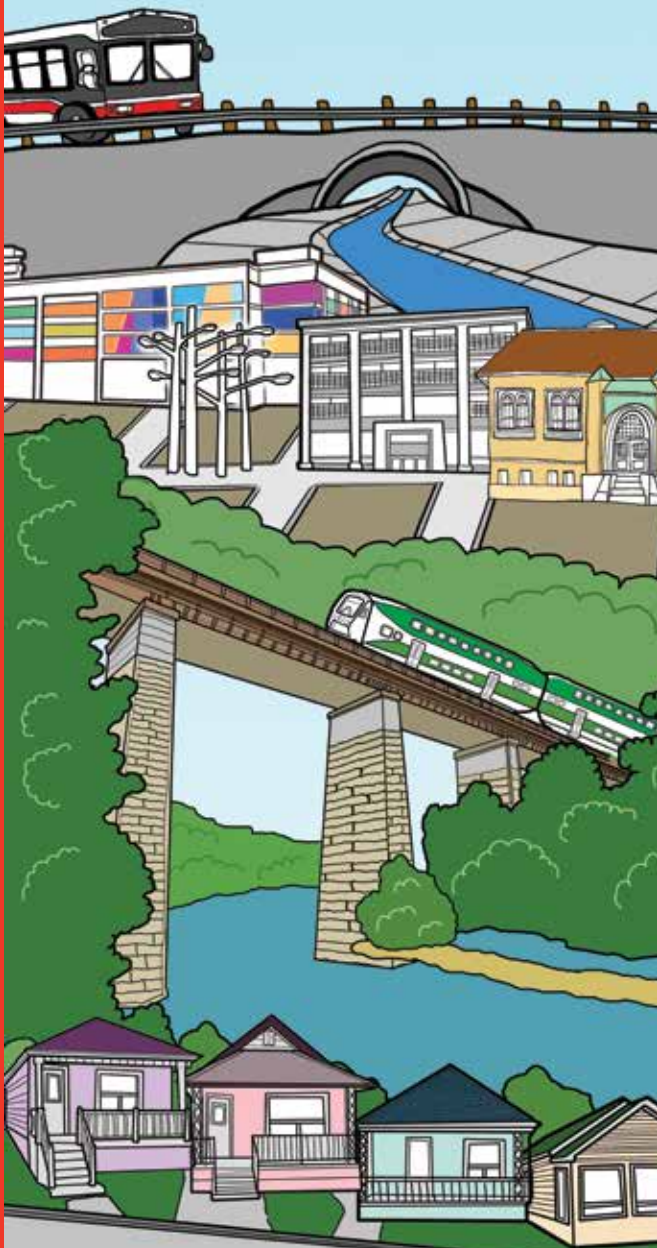


# EXPLORE YORK

Art, History and Nature  
Self-Guided Tours



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The Cultural Loops Guide is produced by City of Toronto Arts & Culture Services, Economic Development and Culture Division.

For more information visit [toronto.ca/culturalhotspot](https://toronto.ca/culturalhotspot) or email [culturalhotspot@toronto.ca](mailto:culturalhotspot@toronto.ca)

Cover art and interior maps: Daniel Rotsztain.  
Cover illustration is an artistic rendering inspired by community, culture and creativity in York.

# EXPLORE YORK'S CULTURAL LOOPS



-  LOOP 1
-  LOOP 2

# ABOUT CULTURAL HOTSPOT

From May through October 2019, the **Cultural Hotspot** initiative shone a spotlight on arts, culture and community in York. 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](http://toronto.ca/culturalhotspot) for details.

## ABOUT THIS CULTURAL LOOPS GUIDE

### LOOP 1

This loop explores York's arts and cultural hotspots that are woven into the fabric of local neighbourhoods and celebrated through arts initiatives led by residents, business improvement areas and local arts organizations. Discover local reggae history along Eglinton Avenue West and organizations such as Nia Centre for the Arts and Ontario School of Ballet that enrich Oakwood Village and the surrounding community. Discover the area's recent history of urbanization through immigration and building of public transportation and how the area continues to transform.

### LOOP 2

Loop Two focuses on the natural features and heritage of York. The tours explore the neighbourhoods located along Black Creek and the Humber River. The river is a window into the natural and human history of the area. Explore the network of waterways and greenspaces that restore natural landscapes, provide habitats for wildlife, space for recreational activities and gathering places for local residents. Discover some of the earliest settlements



and industries established along the river and the bustling communities that are there today, such as Mount Dennis and Weston, which are home to many exciting arts initiatives and organizations.

## HOT EATS

On your travels exploring York, make sure to discover the many local restaurants, cafés and bakeries serving up a variety of diverse and delicious cuisines.





## 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](http://ttc.ca/Trip_planner)
- York is a great place to cycle. For cycling maps and more go to [toronto.ca/cycling](http://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 NUNZIATA

From May through October 2019, the Cultural Hotspot, a City of Toronto and partner-produced initiative, showcased the vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods of York through a series of arts and cultural projects highlighting local artists and organizations.

The self-guided tours in this Cultural Loops Guide invite you to explore the area and to discover local gems. The tours shine a spotlight on York's diversity and connect residents and visitors to a sampling of the area's rich history and culture. Select a tour, and visit historic and architecturally significant sites, green spaces, murals and other places of community interest and importance.

I encourage you to put on your walking shoes, jump on transit or take a leisurely bike ride to discover more about York.

Councillor Frances Nunziata  
Ward 5 York-South Weston

## 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 the 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.



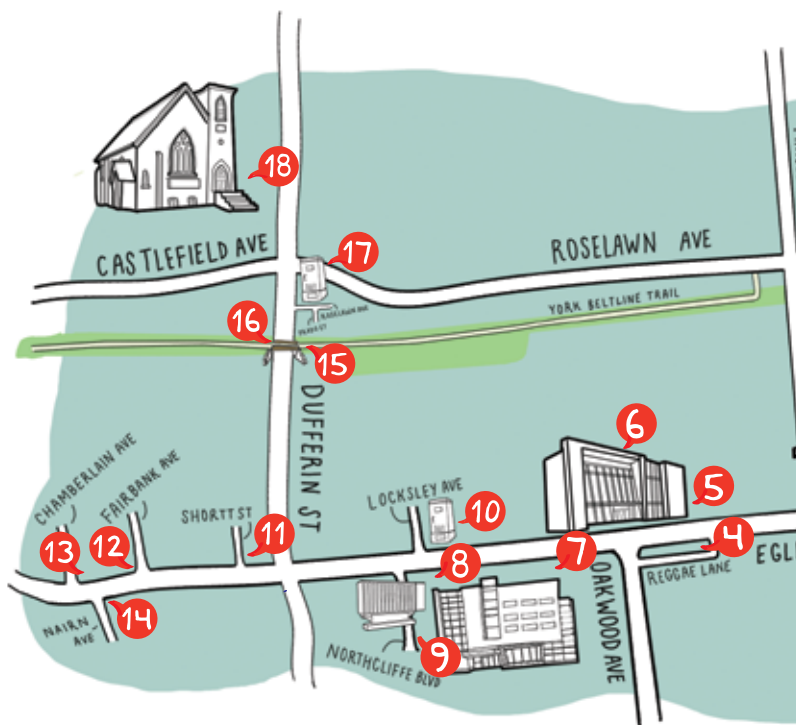




Resurge I: First Timeline (2017)  
by Philip Cote, Kwest, Jarus

# LOOP 1

## EGLINTON WEST GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION



From its origins as a rural farmland to streetcar suburb to busy urban community, this stretch of Eglinton West from Bathurst Street to Dufferin Street, home to Little Jamaica, is a major artery of the city that has developed quickly over the past century and continues to transform.

**Location:** Eglinton West and Fairbank

**Interests:** Art, History

**Time:** 1.5 hours

**Type:** Walk, Bike, Drive

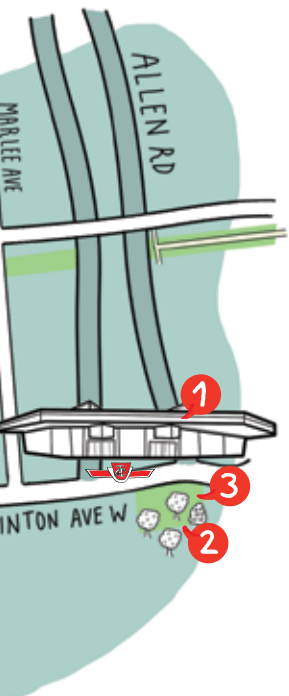
### ▼ Starting the Tour



Take transit to Eglinton West Station/  
Cedarvale Station.



From the 401, take the Allen Road South exit to Eglinton Avenue West. Turn right on Eglinton to head west to a Green P Parking lot, which is located at 1529 Eglinton Avenue. Once parked, head east to Eglinton West (Cedarvale) Subway Station.



## 1. CEDARVALE STATION (EGLINTON WEST STATION), 1300 EGLINTON AVE. W.

Eglinton West Station opened in 1978, connecting York to downtown by subway. This station is particularly notable for its unusual architectural features. The ceiling is a large concrete slab with skylights set into the waffle-like design. The large glass windows around the entrance are designed to make the ceiling appear to float. The station has sand-blasted concrete and brick wall finishes instead of the usual subway tile, and has windows at platform level. In 2009, a green roof was installed on the platforms to make the building more environmentally friendly.

The station's artwork can be seen at platform level, with two 2-storey enamel murals called *Summertime Streetcar* by Gerald Zeldin, depicting 1930's streetcars from various angles. When the Eglinton LRT opens, a new artwork by Douglas Coupland will be installed. This piece, called *Super Signals*, is made from aluminum panels with brightly coloured concentric circles on black and white diagonal lines to resemble the TTC's wayfinding graphics.

## 2. BEN NOBLEMAN PARK COMMUNITY ORCHARD, 1075 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Cross the street at the crosswalk to the south side of Eglinton West and enter the park. Follow the pathway into the park.

Toronto's first community orchard in a public park was planted in 2009. The orchard includes apple, plum, apricot and sweet cherry trees, as well as a pollinator garden. The initiative is run by Growing for

Green in partnership with the harvesting project Not Far from the Tree. The orchard is maintained by volunteers, who participate in irrigation, mulching, pruning and harvesting. Once the trees are old enough to grow fruit, harvests will be shared with volunteers and local food banks.

### 3. COMMUNITY ORCHARD ELECTRICAL BOX MURAL (2019), 1075 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Walk back up the pathway on the north side of the park.

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Ben Nobleman Park Community Orchard, artist Caitlin Taguibao was commissioned by the orchard, in partnership with The STEPS Initiative, to paint an electrical box located in the park with fruit tree blossoms, cherries and bees.

## EXPLORE MORE

### HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, 1950 BATHURST ST.

The Holy Blossom Temple is one of the oldest Jewish congregations in Toronto, founded in 1856 as the Toronto Hebrew Congregation. It was formed by two dozen Jewish residents and today it has over 7,000 members. The congregation has moved a number of times as it has grown, from meeting on the upper floor of a drug store in downtown Toronto, moving to a new downtown synagogue in 1897 and then to its current location on Bathurst Street in 1938.



The synagogue is an impressive campus-like building in Romanesque-Revival style that features a simple, symmetrical front facade with an elaborate stained-glass arch window showcasing the Star of David at the centre of the design. At the time it was built, the surrounding roads were unpaved and the area was still rural. The decision to build the synagogue in the northern end of the city instead of downtown had a significant impact on the area, leading many people from the Jewish community to move the surrounding neighbourhoods along Bathurst Street north of St. Clair to Steeles.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The neighbourhood along Eglinton Avenue from Marlee Avenue to Dufferin Street is known as Little Jamaica. Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, many Jamaican and Caribbean immigrants settled in the area and opened businesses including clothing stores, beauty salons, barber shops, restaurants and grocery stores. In the 70s and 80s, with changing immigration policies, around 100,000 Jamaicans immigrated to Canada, many settling along Eglinton Avenue. Today, Toronto and the surrounding Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has one of the largest Jamaican expatriate communities in the world. Little Jamaica continues to be a hub for anyone wanting to connect with the Jamaican or Caribbean community.

#### **4. REGGAE LANE (2015), 1529 EGLINTON AVE.**



**Directions:** Continue up the pathway and turn left to walk west on Eglinton Avenue. Continue on Eglinton West to the Green P Parking west of Alameda Avenue.

Reggae Lane was designated in 2015 to celebrate the musical legacy of Little Jamaica as part of the Laneway Project, an initiative to transform laneways into vibrant public spaces that celebrate their neighbourhoods. This impressive 1,200-square-foot mural was collaboratively designed by local youth under the mentorship of artist Adrian Hayles, in consultation with prominent reggae musicians and reggae music experts. The design is a celebration

Toronto's reggae traditions, depicting Little Jamaica resident artists, significant international reggae artists, and figures and symbols in Rastafarian culture. From left to right, the mural depicts: Bob Marley, Haile Selassie, Pluggy Satchimo, Bernie Pitters, Leroy Sibbles, Lord Tanamo, Leroy Brown, Carol Brown, Otis Gayle, Joe Isaacs, Jay Douglas, Stranger Cole, Johnny Osbourn, the Lion of Judah, Jojo Bennett, Nana Mclean and Jackie Matto. Many of the musicians depicted in the mural recorded and performed, or established music studios and record shops, in Little Jamaica. Also referenced is Toronto-based CFRB radio station, which was the first mainstream station in Canada to play Reggae music on a specialty program in the 1970s. At this time, it was one of the country's most popular radio stations.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The York-Eglinton Business Improvement Area (BIA) was formed in 1981 and contains 200 businesses. The BIA hosts Sounds of Eglinton, an annual outdoor music festival that showcases local talent. The BIA also hosts a number of public events and heritage walks throughout the year.



## 5. TREAJAH-ISLE INTERNATIONAL RECORDS, 1514 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Cross at the crosswalk west of the parking lot to the north side of Eglinton West.

