created in south central Ontario. They were the catalyst for the development of new communities, including Mimico, with the first station in the area opened in 1855 by the Hamilton and Toronto Railway. This station was established in 1916 by the Grand Trunk Railway. It became the main gateway terminal in and out of Toronto, and was later taken over by the Canadian National Railway (CNR). In the late 1960s, the station was converted to sleeping quarters for railway-line workers until the 1980s. After a few years of community effort, the building was restored and relocated to the park in 2007.

24. JEAN AUGUSTINE CENTRE FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, 101 PORTLAND ST.

Directions: Head back north on Royal York Road and cross to the east side at Newcastle Street and continue north until Portland Street. Turn right on Portland Street and travel one block east.

Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment is a charitable institution that supports young women by providing free after-

school programs focused on arts, life skills, academic success and leadership, as well as certified one-on-one personal life coaching. The centre was named after Jean Augustine, a community advocate, local politician and the Province of Ontario's First Fairness Commissioner.

Jean Augustine was one of the first two Black Canadian women elected to the House of Commons. She is a Grenadian-Canadian, who was a principal, educational administrator, politician and an advocate for social justice. Augustine has represented the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore and served as a member of Cabinet. She is also responsible for bringing Black History Month to Canada in 1995. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2009 for her distinguished career and was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2014.



Useful Information

- Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront: ccfew.org
- Great Lakes Waterfront Trail: waterfronttrail.org
- Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment: pactprogram.ca
- LAMP Community Health Centre: lampchc.org
- Lakeshore Arts: lakeshorearts.ca
- Murals: toronto.ca/streetart
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks

Sources

- Butterflies of Toronto by City of Toronto
- Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront
- Cynthia Reason, New Jean Augustine Centre to help women lead a healthy and mindful life, Etobicoke Guardian
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Fishes of Toronto by City of Toronto
- Great Lakes Waterfront Trail
- Historicist: The Mimico Mail Robbery by Kevin Plummer, Torontoist
- Lakeshore Arts
- LAMP Community Health Centre
- Mimico Station Community Organization, mimicostation.ca
- Mimico-by-the-Lake BIA
- Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto
- Staff Report on Air India Memorial by City of Toronto
- StreetARToronto, City of Toronto
- Toronto and Region and Conservation Authority

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto Archives
- Frank Job
- LAMP Community Health Centre



TOUR 2



Along Lake Shore Boulevard, many murals have been painted over three decades that celebrate the area's community members, local history, nature and wildlife. New murals continue to be painted, making this already vibrant community even brighter.


Location: Mimico, New Toronto, Long Branch


Interests: Art, History

Estimated: 2 hours

Type: Walk, Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour

 Take the 501 Queen streetcar westbound and get off at Royal York Road. Or take the GO train and get off at Mimico GO station and head south on Royal York Road to Lake Shore Boulevard. Turn right to go west on Lake Shore Boulevard to Dwight Avenue. The first destination is along Lake Shore Boulevard.

 From Gardiner Expressway, take the exit onto Lake Shore Boulevard if heading westbound and continue to Dwight Avenue, or take the Islington Avenue exit, continue south on Islington Avenue and turn left onto Lake Shore Boulevard to Dwight Avenue. The first destination is along Lake Shore Boulevard.



1. BIKE LANE MURALS (2018), LAKE SHORE BLVD., STARTING AT DWIGHT AND LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD



The bike lanes were installed to provide a continuous route on the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail and improve safety for bike riders. Twenty-nine local artists painted

the murals on the bike lane's concrete barriers. The murals depict each artist's interpretation of the theme of the four seasons.

2. SEASONS (2011), 2749 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west to Lake Shore Boulevard West.

Local artist and a long-time Mimico resident Gordon Roy painted this

mural depicting four scenes by the lake. On the far left is a summer scene with a silhouette of Toronto's skyline. The second scene shows dawn or sunset with colours reflected on the water and a gazebo on the horizon in Long Branch Park. The third scene shows the Power House and ice skaters on the trail in Colonel Samuel

Smith Park (see #12 & 13 on page 40). The last scene on the right shows trails along the lake during summer time. The artist drew inspiration from his personal experience and connection to the lake and the neighbourhood.

3. COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF THE CANADIAN FLAG (2014), 2938 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Cross the street to the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard West and continue heading west. Find this mural on the east wall of the building.

The Canadian flag was 50 years old in 2015. In celebration of this anniversary, local artist Chris Irvine painted this mural, which received the Outstanding Murals award at the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas in 2014.

4. AKIN LAKESHORE, 2970 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard.

The Akin Lakeshore studios opened in 2019 and are located on the third floor of the building to provide affordable workspaces for artists of all skill levels. Akin is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2008. Starting as a small studio downtown, Akin has expanded to include over 30 studio spaces and galleries. Akin Lakeshore is the first Akin studio to serve Etobicoke. Akin offers dozens of free and low cost public programs across the city, including professional development and creative workshops.

5. EIGHTH STREET SKATEPARK MURALS (2018), 160 EIGHTH ST.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard and turn right onto Eighth Street and travel one block north to the skate park.

For the Sixth Annual Skate on Eighth Event, local artists designed and painted murals on ramps, ledges and bowls as part of a revitalization project of the skatepark. Mural artists include Chris Perez, Fats Patrol, Luvsumone, Nick Sweetman and Peru Dyer Jalea.

6. THE FUTURE OF MIMICO (2019), 3019 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Head back south on Eighth Street to Lake Shore Boulevard. Cross the street to the south side. Continue heading west and find this mural at the southeast corner at Tenth Street.

Artist Don Short's mural highlights the urban and natural landscapes of south Etobicoke. At the centre of the mural is a tree and two children interacting with nature: one has a songbird landing on their hand and the other figure is holding a flower. The mural includes many local sites along the shore and the streetcars that run along Lake Shore Boulevard.

7. WELCOME TO LAKESHORE VILLAGE (2017), 3055 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard to find the mural on the southwest side of Eleventh Street.

The mural on the side of the Canadian Polish Congress depicts the shoreline and Lake Ontario using strong wavy lines to give the viewer a sense of the waves in the water and clouds in the sky. The Polish word "Witamy" appears in the centre, which translates to "Welcome." The word welcome is written in 11 other languages representing those spoken in the area, including Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Ojibwe, Portuguese, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. Silhouettes of pedestrians, cyclists and families walk along the boardwalk. Familiar icons include the CN Tower, Humber Bay Bridge, a Porter airplane, the ferry to Centre Island and an eagle in the Polish flag. It was created with Lakeshore Village BIA, the Polish Credit Union and the City of Toronto.

8. CAVALCADE OF COLOUR (1998), 3235 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue on foot or take the streetcar to continue heading west on Lake Shore Boulevard. This mural is located at the southwest corner of Lake Shore and Twenty Third Street.

Artist Tiffany Zufelt collaborated with the Greek Texan Restaurant owners on the design of the mural, which depicts Greek and Texan imagery and the vibrancy of Mediterranean food and culture. The owners were eager to have a design that was playful, engaging and bold. The artist was a student at the local Etobicoke School of the Arts when she painted this mural.

9. GIRL ON A SWING (1997), 3262 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.

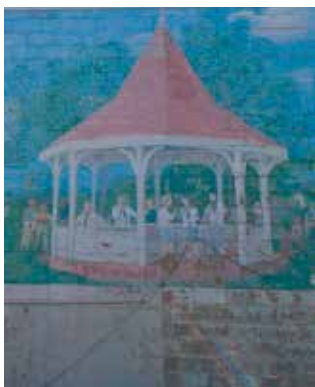


Directions: Cross the street to the north side on Twenty Second Street. Continue heading west to find this mural on the east wall.

This mural was created by local high school students Theresa Chen, Damian Ghoura, Lisa Rodriguez

and Wen-Shun Lin from Lakeshore Collegiate under the direction of their art teacher, Cate Freeman.

10. THE GAZEBO (1997), 3367 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue heading west and cross the street to the south side at Twenty Seventh Street. The mural is on the east wall.

Etobicoke resident Walter Ruston painted this mural, which features a gazebo located south of Lake Shore Boulevard in Long

Branch Park. A band is playing in the gazebo with onlookers enjoying the music. The gazebo is home to a series of concerts during the summer months.

11. THIRTIETH STREET UNDERPASS MURAL (2018), ELDER AVENUE AND THIRTIETH STREET



Directions: Cross to the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard West and continue west to Elder Avenue. Head north to the railway underpass.

The mural was a collaboration with artist Nick Sweetman and artist, story-teller and historian Philip Cote. Sweetman painted many species of animals and birds found across Canada, such as the herons, redwing blackbirds, snapping turtles, salmon and wood buffalo. Woven throughout the design are stories and teachings of the Anishnaabe, painted by Cote, that represent the energy that flows through all things and tells stories about humanity's relationship with nature. The mural depicts the four plants of a medicine wheel – sweetgrass, tobacco, cedar and sage – which is a symbol used in health and healing that represents a number of teachings related to astronomy, spirituality, lifecycles and the four elements, directions and seasons.

12. BRINGING THE LAKE UP TO LAKESHORE (1999), 3481 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Turn back south to Lake Shore Boulevard West and head west to Thirty Second Street. The mural is located on the west wall of the building.

Painted by local artist Barb Symons, Bringing the Lake up to Lakeshore does just that. The mural celebrates water, one of the most important sources of livelihood on the planet and a focal point for the Lakeshore community.

13. LONG BRANCH LIBRARY, 3500 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Continue west on Lake Shore Boulevard West.

The building opened in 1955 with the relief carving of a reader located above the main entrance. The stone relief is unattributed, but may have been created by Toronto artist Elford

Bradley Cox. The simple building uses mid-century modern and classical influences, such as the strong lines and small colonnade-style portico, the library includes space for art exhibitions featuring the work of local artists and includes the collection of the Long Branch Historical Society.

14. THE EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION (1996), LAKE SHORE BLVD. W. AND BROWN'S LINE



Directions: Continue west to the Long Branch Loop. This mural is located on the outside wall of the TTC's Long Branch streetcar terminus shelter.

The mural, created by artist Stephen Stanley, depicts the history of transportation in the Long Branch area, from canoeing, horse-riding and trams to today's streetcars and GO Trains.

DID YOU KNOW?



At nearly 24 kilometres of track, the 501 Queen is the longest streetcar route operating in North America and one of the largest in the world.

15. LAND, SEA & AIR (2001), 3850 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions:

Continue one block west and find this mural on the east side of the Royal Canadian Legion building.

Painted in 2001 by local artist Gordon Roy, the mural is a memorial to Canadian veterans of the First and Second World Wars. It represents land, sea and air as the veterans from the Royal Canadian Legion fought using all three methods.

EXPLORE MORE

MARIE CURTIS PARK AND ETOBICOKE CREEK

This park was created in the late 1950s to help control flooding after Hurricane Hazel. When homes originally located on the land were demolished by the hurricane, residents were relocated by Reeve Marie Curtis. The park was named in her honour. Curtis was one of the first two women elected as reeves in the Greater Toronto Area in 1953. The park is located at the mouth of Etobicoke Creek, a tributary of Lake Ontario, which originates in Caledon, Ontario. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife and native plants, and is a great spot for birdwatching and fishing. A bike path runs alongside the creek from the Queensway to the lakeshore.

SMALL ARMS INSPECTION BUILDING



The Small Arms Inspection Building is a historic, multi-purpose building that was home to Small Arms Limited and is located on the Arsenal Lands along the Mississauga's waterfront, named for when it was a munitions plant that manufactured rifles and small arms for the Canadian Army from Second World War to 1974. In 1992, the TRCA acquired the Arsenal Lands to create a public park, and in 2017, the City of Mississauga acquired the Small Arms Inspection Building with the purpose of converting it to an arts and cultural hub for the community. The building is host to a wide range of arts and cultural programs, including exhibitions, performances and events.

Useful Information

- Akin Collective: akincollective.com
- Assembly Hall: assemblyhall.ca
- Lakeshore Arts: lakeshorearts.ca
- Lakeshore Village BIA: enjoytheshore.ca
- Long Branch BIA: yourlakeshore.ca
- Small arms Inspection Building: smallarmsinspectionbuilding.ca
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: trca.ca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks

Sources

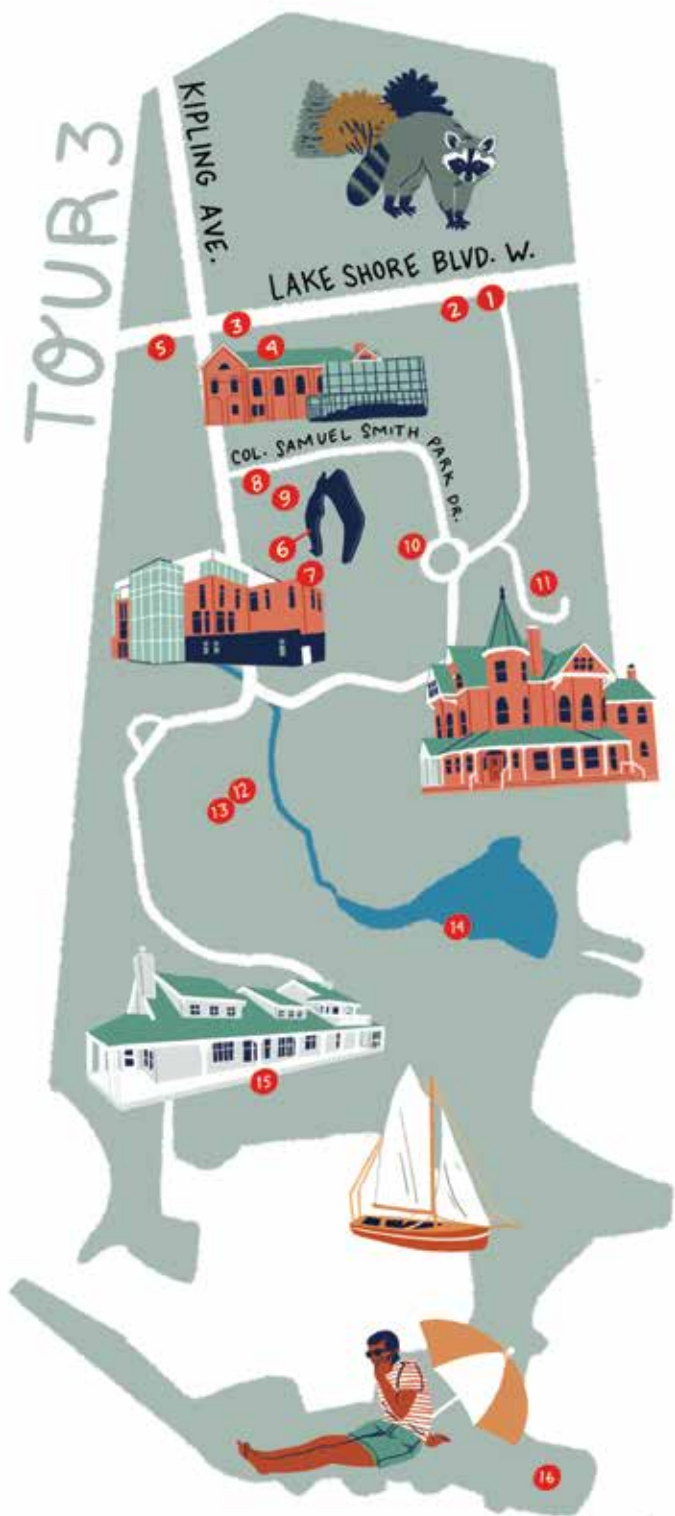
- Akin Studios
- Gabriel Wimmershoff
- Gordon Roy
- Jerry Smith
- Lakeshore Arts
- LAMP Community Health Centre
- Matthew Hansen
- Small Arms Inspection Building
- Star Metroland Media
- Toronto Parks

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library



DISCOVERING LAKESHORE GROUNDS



Over 12,000 years ago, south Etobicoke was submerged until glacial Lake Iroquois drained and carved out the landscape we know today. The land is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe First Nation and lies adjacent to the Humber River, an important waterway with a trail, now known as the Toronto Carrying Place, which was created thousands of years ago for communication, movement, travel and trade.

When European settlers arrived in the area, New Toronto was quickly developing as a suburb. By the 1870s, the area had industries such as brick factories, mills and by 1890, the Mimico Lunatic Asylum. Many of the historic buildings from this time have been repurposed and given new life within the community. This tour highlights the area's natural environment, historical roots and recent transformations.

Location: New Toronto and Lakeshore Grounds

Interests: History, Architecture, Art, Nature

Estimated time: 2 hours

Type: Walk, Bike

▼ Starting the Tour



Take the Gardiner Expressway east and exit at Kipling Avenue going south. Continue south on Kipling Avenue to Lake Shore Boulevard. South of Lake Shore, Kipling turns into Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Parking is available in Samuel Smith Park. The first destination is on the northeast corner of the park.



Take the Bloor-Danforth subway westbound to Kipling station. Continue on the 44 Kipling south bus and get off at Lake Shore Boulevard just before the Humber Campus or Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. Alternatively, take the 501 Queen streetcar west to Lakeshore at Kipling Avenue. The first destination is located on the northeast corner of the park.

1. THE GATEHOUSE, 3101 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

When the Gatehouse was built in 1893, it was called the Entrance

Lodge. It was built by William Clarke, with the help of patient labour from the asylum. The original configuration was a standard two-bedroom dwelling. In 1909, a kitchen, pantry, closets, bathrooms and a bedroom were added. Since 1998, the building has been home to The Gatehouse, a centre that provides support, resources and a safe space for childhood sexual abuse survivors by providing facilities for professional child abuse investigation teams and a variety of supportive programs and therapies for children, youth and adults impacted by child abuse experiences.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lakeshore Grounds were developed in 1890 to house the Mimico Lunatic Asylum, later renamed the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. The hospital cared for patients with various types of mental health disorders and illnesses. It closed in 1979, having operated for 90 years.

2. THE GATEHOUSE TRANSFORMATIONAL HEALING GARDEN, 3101 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Find the Healing Garden on the west side of The Gatehouse.

The Healing Garden was created in 2014 by The Gatehouse staff and community volunteers. It is a place for meditation and contemplation.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Lakeshore Grounds once stretched north to Evans Avenue. On the northeast corner of Evans Avenue and Horner Avenue is the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery. The cemetery was located at the edge of the hospital's land and was referred to by many names such as Mimico Asylum Burial Grounds, Potter's Field Mimico and Evans Avenue Cemetery, to name a few. Today the cemetery is unnamed and unmarked. Death and burial records indicate 1,511 individuals are buried here.

