

7. Remnants of the Long Branch Outdoor Rifle Range

Along the Waterfront Trail
1300 Lakeshore Road East

Est. c1910

The Long Branch Outdoor Rifle Range was used primarily for shooting practice to test the rifles being produced at the Small Arms Factory. The remnant wooden baffles visible along the Waterfront Trail, and the adjacent concrete backstop are all that remain today of the outdoor firing range facility.

8. Former Lakeview Park Public School

1239 Lakeshore Road East

Built c1923

In 1923 it was determined that Lakeview required another school to meet the needs of its expanding population. A 2-acre property was acquired from James Walsh, east of the older Lakeview Beach Public School. The new four-room school, built with red brick with Victorian architectural influences, was ready for September of 1924. Additions were added in 1954 and 1963 as the number of students increased. The school closed in 2001, and the building was sold in 2016 for use as a private school.



Former Lakeview Park Public School

10. Lakeview ANAF Unit #262

765 Third Street

Built c1946

The Lakeview Army Navy Air Force Association, Unit #262 formed in 1936. The ANAF objectives are to provide assistance and support to veterans and their families, to members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and to the community. Members also visit hospitals, as well as financially supporting local and national charities, youth programs and community services and activities. Construction on a club building began in 1945, with an addition in 1949 and a second floor was added in 1963. The Lakeview Cenotaph, which lies in front of the club building, was unveiled in 1971.

11. Former Lakeview Radial Substation

811 Lakeshore Road East

Built c1906

The small building has a unique history and is one of the only reminders of an era when electric streetcars once travelled along this stretch of Lakeshore Road, on their way to Port Credit. The Toronto & York Radial Railway laid electric streetcar tracks along Lakeshore Road, with service beginning in 1906. It is not known for certain when this building was built (sometime between 1906 and 1923), but it performed a critical service. The electric radial cars relied on direct current, so as the distance from the power plant increased, the voltage on the line decreased. To augment this, substations containing electric dynamos were built to boost the voltage, and this building is one of the few that remain from that time, although its usage has changed over time.

12. A.E. Crookes Park

140 Lakefront Promenade

Formerly known as Aviation Park, this park was renamed in honour of Lakeview resident Albert Crookes in 1958. Albert opened an auto-wrecking business on Ogden Avenue in 1927, was a member of both the Lakeview Businessmen's Association and the Ward One Ratepayers Association, and was active in municipal politics. He became Deputy Reeve of Toronto Township in 1939, and served on council for 20 years., during which time he was recognized as the "unofficial voice of opposition". When he passed away in 1958, the community lobbied to have the park named after him in respect for a lifetime of service to his community.



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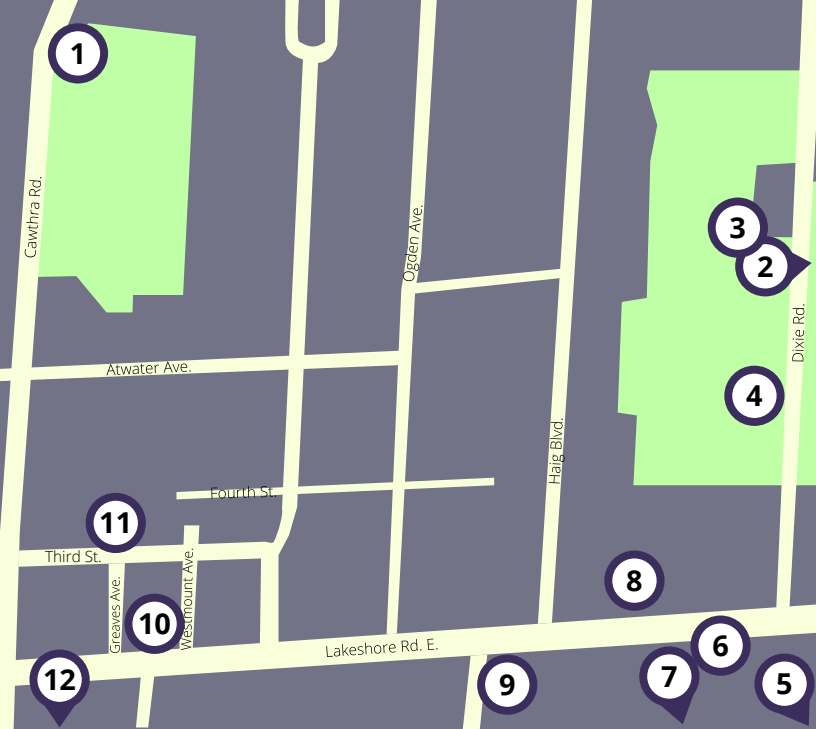
Long Branch Aerodrome Plaque