Trea-Jah-Isle is a music store, juice bar and recording studio that has operated in Little Jamaica for over 25 years. The store is a local hub for music fans and musicians that want to be immersed in Jamaican music culture, listen to some tunes or record tracks in their studio. Trea-Jah-Isle aims to bring music from Jamaica and the Caribbean to Toronto and to keep Jamaican culture rooted in the daily life of the community.

## 6. OAKWOOD STATION (EGLINTON LRT), EGLINTON AVENUE WEST AT OAKWOOD AVE.



**Directions:** Continue walking west on the north side of Eglinton Avenue.

Oakwood Station is a stop on the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT). This project is particularly significant because Eglinton Avenue is the only major road to cross through all of Toronto's former municipalities, which now form its inner suburbs. Over the past century, the establishment of public transit routes along Eglinton Avenue West have contributed to the rapid development of suburbs, industries and commercial hubs along this stretch of Eglinton, from streetcars in the 1920s to today's buses and the LRT. The LRT connects neighbourhoods across the city, but it also impacts and transforms the neighbouring communities in other ways. For example, Little Jamaica has many distinct long-standing independent businesses that are struggling to stay open during the lengthy construction period. As the line acts as an exciting catalyst for new commercial and residential developments, there are concerns that it may also put these businesses at risk.

### DID YOU KNOW?



Many neighbourhoods along Eglinton West, including Oakwood and Fairbank-Caledonia, developed from unplanned, self-built suburbs. Self-built suburbs were significant in the development of many of Toronto's inner suburbs, especially East York, southwest Scarborough and York. Unlike many other areas of Toronto, which developed from planned suburbs and private subdivisions, unplanned suburbs were not serviced by basic infrastructure for many decades. Without property development companies, many of the houses are detached on small lots with distinct architectural styles.

## 7. TOGETHER WE GROW MURAL (2018), 1661 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Cross to the south side of Eglinton Avenue and walk west to Glenholme Avenue. The mural is on the west side of the building.

Commissioned by the York-Eglinton BIA, this mural was designed and painted by Ryan Smeeton to celebrate the cultural diversity of the area. The mural depicts a hand reaching toward a large rose of Sharon, a type of hibiscus flower and a biblical symbol referenced in some reggae music. The purple flowers that appear in the mural are Lignum Vitae, the national flower of Jamaica. The use of natural imagery in the mural also speaks to the natural features of the area, including the Cedarvale Ravine and the Beltline Trail.

## 8. MARIA A. SHCHUKA LIBRARY BRANCH, 1745 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Continue west on Eglinton. The next destination is on the east side of Northcliffe Boulevard.

The library opened as part of the Township of York Public Library Board in 1951 and was later named in honour of head librarian Maria A. Shchuka in 1997. Thanks to an extensive reconstruction in 2002, the library branch now offers many services catering to the community, including an art exhibit space, a youth hub, collections in local history and in multiple languages, large seating capacity and equipment for people with disabilities. The library is also one of four libraries across the city to house the Rita Cox Collection, one of the most significant Black and Caribbean heritage collections in Canada. It includes over 16,000 print and audiovisual materials about the Black and Caribbean historical and cultural experience.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Rita Cox is a storyteller, author and librarian who pioneered the Toronto Public Library's Black Heritage and West Indian Resource Collection. After her retirement from the Toronto Public Library in 1995, Dr. Cox was appointed a Citizenship Court Judge by the Government of Canada. In 1997, Dr. Cox was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for her outstanding work in storytelling and literacy.



## 9. BRAD LEITCH'S BELL BOX MURAL (2017), NORTHCLIFFE AVENUE AND EGLINTON AVENUE WEST



**Directions:** Walk south on Northcliffe to find the Bell box beside the library.

This dynamic mural depicts a close-up rendition of a blue jay in its nest about to take flight. The blue jay is a bird native to North America, and is associated with Toronto because of the city's Major League Baseball team, the Toronto Blue Jays. The blue jay in the mural is not blue, but is painted using a red, green and gold colour palette, as a nod to the neighbourhood's reggae roots. The colours are associated with the Ethiopian flag, which is an important symbol of Rastafarian culture referenced in reggae, in particular the flag from the reign of Haile Selassie, a former Ethiopian regent.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2009, over 300 murals have been painted on Bell utility boxes throughout Southern Ontario and Quebec as part of the Bell Box Murals Project.

## LULA LUMAJ'S BELL BOX, (2017) LOCKSLEY AVENUE AND EGLINTON AVENUE WEST



**Directions:** Head back to Eglinton Avenue and cross at the crosswalk to the north side of Eglinton. Turn right to head east to Locksley Avenue.

The artist directly references the area's reggae traditions through this image of a record being played with musical notes and records decorating a red, green and gold background.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nathan Redmon was the first African-Canadian to own his own carriage business, located just north of Eglinton Avenue on Belgravia Avenue. Redmon came to Toronto from the United States in 1913 and worked as a sleeping car porter. After saving his money for several years, Redmon started his own business, growing it to a nine-truck fleet, the second largest trucking and carriage business in York Township by 1937.

## 10. HISTORIC STREET MURAL, 1862 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Travel west on Eglinton Avenue to Shortt Street. The mural is on the west side of the building.

Commissioned by Mayor Fergie Brown, who served as the mayor of the City of York from 1988 to 1994, this mural depicts a historic streetscape.

## 11. FAIRBANK TRANSIT MURAL (2017), 1936 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Continue West on Eglinton Avenue to Fairbank Avenue. The mural is on the west side of the building.

This mural was designed by artist Jim Bravo and depicts an old Eglinton streetcar, a bus and the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT, as well as Fairbank Station. Painted before the opening of the LRT, the mural depicts future transit vehicles alongside the transit vehicles of the past. It was commissioned by Fairbank Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) to commemorate their transit transformation, with the neighbourhood's beginnings as a streetcar suburb, and to celebrate future developments.

## 12. SERENITY (2018), 2030 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Continue west on Eglinton Avenue to Chamberlain Avenue. The mural is on the west side of the building.

Designed and painted by artist Alex Bacon, the mural depicts a goldfish and lotus flower painted in elegant blue, purple and pink hues. It was commissioned by the Fairbank Village BIA in 2018.

## 13. GOLDEN FIND (2018), 2015 EGLINTON AVE. W.

**Directions:** Cross to the south side of Eglinton Avenue and head east past Nairn Avenue.

Artist Ted Hamer was commissioned by Fairbank BIA to design and paint this cheerful portrait of a bright yellow goldfinch on a colourful backdrop.



## 14. FAIRBANK TUNNEL/SKEIN MURAL, DUFFERIN STREET AT YORK- BELTLINE TRAIL UNDERPASS



**Directions:** Continue east on Eglinton Avenue to Dufferin Street. Cross to the east side of Dufferin Street and go north to the underpass.

This underpass is now a local landmark with its bright walls depicting abstracted twists of yarn, called skeins and pedestrian tunnels on either sidewalk painted in alternating rainbow colours. The mural was painted in reference to a yarn factory that once existed nearby. It was painted by artist collective PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson) in collaboration with The STEPS Initiative.

## 15. YORK BELTLINE TRAIL, DUFFERIN STREET AT YORK-BELTLINE TRAIL UNDERPASS



**Directions:** To the right of the underpass is a path leading to the Beltline Trail. Look for a colourful trail marker.

The Beltline Trail is a nine-kilometre trail designed for pedestrians and cyclists to cross through neighbourhoods in mid-town Toronto from Mount Pleasant Road

to west of Allen Road. The trail was established in 1989 on the corridor of the defunct Toronto Belt Line Railway. The railway was operated by the Grand Trunk Railway and opened in 1892. It was a commuter line to service the suburbs, but it closed after only two years. The path consists of three sections. The most westerly section is known as the York Beltline Trail. The section east of Allen Road is the Kay Gardner Beltline trail, where it then turns south, becoming the Ravine Beltline Trail.

### INSIDER'S TIP

In nearby Walter Saunders Memorial Park, on the York Beltline Trail, you can find colourful wayfinding trail markers produced by artist Bareket Kezwer and The STEPS Initiative in 2018. The functional artwork draws inspiration from the area's history by referencing the railway and textile industries. The markers resemble railroad ties painted with traditional weaving patterns. The park's entrance from Salinas Court cul-de-sac also features a mural painted on the road that plays with traditional weaving patterns.

## 16. BAREKET KEZWER, ROSELAWN AVENUE AND PRADO COURT



**Directions:** Continue north on Dufferin to Roselawn Avenue and turn right onto Roselawn. Walk one block east.

Inspired by a textile pattern, referencing the industrial textile history in the area, this mural complements a mural project in nearby Walter Saunders Memorial Park. The colours used in the mural speak to the reggae culture of the local community.

## 17. FAIRBANK UNITED CHURCH, 2750 DUFFERIN ST.



**Directions:** Turn back to Dufferin Street and turn right to walk north. Cross to the west side of Dufferin and continue north to the next destination.

This church was built in 1889 using bricks made in a local kiln and is the oldest building in Fairbank Village. Originally Fairbank Wesleyan Methodist Church, the building maintains its original character with its original stained-glass windows and few renovations or updates to the interior. The Fairbank Village BIA's logo was inspired by a carving of a tree in a brick on the north side of the building.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Fairbank Village was formed in 1835 when 19-year-old Matthew Parsons purchased farmland that encompassed the area and named it Fairbanks Farm. Fairbank Village became a suburb of Toronto in the 1880s and was nicknamed "the highlands" because of its steep hills.

### Useful Information

- Bell Box Murals Project: [facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject](https://facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject)
- Ben Nobleman Park Community Orchard: [communityorchard.ca](https://communityorchard.ca)
- Fairbank BIA: [fairbankvillagebia.ca](https://fairbankvillagebia.ca)
- Heritage Toronto: [heritagetoronto.org](https://heritagetoronto.org)
- Metrolinx: [metrolinx.com](https://metrolinx.com)
- Ontario Black History Society: [blackhistorysociety.ca](https://blackhistorysociety.ca)
- StreetARToronto: [toronto.ca/streetart](https://toronto.ca/streetart)
- The STEPS Initiative: [stepsinitiative.com](https://stepsinitiative.com)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](https://toronto.ca/parks)
- Toronto Public Library: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](https://torontopubliclibrary.ca)
- Toronto Transit Commission: [ttc.ca](https://ttc.ca)
- York-Eglinton BIA: [yorkbia.ca](https://yorkbia.ca)

## Sources

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- Gordon, Debbie, *The Erasure of Little Jamaica: Exploring the Role of Design in the Gentrification of Toronto's Eglinton Avenue West*, Dissertation, Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, York University (2018)
- Harris, Richard, "Self-Building and the Social Geography of Toronto, 1901-1913: A Challenge for Urban Theory" *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* (1990)
- Heritage Toronto
- Holy Blossom Temple
- Metrolinx
- Mural Routes
- Ontario Black History Society
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Transit Commission
- Trea-Jah-Isle International
- York-Eglinton BIA

## Photo Credits

- Alexandra Studio
- Ann Brokelman
- Bell Box Murals Project
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library



# ARTS IN OAKWOOD



Oakwood Village began as a streetcar suburb of Toronto between two major arterial roads, Eglinton Avenue West and St. Clair Avenue West. It is located just south of Little Jamaica and north of Corso Italia, a primarily Italian business area. The neighbourhood is known for its Caribbean, Portuguese and Italian communities. Oakwood–Vaughan is an officially designated arts district because of the high percentage of artists and recreation workers living in the area.


**Location:** Eglinton West and Fairbank


**Interests:** Art, History

**Estimated:** 1.5 hours

**Type:** Walk, Bike, Drive

## ▼ Starting the Tour

 Take transit to St. Clair West Station. From the station, take the 512 St. Clair streetcar to Wychwood Avenue. Go north on Wychwood to Louise Avenue. Turn right to walk east on Louise Avenue to Helen Porter Lane. Walk north on Helen Porter Lane.

 From St. Clair Avenue, turn onto Kenwood Avenue to park at the Green P lot just north of St. Clair on Kenwood.





## 1. ART LIVES HERE LANE AND HELEN PORTER LANE, HELEN PORTER LANE AND KENWOOD AVENUE

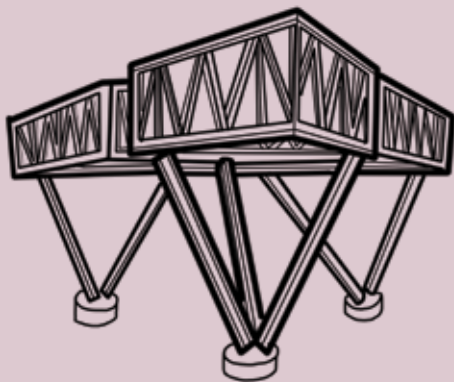


These two lanes are home to the Kenwood Lane Art Initiative, a community-led campaign to paint murals on residents' garage doors.

Laneway painting began in 2015 and local residents have added their own artworks since, including works on canvas and sculptures. Art Lives Here Lane was named in 2017 to recognize the artistic legacy of the neighbourhood. In 2015, Helen Porter Lane was named in honour of local resident Helen Porter, an author, storyteller and teacher of English and Drama at Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute. Since 2015, over a dozen laneways in the Oakwood area have been named to honour local residents.

### EXPLORE MORE

#### THREE POINTS WHERE TWO LINES MEET (2018), VAUGHAN ROAD AND BATHURST STREET



Daniel Young and Christian Giroux were inspired to create this piece, by the unusual shape of the traffic island caused by the diagonal Vaughan Road crossing Bathurst Street at a sharp angle and the history of transit in the neighbourhood. The large elevated structure is a bold addition to the neighbourhood, composed of 12 colourful steel trusses with LED lights on the frame to illuminate the installation at night.

## ARTSCAPE WYCHWOOD BARN, 601 CHRISTIE ST.

This converted heritage building was a streetcar maintenance facility in 1913. In 2008, it reopened after being adapted for use as artist housing and studios with a public green space, a greenhouse, a small theatre, office space for local community groups and a private event space. Artscape is a not-for-profit urban development organization operating in Canada focusing on making space for creative industries and artists and community transformation.

