

IN SEARCH OF...

A pdf guide to three walking tours,
exploring five public art sites in
South Etobicoke



VISIT
bit.ly/isoLSA
TO LEARN MORE

Table of Contents

1. Humber Bay Walking Tour ... p. 1

- a. Oculus Pavilion and Humber River Park

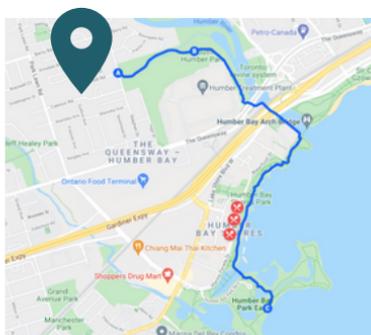
2. New Toronto Walking Tour ... p. 4

- a. “BeYOUTiful Energy” mural by Ian Gabriel
- b. “Peace and Tranquility” by Frannie and Mathew Potts

3. Long Branch Walking Tour ... p. 8

- a. Marie Curtis Park Mural by Luvsumone
- b. “Lake and Shore: Two Worlds Converging” mural by Nick Sweetman and Philip Cote

Find your way via navigatable google map on our website!
Scan the QR code below or visit www.bit.ly/isoLSA



Humber Bay Walking Tour

STOP 1

START HERE: Stephen Dr. and Cloverhill Rd.

This is the entrance to South Humber Park. You can begin here and move along the paved path until you reach the circular overhang structure that is Oculus Pavilion.



You are moving toward the river. Can you sense it?



Notice the trees, plants, animals that you might hear, see or smell on the way.

STOP 2

Oculus Pavilion

The Oculus Pavilion, designed by architect Alan Crossley, was built in 1959 in South Humber Park. It once served as a space-aged rest stop on the Humber River Recreational Trail, and has recently undergone a revitalization.



What words would you use to describe the Oculus Pavilion's shape?



How does the Oculus Pavillion relate to the surrounding environment?

Moving along the path past the Oculus Pavilion, you are approaching the river. The Humber River has been an integral feature of the area currently known as Etobicoke /Adobigok (Place of the Alders in the Ojibwe language) since time immemorial. The river has traditionally been, and continues to be, a life-giver and important mode of transportation to many diverse plants, animals, and people.



What plants have developed a personal significance for you?



Feeling Hungry?

On the map, check out Food Stops #7, 8 and 9

- Eden Trattoria
 - Eden Trattoria is a classic Italian restaurant. Enjoy their many customizable options along the beautiful Etobicoke lakeshore.
- Firkin on the Bay
 - Visit Firkin on the Bay for tasty British pub standards, from finger foods to chicken curry.
- La Vecchia Restaurant Lakeshore
 - La Vecchia has been serving Toronto for almost 25 years! Enjoy the atmosphere at La Vecchia Lakeshore while you dine on fresh pastas, seafoods, and other delicious Italian dishes.

STOP 3

Humber Bay Park East

Walk toward Humber Bay Park East. On the way, if you're feeling hungry or just snacky, check out the local restaurants listed on the map. The last stop at Humber Bay Park East is a chance for you to take in the plant, animal and human life of the Lakeshore. This area is the mouth of the Mimico Creek, which is 33km long and originates in the ecologically significant Oak Ridges Moraine.



Is there a local plant or a local landmark that you've recently learned about?



Where does our collective knowledge of plants come from?



What river, creek, or body of water holds personal significance for you? Why?



Video
Released
on
November
29, 2021

Watch the video IN SEARCH OF... ROOTS

Follow Alan Colley of Toronto Aboriginal Eco Tours and herbalist Shabina Lafleur-Gangji as they encounter the Oculus Pavilion and walk along the Humber River. In this video, they discuss the ongoing significance of the Humber River to local ecosystems, and share their knowledge about the balance between all living things in our changing world.

New Toronto Walking Tour

STOP 1

START HERE: Lakeshore Blvd. West at Tenth St.