9. Former Long Branch Aerodrome

Southeast corner of Lakeshore Road East and Hydro Road

The Curtiss Aviation School operated here in 1915 and 1916, under the direction of J.A.D. McCurdy. The school trained 130 graduate pilots prior to its closure in December of 1916. The aerodrome property was then transferred to Imperial Munitions Board of the Canadian Government, and in 1917 the Royal Flying Corps Canada was established. The Long Branch Aerodrome continued to be used for cadet training for duration of the First World War. In September of 1969, more than 50 years after the establishment of the aerodrome, an Ontario Heritage Trust plaque was installed, commemorating the first aerodrome in Canada. The plaque is located at the northern end of the aerodrome property, near where the three hangers once stood.





Lakeview History

From early Indigenous peoples, to the settlement years, through to the development of military uses, Lakeview has a fascinating and varied history. Indigenous ties to the history of the area can be found in some place names, most notably that of the Etobicoke Creek. The word Etobicoke is derived from the Ojibwa word wadoopikaang, meaning “place where the alders grow”. Early settlers began arriving in the area after 1807. Much of Lakeview's early history was tied to agriculture and farming, and some of the notable early families in the area include the Cawthra, Cavan, Duck, Goldthorpe, Ogden, Ritchie and Robinson families, amongst many others.

In 1891 the Ontario Rifle Association relocated their rifle range training grounds to Lakeview, naming it the Long Branch Rifle Ranges. The ranges were used as training grounds for cadets, militia and the Department of National Defense until 1957. Immediately east of the Rifle Ranges was Canada's first aerodrome, which was located on the grounds of the former Lakeview Generating Station. Known as the Long Branch Aerodrome and Flying School, the aerodrome operated principally during the First World War. During the Second World War, the Federal government operated a small arms munitions factory, known as Dominion Small Arms Limited. It produced large quantities of weapons and armaments for use overseas. Given the fact that many of the men were off fighting the war, women were given the opportunities to become highly skilled workers. All of these entities brought new people to Lakeview.

The Lakeview area today consists of a largely suburban economy with light industrial along much of the prime lakefront land south of Lakeshore Road. The more recent developments of Lakefront Promenade Park, Douglas Kennedy Park, Lakeview Park and soon-to-open Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area have begun opening up the shoreline for residents.

1. “Lotten” Cawthra-Elliot Estate 1507 Cawthra Road Built c1926

This elegant Cawthra-Elliot House and surrounding property, today known as the Cawthra Estate, was once home to Grace Cawthra Elliot. The house was built on an ancestral land-grant given to Joseph Cawthra in 1808. Grace was a strong-willed individual whose desire to preserve her strong family heritage led her to insist that her husband, Col. Harry McIntyre Elliot add the name Cawthra to his own. Her pride also led to the construction, in 1926, of “Cawthra Lotten Estate”, as she called it.

The word “Lotten” is a reference to Lot #10 in the Toronto Township. The Georgian-styled house was designed and built by William Lyon Somerville to reflect the Cawthra's British background. Interestingly, the bricks used in the house are from the original Cawthra family home in Toronto. The landscape architect for the Estate was Edwin Kay, who blended conservative design with the natural environment. Highlights of his design included a walled garden and a reflecting pool amid a dense thicket of trees, today known as the Cawthra Woods, an environmentally sensitive area.

When Grace died in 1974, at the age of 96, she was without heirs and a will. The City of Mississauga eventually purchased the Cawthra Elliot Estate and in 1992 completed a rehabilitation of the house, which is now in use as Blyth Academy. In 1994, the City changed the name of the property to the “Cawthra Estate”.