## 2. JUSTIN PAPE'S UTILITY BOX (2017), KENWOOD AVENUE AND VAUGHAN ROAD



**Directions:** Continue north on Helen Porter Lane and Kenwood Lane. At the north end, turn right and walk east to Kenwood Avenue. Turn left to continue north to Vaughan Road. The Bell Box is on the southeast corner of the intersection.

This playful utility box mural by Justin Pape, painted as part of StreetARToronto Outside the Box program, depicts a raccoon hanging on a branch with leaves, mushrooms and

acorns. The mural is inspired by local urban wildlife and nature, and reflects the area's many greenspaces.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Toronto's Outside the Box program provides opportunities for local artists and graphic designers to transform traffic signal boxes into works of art by hand painting them or creating graphic wraps. The boxes must be responsive to the context of the local area. Since 2013, over 350 boxes have been painted.

## EXPLORE MORE

### CEDARVALE PARK AND CEDARVALE RAVINE, 443 ARLINGTON AVE.

Cedarvale Park is a hub of activity with sports fields, playgrounds and very steep hills ideal for tobogganing. The south end of the park contains a ravine, wetlands and young regrowth forest. The park is part of an extensive ravine trail across midtown Toronto. On the south end of the park is the Cedarvale Stream, a reach of the now buried Castle Frank Ravine and tributary of the Don River that borders Toronto's East End. The park is also notable as a favourite spot of American literary icon Ernest Hemingway, who frequented it when he lived nearby for approximately eight months in the 1920s.

### 3. KAREN ROBERTS'S BELL BOX MURAL (2017), JESMOND AVENUE AND VAUGHAN ROAD

**Directions:** Continue north on Vaughan Road to Jesmond Avenue.

Artist Karen Roberts has a personal connection to the Vaughan Road Academy represented on this Bell Box, having attended the school herself. The design uses the school's colours, red, blue and gold, and includes the school's "V" logo in the centre. Roberts also painted the school's mascot, various sports figures, books and paper airplanes. After serving the community for nine decades, the Vaughan Road Academy closed in 2017 due to low enrollment. Graduates of the school include actor Neve Campbell, hip-hop artist Drake, actor William Hutt and former Toronto Poet Laureate Anne Michaels.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Vaughan Road was privately built by the Yorkville and Vaughan Road Company in 1850 to create access to farmlands in the York and Vaughan Townships. Unlike other city roads that follow a grid pattern, the road follows the path of a buried creek, resulting in a winding path that cuts diagonally from St. Clair Avenue to Eglinton Avenue.

## 4. PALM TREE, OAKWOOD AVENUE AND VAUGHAN ROAD



**Directions:** Continue north on Vaughan Road to where it intersects with Oakwood Avenue. Cross to the traffic island.

In 2010, a 4.9-metre steel palm tree was installed on the traffic island at the corner of Oakwood and Vaughan. Oakwood Village is home to many residents from Caribbean countries, for which the palm tree is a native species. The tree is symbolic of the roots put down by the Caribbean community.

## 5. LEANNE DAVIS'S BELL BOX MURAL (2017), BUDE STREET AND OAKWOOD AVENUE



**Directions:** Walk north on Oakwood Avenue to Bude Street.

This colourful and playful Bell Box depicts morning glories, a ladybug, a four-leaf clover, golden horse-

shoes and stars – all symbols associated with luck – creating a border around the portrait of a grey cat. Written in cursive across the top it reads: you will always be lucky if you make friends with strange cats.

## 6. NIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 524 OAKWOOD AVE.

**Directions:** Cross to the west side and head south on Oakwood Avenue to just past Eleanor Avenue.

Nia Centre for the Arts supports local artists and showcases art from across the African Diaspora through exhibitions and festivals. The centre focuses on creating opportunities for young people and emerging artists by offering arts-based workshops, programs, events and camps. “Nia” is a Swahili word for “purpose” and the organization is dedicated to supporting and highlighting those who have found purpose through art.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Throughout the year the Oakwood Village BIA supports local businesses and hosts community events. The BIA hosted the Oakwood Village Urban Market, a monthly community event and artisan market in Charles Brereton Park, as part of the 2019 Cultural Hotspot.

## 7. CHRIS PEREZ BELL BOX MURAL (2018), AMHURST AVENUE AND OAKWOOD AVENUE



**Directions:** Continue south to Oakwood Avenue to Amherst Avenue. The Bell Box is on the north side of the street.

Chris Perez’s mural was inspired by a Caribbean island landscape. He uses abstracted organic shapes to create a dynamic and colourful artwork.

## 8. ONTARIO SCHOOL OF BALLET & RELATED ARTS, 473 OAKWOOD AVE.

**Directions:** Continue south on Oakwood Avenue. The next destination is on the east side of the street.

Established in 1979, the Ontario School of Ballet & Related Arts is a non-profit organization offering classes in a variety of dance styles including ballet, hip hop, jazz and tap dancing.

## 9. JIM BRAVO'S BELL BOX (2017), JESMOND AVENUE AND OAKWOOD AVENUE



**Directions:** Continue south on Oakwood Avenue to Jesmond Avenue. Cross to the west side of the street. The Bell Box is on the south side of Jesmond Avenue.

Jim Bravo's Bell Box is a tribute to the custom tailoring heritage in the York-Eglinton and Oakwood area. The mural depicts a yellow measuring tape with a variety of suits, hats and shoes, and a pair of scissors as well as other tools.

### EXPLORE MORE



### SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES (2019), ROGERS ROAD AND SILVERTHORN AVENUE

Painted on the north retaining wall, the mural, by Christiano De Araujo and Natasha Dichpan, is a colourful tribute to the neighbourhood's green spaces and diverse residents. The mural depicts community members amongst the trees to

represent the way in which the community collectively grows like a forest – together. The mural also uses imagery of a boat and migrating geese to represent immigration and colourful shapes to encompass the idea of a mosaic, where each person, represented by an individual tile, becomes part of a larger whole.

### **TORONTO'S SMALLEST HOUSE, 128 DAY AVE.**

This charming abode is Toronto's smallest detached house at just over 300 square feet. It was self-built in 1912 by contractor Arthur Weeden in a space once meant to be a laneway entrance, but when the city neglected to cut the curb for the laneway, Weeden shrewdly built a house on the land instead.

## **10. OAKWOOD VILLAGE LIBRARY AND ARTS CENTRE, 341 OAKWOOD AVE.**



**Directions:** Cross to the east side of Oakwood Avenue and continue south on Oakwood to Holland Park Avenue.

Oakwood Village Public Library and Arts Centre is a hub of the community with educational programs for children, youth and adults, exhibition space for monthly shows by local artists, a music practice room and an auditorium.

## **11. THE OAKWOOD HARDWARE, 337 OAKWOOD AVE.**



**Directions:** Cross the street to the south side of Holland Park Avenue.

Built in 1928, Oakwood Hardware is now a restaurant that harkens

back to the building's original use as a hardware and building supplies store. The building's name, Oakwood Hardware, and year are engraved in stone on north and west sides of the building. The original Oakwood Hardware would have opened when the neighbourhood was being developed as a self-made suburb. The redbrick building uses decorative stonework around the windows, has an ornamental stepped roof and inset stones.

## 12. OAKWOOD AND ST. CLAIR STREETCAR LOOP, OAKWOOD AVENUE AND ST. CLAIR AVENUE WEST



### Directions:

Continue south onto Oakwood Avenue to St. Clair Avenue.

Oakwood developed as a streetcar suburb, a residential community that was strongly shaped by the use of streetcar lines. As the area grew and businesses opened on Eglinton, the Township of York entered an agreement with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to establish the Oakwood and Rogers Road Streetcars in 1924 to meet growing ridership demands. The TTC charged an extra fare when the streetcar crossed the city limits. Today, neither streetcar line is in operation, but the loop remains and is used for the St. Clair streetcar instead.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Along the St. Clair streetcar route, art installations were mounted at 24 stops. The installations were designed by 21 different artists using many different materials to create the artwork, such as glass, metal and more.

## 13. FEEL GOOD LANE, ATLAS AVENUE AND FEEL GOOD LANE



**Directions:** Turn left on St. Clair and head east to Atlas Avenue. Cross to the east side and head north to the laneway behind the businesses. Continue on Feel Good Lane.

In 2016, the laneway was named to honour the memory of Barry Luksenberg, a local rapper who performed under the name FeelGood and a member of a hip hop group named the 512 Crew, referencing the number of the St. Clair streetcar. In 2018, two



local residents began a fundraising campaign and partnered with StreetARToronto to hire 18 mural artists to turn the laneway into an impressive and beautiful outdoor gallery.

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### Useful Information

- Bell Box Murals Project: [facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject](https://facebook.com/bellboxmuralsproject)
- Nia Centre for the Arts: [niacentre.org](https://niacentre.org)
- Oakwood Village BIA: [oakwoodvillage.ca](https://oakwoodvillage.ca)
- Ontario School of Ballet: [ontarioschoolofballet.com/](https://ontarioschoolofballet.com/)
- StreetARToronto: [toronto.ca/streetart](https://toronto.ca/streetart)
- The Laneway Project: [thelanewayproject.ca](https://thelanewayproject.ca)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](https://toronto.ca/parks)
- Toronto Public Library: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](https://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

### Sources

- Artscape
- Bell Box Murals Project
- City of Toronto
- Nia Centre for the Arts
- Oakwood Village BIA
- Star Metroland Media
- The Laneway Project
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Public Library

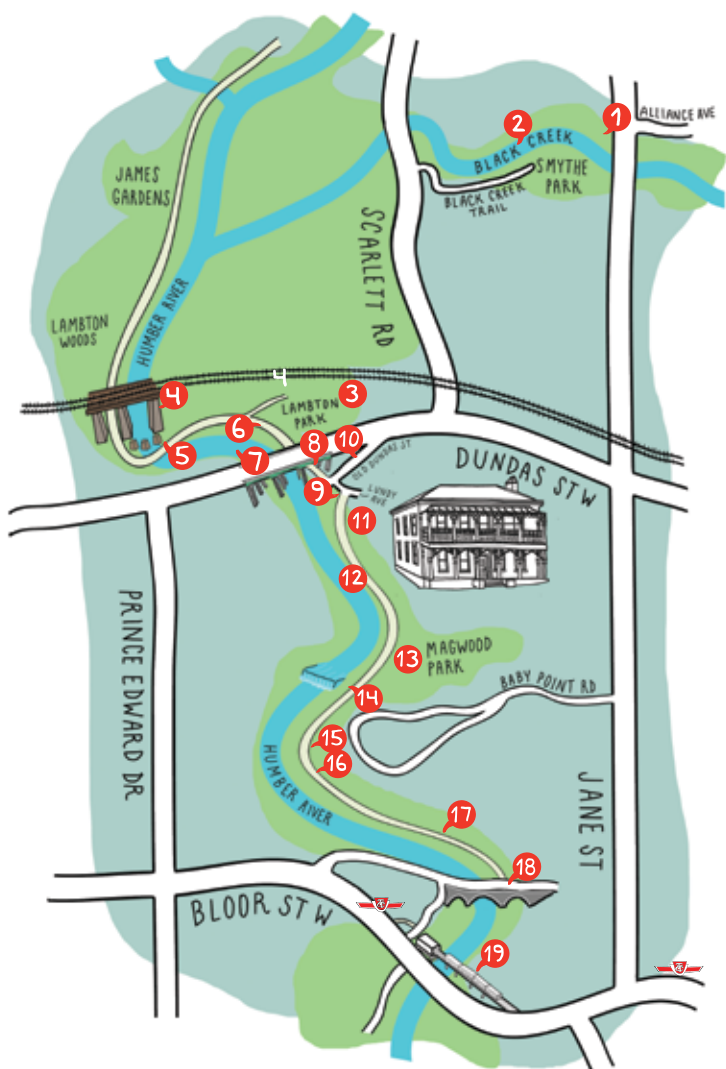
### Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library



# LOOP 2

## HISTORY ON THE HUMBER



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:** Smythe Park, Lambton, Baby Point


**Interests:** Nature, History

**Time:** 1.5 hours

**Type:** Walk, Bike, Drive

## ▼ Starting the Tour

 If cycling, take the 35 bus from Jane Station to Alliance Avenue. Cross at the crosswalk to the west side of Jane Street and turn left to find the park. If walking, start at #3 by taking the 55 bus from High Park Station to Howland Avenue.

 Park at the Smythe Park parking lot, accessed off Alliance Avenue. The trail is to the west of the parking lot.

### 1. SMYTHE PARK, 860 JANE ST.

Smythe Park features walking trails along Black Creek, several ponds, wetlands and recreational facilities. The park is named for Conn Smythe, a former coach, general manager and owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto's National Hockey League team. He acquired the team in 1927, changing the name to the Toronto Maple Leafs from their former name, the St. Patricks. The team won seven championships under his ownership. In 1931, Conn Smythe built Maple Leaf Gardens, an arena located downtown on College Street. He also operated several businesses, including the Conn Smythe Limited Company, a sand and gravel enterprise. Smythe Park is located on what was once the quarry for Smythe's business. He was a resident of Baby Point, a nearby neighbourhood (see #16).

### 2. BLACK CREEK, 860 JANE ST.



**Directions:**

Continue west on the trail.

Black Creek was formed through natural geological processes 12,000 years ago when glacier melt-water eroded deep valleys and shaped the landscape. Black Creek flows from the city of Vaughan into the Humber River. Today, the majority of the watershed is urbanized, so much of the original creek has been straightened, channelized and buried. Many of the initiatives to channelize the creek stemmed from a need to prevent flooding risks after Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

### 3. LAMBTON PARK, 4100 DUNDAS ST. W



#### **Directions:**

Continue west on the trail to Scarlett Road. Turn left to walk south on Scarlett Road to Dundas Street. Turn right onto Dundas Street

and head west to Howland Avenue. Turn right onto Howland past the arena and find the trail on the north side of the building.

