

## GETTING THERE AND BACK

You can reach the suggested start and end point on public transit by taking the YONGE/UNIVERSITY subway to Union Station. Other subway stations providing close access include Dundas, Queen, King, St. Andrew and Osgoode.



Berczy Park

## FOR MORE INFO

For walking brochures on this and other Discovery Walks, please call Parks and Recreation Information at (416) 338-0338. For more information on area history, inquire at the City Hall or St. Lawrence branches of the Toronto Public Library or the Urban Affairs Library, Metro Hall.

Discovery Walks is a program of self-guided walks that links City ravines, parks, gardens, beaches and neighbourhoods. Other Discovery Walks include: Central Ravines, Belt Line and Gardens; Don Valley Hills and Dales; Western Ravines and Beaches; Northern Ravines and Gardens; Eastern Ravine & Beaches; Garrison Creek; Humber River, Old Mill & Marshes; and Uptown Toronto.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The City of Toronto would like to thank the Toronto Public Library, Toronto Field Naturalists, Toronto Transit Commission, Heritage Toronto, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Heart Health Partnership, One Financial Place and Exchange Tower Ltd. for their support.

Discovery Walks name and logo are official marks of the City of Toronto.

# DISCOVERY WALKS

# DOWNTOWN TORONTO

*One In A Series of Self-Guided Walks*



Simcoe Park

Photo by Brian Byrnes



*Explore Downtown Toronto!  
Discover how parks, gardens and streetscapes link Downtown's historic, commercial and entertainment districts.*

This Downtown Discovery Walk leads you through the dense core of the City. Hidden among the skyscrapers, you will discover a rich variety of parks, gardens and streetscapes. Since the 1960s, most of these parks and gardens have been created through building demolition, land exchanges, street closures, lease agreements, land purchases and through the City's development approval process for major projects.

These parks and gardens have design features ranging from traditional to contemporary, from pastoral to urban. Cloud Gardens, Simcoe Park and Olympic Gardens are a few of the many parks noted for their unique design. Other open spaces include a Victorian garden, a sculpture garden, a cloud forest in a greenhouse, a historic railway round-house park and ceremonial squares, all within the core of Canada's largest City.

Many of these parks and gardens have been created over underground shopping concourses and parking lots, where a minimum of five feet of soil is provided for the healthy growth of trees. Opportunities to stop, look and listen are provided in these green spaces, most of which have seating, public art, water elements and nearby cafes and shopping.

A variety of wildlife finds habitat and refuge in these same green spaces, particularly during spring and fall when birds and some butterflies are migrating. Species seen most often throughout the year are pigeons, squirrels and racoons.

As you continue your exploration, you will encounter trees, shrubs and flowers growing along sidewalks and in planters on both public and private land. Trees are invaluable assets in improving the quality of urban life by reducing air pollution, creating shade and beautifying neighbourhoods as well as providing wildlife food and habitat.

Parks, gardens and streetscapes provide dramatic contrasts with surrounding historic and contemporary buildings. Note the wide variety of building materials used. Fossils may be seen in some of the building stones along this Walk.

