

Whose Land?: A Moccasin Identifier Activity

72 Perth Avenue & the West Toronto Railpath

14,000 years ago the West Toronto Railpath (WTR) was under water as the Laurentide Ice Sheet melted. Its north end would have been the north shore of Glacial Lake Iroquois. First Nations travelled west and east along the shoreline on an escarpment between what we now call the Humber River and the Don River basins on a route that still exists today: Davenport Road. As the water receded, new trading routes were established south to the areas around the mouth of the current day Humber River. Today's Georgetown rail corridor, which was built in the late 1860s, and WTR follow one of those ancient routes.

—Friends of West Toronto Rail Path, The Original Trail

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in Moccasins*

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Small Arms Inspection Building & Waterfront Trail

Explore both the harbour and surrounding parkland at the mouth of the Credit River – “Trusting Creek.” Think about the historical significance of this place as one of the Council Fires named in the Eternal Council Fires Wampum, [a place] for shared hunting and where an eagle on a tall pine tree watched over relations between the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee. Are there signs of this Indigenous history of governance and treaty making in the current landscape?

—Treaty Guide for Torontonians, 2022.

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Does the land have spirit? Is the land alive?

Observe the things close to you and the things far away. Look for natural and non-natural objects. Close your eyes and listen for natural and non-natural sounds.

What is the land saying to you? Find materials to emphasize listening. Be mindful of your relationship. Write or sketch your observations here.

"In some native languages, the term for plants translates to those who take care of us."

—Robin Wall Kimmerer



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