This hidden green patch contains trails through forested and tall grass parkland and connects with the Humber River Recreational Trail. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) operates initiatives to preserve the area's rare black oak savannah, a type of grassy woodlands, as well as other native plant species. This ecosystem was common in the area before European settlement on the land, but it declined due to urbanization. To preserve the ecosystem, TRCA carries out controlled burns, an important tool used to reduce invasive species, encourage new growth and restore a rich variety of native plant species, such as staghorn sumac. Controlled burnings of the black oak savannah was a practice of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples who occupied the area before European colonization.

### 4. LAMBTON CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY BRIDGE



**Directions:** Continue west on the trail until you can see the rail bridge crossing the Humber.

Crossing the Humber River north of Lambton Park is the 171-metre bridge originally constructed for the Credit Valley Railway (CVR). The bridge was completed in 1874 with one track that 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 located in the Junction neighbourhood. Lambton Yards is still in use today, accommodating trains carrying freight within parts of Southwestern Ontario. The railway was essential for the development of milling industries along the Humber River, including Lambton Mills. The CVR also delivered reddish-brown sandstone quarried at Forks of the Credit, 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 be still seen.

## 5. GUELPH RADIAL LINE BRIDGE TOWER FOOTINGS



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail. The tower footings are located at the river's edge.

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.

## 6. THE SHARED PATH/LE SENTIER PARTAGÉ: TORONTO HISTORICAL PARK

**Directions:** Descend the trail on the west side to where it meets up with the Humber Recreation Trail by the Humber River.

The Shared Path is part of the Humber River Recreational Trail, which follows along the Humber River between Lake Ontario and the Dundas Street Bridge. The trail was established on a 50 kilometre-long footpath known as the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, which runs along the Humber River to Lake Simcoe and was established by First Nations peoples thousands of years ago. Today, the Shared Path is Toronto's first historical park and consists of 13 Story Circles, which are circular sections of the path with historical plaques, along both sides of the Humber below Dundas Street. The plaques describing each site are written in English, French and Ojibwe.

## 7. DUNDAS STREET BRIDGE, HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



**Directions:** Turn left to walk south along the trail. Continue walking south along the trail to the Dundas Street 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.

## EXPLORE MORE

### LAMBTON WOODS, 1193 ROYAL YORK RD.

Lambton Woods is located in Etobicoke on the west bank of the Humber River and contains many animals and birds, as well as mature trees. It is located on land that was once part of Lambton Mills. The woods contain trails through deciduous forests on steep valley slopes and some open wetlands. The woods provide a habitat for a variety of wildlife, making it an ideal location for bird watching.

## 8. ALBUM MURAL, BELOW THE DUNDAS STREET WEST BRIDGE



**Directions:** Continue walking south along the trail to 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 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 families. 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.

## LAMBTON MILLS BRIDGE ABUTMENTS, STORY CIRCLE 12, HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



**Directions:** Continue walking south along the trail.

The first Dundas Street crossing of the Humber River was located at Lambton Mills, at which there were a series of bridges between in 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. It 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, which runs along the Humber Recreation Trail from Dundas Street to Lake Ontario.

## 9. LAMBTON HOUSE, 4066 OLD DUNDAS ST.



**Directions:**

Take the path east to exit onto Lundy Avenue and turn left to head to Old Dundas Street. The destination is on the north side opposite Lundy Avenue.

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 10. MOCCASIN IDENTIFIER PROJECT, PARK ENTRANCE AT LUNDY AVENUE



**Directions:** Walk back down Lundy Avenue and the park path to the Humber Recreation Trail. Look for the moccasin stencils along this path near the bike racks.

The Moccasin Identifier Project is led by Carolyn King, a former chief of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the first woman elected as their chief. Stencils of moccasins are painted in places of significance to various First Nations communities, such as a sacred site, trail, ancestral village, medicine site and burial grounds. The stencils reflect different moccasin designs belonging to Anishinaabe, Cree, Seneca, Miami and Wendat peoples. The painted moccasin that marks the ground recognizes and honours the traditional territories of First Nations. It also reminds the public to recognize and honour the traditional territories of First Nations and that First Nations have a significant history in the area along the Humber River and that they are present in the area today. The project focuses on the whole of Ontario.

## 11. HUMBER RIVER, HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail.

The Humber River was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1999 in recognition of its importance to the cultural heritage of Canada. 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, where it then branches in two directions. The eastern branch flows 63 kilometres and the west branch flows 45 kilometres. However, the Humber River connects to approximately 750 creeks and tributaries north of the city.

The Humber River and its banks are rich with wildlife and plant life. To date, 918 plant species have been identified, along with 143 birds, 30 mammals and 61 species of fish. 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. TRCA has many projects to restore environmentally sensitive ecosystems, including wetlands.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Carrying Place Trail is one of the oldest established transportation routes in Canada. It was used to travel inland and to trade goods between nations. When the French arrived, they used the route to trade with the Wendat nation. The French called the trail Le Portage de Toronto. By the 1670s, the Haudenosaunee (Five Nations Iroquois) had established villages along the river, including the Seneca settlement of Teiaiagon (see #15), and by 1700, the Mississaugas had taken control of the area. The French built their first trading post on the Humber on this trail in 1720, but by the 1780s, the British had acquired much of the land along the Humber River and established villages and industries along the trail route. The trail’s original route can still be seen in the development of city streets and country roads.

## 12. MAGWOOD SANCTUARY, 1 PASADENA GARDENS



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail. The park is located to your left.

This park is home to deciduous forest and wetland habitats. Community groups have conducted walking tours and plantings of the area to educate the community on the environmental and cultural heritage of Magwood and to combat invasive plant species. The park is located on the traditional territory of many First Nations peoples, and is a sacred place. The Thunderbird Burial Mound is located within the park and is estimated to be 6,000 years old. The park is also significant due to its relationship with the village of Teiaiagon (see #15). This burial mound is under threat from erosion and from pedestrian traffic in the area. The Taiaiako'n Historical Preservation Society is actively protecting the site.

## 13. HUMBER RIVER DAMS, HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail.

These structures provide flood and erosion control as well as a passage for jumping fish such as salmon and rainbow trout upstream. More than 25 fish species are known to inhabit this part of 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.

## 14. TEIAIAGON, STORY CIRCLE 11 ON HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail. When the trail winds to the west, look for the story circle with plaques.

First Nations peoples have been on this land for thousands of years, and in the mid-1600s Teiaiagon (Taiaiako'n) was a village established by the Seneca. Because of its connection to the Great Lakes and the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, Teiaiagon was stra-

tegitally 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.

## 15. BABY POINT NEIGHBOURHOOD, STORY CIRCLE 11 ON HUMBER RECREATIONAL TRAIL

**Directions:** A plaque describing the neighbourhood is located in the story circle.

The Baby Point neighbourhood is located on a plateau above the Humber River Valley where the village of Teiaiagon (see #15) was once located. The French built a fort, Le Magasin Royale, at the site in 1720, which was used as a hub for trade and reinforced their presence, with Fort Rouillé located on the lakeshore east of the Humber River. Around a decade later, the fort was in decline because of the rise of British competition in the fur trade. In 1820, Baby Point was purchased by, and became an estate of, Colonel Jacques (James) Baby, who was a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils of Upper Canada and was later appointed as Inspector-General of Finances of Upper Canada in 1815. The Baby property was later purchased by the Federal Government in 1909 and was sold to Robert Home Smith, a prominent developer in Etobicoke and the Humber River area, who built the residential neighbourhood located there today.

## 16. ÉTIENNE BRÛLÉ PARK, 10 CATHERINE ST.

**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail.

This parkette is named after Étienne Brûlé, a French interpreter, explorer, cartographer and fur trader, who was one of the first Europeans to explore beyond the St. Lawrence River and see Lake Ontario and the Humber River in 1615. He was a guide and interpreter for Samuel de Champlain, a French colonist and explorer who established Quebec City in 1608. Brûlé established relations with the Wendat peoples in New France and nearby areas to aid organization of the fur trade. Look out for a rock with a large blue plaque located in the park to read more about the history of the Humber River.

## 17. OLD MILL BRIDGE, OLD MILL ROAD AND CATHERINE STREET



**Directions:** Continue south on the Humber Recreational Trail to Old Mill Bridge.

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.

### 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, 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.

## 18. RESURGE I: FIRST TIMELINE (2017) UNDERPASS BELOW OLD MILL STATION, 2672 BLOOR ST. W.



**Directions:** Cross the bridge onto Old Mill Road. Turn left to the entrance of Kings Mill Park North. Walk south on the path to reach the bridge crossing the Humber River.

First Timeline was designed and painted by Philip Cote, Kwest and Jarus and is located on the supports for Old Mill Subway Station in the Humber River Valley. Philip Cote created ten large-scale murals that depict 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.

### EXPLORE MORE

#### THE JUNCTION, DUNDAS STREET WEST AND KEELE STREET



The Village of West Toronto Junction was founded in 1884, later becoming the Town of Toronto Junction before it was

amalgamated with the City of Toronto in 1909. The suburb formed because of its proximity to

the intersections of four railway lines. The Ontario Stockyards opened in the Junction in 1903, which included a livestock market and abattoir. The prevalence of the stockyards and meat-packing industries that surrounded the Junction is one of the reasons that Toronto was nicknamed Hogtown. Today, the Junction is a vibrant dining and shopping district and the stockyards have been redeveloped into a shopping centre. In 2009, the West Toronto Railpath was opened, a pedestrianized trail that links the Junction to the Roncesvalles area.

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### Useful Information

- Canadian Heritage Rivers System: [chrs.ca](http://chrs.ca)
- Heritage York: [lambtonhouse.org](http://lambtonhouse.org)
- Lambton House: [lambtonhouse.org](http://lambtonhouse.org)
- Moccasin Identifier Project: [mncfn.ca/mncfnevent/the-moccasin-identifier-project](http://mncfn.ca/mncfnevent/the-moccasin-identifier-project)
- Taiaiako'n Historical Preservation Society: [taiaiakon.wordpress.com](http://taiaiakon.wordpress.com)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: [trca.ca](http://trca.ca)
- Toronto Parks: [Toronto.ca/parks](http://Toronto.ca/parks)

### Sources

- Baby Point Heritage Foundation
- City of Toronto
- Heritage York
- Junction Residence Association
- Lambton House
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Spacing Magazine
- Taiaiako'n Historical Preservation Society
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Transit Toronto

### Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto



# THE FUTURE IN MOUNT DENNIS

Mount Dennis neighbourhood was shaped by a number of industries, which impacted the physical and cultural landscape over the past two centuries. This includes milling along the Humber River, brickyards, sand and gravel industries and the Kodak plant. Mount Dennis celebrates its industrial past, but moves into the future as a major transportation hub and a space where arts, culture and community can flourish.



## Location:

Mount Dennis

## Interests:

Art, History, Nature


## Estimated:


1.5 hours

## Type:

Walk, Bike, Drive

## ▼ Starting the Tour

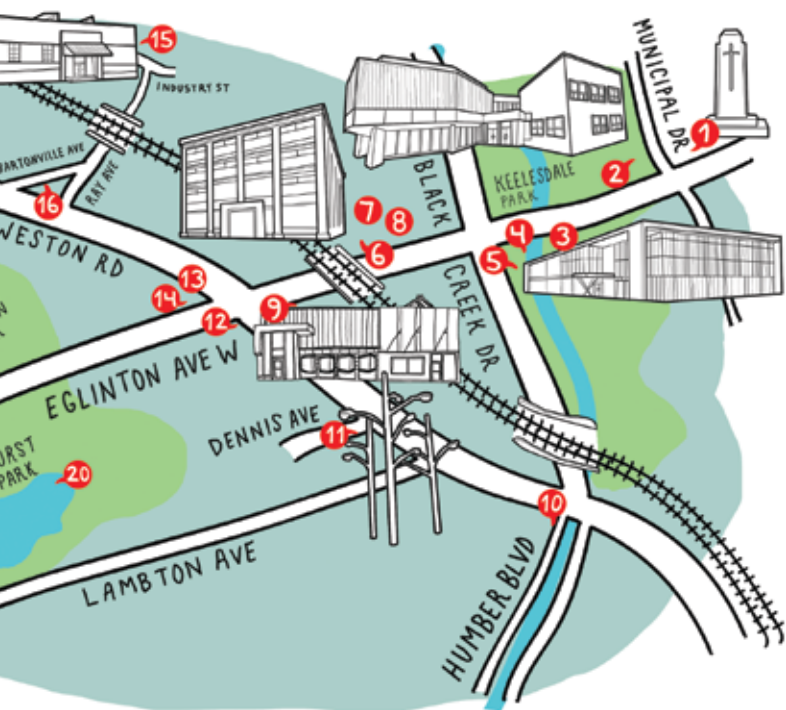
 Take the 52 bus westbound from Eglinton West Station to Municipal Drive. Head north on Municipal Drive and find the first destination south of the parking lot.

 From Eglinton Avenue West, turn onto Municipal Drive and turn right to park in the parking lot. The first destination is on Municipal Drive south of the parking lot.

## 1. CITY OF YORK TIME CAPSULE AND CENOTAPH, 2700 EGLINTON AVE. W.

Sealed and buried in 1997, the time capsule was, and is intended to be, opened in 2193, Toronto's quadricentennial anniversary. The City of York logo and coat of arms are engraved on the time capsule. It was created as a farewell to the City of York when it was amalgamated into the City of Toronto in 1998. Adjacent to the time capsule is the City of York's war memorial. The cenotaph has a relief of a Cross of Sacrifice, which is the image of a sword as a cross, on its granite surface. It commemorates the men and women of York who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War.





## 2. YORK CIVIC CENTRE, 2700 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** The entrance is to your left.

The York Civic Centre was built in 1950, when York was still a township. In 1953, York Township formed as a new municipality, known as York, in the new Metropolitan Toronto. York and the neighbouring Town of Weston amalgamated in 1967 to form the Borough of York, which became the City of York in 1983. York ceased to be an individual municipality on January 1, 1998, and became part of the amalgamated City of Toronto, and the York Civic Centre building was converted to the Toronto West Court Office.

