

## Rosedale

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, on whose land we gather to talk, listen, learn, worship and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

**Psalms 24:1** “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

People have lived in Toronto for thousands of years; the Indigenous peoples called it “The Carrying Place” because the Humber River provided a link between Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe and the upper lakes. The first European explorers arrived circa 1615, led by Etienne Brule.

Modern Toronto has grown rapidly from the 1793 settlement established by John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. The city continues to change around us, constantly reinventing itself with new buildings and a diverse population. Some things remain constant: we all have access to nature through the magnificent ravines that reach into the heart of the city!

St. Paul’s has ministered to our city for 175 years. This series of walks introduces us to our neighbours in prayer, celebrating Toronto’s vitality, growth, the beauty of our natural setting and hope for the future.

### Our Neighbours in Rosedale, Toronto’s first garden suburb

- **Route: East along Bloor, past Sherbourne Street to steps leading down to Glen Road.** *Stop to pray for Toronto Fire Services as we pass the station at Glen Road, and the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle, further east on Bloor Street.*
- **Turn north to cross footbridge over ravine:** Rosedale was Toronto's first garden suburb and is one of the most affluent neighbourhoods in not only the city but all of Canada. It is built among three ravines; this foot bridge crosses the Rosedale Valley ravine, the area’s southern boundary.  
**Genesis 2:9** “The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”
- **Route: continue north along Glen Road to Maple Ave, turn right (east) to continuation of Glen Road, turn left and walk up to South Drive, turn left.**
- Today Rosedale is one of the highest income neighbourhoods in Toronto – and all of Canada; according to the most recent census, average total income levels were five times larger than the national average. Many Rosedale families attend St. Paul’s!  
**Luke 18: 23 & 24** “When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!’”
- South Rosedale was first settled in 1826 by William Jarvis, a member the Upper Canada Family Compact. His wife, Mary, named the estate “Rosedale” as a tribute to the abundance of wild roses growing there. Mary frequently walked and rode her horse around the trails for that formed Rosedale’s trademark meandering streets.
- Rosedale was subdivided for houses in 1854. Many of the large houses are 100 years old, a few are much older. Architectural styles range from modern townhouses to Georgian, Tudor, Victorian and Edwardian; all are now historically designated: facades must be preserved in their current appearance. Passing large homes, and thinking of using the space to entertain others, **Romans 12: 13** “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

- Today we notice towering residential and commercial buildings towering over the southern rim of Rosedale as Toronto grows upwards.
- Rosedale is represented in the House of Commons by Chrystia Freeland and is a part of the University Rosedale federal riding, formerly known as Toronto Centre. In Provincial Parliament, Rosedale is a part of the Toronto Centre district and is currently represented by Glen Murray. Prayer for elected representatives: **1 Timothy 2:2** “for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”
- **Route: walk along South Drive to Meredith Crescent, turn left (south and east)**  
This will take us past Rosedale Presbyterian Church, *Prayer for this neighbour church:*  
**Hebrews 10:25** “not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- The Branksome Hall private school for girls is on the west side of Mt. Pleasant.
- Crossing ravine again, think of the Studio Building located further west at beside the Line 1 Subway tunnel entrance. This is of historical significance in that Lawren Harris built it for the Group of Seven. Remember to notice it next time you take the northbound subway!
- **Route: turn left at Mt. Pleasant Road and walk back down to Bloor Street and St. Paul’s: Walk duration 45 minutes**