

Hands on Heritage:

History and Imagination Coming to Life

Your Guide to Education Programming at the
Oshawa Community Museum & Archives



Oshawa Community Museum & Archives

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So, don't you think that the period of 1900 – 1910 was an important one for the Oshawa people and folks were very much alive in those days? How would the present generation react if they were suddenly plunged back into that era?

Olive B. French. 1967

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All About Us

Open year round and located in Lakeview Park, at the bottom of Simcoe Street in Oshawa, the Oshawa Community Museum consists of three restored heritage homes all on their original foundations. Each is named after early settler families of Oshawa -



Guy, Robinson and Henry, and date to 1835, 1846 and 1849 respectively. We also feature a Drive Shed, an exhibition area housing some of the larger artifacts in the collection. These include carriages, cutters and agricultural implements.

Enjoy rotating displays and permanent exhibits, including the general store and "Archaeology in Oshawa" in Robinson House, and a traditionally decorated Victorian home in Henry House. Guy House serves as the Museum's administrative centre with the Archives, Verna Conant Gallery and gift shop.

Visit our website, blog and Facebook fan page for important updates and event information!

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Other program and tour times available by appointment only.

Mission Statement

To preserve and present the history of the City of Oshawa, and to foster an understanding and appreciation of the City's heritage.

Background

The mandate of the Oshawa Historical Society is to bring together those individuals interested in the diverse historical aspects of Oshawa and to research, retain, preserve and present historical information pertaining to the Oshawa area. The Oshawa Historical Society also maintains as an agent for the City of Oshawa, the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives as a repository for artifacts and written records of historical interest to Oshawa. The City of Oshawa owns the museum buildings, however the artifact and archival collection plus other materials are owned by the historical society.

A Message from the Programming Department

In 2008, Museum staff reviewed and audited all curriculum-based programs and education kits. It was determined that it was time for a change! The kits were dismantled and school programs were provided on an "as requested" basis. January 2009 saw the initiation of the school program overhaul. What ensued was the development of a series of programs (and subsequently their objectives) that is guided by the Ontario curriculum and site-specific to the Oshawa Community Museum & Archives and it's mandate.



Accessibility

Currently each house at the Museum has an accessible entrance. Guy House is equipped with accessible washroom facilities. The Museum is developing tactile tours, organizing handling sessions and striving to make our community accessible for everyone. We are working with the City of Oshawa's Accessibility Advisory Committee and Heritage Oshawa to achieve the goals of the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act as well as to preserve the historical integrity of the houses.



How To Find Us

From Bowmanville:

Take the 401 west to the
Ritson/Boor Exit - #418

Turn right onto Toronto Ave.

Turn right onto Ritson Rd. S.

Turn left onto Simcoe St. S.

Turn right onto Lakeview Park
Ave.

Turn left into the second parking
lot entrance.

Make your way to Guy House

From Pickering:

Take the 401 East to the Simcoe
St. Exit - #417

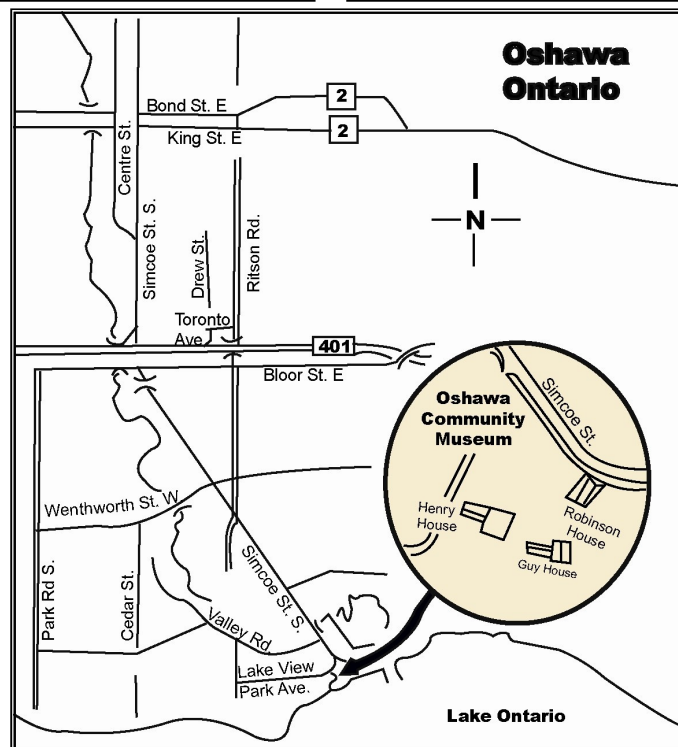
Turn left onto Bloor St. W.