### 3. KEELESDALE PARK, 2801 EGLINTON AVE. W.



**Directions:** Cross to the south side of Eglinton and continue west. The entrance to Keelesdale South Park is on your left.

The park offers a rare semi-naturalized and open view of Black Creek, which is also a warm water fish habitat, unlike the majority of Black Creek, which is straightened, channelized and buried on its route to the Humber River. The park encompasses Eglinton Avenue on both sides, and is bordered by both residential neighbourhoods and industrial areas. Keelesdale South Park contains recreational facilities including the Chris Tonks Arena and York Recreation Centre, and the North Park contains a lit baseball diamond.

### 4. WAVE (2016) 115 BLACK CREEK DR.



**Directions:** Continue on the path, and the sculpture is on your right.

Wave is a 120-foot-long aluminum sculpture installed in a grassy mound by artist Don Maynard. The sculpture uses organic forms inspired by the movement of water to reference the natural landscape of Toronto. The rippled texture and fissures in the material give the observer the impression of a forceful wave headed for the shoreline.

### 5. YORK RECREATION CENTRE, 115 BLACK CREEK DR.



**Directions:** Continue on the path to the York Recreation Centre.

This facility is located beside the west bank of Black Creek. It opened to the public in 2017, and includes a large pool area, gymnasium, fitness studios and multipurpose rooms. It was constructed with extensive input from the community. The York Recreation Centre offers an array of free programs for all ages. The building also features a green roof.

## 6. KODAK HEIGHTS BUILDING (MOUNT DENNIS STATION), 1156 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Head back north on the path and turn left to walk west on Eglinton Avenue and cross to the north side at the crosswalk. Continue west

to Mount Dennis Station. Enter the station.

Kodak is an American imaging and photography company founded in 1888 by George Eastman, originally known as the Eastman Kodak Company. In 1899, Canadian Kodak Co. Limited founded and established a facility on King Street in downtown Toronto. In 1912, George Eastman decided to expand his Toronto facilities and developed a new campus of seven buildings on 25 acres of farmland in York, which would be known as Kodak Heights, completed in 1916. At its peak, the factory employed 13,000 people and included a campus of 18 buildings. Building number 9, the only remaining building from Kodak Heights, was constructed in 1939 to house recreational facilities for workers and managers, including an auditorium, cafeteria, club rooms, gymnasium and photography studio. The factory operated for 106 years and employed hundreds of people when it ceased operations in 2005, which was an economic blow to the surrounding area.

Building 9 is being preserved and integrated into the new Mount Dennis Station on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. In order to include the historic structure, the 3,000-ton building was moved 200 feet from its original location. The building will be teeming with new life, as Mount Dennis Station will be a transportation hub with TTC Eglinton Crosstown LRT and buses, UP Express and GO Transit all converging here.

## 7. UP TO THIS MOMENT (2019), 1156 WESTON RD.

**Directions:** The artwork is located on the east wall of the upper concourse of Mount Dennis Station.

Two pieces of public art will be integrated into Mount Dennis station. A video artwork by Hadley + Maxwell, called *Up to This Moment*, will be placed on the upper concourse visible from Eglinton Avenue. The video shows a different moving image of transformation every day and will be mounted on a wall of glass panels with a text collage of words associated with creation, destruction and renewal.

## 8. UNTITLED (2019), 1156 WESTON RD.

**Directions:** Find the artwork in a pedestrian corridor in Mount Dennis Station.

The second piece is a multimedia collage by Sara Cwynar mounted in a pedestrian corridor in Mount Dennis Station. The artwork displays found objects and photographs that speak to the history of representation and to the area's industrial history manufacturing products for Kodak.

## 9. MOUNT DENNIS LIBRARY, 1123 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue west on Eglinton Avenue to Weston Road. Turn left to walk south on Weston Road. The library is to your left.

Libraries in the Mount Dennis area date back to 1923, when a membership-based library was founded at Weston Road and Eglinton Avenue. In 1928, the first free public library was established at York Township School Section Number 28. At this time Mount Dennis had 9,878 residents and an impressive 7,198 of residents were borrowers of the library. The Mount Dennis Public Library Board formed in 1932 and remained an independent library board until 1944, when its collection was transferred to the Township of York Public Library Board. The library moved to its current building in 1951, with many renovations and expansions carried out over the following decades to meet the growing needs of the community, including the creation of a space for art exhibitions.

## 10. BLACK CREEK AT WESTON ROAD



**Directions:** Continue south on Weston Road. Cross to the west side of the road at the crosswalk at Humber Boulevard North.

Toronto's geography was shaped by repeated glaciations over thousands of years and the rapid draining of Lake Iroquois that created steep ridges and depressions on the landscape, which resulted in the

abundance of ravines and rivers running throughout the city today. This view of Black Creek is a striking example of the human impact on natural water features, offering a glimpse of the channelization that stretches along the majority of the creek's path. It was channelized to avoid future flooding after damage caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Many of Toronto's ravines and waterways are channelized and buried under its built environment. The channelization of the creek removed much of the natural wetlands that filtered pollutants from the urbanized watershed and removed the natural landscapes that provided a home for wildlife.

## 11. NYCTOPHILIA (2010), DANIEL YOUNG AND CHRISTIAN GIROUX, 1038 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Head north on Weston Road to Dennis Avenue.

The installation was designed by Toronto artists Daniel Young and Christian Giroux, and consists of 10 utility poles with 36 attached street lights that extend out in different directions. It functions as a marker of the boundary for Mount Dennis, as a gathering place and as a neighbourhood safety feature, lighting up at night in rotating colours. The word *nyctophilia* describes a person who prefers night and darkness.

## 12. SUPERCOFFEE MURALS (2018), 1148 WESTON RD.V



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Road to Eglinton Avenue. The destination is on the south-west corner of the intersection.

Designed and painted by artist Nick Sweetman on the exterior of supercoffee, the mural represents the Mount Dennis community's push to become an eco-friendly neighbourhood with depictions of bees pollinating a variety of flowers. The upper half of the mural portrays a skyline referencing the neighbourhood's urban environment.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Mount Dennis BIA was established in 1974, serving local businesses and residents by hosting annual events and animating the neighbourhood with the installation of flower boxes, benches and public art.

### 13. WELCOME TO MOUNT DENNIS SIGN & MURAL (2014), 1156 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Cross to the north side of Eglinton and walk west to the west side of the building.

On the north corner of Mount Dennis's busiest intersection, a metal banner reads "Welcome to Mount Dennis" with a small patch of sidewalk that has been turned into a sitting area behind it. Located on the wall of the sitting area is a mural painted in 2014 by Emanuel Ciobanica, which depicts the nearby Humber River and other natural features of the area with children playing in the trees and flowers. Large rocks ornament the seating area and complement the imagery in the mural.

### 14. NATURE MURAL (2018), 1162 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Head west on Eglinton to the mural on the west side of the building.

This colourful mural, designed and painted by Alex Bacon (Alexander Lazich), depicts an egret, an owl and a red-winged black bird. Inspired by the pollinator mural across the street, the mural reflects the local wildlife of the Mount Dennis and Humber River area.

## 15. LEARNING ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION, 116 INDUSTRY ST.



**Directions:** Head back east on Eglinton Avenue Road and cross to the east side of Weston Road. Turn

left to walk north to Ray Avenue. Turn right and head down Ray to Industry Street. Turn left onto Industry and head north. The building will be on your right.

The Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF) was founded in 1978 and is a non-profit organization that provides a number of services focused on building the social and economic capacity of the community, and on providing training and services for individuals and families. It offers childcare and child education, youth programs and mentorship, employment services, settlement services, skills and language training, and social services. The foundation also offers skills training and information sessions for emerging entrepreneurs.

Installed in LEF are eight large panels of photo-based collages created by new Canadians living in the community. The collages were made as part of the Identity Photo Portrait Project, a SPARK Project of the Cultural Hotspot, led by artist Catherine Moeller, which focused on the expression of identity and sharing of life experiences through art.

## 16. URBANARTS, 5 BARTONVILLE AVE. E.

**Directions:** Head back south on Industry Street and turn onto Ray Avenue. Head west at Bartonville Avenue East. The destination will be on your left.

UrbanArts is one of the City of Toronto's six Local Arts Service Organizations, which has been serving its local community for over 30 years. It provides artistic development, training and employment opportunities for local artists and community members of York. UrbanArts runs programs in a range of disciplines including culinary, digital, media and visual arts, as well as performance arts including theatre, dance and music. The organization focuses on building inclusive and engaged communities and enriching the lives of community members through arts and culture. UrbanArts operates two facilities (see #8 on page 76). At their Mount Dennis facility, they run programs in their dance studio, media lab, music studio and full kitchen. UrbanArts also hosts a number of events, including the ThrowDown Dance Convention, CultureShock Community Arts Festival, Block Party and the semi-annual Beats Mind Movement.

## 17. BALA AVENUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, 6 BALA AVE.



**Directions:** Continue to Weston Road. Cross to the west side and continue west on Bartonville Avenue West to Bala Avenue. Turn right to head up Bala Avenue.

Built in 1913, Bala Avenue Community School was the second school in the Village of Mount Dennis. The original school includes beautiful decorative brickwork. Today, the school is part of a Provincial Collaborative Inquiry that focuses on infusing First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives into the curriculum—this includes teaching and providing instruction in Ojibwe for students from kindergarten to grade five. The school also offers extracurricular cooking classes for preparing traditional First Nations foods and clubs for learning traditional drumming. The school offers the International Languages Elementary Program on Saturdays to give students the opportunity to learn additional languages and appreciate other traditions, customs and cultures. The school is developing an Outdoor Learning Space, which will include a garden planted with traditional medicines.

### DID YOU KNOW?



In 2019, as a Signature Project of the Cultural Hotspot, UrbanArts installed an eight-panel mural as part of Find Your Element, a workshop series for community members to explore the four elements through various art mediums. The mural will be installed on hoarding at West Park Healthcare Centre at 82 Buttonwood Ave. while the site undergoes a redevelopment. Inspired by the Humber River, this mural explores connections between nature, art and healing.



## 18. THE OPTICAL ILLUSION BOX (2019), 101 EMMETT AVE.



### Directions:

Continue on Bala Avenue to Jane Street. Turn left to walk south on Jane Street to Eglinton Avenue. Turn right and walk west on Eglinton to Emmett Avenue.

Artist Pam Lostracco's utility box mural inspires a sense of fun. The mural depicts the exact image of the park behind it, making the box look

transparent from certain angles. The colourful stripes give the illusion of an entryway, inviting the viewer to walk through the artwork.

## 19. EGLINTON FLATS, 101 EMMETT AVE.

**Directions:** Take a stroll through the park.

The Eglinton Flats cover three of the four corners at Eglinton Avenue and Jane Street, including the Eglinton Flats Park, Fergy Brown Park (named after former Mayor of York and Mount Dennis resident) and Gladhurst Park. Collectively, the three parks make up Toronto's largest regional sports field facility. The parkland was owned and farmed by the Scarlett family in the mid-1800s. The Scarlett family also ran a grist (grain) mill, lumber mill and saw mill on the Humber River. The nearby Scarlett Road on the west side of the Humber River is named for the family, connecting the Village of Weston to Dundas Street. Because of its location on the Humber River floodplain, the land was very fertile and was transformed into market gardens until Hurricane Hazel caused devastation to the area in 1954. Following the hurricane, the TRCA acquired the land and developed it into parkland. Today, the land is mainly used for recreation and sports, but community gardens can be found on the northeastern section of the Eglinton Flats.

### INSIDER'S TIP

The steep slopes of Gladhurst Park, found at the southeast corner of Eglinton Flats, are a great place for tobogganing.

## 20. TOPHAM POND, 60 ASTORIA AVE.



**Directions:** Head back east on Eglinton Avenue. The park is on the south side past Jane Street.

In Gladhurst Park, residents can relax at the idyllic man-made urban pond, which contains wetlands and natural fish habitats, as well as areas for fishing and sitting. The pond is home to many species of fish, including largemouth bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, common carp and northern pike.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Mount Dennis is named for John Dennis, a shipbuilder who also owned a boatyard on the Humber River in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and owned much of the property that makes up the present day Mount Dennis neighbourhood. The Dennis family also operated a sawmill and a woolen factory in the area.

### Useful Information

- Learning Enrichment Foundation: [lefca.org](http://lefca.org)
- Metrolinx: [metrolinx.com](http://metrolinx.com)
- Mount Dennis BIA: [mountdennisbia.ca](http://mountdennisbia.ca)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: [trca.ca](http://trca.ca)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](http://toronto.ca/parks)
- Toronto Public Library: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)
- UrbanArts: [urbanartstoronto.org](http://urbanartstoronto.org)

### Sources

- City of Toronto
- Don Maynard
- Learning Enrichment Foundation
- Metrolinx
- Mount Dennis BIA
- Mount Dennis Community Association
- Neighbourhood Arts Network
- Ryerson Library, Kodak in Toronto, 1899-2005: A Century of Traces
- Star Metroland Media
- Toronto District School Board



### Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library

# HISTORICAL WESTON

Weston was beginning to be settled by Europeans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Due to a significant drop in elevation of the Humber River, dropping six metres in 32 kilometres, the area was a popular location for milling industries. At first a small hamlet known as “The Humber” formed around the mills, but it was later named Weston in 1815 by James Farr, a prominent local mill-owner. Weston was incorporated as a village in 1881, becoming part of the Borough of York in 1967 and eventually part of the City of Toronto in 1998. Over the last two centuries, Weston became a manufacturing town, including canneries, hardware, motorcars and bicycle industries.



