

About the Log Cabin at Bradley Museum

In the early 19th century, log cabins were the most common building in what is now Mississauga -- it's what all new settlers, such as Elizabeth and Lewis Bradley, were required to build in order to get their land grants. However, today, there are only a few remaining.



The cabin, originally built near Mono Mills in the mid-19th century, was moved to Port Credit in 1967 as the local Rover Crew's Centennial Project. It was used by the Rovers and the 4th Port Credit Scouts for many years, but eventually fell into disuse and disrepair, and was slated for demolition by Scouts Canada in 2002. However, a group of neighbours approached the City of Mississauga to see if the cabin could be saved. After exploring a number of options, it was decided to raise funds in the community to carefully document and take the cabin apart log by log, for rebuilding and a new life at the Bradley Museum.



The Log Cabin Task Force of the Friends of the Museums, with Ron Lenyk, Publisher of the Mississauga News, lead the fundraising campaign. From major corporate supporters such as St. Lawrence Cement, PetroCanada, a grant from the Pendle Fund of the Community Foundation of Mississauga, to creative fundraising activities such as Photos with Santa in the Cabin, selling wooden sculptures and furniture made and donated by the City's Forestry staff, to pancake breakfasts, Starlight and Candlelight Galas at Bradley Museum, to donations by local Scouts and Guide groups, it has been a very grassroots campaign. Over \$160,000 was raised, as well as an almost equal amount of donated goods and services from FRAM Building Group and Michael Spazianni Architects, and many other community-minded businesses.

Moving a log cabin presents many unique challenges, but the project was in excellent hands with Scott Kelly of Log Farm Building - he is a log cabin and timber frame specialist. We knew from the beginning that there were a few logs that were rotten, and couldn't be reused. We also knew that the building code would require the addition of one log to each storey to create more headroom. Scott was able to maximize the use of the original logs, and as well, to find the few replacement and new logs needed --- carefully matching the species (hemlock) and diameter. We've also reused as many of the original floorboards as possible, though because the cabin had been built without much of a foundation, the boards on the main floor had suffered a lot of water damage.

The rebuilt, award-winning cabin captures the ambience and rustic beauty of the original cabin, with a working Rumford fireplace built using stones and bricks from the Gray House in Port Credit. There is a small back addition with an accessible washroom, entrance area, kitchenette, and an enclosed, fire-rated stairwell to the second floor. The cabin meets building code requirements to ensure that it is a safe and sound structure, and allows for year-round use for educational programs, meetings, receptions, special events, and even for sleepovers! Beavers, Sparks, Scouts, Brownies, and other groups can have wonderful overnight programs at the Bradley Museum site, earning heritage and nature badges in the historic 1830s Bradley House, having a camp fire, sleeping over in the cabin's loft, and then waking to watch the sunrise over nearby Rattray Marsh.

Lead Sponsors

The Log Cabin at Bradley Museum Supporters
Many thanks to EVERYONE who joined together to give the Port Credit Log Cabin a new life at Bradley Museum.

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And many thanks to the thousands of people who supported the campaign by participating in our various fundraising activities over the years, including Photos with Santa in the Log Cabin, Maple Magic Pancakes, Forestry Bucket Rides and Log Carving, and the Starlight and Candlelight Gala at Bradley Museum.

Special Thanks to:

Log Cabin Task Force:

John Pegram, Chair; Fred Durdan and John Van Camp, Friends of the Museums
Frank Giannone, Peter Del Fatti, and Dani Gesualdi, FRAM Building Group
Ron Lenyk, Fundraising Chair, and Anita Albanese, Mississauga News
Annemarie Hagan, Museums Manager and John Crewe, Facilities, City of Mississauga

Log Cabin Finishing Committee

Marcia Bird, Jenny Dales, Wendy Davies, Carol Steeves, Betty Ross, Anne Quinn

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Wendy Davies & Kathy Munkley; Joyce Delves; Hugh Shaver

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Current and former staff of the Museums of Mississauga; City Solicitors Office; Facilities and Property Management; Forestry Crew; Materiel Management; South District Parks Crew

Mississauga News Staff, in particular:

Anita Albanese, Michelle Ahuja, Tara Baliva, Teresa Deluca, Amber Hughes, Jennifer Hughes, Kristen Humber, Ron Lenyk, Amy Nicholls, Sonia Omari, Clara Ritchie, Adrian Shaw

... and last but not least

Liv Babra, Artist

Shirley Erskine, Artist

Nicholas Holman, Historic Building Consultant

Scott Kelly, Log Farm Building

Scouts Canada

Sylvia Smith

Vic Snow

La Villa Bakery

"Group of Concerned Citizens" from Port Credit who wrote the 2002 proposal to save the cabin

.... and all the Friends and Volunteers of the Museums of Mississauga