Starting at this intersection, move toward the second stop. On your way, notice the ways that people use the space around you. Are they rushed, in movement, relaxing, or engaging with each other?



How do you feel as you move around the neighbourhood?



What aspects of your surroundings influence your comfort or discomfort?

STOP 2

Eighth St. Skatepark Murals

The Eighth Street Skatepark is a vibrant hub for local skaters of all levels to gather. Its diverse collection of murals in many colours and styles is a reflection of the dynamic energy of the community. Street art is an integral part of skate culture, and Ian Gabriel's "BeYOUtiful Energy," featuring a female samurai warrior and a dragon-wolf, represents the fierce power and positivity found in the local scene.



How do you think the murals have transformed this skatepark?



What impact does diverse representation within the murals have on your feelings of belonging at the skatepark?



Do you believe that murals or public art can change neighbourhoods? How?



A skatepark is a free, outdoor, youth-centred public space. Can you think of other places where youth can hang out that are free and welcoming to them?

STOP 3

Lakeshore Village Park

On your way to the second mural at the next stop, pause to appreciate Lakeshore Village Park. What are the differences between this park and Eighth Street Park?



Watch the video IN SEARCH OF... SPACE



Video
Released
on
December
9, 2021

Join muralist Ian Gabriel and fellow skater and place-maker Jay Phillips of DIY Skate Toronto, as they talk about the importance of art and community in skateboarding. Be sure to watch the video to see them flex their skills at the Eighth Street Skatepark!

STOP 4

1 Fourteenth St. Mural

The beautiful lotus pond mural, Peace and Tranquility found at 1 Fourteenth Street was painted by sibling duo, Frannie and Matthew Potts, as part of the Neighbourhood Love initiative in 2020. The cool colours transport you to a

calming world of clear water and skies, while the blooming flowers and beaming sun rays breathe life into the landscape.



What does this mural make you feel?



Can a mural be a love letter?



Feeling Hungry?

On the map, check out Food Stops #4, 5 and 6

- Cellar Door
 - Cellar Door is an Italian restaurant that offers a fresh take on a variety of pizzas, pastas, and more. While you're there, pick up some gourmet meats and antipasti for your pantry!
- Michael's West Indian Flavor
 - Head to Michael's West Indian Flavour for a bite of their famous oxtail! While you're at this cash-only spot, be sure to try their other specialties, such as jerk chicken and curry goat.
- Calabrese Pizza
 - Every Calabrese Pizza starts with freshly made dough and the best ingredients. Aside from pizza and panzerotti, they also offer a variety of sandwiches, pastas, desserts, and more!

STOP 5

Colonel Samuel Smith Park

At the last stop of this tour route, take some time to appreciate the natural surroundings, the public space of the park, and the community members around you. Reflect on the topic of care by answering or chatting about the questions below with a friend.



What are some ways that care and love are shown to communities, or shared amongst communities?



What are some acts of care that you do in your life (towards yourself, your community, or your surroundings?)



Video
Released
on May 13,
2022

Watch the video IN SEARCH OF... LOVE

Bareket Kezwer, one of the co-founders of the Neighbourhood Love Collective, speaks about the purpose behind the new collective, and why community members needed a public art initiative to connect them to each other. Spoken word artist, Zara Rahman, performs an empowering piece about community bonds and resilience.

Long Branch Walking Tour

STOP 1

START HERE: Long Branch Loop

Starting at this transit stop, move toward the second stop. On your way, notice the ways that Etobicoke Creek shapes the built environment around you. Notice the age and size of the trees around you as you enter Marie Curtis Park. Stay on the east side of the Creek.

STOP 2

Marie Curtis Park Mural by Luvsumone

Move along the central path in the Park to the South end, close to the beach. On your way there, keep to the left and do not cross any bridges. You will see the colourful mural as you approach the beach.