**Location:** Weston

**Interests:** History

**Estimated:** 1.5 hours

**Type:** Walk, Bike, Drive

## ▼ Starting the Tour

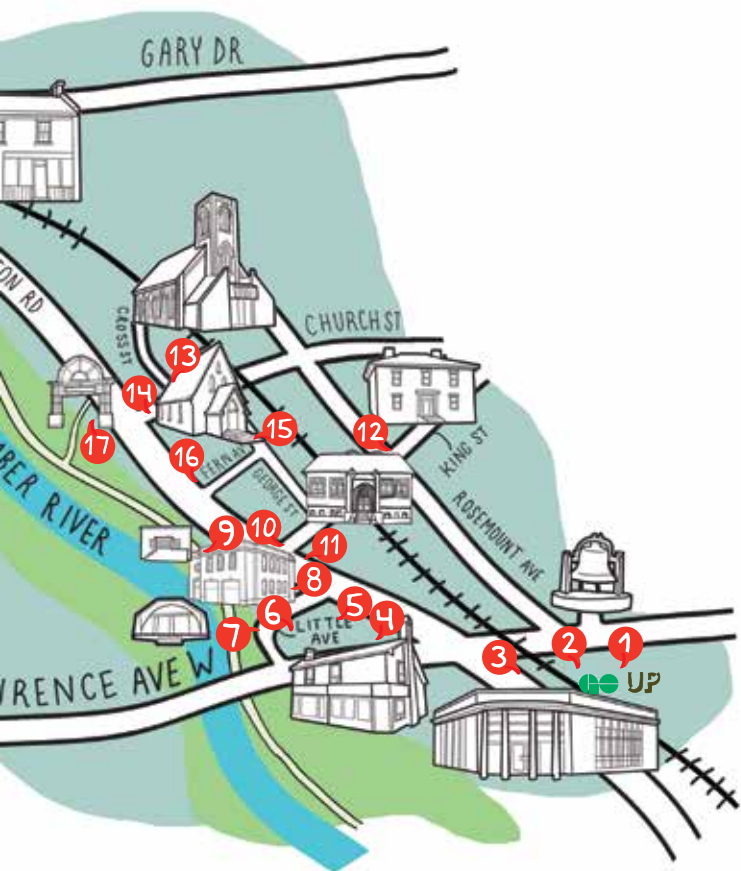


Take the 89 bus northbound from Keele Station to Lawrence Avenue West.

Alternatively, take the UP Express or GO Train to Weston Station. Head east on Lawrence Avenue West to the first destination.



From the 401 Highway, turn at the 400 Highway to Jane Street. Continue south on Jane Street and turn right onto Lawrence Avenue West. Continue on Lawrence and turn left into the parking lot opposite Ralph Street. The first destination is at the north end of the parking lot.



## 1. SITE OF THE OLD CCM FACTORY, 2013 LAWRENCE AVE. W.

The Canadian Cycling and Motor Company (CCM) originally established a bicycle manufactory in the Junction in 1895 and moved production to a larger facility in Weston on Lawrence Avenue West in 1917, where bicycles were manufactured until 1980. CCM formed from an amalgamation of four bicycle companies and at the time produced 85 per cent of Canadian-made bicycles. The Weston factory was taken over by the government during the Second World War to produce bicycles and motorcars for the Canadian army. Today, the site of the former CCM factory in Weston is the location of a Tim Hortons coffee shop. Bicycle-themed lamp posts in the area honour the history of manufacturing in the community.

### INSIDER'S TIP

CCM formed the Russell Motor Car Company, named after its General Manager, and expanded the CCM plant to include a facility at 201 Weston Rd. for auto production from 1905 to 1915. It was later taken over by the Willys-Overland Motor Company. This redbrick building is located in the Stockyards and is still standing today.

## 2. HISTORIC TOWN HALL BELL, 2015 LAWRENCE AVE. W.



**Directions:** Head west on Lawrence Avenue West and find the historic bell mounted in front of the fire station.

Weston Town Hall, known as Dufferin Hall, was built in 1885, four years after the town was incorporated and was located on the northwest corner of Little Avenue and Weston Road, built by prominent local architect William Tyrell (see #12). The building was demolished in 1957, but the historic bell was saved. The bell was used for timekeeping, fires and funerals. A depiction of Weston Town Hall can be seen in the Weston Streetscape Mural (see #12 on page 78).

## 3. WESTON BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING, 1885 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue on Lawrence Avenue West to Weston Road.

The Bank of Nova Scotia was established in Weston in 1910 and after 106 years in the community, closed its doors. The current building opened in 1962 and is still known today as the Bank of Nova Scotia Building.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Weston Historical Society, an affiliate to the Ontario Historical Society, operates out of Unit F at 1901 Weston Rd. The society is dedicated to preserving and sharing local history through archives, public meetings, walking tours and audio-visual displays.

#### 4. SQUIBB'S STATIONERS, 1974 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Cross to the west side of Weston Road and turn right to head north.

Squibb's Stationers is an independent local business that opened in 1927 by Arthur T. Squibb and his son Gordon. It is Toronto's oldest bookstore and third-oldest stationers. It is housed in one of the oldest buildings in Weston, moving from its original location a few doors down in 1935.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Weston Village BIA, established in 1979, is one of the oldest business improvement areas in Toronto and consists of 160 stores, restaurants and services, including some of the city's oldest businesses. Weston Village BIA runs a number of public events throughout the year including the Weston Farmers' Market, Weston Santa Claus Parade and Weston Buskerfest.

#### 5. HISTORIC BUILDING, 1986 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Road to Little Avenue. The building is on the southwest corner.

Built in the 1860s, this is one of the oldest buildings in Weston. It was converted into a commercial space in 1923. In keeping with typical saltbox architecture, the wood frame building is one and a half storeys high in the front and only one storey high in the back. The pitched roof slopes down further in the back to accommodate the uneven design. The building is designated as part of the Weston Heritage Conservation district.

#### 6. FIRST AUTO GARAGE IN WESTON, 3 LITTLE AVE.



**Directions:** Turn left onto Little Avenue and walk west. Your destination is on your left.

This was the first auto garage in Weston in 1913, constructed at a time when automobiles were becoming more prevalent in Canada. The building includes some decorative brickwork that was typical of the time. The garage door was bricked in when it was converted into residential units.

## 7. LITTLE AVENUE MEMORIAL PARK, 22 LITTLE AVE.



**Directions:** Continue west and cross to the north side of Little Avenue to the park.

Little Avenue Memorial Park is a peaceful patch of green tucked in from the busy Weston Road. It is home to the Lloyd George Sainsbury Bandshell, a beautiful covered stage where the community can enjoy concerts, plays and events. A distinctive feature of the park is the use of shale from the Humber River to retain the gardens and steps. Many of the local river stone features in Weston, including in Little Avenue Memorial Park, were built by James Gove, a master stonemason. In 1950, Gove also built the cenotaph located in the park, which was dedicated in 1950 to honour Canadian soldiers who fought in the First and Second World Wars and also those who lost their lives on peacekeeping missions.

### EXPLORE MORE

#### THE JANE STREET HUB, 1541 JANE ST.

Unison Health and Community Services operates the Jane Street Hub, a centre for community and healthcare services for the residents of Weston and Mount Dennis. Unison provides free programs and services to people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, and offers a space for community groups.

## 8. HISTORIC FIRE HALL, 2000 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Head back to Weston Road and turn left to walk north one block.

Now a funeral home, the historic redbrick fire hall was constructed in 1913. The fire department served local residents before Weston was amalgamated into the Borough of



York. The building was converted into Ward's Funeral Home in 1949, but the funeral home has maintained the appearance of the original building. The two garage doors where firefighting vehicles would have been stored have been preserved. A mural of a historic Weston streetscape is located on the south side of the building (see #12 on page 78). The building was designated as a heritage site under Weston's Heritage Conservation District.

## 9. WESTON MASONIC HALL, 2040 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Rd. The destination is to your left.

The Weston Masonic Temple opened at this location in 1924 and today serves 125 members. Freemasonry is a fraternal order and one of the largest worldwide secret societies. It began when stonemasons formed local organizations to take care of members and their families, and first came to Canada in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Freemasonry has expanded to include people of various professions and religions.

## 10. WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2 KING ST.



**Directions:** Cross to the east side of Weston Road and head east on King Street.

The first library opened in Weston in 1847. The Weston Public Library was established by the Weston Public Library Association in 1895, which was financially supported by membership to keep it open. In 1912, a free public library by-law was established, and this library, constructed in 1913, was one of the 10 libraries in Toronto built with a Carnegie Foundation Grant, given by the Carnegie Corporation in New York. It was designed by architect and local Weston resident Peter Lindsay and stands out from other Toronto Public Libraries because of the ornate decoration on the interior and exterior of the building. The building features decorative brickwork, mosaic tiles, gold detailing and stained glass windows, some of which include the names of celebrated authors. When Weston was amalgamated into the Borough of

York in 1967, the library was taken over by the York Public Library Board and was absorbed by Toronto Public Library in 1998. The library is designated as a heritage building for its architectural and cultural significance.

## 11. CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH, 1 KING ST.



**Directions:** Cross to the south side of King Street. The destination is on the southeast corner.

The Wesleyan Methodist congregation formed in 1821, initially holding services in a log structure. The Wesleyan Methodist Church merged with other congregations to form the United Church of Canada in 1925. The Central United Church was one of the earliest United Church congregations in Canada. The current redbrick building was constructed in 1887, shortly after Weston became incorporated.

## 12. THE TYRRELL HOUSE, 64 KING ST.



**Directions:** Head east on King Street and cross over the GO Train tracks to Rosemount Avenue.

William Tyrrell was the first reeve of Weston in 1882, with over two decades of public service on councils of the Township of York. He had a significant impact in the shaping of Weston physically, designing and building many homes, mills and bridges, and engineering sewers and water lines. In York, he built the Weston Presbyterian Church, the Old Mill and the Old Town Hall.

### 13. WESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 7 CROSS ST.



**Directions:** Turn left to head north on Rosemount Avenue to Church Street. Turn left on Church Street to Cross Street. Turn right to walk north on Cross Street.

The Weston Presbyterian Church formed in 1865, and has been on this site for over 150 years. The present church was designed and built in 1880 by architect and contractor William Tyrrell.

The redbrick church is modestly adorned with Gothic-Revival influences, including stone arched windows and decorative brickwork on the friezes (the border below the roof).

### 14. FORMER ODDFELLOWS HALL, 24 CHURCH ST.



**Directions:** Head back south and turn right to walk west on Church Street.

A small wood frame church was built on this site in the 1830s for the Methodist Episcopal Congregation, who sold the building to

the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization, in 1886. The Odd Fellows converted the building into a lodge, bricked in the building and added a second storey with a distinctive mansard roof with steep sloping sides and decorative tiling. The building was used as a lodge for the Odd Fellows for over 100 years. In 1893, the Freemasons borrowed the building for an event and the second floor collapsed, injuring many people. After this incident, the second floor was reinforced with steel beams. Today, this property is a private residence.

## 15. JOHN GARDHOUSE HOUSE, 18 FERN AVE.

**Directions:** Cross to the south side on Church Street and head east to George Street. Walk south on George Street to Fern Avenue.

This redbrick Georgian-style house and the two-bay wood-cladded stable were built in 1913. The house, including the stable, is designated as heritage property for its historical value. It was owned by John Gardhouse, who was an internationally distinguished livestock breeder elected to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, as well as serving as Mayor of Weston, the Reeve of Etobicoke Township and the Warden of York County.

## 16. ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 2125 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Walk west on Fern Avenue to Weston Road and turn right and walk north.

Built in 1856, this chapel is one of the oldest buildings in Weston. A move of the church was attempted on rollers in 1894. During the move it became stuck in the mud, blocking traffic. Unable to go further, a parishioner deeded a nearby lot to the church and it was pushed to its current position, leaving it on a slight angle from the sidewalk.

## 17. CRUICKSHANK PARK, 2196 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Road and cross to the west side at Cruikshank Park.

In the 1830s, a sawmill was established on this land, which was purchased by the Wadsworths in 1882 and later sold to the Cruickshanks as part of the Weston Wagon Works, a carriage manufactory founded in the 1850s. In 1929, the family donated part of the land along the Humber River to the Town of Weston to create Cruickshank Park. In 1945, the Cruickshank family converted their site along Weston Road to establish Cruickshank Motors Limited, a Ford Motor dealership. To celebrate Canada's Centennial in 1967, the stairs and entranceway arch were added to the park.

## 18. WESTON PLANK ROAD COMPANY, 2371 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Cross to the east side and continue north on Weston Road. The destination is across from St. Philips Road.

Built in 1841, this is one of the oldest buildings in Weston and was used for as the office of the Plank Road Company, which had a significant impact on the development of the village. Plank roads were built from wooden planks or split logs to strengthen roads and make them smoother for travelling. The company incorporated in 1842 to plank Weston Road, from Dundas Street to Wilson Avenue, connecting the village of Weston south to Dundas Street. In 1946, Weston Road was planked north to connect with Albion Road in Etobicoke.

## 19. EARLY MILL SITE IN NORTH END PARKETTE, 2393 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Road to the parkette south of the underpass.

This little patch of greenspace is located at the northern end of Weston Road and contains a millstone from one of the historic mills that was located nearby. In 1810, a gristmill (grain) and sawmill (lumber) were built by David Holley. It went to another prominent miller, James Farr, from 1815 to 1828. In 1828, William Wadsworth bought the mill, rebuilt and operated the sawmill and gristmill. The Wadsworth mills were very influential to the development of the Village of Weston and operated for 87 years.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Just above North End Parkette, the Canadian National Railway (CNR) tracks cross Weston Road and continue to cross the Humber River and the Weston Golf and Country Club on the west side of the Humber River. The Weston CNR Bridge, which is one of Weston's oldest structures, was built by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1856. The railway was essential to the development of the Village of Weston, serving the area's farmers and mill owners for the shipping and receiving of goods. It was recently widened to accommodate the UP Express, but the original structure still stands.

## EXPLORE MORE

### RAYMORE BRIDGE AND PARK

The original bridge, along with many homes on Raymore Drive, was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954 when the Humber River flooded. The bridge was replaced with the current structure in 1995 in part to complete the Humber River Recreational Trail. Raymore Park was created and dedicated in memory of Hurricane Hazel's victims and survivors.