3. THIRD GARDEN, 1 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Third Garden is located adjacent to the Assembly Hall, at the southeast corner of Lake Shore Boulevard and Kipling Avenue.

Third Garden is a public art installation commissioned in 1999 by the City of Toronto, designed by artists Millie Chen and Warren Quigley. It is a site-specific art installation consisting of five cast iron seating forms, eight concrete pavers inlaid with cast bronze text and landscaping. The seating forms address the themes of regeneration and healing, acting as a mediator between earth and water, health and sickness, culture and nature. The text in the pavers is based on oral and recorded histories of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital facilities. It can be read as intimate journal entries from many points of view including patients, relatives, staff and local residents.

4. ASSEMBLY HALL, 1 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Head south from Lake Shore Boulevard on Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive and find the Assembly Hall on your left.

The Assembly Hall was constructed in 1898 as part of an expansion of the hospital. It was a gathering place for the patients and offered recreational activities and other services. This included community events. Since there was no comparable facility in the area, the Assembly Hall became the principal venue for community events for patients, hospital staff and local citizens. The Assembly Hall stood throughout the changes to the hospital and became a landmark facility for the larger Lakeshore community. After the hospital's closure in 1979, the Assembly Hall remained empty for over 20 years. The restored Assembly Hall officially opened in 2001 as a multipurpose community cultural centre, offering a performance hall, community meeting rooms and gallery space.

The Assembly Hall, operated by the City of Toronto, provides space to many of Toronto's arts, heritage and community groups. The building offers a performance hall for music, theatre, dance, receptions and other special events. The community rooms are used for art classes, meetings, workshops and rehearsals. The gallery spaces are located throughout the building.

DID YOU KNOW?

Colonel Samuel Smith Park was named after one of South Etobicoke's earliest European settlers. As a member of the Queen's Rangers, a military unit that fought on the Loyalist side during the American War of Independence, the Colonel was granted a large tract of land by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe in 1793. Originally, his estate extended from the shore of Lake Ontario to Bloor Street between Kipling Avenue and Etobicoke Creek.

Today, Colonel Samuel Smith Park is a popular spot for its bike and pedestrian trails and for sport activities. The park offers remarkable vistas of Lake Ontario, and the land is home to over 1,200 trees and is visited by many migrating birds. The naturalized wetlands (see #14) provide a sustainable habitat for many species. Keep an eye out for signage placed by Toronto and Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA) to learn more about the wildlife.

5. LAKESHORE GROUNDS INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, 2 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: On Lake Shore Boulevard, cross to the west side of Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive.

The Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre is operated by Humber College and aims to interpret the natural and built heritage of the Lakeshore Grounds. The centre engages the local community through exhibitions and cultural programming focused on education, mental health, Indigenous history, environmental sustainability and civic engagement. The main exhibit space is located in the Student Welcome and Resource Centre and a smaller art space is located on the third-floor hallway.

6. L SPACE GALLERY, 19 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH DR.



Directions: Head south on Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive and find the grey L building on the left. Enter the building and find the gallery on the right.

A cultural hub, the gallery aims to enhance Humber College and foster connections between the arts and experiential education. The gallery is managed by a small Humber College staff and advisory committee to ensure artistic excellence, participation and free inclusive access for the entire Humber community.

7. PERSEPHONE, 19 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH DR.



Directions: Exit the L building through the main doors. The sculpture is in the plaza to your right.

Artist Harley Valentine created Persephone, a steel sculpture that is a modern interpretation of Persephone, the Greek goddess of vegetation and spring. In the Greek myth, Persephone is abducted and taken to the underworld for six months out of the year by Hades, God of the Underworld. Her mother Demeter's mourning for her yearly absence from the world of the living was believed to be the cause of winter. It was the first public sculpture acquired for Humber College's Lakeshore Campus.

8. THE COTTAGES, 3199 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Follow the pathways from the plaza north to the redbrick C Building.

The Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital used a cottage system design, which offered a home-like setting for patients. Hospital facilities expanded extensively over the years to include the Assembly Hall, gatehouse, nursing school, power house and more. The land and the existing buildings have been repurposed and are now used by a variety of public organizations, including Humber College and the City of Toronto.

The Cottages, built in a quadrangle, accommodated patients, staff, administrators and visitors of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital and were central to day-to-day life. Patient labour was used to build the structures as part of the therapy and vocational training program. Each cottage was designed to be 12 by 24 metres with two storeys accommodating 50 patients. Most of the cottages have a similar exterior appearance with a pitched roof, brick structures with a central entrance and a high basement. The cottages

are arranged in an outward-facing courtyard setting of European palace or monastic institutions. This is modelled directly from the psychiatric hospitals of the 1880s in Virginia.

After the closure of the hospital in 1979, Humber College acquired the cottages as part of their new Lakeshore Campus. Today, the buildings house a wide array of Humber College programs and services.

9. TUNNELS, 3199 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: From the north side of the C and D Buildings, look between the two cottages.

The windows that are blocked at the bottom of the cottages are part of the tunnel system. The tunnel complex that runs below the cottages was used to transport food and laundry between buildings. The tunnels were connected to the central building that contained a kitchen, laundry, bakery, boiler house and apartments. In the case of heavy loads, a miniature railway track was used. The tunnels were not fully underground and it is here that you can see the remnants of the windows that have been filled in since Humber College's renovation. The use of the tunnels was discontinued in 1932.

INSIDER'S TIP

Tunnel tours can be booked with the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre at 2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr. (see #5)

10. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (G BUILDING), 17 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Follow the path to the east side of the L Building and find the G Building.

Built in 1890 in Romanesque style,

the Administration Building is the most prominent building and an architectural focal point of the entire

complex. It can be approached by a circular driveway, which can be entered through the treed main road. A large central tower dominates the façade of the building emphasizing the arched doorway as its main feature. The top part of the tower was lost sometime during the 20th century. The original building housed laboratories and offices for doctors, nurses and administrators. Renovations were done in 1946 and 1949 to provide more office space.

11. CUMBERLAND HOUSE, 3131 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Go to the front of the Administration building (G Building). Look for a path that leads southeast and follow it to the house.

***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

Built in 1895, the house was named for the first superintendent of the Lakeshore Asylum, T.D. Cumberland, who resided there during his tenure. The structure was built in the Queen Anne style of architecture with a gable roof, wrap-around veranda and turret. It was built entirely by institutional labour and was renovated in the 1960s to be a centre for day and night care workers. It later became a school for the patients before it was taken over and renovated by the Jean Tweed Foundation, the largest community-based drug and alcohol addiction treatment centre for Ontario women aged 16 and over and their families.

12. THE POWER HOUSE RECREATION CENTRE, 65 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Follow the road west into the park to Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive and turn left to head south along the path. The recreation centre is on your right.

Originally a masonry steam power plant and stack (chimney) built in 1937 to service the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, the building is now a recreation centre owned and operated by the City of Toronto. The recreation centre offers a variety of summer camps for children and youth that include activities like canoe building and skateboarding.

13. SKATING TRAIL, 65 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Look for the skating trail south of the recreation centre.

This 250-metre long figure eight trail is Toronto's first outdoor skating trail. In the winter, members of the public can skate for free on the trail. No skate rental is available. Skaters can warm up and put on their skates at the Power House Recreation Centre.

14. WETLAND LOOKOUT, 3145 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W.



Directions: Follow the trail south and turn left to head east toward the creek. The lookout is on the west side of the creek.

The wetland lookout was originally built in 1995. It is a popular place for bird watchers and nature education programs. It was rebuilt in 2015 and it provides access to observe mature trees, marshes and birds. Bird-lovers flock to Colonel Samuel Smith Park to see various nesting areas and to capture photos of almost 200 species of birds.

See the Wildlife Activity on page 127 for more information.

INSIDER'S TIP

Every May, whimbrel arrive at Colonel Samuel Smith Park in the early morning having departed from the east coast of the United States the prior evening. Whimbrel watchers arrive as the sun rises and scan Lake Ontario for flocks of these birds, which are often heard before they are seen. Toronto is an important monitoring location – in 2009, ten of 38 radio tagged birds in Georgia and Virginia were detected in Colonel Samuel Smith Park.

15. LAKESHORE YACHT CLUB, 76 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR.



Directions: Follow the path west and turn left to head south toward the shoreline, turn right to go west.

The Lakeshore Yacht Club is a private club for members. However, a public walkway allows people to take in the beautiful views of the shoreline, boats and clubhouse. This secluded bay also includes many waterfowl nesting areas. Swans, ducks, cormorants and grebes can be seen in the wetlands adjacent to the yacht club.

16. CN TOWER VIEW POINT



Directions: Head east along the path and turn right to head south around the marina to the southern tip of the park.

Look eastward for a beautiful view of Toronto's skyline, most notably the CN Tower. At over 553 metres high, over 1.5 million people visit it each year.

Useful Information

- Assembly Hall: toronto.ca/assemblyhall
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: camh.ca
- Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront: ccfew.org
- Friends of Sam Smith Park, advocacy and events: friendsofsamsmithpark.ca
- Humber Galleries: humbergalleries.ca
- Jean Tweed Centre: jeantweed.com
- Lakeshore Arts: lakeshorearts.ca
- Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital: asylumbythelake.com
- Lakeshore Yacht Club: lsyc.com
- The Gatehouse: thegatehouse.org
- Toronto Port Authority: portstoronto.com

Sources

- Assembly Hall
- Gabriel Wimmershoff, Artist
- Gordon Roy, Artist
- Heritage Assessment & Conservation Recommendations Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital/ Humber College Site Etobicoke, Ontario by Cecelia Paine and Associates prepared for Moore George Associates and the City of Etobicoke
- Humber: A History by Humber College
- Humber College
- Jerry Smith, Consultant
- Lakeshore Arts
- Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre
- Lakeshore Planning Study Final Report by Peter Barnard Associates prepared for the Ministry of Government Services and the City of Etobicoke
- Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery c. 1890 – 1979 by Edward Janiszewski
- Lakeshore Yacht Club
- LAMP Community Health Centre
- Matthew Hansen, Artist
- Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Plan
- Preliminary Cultural Landscape Chronology for the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Grounds, Etobicoke, Ontario by Pleasance Crawford
- Timeline for Lakeshore by Shelley Charles
- TRCA



Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Friends of Sam Smith Park
- Humber College
- Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre

LOOP 2 CENTRAL ETOBICOKE: WHERE ARTS AND NATURE MEET

TOUR 1



Discover some of oldest buildings remaining in Etobicoke and explore the arts and cultural hubs and organizations that aim to bring arts into the lives of the local community. Enjoy the network of greenspaces along Elmcrest Creek that lead up to the spectacular Centennial Park, which offers insights into the natural world and creates space for recreational activities.

Location: Etobicoke West Mall

Interests: History, Architecture, Nature, Art

Estimated time: 2.5 hours

Type: Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



From Kipling Station, take the 111 East Mall bus northbound to the Talgarth Road stop. Turn right to go east on Talgarth Road to Beaver Bend Crescent. Turn left onto Beaver Bend Crescent. The first destination will be on your right.



From The East Mall, turn onto Talgarth Road and continue to Beaver Bend Crescent. Turn left to go north on Beaver Bend Crescent. The first destination will be on your right.

1. ANDREW COULTER HOUSE, 59 BEAVER BEND CRES.



***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

Underneath the pale yellow siding and white neoclassical portico rests the original home of Andrew and Martha Coulter's

Georgian house of red and yellow brick. The actual date of the construction is unknown, but it is considered one of the oldest houses in Etobicoke, built pre-1852. The five-bay Georgian-style house was constructed from bricks made on-site and finished with yellow brick quoins, decorative brick on the exterior corners, on a foundation made of boulders and the local blue clay. The property passed through many hands over the years and most notably sold to construction magnate Percy F. Law. Law covered the house with white clapboard siding and added a large neo-classical portico to the front. The Coulter House is currently home to the Neurological Rehabilitation Institute of Ontario.

LOOP 2

INSIDER'S TIP

The historic Richview Memorial Cemetery, which can be accessed from Eglinton Avenue West where it crosses Highway 427, is now surrounded by highways. It was originally the cemetery of Richview Methodist Church circa 1850. When the highway interchange was built in 1954, the church was moved to a new location, but the cemetery remains. The earliest gravestone is dated 1846.

2. APPLEWOOD SHAVER HOMESTEAD, 450 THE WEST MALL



Directions: Head back south on Beaver Bend Crescent to Talgarth Road and turn right to continue onto The East Mall. Continue south to Rathburn Road and turn right to go west to The West Mall. Turn left onto The West Mall and head south. The destination is on your right.

Applewood was built in 1852 by Peter and Esther Shaver and remained in the Shaver family until 1980. It is the birthplace of James Shaver Woodsworth, the principal founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) political party, forerunner to today's New Democratic Party.

The house is one of the very few examples of mid-19th century rural architecture remaining in the Toronto area. The brickwork in the front façade is laid in a pattern called Flemish Bond, which creates a strong structure but is expensive to build because it requires more bricks than other patterns. Contrasting yellow bricks were used in the quoins at the front corners, raised pilasters (a decorative column) defining the front door, the radiating arches over each window and a string-course of bricks laid in a star pattern under the eaves. All of the bricks were made on site. The house is symmetrical on all four sides including the windows, a common feature of this type of house. Once a farmhouse, it now stands as a memorial to the pioneers. Today, the Applewood Shaver House is used for events and concerts.

3. ETOBICOKE CIVIC CENTRE (ECC), 399 THE WEST MALL



Directions: Continue south on The West Mall. The destination is on the southeast corner of Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall. If driving, access the parking lot off The West Mall.

The Etobicoke Civic Centre opened in 1958. Before the amalgamation of Etobicoke into the City of Toronto, the building was the Etobicoke City Hall, housing the municipal government. The building now functions as a meeting place for the Etobicoke York Community Council and other committees as well as a number of municipal departments and services.

The Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery was formed in 1976 by the Etobicoke City Council to support arts in the community. It is located along the hallway just inside the main entrance and specializes in juried art shows by local, provincial and national artist collectives and arts organizations. The Etobicoke Hall of Fame is permanently housed in the gallery. It recognizes leaders, war heroes, politicians, teachers, artists and other community leaders of Etobicoke.

The Etobicoke Civic Centre will be relocated to an area known as the Six Points, where Dundas Street, Bloor Street and Kipling Avenue meet and form an intersection with roads leading in six different directions. The new location, slated to open in 2020, will house municipal government offices, gallery space, a public library, recreation centre and a child care centre.

4. GALAXY



Directions: The sculpture is located south of the Civic Centre's west entrance.

Galaxy, designed by Gerald Gladstone, was commissioned by the Constellation Hotel in 1964 and was later donated to the City of Etobicoke in 1981.

Gladstone, fascinated with space exploration and the human spirit, created the aluminum sculpture with tiers of tilted rings and a network of wires suspending four small and one large satellite.

5. ECC CENOTAPH



Directions: Located outside the east doors of the Etobicoke Civic Centre.

The tall limestone cenotaph was originally designed by R. Russell and functioned as a clock tower until it was transformed into a memorial to honour those who gave their lives in World War I, World War II and the Korean War in 1968.

INSIDER'S TIP



The ECC Farmer's Market runs every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., June to October. Discover the wide array of local produce and food products offered at the market.

6. NEILSON PARK CREATIVE CENTRE (NPCC), 56 NEILSON DR.



Directions: Follow The West Mall south to Bloor Street and turn right to head east on Bloor Street. Turn left onto Neilson Drive. Follow the road south to Neilson Park and take a path west to the creative centre. If driving, park in the lot on the south end of Neilson Drive.

Neilson Park Creative Centre is a community arts centre. It offers various classes for all ages, camps, free exhibitions and hosts festivals year round. NPCC provides a permanent home for the six resident groups: Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners, Etobicoke Quilters Guild, Etobicoke Rugcrafters, Humber Valley Art Club, The Etobicoke Art Group and Calligraphic Arts Guild of Toronto.

7. ELMCREST CREEK, 230 RENFORTH DR.

Directions: Take Neilson Drive north to Bloor. Turn right to go west on Bloor and turn right onto Renforth Drive. Continue on Renforth to Bloordale Park South.

Elmcrest Creek continues through Bloordale Park and north to Burnhamthorpe Road, south of Centennial Park. Below Bloor Street west, the creek path connects with Neilson Park Creative Centre. The creek is a tributary of Etobicoke Creek. Like many ravines in Toronto, the creek connects with neighbourhood streets offering a beautiful path through central Etobicoke.

8. SAMUEL & ANN MERCER HOUSE, 72 OLD BURNHAMTHORPE RD.



Directions: Follow the creek trail north, or if driving, take Renforth Drive north to Burnhamthorpe. Go west on Burnhamthorpe Road and turn right onto Old Burnhamthorpe Road. Follow the road to the next destination.

***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

The Mercer House is known for its Georgian farmhouse-style with vibrant red bricks and a one-metre-thick foundation made of local fieldstone and bricks made on-site. The farmhouse was originally owned by Samuel and Ann Mercer, early European settlers of the York Mills area that later moved to Etobicoke. Since 1820, the house has stood as a local landmark and the Mercers' farm became one of the largest farms in Etobicoke. Elmcrest Road was originally known as Mercer Road, named after the family. The Mercer House was restored and has been protected by the heritage designation bylaw since 1976.

9. CENTENNIAL PARK AND PAN AM BMX CENTRE, 256 CENTENNIAL PARK RD.



Directions: Turn right onto Elmcrest Road and continue north to Rathburn Road. Cross the street to the park. Freely explore the park to discover many places of interest.

Centennial Park is Toronto's second-largest park at 212 hectares. It was created in the 1960s to celebrate 100 years since Canada's Confederation, officially opening in 1967. The park was formerly part of Hiron's Dairy farm, known as one of Toronto's last working farms. The park has many recreational facilities, including a ski hill, hockey arena, swimming pool complex and a track and field stadium. The park also contains the Pan Am BMX Centre, which was home to BMX cycling competitions at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games. The 350-metre long track consists of four straightaways and three turns and is filled with challenging jumps.

10. CENTENNIAL PARK CONSERVATORY, 151 ELMCREST RD.



Directions: Centennial Park Conservatory is located on the right after passing Rathburn Road. The parking lot is located behind the conservatory building.

The Centennial Park Conservatory is the perfect place to bask in the beauty of nature. Built in 1970, the conservatory is over 2,400 square metres and features a number of native and tropical plants. It is best known for its seasonal displays with over 300,000 annual and perennial plants that are planted in locations across the city to beautify streetscapes – in gardens, hanging-baskets and on lamp posts.

