

FROM TOWN TO CITY AND BEYOND

A Self-guided Historical Walking Tour of

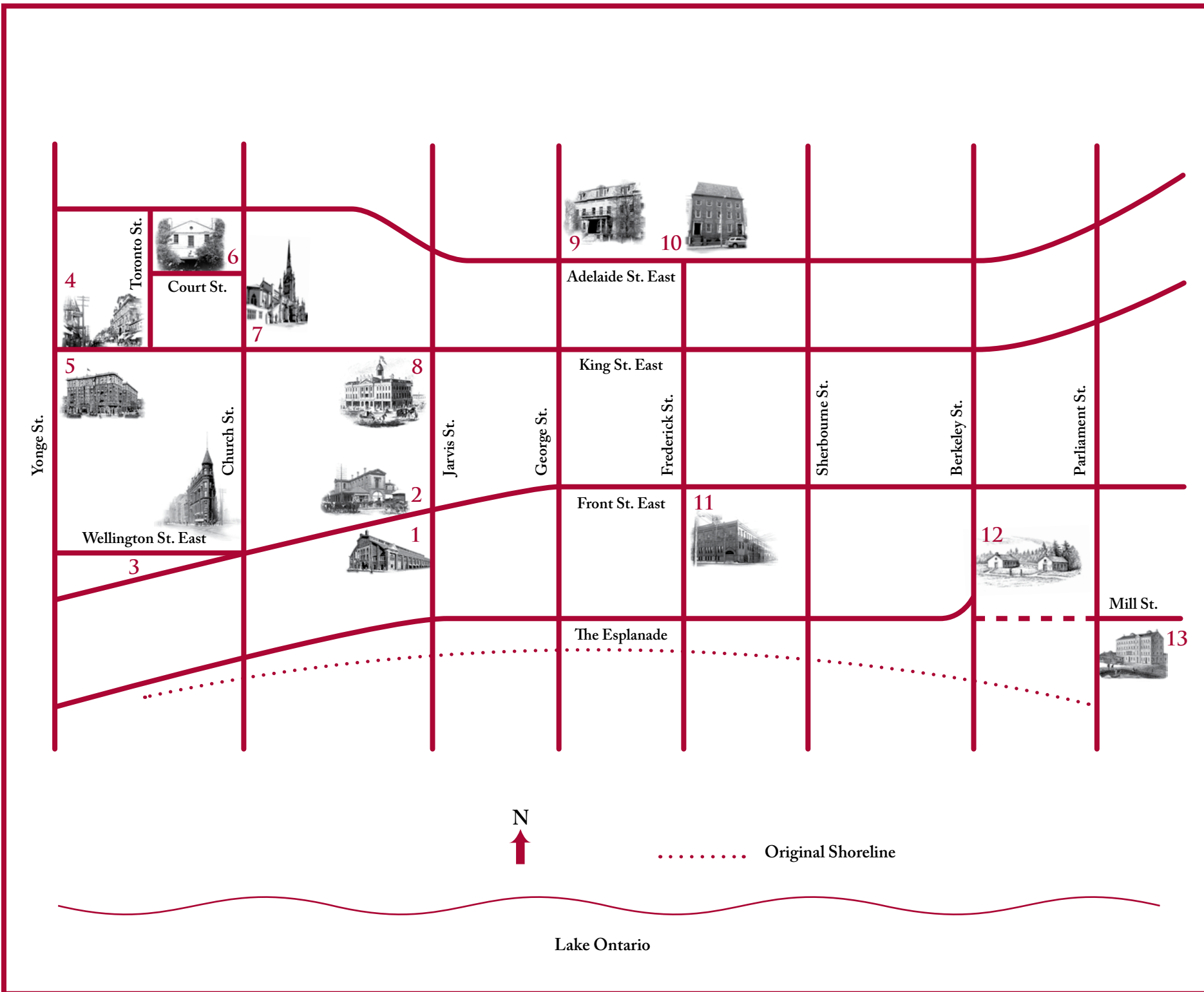
THE ST. LAWRENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Imagine a St. Lawrence Neighbourhood where the tallest building is only three storeys high, where Lake Ontario laps against Front Street and surrounding it is nothing but fields and forest. This is what the neighbourhood looked like in the 1830s. This decade saw the Town of York (1793), which started as a colonial outpost with a few hundred residents, turn into the City of Toronto (1834) with just over 9000. It experienced several cholera outbreaks, leaving thousands dead, a devastating fire and an armed rebellion led by Toronto's first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie. Over the next 100 years the neighbourhood would see the construction of grand brick buildings devoted to commerce and trade, a home for the City's first streetcar network, and a new assembly hall, St. Lawrence Hall, to host world-famous performers and political assemblies.

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1 **SOUTH ST. LAWRENCE MARKET (1902) AND CITY HALL (1845)**
95 FRONT ST. EAST



The front of the St. Lawrence Market dates to 1845 and was built as the first official City Hall in Toronto. The police station, holding cell, market and council chamber were located inside. As Toronto's population grew, council left this building in 1899 for 'Old City Hall,' located at Queen and Bay Streets. The 1845 City Hall was renovated, tearing down the side wings and removing the cupola (clock tower). The building you see now has hardly changed since 1902. Visit the second floor to see the Market Gallery, an art gallery and museum located in the former council chamber.

