

When to Come

The public is invited to visit the site: 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, July 15 to August 15. A visitor centre is located on the site with maps, artifacts and brochures. Staff will be available to answer questions.

Some events will take place on weekends as well. See the Web Site or contact PastQuest for more information.

For More Information

Finds and upcoming activities will be reported in local newspapers and on television.

Metro Parks and Culture

Web Site: <http://www.culturenet.ca/metrotor/>
E-mail: culture@metrodesk.metrotor.on.ca

Tours and special arrangements:

Alexandra Avdichuk
Metro Parks and Culture

tel: (416) 266-4449, fax: (416) 266-4375
e-mail: ad095@freenet.toronto.on.ca

Public Programming:

Peter Hamalainen
PastQuest
tel: (416) 730-0797

Supervisor of archaeological activities and instructor of field school:

Professor Marti Latta
University of Toronto at Scarborough

tel: (416) 287-7350, fax: (416) 287-7283
e-mail: latta@lake.scar.utoronto.ca

How to Get There

The Guild is located in Guildwood Park at 191 Guildwood Parkway, Scarborough, Ontario M1E 1P6.

By TTC:

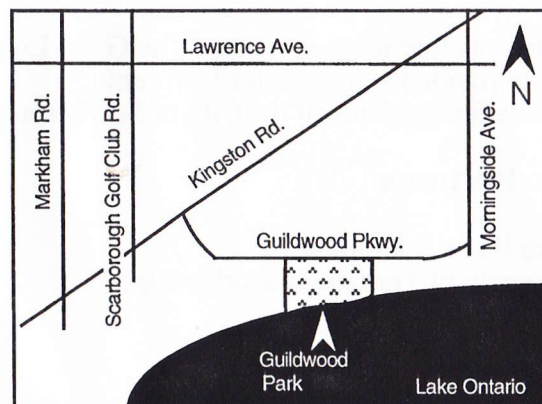
Take the Morningside Bus #116 from Kennedy Station. The bus stops in front of the entrance to Guildwood Park.

By car:

Drive south on Morningside Avenue until it curves west to become Guildwood Parkway, or turn south from Kingston Road onto Guildwood Parkway.

Follow signs along the pavement from the bus stop or parking lot to the Log Cabin. The site is wheelchair accessible.

Map to Guildwood Park and Guild site:



The Guild Log Cabin Project

Archaeological

Excavation

July - August, 1996



METRO PARKS & CULTURE



University of Toronto
At Scarborough

The Guild Log Cabin Project

A single-room log cabin overlooking the Scarborough Bluffs, on the property of The Guild in Guildwood Park, has been designated by the City of Scarborough as one of the earliest surviving structures in this region.

An archaeological excavation will be held at the site during July and August to search for further remains of the first European settlers in the area.

In this Bicentennial Year of the City of Scarborough, excavations at The Guild Log Cabin celebrate the immigrant experience: New Canadians -- 200 years ago and today.

The Mystery

Archaeologists are looking for the answers to a question: who built the Log Cabin at The Guild? Historical records suggest three names: Augustus Jones (Surveyor, 1791-1793); William Osterhout (United Empire Loyalist, 1796-1803); and William Humphreys (Farmer, 1845-1870). The cabin may have been built as a military lookout post or a squatter's cabin.

Archaeological evidence can help to identify the date of earliest occupation, and this date will help indicate the builder.

Everyone is invited to visit the Log Cabin Site and to participate in the search for Scarborough's past.

The Cabin

The Guild Log Cabin is a single room, one-and-a-half storey structure which measures 16 ft 7 in by 22 ft 6 in (5.0 x 6.85 metres). It is built of round logs joined with square notched corners, rising eight logs high and sealed with cement chinking.

The present door in the south wall was once the back door. A matching door in the north wall led to a porch which extended the full length of the north side of the house. Windows in the south and west walls provide light to the ground floor.

In the upper half storey, a loft with a window at the west end is reached through a trap-door in the ceiling of the main room. The red brick fireplace with its stone hearth floor, at the east end of the cabin, probably dates from the early to middle 19th century.

The cabin has been "improved" in recent decades. A plywood floor was laid over the original dirt floor. Electricity and water pipes brought 20th century comforts for resident artists in The Guild of All Arts.

But long before these additions, The Guild Log Cabin provided simple, solid 19th century comfort for residents of the City of Scarborough.

The Partners

Metro Parks & Culture
University of Toronto at Scarborough
PastQuest
Ontario Archaeological Society
Ontario Heritage Foundation
Time Explorers

Digging Deeper

An archaeology field school, directed by Professor Marti Latta, University of Toronto at Scarborough, will take place at The Guild Log Cabin during July and August, 1996. The archaeologists will dig around the cabin to find artifacts and traces of long-vanished outbuildings -- a shed, barn, summer kitchen or privy -- which illustrate the identity and daily lives of the cabin's occupants.

Test excavations have already discovered mid-19th century domestic refuse around the Log Cabin:

An 1854 Bank of Upper Canada half-penny is proof that the cabin was occupied nearly 150 years ago. To its original owner, the loss of the small coin was a serious event; after all, two cents bought a loaf of bread.

Piles of household rubbish and garbage form a time capsule of the past. This rubbish includes broken dishes, such as an early Spode plate in the popular Blue Willow pattern. Smashed medicine bottles and smoking pipes tell the story of frontier health; tobacco was thought to be medicinal. A lead soldier's horse was left by a child. A full-sized horseshoe was contributed by the horse responsible for transport and farming. Even the smallest fragment has a story to tell.