Some of the most notable plants that can be seen at the conservatory are the: rubber plant native to India; spiky floss-silk tree from Brazil; spear-snake plant from Africa; and ram's horn from the Pacific Islands. Each wing of the greenhouse provides different varieties of plants. For example, the south wing is an arid house that displays unusual cacti and succulents including agave, aloe and opuntia. The north wing is home to a collection of local trees and shrubs.

The conservatory is also home to a variety of animal life including birds, goldfish and turtles. Wild birds such as cardinals living in the park area often fly into the building.

INSIDER'S TIP

Ribfest is an annual summer event produced by Rotary Etobicoke to raise money for a variety of charities each year. With about 10,000 racks of ribs and 500 roasts of pulled pork eaten each year, it's a great place to taste a little Southern flavour up north. The summer festival also offers family activities and live entertainment.

EXPLORE MORE

TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Toronto Pearson, operated by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, is Canada's largest airport and the second busiest airport in North America. The airport originated in 1938, when Malton Airport opened on a site that covered 13 farmers' fields. As demand for air travel grew, new terminals and runways were added. The first modern Terminal 1, called an Aeroquay, due to its unique circular design, opened in 1964. Today, 130,000 travellers move through the airport daily flying to or from more than 180 destinations around the world. Pearson Airport celebrates the diversity of their passengers who come from all around the globe by displaying art from Canadian and global artists in and around the terminals.

Prominently displayed outside of Terminal 1, on North Star Road, is Kiakshuk's Three Inukshuks. Artworks located inside the terminals include: Robert Charles Coyle's Flight Song; Katharina Grosse's untitled wall painting; Richard Johnson's Ice Huts; Ingeborg Jurgensen Hiscox's Skyward; Sol LeWitt's Wall Drawing #1100; Kazuo Nakamura's Galaxies; Jaume Plensa's As One...; Dereck Revington's Skin of Light; and Susan Schelle and Mark Gomes's Jetream Michael Snow's Goddess of Space-Rockette.

In 2019, Toronto Pearson International Airport formed a three-year partnership with MABELLEarts (see page 60), a local arts organization that animates public spaces, provides community arts programming to Etobicoke residents, and provides newcomers and young adults with opportunities for mentorship, leadership and skills training.

Useful Information

- Applewood Shaver Homestead: applewoodshaverhouse.ca
- Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery: toronto.ca/eccartgallery
- Neilson Park Creative Centre: neilsonparkcreativecentre.com
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: trca.ca
- Toronto Pearson International Airport: torontopearson.com
- Toronto Ribfest: torontoribfest.com

Sources

- Applewood Shaver Homestead
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Toronto Pearson Airport
- Montgomery's Inn, Museum & Heritage Services
- Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Ribfest

Photo Credits

- City of Toronto Archives
- ECC Farmers' Market
- Greater Toronto Airports Authority, Toronto Pearson Airport
- Montgomery's Inn



Skin of Light by Derek Revington
Toronto Pearson International Airport

ISLINGTON VILLAGE: HISTORY IN ART



Just a few years after the town of York, later renamed Toronto, was founded in 1793, the provincial government ordered the development of Dundas Street. Originally a foot path, the new street referred to as Dundas Highway was to be a military lifeline, allowing the movement of troops, supplies and communications over land in case threatening American forces took control of the lake routes. Dundas Street became a vein along which new farms and villages were nurtured and Islington was one of those villages. People came from the surrounding farmlands to retrieve and deliver mail, purchase food, clothing, and tools, and to share news and enjoy the social life in this small community. Today, Islington Village is incredibly rich in art and history. The walls of the local businesses have been transformed into an outdoor gallery celebrating art, history and the community.

Many of the murals in this tour were painted by artist John Kuna, including #1–7, 10–17, 19–23, 26, 28, 31 and 32.

Location: Village of Islington

Interests: Art, History

Estimated time: 2 hours

Type: Walking

▼ Starting the Tour



From the north, take the 401 and exit at Islington Avenue heading south. From the south, take the Gardiner Expressway and exit at Islington Avenue heading north. From the west, take the 427 south and exit at Burnhamthorpe Road heading east.



Take the Bloor/Danforth subway line to Islington station and head north on Islington or take the 37 Islington northbound bus and get off at Dundas Street.

1. THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE (2009), 5126 DUNDAS ST. W.



The site that inspired this piece of art by John Kuna was located on Willow Dale Farm on Mimico Creek, originally at the

site of a functioning sawmill frequented by village youth. The mill stood beside the creek in what is now Islington Golf Course, down below the intersection of Burnhamthorpe Road and Mattice Road. A challenge creating this piece was the lack of photographic evidence of the structure; it was assumed to be no more than two storeys tall and to employ a large water wheel.

The mural is based on a note written by Mary Appleby, a real estate lawyer and local historian whose records, photos and stories about 20th-century Islington have been essential to informing what we know about the neighbourhood in that era. Many of Mary's writings and photos have been donated to Montgomery's Inn (see #35).

DID YOU KNOW?

Toronto artist John Kuna painted over 20 of the murals on this tour. After graduating from the Ontario College of Art and Design, Kuna decided to dedicate himself professionally to mural painting. His work can be seen in other pockets of the city, in addition to many other public places and private collections in over 40 cities throughout Canada, the US and Europe.

2. TOBOGGAN HILL (2011), 5112 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

Toboggan Hill is one of three murals with the "children at play" theme by John Kuna. The inspiration for this mural came from a photo in the Islington archives of Montgomery's Inn. The children are enjoying the crisp winter weather while tobogganing down the hill from Dundas Street into the Mimico Creek valley, immediately west of Montgomery's Inn. The tandem sleigh featured was custom built for the Appleby Family.

3. RIDING THE RADIALS (2007), 5110 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

This is another mural in the “children at play” mural trilogy. This mural illustrates what is now known as the streetcar, referred to as radial trains as early as 1917. The name originates from the system in which the transit lines were organized.

The tracks began in the city’s core and ‘radiated’ towards outlying villages and communities. The radial lines were the main transit system for many residents and facilitated the connection of the Village of Islington to Toronto. The location of the mural was chosen because the Guelph Radial Rail line ran behind this property. It was able to connect people from Lambton Mills all the way to Guelph. Artist John Kuna used the colour palette found in old postcards and turn-of-the-century paintings to inspire nostalgia.

4. FISHING IN MIMICO CREEK (2012), 5096 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

This final mural in the “children at play” trilogy gives us a glimpse of youngsters fishing in Mimico Creek in 1920. Note the mural’s many levels: the children playing above the water, the riverbank and under the water’s surface. The plants and animals show how fertile the Mimico watershed was at the time. This mural is intended to educate residents and visitors about the watershed and to inspire the continued environmental restoration currently taking place.

5. BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE (2018), 5090 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

Artist John Kuna uses patterns from the intricate and colourful wings of 11 local butterfly species in this intricate nature-inspired mural.

6. FLIGHT OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON (2018), 5101 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue on Dundas Street to cross south at the crosswalk. Find the next destination on the south side of the building.

The mural, painted by John Kuna, pays homage to the now extinct passenger pigeon. It depicts a pigeon in flight against an abstract background. It was designed so that as the viewer observes the mural from one end to the other, the bird appears to be fading, reflecting the extinction of the species.

7. PRODIGY (2011), 5048 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Cross back to the north side of Dundas Street and turn right to continue north.

The arts are a vital component of any community and the Village of Islington celebrates its musical history in this mural. The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) was founded in 1886 and opened a satellite branch at this location in the 1950s. Artist John Kuna honours beloved musician Glenn Gould and teacher Antonio Alberto Garcia Guerrero in this mural. Gould reached very high levels of success and is often referred to as RCM's most celebrated former student. The concert hall is based on the conservatory's modern venue, Koerner Hall. The inspiring mural shows that one can grow to outstanding heights by nurturing and developing talent.

8. MABELLEARTS, 5005 DUNDAS ST. W.

Directions: Cross to the south side at Mabelle Avenue.

Since 2007, MABELLEarts, a community arts organization, has worked with over 70 professional artists and over 3,000 Etobicoke residents of all ages and backgrounds to provide free performances, workshops and community events in parks and public spaces. In 2015, MABELLEarts produced Mobile Mabelle, a Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot. The project engaged local artists to travel to various public spaces in Etobicoke in a 1974 Sprite camper trailer to bring art-making, storytelling and story-sharing to numerous communities.

9. MABELLE PARK AND MABELLE AVENUE, 49 MABELLE AVE.



Directions: Go south on Mabelle Avenue. Stop at 49 Mabelle Ave. and look across to find a small park.

Mabelle Park shows ongoing community artworks led by MABELLEarts called A Park of Many Paths. The project brings artists and residents together to transform and animate the park. Mabelle Park is used as an outdoor kitchen, includes community gardens and holds performances and ceremonies. MABELLEarts artists have worked with over 2,000 residents of all ages to transform what was once a neglected thoroughfare in the heart of the neighbourhood into a vibrant art-park and community hub.

Mabelle Avenue is also a great place to observe Islington Village's urban development. A number of residences on Mabelle Avenue were constructed by Toronto Community Housing in the late 1970s and say much about how planners wished to develop the land. There is green space located around the buildings; this type of development is called a Tower in a Park design concept, originally proposed by Le Corbusier, a French architect and urbanist who was highly influential in the mid-20th century. Today, this concept is considered isolating. Currently, designers work to bring the buildings close to the street, placing commercial shops on the ground level and surrounding towers with low-rise buildings such as town houses to increase access to amenities and combat isolation.

This urban development along Mabelle Avenue brought thousands of new residents into a relatively small block of land. They helped transform Islington

Village from a low-density suburban area into a high-density hub. It also provided affordable accommodation for many newcomers to the area.

10. ONTARIO GOTHIC (2011), 5048 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Cross to the north side of Dundas Street and head south to find this mural on the east wall of the building.

This mural is a local parody of the 1930s painting American Gothic by Grant Wood. Kuna's version, called Ontario Gothic, is based on a photo of the local Appleby family and their farmhouse circa 1890. Like the original subjects in Wood's painting, the Islington pair are brother and sister, William and Mabel Appleby.

11. HAROLD G. SHIPP'S "FIRST HIGH FLIER!" (2008), 4996 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Go north on Dundas. This mural is on the west wall of the building.

This surprising scene is based on the true events of a Lancaster Bomber dropping cards onto the Etobicoke High School football field. Eighteen-year-old student Harold G. Shipp staged this event by convincing a pilot who ferried Lancaster bombers from Toronto to England during the war to take part in a fundraising stunt. The cards were dropped to be collected and then redeemed for prizes with the intention of raising money for new bleachers. Some versions of the story say the cards gave free admission to an upcoming school dance. The stunt veered off course when the wind blew the cards into the market gardens near Montgomery's Inn. Subsequently, the football players and supporters went running to chase the prized cards and in doing so destroyed the neighbouring farmer's cabbage. Shipp went on to be a successful Toronto developer and never lost his knack for coming up with imaginative promotional ideas.

12. HONOURING ISLINGTON'S VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE (2007), 4988 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas. The mural is on the east wall of the building.

This mural by John Kuna honours the Islington Volunteer Fire Brigade

who bravely fought fires and contributed to the community by building dams on Mimico Creek south of Dundas to create a skating rink during the winter time. Kuna's talent is demonstrated by his use of the building's boarded window – incorporating it into the painting as the serving window of the rink's side hut.

13. MIMICO CREEK CIRCA 1920, 4986 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north to the intersection of Dundas and Cabot Court. The mural is located on the east side of the building.

Featured here are Mimico Creek and Dundas Street. It was very common for artists to gather on the steps of Montgomery's Inn to take in the beautiful vista. Many pieces of art were inspired by these views, much like the one you see in front of you that includes sumac, spruce and pine trees and the Appleby family's farmhouse on the right.

14. THE WAY WE WERE - PART II (2006), 4984 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas. The mural is on the east side of the building facing the parking lot.

The Way We Were - Part II depicts the village around 1912. Complementing the first mural in the series (see #15), this painted scene features Dundas Street looking west. The streetscape includes the old Islington Hotel. You will also notice a group of workmen preparing to pave the road for the growing neighbourhood.

15. THE WAY WE WERE - PART I ISLINGTON CA. 1912 (2005), 4972 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is on the west side of the building facing the parking lot.

A window into 1912 Dundas Street looking east, this mural is the first of two painted from Montgomery's Inn's archival documents. The family shown on the left in this mural is that of Islington photographer Walter Moorhouse. The mural also depicts a historical shop on the left and the old Islington Methodist Church and manse on the right (see #27).

16. ORDINARY FOLK, EXTRAORDINARY LIVES (2016)



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is on the east side of the building.

The six-panel mural is a window back in time, commemorating the many families of Islington who now rest in the Islington Burying Ground, which dates back to the 1840s.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ontario Genealogical Society dates the establishment of the Islington Burying Grounds, located at 4956 Dundas St. W., to 1844 or before. The oldest gravestones date back to 1807, but stones were likely moved to the grounds after the cemetery was established. The cemetery is the final resting place of the many key community builders. In the back left corner are two tall monuments erected to the Montgomery family (see #35 for more information). The graves show the fragility of life at the time. Child mortality rates were much higher and more than 40 children under the age of five are buried here.

17. GORDON'S DAIRY CA. 1940 (2008), 4968 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

This mural shows Gordon's Dairy, a popular local landmark in the 1940s for youth visiting the storefront lunch counter and dairy bar. The owners were Islington residents Earle Gordon, daughter Grace who was the bookkeeper and three of his sons; Reid and Bud are seen in a suit on the left of the mural and Ken is seen in a suit on the right. They delivered milk in bottles door-to-door in their distinctive "streamlined" wagons.

18. ETOBICOKE TOWNSHIP HALL, 4946 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

This building, that now houses the Fox & Fiddle, may not look very old, but beneath the new façade is one of the oldest buildings in Islington – the village's first Methodist church built around 1843. In 1887, the congregation moved and the land was sold to the Etobicoke Township. The building was used for council meetings, social gatherings as well as the village's first public library. In its conversion to a township hall, the church was bricked and shallow buttresses were added for support. After World War II, a second storey and a large neo-classical addition was put on the front. After the Town Council moved to the new civic centre (see #3 on page 48) in 1958, the building became the district police headquarters. A subsequent owner adapted the building into a restaurant. What remains of the original church are some wooden beams hidden deep inside the current building. However, inscriptions on the structure are still visible today: "Etobicoke Municipal Offices" can be found over the front door and "Police" can be found over the east door.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1967, Etobicoke was transformed politically from a township to a borough and in 1983 to a city. Etobicoke was one of five surrounding municipalities that were amalgamated with the City of Toronto in 1998.

19. THE PUB WITH NO BEER (2009), 4946 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions:

Continue north on Dundas Street.

The mural depicts the prohibition era (1916–27) with a truck only picking up empty pop bottles outside of the old

Islington hotel. The Islington Hotel, later called the Islington House or simply “The Izzy,” was a popular pub and meeting point right up until its 1986 demolition.

20. TIMELINE: ISLINGTON THEN AND NOW (2006), 4959 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Head north and cross to the south side of Dundas Street at the crosswalk at Burnhamthorpe Road. Head south the next destination is on the west wall of the building.

The timeline reflected in this mural provides a glimpse into three different stages of village development from the artist’s perspective. The mural begins on the left with the village’s original shop, Dunn’s General Store, which sold groceries and hardware and housed Islington’s post office. The middle of the streetscape morphs into the 1950s, with cars driving on a paved Dundas Street. The flowering catalpa trees lining the street in the mural were planted by a local resident and market gardener in the early 20th century; they were removed when Dundas was widened. At the right side of the mural is the 2006 streetscape featuring the building on which the mural is painted.

21. BRIARLY - GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN (2007), 4937 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Head back north on Dundas Street. The mural is on the east side of the building.

Now demolished, Briarly House is remembered as a beautiful mural. Briarly was named after the briar roses that once adorned its gardens. This Regency-style cottage, dually known as the Gunn House and Briarly, was built in the 1830s just east of Montgomery's Inn. A mere ten years later, it was redesigned in a Neo-Renaissance style, before its destruction in 1989. The Montgomery family owned the property for roughly 15 years (1970-1985). Kuna emphasizes that this is not a mournful reflection on lost history, but considers it an example of the enduring power of home and family.

22. THE FACES OF ISLINGTON (2013), 4909 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north to find the mural on the southeast corner of Dundas Street and Cordova Avenue.

The demographics of a community make up a large part of its cultural character. The changing settlement history in the Village of Islington is seen here through the faces and design patterns on this mural. The panorama of children represented in the mural were all painted from photographs of children who attended Islington Public School from 1883 to 2013.

23. FAITH OF OUR FATHERS (2009), 4901 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

The Islington United Church featured in this mural has a very long history in the community. As early as 1815 ministers on horseback, also known as circuit riders, travelled

between communities to help with spiritual matters and needs. The mural features the face of one of the well-known circuit riders, Dr. Stewart East, who rode up the steps of the church in its current location (25 Burnhamthorpe Rd.) in a public dedication ceremony.

24. ARTS ETOBICOKE, 4893A DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

For over 40 years, Arts Etobicoke has been finding innovative ways to address the need for sustainable cultural opportunities in our community. The

organization delivers needs-based programming for all ages and abilities; through high-quality programs that are not only interesting and fun, but grow out of a need from the community we serve. Members are provided with networking opportunities, workshops, free resources, meeting and storage space, promotion and communications. Arts Etobicoke promotes artists and advocates for the arts, seeking to build a vital creative footprint that impacts the daily lives of Etobicoke residents. In 2015, *Dancing in the Third Act*, an Arts Etobicoke and Lakeshore Arts led Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot, engaged local seniors in intensive dance training with choreographer Randy Glynn and staged public performances.

25. THE ART ALLEY MURAL PROJECT (2009), 4889 DUNDAS ST. W.

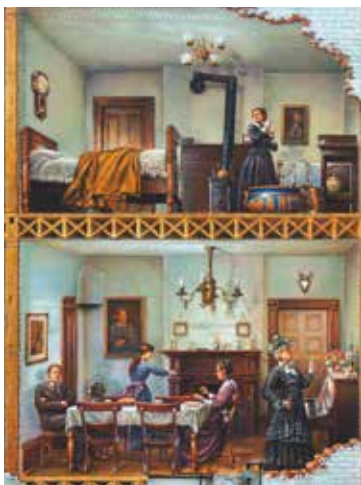


Directions: Find this mural next door to Arts Etobicoke on the west wall.

