

# The Lakeshore Grounds

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING, RECREATION,  
CREATIVITY, CARING AND STEWARDSHIP

## The Lakeshore Grounds of Yesterday

The Lakeshore Grounds site is the jewel of the surrounding community, with early developments dating back to the late 18th century, when Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe granted 1680 hectares of Crown land to Colonel Samuel Smith, in recognition of his service with the Queen's Rangers. The grounds, originally farmland, were located on the southeastern section of Colonel Samuel Smith's land and were surveyed for settlement as early as 1783.

Among the earliest developments to the area was the construction of the Mimico Lunatic Asylum, which was built in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Initially a branch of the Toronto Asylum, it was the first institution of its kind designed to accommodate those with incurable mental illnesses. The facility was a welcome addition to the community, which embraced the employment potential it brought to the area.

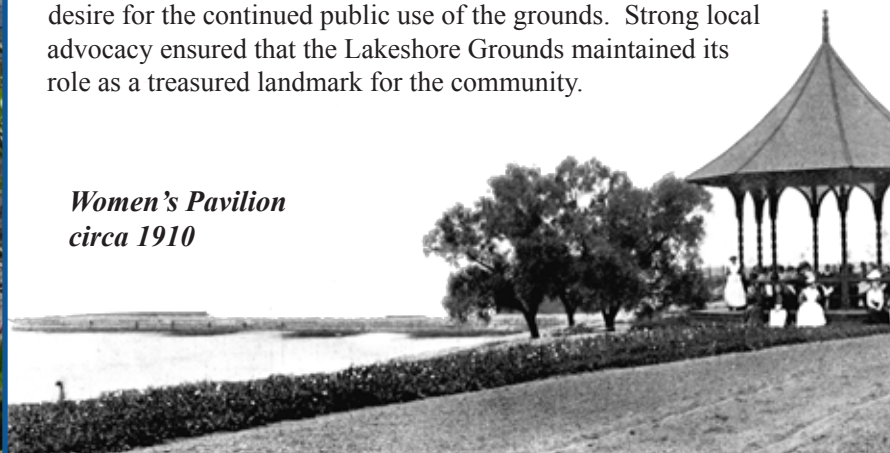
The asylum was constructed in the cottage hospital format, which was a revolutionary approach to the treatment of patients suffering with mental illnesses. The patients were believed to benefit from the home-like setting of the asylum's lodging within the centralized complex. Patients were involved in meaningful tasks that assisted hospital operations, including gardening, construction and sewing, as part of their rehabilitative therapy.

In 1898, the site expanded to include the Assembly Hall, a gathering place for the patients, which offered chapel services, recreational activities and cultural events. The Assembly Hall was the venue for many community events, attended by a mix of patients, staff and local citizens. The picturesque hospital grounds were also shared through public access to the park and waterfront.

The asylum expanded, to accommodate the changing needs and increased number of patients. Other additions included a nursing school, gatehouse, power house and pavilions, all nestled on 69 acres of parkland.

When the asylum closed in 1979, many residents voiced their desire for the continued public use of the grounds. Strong local advocacy ensured that the Lakeshore Grounds maintained its role as a treasured landmark for the community.

*Women's Pavilion  
circa 1910*



# The Lakeshore Grounds of Today

Today, the Lakeshore Grounds continue to flourish and add to the historical character of the area. Over time, many of the original structures have come full circle, from a previous institutional use to a new revitalized role, providing a variety of services that meet the interests and needs of the ever-expanding community.

Collectively, these buildings house organizations that enhance the quality of life for local residents and people from across the City of Toronto and beyond. Some of the on-site facilities offer educational, recreational and cultural opportunities. Other sites, in the tradition of the original hospital, are focussed on providing care and healing for vulnerable members of our society.



Colonel Samuel Smith Park continues to be treasured by the community, offering naturalized areas and remarkable vistas of Lake Ontario. People of all ages enjoy the extensive parkland, which contains dog walking, biking and pedestrian trails as well as space for sport activities such as cricket and kite flying.

Aside from its recreational value, the land is important for its habitat conservation. The grounds contain over 1200 trees and house many migrating birds because of the location on the shoreline and nearby vegetation, while wetland creation projects enhance bird habitat conditions. Community groups provide bird-watching hikes and parkland clean-ups, to help ensure that the park's role as a significant natural space is honoured and preserved

The Lakeshore Grounds blend a rich past with a promising future, all under the guardianship of a community that recognizes the historical significance of the area. The public's continued use of the grounds and its many facilities is a testament to the spirit of stewardship that preserves its value today and in the years to come.



Cumberland House



Lakeshore Yacht Club



The Assembly Hall



The Gatehouse



The Power House



Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School



Humber College



Lakeshore Lodge



LAKESHORE  
GROUNDS  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE



# The Lakeshore Grounds

# Map Index



This brochure was produced through a partnership between Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning and the Assembly Hall, City of Toronto, with assistance from the Lakeshore Grounds Coordinating Committee (LGCC).

Photos provided by the LGCC members, Ann Brokelman, Marc Lappano, Heather Jack and Copper Beech Photography. Historical image courtesy of the Archives of Ontario and CAMH Archives.