Make an immediate right onto
Simcoe St. S.

Turn right onto Lakeview Park
Ave.

Turn left into the second parking
lot entrance.

Make your way to Guy House



Before You Visit

We recommend that you provide at least two weeks notice when booking a trip to the Museum. This allows us to properly facilitate your group with the sufficient amount of staff and volunteers.

Our supervisor ratio is one teacher or parent volunteer per every five children for primary grades and one per ten for junior, intermediate and secondary grades.

Payment is made upon arrival to the Museum. We accept cash, debit, Visa, MasterCard and cheque. Cheques should be made out to the Oshawa Historical Society.

Programs last between 1 ½ and 2 hours.

The cost per child is \$5.00. There is no charge for supervisors SO LONG AS the ratio is as stated above. If there are more supervisors than aforementioned, then the rate of \$3/adult is charged for any additional adults.

The Museum can accommodate groups of up to 60 children.

Teachers are encouraged to provide name tags for the children, thus allowing interpreters to acknowledge the children by name.

If a portion of the program is to be conducted outdoors, please advise parents to dress their children appropriately.

Please advise children and parents that "Heelys" shoes are not permitted in the Museum.

Cancellation Policy: 48 hours notice is required for program cancellations. If less than 48 hours notice is given, the full program fee will be charged; the exception being cases of severe weather. If the program is rescheduled within the same school year no fee will be charged. If you experience severe weather on the day of your trip and do not book within the same school year, 50% of the program fee will be charged.

Early Education In Oshawa

Evidence of schools and education in early 19th century Ontario is very rare. However, it is reasonably safe to assume that the humble beginnings of education in Oshawa were most likely the same as everywhere else. A child's primary education began in the home. "The girls were educated in sewing, knitting, spinning, bread-making, and other household chores by their own mothers. The boys, when old enough, frequently learned the occupations of their fathers."⁽¹⁾

Exactly when and where the first school in the area started is a matter of debate, though it is agreed that it was near the lakefront prior to 1812. One account has Joseph Moore, a settler from Boston, Massachusetts establishing a school "on the farm on Ben Rodgers."⁽²⁾ Moore was a well educated lawyer, and the same account claims he was well respected within the community. But another source states that "in 1811 the first school on the lakeshore between Oshawa and Whitby was established by Miss Cross in a log hut on a farm later owned by William Blair."⁽³⁾ Regardless of the date or place, the children would have received a similar education in a similar setting. Many teachers were United Empire Loyalists who had defected to Upper Canada after the Revolutionary War. They were strict and taught in log cabins or one-room schoolhouses. The only source of heat was a wood stove in the middle of the room while "the desks were arranged in long rows about the room; in front of the desk was an equally long seat. Each pupil, when not engaged in study, was compelled to pass the time by giving a long, cold look at the blank wall."⁽⁴⁾

What is agreed upon is the inception of a school in the Harmony district. The school that is now known as Harmony Public School opened circa 1812 with noted Oshawa resident John Ritson as it's first teacher and Abram Farewell (son of Aceus Moody Farewell) as it's second teacher. The first log schoolhouse in Oshawa proper though was built in 1829 on the "south-west corner of King and Simcoe Streets"⁽⁵⁾ where the CIBC is currently located. It's first two teachers were Andrew Masson and Fannie Hall, "the first lady teacher."⁽⁶⁾