This poetic mural interprets the Article 13 of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights ("Everyone has the right to freedom of movement."). Toronto's then Poet Laureate Dionne Brand wrote a poem based on this article. Artist Susan Harrison based the mural's design on the poem and painter William Lazos executed it with assistance from volunteers – art classes were held to provide a learning opportunity for youth during the process.

26. THE MANSE COMMITTEE (2010), 4879 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions:

Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is located on the east wall of the building.

This mural provides an inside peek at the typical interior of a building and manse in 1888. The manse, or minister's residence, depicted here is that of Islington Methodist,

which later became the United Church (see #27). It features the Manse Committee, a group that provided recommendations to the minister's wife on how to run her house. The committee also conducted inspections to ensure that the residence was up to their standards of cleanliness. The mural also depicts 1888 minister Reverend Richard Bowles taking part in afternoon tea with the Committee Chair while his wife prepares food in the kitchen.

27. ISLINGTON UNITED CHURCH, 25 BURNHAMTHORPE RD.



Directions: Go back south on Dundas Street to Burnhamthorpe Road. Turn right to cross the street and continue on Burnhamthorpe Road to the next destination.

***Note:** Active church. Please be respectful.

The congregation was established in 1818 as a Methodist society, originally meeting in congregants' homes. In 1843, a church was built on the east side of the Islington Burying Grounds on land donated by Amasa Wilcox. The church was originally known as the Wilcox Methodist Chapel (see #18). In 1887, a new redbrick church was built for the small farming hamlet, but as the congregation continued to grow over the next half-century, a larger church was needed. Then, in 1949, this beautiful stone building with modern Gothic architecture was opened. The Methodist Church of Canada joined with the Presbyterian Church and Congregational Church, and Islington Methodist Church became Islington United Church in 1925.

28. BATTERSBY'S MARCH, 1813 (2012), 4914 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Turn back east on Burnhamthorpe Road. The mural is located on the west side of the building.

Here you will see Lieutenant Colonel Francis Battersby leaving Toronto (then known as York) on July 29, 1816, along Dundas Street with his Canadian soldiers to secure Burlington Heights from the threat of an American naval attack. This action discouraged the enemy from attacking Burlington Heights. However, having fewer troops left York vulnerable, setting the stage for a second American attack on July 31, 1813.

29. PORTRAITS FROM OUR PAST (2008), 4886 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions:

Continue east on Burnhamthorpe and turn left on Dundas Street. Continue north.

Painted by Manitoba artist Sarah Collard, this mural is based on historical photographs

of the Village of Islington. This mural can be seen as four separate smaller murals, each a vignette of daily life from the village's past. The far left mural shows the Bigham family orchard in 1917 at harvest time. The top-centre mural shows Walter Moorhouse's family in front of their house on MacPherson Avenue (now Aberfoyle Crescent). Walter Moorhouse was an amateur photographer whose many photographs still survive in the Archives of Ontario. The bottom-centre mural shows the Appleby family's 1917 Chevrolet with passengers Mary Appleby and her parents. The far right mural shows Charles Nelson, the village shoemaker from about 1895 to 1916.

30. MUSSON HOUSE, 4884 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

This is a large two-storey Regency-style house, a relatively rare remaining historic building. This house was built in 1880 and served as a community hub. Thomas Musson was the postmaster of the Village of Islington for 30 years until his death in 1899. Musson rented the property from Alexander MacPherson who built the house as an income property. The house operated as the post office in a room on the main floor at the rear of the house from 1887 to 1906. In 1912, the house was bought by William and Olive Newlove. Olive operated the Islington Telephone Exchange at the house in the same room where the post office had been. The house has been altered over time and the widening of Dundas Street swallowed the front lawn and the front veranda.

31. AFTERMATH (2011), 4868 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is on the west wall of the building.

This dramatic mural depicts the aftermath of Hurricane Hazel, which struck Toronto on October 15, 1954, flooding areas near Mimico Creek and Islington Golf Course. The mural shows a volunteer clean-up crew assisting members of the Islington Fire Brigade and the 48th Highlanders clearing debris while an army supply helicopter attempts to use the available high ground on the ninth fairway as a landing pad. In the horizon, on the left is Islington United Church, which served as an important temporary supply depot for the region's rescue efforts.

32. GOLFING IN ISLINGTON (2014), 4866 DUNDAS ST. W.



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is on the east wall of the building.

Like looking through a window, this mural portrays the nearby Islington Golf Club, which has remained

relatively unaltered since its opening of 1923. The golf course was designed by Stanley Thompson, one of the foremost golf course architects in North America at the time.

33. WELCOME MURAL (2011), DUNDAS STREET WEST AT ISLINGTON AVENUE



Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street. The mural is located on the north wall of the bridge.

This mural welcomes people to the Village of Islington. In the background on the left-hand side you'll find various historic buildings. The people depicted on the right include members of the Appleby family, including Mary Appleby, who owned 80 hectares of land north of the Village of Islington.

34. EVERYONE EVERYWHERE (2013), ISLINGTON AVENUE AT DUNDAS STREET WEST



Directions: Cross to the southeast side of Islington Avenue and Dundas Street. The mural is located on the east wall of the bridge.

Completed in 2013 by lead artists Anna Camilleri and Tristan Whiston, this 61-metre-long mural reflects the diversity of the neighbourhood and is inspired by Article Six of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

INSIDER'S TIP

This mural was a project led by Creative Village Studio and Arts Etobicoke. Creative Village Studio is a supportive space for artists with varying abilities. There is a gallery where the artists can exhibit and sell their work. In addition, it offers art and photography classes and drop-in studio time at their location at 4895 Dundas St.

35. MONTGOMERY'S INN, 4709 DUNDAS ST W.



Directions: Head back to Dundas Street and turn right to continue north.

Thomas Montgomery immigrated to Upper Canada, now Ontario, from Ireland in 1812. In

1830, he leased 80 hectares of land bound by Islington Avenue, Dundas Street, Royal York Road and Bloor Street. He built this Inn that same year. Montgomery's Inn has become a local landmark and is the second-oldest building in Etobicoke. In addition to being an innkeeper, Montgomery was a farmer and a real estate and mortgage investor, acquiring over 250 other properties across Ontario in his lifetime. The food produced on this farm fed the travellers and local residents who ate at his inn.

The fieldstone building was constructed in the late Georgian or Loyalist architecture styles. This style is illustrated by its large centre hall plan and strong symmetry. It was covered with a white pebbledash finish, but during renovations in 1967, the borough of Etobicoke removed it to reveal the beautiful fieldstone underneath.

For Islington Village and its neighbouring communities, inns were important community centres providing inexpensive overnight accommodation, social drinking and tavern meals. Montgomery's Inn also hosted the Home District Council's township meetings in 1847 and 1849. In the days of early settlement, transportation was slow. Taverns and inns were a necessary presence at regular intervals on major roads.

Today, Montgomery's Inn, operated by the City of Toronto's Museums & Heritage Services, is a strong reminder of Islington Village's past. The inn holds events that celebrate theatre, music, food and the history of Etobicoke: the Farmers' Market is open year-round on every Wednesdays.

36. MONTGOMERY ROAD, 4709 DUNDAS ST. W.

Directions: Continue north on Dundas Street.

Thomas Montgomery opened Montgomery Road on his private property, providing the farmers with a shortcut to the Humber Mills and increasing his business at Montgomery's Inn. Until the 1940s, Montgomery Road still traversed mostly open field, making its way to Bloor Street.

EXPLORE MORE

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH, 4600 DUNDAS ST. W.



***Note:** Active church.
Please be respectful.

This church has been a landmark for over 160 years. The obvious feature of this site is its elevation, which was appreciated long before the church was built. In 1971, the church was registered as a site of

archaeological interest because many First Nations artifacts were reported to be found in the cemetery, indicating that for thousands of years, the hill has been used to view the surrounding land.

The original stucco church was completed in 1847. In 1894, the church was raised and placed on a new stone foundation to provide a basement. At the same time, the stucco walls were covered with brick and a front porch was added. In 1937, the church was lengthened to provide space for a growing population after World War II.

Inside the church, old stained glass windows are interspersed with the new, including three windows in particular, which depict the history of the Village of Islington. In the first window, a missionary preaches to First Nations peoples. In the second, a farmer works his field with St. George's in the background. In the third, St. George's sits among other local churches, all offshoots of the church of St. George's. Today, the site remains a thriving centre within the Islington community. The Kingsway College School joined the site in 1990 and built the new addition at the rear of the church. A cemetery, established in 1840s, also sits on the site.

KINGSWAY MURAL, ROYAL YORK ROAD UNDERPASS



Designed by artist Emilia Jajus, the mural is a collage of local landmarks, including James Gardens, the Kingsway Theatre, Humbertown Plaza, Montgomery's Inn, and the Old Mill and Old Mill Bridge among many others.

Useful information

- Arts Etobicoke: artsetobicoke.com
- Creative Village Studio: cltoronto.ca/hubs/creative-village-studio
- Heritage Toronto: heritagetoronto.org
- MABELLEarts: mabellearts.ca
- Montgomery's Inn: toronto.ca/museums/montgomerysinn
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: trca.on.ca
- Village of Islington BIA: villageofislington.com

Sources

- Arts Etobicoke
- Creative Village Studio
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Islington Golf Club
- Village of Islington BIA
- Montgomery's Inn

Photo Credits

- Archives of Ontario
- City of Toronto Archives
- Library and Archives Canada
- Montgomery's Inn
- Toronto Public Library
- Village of Islington BIA

GETTING TO KNOW MIMICO CREEK



This short tour features the natural and human heritage of a small section of Mimico Creek that once ran through Thomas Montgomery's farmland. Today, Mimico Creek runs through Tom Riley Park in the Village of Islington.


Location: Mimico Creek


Interests: History, Nature

Estimated time: 1 hour

Type: Walk

▼ Starting the Tour

 From Islington Station, take the 37 Islington bus northbound to Dundas Street West. From the bus stop, head north. The Mimico Creek path will be on your right.

 From Islington Avenue, turn onto Dundas Street West and drive north. The Montgomery's Inn parking lot will be on your right. Head to the south side of the museum and turn left onto the Mimico Creek trail. The first destination is on your left.

1. MONTGOMERY'S MEADOW, 4709 DUNDAS ST. W.



Montgomery's Meadow was created in 1997 by volunteers who planted a meadow of native wildflowers and grasses. By replacing the lawn with native plants,

the land became a home for rabbits, mice, chipmunks, groundhogs, butterflies and song birds, creating a small ecosystem within a larger environment. More than 650 species of native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, ferns and shrubs were planted – 10,000 individual plants, all native to this area. In the southeast corner, a chipmunk habitat consisting of a stone wall where they can find shelter from predators has increased their population. A butterfly garden was created in the northwest corner. The meadow is maintained by the City of Toronto, Humber College and Etobicoke Horticultural Society.

2. MIMICO CREEK



Directions: Follow the trail south toward the creek.

As with most rivers in Toronto, the source of Mimico Creek is in the Oak Ridges Moraine, a rise of land created by glacial action north of the city. From the moraine, the creek travels southeast 33 kilometres and drops 160 metres through Brampton, Mississauga and Etobicoke by the time it reaches Lake Ontario. As it flows through this park, it drops over the Lake Iroquois shoreline, cutting its own valley. Mimico Creek's watershed covers 7,700 hectares, but is almost completely covered due to urbanization. Tom Riley Park is one of the few areas in the watershed where this creek is naturalized and accessible to the public.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although there are no known permanent First Nations settlements along Mimico Creek, it is certain that First Nations peoples travelled, hunted, fished and camped along this waterway. Artifacts belonging to First Nations peoples have been found in the area, including spear points, pottery shards, clay pipe fragments, stone awls (a tool for poking small holes) and stone axe heads. The first humans to stand on the banks of Mimico Creek arrived about 12,000 years ago and lived a nomadic lifestyle. 1,300 years ago First Nations peoples established settlements in the area, growing corn, beans, squash, sunflowers and tobacco in a style of farming known as horticulture – a sustainable method that ensured longer-term soil fertility while they continued to hunt, fish and forage in traditional ways.

3. MARKET GARDENERS AND SKATING RINK

Directions: Continue south and turn right to cross west at the bridge over Mimico Creek north of the tennis courts.

In 1872, Robert Tier, a market gardener from England, purchased this land and grew many types of vegetables, although celery was his specialty. He sold hundreds of crates every year to wholesalers who travelled miles to Islington to buy his high-quality

product. The valley has highly fertile muck soil, a type of soil that forms when decaying vegetation is submerged in a swamp for thousands of years. On the east side of Mimico Creek, this rich soil was also found on the property of Thomas Montgomery's descendants.

From 1900 to 1944, Montgomery's Inn was rented out to a series of market gardeners that grew vegetables south of the Inn. Many Chinese farmers worked as market gardeners when they came to Canada. From the 1930s they were all gardeners of Chinese origin, with the last Chinese gardeners being Joe and Lillie Chung from 1942 to 1944. The Chungs' son, Willie, remembers that they grew cabbages, celery and tomatoes and delivered them by truck to sell at the St. Lawrence Market.

Every winter in the 1940s and 50s, members of Islington's Volunteer Fire Brigade diverted water from Mimico Creek to flood Central Park (Tom Riley Park) on the west side of Mimico Creek in exactly the same spot Robert Tier's market garden had once been. The result was a large outdoor skating rink described as four times the size of the standard schoolyard skating surface. The rink was lit in the evenings and people skated to recorded music projected over a loudspeaker. The Kingsway Kiwanis Kanteen, a 12-metre-long shelter heated by two pot-bellied wood stoves, offered warmth and hot chocolate.

EXPLORE MORE

DIGNITY CITY (2016), MONTGOMERY ROAD SOUTH OF DUNDAS STREET WEST

Artist Boo designed and painted the mural in collaboration with 15 Etobicoke Collegiate students. The mural was painted in collaboration with Amnesty International Toronto's Project Urban Canvas, a mural city-wide project to celebrate the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The mural's design uses community feedback about Article One, which states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

4. CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, MIMICO CREEK TRAIL



Directions: Cross back over the bridge and turn right to continue south on the path. Continue on this path and stop at the railway bridge.

In 1877, the Credit Valley Railway ran through Islington. It was bought by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1884. Its presence changed the way people along its route lived, shopped and did business by connecting them to larger markets for buying and selling. The first Islington station was a simple “flag stop” (passenger request stop), located on the north side of the tracks west of Islington Avenue. In 1921, the station was replaced by a larger one north of the tracks and east of Islington Avenue. After the Second World War, the use of trains for passenger service declined as a result of the increased use of automobiles and public transit. In the 1960s, the company discontinued its passenger service and closed Islington station, which was demolished in 1971.

5. TOM RILEY PARK, 3216 BLOOR ST. W.

Directions: Continue south on the path to the park.

Tom Riley Park runs down the Mimico Creek valley from Dundas Street to Bloor Street. The park, originally known as Central Park, opened in two sections in 1941 and 1944 on land donated by the Montgomery family and J.A.L. MacPherson, respectively. It was renamed in 1998 after Tom Riley, who served as Etobicoke’s Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for 28 years and was credited by Recreation professors at Waterloo University with giving Etobicoke “the best parks system in the country.” Riley’s many honours included the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal and the Province of Ontario Corps d’Elite.

INSIDER’S TIP



Peregrine falcons can often be observed in the Mimico Creek area. Peregrine falcons have nested for the past several years on the Sun Life Financial Centre on Bloor Street West, just west of Mimico Creek. This bird has been

known to streak through the air at speeds up to 390 kilometres per hour to catch its prey.

6. MIMICO CREEK WATER MONITORING STATION



Directions: Go south on the grass on the east side of the soccer field until you find a white brick hut on your right, opposite the north edge of the soccer field.

This little hut beside Mimico Creek is a streamflow monitoring station. Since 1966, the equipment inside has continuously monitored water flow levels so action can be taken to improve creek conditions. The goal is to reduce the average annual streamflow ratio, which is caused by storm water and melt water runoff. Two hundred years ago, European settlers were “taming the land” by clearing it of all forest cover and underbrush. By 1850, 50 per cent of the forest cover in Etobicoke had been removed, and by 1880, 90 per cent had been removed. Deforestation and depletion of natural landscapes has allowed rain and melt water to rush into the creeks, causing erosion and spreading pollutants. Today, Mimico Creek is considered to be a completely urbanized river with 60 per cent of its routes covered.

7. NEW HORIZONS COMMUNITY GARDEN, 3216 BLOOR ST. W.



Directions: Continue south on the Mimico Creek Path and underneath the bridge. Turn right across the grass to the community gardens.

New Horizons Community Garden was founded in 2007 by members of the Multicultural Association of Bosnian Seniors and their Friends. Here, Bosnians from different parts of the former Yugoslavia have turned empty plots of land into thriving gardens. Several families from other countries have also joined the group. The garden has become a local attraction, with neighbours stopping by on strolls through the park.

Useful information

- Montgomery's Inn:
toronto.ca/montgomerysinn
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority:
trca.on.ca
- Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation:
Toronto.ca/parks
- Village of Islington BIA:
villageofislington.com

Sources

- Arts Etobicoke
- Creative Village Studio
- Denise Harris, Etobicoke
Historical Society
- Islington Golf Club
- Montgomery's Inn
- Star Metroland Media
- Village of Islington BIA

Photo Credits

- Archives of Ontario
- City of Toronto Archives
- Library and Archives Canada
- Montgomery's Inn
- Toronto Public Library
- Village of Islington BIA



DOWN THE HUMBER RIVER



A glacier covered Toronto 12,000 years ago and, when it receded, it gouged out basins that filled with water to form the Great Lakes, rivers, streams and ravines. Layers of sedimentary rock can be seen in elevations along the Humber River as a result of this ancient glaciation. The Humber River was formed from natural events, but this tour also follows the human impact on the area, including the creation of the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, a trail and trading route created thousands of years ago by First Nations peoples and which informs today's roads and trails. When Europeans came to the area, the river's natural ecosystems and wildlife were significantly impacted by the building of milling industries, dams, bridges and riverbank retaining walls.

Location: Humber River

Interests: Art, History, Nature

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

Type: Walk, Bike

▼ Starting the Tour



From Royal York station, take the 73B Royal York bus northbound and get off at Glendarling Road. Head south on Royal York Road and turn left at Edenbridge Drive.



From the 401, exit at the 400 southbound, which turns into Black Creek Drive. Turn right on Eglinton Avenue and then left on Scarlett Road. Turn right on Edenbridge Drive and find the sign for James Gardens to the left. Parking is available. Please note that the tour uses walking trails and is one-way.

