

A Slice of Historic Life



Experiencing history in action at a historic site, be it a military fort, a recreated historic village or cultural institution, is a great way to learn about the roots of our nation as well as First Nations. Take time this summer to visit some of the many living history attractions in Southern Ontario and beyond. Here's a sample of what's available to explore.



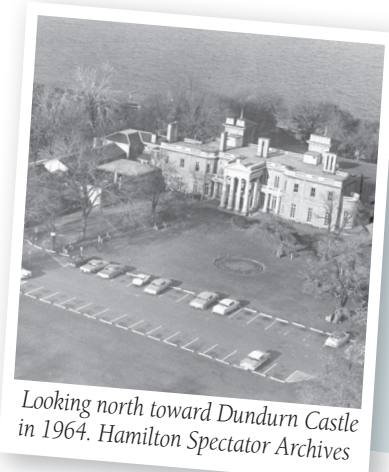
Playing with old-fashioned toys at Spruce Lane Farm. Metroland File Photo

2 **SPRUCE LANE FARM:** A day in the life of a local fruit farmer at the turn of the century is offered at Bronte Creek Provincial Park's Spruce Lane Farm. With a house furnished and decorated in classic Victorian style, the farm brings pioneer times to life. To get the full experience, Spruce Lane Farm offers Hands-On Heritage summer programs for guests to try tasks such as spinning, jam making, weaving and Victorian games. Spruce Lane Farm is located on the border of Burlington and Oakville. (brontecreek.org)

- **Event:** Learn about the ghostly side of Spruce Lane Farm during a guided ghost walk. Hear stories about strange ideas Victorians had about death and witness some of the paranormal experiences at the farm. Ghost walks are held on two Sunday nights in August, every 15-20 minutes.

3 **DUNDURN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE:** Hamilton's Dundurn Castle is built on the site of a former British military encampment circa 1813. The stately mansion was once home to Sir Allan Napier MacNab, who was a railway magnate, lawyer and Premier of the United Canadas from 1854 until 1856. Today, the museum showcases the family who lived in the house, and the servants who worked there. Take part in historic events, cooking workshops and guided tours. Dundurn National Historic Site is open from 12 to 4 p.m. everyday, and is closed on Mondays. www.hamilton.ca

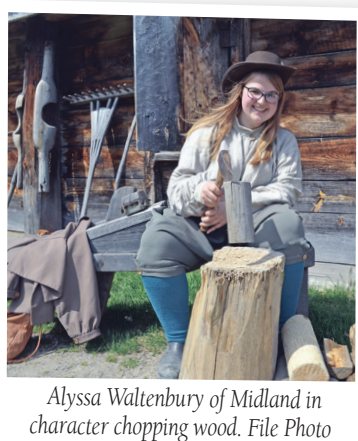
- **Event:** Learn about gardening from today, and in the past with the Historic Garden Tours every Saturday and Sunday all summer at Dundurn National Historic Site. Enjoy the views of the garden, historic stories, and staff in costumes. The event runs from 2 to 3 p.m. and admission is free.



Looking north toward Dundurn Castle in 1964. Hamilton Spectator Archives

1 **STAINTE-MARIE AMONG THE HURONS:** Located on the shores of the Wye River, Sainte-Marie's history dates back to the 17th century. More than 25 buildings have been recreated on their original locations. The site provides visitors with a sense of Indigenous life in the 1600s. Throughout July and August, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons offers demonstrations and "hands-on" activities. These include 17th century fire-starting, historic clothing and medicine, native games, 17th century music, historic cooking, and more. Additional activities for children will feature quill pen writing. Located along the shores of Georgian Bay near Midland, Ontario and surrounded by wooded hills, this was the ancestral homeland of the Huron Wendat nation, a branch of the Iroquoian family. Sainte-Marie among the Hurons is open daily from May to October. (www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca)

- **Event:** Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 8, 9 Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre will present its annual Pow Wow held at Sainte-Marie Park. Check the website for updates for this event.



Alyssa Waltenbury of Midland in character chopping wood. File Photo

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