Eventually, just after Oshawa was incorporated as a village (1850) the Centre Street School was opened. "The site of the present E.A. Lovell School was purchased, for a sum of \$75.00 and upon this property a one-storey building was erected in 1856 at a cost of \$1000."⁽⁷⁾ This 'union school' was multi-denominational and served both elementary and high school students. It went through a number of phases, most notably when a new high school was built on Simcoe Street North in 1910 "leaving the entire Central School [Centre Street School] for elementary departments once more."⁽⁸⁾

With the inception of Oshawa's first separately housed high school and its transition into the first collegiate institute on the horizon, a new age in education was upon the citizens. These original schools are drastically different from what children today know, but from their foundations we learn.

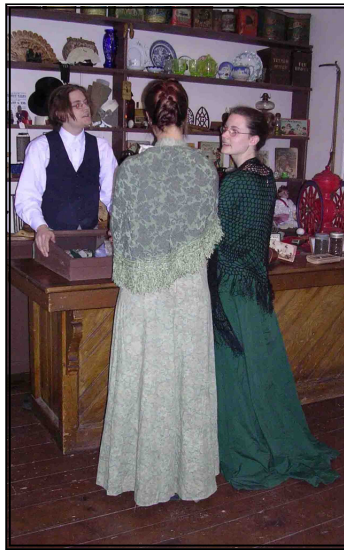
Sources:

1. Ross, J. Douglas. Education in Oshawa: From Settlement to City (Self published, 1970), P. 3
2. Hood, M. McIntyre. Oshawa: A History of "Canada's Motor City" and Oshawa Public Library (Oshawa: The Alger Press Limited, 1978), P. 225
3. Ross, J. Douglas. Education in Oshawa: From Settlement to City (Self published, 1970), P. 4

What We Offer

Primary Programming

Grade 1 - Meet the Museum: Meet the Archivist, Curator and Interpreters at the Oshawa Community Museum! Learn about where Oshawa's past resides and find out what we do to preserve Oshawa's cultural heritage. Groups will tour the Museum and learn about special rules we have in place to protect all of the artifacts they will see.



Grade 2 - Local Traditions: Find out what Oshawa was like during the two busiest times of the year - Harvest and Christmas. Were children really allowed to skip school to help with the harvest? Learn about the barter system in our General Store exhibit. Participate in a mock Victorian Christmas concert in the one-room schoolhouse and see how one of Oshawa's oldest families (the Henry's) celebrated the holidays.

Grade 3 - A Day in the Life of A Victorian Child: Examine the role of a Victorian child through a number of hands-on activities; including candle- or butter-making, "baking", and planting. Tour through Henry House where themes such as "kids are seen and not heard" and "women's work" are discussed. And visit the one-room schoolhouse exhibit in Robinson House where children will have the opportunity to participate in a condensed "school day".

Junior Programming

Grade 4 - Victorian Days and Medieval Knights: Using role play and deductive reasoning skills, children will visit the past and compare aspects of the Medieval and Victorian eras. For example, discussing the importance of herbs to Lurenda Henry, local herbalist in the 1800's and the rise of apothecaries and naturopathic remedies in the 1600's.



Grade 5 - Digging up the Past: Join us on a journey back in time where we will learn about Oshawa's own early civilization. Our history may not stretch back to the Bronze Age like ancient Greece or Rome, but Oshawa's past does go back as far as the Medieval Era in Europe. Here it was known as the Late Iroquoian Period. Activities and crafts completed will demonstrate how archaeologists discovered this and other early civilizations.

Grade 6 - Native and Pioneer Connections: Investigate the vestiges of an aboriginal settlement that existed in Oshawa c. 1400 - 1470 CE by touring through the Archaeology in Oshawa exhibit in Robinson House as well as Henry House. This will be furthered with an investigation on how the Lake Ontario Iroquois lived and compare this to how the settlers of Oshawa lived. Also, examining how the natives interacted with the local settlers and attempt to determine if they had a positive or negative effect on native culture in Oshawa.



