A Day at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College

Video Transcript

Movement One: Lake Shore Blvd to Humber Parking Lot

SOUND Light, upbeat music fades in.

VIDEO A slide depicting the title “A Day at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College” and the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre logo fades in. As the narrator talks, an image of the view from Lake Shore Boulevard and Twentieth Street fades in.

NARRATOR Welcome. If you are walking this path in person, you should be standing at the corner Lake Shore Boulevard and Twentieth Street. You are on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard facing the pathway that leads down into the parking lot behind Humber College’s A Building.

VIDEO The image of the starting point fades out, replaced by an image of the Lakeshore Lodge.

NARRATOR Just to the left of your path is the Lakeshore Lodge. Please travel where it is safe and be aware of your surroundings throughout this experience.

VIDEO The Lakeshore Lodge photo fades out, replaced by an image of the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

NARRATOR My name is Maranda and for the next twenty minutes I will be your guide. As we move together through this experience I will narrate your path, indicating where to go, when to stop, and helping you to visualize the area as it was in nineteen sixty nine. You will walk this path as Marie, a fictional student attending Lakeshore Teachers’ College at this time. All of the names of teachers and students in this experience have been fictionalized. You will hear another voice which is that of Marie’s internal thoughts. Throughout the experience I will be describing what Marie sees, hears, and various actions she takes such as checking the time on her watch. I encourage you to follow along with these directions to further embody the experience, but please be mindful of others around you as you do.
The image of the Lakeshore Teachers’ College fades out, replaced by an image of the front cover of the College’s yearbook from nineteen sixty nine.

Let us now step back in time together. Imagine it is nineteen sixty nine and you are in the second term of your year long program at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College. You look down at a piece of paper in your hand which outlines your classes for the day. The next voice you will hear is Marie’s internal thoughts.

The light, upbeat music fades out as ambient sounds of the street fade in.

The image of the yearbook fades out, replaced by an image of the driveway that leads down into Humber College’s main parking lot.

Okay so School Management…Methods in Art…Children’s Lit. Ugh do we really have to end the day with Methods in Science? I’m going to fall asleep learning about that so late in the day. Well I guess I should get going if I’m going to make it to class on time.

Begin heading down the driveway in a southward direction through what is now Humber College’s loading dock parking lot. If you arrive at the cement barriers and chain that separate this area from the main Humber parking lot, before I say we are there, please pause in a safe spot.

The image of the driveway fades out, replaced by a photo of the residence building for Humber College’s Lakeshore Campus.

As you begin to travel, to your right is the current residence building for Humber College’s Lakeshore Campus. In your mind's eye, replace that building with open space in front of the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

The residence building image fades out, replaced by a photo of students walking around the Lakeshore Teachers’ College building.

As you walk, you pass teachers and fellow students walking to class.

The sounds of a group of students walking and talking drifts in and out. Then the sound of an individual’s footsteps can be heard.
NARRATOR You recognize a female student from your School Management class walking by.

MARIE Oh what is her name? Julie? Christine?

NARRATOR She turns to look at you.

SOUND The footstep sounds stop.

NARRATOR Should you wave at her or just smile? She makes eye contact with you and you have to decide. She waves at you before continuing on her way.

SOUND The footstep sounds continue, fading out as if the student is walking away.

MARIE Oh now I remember, her name is Jenny!

SOUND The street sounds begin to fade out as the sound of birds and squirrels fades in and continues throughout the next section.

VIDEO The photo of students walking fades out, replaced by a photo of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital.

NARRATOR To your left, imagine you can see vast farmland, apple trees and just beyond the trees are cottages. These all belonged to the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital that was in operation at this time.

VIDEO The photo of the hospital fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of Humber College’s A Building.

NARRATOR As you get to the end of the current residence building you should be able to see Humber’s current A Building to your right which was the original Lakeshore Teachers’ College building. It stands two stories tall and is composed of light brown brick and glass windows. When it was first constructed, the building was considered an architectural marvel for its innovative use of materials such as glass and steel in its construction which was quite a change from previous architectural styles. It was a direct rejection of the nineteenth century style used in other buildings in the area such as the Hospital buildings which stand not too far to the east of here. You see your Children’s Literature teacher Ms. Cross as you walk.
SOUND  
Footsteps fade in again and recede as if the teacher is walking towards you and then away.