### TRETHEWEY AIRFIELD, 59 HEARST CIR.



The Trethewey Airfield was Toronto's first airfield, established in 1910 at the Trethewey Model Farm, which was a combination of three farms and a cannery owned by W. G. Trethewey. The farm was known internationally for hosting an air show. When French aviator Count Jacques Benjamin de Lesseps used the field to fly a plane over Toronto in 1910, it became known as the de Lesseps Aerodrome. The airfield was later licensed, and mail service to Montreal and Detroit was established. In 1928, an English aircraft company opened up an assembly plant on the site, and later in the 1930s, the Royal Canadian Air Force used the airfield as a base. By the mid-1940s, the airfield closed and the land was converted for residential use.

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## Useful Information

- Heritage York: [lambtonhouse.org](http://lambtonhouse.org)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: [trca.ca](http://trca.ca)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](http://toronto.ca/parks)
- Toronto Public Library: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)
- Weston Village BIA: [westonvillagebia.com](http://westonvillagebia.com)
- Weston Heritage Conservation District: [heritageweston.com](http://heritageweston.com)
- Weston Historical Society: [facebook.com/Weston-Historical-Society-113972951953777](https://facebook.com/Weston-Historical-Society-113972951953777)

## Sources

- Etobicoke Historical Society
- Heritage York
- Star Metroland Media
- St. John's Anglican Church
- Squibb's Stationers
- Toronto Parks
- Toronto Public Library
- Unison Health and Community Services
- Weston Heritage Conservation District
- Weston Historical Society
- Weston Village BIA
- Weston Village Residents' Association
- Weston Presbyterian Church

## Photo Credit

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Toronto Public Library
- Thomas Fisher Rare Books

## ARTS AND CULTURE ON WESTON ROAD



For many decades, Weston has been supporting local art initiatives and has established itself as a hub for the arts in York. Many arts organizations call Weston home and run arts-based programs for local residents and artists. Weston is also home to many murals that showcase local history, highlight nature in the area and celebrate the community.


**Location:** Weston


**Interests:** Art, History

**Estimated:** 1.5 hours

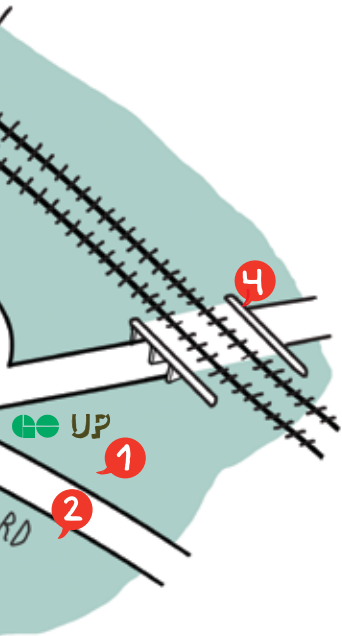
**Type:** Walk, Bike, Drive

### ▼ Starting the Tour

 Take the 89 bus northbound from Keele Station to Lawrence Avenue West and walk south to the parking lot at the station. Alternatively, take the UP Express or GO Train to Weston Station and exit to the parking lot.

 From the 401 Highway, turn at the 400 Highway to Jane Street. Continue south on Jane Street and turn right onto Lawrence Avenue West to Weston Road. Turn left onto Weston Road and turn left into the parking lot at the station.





## 1. WESTON UP EXPRESS MURAL (2018), 1865 WESTON RD.

This colourful 16-by-260-foot mural was designed by artist Mahmood Popal, and painted by Popal and Justyna Werbel. The mural project engaged local community members of all ages through arts workshops hosted by Popal and collaborator Jesse Albert to help design stencils using rudimentary materials. The stencils were created using pieces of paper, bubblewrap, rags, steel wool, soap pads and other materials, and were used throughout the design. The mural also includes historical photographs, including a life-size photo of the entranceway to Weston Library.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Weston Mount Dennis Community Hub, located at 1765 Weston Rd., is a collaborative community outreach project that provides a variety of programs and services to residents through 20 partner organizations, known as the Service Providers' Network (SPN), with Progress Place as the lead agency. The Hub provides residents with access to nurses, seniors' physical activity class, computer access and classes, programs that support mental health and recovery, social activities, and programs for children and youth. In 2019, the Cultural Hotspot partnered with

Progress Place on their Fall Festival. The festival brings community members together, highlights local talent and creates awareness of local resources. The Service Providers and residents work together as partners, planning, organizing and coordinating making the Fall Festival a great success.

## 2. WESTON FRONTLINES, 1844 WESTON RD.

**Directions:** Walk south to the crosswalk and cross to the west side of Weston Road. Head back north on Weston Road. The destination will be on your left.

Frontlines was established in 1987 for children and youth in Weston to have access to a drop-in centre for social and educational programs. Frontlines began with only music programs, and has expanded over the years to meet community needs by offering diverse programming to hundreds of children and youth including arts programs, culinary programs, homework clubs and camps. Frontlines programs also focus on youth justice, mentorship opportunities, volunteer capacity, civic engagement and employment. Frontlines also runs a catering social enterprise, which engages youth from their culinary employment and training program. In 2019, Frontlines held Beats in the Streets each Friday throughout the summer. This Cultural Hotspot SPARK project featured DJs, performers and guest speakers each week to create a relaxed and fun experience for youth in the community.

## 3. YORK WEST ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE MURALS, 1901 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Continue north on Weston Road to Lawrence Avenue West and cross to the northeast side of the intersection.



The York West Active Living Centre has five murals along the south side of the building. On Weston Road, a three-wall mural series was designed by artists Jim Bravo, Niel Yee, Rowena Kizito and Bryan Bermudez and was painted in 2014. With the theme of Weston Then and Now, the first mural of the series depicts school children on Weston Road in the 1920s; the second mural depicts older children at the same intersection in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and the last mural in the series shows young adults in the present day. On the last mural, the Scotiabank building can be seen in the background (see #3 on page 59). Next to the mural series is Weston Home of the Bicycle, a mural celebrating Weston's history as home of the CCM plant from 1917 to 1983. The mural shows cyclists on the recreational trail along the Humber River with the 150-year-old Weston CNR Bridge in the background. A fifth mural highlighting the Weston Farmer's Market can also be found on the eastern side of the York West Active Living Centre, on South Station Street.



## LAWRENCE AVENUE WEST UNDERPASS MURAL (2019), LAWRENCE AVENUE WEST UNDERPASS EAST OF WESTON ROAD



**Directions:** Head east on Lawrence Avenue West to the underpass.

Artists Alex Bacon (Alexander Lazich) and Que Rockford (Quentin Rockford) painted this mural that highlights the natural features of Weston and the Humber River, including local flowers such as red trillium and wildlife like the saw-whet owl, blue jays, great blue herons and salmon. The mural also contains an image of Quentin Rockford's great-great-grandmother. Rockford is Anishinaabe and Odawa, and this mural is a celebration of his family and community.

## 4. WESTON SIGN AND JOHN STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



**Directions:** Turn back to head west on Lawrence Avenue West to South Station Street. Follow the street to John Street. The destination is to your right.

A pedestrian bridge was installed on John Street to connect Weston Road and Artscape Weston Common with the residential neighbourhood on the other side of the GO Transit corridor. The twin arch bridge and the sign were designed by architecture firm DTAH, who won the contract in an international design competition. The bridge is a call to architect Santiago Calatrava's design for the Mimico Creek Pedestrian Bridge in Etobicoke. The bridge also includes a large sign that reads "Weston." It was designed to encourage cycling, with murals by artist Elicser lining

the ramp on the west side of the tracks. The railway tracks are used by GO Transit, the UP Express, VIA Rail and Canadian National Railway freight trains.

## 5. WESTON ROAD FLOW 16 (2016), 34 JOHN ST.



**Directions:** The murals are on the pedestrian ramp on the northwest side of the bridge.

This multi-panel mural installation, which references Drake's song *Weston Road Flows*, was painted by Elicser Elliot in partnership with Metrolinx on the John Street sound wall along the ramp to the pedestrian bridge. The mural celebrates the use of bicycles, the manufacturing of which was an important industry in Weston.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2019, local artist collective the Cyborg Circus Project showcased *Project Disruption*, a Cultural Hotspot SPARK Project, at Artscape Weston Common. The disability-centred performing arts program included dance, movement and storytelling workshops for young and emerging artists, who created and performed a work-in-progress showcase of performance pieces. The Cyborg Circus Project is a disability-led professional dance and circus company with a mandate to provide professional pathways for disabled movement artists in Toronto. Founded in 2018, the Cyborg Circus Project develops original choreography for their performances, having showcased their work internationally.

## 6. ARTSCAPE WESTON COMMON, 34 JOHN ST.



**Directions:** Cross the square on the north side of John Street.

Artscape Weston Common, serving the Weston-Mount Dennis community, is the only Artscape hub located outside of the downtown core. Artscape focuses on creative placemaking, the practice of leveraging art and culture as a catalyst for urban and community development. The 8,200-square-foot hub is operated with programming partners UrbanArts and Shakespeare in Action, who run programs and events that engage local community members in the arts. The site also includes a hallway gallery space, performance hall, boardroom, flex studio, green room and a catering kitchen available for artists and members of the public. The complex also includes affordable residences for 26 artists. The exterior is an inviting addition to the neighbourhood, with vibrant colour blocks painted on the parking lot above, which can be seen from the large public square outside the main doors. The Weston Farmers' Market is relocating to the square.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Weston Farmers' Market (Saturdays from May through October at Artscape Weston Common) has been operating for 40 years run by Weston Village BIA, which formed in 1979. Both the market and BIA are one of the oldest of their kinds in the Greater Toronto Area.

## 7. URBANARTS, 34 JOHN ST.



**Directions:** Located within Artscape Weston Common.

UrbanArts is a local arts service organization that runs arts programming out of facilities in Mount Dennis and Weston. The facility at Artscape Weston Common includes an art studio, meeting space and textile lab. Learn more about UrbanArts, see #16 on page 52.

## 8. SHAKESPEARE IN ACTION, 34 JOHN ST.



**Directions:** Located within Artscape Weston Common.

Shakespeare in Action was founded in 1988 with the purpose of running theatre programming, including classical and contemporary performances and education for children and youth across the Greater Toronto Area. Shakespeare in Action makes the language and stories of Shakespeare fun, accessible and relevant to children, youth, their families and the community. They run a free reader's theatre program for kids at Toronto Public Libraries and a summer camp for kids. They program performances and arts education opportunities out of the new Artscape Weston Common cultural centre in the Weston community.

### INSIDER'S TIP

Shakespeare in the Shell is an annual free outdoor Shakespearean theatre production by Shakespeare In Action at the bandshell located in Little Avenue Memorial Park (see #7 on page 61). In 2019, the Spotlight Artist Series, a Cultural Hotspot SPARK Project, engaged 13 local community artists to perform acts spanning circus, music, spoken word and more to open up each nightly show.

## 9. I LOVE WESTON MURAL, 1937 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Walk back to John Street and turn right to walk west on John Street.

This mural celebrates the pride local residents have for their neighbourhood.

## 10. THE WINDOWS OF TIME (2016), 1971 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Turn right and walk north on Weston Road to the driveway before Elsmere Avenue.

Designed and painted by Christiano De Araujo, the 1,125-foot-long mural depicts shop windows over time from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to present day, with vignettes of the activities and people you might find during those time periods.



## 11. WESTON STREETScape (2017), 2000 WESTON RD.



**Directions:** Cross to the west side on Weston Road and walk north on Weston Road to King Street Crescent.

Designed by Eric Lee and painted by Mario Noviello on Weston's old fire hall building, the streetscape mural is a snapshot of historic Weston around 1900. Included in the mural is the old town hall building, built in 1885; Weston Central United Church, opened in 1887; the Little Hotel from the 1880s; and a Weston streetcar, which operated from 1895 to 1948.

### EXPLORE MORE

#### WATER MURAL, HIGHWAY 400 UNDERPASS ON JANE STREET

This 8,000-square-foot mural was a collaboration of 18 local and international artists and was created as part of the International Essencia Water Festival hosted by Essencia Arts Collective. The Essencia Arts Collective works internationally and focuses on art as a tool for social change and community empowerment. The collective uses themes of the four elements – earth, fire, water and air – and the four directions to raise awareness about social and environmental issues.

### Useful Information

- Artscape Weston Common: [artscapeweston.ca](http://artscapeweston.ca)
- Metrolinx: [metrolinx.com](http://metrolinx.com)
- Shakespeare in Action: [shakespeareinaction.org](http://shakespeareinaction.org)
- UrbanArts: [urbanartstoronto.org](http://urbanartstoronto.org)
- Weston Frontlines: [frontlines.to](http://frontlines.to)
- Weston Village BIA: [westonvillagebia.com](http://westonvillagebia.com)
- York West Active Living Centre: [ywalc.ca](http://ywalc.ca)

### Sources

- Artscape
- DTAH Architects
- Essencia Arts Collective
- Metrolinx
- Shakespeare in Action
- UrbanArts
- Weston Frontlines
- Weston Historical Society
- Weston Village BIA

### Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Shakespeare in Action
- UrbanArts

# WILDLIFE ACTIVITY

York has a variety of wildlife habitats including rivers, ravines, forests and grasslands. Some natural highlights of the area include Lambton Park's tallgrass prairie and rare black oak savannah, salmon swimming up the Humber River and the rich biodiversity of Cedarvale Park's ravines.

## 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

## Animals and Insects



Agapostemon Bee



Beaver



Cicada



Coyote



Dragonfly



Eastern Chipmunk



Eastern Cottontail



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Female Monarch

## Animals and Insects



Garter Snake



Mink



Red Fox



Salmon



Snapping Turtle



Wood Frog

## Flowers, Trees and Shrubs



Black Oak



Black-eyed Susan



Common Cattail



Common Elderberry



Common Milkweed



New England Aster



Red Oak



Red Elderberry



Red Oak



Red Osier Dogwood



Serviceberry



Silver Maple



Staghorn Sumac



White Pine



Wild Strawberry

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## To Find Out More, Visit

- Heritage York: [lambtonhouse.org](http://lambtonhouse.org)
- Lost Rivers: [lostrivers.ca](http://lostrivers.ca)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: [trca.ca](http://trca.ca)
- Toronto Field Naturalists: [torontofieldnaturalists.org](http://torontofieldnaturalists.org)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](http://toronto.ca/parks)

## Sources

- Heritage York
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto Field Naturalists
- Weston Historical Society

## Photo Credits

- Ann Brokelman
- City of Toronto
- Katja Schulz
- Ryan Hodnett

# HOT EATS

A big part of celebrating York'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 30 eateries that offer a wide variety of cuisines. Indulge your taste buds at the following York **HOT Eats** restaurants listed below.

