



June 29, 2010

Free summer weekends return to Toronto's historic sites

Seven of the City of Toronto's historic sites will once again open their doors for free on Saturdays and Sundays in July and August - offering residents engaging, educational and affordable activities during the summer months. The free family programming at these sites across the city includes music, drama, children's crafts, heritage recipe tastings and more.

At Colborne Lodge, the public can tour the restored 19th-century home of John and Jemima Howard, the founders of High Park, and enjoy a stroll around the garden.

Fort York National Historic Site has a daily cannon firing at 12:30 p.m., as well as hourly musketry and artillery drill demonstrations, with military music.

Gibson House's Summer on the Farm program features house tours, with garden produce preserved on Harvest Saturdays and ice cream hand-churned on Sundays.

At Mackenzie House, the last home of Toronto's first mayor, visitors can take part in the Kids Krafts program each weekend from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Visitors can enjoy traditional hospitality at Montgomery's Inn and relax in the tea room. Engaging tours bring history alive.

At Scarborough Museum, visitors can experience life in the 1800s with demonstrations, scavenger hunts and impromptu performances. Scarborough Museum presents a Victorian Extravaganza on July 17, 18 and 31 and August 1, with the Scene Change youth players.

At Todmorden Mills, the works of community and emerging artists will be on display in the Papermill Gallery. Visitors can explore the surrounding natural habitats, wildflower preserve, and walking trails.

Spadina Museum is currently closed for restoration, but its gardens remain open for visits. The museum will reopen in the fall with the interior restored and programming to reflect how Torontonians and the Austin family lived during the 1920s and 1930s.

More information about programs and hours can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/freeweekends>.

Free weekends take place from Saturday, July 3 through to Sunday, August 29.

Note: The free weekends program excludes some special ticketed events and holiday Mondays. Details are available on the website above.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents. For information about non-emergency City services and programs, Toronto residents, businesses and visitors can dial 311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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