Intermediate Programming

Grade 7 - Introduction to Primary

Sources: Visit the Oshawa Community Archives where students will learn what kinds of resources are available. They will develop critical thinking skills as they investigate a number of primary documents from the Archives collection including a land deed from the Henry family, newspapers from Oshawa's early days and a map of Oshawa from the 1800s. Included in this program is a visit to the Harbour Pioneer Cemetery on nearby Bonnie Brae Point. The class will embark on a brief walk up to the cemetery where they will complete a lesson in cemetery studies.



Grade 8 - Industrial Oshawa: This outreach program is designed to give students insight into the development of Oshawa's greatest industries and their owners. They will see how industry affected class, gender relations and technology as we embark on a

PowerPoint tour through Industrial Oshawa. This program includes information sheets on featured industries and their owners for the class as well as follow up activities and questions for consideration.

NEW! Grades 7&8 - Click!: Make history a 'SNAP' with this new, engaging program from the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives. Students will explore the Oshawa Community Museum and Lakeview Park, learning about the history found throughout, and engaging with the surroundings through the medium of photography! On this 'Amazing Race' style of scavenger hunt, teams of students will look for clues, leading to their next destination point, and they will photograph their journeys. At the end of the hunt, students will present their photographs at Guy House to the rest of their class, and the teacher will take home a disc with the photos taken by their students.

Secondary Programming



Grade 10 - Stories From the Homefront: Oshawa During the Second World War: The British author and poet, Joseph Rudyard Kipling, once said "If history was told in the form of stories it would never be forgotten." With this wise statement in mind the Oshawa Historical Society set out to design, develop and implement an oral history project to commemorate

the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II. Offered as an outreach program, students will view the Stories From the Homefront: Oshawa During the Second World War PowerPoint presentation and participate in a class discussion afterward. The cost of this program includes one copy of the book for the teacher and students to enjoy and use for further research.

Grades 11 and 12 - Theatre in the Community: The Oshawa Community Museum & Archives invites your class to develop theatre within the community! We offer the time, location and resources for your grade 11 and 12 classes to produce an original presentation based on local history. Oshawa's history runs deep. It is fascinating with a plethora of stories waiting to be brought to life. Students may arrange to visit the Museum on class time and on weekends to develop characters, build scripts and research local history for storylines. At the end of the semester students will present their productions to staff, invited guests and the public. Hours committed and tracked outside of class time will be counted towards the student's community service hours.

Exhibit Programming



The Oshawa Community Museum and Archives features one to two new exhibits throughout the year. In the past, these exhibits have included *Mourning After: A Victorian Celebration of Death and Mourning*; *Voices of the Town: Vaudeville in Canada*; *Remembering John McCrae: 1872-1918*; and *Lights, Cameras, Lenses: A Journey Through the History of Photography*.

In correlation with these exhibits, the programming department develops topic-related education programs, all with linkages to the Provincial Curriculum.



Be sure to check www.oshawamuseum.org for the most relevant information on these exciting programs, tying into our featured exhibits!

Gardening Programming

ATTENTION TEACHERS!

The Henry House Heritage Gardens:

Scientifically Sensational!

NEW CURRICULUM-BASED SCIENCE PROGRAMMING AT
THE OSHAWA COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Grade 1: Characteristics and Needs of Living Things

Grade 3: Growth and Changes in Plants

Grade 4: Habitats and Communities

Grade 7: Interactions with Ecosystems



Program Structure and Availability:

Programs are available seasonally, when the Heritage Gardens are flourishing. May, June, September and October.



Classes are taken on a tour of the Museum's Heritage Homes, which may include a craft or activity depending on the grade. Following the tour of the homes, the class will gather in the Heritage Gardens to learn about Lurenda, matriarch of the Henry family and locally known and respected herbalist. Students will then complete crafts, activities

and worksheets that correspond with their curriculum.

Education Kits

Education kits are available to rent year round!

Cost: \$25.00

Rental Period: Pickup - Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.