VIDEO  
The image of Humber’s A Building fades out, replaced by another photo of people walking around the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

MARIE  
Ah! I forgot to finish reading those Andersen stories for Ms. Cross’ class. I'll have to sit at the back today and hope she doesn’t call on me.

SOUND  
The faint sounds of swords clanking can be heard and they continue through the end of this section. Along with the swords is the sound of shoes scuffling on the gymnasium floor.

NARRATOR  
At this point you should be standing on the edge of Humber’s parking lot.

VIDEO  
The photo of people walking fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of Humber’s main parking lot.

NARRATOR  
Directly to your right is the original Lakeshore Teachers’ College Building. Pause for a moment and listen. You are right next to the gymnasium which is still in use today. Imagine there are students inside. What sport are they doing right now?

VIDEO  
The image of the parking lot fades out, replaced by a photo of three female students holding fencing foils in their hands.

MARIE  
Oh I wish I could be in there right now. Feeling the light weight of the foil in my hand. Flicking my wrist and hearing the clink as it connects with the weapon of my opponent. Getting to practice fencing is the best part of the day.

Movement Two: Humber Parking Lot to Humber A Building Entrance

NARRATOR  
Enter the parking lot and turn right so that you are walking along the edge on your way to the main current entrance to this side of the building. If you get to the main entrance before I do, wait up for me.

SOUND  
The fencing sounds fade out as sounds of the kitchen get louder. You can hear people chopping vegetables, running faucets, moving pots and pans, and talking to one another.
The image of students fencing fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of the entrance to the east side of Humber’s A Building.

You are walking by the original kitchen.

The photo of the entrance fades out, replaced by a photo of the Lakeshore Teachers’ College cafeteria.

Imagine a combination of smells hits you at once. Freshly baked tea biscuits. Onions. What could be on the menu for today? At this point you should be standing at the main entrance on this side of the building. Finally you get a whiff of chicken and you know what must be on the menu.

Ooh chicken a la king for lunch today. What a treat!

Imagine you can see kitchen staff through the window chopping vegetables, mixing food in large pots, and talking to one another.

Movement Three: Humber A Building Main Entrance to Southeastern Corner

The kitchen sounds fade out during this section of narration while the sounds of a parking lot fade in. You can hear car doors opening and closing, people walking and talking, as well as cars driving around the lot.

The photo of the cafeteria fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of the southeast corner of Humber’s A Building.

Continue heading south through the parking lot until you get to the southeast corner of the building. Please be mindful of your surroundings and don’t move on from this spot without me!

The photo of the corner fades out, replaced by a photo of teachers and students eating in the cafeteria.

On a day that the cafeteria served chicken a la king, they may have also offered options such as onion soup, steak pie, a side of mashed potatoes, green beans or coleslaw, fruit salad, and assorted sandwiches and desserts for students to purchase. What do you think you’d order for lunch today?

The cafeteria photo fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of a new addition to Humber’s A Building.
The part of the building you are passing here on your right was not built during the time the Teachers' College was in operation.

In front of your path you can see cars driving around, trying to find a good spot, students and teachers hurrying across the parking lot and around the building to get to class. Is this the past or the present?

Turns out in nineteen sixty nine this space in front of you was also a parking lot so it wouldn't have looked all that different from Humber College's operations today!

By this point you should be standing at the corner of the building.

**Movement Four: Southeastern Corner to the Original Courtyard**

The parking lot sounds begin to fade out as the sounds of students playing a sport begin to fade in. You can hear students cheering each other on, feet shuffling, and a ball being thrown around.

Turn right and head west along the edge of the parking lot until you meet up with a sidewalk that leads into a nook between parts of the building. Follow the sidewalk until you are looking into a small green area. If you get there before I do, please don’t move on without me: I don’t want to miss this part!

The image of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by an image of students sitting at desks in the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.
The Lakeshore Teachers’ College was in operation between nineteen fifty nine and nineteen seventy five. Students at the College were trained through either a one or two year stream. While at the College they learned traditional subjects such as School Management, Methods and Histories of Teaching, Educational Psychology, Children’s Literature, Math, Science, Art, and Music.

Students also took part in extra curricular activities not unlike those we might see in today’s schools. Drama clubs, sport teams, and student councils were all active throughout the school’s history. Some sports would have been played outdoors and we are on our way to one spot where they would have been played. It was a simple, paved square courtyard. Replace in your mind’s eye the green space you are moving towards with an image of this courtyard.

Imagine you can see some students standing there, tossing a ball around before class.