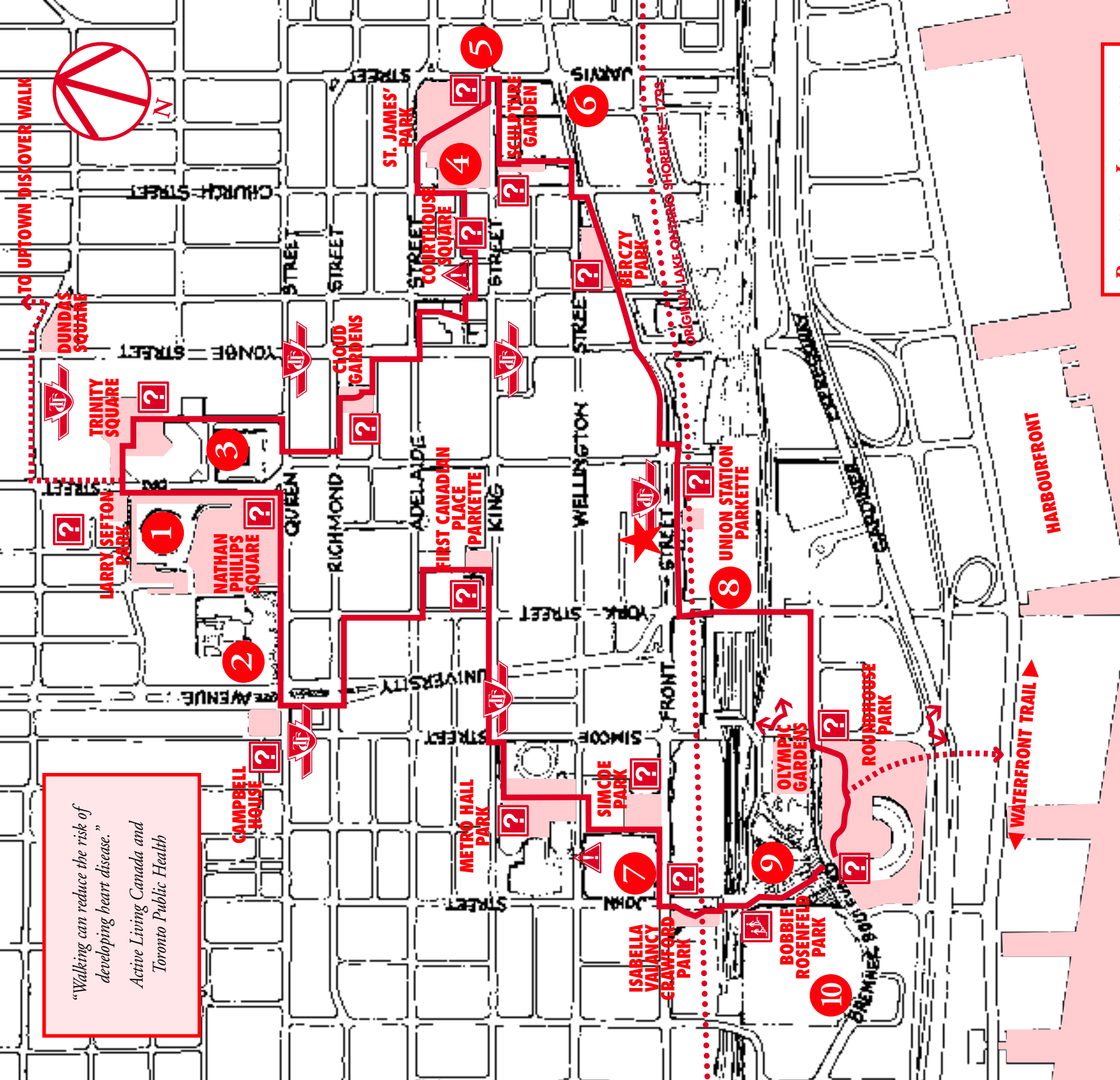
Murals, sculptures and statues located in the parks, gardens and streetscapes along this Walk are representative of the impressive collection of public art that embodies the spirit of Toronto.

On this urban adventure, many hidden treasures, sights and sounds will be revealed to you. Discover Downtown Toronto, the "City within a Park!"



Trinity Church

“Walking can reduce the risk of developing heart disease.”  
Active Living Canada and Toronto Public Health



## LAKE ONTARIO

6 minutes walking time (approximate)  
400 m (approximate)



Love Your Heart!  
Toronto Heart Health Partnership

This walk is approximately 6 km long with a continuous walking time of about 2 hours (minimum). If you walk this route at a brisk pace, you will burn approximately 400 calories!

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Toronto City Hall
- 2 Osgoode Hall
- 3 Old Toronto City Hall
- 4 St. James' Cathedral
- 5 St. Lawrence Hall
- 6 St. Lawrence Market
- 7 C.B.C. Broadcast Centre
- 8 Union Station
- 9 CN Tower
- 10 SkyDome

### THE HIKERS' CODE

- Do not disturb wildlife
- Keep dogs on a leash
- Be cautious when crossing roads
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy
- Wear suitable clothing
- Walk with someone — it's safer and more fun

### REMEMBER

- This walk involves stairs
- Walking surface is hard pavement
- Not all steps and paths are lighted and cleared of ice and snow
- Use at your own risk

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- 1 Toronto City Hall self-guided walking brochures available at information desk, main floor — (416) 338-0338
- 2 Osgoode Hall guided tours — (416) 327-5079
- 6 City of Toronto's Market Gallery with changing historical exhibits in Toronto's original 19th century municipal council chambers — (416) 392-7604
- 7 C.B.C. Broadcast Centre guided walking tours — (416) 205-8605

### LEGEND

- Discovery Walk Path
- - - Connecting/Side Trails
- Information Sign
- Discovery Walk Path
- Views
- Stairs
- Subway
- Caution when crossing
- ★ Suggested start and/or end point

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The 6 km (approximate) route has a combination of level access with some moderate slopes and a hard-paved surface. It is recommended to travel this route in a counter clock-wise direction.

Given the large number of attractions, you may wish to walk only a portion of the route at any one time

Food, washrooms and telephones are readily available along this walk.