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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

4041 A Cultural History of Lakefield Lock – Development of the Lumbering Industry

Organization Information

Our organization is the federal agency responsible for the protection and presentation of nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. Our mandate is to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyments of these treasured resources in a manner that ensures their commemorative and ecological integrity for present and future generations. As part of the national system of historic sites, we are managed according to the principles and practices of appropriate cultural and natural resource protection and presentation.

Project Information

The purpose of this project is to document the cultural landscape at the Lakefield Lock Station over the nineteenth and early twentieth century. This would include preparation of a historical research report that identifies the various phases of development of the east and west banks of the Otonabee River at Lakefield and the various structures and activities that occurred at this location.

The student(s) will be responsible for conducting historical research using period maps, plans, engineering drawings, photographs, art work, oral interviews and documentary material that relate to the development and subsequent modification of the lock station at Lakefield. The student(s) will then prepare a fully documented, written report with footnotes, appropriate images and discussion of the various phases of development of this specific location. The student(s) will NOT be expected to provide an assessment of the cultural values that could be ascribed to the resources both above and below grade. The focus of this project is:

Development of the Lumbering Industry

- Examining early construction of the "infrastructure" for the lumber industry such as dams, slide, mills, etc. in Lakefield
- Corporate organization of the various firms operating in the area
- Brief overview of the seasonal activities of the trade
- Expansion of the industry with introduction of sawn lumber, new technologies, and modernized methods of conducting the business
- Notation of surviving cultural resources that would relate to the lumbering industry

The students will consult with the local historical society in Lakefield and explore potential for utilizing information gleaned from their research to support the program of installing heritage plaques throughout the community that highlight significant themes and resources of Lakefield

Tasks involved with this project

Task	Objective	Timeline
Historical research/information gathering using a variety of primary and secondary sources	To collect pertinent information on the activities and assets associated with the Lakefield lock station	September 09 to January 10
Preparation of a draft and final approved report documenting the stages of development at this site.	Prepare a clear, concise statement of the activities and built assets associated with these activities.	February to April 10
Provide recommendations for additional research topics that would expand on themes or activities developed in the historical report.		

Benefit to the Host Organization and the Community

The organization is preparing a series of research studies to document the cultural features of each of the lock stations. A prototype report was prepared through the TCCBE on Burleigh Falls as an example of the type of research and resource identification that is possible using readily available source materials. The material will help identify potential cultural resources, both above and below grade as well as potential thematic topics to be presented in a public information program.

What Students Might Learn

Students will learn the techniques of primary historical research and analysis, preparation of a succinct, informative written report and the unique challenges of conducting public history. Critical thinking skills, organization and time management, effective writing and interpersonal skills dealing with local agencies, such as historical societies, Chamber of Commerce, individuals who may have information to share will be required and enhanced through the course of the project.

Screening or Training Requirements

The student(s) will be provided with an overview of the resources of our archives and an introduction to the key contacts within our organization such as lock staff, other specialists, etc.

Skills or Experience Needed

The students will require a sound knowledge of the requirements for conducting primary historical research along with the basic skills for writing and editorial corrections.

Resources Required for Project that will be Provided by Host

The organization will provide a workspace, computer, camera and financial support for basic expenses to cover requisite travel and research related costs up to \$1,000.