At this point you should be stopped somewhere along the path where you have a good view of this open, grassy area between the buildings.

The courtyard sounds are louder throughout this next section.

You see the ball being passed from one student to the next and then suddenly it gets thrown in your direction. It lands right at your feet as the other students gesture for you to throw it back.

Don’t over throw it. Don’t over throw it. Don’t over throw it.
NARRATOR You nervously raise the ball, ready to throw. You take a deep breath as you raise it above your head and quickly swing your arms forward, releasing the ball. It soars through the air and you hold your breath, watching its trajectory.

SOUND *The sound of a heart beating gets steadily louder.*

MARIE Oh no I’ve thrown it way too hard, it’s definitely going to go too far.

NARRATOR You start to turn away, embarrassed, but then you hear the ball land in someone’s hands.

SOUND *The sound of a student catching the ball can be heard, as the heart beat sounds stop.*

Movement Five: The Original Courtyard to the Southern Parking Lot

NARRATOR You nod at the students, feeling pretty proud of yourself for that perfect throw.

VIDEO *The image of students fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of the sidewalk that leads back to the parking lot.*

NARRATOR Double back down the path you walked initially, heading back towards the parking lot. You have an extra spring in your step as you walk just thinking about that perfect throw. You sneak a glance behind you, taking one last look at the students playing in the courtyard.

MARIE Maybe if they’re out here tomorrow morning I’ll ask to join in. Though I can’t imagine it would be more fun than fencing.

SOUND *The sounds of students playing recedes as you walk away. The sounds of the parking lot begin to fade in again and continue.*

VIDEO *The image of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of the parking lot. You can see the R.L Water Treatment Plant on the other side of the lot.*

NARRATOR Looking south across this parking lot is the R. L. Water Treatment Plant, another sight that has remained from the days of the Teachers’ College, having been constructed on November twenty second, nineteen sixty eight.
The image of the parking lot fades out, replaced by a different image of the lot. This photo shows the view from the edge of the parking lot, looking west towards the parking gates.

At this point you should be back in the parking lot beside the carpool parking spots.

Movement Six: Southern Parking Lot to Twenty Third Street

Move through the parking lot towards the street on the west side of the building.

The image of the parking lot fades out, replaced by an image of the parking gates at the western edge of the parking lot.

You should be travelling towards the parking gates at the entrance to the parking lot and should see the carpool and reserved parking spots on your right hand side. Keep an eye out for cars as you walk!

The image of the parking gates fades out, replaced by an image of elementary students being taught by a woman at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

The Lakeshore Teachers’ College was designed to emulate the new school design that the teacher students were expected to be headed into upon graduating. There were separate rooms for each subject and the overall look resembled what we might recognize today as a public school. Though these students were being trained for teaching in this type of school, the transition to the new public school system was slow, meaning early graduates were teaching in one room school houses for a few years after leaving the College.

The image of elementary students fades out, replaced by an image of Lakeshore Teachers’ College students standing around in a classroom.

The question of how to best train teachers was definitely on the mind of the province between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Eighteen fifty was the first time teachers had to meet certain qualifications in order to be employed….but these requirements were rather limited. Essentially, if you could read, write and had a basic grasp of the essential subjects, congratulations! You could be a teacher. As you can imagine those very limited requirements allowed for the hiring of teachers not yet ready for their role.
The image of students in a classroom fades out, replaced by another image of students standing around in a classroom. You can see this group crowded around a desk, writing on a piece of paper.

Ontario used “county model schools” to train teachers through the eighteen hundreds until nineteen oh seven, eventually giving way to the implementation of what were at first called “normal schools”. This term was used to describe teacher training institutions until the nineteen fifties when the term “Teachers’ College” gained popularity. As you will learn later, Teachers’ Colleges would eventually be scrutinized and changed significantly to address these concerns.

The image of students writing fades out, replaced by an image of a teacher writing on a blackboard at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

The part of the building you are passing here on your right would have been science classrooms.

The sounds of a teacher preparing a classroom fade in. You can hear someone writing on a chalkboard and desks being moved around.

What are we learning about today in Methods of Science? Oh right, we’re still on the scientific method. I suppose it’s important but my goodness is it ever dull. It doesn’t help that Mr. Jamieson has the least engaging voice I think I’ve ever heard.

The image of the teacher fades out, replaced by an image of the sidewalk at Twenty Third Street.

At this point you should be on the sidewalk at Twenty Third Street, just beyond the parking gates, facing north.