'Lotten' Cawthra- Elliot Estate

2. Toronto Golf Club 1305 Dixie Road Founded 1876, established here in 1911

The Toronto Golf Club was founded by James Lamond Smith in Toronto in 1876. The club relocated to a new home in 1894, but encroachment from the expanding city led the club to find a property here in 1911. Well-known English golf architect, Henry Shapland Colt, was brought from England to design the new course. The course was ready for play in the fall of 1912. A clubhouse was completed in 1913. The club purchased additional lands along the Etobicoke Creek in 1919. Most of these important changes were carried out under the direction of A.H. Campbell, Vice-President of the Club from 1912 to 1915, and President from 1915 to 1920. Steeped in tradition, the club celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2001.



Lakeview Water Tower

3. “Alannah” The Pallett-McMaster House 1400 Dixie Road Built c1911

The oldest portion of this house was built circa 1911 by Leslie Howard Pallett. In 1925 the house was purchased by Arthur Carson McMaster (1868-1933) as a summer home, and under his ownership the house was enlarged to its current size. The house is a rare local example of English Tudor Manor architecture. Under the McMaster family the house was called “Alannah”, which means “Endearing” or “Precious”. Arthur was a prominent lawyer, and was the eldest son of William John McMaster, a nephew of Senator William McMaster, founder of McMaster University. Arthur and his son John Wanless McMaster were both members of the Toronto Golf Club, on the opposite side of Dixie Road. After her father's death in 1933 and her mother's death in 1962, Margretta McMaster inherited the house. The house was sold to developers after Margretta passed away in 1968. This former estate structure now serves as facility for the high-rise condominium building on the property.

4. Lakeview Golf Course 1190 Dixie Road Est. c1907

The High Park Golf Club was formed in 1896 near Grenadier Pond in the Swansea area of Toronto. Rapid expansion of the city forced the club to find a new home, and the club moved here in 1907. In 1912 the club adopted the name of the “Lakeview Golf and Country Club.” Fire destroyed the original clubhouse in 1939, and the club was sold to a private owner the next year. Toronto Township (Mississauga) leased the club starting in 1956, and purchased it in 1965. Keeping with tradition, Lakeview remains true to the beautiful, Herbert Strong-designed parkland-style course layout. Described as one of southern Ontario's hidden gems, Lakeview Golf Course is a two-time host to the Canadian Open and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

5. Lakeview Water Tower 1352 Lakeshore Road East Built c1910

The water tower was built around 1910, shortly after the property was acquired for military training purposes by the Canadian Department of Defence. The water tower initially serviced the military lands and the adjacent residential community of Lakeview. In the 1940s the water tower became prominently associated with the Small Arms Limited munitions factory, which was built largely around the water tower. The decommissioned water tower remains as one of the last physical reminders of the arsenal lands and is designated today under the Ontario Heritage Act as a significant cultural remnant of an important part of our industrial war-time heritage.



Small Arms Inspection Building

6. Small Arms Inspection Building 1352 Lakeshore Road East Built c1940

The Dominion Small Arms Limited munitions factory, which included the Inspection Building, began construction on August 20, 1940. By January 1941, the factory, and the Administration Building were ready for occupation. In January 1941, the factory and the Inspection Building were complete. At the end of 1941, the factory had 1,200 employees and had made 7,589 rifles. In 1942, the factory was in full production making pistols, Mark II Sten submachine guns, Lee Enfield No. 4 rifles, sniper rifles, and ammunition. 1943 was the height of employment with 5,300 employees, 65% of whom were women and working three shifts. This factory was an important industry in Lakeview and brought a large increase in population and a demand for housing. In 1942 plans were announced for the construction of 200 houses and a dormitory.

Wartime production ended on December 31, 1945. By the end of the Second World War, Small Arms Limited had manufactured 126,703 9 Sten Submachine Guns, 905,731 Lee Enfield No. 4 rifles, and 1141 sniper rifles. After the war, the company specialized in machining equipment, gasoline engine parts, drive shafts, and other work for the Canadian military. The factory closed in 1974, and for a time it was home to Canada Post and other local industries. The only surviving building from the munitions factory is the Inspection Building (also known as Building 12), which today is owned by the City of Mississauga and is used for cultural and community activities.