Drop off- Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

* A late fee of \$5.00 per day will be charged if the kit is not returned on Friday. *

Make Your Own Kit: The Museum will provide you with a master list of what is available at the time of your request. Select as many as you like (with a five item minimum) and only pay \$1.00 per item!

Archaeology in Oshawa: Examine artifacts such as bodkins, rim shards and pipe stems and uncover the truth about Oshawa's past. Learn about the theory and practice of archaeology.



Around the House: Study the role of women in the 19th century by analyzing and interpreting various artifacts normally found throughout a Victorian home.

Bonnets & Breeches: An Introduction to Children's Clothing: This kit contains a selection of reproduction children's clothing from the Victorian era. Groups are encouraged to dress up and think about how styles and availability have changed over the years.





Curious About Cameras: Look through the lens and into the dawn of the age of photography. Study samples of early cameras and photography and learn about photographers living in Oshawa during this era.

Down in the Barn: Traditional implements depicting a turn of the century barn and the outdoor chores performed nearby. Learn about farming in the 1800's , the role each family member had on the farm and how foods were preserved.

Early Lighting: Examine the shift from hand dipped candles made with fetid tallow to the soft glow of an oil lamp. This kit contains the necessary elements for your group to partake in a candle making demonstration.

The General Store: The miscellanea sold in general stores during the Victorian Era is amazing even today! Some of the most interesting objects are included in this kit where you will have the chance to investigate and compare items to modern day items.



Toys & Games: Whether you're young or young at heart, this kit will definitely have you talking as you reminisce about the toys of yesteryear. Handmade toys were customary and store bought toys were held dear - explore both and find out how to make your own!

Outreach



The Oshawa Community Museum & Archives can come to you too! Trained staff and volunteers are available to address your class, special interest group or service club.

The cost of each presentation is \$50.00 plus the cost of our mileage to get to your location. The length of each presentation varies, especially if you choose to include elements such as crafts or demonstrations.

Please select a presentation from the following list. A Museum representative will provide you with further details upon booking.

Remember When: Oshawa's History Since 1790	1940s Fashion
Industrial Oshawa	Mourning After: A Victorian Celebration of Death
Archaeology in Oshawa	Prominent Citizens
The History of Cedar Dale	Stories From the Homefront
Oshawa's Churches	The Village of Harmony
Oshawa's Cultural Communities	Victorian Fashion
Early Settlers	Herbs to You
The General Store	Farewell Cemetery Archaeological Investigation
Education in Oshawa	Wars and Remembrance in Oshawa
Lakefront Memories	If This House Could Talk: Henry House History
The Oshawa Railway	
Oshawa's Theatres	

Duties of pupils attending the Oshawa Central School, 1858

1. Pupils must come to school clean in their person and clothes with hands and faces washed, hair combed and etc.
2. Each pupil must be in school at 9 am and 1 pomp, if detained must bring a note.
3. No one can depart before the hour appointed unless a note is brought and the reason given.
4. If one is absent he or she must bring a note from parents with the reason or will be sent home to obtain one.
5. After the school bell rings the best order must be observed. Pupils marching to and from class must tread softly at all times, when marching their hands must be behind their backs.
6. Any pupil in anyway damaging or disfiguring desks, chairs, walls or any part of central school property shall not be allowed to attend the school until damage has been repaired and promise of amendment has been made to the headmaster.
7. Each pupil must bring a piece of soap and a suitable cloth in order that his or her desk may be washed once a week
8. Pupils must faithfully prepare at home whatever lessons that they were given by their teachers
9. They must conduct themselves properly on their way to and from school
10. They must be respectfully and obedient to their teachers, they must speak the truth on all occasions and refrain from indelicate or profane language
11. They must be kind on all occasions to each other, they must refrain from mocking or nicknaming their fellow students and "do to others as they would have others do to them."



Clockwise from top, left:

2011 Durham Region Heritage Fair, Primary Sources workshop

2010 Day in the Life of a Victorian Child program

Gardening in Henry House Gardens

2011 Digging up the Past Program

Piecing together broken pottery, Digging up the Past program