Luvsumone's (AKA Luvs) impressive four-sided mural is hard to miss. This large dream-like piece takes inspiration from the park's scenery and wildlife inhabiting the lake and shores, and sets them amongst rainbow-coloured clouds. On each side, we see a fish, a container ship in a bottle, a duck, and birds nesting around the word "home," reminding us that the land we occupy is shared with all sorts of creatures.



What does this 4-sided mural make you think of? Can you create a story linking all four sides?



Imagine how many people call this land home. Imagine how many local people might feel very far from what they know as home.



Watch the video IN SEARCH OF... HOME



Video
Released
on April 7,
2022

Muralist Luvs shares how local culture and history inspired his mural. He gives insight into the importance of public art in activating community spaces, as well as what “home” means to him. Fumu Jahmez presents an artistic reflection of the community in connection with nature, through song and dance.

STOP 3

Len Ford Park

This scenic route to the next stop will bring you to Len Ford Park. Take a pause here to appreciate another part of the Lakeshore, while pondering or exploring the following questions.



What sounds, smells and images come to mind when you think of the word 'home'?



Are they from recent or old memories?



Is your idea of "home" something that has shifted over time?

As you move North to the final stop and public artwork, feel free to stop by some of the following Food Spots located along the walking tour.



Feeling Hungry?

On the map, check out Food Stops #1, 2 and 3

- The Happy Bakers
 - The Happy Bakers is run by a group of bakers who pursued their dream to open up their own shop together. They offer both sweet and savoury baked goods, meals, and more!
- Thrive Organic Lakeshore
 - Thrive Organic focuses on providing customers with the best organic, fair-trade, and local foods available. They specialize in providing delicious options for a variety of diets, from vegetarian, to vegan, gluten-free, and raw.
- George the Greek
 - George the Greek is a family-owned, authentic taverna that has been serving customers since 1967. They dish up delicious Greek and Mediterranean food, as well as diner classics.

STOP 3

“Lake and Shore: Two Worlds Converging” Mural at 30th Street Underpass

This mural crosses the boundaries between the neighbourhoods of Long Branch and Alderwood, and is technically located in both.

“Lake and Shore: Two Worlds Converging” can be found in the 30th Street Underpass, and was painted by muralists Philip Cote and Nick Sweetman. This vibrant mural depicts diverse local wildlife alongside stark black elements representing clan animals and spirits from Anishinaabe tradition and cosmology. They are set against a background that seems of another world. Fusing western and Indigenous styles and understandings, this mural is a harmonious representation of cultural exchange.



How many of the animals in this mural have you seen in recent years?

Why do you think that is?



There are black symbols and designs throughout the mural. What do you think one of them represents?



Have you noticed the smoke wafting and connecting all of the elements in the mural? What kind of smoke do you think it is? What could this smoke represent?



What would you title this mural, and why?



Video
Released
on March
4, 2022

Watch the video

IN SEARCH OF... LIFE

Listen to mural artists Philip Cote and Nick Sweetman as they discuss their artistic process and importance of showcasing Indigenous voices. Find out what message they want us to take away from their mural, and what it can show us about Indigenous-settler relationships and different ways of knowing.

Thank you to our partners and funders

Food Stops were curated by Taste Toronto



'In Search Of...' is part of Local Discoveries, your one-stop resource to explore ArtworxTO programs provided by Toronto's six Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) - Arts Etobicoke, East End Arts, Lakeshore Arts, North York Arts, Scarborough Arts and UrbanArts. Visit torontolasos.com for all LASOs events as new events will be added every month.



'In Search Of...' is a Signature Project of Cultural Hotspot produced in partnership with the City of Toronto.



'In Search Of...' received grant funding as a part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022, a year-long celebration of Toronto's exceptional public art collection and the creative community behind it. Visit artworxTO.ca for full details.



Scan the QR code to visit the website

LSA

LAKESHORE ARTS

Produced in 2021 by Lakeshore Arts
Visit www.lakeshorearts.ca for more information