1. EDGEHILL HOUSE, 61 EDGEHILL RD.



Edgehill House is the former summer home of Frederick and Margaret James, built in the early 1900s. The couple called the house "Red Gables." The James' were known for their community garden parties and musical concerts. They wished to share their estate with the public, so following their deaths, the eight hectare property was sold to Metropolitan Toronto. It has since been renamed Edgehill House and is operated by the City of Toronto as a community centre primarily offering preschool programs. During the summertime, the centre holds summer camps for children.

EXPLORE MORE



ROYAL YORK MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING, 1436 ROYAL YORK RD.

The Royal York Medical Arts Building is a circular building located just a bit north of Eglinton, on Royal York. It was constructed in the mid-century expressionist architectural style by Jan Horatio Albards. The building was influenced by the Space Age. Originally painted white with teal trim and features, it has exposed, slanted steel legs and a network of large screens around the exterior.

2. JAMES GARDENS, 61A EDGEHILL RD.



Directions: Explore the gardens. Please note that bikes are not allowed in James Gardens.

Its beautiful stone pathways, ponds and the mature trees make this a popular destination for flora lovers and photographers. It is also a great spot for walkers and hikers with access to trails along the Humber River. James Gardens is named after Frederick and Esther James, who owned the estate and built extensive gardens with pools and waterfalls around and below their house.

Turtle Sculpture: This sculpture is easy to find, located on the west side of the parking lot.



Gazebo and James monument: The gazebo has been in the gardens for many years and in front of it is a monument dedicated to Frederick and Esther James. To find the gazebo, follow the stone pathway uphill from the turtle sculpture.

3. LAMBTON WOODS



Directions: From the parking lot at James Gardens, take the trail at the southwest end of the parking lot by the pond.

The trail that you are now on passes

through Lambton Woods, a green space located on the west bank of the Humber River filled with mature trees, animals and birds. Be sure to take a moment to look up and around to spot the many birds living here. This part of the land was known as Lambton Mills. William Cooper assembled the land and established the mills by 1807 on both sides of the Humber River. Lambton Mills was a thriving community, however, a fire in 1915 destroyed most of the east bank buildings, leaving just the Lambton House. To read more about the Lambton House and Lambton Mills, see Explore More on page 90.

4. HUMBER RIVER RECREATIONAL TRAIL AND HUMBER RIVER



Directions: Once on the trail, head straight down to the end and turn right to head south at the Humber River. The Humber River Recreational trail is an 8.2-kilometre trail established

on what was originally a 50-kilometre footpath, now known as the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, which was established by First Nations peoples thousands of years ago and runs along the Humber River to Lake Simcoe.

In 1999, the Humber River was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in recognition of its cultural history. The river and surrounding lands are the traditional territory of many First Nations peoples, who have been using this waterway and the surrounding land for 12,000 years to fish, hunt, travel and establish settlements. The Mississaugas called the river Kabechenong, meaning “gathering place to tie up.” When Europeans first colonized the area, it was known as the Toronto River or St. John’s River. In 1793, Upper Canada’s first Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe named it “Humber,”

after the mouth of a large river near his family estate in England. In the following centuries, European colonists established roads and bridges, milling industries, dams and retaining walls. Many of these developments and their impacts on the natural river can be seen today.

The Humber River originates on the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine and flows south into Lake Ontario. The main body of water runs 126 kilometres and connects to approximately 750 creeks and tributaries north of the city. Its banks are rich with wildlife and plant life. To date, 918 plant species, 143 birds, 30 mammals and 61 species of fish have been identified. Along the river, there are currently more than 1,200 potential in-stream barriers, including elevated culverts, dams, weirs and watercourse crossings. This is a concern because a key factor in healthy, self-sustaining populations of fish is their ability to migrate freely within the river system. The TRCA has many projects to restore environmentally sensitive ecosystems, including wetlands.

For more information on wildlife, see the Wildlife Activity on page 127.

5. LAMBTON CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY BRIDGE



Directions: Follow the trail along the Humber River. Look up to find a large bridge at the river's crossing.

The bridge was originally constructed for the Credit Valley Railway (CVR) in 1874 and led to Lambton Station, which is no longer in existence. Today the line is operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and the bridge provides access to Lambton Yards, a storage and maintenance facility built in 1912 and located further east in the Junction neighbourhood. Lambton Yards is still in use by trains carrying freight within parts of Southwestern Ontario. The railway was essential for the development of milling industries along the Humber River. The CVR also delivered reddish-brown sandstone quarried at Forks of the Credit that was used to build some of Toronto's important structures, including the Ontario Legislative Building and Old City Hall. The bridge was extended in 1914 using concrete, but the original 1874 stonework can still be seen.

6. GUELPH RADIAL LINE BRIDGE TOWER FOOTINGS



Directions: Continue south along the trail to the pedestrian bridge across the Humber River.

This pedestrianized bridge on the Humber Recreational Trail was once the location of a crossing for the Guelph Radial Line, an electric Toronto Suburban Railway line between Guelph and Toronto that operated from 1917 to 1931. Today, only the footings for the steel towers remain.

7. DUNDAS STREET BRIDGE



Directions: Cross the pedestrian bridge and turn right on the trail to continue heading south along the Humber River. Look out for a large bridge ahead. The trail passes under this bridge.

This bridge connects York with Etobicoke. When it was first built, Dundas Street followed a different route, with a lower crossing on the Humber River located further south. In 1929, Dundas Street West was rerouted and straightened, and the current Dundas Street Bridge was built. In 2009, the bridge was refurbished to maintain the heritage design. Plaques commemorating the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River were affixed to the bridge railings and a viewing platform was installed.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Shared Path/ Le Sentier Partagé: Toronto Historical Park is part of the Humber River Recreational Trail, which follows along the Humber River between Lake Ontario and the Dundas

Street Bridge. Today, the Shared Path is Toronto's first historical park and consists of 13 Story Circles along both sides of the Humber below Dundas Street West. The plaques describing each site are written in English, French and Ojibwe.

8. ALBUM (2015), BELOW THE DUNDAS STREET BRIDGE



Directions: The mural is located on the pillars of the Dundas Street Bridge.

In 2015, artists Anna Camilleri and Tristan R. Whiston painted the mural on the pillars of the Dundas Street West Bridge as part of the Pan Am Path to honour the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals in sports while simultaneously confronting traditional representations of athletes and representations of family. The artists were inspired by Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the human right for people of all genders to form family. The mural depicts abstracted figures that represent families, with various faces and designs in mosaic form. Community members contributed to the creation of the mosaic pieces through workshops.

9. LAMBTON MILLS BRIDGE ABUTMENTS, STORY CIRCLE 12, HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



Directions: Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail. Look for the plaques to your right.

The first Dundas Street crossing of the Humber River was located at Lambton Mills, at which there were a series of bridges built between 1811 and 1955. The existing abutments were built around 1880 and supported a number of these bridges. The last bridge was built in 1907 and removed in 1955, which was a truss bridge engineered by the notable Frank Barber, consulting engineer and Vaughan Township Engineer. This site is part of The Shared Path/Le Sentier Partagé: Toronto Historical Park, launched in spring 2011.

EXPLORE MORE

LAMBTON HOUSE, 4066 OLD DUNDAS ST. W.



Lambton House was a stagecoach inn and tavern, formerly known as Lambton Tavern and the Lambton Hotel, and is the last remaining public

building from the 19th century on the Humber River. Lambton House and the surrounding area were located on Cooper's Mills. The mill had a blacksmith, tavern, post office and other businesses that soon formed a flourishing village. In 1840, Sir William Pearce Howland, a prominent businessman and politician, purchased Cooper's Mills and renamed it Lambton Mills in honour of John George Lambton, who was a former Governor General of Canada. Lambton House was most likely built by William Tyrell, who was a local architect and contractor, and the first Reeve of the Town of Weston. It opened in 1848 and operated for 140 years before closing its doors as a hotel and tavern in 1989. In 1985 it was designated as a heritage property. Today, Lambton House is a community hub, hosting events and activities, including exhibits, lectures, talks, pub nights, concerts and Canada Day celebrations.

DID YOU KNOW?

There were three important mills on the Humber River between today's Bloor and Dundas streets. King's Mill was the first mill established, located on the west bank of the river at the site of today's Old Mill hotel. The Millwood (also called Fisher's Mill) on the west bank of the river south of Dundas Street was the second mill. The third mill was William Cooper's mill on both banks of the river at Dundas Street.

10. HOME SMITH PARK, 4101 DUNDAS ST. W.

Directions: Turn left to exit the park south of the Dundas Street Bridge onto Lundy Avenue. Turn left on Lundy Avenue to Old Dundas Street. Follow Old Dundas Street to Dundas Street West. Turn left and cross the Dundas Street Bridge to the west side of the Humber River. At the end of the bridge, turn left on Old Dundas Street and continue to Home Smith Park.

The park is named after an Etobicoke lawyer and developer, Robert Home Smith, who is best known for developing land along the Humber River, including the Old Mill Inn. From 1906 to 1912, Home Smith acquired 1,200 hectares of land on both sides of the Humber River, much of which was developed into subdivisions, including the Kingsway, Riverside Drive and Baby Point. Home Smith donated 105 acres of land on the west bank to the City on the condition that a park was developed. The park runs along the west side of the Humber River between Lambton House Hotel and the Old Mill Inn. The park is an excellent spot for wildlife viewing with plenty of waterfowl, songbirds and forest critters. It's also a great spot to view salmon swimming up the Humber River to spawn each fall. Home Smith Park is fully accessible with a paved trail and a number of pleasant picnic areas.

11. HUMBER RIVER DAMS, ALONG HOME SMITH PARK DRIVE



Directions: Continue south on Home Smith Park Drive.

The dams along the Humber River provide flood and erosion control as well as a passage

for jumping fish such as salmon and rainbow trout. More than 25 fish species are known to inhabit the river. During the spring you can spot steelhead trout jumping up the river to spawn and chinook and coho salmon make their run in the fall.

DID YOU KNOW?

First Nations peoples have been on this land for thousands of years and in the mid-1600s Teiaiaagon (Taiaiko'n) was a village established on the Humber River by the Seneca. It was located on a large plateau, which can be seen from the trail, on the east side of the Humber River and north of today's Bloor Street. Because of its connection to the Great Lakes and the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, Teiaiaagon was strategically placed for its access to hunting territories and transportation routes and as a location to control trade routes throughout the region. By controlling this area, the Seneca were able to organize trade with the English, Dutch and French traders. Although there are many accounts of the village's decline, it was most likely destroyed in 1687 by an attack led by the Marquis de Denonville, Governor of New France, which pushed the Seneca out

of the area. Today, the area is known as Baby Point, a residential neighbourhood developed by Robert Home Smith. A historical plaque near the settlement's location can be found along the recreational trail on the east side of the river

12. OLD MILL, 21 OLD MILL RD.



Directions: Continue south on Home Smith Park Drive and turn left on Old Mill Road. The Old Mill is on your right.

The Old Mill is one of the first mills that operated along the Humber River. As the name indicates, the Old Mill has a long and rich history. The Old Mill area was the first industrial site in Toronto. Many mills operated along the Humber River in the 1800s. William Gamble built a mill on the site, which was destroyed by a fire in 1849. Gamble built another mill that was also destroyed by a fire in 1881. By 1914, railway builder and real estate developer Robert Home Smith had assembled the land and opened the Old Mill Tea Garden with Tudor architecture. Over the years, many additions were made to the site including the Print Room, which offered dinner and dancing spurring the Old Mill's live music tradition. Even after the sudden death of Robert Home Smith, the Old Mill continued to expand. During the 1990s, the ruins of the original grist mill were replaced by the Old Mill Hotel with a spa and an English style bar dedicated to Robert Home Smith. Today the Old Mill is a combination of hotel, event space, jazz bar, fine dining, spa and wedding venue.

13. OLD MILL BRIDGE



Directions: Continue east on Old Mill Road to the bridge over the Humber.

The Old Mill Bridge was erected in 1916 and

offers a picturesque view of the river. Two coats of arms can be found on its sides, one representing the Municipality of Etobicoke and the other representing York Township, because the Humber River is the border between the two areas. Old Mill Bridge is one of the few bridges along the Humber River designated as a heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act. The concrete piers and cement-clad steel arches with thick walls and stone facing gave the bridge enough strength to survive Hurricane Hazel. It was built

from a design prepared by Frank Barber, consulting engineer and Vaughan Township Engineer, who also built a truss bridge at Lambton Mills further up the river (see #9). While the bridge looks like a traditional stone arched bridge, Barber's use of concrete in the design of the bridge was a major departure from the traditional method of constructing.

14. RESURGE I: FIRST TIMELINE (2017), PHILIP COTE, UNDERPASS BELOW OLD MILL STATION, 2672 BLOOR ST. W.



Direction: Go back west on Old Mill Road and turn left onto the path to King's Mill Park North. Continue south on the path to the Old Mill Subway Station Bridge.

First Timeline was designed and painted by Philip Cote, Kwest and Jarus and is located on the supports for the Old Mill Subway Station in the Humber River Valley. Philip Cote created ten large-scale murals that depict the ten points in the history of the Anishinaabe, Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples, beginning 130,000 years ago, including cosmology, cultural and ecological history and teachings. Cote's murals are painted on an underwater background designed and painted by artists Kwest and Jarus, which connect the artwork with the surrounding environment of the river, wetlands and lake.

The concrete bridge was completed in 1968 and is internationally unique because its sole purpose is as a subway line and station. Located at the bottom of the bridge is a plaque describing Hurricane Hazel, its impact and legacy.

15. THE BLOOR STREET BRIDGE



Directions: Continue south on the trail and look out for a large bridge with a steel arch.

Built in 1924 in an Art Deco style, the Bloor Street Bridge spans the valley walls of the Lower Humber. It is one of the few bridges in the area that survived Hurricane Hazel.

DID YOU KNOW?

On October 15, 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck Toronto, causing 28.5 centimetres of rainfall within 48 hours. It caused the Humber River to overflow, and since there were no flood controls in place at the time, overflow destroyed 20 bridges and hundreds of homes along the Humber River. Rescue efforts were made by police, firefighters and citizens. Many lives were lost and the hurricane left 4,000 people homeless. On the west side of the Humber River, north of the Old Mill along the trail is a plaque honouring five volunteer firefighters who drowned attempting rescues during the flood.

16. KING'S MILL PARK, 9 CATHERINE ST.

Directions: Head east on Old Mill Road. Find a sign for King's Mill Park before the bridge. Turn right to follow the Humber Recreational Trail and look out for a set of plaques on the right.

King's Mill was located on the west bank of the Humber River at the site of the Old Mill today. It was a part of Lieutenant Governor John Grave Simcoe's settlement program in Upper Canada. It supplied wood for the construction of Fork York and early Toronto. Construction began in 1793, but the mill only functioned for a brief period, burning down in 1803. Although short-lived, King's Mill is significant as Toronto's first industrial building. You can read more about King's Mill's history on the plaques. King's Mill Park, located at the site, is one of a chain of parks along the Humber River and a great spot to stroll, hike, bike and more.

17. HUMBER MARSHES PARK



Directions: Continue following the trail heading south to the parking lot south of the Toronto Yacht Club and just before you reach Riverwood Parkway. Go to the river's bank and look east toward the marches.

Humber Marshes Park is surrounded by the Humber Marshes, a wetland area providing a year-round breeding habitat for many species of birds, fish and plants. The marsh levee ponds have remained the same for over 2,000 years. It is also a corridor for migrating fish such as salmon as well as migratory birds and monarch butterflies. The Humber Marshes are one of the few river mouth marshes in Toronto. There is a canoe or kayak rental and launch available in area.

18. OCULUS PAVILION



Directions: Exit the trail to Humber Valley Road and turn left onto Riverwood Parkway. Turn right onto Stephen Drive

and continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail in South Humber Park.

The Oculus Pavilion was designed in 1958 by architect Alan Crossley. The Modernist structure was inspired by the Space Age, with a large round concrete canopy with a hole in the middle. The upturned canopy gives the structure the appearance of a flying saucer. Projects are underway to restore the pavilion and create a welcoming community space for gathering and for educational and arts programming.

19. HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT WALL MURALS (2017), HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL AT THE HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT

Directions: Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail.

The mural is located on the Humber Recreational Trail on the wall that separates the path from the Humber Treatment Plant. It was designed and painted by artists Philip Cote, Kwest, Jarus and Kane. The mural showcase as combination of Indigenous teachings and contemporary abstract tagging.

20. HUMBER RIVER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



Directions: Keep following the path as it leads under The Queensway and the Gardiner Expressway. Look straight ahead to find the bridge.

Located at the mouth of the Humber River, a 200-tonne steel arch pedestrian bridge has become a landmark. Completed in 1996, the double-tubular arches with steel cross-bracing structure connects to the river's cultural history, specifically the Indigenous history of the river. The design includes a cross-bracing pattern that is based on an abstract thunderbird, a symbol important to Anishinaabe and many First Nations cultures throughout North America. The Thunderbird is a powerful symbol that carries many significant traditional teachings and is a protector of the Anishinaabe. The bridge's concrete walls are embedded with natural imagery including turtles, snakes and fish.

INSIDER'S TIP

On the east side of the bridge, the Martin Goodman Trail connects with the Humber Bay Park East. Opened in 1984, the Martin Goodman Trail extends 22 kilometres along Toronto's shoreline and is ideal for pedestrians and bike riders. It was named after Martin Goodman, former president and editor-in-chief of the Toronto Star newspaper, who passed away three years before the path was opened. The path is part of an interconnected network of trails, called the Great Lakes Trails, that extends 2,100 kilometres along Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Huron and the Niagara, Detroit and St. Lawrence Rivers. In total, the Great Lakes Trails connect over 114 communities and hundreds of green spaces.

21. SHELDON LOOKOUT, HUMBER BAY SHORES PARK



At the northeast end of the park, the Sheldon Lookout offers a spectacular view of Toronto's skyline. At the lookout, small plaques mounted on a rock indicate where the sun rises at different times of the year.

