



MEDIA KIT

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Black Creek Pioneer Village

BACKGROUNDER

Many museums and other historical resources describe the past; Black Creek Pioneer Village brings it to life. Spanning more than 30 acres of pristine country landscapes, the Village includes 40 heritage buildings from communities across south central Ontario fully furnished from a collection of over 50,000 historical artifacts. In the buildings, surrounding gardens, and farmyards visitors meet interpreters and trades people in period clothing who demonstrate, and explain, how people lived, worked, and played in mid 19th century rural Ontario.

Bring the Past to The Present

Life in nineteenth century Ontario was predominantly rural: far more people were involved in farming and related trades than any other industry. Although the Steam Age had begun and was already changing the world, where we live the primary source of mechanical power was still water. Communities formed around the mill where the grain from the surrounding farms was ground. It wasn't long before stores, a tavern, and a blacksmith shop were built nearby. Houses, churches and a school quickly followed.

In the century and a half since those times most people moved from the country into the cities, leaving behind a way of life that defined early Ontario. This is the world recreated at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

How the Village Came to Be

Following the devastation of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 laws were passed prohibiting construction in river flats, and the city of Toronto began acquiring land alongside waterways for conservation and public use. One of these areas, on the northeast corner of Jane Street and Steeles Avenue included the Dalziel Barn, a magnificent Pennsylvania German log barn built in 1809. The Humber Valley Conservation Authority restored the building, local families donated antique farming tools and equipment, and the Dalziel Pioneer Park Museum was opened in 1957.



That same year, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority was formed incorporating many smaller Conservation Authorities. In 1958 the MTRCA expanded the agricultural museum to include the Stong farm originally settled by Daniel and Elizabeth Stong in 1816. With the larger property, the MTRCA decided to establish a 'living history' museum by creating a 19th century village around the farm.

In 1960 Black Creek Pioneer Village opened to the public. Over the following two decades the MTRCA added historical buildings from southern Ontario until the Village reached its present size.

The Village Today

Today smoke still curls from the chimney of the original Stong homestead, now the heart of Black Creek Pioneer Village. Visitors come to escape the modern world, and experience Ontario's rich heritage. Guided tours and a rich palette of activities for visitors of all ages are available. Some simply choose to wander through the Village at their own pace, stopping in at homes and workshops which interest them.

The Village also includes an Event Pavilion where concerts and performances are presented, a Gift Shop, and extensive facilities for hosting private functions on site.

The Black Creek Historic Brewery

In 2009, Black Creek Pioneer Village opened a working replica of an 1860s brewery, the only one of its kind in North America. Visitors can tour the brewery and sample period ales drawn from the barrel, or enjoy Black Creek Ale with a meal of locally-sourced cuisine at the renovated Brewery Restaurant.

*Black Creek Pioneer Village
is owned and operated by*