## LOOP 1

### 3 EGGS ALL DAY PUB & GRILL

936 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 519-5955

A family oriented breakfast and brunch restaurant serving all your favourites including steak fajitas, the California burger and jambalaya pasta. All made with the freshest ingredients.

### 3SK CAFÉ

1054 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 781-0375  
3skcafe.com

Healthy dishes prepared in-house with amazing flavour profiles. 3SK integrates good business practices with social and environmental consciousness.

### CALIFORNIA SANDWICHES

2474 Dufferin St.  
(416) 787-5205  
eatcalifornia.ca

Toronto's best since 1967 with an award-winning sandwich. The chain of restaurants is now spread over 14 locations across Toronto, all family owned and operated with

traditional methods of food preparation still in practice.

### CARIBBEAN QUEEN EXPRESS

371 Oakwood Ave.  
(416) 656-2000

Enjoy Jamaican favourites, lunch combos of jerk chicken, curry goat, curry chicken and homemade fruit juice. In house, take away and catering available.

### CELEBRITY PURE VEGETARIAN

1474 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 519-6757  
facebook.com/  
celebritypureveggie

Dig into a filling plate of great homestyle vegetarian cooking. Choose from a selection of flavourful hot table options including curry vegetables, okra and seitan.

### DON LATTE CAFE

1165 St Clair Ave W.  
(647) 581-3311  
donlatte.com

Inspired by traditional Peruvian and South

American tastes, this cafe specializes in empanadas, desserts and sandwiches, and serves the best quality, organic coffee and pastries.

### **GALO DO SARDINHA CHURRASQUEIRA**

373B Oakwood Ave.  
(416) 410-7777  
galodosardinha.com

With 20 years of experience cooking in the finest restaurants, the chefs here serve the best Portuguese chicken, fish, seafood, baked ribs, roast beef and much more. They offer family and party packages as well as seafood party platters.

### **JER'S FILICANASIAN RESTAURANT**

1481 Eglinton Ave W.  
(647) 346-4462  
facebook.com/jersresto

Celebrate your birthday with family and friends to a boodle fight experience at Jer's. They offer all-day breakfast and Filipino dishes with a Western twist.

### **JUDY'S ISLAND GRILL**

1720 Eglinton Ave W.  
(647) 348-1175  
judysislandgrill.com

A family owned and operated business originating from Clarendon, Jamaica, serving a variety of traditional Caribbean delights, beers and cocktails. So whether you are dining in or carrying out, let Judy's Island Grill bring the taste of the islands to you.

### **KORICANCHA RESTAURANT**

1885 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(647) 347-0584  
koricancharestaurant.com

Starting out as a small booth at the Downsview Park Flea market about ten years ago, Koricancha has now been operating in the Fairbank area for three years offering traditional Peruvian cuisine. Feast on signature dishes such as empanadas, ceviche or the jalea.

### **NIMMAN THAI CUISINE**

1060 Eglinton Ave W.  
(416) 789-1060  
nimman.ca

Stop by Nimman Thai, an award-winning Thai restaurant. As part of a great meal, Nimman focuses on providing a delightful experience along with tasty food. Serving authentic Thai cuisine using essential ingredients imported from Thailand.

### **OAKWOOD PIZZERIA**

434 Oakwood Ave.  
(416) 654-5655  
oakwoodpizzeria.com

A neighbourhood pizzeria for over 45 years, the pizzeria provides delicious home-made Italian cooking and catering available for small parties.

### **PITA IKRAM**

530 Oakwood Ave.  
(647) 874-1924  
pitaikram.com

Specializing in chicken and beef shawarma plates, this local gem has served Middle Eastern fare for over a decade. Weekly

specials and side dishes including tabouleh and baklava pastries.

### **POPEYES LOUISIANA KITCHEN**

1875 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 781-4063  
popeyeschicken.ca

Enjoy amazing Louisiana-style flavours including the classic freshly prepared chicken, marinated in Louisiana seasonings and covered in crispy coating. Round it out with one of their signature sides and a hot buttermilk biscuit.

### **SHAWARMA PALACE EXPRESS**

1808 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 787-3838  
shawarmapalaceexpress.  
business.site

A halal-certified restaurant serving a traditional menu of Middle Eastern comfort foods. Stop by for delicious chicken shawarma platters, falafel wraps, kabobs, fresh salad and fries.

### **THE OAKWOOD HARDWARE**

335-337 Oakwood Ave.  
(416) 658-9899  
theoakwoodhardware.com

Oakwood Hardware focuses on quality and value with special attention paid to local

and seasonal ingredients. It pays respect to the history of Oakwood Village and welcomes its vibrant future.

### **THE QUE**

1100 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 785-1727  
theque.ca

Que is the go-to place for great smoked meats, burgers and beer. Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your appetite. Que is also certified Kosher.

### **TONKIN VIETNAMESE GRILL HOUSE**

2404 Dufferin St.  
(416) 784-1491  
tonkinvietnamese.com

Tonkin Vietnamese specializes in homestyle cooking and focuses on dishes from Ha Noi, Vietnam. The menu features family recipes passed down from generations such as Bun Cha Ha Noi, Pho Bac, Bun Cha Ca, Bun Cha Oc and many more.

### **TORONTO LATINO**

1786 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 781-0919

A Latin store, grocery and restaurant proudly serving delicious Latin dishes in the community since 1985.

## LOOP 2

### **BANABOIA RESTAURANT**

501 Rogers Rd.  
(416) 654-0967

Banaboia Restaurant offers an authentic Portuguese cuisine experience that makes you feel right at home. Enjoy fresh seafood dishes, including the famous salt cod “Viennese style” with chips, as well as the delicious pan seared mouse steak with fried egg on top.

### **BANH MI CAFÉ**

2635 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 901-6568  
banh-mi-cafe.com

Serving up all-day Canadian breakfast and Vietnamese pho, as well as gelato, crepes and waffles.

### **COMAL Y CANELA**

1692B Jane St.  
(647) 689-4694  
comalycanela.com

Submerge yourself in an authentic Mexican restaurant employing traditional cooking methods, age old skills and ancestral culinary techniques. The flavours bring the soul of Mexico to Toronto in a relaxing, fast-casual dining experience.

### **EGGLINTON GRILL**

2609 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 652-0941  
egglintongrill.com

A diner style restaurant serving all-day breakfast including pancakes, omelettes and sand-

wiches. Try the Chef’s Signature 9 oz. burger, always fresh and never frozen.

### **FIRST CLASS DELITES**

1156 Weston Rd.  
(416) 240-7810  
firstclassdelites.com

First Class Delites treats you to the dishes most served in Jamaica. They use the freshest ingredients in hopes of delivering you the best Jamaican cuisine in York. Feast on the delicious jerk chicken dinner, the curry goat roti and the oxtail dinner.

### **GOLDEN CRISP FISH & CHIPS**

1354 Weston Rd.  
(416) 245-8839  
fishandchipstoronto.ca

Welcome to a family-owned and operated local favourite, proudly serving fish and chips since 1935. Their consistent cordial service and amazing quality halibut paired with hot, fresh chips has earned them many loyal customers returning for more.

### **HANG-OUTS FILIPINO FAST-FOOD CATERING**

1708 Eglinton Ave. W.  
(416) 843-9841  
hangoutsfoods.com

Hang-Outs is a family owned business specializing in Filipino, Chinese and Canadian foods. This is the place for family and friends to let loose, laugh, eat and enjoy.



### **NOVA ERA BAKERY**

490 Rogers Rd.  
(416) 651-5000  
novaera.ca

Nova Era's menu boasts a vast selection of delicious options. Their philosophy is simple: fresh quality ingredients always made-to-order. European style espresso-based drinks and freshly brewed coffees and teas make the perfect pairing for breakfast sandwiches.

### **ROYAL BAKERY**

1263 Weston Rd.  
(416) 240-9969  
facebook.com/  
royalbakeryto

Treat your taste buds to all types of baked goods and fresh breads here. Revel in the sweet taste of mini cakes, delicious pudding and don't forget to grab a few freshly baked Portuguese tarts for you and your friends.

### **SUN CRISP FISH & CHIPS**

2047 Weston Rd.  
(416) 244-6663

Excellent quality fish and chips – light and crispy fresh batter paired along with hot and fresh thick cut fries to enjoy.

### **SUPERCOFFEE**

1148 Weston Rd.  
(416) 551-8421  
supercoffee.ca

An independent coffee shop offering excellent espresso-based beverages and coffee, pastries, panini and baked goods made in house. supercoffee is a Mount Dennis community hub, providing space and inspiration for exciting cultural activity and social change.

### **V'S CARIBBEAN VEGAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT**

1221 Weston Rd.  
(416) 249-1221

A simple and venerable Jamaican vegan spot in Mount Dennis. Meals like the Pong Special featuring maple jerk tofu with avocados as sides will have you feeling good.

### **ZEAL BURGER**

1906-1930 Weston Rd.  
(416) 352-3933  
facebook.com/zealburgers

Carefully crafted tender and juicy burgers such as the classic juicy Z Burger featuring house-made sauce and delicious fries.

## REFERENCES

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

### BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS

- Eglinton Hill BIA: [facebook.com/eglintonhillbia](https://facebook.com/eglintonhillbia)
- Fairbank Village BIA: [fairbankvillagebia.ca](https://fairbankvillagebia.ca)
- Mount Dennis BIA: [mountdennisbia.ca](https://mountdennisbia.ca)
- Oakwood Village BIA: [oakwoodvillage.ca](https://oakwoodvillage.ca)
- Upper Village BIA: [facebook.com/UpperVillage](https://facebook.com/UpperVillage)
- Weston Village BIA: [westonvillagebia.com](https://westonvillagebia.com)
- York-Eglinton BIA: [yorkbia.ca](https://yorkbia.ca)

### ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS/SITES

- Art Starts: [artstartsto.com](https://artstartsto.com)
- ArtReach Toronto: [artreach.org](https://artreach.org)
- Artscape Weston Common: [artscapeweston.ca](https://artscapeweston.ca)
- Artscape Wychwood Barns: [artscapewychwoodbarns.ca](https://artscapewychwoodbarns.ca)
- Cyborg Circus Project: [facebook.com/CyborgCircusProject](https://facebook.com/CyborgCircusProject)
- First Story Toronto: [firststoryblog.wordpress.com](https://firststoryblog.wordpress.com)
- Heritage Toronto: [heritagetoronto.org](https://heritagetoronto.org)
- Lambton House: [lambtonhouse.org](https://lambtonhouse.org)
- Learning Enrichment Foundation: [lefca.org](https://lefca.org)
- Mural Routes: [muralroutes.ca](https://muralroutes.ca)
- Neighbourhood Arts Network: [neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org](https://neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org)
- Nia Centre for the Arts: [niacentre.org](https://niacentre.org)
- Oakwood Village Library and Arts Centre: [torontopubliclibrary.ca/oakwood](https://torontopubliclibrary.ca/oakwood)
- Ontario Black History Society: [blackhistorysociety.ca](https://blackhistorysociety.ca)
- Ontario Historical Society: [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)
- Ontario School of Ballet: [ontarioschoolofballet.com](https://ontarioschoolofballet.com)
- Progress Place: [progressplace.org](https://progressplace.org)
- Shakespeare in Action: [shakespeareinaction.org](https://shakespeareinaction.org)
- StreetARToronto: [toronto.ca/streetart](https://toronto.ca/streetart)
- UrbanArts: [urbanartstoronto.org](https://urbanartstoronto.org)

- Weston Historical Society: [westonhistoricalsociety.org](http://westonhistoricalsociety.org)
- VIBE Arts: [vibearts.ca](http://vibearts.ca)

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Lost Rivers: [lostrivers.ca](http://lostrivers.ca)
- Toronto and Region Conservation Association: [trca.ca](http://trca.ca)
- Toronto Parks: [toronto.ca/parks](http://toronto.ca/parks)
- Toronto Public Library: [torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)
- Weston Frontlines: [frontlines.to](http://frontlines.to)

## EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

- Films on Shortt: [fairbankvillagebia.ca](http://fairbankvillagebia.ca)
- Fairbank Summerfest: [fairbanksummerfest.ca](http://fairbanksummerfest.ca)
- Fairbank Village Pumpkin Giveaway: [fairbankvillagebia.ca](http://fairbankvillagebia.ca)
- Light Up the Holidays: [fairbankvillagebia.ca](http://fairbankvillagebia.ca)
- Mount Dennis Winter Solstice Celebration: [moundennisbia.ca](http://moundennisbia.ca)
- Oakwood Village Urban Market: [oakwoodvillage.ca](http://oakwoodvillage.ca)
- Sounds of Eglinton: [yorkbia.ca](http://yorkbia.ca)
- Weston Buskerfest: [westonvillagebia.com/buskerfest](http://westonvillagebia.com/buskerfest)
- Weston Farmers' Market: [westonvillagebia.com/market](http://westonvillagebia.com/market)
- Weston Santa Claus Parade: [westonvillagebia.com/santaparade](http://westonvillagebia.com/santaparade)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- City of Toronto
- Fairbank BIA
- Heritage York
- Lambton House
- Madeleine McDowell
- Ontario Black  
History Society
- Tracey Prehay,  
Arts Services Intern
- UrbanArts
- Weston Village BIA
- Weston Historical Society
- York-Eglinton BIA



**CULTURAL**  
**HOT**  
**spot**

celebrating creativity and community  
[toronto.ca/culturalhotspot](http://toronto.ca/culturalhotspot)