2 **FARMERS' MARKET (EST. 1803), NOW NORTH MARKET**
92 FRONT STREET EAST



In 1803 Lieutenant Governor Peter Hunter declared this area the 'official market block.' Market buildings were built in 1820, 1831, 1849 and 1904. The present day North St. Lawrence Market was constructed in 1968. A new four-storey facility is scheduled to open in 2016.

3 **GOODERHAM "FLAT IRON" BUILDING (1892)**
49 WELLINGTON ST. EAST



Designed by David Roberts Jr., this was the head office of the Gooderham financial empire, whose diversified holdings were based on liquor sales. The building's nickname comes from its triangular shape, dictated by the intersection of Front and Wellington, which resembles the shape of a flat iron.

4 **YONGE STREET (1794)**



In 1793, when Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe chose the site for the Town of York, he planned a road to link the provisional capital with Lake Huron to the north. Primarily intended as a military supply route for use in the event of war with the Americans, this road was named after Simcoe's friend, Sir George Yonge. Yonge Street, the longest street in the world, stretches 1,896.3 km from Queen's Quay to Rainy River.

5 **KING EDWARD HOTEL (1903)**
37 KING ST. EAST



Designed by E.J. Lennox, architect of Casa Loma and Old City Hall, the hotel was built for George Gooderham in an attempt to keep the city's business from moving west of Yonge Street and away from the headquarters of his financial empire. Previously, this was the site of York's first jail, built in 1799.

6 **COURTHOUSE SQUARE (1800)**
COURT STREET



The gallows or Hangman's Square was built in 1800 behind the courthouse. Public hangings were popular in the nineteenth century and parents often brought their children along to deter them from committing crimes. Samuel Lount and Peter Mathews were hanged on this site for participating in the 1837 Rebellion.

7 **ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL (EST. 1803, PRESENT DAY BUILT 1853, SPIRE 1874)**
65 CHURCH ST.



A congregation formed as early as 1803, meeting in the Parliament Buildings at Front and Berkeley Streets. The first church opened in 1807 on the present day site. It was enlarged in

1818, dedicated to St. James in 1828, and replaced by a new stone structure in 1832. This structure was rebuilt twice more, due to fire. The current cathedral, designed by Cumberland and Ridout, was opened in 1853. The spire was completed in 1874 and is the tallest spire in Canada.

8 **ST. LAWRENCE HALL (1850)**
157 KING ST. EAST



St. Lawrence Hall, designed by architect William Thomas, was built after the great fire of 1849 which destroyed a large section of King Street East including the Farmers' Market and St. James Cathedral. The hall quickly became the social and cultural centre for Toronto, playing host to grand balls, public lectures and concerts. The Anti Slavery Society met at the hall regularly and, in September 1851, members of the Black community in Toronto and across the province organized the Convention of Coloured People. A 1967 renovation, led by Eric Arthur, restored the grand hall to its former glory.

9 **BANK OF UPPER CANADA (1827)**
252 ADELAIDE ST. EAST



This was the first permanent home of the Bank of Upper Canada, chartered in 1821. The majority of the bank's directors were members of the "Family Compact" that dominated the political life of the province. After the bank failed in 1866, the building, along with an addition to its right, housed a Catholic boys' school, the De La Salle Institute.

10 **TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE (1833)**
260 ADELAIDE ST. EAST



Originally all post offices in Upper Canada were owned by the postmasters in charge, who were imperial appointments. This building was constructed for postmaster James Scott Howard in 1833 and functioned as the town's post

office until 1839, two years after Howards' dismissal in 1837. Howard's dismissal occurred because he was rumoured to be a reform sympathizer during the Rebellion of 1837.

11 **LORRAINE KIMSA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (1888, 1976)**
165 FRONT ST. EAST



This building originally housed the Toronto Street Railway Co. stables and, later, their electric power house. The original complex was much larger, designed to house the horse-drawn streetcars, with horse stalls on the first two floors.

12 **FIRST PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS (1799)**
BERKELEY ST., BETWEEN FRONT ST. AND ESPLANADE



In 1793 York was named capital of Upper Canada (Ontario). At one time the Parliament Buildings housed the Provincial Government, Courthouse and Anglican Church. In 1813, during the War of 1812, American troops invaded York, capturing both the fort and the town, and burning the Parliament Buildings. They were rebuilt in 1815, but burned down again in 1826. In 1814 British troops retaliated by burning the White House.

13 **GOODERHAM AND WORTS DISTILLERY (1859)**
55 MILL ST.



The city's oldest company, and once the largest distillery in the British Empire, Gooderham and Worts Ltd. was established in 1832, two years before the Town of York was incorporated as the City of Toronto. Mill Street was named for a windmill that stood here, used to power a grist mill before Gooderham and Worts became involved in the liquor business.