

JOHN R. PARK HOMESTEAD CONSERVATION AREA

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



A nearby site with a spectacular setting on the shore of Lake Erie, the Homestead offers hands-on programs for all grade levels. Unlike most museums, we change our programs seasonally ensuring that each visit is unique. The Park Family's house, barns, working kitchen and forge take you back to the mid 1800s. Visit the changing exhibit areas, gift shop, and the modern visitor centre with auditorium and washrooms. The nineteen acre conservation area also features a shaded picnic area, lakeshore boardwalk and nature trail.

Indoor lunch rooms are available in case of bad weather. Bring your class to the Homestead to experience our local heritage in an enjoyable hands-on program. Programs are conducted by trained museum staff in period costumes.

Our activities are tailored to fit the **Ontario Curriculum** for Science, Social Studies, History and Geography for Grades 1 through 8. For example, with Grade 1 our programs focus on relationships, rules and responsibilities in the pioneer home; Grade 2s compare pioneer traditions and celebrations with their own, students also explore states of matter; Grade 3s take an in-depth look at early settlers' daily lives in Upper Canada; and so on. If you have other themes in mind, please let us know in advance of your visit.

This is our 32nd year of high quality education programming at the John R. Park Homestead Conservation Area. Come and make some memories.

YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS:

PIONEER PARTICIPATION

JK – GRADE 8

(Time: 2 hours half day; 4 hours full day; Max. 90 Students)

Celebrate local pioneer traditions and tour the restored 1842 home and outbuildings. Choose one hands-on participation activity for a half day program, or choose three for a full day program. Options include: fireplace cooking, butter making, candle dipping, blacksmithing, woodworking, weaving, and 19th century games.

GRADE 5

Early Technologies–Gr.5

(Time 2hrs; Max. 90 students)

Methods of meeting human needs have remained relatively unchanged for thousands of years. A visit to the Homestead illustrates how early civilizations used basic technologies to produce food, clothing and shelter. Try spinning, weaving, farm chores and wood working.

GRADE 6

Great Lakes Shipping and Trade of the 1800's–Gr.6

(Time: 2hrs; Max. 90 students)

Discover sail and steam shipping and learn about the details of life at sea. Communicate with semaphore and morse code, try your hand at rigging and more. Learn about the lucrative trade business of the Park Family.

GRADE 7

Natural Resources in British North America–Gr.7

(Time: 2hrs; Max. 90 students)

Visit the lakeshore in the heart of a Loyalist community. A video and special tour introduces the theme of natural resource use in the 19th century. Try seasonal farming activities.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS:

FALL / WINTER 2009

Harvest Home

(Time 2hrs; Max. 90 students, September and October; Note: May be combined with Pioneer Participation to make a full day visit.)

Discover early settler excitement at the fall harvest! Learn about the local pioneering family of John and Amelia Park and the things that their family did in the fall to prepare for the long winter ahead. Students will: participate in an apple drying 'bee'; make and taste real apple cider using a press; discuss how Aboriginals influenced pioneer life including the 'three sisters' – beans, corn, and squash; compare and contrast an early settler's autumn with our own. *A visit to a modern apple orchard can be added for \$30 per group (only available until October 10th.)*

Holiday Celebrations

(Time: 2hrs; Max. 90 students; Note: May be combined with Pioneer Participation to make a full day visit.)

See the pioneer house decorated in all-natural materials gathered from the forest and the farm. Discover pioneer foods for celebrating as you help make popcorn and gingerbread cookies on the fireplace. Craft an old-fashioned paper ornament to take home and discuss the tradition of gift-giving. Jingle the sleigh bells and learn about pioneer methods for winter travel and keeping warm. JK – Grade 2 students view a puppet show to learn about the Park family's plans to celebrate. Grades 3 and up see a movie about holiday celebrations in a pioneer settlement. All students will compare a pioneer child's holiday experience with our own modern celebrations. An explanation of the diversity of settlers and their varying celebrations is given.

WINTER / SPRING 2010

Maple Syrup—the First Taste of Spring!

(Time 1.5hrs; Max. 90 students, Mid February–March)

Celebrate the local traditional methods of maple sugaring from pioneer times and aboriginal peoples. Learn how to make maple syrup while exploring the properties of liquids and states of water. 'Cabane a sucre' and francophone culture can also be emphasized.

Food From the Maple

(Time 1.5hrs; Max. 90 students, Mid February–March)

Growth and changes of the maple tree and its role as food for wildlife are explored. Make a plant press, take part in the Food Web game and more.

(*Note: This program is only offered in conjunction with Maple Syrup program to make a full day.)

Wetlands Lifecycles

(Time 2hrs; Max. 90 students, May and June)

Dip-net in Fox Creek for water life, walk along the beach and nature trail and learn about local flora and fauna. Discover some animals' spring homes in this 19 acre conservation area. Play water cycle and food web games. See a nature slide show. (Note: dip-netting is dependent upon current water levels; please call for current conditions and details.)

Spring Tonic—JK—Gr.3

(Time: 2hrs; Max. 90 students, April and May)

Celebrate the arrival of spring! Learn about local traditional food, clothing and plants for pioneers; help plant the garden and lend a hand with spring cleaning in the pioneer house.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Fees:

Half day (1.5 to 2 hour) programs: \$125.00 per group

Full day(4 hours, with a break for lunch) programs: \$225.00 per group

Maximum 30 students per group.

We can usually accommodate two or three groups at one time, so save money and **fill up the bus!**

One adult supervisor admitted free for every five children. Additional adults will be charged.

Payment must be made on the day of your trip by cheque (payable to: Essex Region Conservation Authority), cash, credit or debit card. Payments not received on the day of your trip will be subject to a \$25.00 invoice fee.

PROGRAM BOOKING

To Make a Booking: Phone 519-738-2029 or Email jrph@erca.org

Provide your name, school, grade, number of students, program choice and contact information.

A confirmation will be faxed or emailed to you after a booking is made.

Program details are also available online at: www.erca.org

LOCATION

GPS Coordinates: +45° 59' 45", - 82° 50' 57"

These coordinates can be typed into Google Maps to obtain directions.

The Homestead is located on the shore of Lake Erie between Kingsville and Colchester.