Movement Seven: Twenty Third Street to Twenty Second Street

The ambient sounds of a neighbourhood begin to fade in and continue throughout the next section. You can hear a dog barking and cars driving along the street.

The image of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by an image of the fork in the road on Twenty Third Street.
NARRATOR Begin walking north up Twenty Third Street until you get to the spot where Twenty Third Street splits into a parking lot on the left fork, and curves to the intersection on the right fork.

VIDEO The image of the fork in the road fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of the houses on the street.

NARRATOR To your left you see residential homes, quite similar to the view in nineteen sixty nine. Imagine you can see a woman at the edge of her driveway. Decked out in her housecoat with her hair pulled into curlers, she grabs the newspaper. A neighbour walking past waves to her.

VIDEO The image of houses fades out, replaced by an image of the western wing of Humber College’s A Building.

NARRATOR As you head along this portion of the College to your right you are passing by what were the industrial arts, mathematics, and staff rooms.

VIDEO The image of the building fades out, replaced by an image of a woman writing on a large piece of paper in front of elementary students, at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

TEACHER “Today we are going to be talking about the best ways to teach mixed media to your future elementary students.”

MARIE Mixed media? I’ve never heard of that kind of art before but it sounds exciting. I’m sure Ms. Sanderson will have a great lesson planned for us.

TEACHER Hmmm. Should I write different types of mixed media on the board before we start or have them brainstorm? I suppose I’ll let them brainstorm a few. Ok so “Today we are going to be talking about the best ways to teach mixed media to your future elementary students. Who can name an example of mixed media art?” Yes that should work. I’ll take a few answers, then ask “what are some examples of projects you could do with elementary students to teach these methods?”

SOUND The sound of the teacher practicing her lecture fades out. The sound of students walking and talking to one another can be heard intermittently.
The image of the woman teaching fades out, replaced by an image of four people gathered around the original Lakeshore Teachers’ College sign.

You are currently heading towards what was the original entrance to the Lakeshore Teachers’ College. As we are getting close to the start of classes, imagine you can see people passing you, some hurrying to get to the door, others talking with each other as they walk.

The image of the sign fades out, replaced by an image of a bunch of students walking around the Lakeshore Teachers’ College building.

Pause when you get to the fork in the road. Position yourself so you can see the entrance to the building on your right.

Movement Eight: Twenty Second Street to the North Edge of Humber’s A Building

The image of students fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of the original entrance to the building.

The entrance to the College building you see to your right was the original entrance to the Lakeshore Teachers’ College. You look down at the watch on your wrist.

Oh good I’ve got a few minutes before the bell rings.

The photo of the entrance fades out, replaced by an image of the sidewalk facing north up Twenty Third Street.

Continue moving along the sidewalk north until you get to the edge of the building that connects with the new addition.

The image of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by an image of the building on the western side, taken from the sidewalk.

As you move you are passing the part of the building where there was a home economics class. Can you also hear the Music Society practicing in the room next door?

The sounds of a brass band playing an upbeat song begins to fade in.
MARIE  
I'm so glad I have time to listen to a few minutes of band practice before I have to head inside. Their concert is in a few weeks so they should be getting rather good.

VIDEO  
The image of the building fades out, replaced by an image of students from the Teachers' College playing instruments in the auditorium.

NARRATOR  
Extra curricular activities were a core component of the offerings at the Lakeshore Teachers' College, as they were trying to create a similar environment to what these teacher students would be entering upon leaving the College.

VIDEO  
The image of students playing instruments fades out, replaced by an image of students playing basketball at the Lakeshore Teachers' College.

NARRATOR  
Sporting groups such as volleyball and basketball teams were available as well as artistic groups like a drama club, and Music Society which put on concerts.

VIDEO  
The image of students playing basketball fades out, replaced by a contemporary image of the northern edge of the original building.

NARRATOR  
Pause when you get to the edge of the original building, beside the sign that says “Campus Store, Service & Delivery Vehicles Only”.

VIDEO  
The image of the northern edge fades out, replaced by another image of students playing instruments at the Teachers' College.

NARRATOR  
Music classes would have been held in rooms in this section of the building, as they are today for Humber students.

SOUND  
The band’s playing becomes louder, while the other ambient sounds fade out for a moment.

NARRATOR  
You pause here and let the music wash over you. You start to sway back and forth, letting all thoughts of the day fade away.

SOUND  
The school bell rings. The neighbourhood ambient sounds also fade back in.

