



The TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE

The oldest known structure of its kind in Canada, the museum illustrates 19th Century working class life, and the roads of the time. The building has been restored by the Community History Project, who own and operate it. Phone us at 416-515-7546 to arrange a visit...

A VISIT TO THE TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE

GROUP VISITS: \$5 PER PERSON

The cottage sits at its original intersection where tolls were collected from about the 1830's to the turn of the century. After having been used as a modern dwelling, it has been carefully restored to illustrate the life of the tollkeepers in the 1860's. Wherever possible, the artifacts are all from that period or earlier.

TEA AND COOKIES

By prior arrangement, tea and coffee, and a snack, can be provided for a small additional fee. The tollkeepers, mostly Irishmen, really enjoyed their tea. Real coffee was a luxury beyond their means. Workshops on knitting, rug braiding, and other heritage skills are also available.



A docent in period dress will wax eloquent about the life of the tollkeeper and his hard-working wife and children. Most of our ancestors of the time lived lives of hard work and little comfort.

Mrs. Tollkeeper knitting.
Autumn 1862

Mrs. Tollkeeper, churning
cream into butter.
Spring 1861

The building is of a rare vertical plank construction, of which only half a dozen are known in Ontario. There is a modern addition attached to the cottage, with such niceties as heating and a washroom. The entire cottage is handicapped accessible. There is a reserved parking place for visitors' buses.

The Cottage grounds have been planted with native plants and species the pioneers would have brought with them. Tansy and rudbeckia were grown from seed by a grade 3 class, that came and planted them. We have had generous assistance from local gardening group Grassroots Albany, and from Clean and Beautiful City grants from the City of Toronto.



VICTORIAN CHILDREN'S
OUTDOOR GAMES

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The Tollkeeper's Cottage
Davenport and Bathurst
a project of the Community History Project

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