Christ Church Community Museum
presents
A Walking Tour of Historic Lakefield

See the original buildings that formed the downtown business core.
Trace the owners’ steps to their homes on quiet streets.
Find where they worshipped.
Find the railway station, the steamship dock, the post offices,
the sites of the first newspaper shop and the canoe companies.

Just follow the map.

*The homes listed here are all private residences and are not open to the public.*
Christ Church Community Museum (1)
Built in 1853-54, this old stone church and its cemetery, on the banks of the Otonabee river, filled the need for a place to worship. Samuel Strickland was instrumental in raising the funds to build it. A stroll through the cemetery reveals the names of many of the early settlers, including Strickland. Today, Christ Church is still an active church, as well as a seasonal museum; it houses an impressive display of materials relating to the writings of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill, Margaret Laurence, and Isabella Valancy Crawford.

St. John the Baptist Church (2)
Built in 1865-66, its architect was Samuel Strickland's son, Walter. It was built to replace Christ Church which, in 12 years, had become too small for the congregation. It was completed just three months before Samuel died, and his was the first funeral service. Later, in his memory, the bell tower was added.

Home of Margaret Laurence (3)
From 1975 to 1987 this famous author lived at 8 Regent St. In an upstairs room Margaret Laurence penned her last memoirs. In her earlier work, *The Diviners*, she demonstrated her close affiliation with Lakefield and its history when she wrote of Morag Gunn's imaginary conversation with Catharine Parr Traill.

Homes of Isabella Valancy Crawford (4)
Isabella and her family lived at 35 Regent St. from 1862 to 1865, then moved to 15 Charlotte St. After a short time she moved to Peterborough, and finally to Toronto where she died in 1887. Some of her most beautiful poems were inspired by the legends of the Ojibwa people who lived in the Lakefield area.

Lakefield Canoe Companies
The production of wooden canoes and boats began in 1858 at the Thomas Gordon Canoe Company and ended in 1970 at Rilco Industries. Prominent names such as Gordon, Strickland, and Brown were among the ten different wooden boat manufacturers through those years. Some of their canoes were presented to royalty and many were shipped all over the world. Walter Walker, one of the last great canoe builders, presented a canoe to Prince Andrew in 1977.

98 Queen St. (5)
Part of this building was the original Thomas Gordon Canoe Company established in 1858. The back portion of the building was built in 1893 by the Strickland Canoe Company and used as a paint shop and showroom.

1 Stanley St. (6)
Now restored, this building was the original Brown Canoe Company, est. 1887.

Other canoe companies were located at:
106 Queen St. (7)
One of the Strickland Canoe Company sites and

1 Strickland St. (8)
The site of the Lakefield Boat Factory

Railway Station (9)
Built in 1881 and enlarged in 1902, this is the third and only station to remain standing. At the peak of the era there were as many as four trains a day arriving and leaving, carrying mail, freight and passengers.

Pavilion in Isobel Morris Park (10)
This heritage building was once the depot of passengers and freight passing between the railway and the steamboats during the busy summer tourist season. It was originally located beside the current marina.

Lakefield College School (11)
Founded in 1879 by an Englishman named Sparham Sheldrake, this private school has played an important economic and cultural role in our community. It has had an impressive line of headmasters, and students from all over the world, including Prince Andrew who continues to be a trustee and has returned to the school often.

Hillside Cemetery (12)
Just north of the village, on Casement Lane, lies the Hillside Cemetery. Opened in 1886, it was originally intended to replace the small cemetery at Christ Church, but eventually it became the community burial ground. Catharine Parr Traill was buried here in her 98th year. It is also the final resting place of four of the headmasters of Lakefield College School.

58 Queen St. (13a)
This building was built in 1886 and was the first to have a plate-glass window. The original structure was three stories high and had a mansard roof. For over 60 years it was used as a general store managed by three generations of the same family.

56 Queen St. (13b)
This building was built in 1851 and is the oldest still standing in the village. Over the years this little shop has housed many businesses. At one time the owner was the clerk and treasurer for the village and part of the building was used as his office. In the 1870’s the “Lakefield News” was printed here, and 100 years later the “Lakefield Leader” had an office here.

49 Queen St. (14)
Built in 1875, it has had many commercial uses, including a furniture and funeral business. It was also the site of the first public library.

46 Queen St. (15)
Built in 1860 as a private home, this building has been a hotel with livery stables, and a barber shop and pool hall. It was the last old-fashion family-style grocery store in the village.

26-28 Queen St. (16)
Built in 1877, number 26 Queen St. housed the first telephone exchange, and number 28 was originally a harness shop. A room on the upper floor was once used by Dr. Alex Fraser as a hospital room for minor surgeries. For many years it was a clothing store and is now part of Kawartha Home Hardware. See also (30)
The following are locations of some of their homes and businesses.

Many families were responsible for the founding of the village of Lakefield. However, three prominent families serve as excellent examples of the contributions of the first pioneers.

**The Nelson Family**
John and Margaret Nelson immigrated to Canada from Ireland and settled here in 1820. Their son, Hugh, was the first child born to a pioneer family in this area. Their land grant and subsequent land purchases were mainly in the south portion of the village. Indeed, at one time the area was known as Nelson’s Falls. *The following are locations of some of their homes and businesses.*
16 Albert St. (32)
In 1886 J.C Sherin built a new family home. It was occupied by members of the Sherin Family until 1985.

34 Reid St. (33)
This house was built in the early 1860s by Samuel Sherin, who worked for his brother in the general store. In 1869 Samuel was the division court clerk and, when the village was incorporated in 1874, became the first treasurer, a post held for 27 years.

47 Regent St.: Lakefield United Church (34)
The property for the church was deeded by Samuel Sherin in 1864; the cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1908. J.C Sherin, the first Sunday School superintendent, sold the lot next to his home for a church manse in 1869 for one dollar.

The Strickland Family
Samuel Strickland immigrated to Canada in 1825, followed by his sisters Catharine Parr Traill and her husband Thomas, and Susanna Moodie and her husband John, in 1832. The Strickland family holdings were mainly in the north end of the village. Samuel Strickland’s fifth home was built in 1855 and was called “The Homestead”; it was located in the area which is now known as Winfield Shores (Queen St. & Stewart Dr.), but this home burned down on Halloween 1913. Roland Strickland had inherited this home after his father’s death in 1867.

200 Queen St. Reydon Manor (35)
This home was built in 1857 for Robert Strickland by Robert Gordon (of canoe building frame). He called it Reydon Manor in honour of his father’s childhood home in England. The carriage house and the main house have been restored to their original design, thanks to former owners Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Blake.

66 Queen St. Hendren Funeral Home (36)
The original part of this building was built in 1873 by the Strickland brothers. Rev. Vincent Clementi, rector of Christ Church and of St John Baptist Anglican churches lived here.

59 Clementi St. (37)
Built in 1860, this home was purchased in 1894 by Agnes Fitzgibbon Chamberlin, daughter of Susanna and John Moodie. Agnes did the artwork for the book Studies of Plant Life in Canada, written by her aunt, Catharine Parr Traill.

16 Smith St. “Westove” (38)
This home was built for Catharine Parr Traill in 1860, and she lived here until her death in 1899. Her daughter, Katharine, remained in the house until 1922. Here, Mrs. Traill continued her writing about pioneer life in Canada and her studies of local plant life.

Stenner Rd. (39)
Susanna and John Moodie purchased property north of Samuel Strickland’s home in the vicinity of Stenner Rd. and Moodie Dr. Only a historical plaque marks this site.