Useful information

- Arts Etobicoke: artsetobicoke.com
- Discovery Walks: toronto.ca/discoverywalks
- First Story Toronto: firststoryblog.wordpress.com
- Lambton House: lambtonhouse.org
- Montgomery Sisam Architects: montgomerysisam.com
- Old Mill: oldmilltoronto.com
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: trca.ca
- Transit Toronto: transit.toronto.on.ca

Sources

- Arts Etobicoke
- Carl Benn, *The King's Mill on the Humber, 1793–1803*
- Conservation Authority and Humber Watershed Alliance, Heritage Subcommittee in 2011
- Discovery Walks
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- First Story Toronto
- Heritage York
- Impacts, Environment Canada, Hurricane Hazel
- Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto
- Robert A. Given, *Etobicoke Remembered*
- Ron Fletcher, *The Humber: Tales of a Canadian Heritage River*
- Sidney Thomson Fisher, *The Merchant-Millers of the Humber Valley, A Study of the Early Economy of Canada*
- Star Metroland Media
- The Old Mill
- The Tecumseh Collective
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, *Crossing the Humber: The Humber River Bridge Inventory*
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, *Humber River Fisheries Management Plan*
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, *Humber River: The Carrying Place*
- Transit Toronto

Photo Credit

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library



LOOP 3

NORTH ETOBICOKE THROUGH THE YEARS



LOOP

North Etobicoke was originally covered in forest, until settlers established farms and formed small villages around two hundred years ago. North Etobicoke remained mostly farmland, until post-World War II when the need for housing led to the development of a number of planned suburbs and subdivisions. This tour takes you through historical sites from the early farms of Thistleton to the artwork that animates today's neighbourhood.


Location: Thistleton, The Elms


Interests: Art, History, Nature

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

Type: Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour

 From Islington Station, take the 37 bus northbound to Barkwin Drive. Go east on Barkwin Drive to find the first destination on the south side of the building.

 From the 401, exit northbound on Islington Avenue to Barkwin Drive north of Albion Road.

1. TIGER MURAL (2015), 2645 ISLINGTON AVE.



Local mural artist MagicFinnga WonG (Basil Jardine) designed and painted this beautiful mural of a tiger drinking from a pond, surrounded by lotus flowers. It is painted on the side of the India Bazaar, a business serving the community since 1974.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Albion Islington Square BIA hosts the annual Fusion of Taste Festival, which highlights local businesses, provides fun activities for families, and showcases international and local talent. In 2019, the BIA produced the inaugural Emerging Star in Etobicoke, a SPARK Project of the Cultural Hotspot, which showcased youth talent onstage at the festival.

3

2. MOUNT OLIVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, 1030 ALBION RD.



Directions: Head south and turn left on Albion Road. The church is on the north side of the road.

This distinctive building was constructed in the mid-century expressionist style of architecture and includes a sweeping, bell-shaped roof with numerous unadorned pinnacles along the top. The building is plain redbrick structure that includes subtle ornamentation and a large central window with a geometric frame that emphasizes vertical lines.

3. HOLI MURAL (2015), 2626 ISLINGTON AVE.



Directions: Head back north and turn left to head south on Islington Avenue. The mural will be on your right on the south side of the building. Parking in front of the mural is available.

The 120-foot mural is a representation of the Holi Festival, a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of spring and specifically Rangwali Holi, the morning of the festival where people cover one another in vibrant colours. The festival is celebrated in India and around the world. Many South Asians live in Thistletown and the mural is a reflection of the community. Mural Artist MagicFinnga WonG also uses imagery of an elephant, a good luck symbol in many cultures.

4. VILLAGE GREEN PARK 925 ALBION RD.

Directions: Cross the intersection at Islington to Albion Road. On the west side, head south on Albion Road. Follow the driveway on the north side of the community centre to access the park.

Village Green Park is the oldest park in Etobicoke. In 1895, mill owner James Farr applied to city council to purchase land along Albion Road. Residents formed a petition requiring Farr to donate one hectare of land to create a public park and the next year Village Green Park was built. The park is used for community events, including festivals, sports activities and community picnics.

5. THISTLETOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 925 ALBION RD.



Directions: Go back to Albion Road to the front entrance of the community centre.

The building has been serving the community in a number of capacities for over 100 years. In 1874, a schoolhouse was built in Thistletown and, in 1901, moved to the current location in a new building east of the Village Green (see #4). In 1985, the school was closed and re-opened after various expansions and renovations as the Thistletown Multi-Service Centre. The community centre has public recreational and arts programs and provides space for local community agencies including the Thistletown Senior's Centre. The third floor of the Thistletown Community Centre includes a historical photo gallery of the area's past. The rear entrance includes fun and colourful murals painted by MagicFinnga WonG. One mural features a nature scene with butterflies and a dragonfly, and the second mural has the name Thistletown painted across an entire wall with science fiction and space-themed imagery around it.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2019, Lakeshore Arts hosted RexFest, a Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot, at the Thistletown Community Centre, a two-day slam poetry competition showcasing local youth talent.

6. ANGA'S FARM AND NURSERY 89 BANKFIELD DR.



Directions: Continue east on Albion Road and turn left on to Bankfield Drive. Follow Bankfield Drive north to the farm located on your right.

Anga's Farm and Nursery is one of Toronto's last remaining working farms. The farm was part of John Grubb's property in 1833 (see #7), and was purchased in the 1950s by Percy and Gloria Kirby, who constructed greenhouses and used the land for growing produce for wholesalers and local residents. In 1980, it was purchased by John Anga, who continued to farm the land and renovated the existing house. The farm includes a greenhouse, orchard, a plant nursery and honey production.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1833, John Grubb arrived from Scotland and settled in north Etobicoke, purchasing land on both sides of the West Humber River and developed plans for a subdivision in 1847, originally named St. Andrew's after his home in Scotland. This was the first subdivision plan ever registered in Etobicoke. Because there was already another town named St. Andrew's, the name of the village was changed to Thistletown, in honour of their local doctor, William Thistle.

7. ELM BANK, 19 & 23 JASON RD.



Directions: Continue north on Bankfield and turn left onto Edgebrook Drive. Turn right onto Albion Road and take the next left onto Barker Avenue. Turn left onto Gibson Avenue and continue south to Jason Road.

***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

These two homes were originally part of John Grubb's farm and are now two of Toronto's oldest homes known together as Elm Bank. The house at 23 Jason Rd. was built in 1808 and 19 Jason Rd. was built in 1834. Both homes were built with stone from the Humber River. The older house at Jason Road is still owned by a descendent of the Grubb family. In 1846, John Grubb co-founded the Albion Plank Road Co., which planked Albion Road from its connection with Weston Road on the south end to the town of Bolton, Ontario, to the north.

8. FRANKLIN CARMICHAEL ART CENTRE, 34 RIVERDALE DR.



Directions: Go west on Jason Road and turn right onto Riverdale Drive. Head north on Riverdale Drive and find the arts centre on your right.

The art centre was the former home of Dr. Agnes Ann Curtin, who was one of the first female graduates of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto following the admittance of women to the medical school in 1906. Curtin distinguished herself as a child development expert and youth counsellor. She

moved to Thistletown in 1932 and built a log house. An accomplished artist herself, it was Dr. Curtin's dream that her home would become a centre for the arts in north Etobicoke. In 1952, Curtin formed an art group with Ada Lillian Carmichael, the widow of Franklin Carmichael, one of the founding artists of the Group of Seven and for whom the group was named. The Group of Seven was founded in 1920 and were a group of modern painters known for their Canadian landscape paintings. In 1959, Dr. Curtin donated her property to Etobicoke for use as an arts centre after her death, and in 1971, she opened the Franklin Carmichael Art Gallery. The Franklin Carmichael Art Group (FCAG) still operates today to provide quality art courses to the residents of north Etobicoke. In 2019, FCAG presented a Cultural Hotspot Signature Project, The WorkShoppe, a free mobile art-making workshop series that traveled to local retail hubs and the Fusion of Taste Festival.

9. WEST HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



Directions: Head north on Riverdale Drive and turn left onto Baker Avenue. Head west to Islington Avenue and turn left to go south. Continue south on Islington Avenue to where the road crosses the Humber River. Turn

right to Irwin Road to access the recreational trail from West Humber Parkland.

Islington Avenue crosses over the Humber River and the paved 19-kilometre West Humber Recreational Trail, which follows the path of the West Humber River and connects a number of parks along the water. Located east of Islington Avenue is the West Humber Parkland, which includes forested areas and recreational spaces. The trail is an ideal location for wildlife spotting.

10. GARBUTT/GARDHOUSE HOME, 105 ELMHURST DR.



Directions: Continue south on Islington Avenue and turn right on Elmhurst Drive. The building is on your right.

***Note:** Private property. Please observe the house from the street only.

The Garbutt/Gardhouse home is one of the last old farmhouses in the area. The house was built around 1864 with an addition added in 1915. The property was farmed until 1952, when it was sold for the Kipling Heights subdivision (see #11). While much of the surrounding farmland was developed for the subdivision, the farmhouse survived and now has a heritage designation.

11. REXDALE MALL, 2267 ISLINGTON AVE.

Directions: Return to Islington Avenue and turn right to head south to the Rexdale Mall. Turn left into the parking lot.

Rex Heslop established Rex Heslop Homes Ltd. around 1950. His first development included 400 homes in Alderwood in south Etobicoke. As Heslop continued to develop homes and plan communities, he simultaneously built industrial properties in the area to encourage tax revenues from businesses and jobs for the growing number of residents. Taxes went to the establishment of roads, schools and other services. Heslop continued to develop many suburban areas and subdivisions in Etobicoke, including Kipling Heights, West Humber Estates and The Elms.

In 1952, the first official Rexdale post office opened, and in 1956, Heslop built Rexdale Plaza on the east side of Islington Avenue. It was the fourth retail plaza built in Toronto, constructed as an outdoor shopping centre for the area. The surrounding neighbourhood was developed as a subdivision, also designed by Rex Heslop, and named Rexdale. The shops in the mall were enclosed in 1972, and by 2003 the old mall was demolished and redeveloped as an outdoor mall, harkening back to its original design.

12. BORN THIS WAY (2015), PINE POINT PARK UNDERPASS



Directions: Continue south on Islington and turn left onto Allenby Avenue. If driving, you will need to approach the road from the northbound lane. Continue on Allenby to Hadrian

drive and turn right into the parking lot. follow the park trail south toward the Highway 401 underpass.

The mural was designed by members of the Essencia Art Collective in collaboration with the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples. It was painted as part of

the Pan Am Path's Art Relay, a 14-week program that animated the pathway with arts projects across the city. As part of the project, organizers led anti-homophobia workshops in the local community and painted the mural as a celebration of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

13. PINE POINT PARK BANQUET HALL, 15 GRIERSON ROAD



Directions: Head west through Pine Point Park and pass the parking lot. Continue heading west through the park toward the Thistleton Lions' Club parking lot. The Banquet Hall is the first building on your left.

Built in 1936, the idyllic, Tudor revival style Banquet Hall uses Humber River stone on the lower level. The building overlooks the Humber River Valley. In 1925, the land was purchased for a new golf course, and in 1932, it was sold to Bert and Frank Deakin, who named it Pine Point Golf and Country Club. As Toronto expanded, they sold parts of the land and the clubhouse (Banquet Hall) to the Township of Etobicoke in 1950 for the building of Highway 401, which ran through the middle of the golf course. The Township of Etobicoke used the land to create Pine Point Park for use by the public. The former clubhouse is city-owned, but is operated by the Thistleton Lions Club.

14. REXDALE COMMUNITY GATEWAY MURAL (2013) AND MEETING PLACE MURAL (2014), KIPLING AVENUE AND BELFIELD ROAD



Directions: Take Allenby Avenue west and turn right onto Islington Avenue. Keep left to turn onto Rexdale Boulevard. Continue on Rexdale and turn left onto Kipling Avenue. If driving, park at the GO Train parking lot and continue south along Kipling Avenue.

The first mural, painted on the east side of the road, was a VIBE Arts project, which involved 18 local youth painting a 370-foot mural with the leadership of artist Emilia Jajus. The mural depicts the development

of Rexdale as we know it today, including early First Nations settlements, railroads, farmland, post-war residential development, various public transportation vehicles, the carousel at Woodbine Mall (see #1 on page 118) and the Woodbine Racetrack. The colourful feathers throughout represent the multicultural neighbourhood.

The second mural, also led by VIBE Arts, is located on the west side of the underpass. “Meeting Place” is written in large letters and the mural depicts images of humans interacting with nature along the Humber River. “Meeting Place” references the significance of the Humber River as a meeting place for many First Nations communities and the images show how the river continues to be a meeting place today. The mural shows wildlife interacting, as well as people playing, walking, exercising and dancing together. The 110-metre work was painted by nine youth artists, with artists Emilia Jajus and Sean Martindale as project leads.

Useful Information

- Essencia Collective
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Franklin Carmichael Art Group
- Thistleton Lions Club

Sources

- Anga’s Farm
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Franklin Carmichael Art Group
- Parks Forestry and Recreation, City of Toronto
- Star Metroland Media

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Franklin Carmichael Art Group



COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN NORTH ETOBICOKE



The tour begins at one of Toronto's largest parks along the East Humber River. Discover community-led arts initiatives that enrich the streetscape of north Etobicoke, and the libraries, parks and community hubs that enhance the community.


Location: Mt. Olive, Smithfield, Jamestown


Interests: Art, Architecture, History

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

Type: Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour

 From Highway 401, exit onto Weston Road and turn left to continue north on Albion Road. Continue on Albion Road and turn right on Kipling Avenue and head north to Rowntree Road. Turn right on Rowntree Road. There is parking in the plaza. The pedestrian entrance to the park is located on the north side of Rowntree Road, just south of the main entrance to the North Kipling Community Centre.

 Take the 45 bus northbound from Kipling Station to Rowntree Road. Turn right to head east on Rowntree Road to the park entrance.



1. ROWNTREE MILLS PARK, PATHWAY SOUTH OF 2 ROWNTREE RD.

In 1969, Rowntree Mills Park was named in honour of Joseph Rowntree, a settler in the north Etobicoke village of Thistleton. Rowntree established two mills on the Humber River including sawmill in 1843 and a gristmill in 1848. His mills were known as the Greenholme Mills. The mills brought industry and jobs to the area, helping to shape and grow the surrounding community. Rowntree Mills Park is located on the banks of the East Humber River, and is one of the largest Parks in the City of Toronto.

EXPLORE MORE

**HUMBER SUMMIT LIBRARY,
2990 ISLINGTON AVE.**



The Humber Summit Revitalization Project led an initiative to refurbish and revitalize two Bell boxes, a bench and message board to

create a welcoming and vibrant space outside of the library as part of a SPARK Project of the 2019 Cultural Hotspot. The larger box includes two works, one on each side, titled Allan Gardens Reflections and Sunset in Northern Ontario, which depict serene natural scenes painted by co-project lead Claire Carew and two Indigenous youth from the local community. The second box is called Brighten Your Day at Toronto Public Library, which was painted by co-project lead Nadia Angelini and nine youth artists from the Humber Summit community.

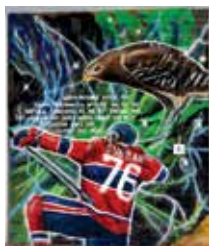
2. LEARNING GARDEN HUB, PANORAMA PARK, 31 PANORAMA CRT.



Directions: Head west on Rowntree Road and turn left on Kipling Avenue. Turn left on Panorama Court and park at the Rexdale Community Hub. From the parking lot, head east onto Panorama Park.

Located in Panorama Park, the nearby Rexdale Community Health Centre (see #3) operates the Learning Garden Hub, with programming run in partnership with Park People. The garden is used to engage local youth and residents in hands-on education programs. This initiative began in 2013, and has continued to provide jobs, youth training and park stewardship opportunities for the local communities. The garden developed from an initiative of the Weston Family Parks Challenge, supported by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, to ensure the long-term sustainability of Toronto's parks through local community stewardship.

3. REXDALE COMMUNITY HUB, 21 PANORAMA CRT.



Directions: Head back west on Panorama Court toward the Rexdale Community Hub.

The Rexdale Community Hub opened in 2012 and is one of seven community hubs in Toronto established as part of United Way Toronto's Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (BSNS) to provide integrated services and programs for community members. The multi-service centre

includes the Albion Neighbourhood Services, Delta Family Resource Centre, Rexdale Community Legal Clinic, Rexdale Women's Centre, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Toronto, a satellite location of the Rexdale Community Health Centre and the City of Toronto's Employment & Social Services. At the hub, community members can access arts, recreational and educational programs for children, youth and seniors; career planning, childcare, employment; housing, legal and medical services

A mural along the entrance by Magicfinnga WonG (Basil Jardine) was painted in 2016 with the partnership of the Rexdale Community Health Centre and highlights moments in Rexdale's recent history, including the establishment of Rex Heslop Homes Ltd. (see #11 on page 105), the Woodbine Racetrack, Rexdale resident P.K. Suban's drafting into the NHL and local musician P.K. Suban making it into Canada's top 100.

4. AUGMENTED REPRESENTATIONS: THE NORTH ETOBICOKE MURAL PROJECT (2019), FINCH AVENUE WEST, BETWEEN KIPLING AVENUE AND ISLINGTON AVENUE



Directions: From Panorama Court, head south on Kipling Avenue to Finch Avenue West. Turn left to head east on Finch and find the mural on the north retaining wall.

In 2019, Arts Etobicoke, Mural Routes, the STEPS Initiative and Womxn Paint collaborated to create Augmented Representations. This Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot included a series of workshops and training with the local community and artists, leading to a summer-long collaborative mural project. The murals blend together current and historic narratives to embody the voices of community members. Artists and participants wove together images inspired by Indigenous narratives, personal experiences of local residents, and the landscape of the Humber River into a collection of meaningful and vibrant visuals. Artists Bareket Kezwer, Mique Michelle, Moises Frank and Rob Matejka led youth, adults and seniors through the design and painting of three separate but interlocking mural projects. Bareket Kezwer led the Womxn Paint Jam as part of the Augmented Representations project, with 30 female-identifying artists coming together to paint over a few days and responding to the theme "naturally resilient."

5. ALBION LIBRARY, 1515 ALBION RD.



Directions: Head back to the parking lot and drive south on Kipling Avenue to and turn right on Albion Road. The library and parking lot will be on your left.

The Albion Library originally opened in 1965 in the Albion Mall Shopping Centre, moving to its current location in 1973, and continuing to expand over the following decades. It is one of the busiest libraries in Toronto with more than 350,000 visitors annually. In 2017, the library opened in a spectacular new 28,000-square-foot building designed by Perkins + Will Canada Architects, that includes facilities for children, a youth hub, a Digital Innovation Hub that includes virtual reality, robotics and 3D printers, public computers, several outdoor reading gardens and an art exhibit space. It is home to over 105,000 books in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Punjabi, Persian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Telegu, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese. The main part of the building has high ceilings and windows that let in a lot of natural light. The solid fir wood beams on the ceiling create an inviting and warm environment for visitors. On the exterior, colourful vertical beams give the building an interesting and unique look within the community.