MARIE  
I guess that’s it for this morning.
The band music fades out.

At this point Marie would be beginning her day inside. We will be making another jump in time now, though much smaller than we did earlier to get to nineteen sixty nine.

The image of the students playing instruments fades out, replaced by an image of someone writing the word “Miss” on a blackboard, at the Teachers’ College.

We are moving forwards to the end of the school day. Imagine you have just gone through a long day of learning about the history of teaching, how to properly organize and manage school operations, and various theories on how to teach.

The school bell rings again, signalling the end of the day. Lots of student chatter can be heard as people exit the building.

Movement Eight: North Edge of Humber's A Building to Lake Shore Boulevard

You begin the walk home, heading north along Twenty Second Street until you get to Lake Shore Boulevard West.

I can't believe Ms. Cross called on me. It’s like she could sense I didn’t do the readings. I’ll have to finish them tonight in case we have a quiz on them tomorrow.

The photo of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by an image of a large mass of students gathered outside the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

You walk as one of many students exiting the school on your way home. You see one of the students who was playing in the courtyard this morning passing you and you wave goodbye, making a mental note to arrive earlier tomorrow so you can try to join the students playing in the courtyard.

The ambient sounds of the street begin to fade back in again and continue for the rest of the experience.
The image of the group of students fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of the sidewalk on Lake Shore Boulevard, facing the starting point.

When you get to Lake Shore Boulevard West, turn right and begin walking back towards our starting point.

The image of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of Humber College’s residence building.

You are walking past Humber College’s current residence building but in nineteen sixty nine it had not been built yet. Instead, imagine you are walking directly along the northern edge of the Teachers’ College with a large manicured lawn laid out in front of you.

**Movement Nine: Lake Shore Boulevard to the Starting Point**

The sounds of students preparing for a rehearsal fade in. You can hear instruments playing, people talking, and items being moved.

The image of the residence building fades out, replaced by an image of students performing a play at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

At this corner of the school you are passing the auditorium which is still in use today. Imagine you can hear the drama club setting up for a rehearsal.

I heard they’re doing *Our Town* this term. I hope Johnny plays the Stage Manager in this production. He was so good as Prospero last term.

The rehearsal sounds fade out.

The photo of the students performing fades out, replaced by a photo of students exiting the Lakeshore Teachers’ College building.

Students like Marie would have walked this path and the halls of the Lakeshore Teachers’ College between nineteen fifty nine and nineteen seventy five. After a Ministerial Committee evaluated Teachers’ Colleges in the late sixties, it was decided that teachers were coming out of schools not yet ready for their role, having only received one to two years of education. It was determined by the province that more years of training were required to adequately prepare new teachers.
The photo of students exiting fades out, replaced by an image of a person teaching in front of students who are seated in desks at the Lakeshore Teachers' College.

As a result, the Teachers’ College system as a whole across Ontario was incorporated into universities, becoming Departments of Education. The Lakeshore Teachers’ College students and faculty were moved to York University between nineteen seventy one and the closure of the College in nineteen seventy five. But the building did not stay empty for long, with Humber College picking up the Lakeshore Teachers’ College building in that same year.

The image of the teacher fades out, replaced by an image of a person performing a puppet show at the Lakeshore Teachers’ College.

I should probably get those fairy tales finished tonight. Then I have that worksheet for Ms. Duvall’s class and paper for Mr. Johnson’s class. I think I’m in for a long night of homework.

The street sounds begin to fade out as the instrumental music from the beginning fades back in again.

As we near the starting point of our journey I invite you to begin to bring yourself back to the present year.

The image of the puppet show fades out, replaced by a contemporary photo of the sidewalk leading to the starting point of the journey.

Remember that you are listening or watching this through technology that Marie never could have imagined existing. Thank you for joining me in this journey through time, I hope you had fun on the trip! If you enjoyed this experience, you can explore more of the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre’s offerings, including additional guided journeys through time, at our website lakeshoregrounds dot c a. Narration for this experience has been provided by Maranda Tippins, and the voice of Marie has been provided by Tiana Kralj.

The photo of the sidewalk fades out, replaced by the contemporary photo of the starting point shown earlier.
NARRATOR    You should now be back at the spot where we began our journey today and this officially ends our experience, thank you for participating.

SOUND     The instrumental music fades out.

VIDEO    The image of the starting point fades out, replaced by a slide of credits for the production, which then fades out.