**The Assembly Hall: Lakeshore's Community Cultural Centre**  
1 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DRIVE, TORONTO, ON M8V 4B6  
416-338-7255 [www.assemblyhall.ca](http://www.assemblyhall.ca)

The Assembly Hall is owned and operated by City of Toronto Cultural Services. This community cultural centre is home to a large variety of events including performances, art exhibitions, community celebrations, meetings and workshops. The Assembly Hall is available for both public and private rental use.

**Colonel Samuel Smith Park**  
PARKS MAINTENANCE: 416-338-0338 PERMITS: 416-392-8188  
[www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca) [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)

This site is owned by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and is managed by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. The natural areas and shoreline are accessible by pedestrian and bicycle paths. This section of the Waterfront Trail system offers terrific views of the lake and creates a continuous connection with the surrounding community.

**Cumberland House, Residence of the Jean Tweed Centre**  
3111 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ON M8V 4B7  
416-255-4062 [www.jeantweed.com](http://www.jeantweed.com)

Cumberland House is a substance abuse and problem gambling treatment centre for women and their families. Services include: day/residential/outpatient programs, outreach services to pregnant and parenting women, children's services, a criminal justice program, trauma counselling and family programming.

**Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre**  
28 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DR. TORONTO, ON M8V 4B7  
416-393-5540 [www.fatherredmond.com](http://www.fatherredmond.com)

Father John Redmond is a co-educational Catholic secondary school that is known for its academics, arts and athletics, providing many sports and leadership opportunities for students. The school offers special programs in Dance, Visual Arts, Vocal, Strings and Instrumental Music and Advanced Placement. The school's motto is "Cursum Consumavi Fidem Servavi" - "I have finished the race: I have kept the Faith".

# Map Index continued

## **The Gatehouse Child Abuse Investigation and Support Site**

3101 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ON M8V 3W8  
416-255-5900 [www.thegatehouse.org](http://www.thegatehouse.org)

The Gatehouse® provides a state-of-the-art investigation facility for professional child abuse investigation teams and for the support of children, their non-perpetrating family members, youth and adults impacted by child abuse experiences. The Gatehouse Adult Support Network™ serves adults who have been affected by child abuse by creating circles of community support through group and one to one mentoring.

## **Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning**

**Lakeshore Campus West: Main Building and Residence**

**Lakeshore Campus East: Humber Quadrangle**

3199 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ON M8V 1K8  
416-675-6622 [www.humber.ca](http://www.humber.ca)

Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning is one of Canada's leading educational institutions, offering specialized bachelor's degree programs in addition to diploma, certificate, apprenticeship and postgraduate programs. The cottages on the east campus provide an academic village for students studying in the areas of business, community services, health, hospitality, media, technology and the arts. The campus also contains a residence, library, and other amenities.

## **Ken Cox Community Centre**

28 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DRIVE, TORONTO, ON M8V 4B7  
416 392-6355 [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)

Ken Cox Community Centre is a City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation facility that combines the use of community public assets (TCDSB) with City of Toronto assets to provide recreation programs and services to the local community. Ken Cox Community Centre offers recreation programs and services for all ages including family/special events, specialty camps, workshops and permits. The City of Toronto addition, which will include a gymnasium and other amenities, will be completed in early 2010.

## **Lakeshore Lodge**

3197 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ON M8V 3X5  
416-392-9400 [www.toronto.ca/ltc/lakeshore.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/ltc/lakeshore.htm)

Lakeshore Lodge is a long-term care home, owned and operated by the City of Toronto. Since its opening in 1990, Lakeshore Lodge has provided 24-hour care for 150 residents, including personal and nursing care and quality of life programming.

## **Lakeshore Yacht Club**

76 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DRIVE, TORONTO, ON M8V 4B7  
416-255-3701 [www.lsync.com](http://www.lsync.com)

The Lakeshore Yacht Club is a not-for-profit recreational boating club that was founded in 1991. The club is based on the principles of self-help and no debt: all work required in the building, maintenance and operation of the club is completed by its members.

## **The Power House Recreation Centre**

65 COLONEL SAMUEL SMITH PARK DRIVE, TORONTO, ON M8V 4B7  
416-338-1081 [www.toronto.ca/parks](http://www.toronto.ca/parks)

The Power House Recreation Centre is owned and operated by the City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. Various programs including unique summer camps, leadership training, workshops, special events, and youth activities are all offered at this site. The Power House is also available for occasional permits. An outdoor skating trail will be located adjacent to the Power House Recreation Centre.

## **R.L. Clark Water Treatment Plant**

45 TWENTY-THIRD STREET, TORONTO, ON M8V 3C6  
Water Education Line: 416-392-4546 [www.toronto.ca/water](http://www.toronto.ca/water)

The R. L. Clark Water Treatment Plant is owned and operated by the City's Toronto Water Division. The facility takes raw water from Lake Ontario, cleans and disinfects it to provide safe drinking water for businesses and residents of Toronto and a portion of York Region. The plant grounds are park-like and accessible to the public.