6. BREAKDANCING SLOTHS (2016), 1625 ALBION RD.



Directions: Drive to Albion Road and Martin Grove and park behind the shopping centre on the southwest side. The mural is located on Albion Road to the west of the shops.

Karen Roberts' design speaks to the joy of dancing, and in particular breakdancing and

hip hop. The artist's decision to use the image of sloths represents the challenges to society's perception of youth as unmotivated, and instead showcases their passions, abilities and the ways in which they redefine contemporary culture.

7. DR. FLEA'S FLEA MARKET, 8 WESTMORE DR.



Directions: Continue west on Albion Road to Westmore Drive. Turn left on Westmore and right into the parking lot.

For over three decades, Dr. Flea's has remained Toronto's largest indoor and outdoor flea market. This international food court and local landmark draws over 10,000 visitors each weekend. The market gives opportunities to small and independent retailers.

8. POONAM SHARMA'S BELL BOX MURAL (2016), FINCH AVENUE WEST AND SILVERSTONE DRIVE



Directions: Head south on Highway 27 and turn left onto Finch Avenue West and go east to Silverstone Drive. The mural is located at the northwest corner of Finch Avenue and Silverstone Drive.

Poonam Sharma painted this colourful Bell box with dynamic forms and portraits that showcase the creativity and vibrancy of the neighbourhood.

9. LEN BRAITHWAITE PARK, 490 SILVERSTONE DR.



Directions: Go north on Silverstone Drive to Len Braithwaite Park.

In 2012, the park was named in honour of Leonard Austin Braithwaite, a lawyer and former politician who served in the Legislative Assembly of

Ontario from 1963 to 1975. Braithwaite served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War. He later became the first Black Canadian to be elected to the Ontario Legislature. During his political career, Braithwaite worked to revoke a section of the Ontario Separate Schools act, which allowed racial segregation in public schools. He served as the Liberal Party Critic for Labour and Welfare and was also known for fighting for gender equality. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1997 and was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2004.

10. ELMBANK COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MASSEY GROVE PARK, 10 RAMPART RD.



Directions: Go back south on Silverstone to Finch Avenue and head east and turn right on Martin Grove Road. Turn left on Rampart Drive and park in the Community Centre lot.

Elmbank Community Centre is a multipurpose facility, with many programs for children, youth, adults and seniors from fitness to arts. Facilities focus on music and arts programs for children and youth, including a sound studio for instruction in music production and recording. The community centre is located in Masseygrove Park. This community park is home to a number of recreational facilities and community gardens, and backs onto Elmbank Junior Middle School and Greenholme Junior Middle School. Local residents have joined with City initiatives to plant native species of trees in the park as part of reforestation efforts, planting hundreds of trees in 2019 alone.

Useful Information

- Arts Etobicoke: artsetobicoke.com
- Bell Box Murals Project: facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject
- Park People: parkpeople.ca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- Rexdale Community Hub: rexdalehub.org
- Womxn Paint: womenpaint.org

Sources

- Bell Box Murals Project
- City of Toronto
- Dr. Flea's Flea Market
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Rexdale Community Hub
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Public Library
- Womxn Paint

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- Bell Box Murals Project

NATURE ALONG THE WEST HUMBER



This tour along the West Humber River is a chance to escape from the busy urban environment. Discover the forest, wetlands and native plant species along the river and the educational institutions that support the conservation and study of these ecosystems.

Location: Claireville, Highfield, West Humber River

Interests: Art, History, Nature

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

Type: Bike, Drive

▼ Starting the Tour



From the 401, exit northbound on Kipling Avenue and turn left onto Rexdale Boulevard. Continue north on Rexdale Boulevard to Woodbine Mall.



From Islington Station, take the 37A to Queens Plate Drive at Janda Court.

1. WOODBINE MALL & FANTASY FAIR, 500 REXDALE BLVD.



Woodbine Mall opened in 1985, and today has over 130 stores. It is also home to Fantasy Fair, a year-round indoor amusement park in Ontario, and features a 1911 antique carousel created by Charles I. D. Looff, a German woodcarver who moved to the United States in 1870 and is well known for his hand-carved carousels, building 40 in his lifetime. He is credited with building the first carousel at Coney Island, a New York amusement park, in 1876 and later opened a carousel manufacturing business, hiring other expert carvers. Woodbine Mall's carousel is just one of 13 Looff-designed carousels in operation today. The mall also features the Crystal Kaleidoscope, an impressive 50-foot-tall indoor Ferris wheel.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Woodbine Racetrack originated in the 1880s, when the Ontario Jockey Club was created and a racetrack called The Woodbine was built in Toronto's

east end. In 1956, a new state-of-the-art 780-acre facility in the Township of Etobicoke was opened, with numerous tracks for thoroughbred and standardbred racing. The facility is known as the location of the final race of Secretariat, an internationally celebrated racehorse that competed in the Canadian International Championship.

2. ECOSCOPE 2: LET'S TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE (2017), HIGHWAY 27, SOUTH OF HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD.



Directions: Head north on Highway 27 over the bridge. Look for the mural on the east parapet.

Located above the Pan Am Path along the West Humber Valley, the mural was painted as part of the Ecoscope 2 project, developed by artist Kirsten McCrea. She was inspired by the nearby Humber Arboretum, which includes a rare part of the Carolinian Forest ecosystem. Learning about this remarkable forest and endangered native plant species, the mural raises awareness by featuring the gattinger's agalinis, small white lady's-slipper, small-flowered lipocarpha, slender bush-clover, horsetail spike-rush, small whorled pogonia and purple twayblade.

3. HUMBER POND REVITALIZATION

Directions: Continue to Humber College Boulevard and turn left again onto Arboretum Boulevard. Park in the lot on your left and enter into the Humber Valley towards the pond.

The pond was built not long after the college opened to manage runoff water from Humber College's north campus, to control the flow into the Humber River and improve water quality. The pond is used as a natural habitat for wildlife, a community gathering place, and an outdoor classroom for students. The pond's water quality and wildlife habitats have been degrading over the past decades so to address this issue Humber College, TRCA and the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division are working together on improving the water quality and restoring native plants and wildlife habitat, including using the pond as a living laboratory space for Humber College students.

4. PAN AM PATH / HUMBER RIVER RECREATION TRAIL



Directions: Continue south of the pond to the paved path.

The West Humber River Recreational Trail includes 19 kilometres of paved trail and is one length of the Pan Am Path. The trail follows the path of the Humber River and connects important natural areas, including the Humber Arboretum and the Claireville Conservation Area.

Along the path, south of the pond and located underneath the Highway 27 underpass is the Humber River Critters mural, created in 2016 by a number of artists who created a series of linked vignettes that showcase local wildlife in a variety of styles, from realistic interpretations, contemporary styles or cartoons. Animals depicted include bees, wasps, raccoons, squirrels, deer, hummingbirds, green frogs, beavers, ladybugs and many more.

5. HUMBER COLLEGE NORTH CAMPUS, 207 HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD.



Directions: Go back north to Arboretum Road and cross to head west on Spruce Vista through the Humber College parking lot to the front of the campus. Look for the Learning Resource Commons buildings.

In 1967, the Ontario government passed legislation for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology to be established to create a more skilled workforce. Humber College opened its northern campus in 1968. The campus was built on farmland, and when it opened, it lacked basic amenities for students. It did not have drinking water or sewage lines for toilets. There was no public transit and it was not easily accessed by paved roads. Today, Humber College has modern facilities to serve thousands of students annually, including state-of-the-art learning environments such as clinics, laboratories, recording studios and training centres for various trades.

Visit the Learning Resource Commons to see rotating activations by the Humber Galleries on a large wall in the atrium. The building is adjacent to the parking lot off of Humber College Boulevard.

6. HUMBER ARBORETUM, 205 HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD.



Directions: Return to Arboretum Road and head south to the Humber Arboretum.

Park, Forestry and Recreation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Humber College offer educational programming, research projects, conservation initiatives and public events at the Humber Arboretum.

The arboretum is located on 100 hectares of parkland and features landscaped gardens, ponds and wild areas with over 1,700 species of trees and flowering plants as well as an array of wildlife. The arboretum's deciduous forest is one of the last remaining forests along the West Humber River and it is protected as an Environmentally Significant Area by the City of Toronto. Two hundred years ago much of the surrounding area was covered by forests, but the forests were cut down by European settlers to establish farmland. This loss of forest habitats impacted the local wildlife and plant species, as well as migratory birds and butterflies. Humber College works with the City of Toronto and TRCA to protect the woods from invasive species and set up fences to stop wildflowers being trampled by visitors. In 2016, as part of restoration efforts, the City of Toronto planted over 400 new native trees in the arboretum, only using locally collected seeds.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first land grants in north Etobicoke were made in 1799. At that time settlers had destroyed much of the natural landscape and the land was used mostly for farming. By 1881, 90 per cent of the land was used for agriculture. Farms in the area continued until the mid-20th century, when the land was developed into suburbs and subdivisions for the growing population. Today, only one working farm remains in Etobicoke (see #6 on page 102).

7. HUMBER CENTRE FOR URBAN ECOLOGY



Directions: Enter the Arboretum and turn right to find the building.

The Centre for Urban Ecology is an educational facility for student groups and the public. Visitors are encouraged to explore the educational displays to learn more about the local environment. The building is positioned on the four cardinal points, with sides facing north, south, east and west. It was designed to promote eco-friendly sustainability, and was Gold Certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building Rating System. The centre includes a green roof that collects rain water for non-potable water uses, such as flushing toilets and watering plants, and the roof and earthen banks along the lower level help to insulate the building to create an energy-efficient heating and cooling system.

8. HUMBERWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, 850 HUMBERWOOD BLVD.



Directions: Return to the parking lot and drive to west on Humber College Boulevard and turn left onto Humberline Drive. Take another left onto Humberwood Boulevard and drive south to the park at the community centre.

The Humberwood Centre is an exceptional public facility due to its size and functionality. The complex was completed in 1996, in partnership with the Etobicoke Parks & Recreation Department, and houses two schools, a public library, a daycare and a community and recreation centre. The centre's facilities available to the public include a triple-sized gym and great hall, where a variety of recreation programs and services are offered.

The building was designed with many green features to help control flooding of the Humber River. It uses porous pavement to absorb water while directing run-off toward naturalized wetlands where the water is naturally filtered and cleaned. The gardens around the building are watered from rainwater runoff from the roof.

EXPLORE MORE

ECOSCAPE 1: NO PLANT IS AN ISLAND (2017), UNDER THE HUMBERWOOD BOULEVARD BRIDGE AT THE HUMBER RIVER

The mural is the first counterpart to the nearby Ecoscope 2: Let's Take a Walk on the Wild Side mural (see #2), painted as part of a Pan Am Path art initiative. The project was developed by artist Kirsten McCrea to highlight endangered native species of plants and wildflowers. Between the two murals, nine plant species are featured.

9. BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR, 61 CLAIREVILLE DR.



Directions: Head back to Humberline Drive and go north past Finch Avenue. Turn left on Claireville Drive. Continue on Claireville and look for the destination on your right. Parking is available at the site.

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir opened in 2007 and was the first temple in Canada to be built following traditional Hindu architectural guidelines. It is the only place of worship in Canada for the BAPS, or Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, a Hindu sect founded in Gujarat, India. The building contains 24,000 individual pieces of hand-carved marble, limestone and pink stone. The carvings were created in India and then shipped to Canada and assembled on-site. The Mandir was constructed in 18 months by over 400 volunteers, and includes many impressive domes and pinnacles and intricately carved features. The complex includes a Heritage Museum in the Haveli, the connected building to the east of the temple, which showcases the history and culture of the Indian-Canadian diaspora. The Haveli consists of intricately carved teak wood at the entrance, windows and in the interior.

10. CLAIREVILLE TOLL HOUSE, 2095 CODLIN CRES.



Directions: Continue on Claireville Drive and turn left on Humberline Drive and left again on Albion Road. Take the road west and turn right onto Codlin Crescent.

The tollhouse is the oldest remaining building in Claireville and one of the oldest residences in Etobicoke, most likely built around 1854. It is also one of Toronto's last remaining tollhouses. When Claireville was established, it overlapped three townships: Etobicoke, Vaughan and Gore. In 1840, Jean du Petit Pont de la Haye bought 100 acres located on the tip of northwest Etobicoke and, in 1849, registered a plan to subdivide part of the land into a village he named Claireville, after his eldest daughter. In 1846, the Albion Plank Road Company began to build a plank toll road from Weston to Bolton and included toll houses along the way to house fare collectors.

Plank roads were expensive to maintain, and after a decade, the roads were gradually changed to gravel. The toll roads could not compete with railways for the transportation of goods and there were no toll keepers recorded in Claireville by 1878. By 1880 the Albion Plank Road Company had dissolved.

11. CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA, 8180 HWY 50



Directions: Take Codlin Crescent back to Albion Road, and turn left to head west on Albion Road. Turn left into the Claireville Conservation Area, opposite Gibraltar Road.

The Claireville Conservation Area was originally acquired in 1957 to construct the Claireville Dam and Reservoir to help with flood prevention. This was in response to extensive flooding the region caused by Hurricane Hazel. The conservation area is located on 848 acres of land owned by the TRCA and is one of the most accessible conservation areas because of its proximity to numerous urban centres. The conservation area overlaps with three municipalities, including Brampton, Region of Peel and Toronto, and borders the cities of Mississauga and Vaughan. When the TRCA purchased Claireville in the 1950s, the land was mostly active farmland. The TRCA has undertaken extensive reforestation and natural regeneration projects to restore the forest that once covered the land. Many thousands of native trees have been planted by hundreds of volunteers in order to preserve the natural landscape and wildlife habitats.

Learn more about local wildlife in the Wildlife Activity on page 127.

12. ETOBICOKE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, 8180 HWY 50



Directions: Enter the conservation area and look for the building to your left.

Toronto District
School Board (TDSB)

operates the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre, one of nine outdoor schools with curriculum-enriching programming in environmental studies, outdoor adventure and survival skills, and ecological literacy. The centre offers day and overnight courses that immerse children in their geography and local ecosystems. Ninety-thousand TDSB students attend outdoor school programs each year.

Useful Information

- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir: baps.org/toronto
- Claireville Conservation Area: trca.ca/parks/claireville-conservation-area
- Etobicoke Historical Society: etobicokehistorical.com
- Humber Arboretum: humber.ca/arboretum
- University of Guelph-Humber: guelphhumber.ca
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: trca.ca

Sources

- BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
- City of Toronto
- Claireville Conservation Area
- Discovery Walks
- Etobicoke Historical Society
- GH360
- Humber Arboretum
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto District School Board
- Woodbine Mall

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Humber College
- Caitlin Carpenter



Three Inukshuks by Kiakshuk
Toronto Pearson International Airport

WILDLIFE ACTIVITY

Etobicoke is home to a wide range of plant and animal species, most notably within the Humber Watershed and southern shores of Lake Ontario.

The southern shores of Etobicoke are home to several species of plants and animals. Parks including Colonel Samuel Smith, Humber Bay Shores and the many green spaces are great places to birdwatching walks occur regularly and there is always something waiting to be discovered. Colonel Samuel Smith Park is one of Toronto's best locations for bird-watching, specifically during songbird migration season between April and May. The park is host to the largest concentration of red-necked grebes in the GTA. If you are interested in Whimbrel migration your best bet is to visit Colonel Samuel Smith Park in late May.

Birds



American Goldfinch



American Kestrel



American Robin



Black Capped Chickadee



Cardinal (Male)



Double-crested Cormorants



Downy Woodpecker



Great Blue Heron



Mallard



Red Neck Grebe



Red-winged Blackbird



Snowy Owl



Whimbrel

Insects



Agapostemon Bee



Cicada



Dragonfly



Eastern Swallowtail



Monarch Butterfly



The Rusty-patched Bumble Bee

Animals



Atlantic Salmon



Beaver



Coyote



Deer Mouse



Eastern Chipmunk



Eastern Cottontail



Eastern Grey Squirrel



Garter Snake



Midland Painted Turtle



Mink



Muskrat



Red Fox



Snapping Turtle



Wood Frog

Plants



American Chestnut



Black-eyed Susan



Common Cattail



Common Elderberry



Common Milkweed



New England Aster



Red Elderberry



Red Oak



Red Osier Dogwood



Serviceberry



Silver Maple



Staghorn Sumac



Wild Strawberry

Useful Information

- Biodiversity Booklet, at Toronto Public Library to help identify wildlife and birds: torontopubliclibrary.ca

Sources

- City of Toronto
- Humber College
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- Harvey Barrison
- James H. Miller and Ted Bodner
- Jason Hollinger
- Jessie Hey
- Jörg Hempel
- Simon Eugster
- Tars Schmidt



HOT EATS

A big part of celebrating Etobicoke's creativity, community and culture is reveling in the community's delicious and diverse food. **HOT Eats** highlights restaurants, cafés and bakeries in Hotspot neighbourhoods and with all of the Cultural Loops touring you'll need to stop for a bite, before you head out again. **HOT Eats** features over 75 eateries that offer a wide variety of cuisines. Indulge your taste buds at the following Etobicoke **HOT Eats** restaurants listed below.

LOOP 1

850 DEGREES PIZZERIA

3455 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

416-503-0850

850degrees.ca

Experts at taking a classic and making it original with the very best locally sourced ingredients.

APPALACHIA SMOKEHOUSE & BBQ

2416 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

416-901-7675

appalachiasmokehouse.com

Serving only Ontario raised hormone-free and steroid-free meat with all sides and sauces made in house.

BIRDS & BEANS CAFÉ

2413 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

647-439-4737

birdsandbeans.ca

Indulge in the simple pleasures with a latte and a view of the lake at Birds & Beans café, offering Canada's best selection of bird friendly free trade organic coffees.

BOMBAY ON THE LAKE

3007 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

416-850-3721

bombayonthelake.ca

Serving healthy and authentic Indian food, prepared fresh. Visit this Etobicoke Guardian Reader's Choice award winner today.

BUON GIORNO CAFFE AND PANINI

1134 The Queensway

416-252-1589

buongiornocaffe.ca

A variety of hot and cold Italian sandwiches are available to be paired a delicious beverage of your choice.

CAKESTAR

3431 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

416-259-9053

cakestar.ca

CakeStar specializes in custom designed cakes, but the talent doesn't end there! Try out their delicious sweet treat trays.

**DINO'S WOOD
BURNING PIZZA**

820 The Queensway
416-259-0050
dinos-pizza.ca

A fabulous wood burning pizzeria, using fresh ingredients – Dino's will not disappoint.

**EVEREST
HAKKA HOUSE**

2356 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-640-1015
everesthakkahouse.com

Serving an Indian variation of Chinese Hakka Cuisine.

FALAFEL ROYAL

3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-255-2388
facebook.com/pages/
Falafel-royal

Hot and fresh Lebanese food is Falafel Royal's specialty.

**FAT BASTARD
BURRITO CO.**

1180 The Queensway
416-252-0202
fatbastardburrito.ca

Fat Bastard Burrito offers a broad menu of burritos and quesadillas, aiming to bring you the freshest flavours.

**HI NA
JAPANESE RESTAURANT**

769 The Queensway
647-350-6555
hinasushi.com

An authentic Japanese restaurant with delicious food and excellent service.

**HOAI HUONG
VIETNAMESE
RESTAURANT**

716 The Queensway
416-503-8118

Serving Vietnamese fare in the heart of south Etobicoke.

IZBA RESTAURANT

648 The Queensway
416-251-7177
izba.ca

An authentic European (German-Austrian) family-friendly restaurant, famous for outstanding schnitzel.

KITCHEN ON SIXTH

2976 Lakeshore Blvd West
647-349-4412
kitchenonsixth.com

Take-out and brunch spot bringing British flair and a downtown vibe with a great patio.

**KOTHUR
INDIAN CUISINE**

2403 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-253-5047
kothur.com

Serving south and north Indian food for ten years, including dosa, sambar, kulchas, chicken curry, tikka, kabab, Indian pulao and biryani.

**MAURYA
EAST INDIAN ROTI**

2481 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
647-748-6001
mauryaeastindianroti.com

Check out the delicious East Indian roti!

NEW FLOWER DRUM RESTAURANT

2428 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-255-7717
newflowerdrum.ca

Relaxing, comfortable environment for friends and family to enjoy a hot plate of Chinese food.

NIMMAN THAI CUISINE

2451 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-255-4224
nimman.ca

Authentic Thai cuisine, Nimman Thai Cuisine has over 90 flavourful menu items that are made fresh in-house.

PAZZIA OSTERIA

848 The Queensway
416-252-1566
facebook.com/pages/Pazzia-Osteria

Come in and enjoy casual southern Italian cuisine.

PEARL SUSHI

2391 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-255-7275
pearlsushi.ca

Delicious authentic Japanese sushi in your neighbourhood.

POSTICINO RISTORANTE

755 The Queensway
416-253-9207
posticino.com

Combining classic Italian dishes with a modern twist; created with only the finest ingredients.

RANU THAI FOOD

3308 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-255-3830
ranuthai.ca

Providing the best Thai food experience with fresh, quality and authentic ingredients.

ROYAL MEATS BARBEQUE

710 Kipling Ave.
416-251-1144
royalmeats.ca

Choose fresh meats from the butcher counter and have it grilled before your eyes.

SANREMO BAKERY & CAFE

374 Royal York Rd.
416-255-2808
sanremobakery.com

An Italian bakery proving their passion for food, coffee and exceptional service since 1969.

SOUTH SHORE BAR & GRILL

264 Brown's Line
416-704-1820

Great pub and grill in Etobicoke serving pub fare and snacks.

SPOON AND FORK

1233 The Queensway
416-201-8688
spoonandfork.ca

An inspiring Japanese and Thai restaurant, combining an eclectic upscale atmosphere with excellent and interesting food and efficient service.

SWEET OLENKA'S - JUTLAND

23 Jutland Rd.
416-521-7444
sweetolenkas.ca

Proudly serving handcrafted single-batch ice cream, exquisite artisanal chocolate, artsy delightful cakes, confections of all sorts and famous cakesters.

SWEET OLENKA'S - LAKESHORE

2790 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-201-9444
sweetolenkas.ca

Handcrafted single batch ice cream, exquisite artisanal chocolate, artsy delightful cakes, confections of all sorts and famous cakesters.

TARTISTRY

1252 The Queensway
647-748-1818
tartistry.ca

A butter tart café with live Jazz music on Saturdays, furnished with art and antiques for sale.

THE HAPPY BAKERS

3469 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-708-9525
thehappybakers.com

Classic homemade treats with favourites including scones, cookies, squares, butter tarts, sweet and savoury pies, cupcakes and more!

THE KEBAB HOUSE

2977 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
437-779-8383

Great Middle Eastern cuisine including fast food, kebab and shawarma.

THE MIX BAKE SHOP

374 Brown's Line
647-686-2253
[facebook.com/
themixbakeshop](https://facebook.com/themixbakeshop)

The Mix Bake Shop offers fresh and delicious cakes made from only the finest ingredients that are wholesome and not too sweet.

THE PIE COMMISSION

927 The Queensway
416-848-7424
piecommission.com

Proud to serve handmade, gourmet and individual serving sized savoury pies.

THRIVE ORGANIC KITCHEN & CAFE

3473 Lake Shore Blvd. W.
416-252-7700
thriveorganic.ca

Promoting healthy and vibrant lifestyles by using all natural, pure and organic whole food ingredients.

TIMOTHY'S PUB

344 Brown's Line
416-201-9515
timothyspub.ca

Etobicoke's friendly meeting place and a live entertainment destination with daily food and drink specials.

QUEENSWAY FISH AND CHIPS

1236 The Queensway
416-252-7061
queenswayfishandchips.com

The original owners are proud to continue serving fish and chips on The Queensway for over 37 years.

LOOP 2

BONIMI RESTAURANT

3319 Bloor St. W.
416-847-1188
bonimi.ca

Serving delicious south European cuisine from former Yugoslavia.

CAROLINA'S CUISINA

323 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
416-239-4800
carolinascuisina.ca

Experience a comfortable atmosphere with quality Filipino cuisine at an affordable price.

CASA BARCELONA!

2980 Bloor St. W.
416-234-5858
casabarcelona.ca

Since opening in 1997, Casa Barcelona has been wowing diners with its culinary prowess, cooked by some of Spain's best chefs.

CIRILLO'S CULINARY ACADEMY AND RESTAURANT

4894 Dundas St. W.
647-430-8796
cirillosacademy.com

Cooking classes and catering are available at this great event space.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME CAFE

2991 Bloor St. W.
416-237-9414
cremedelacremecafe.ca

From the mouth-watering pancakes to the smoked salmon Benedict and homemade hash browns, Creme de la Creme Cafe is a gem in the Etobicoke food scene.

EUROPEAN PATISSERIE

5072 Dundas St. W.
416-783-9377
europeanpatisserie.com

With custom cakes and desserts for all occasions, European Patisserie has your dessert needs covered.

HENRY VIII ALE HOUSE

3078 Bloor Street West
416-237-1444
henryviiiialehouse.com

A British gastro pub with over 20 draught lines of premium imported beer, over 100 single malt scotches, nightly features and a wonderful Sunday brunch.

KINGSWAY FISH AND CHIPS

3060 Bloor St. W.
416-233-3355
kingswayfishandchips.com

An icon in the Kingsway community for over 40 years for its warm and inviting family friendly atmosphere, offering "Kids Eat Free" every Tuesday.

LENNY'S LASAGNA SHOP

4748 Dundas St. W.
416-239-2222
lasagnashop.com

Italian take-out and delivery including pizza, lasagna and other classic Italian dishes.

MAI BISTRO

4906 Dundas St. W.
647-343-3130
maibistro.com

A family-owned and operated neighbourhood bistro serving Asian cuisine with a Latin flavour.

PRINCE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE

5555 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-695-2828
princesteakhouse.com

Prince Japanese Steakhouse offers an authentic Japanese and Teppanyaki fine dining experience.

MITZIE'S JERK

3337 Bloor St. W.
647-345-0077
mitzies-jerk.com

Home-style Caribbean cuisine with traditional roti and jerk chicken.

OLD MILL TORONTO

21 Old Mill Rd.
416-236-2641
oldmilltoronto.com

Enjoy an elegant experience with fine dining in the historical setting of the Old Mill Toronto Dining Room.

ORWELL'S PUB

3373 Bloor St. W.
416-236-3339

A friendly neighbourhood pub with a great menu including daily specials.

OTTIMO RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA

3075 Bloor St. W.
416-236-8291
ottimoristorante.com

Serving authentic Italian cuisine with an extensive wine list and cozy atmosphere.

RICHVIEW BAKERY & BISTRO

250 Wincott Dr.
416-248-4662
richviewbakery.com

An amazing Italian style bistro with a daily hot buffet table.

SQUIRE & FIRKIN PUB

3335 Bloor St. W.
416-233-6531
firkinpubs.com/
thesquireandfirkin

Hang out with friends and family for brunch, lunch and dinner or any sporting event with great food.

ST. JAMES GATE IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT

5140 Dundas St. W.
647-350-5140
sjgtoronto.ca

Irish alehouse and restaurant featuring fine foods and a friendly social atmosphere.

THE CROOKED CUE

3056 Bloor St. W.
416-236-7736
crookedcue.ca

A Kingsway neighbourhood tradition for the last 23 years features a newly renovated restaurant area with a retractable roof.

THE IRISH SHEBEEN PUB

5555 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-695-9178
irishshebeen.com

Delicious pub fare, a great selection of on tap beers and weekly live entertainment – you're sure to have a great time at The Irish Shebeen!

THE RED CARDINAL TAVERN

555 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
416-620-5959
theredcardinaltavern.com

Looking for a traditional English pub? From brunch to late night dinner munchies and drinks, The Red Cardinal Tavern has something for everyone.

THE MONK'S KETTLE

3073 Bloor St. W.
647-348-4848
themonkskettle.ca

A craft beer gastro pub featuring local breweries and fresh fare.

THE WOKKER

5555 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-695-3177
thewokker.com

Specializes in Chinese cuisine, serving Cantonese and Szechuan food and crowd-pleasing dim sum since 1987.

TIM HORTONS

5555 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-626-0185
timhortons.com

Tim Hortons has been serving coffee since 1964. The chain's focus is on a top quality, always fresh product, value, great service and community leadership.

WINGPORIUM

1000 Islington Ave.
416-255-6464
wingporium.ca

Serving fresh chicken wings, fine European beer and afternoon domestic beer specials.

VIBO RESTAURANT

2995 Bloor St. W.
416-239-1286
vibo.ca

ViBo has been a staple in the Kingsway area for more than 40 years. Enjoy authentic Italian flavours and great service!

LOOP 3

BRAR PAKWAN

2646 Islington Ave.
416-745-4449
brars.ca

A vegetarian friendly, south Indian restaurant. Try the signature Thali combo with fresh samosas.

FOCACCIA'S ITALIAN EATERY

#3 1771 Albion Rd.
416-674-1799
theheartykitchen.ca

Focaccia's is famous for their handmade, freshly baked focaccia bread. Choose from more than a dozen amazing varieties. A popular favourite is the scrumptious hot pepper

focaccia bread topped with grilled chicken and vegetables.

GOLDEN JOY HAKKA RESTAURANT

900 Albion Rd.
416-742-8838
goldenjoyrestaurant.com

Golden Joy Hakka, an award winning restaurant, serves great quality fusion of spicy Indian-Chinese food. Specialties include chili chicken, chicken pakora and Hakka chow mein.

HAMDİ RESTAURANT

18 Rexdale Blvd.
(416) 745-7888
hamdirestaurantyyz.com
Specializing in East African and Somali cuisine including popular halal, roasted goat and lamb dishes.

LEMONGRASS THAI RESTAURANT

847 Albion Rd.
416-744-1368
lemongrassthai.ca
Rich Thai cuisine from central Thailand serving Toronto for over 16 years. Try chef recommendations pad thai chicken and shrimp, panang curry with chicken, cashew nut chicken stir-fry and mango salad.

LITTLE KABUL KABOB

2068 Kipling Ave.
416-741-2323
littlekabulkabob.ca
Beautiful interior space to sit and enjoy a variety of mouth-watering Afghan kabobs, steamed dumplings, fresh salad and house-made sauce. Great food, service and design. Family package and catering available.

MADRAS DOSA HUT

1123 Albion Rd.
416-677-3672
madrasdosahut.com
A spacious restaurant specializing in a wide variety of over 50 dosa options, biryani and vada South Indian dishes.

PIZZA HUB

6640 Finch Ave. W.
416-674-1010
pizzahub.ca
Family-owned, family-friendly neighborhood pizzeria serving reinvented slices and pies with locally sourced ingredients from a trendy new space.

PIZZA PIZZA

1045 Albion Rd.
416-967-1111
pizzapizza.ca
A quick-service restaurant with a growing menu selection- enjoyable for everyone.

SAHADAT KEBOB HOUSE

1150 Albion Rd.
416-669-0856
sahadat-kebob-house.business.site
Stop by Sahadat Kebob House for the chef's recommendation, a barg dinner served with qabuli rice and salad. Dine in or take out.

TRE ROSE BAKERY

2098 Kipling Ave.
416-747-5343
trerosebakery.ca
For over 25 years, TreRose has been serving delicious memories as Etobicoke's finest Italian bakery. Choose from a wide selection of fresh baked artisan breads, conventional groceries, and Italian and European-style pastries, cakes and coffees.

WOK OF ASIA

6640 Finch Ave. W.

416-675-2066

wokofasia.com

Wok of Asia specializes in Hakka, Szechuan & Thai cuisine. Signature dishes are chili chicken, Manchurian chicken, vegetable Manchurian pakora, noodles and fried rice.

XAWAASH

130 Queens Plate Dr.

416-747-7222

xawaashrestaurant.com

Counter-serve restaurant offering Somali-Mediterranean fare in a polished, contemporary setting. Serving freshly grilled meat and vegetarian entrees with sides such as hot, oven-baked pitas, fragrant Somali rice and flavorful salads.

ZAIQA RESTAURANT & SWEETS

1770 Albion Rd.

416-744-0111

zaiqarestaurantandsweets.ca

Indulge in the flavours of Pakistani and Indian cuisines. The menu here offers curry, BBQ and biryani dishes with vegetarian plates available. Delicious appetizers include butter chicken poutine and pakora.

@HILL.USTROTIC



REFERENCES

To learn more about local organizations, events and festivals, visit the websites listed below:

Business Improvement Areas

- Albion Islington Square BIA: albionislingtonsquare.org
- Kingsway BIA: thekingsway.ca
- Lakeshore Village BIA: enjoytheshore.ca
- Long Branch BIA: facebook.com/longbranchbia
- Mimico-by-the-Lake BIA: facebook.com/MimicoByTheLake
- Mimico Village BIA: mimicovillage.ca
- Shopthequeensway.com

Arts & Cultural Organizations/Sites

- Akin Collective: akincollective.com
- Applewood Shaver Homestead: applewoodshaverhouse.com
- Art Starts: artstarts.net
- ArtReach Toronto: artreach.org
- Arts Etobicoke: artsetobicoke.com
- Assembly Hall: toronto.ca/assemblyhall
- Ballet Creole: balletcreole.org
- Calligraphic Arts Guild of Toronto: facebook.com/torontocalligraphyguild
- Duke Ellington Society: torontodukeellingtonsociety.com
- Etobicoke Art Group: etobicokeartgroup.com
- Etobicoke Camera Club: etobicokecameraclub.org
- Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery: toronto.ca/eccartgallery
- Etobicoke Community Concert Band: eccb.ca
- Etobicoke Handweavers and Spinners: neilsonparkcreativecentre.com
- Etobicoke Historical Society: etobicokehistorical.com
- Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra: eporchestra.ca
- Etobicoke Quilters Guild: neilsonparkcreativecentre.com
- Etobicoke Rugcrafters: neilsonparkcreativecentre.com
- First Story Toronto: firststoryblog.wordpress.com
- Franklin Carmichael Art Group: fcag.ca
- Greater Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra: gtpo.ca

- Harmony Singers of Etobicoke: harmonysingers.ca
- Heritage Toronto: heritagetoronto.org
- Humber Galleries: humbergalleries.ca
- Humber Valley Art Club: humbervalleyartclub.ca
- Lakeshore Arts: lakeshorearts.ca
- Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre: lakeshoregrounds.ca
- MABELLEarts: mabellearts.ca
- Milkweed Collective: exploringcreativity.org
- Mimico Children's Choir: mimicochildrenschoir.com
- Montgomery's Inn: toronto.ca/museums/montgomerysinn
- Mural Routes: muralroutes.ca
- Neighbourhood Arts Network: neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org
- Neilson Park Creative Centre: neilsonparkcreativecentre.com
- Ontario Black History Society: blackhistorysociety.ca
- Ontario Historical Society: ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
- Sirius Theatrical Company: siriustheatrical.com
- StreetARToronto: toronto.ca/streetart
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca
- VIBE Arts: vibearts.ca
- Words by the Water Collective: wordsbythewatercollective.wordpress.com

Community Organizations

- Arab Community Centre of Toronto: acctonline.ca
- Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront: ccfew.org
- Friends of Sam Smith Park: friendsofsamsmithpark.ca
- Jane's Walk: janeswalk.org
- Jean Augustine Centre for Yong Women's Empowerment: jeanaugustinecentre.ca
- LAMP Community Health Center: lampchc.org
- Lost Rivers: lostrivers.ca
- Rexdale Community Health Centre: rexdalechc.com
- South Etobicoke Youth Assembly: facebook.com/seya.lamp

- Toronto and Region Conservation Association: toronto.ca/trca
- Toronto Parks: toronto.ca/parks
- Toronto Public Library: torontopubliclibrary.ca

Events and Festivals

- Doors Open Toronto: toronto.ca/doorsopen
- Etobicoke Lakeshore Culture Days: elculturedays.ca
- Fusion of Taste: fusionoftaste.com
- Lakeshore Mardi Gras: lakeshoremardigras.ca
- Lakeshorts International Film Festival: lakeshorts.ca
- Long Branch Fest: facebook.com/longbranchbia
- Mimico Party in the Park: mimicopartyinthepark.com
- Mimico Pumpkin Parade: facebook.com/MimicoPumpkinParade
- Mimico Village Tulip Festival: mimicotulipfestival.ca
- Rib Fest: torontoribfest.com
- Shorefront Festival: shorefrontfest.ca
- Summer Concerts in the Park: eccb.ca
- Sunday Summer Jams in the Square: yourlakeshore.ca
- Taste of the Kingsway: kingswaybia.ca
- Toronto Ribfest: torontoribfest.com

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