

A Frozen Land

A Guide for Teachers



Westfield Heritage Village

This guide provides an overview of the “A Frozen Land” program as well as information that you will need to make the most of your visit to Westfield.

Program Overview

We are delighted that you and your class will be joining us for *A Frozen Land*. Westfield is a special place where students have the opportunity to learn about the past in an immersive, multi-sensory environment that makes history come alive. We strive to provide enjoyable, and informative educational opportunities that allow students to learn about our past through active, hands-on experiences.

Westfield's educational programs are developed in accordance with the learning objectives outlined in the Ontario Curriculum, with the goal of being a valuable complement to the work that you do in the classroom. We are committing to offering a unique learning environment where students can explore, imagine and discover.

Program Objectives

This program focuses on helping participants gain an understanding of what life may have been like for children and their families living in early Canada during the winter months. Utilizing our beautiful rural location, rare collection of period buildings and rich artifact collection, our knowledgeable and welcoming costumed interpreters will guide your students through four stations. All stations include an active, hands-on component that will allow your students to experience a taste of winter in early Canada.

The primary objectives of this program are...

- to illustrate aspects of the daily life of a family living in Upper Canada in the 19th century, with particular reference to the winter season
- to develop an understanding of the social, cultural and technological circumstances that impacted individuals and families in Canada during the 19th century
- to describe the ways in which settlers learned from Indigenous peoples, and how this knowledge helped them adapt to the climate, resources and circumstances of their new country
- to consider the methods, strategies, equipment and resources that made survival in a harsh climate possible
- to consider the benefits and challenges of winter, as it pertains to work, education, travel and health

Making the Most of Your Visit

Confirmation Form

Please check your confirmation form carefully and notify us as soon as possible if the information is incorrect, or if you need to make any changes. Westfield has a three week cancellation policy.

Payment

We will send an invoice following your visit. If you prefer to pay on the day of your visit, please make cheque payable to “**Hamilton Conservation Authority.**”

Arrival Time

Program times are 10:00 - 11:30 and 12:30 – 2:00. Please plan to arrive by 9:45 a.m. for a morning or all day program and by 12:15 pm. for an afternoon program. This will ensure your program will begin on time. When your group arrives you will be greeted by a costumed interpreter and given further directions.

Late Arrivals

Any groups arriving after the program start time of 10:00 am or 12:30 pm will result in parts of the program being shortened or omitted. We will not be able to extend program times.

Lunches

Program participants are encouraged to bring nut free, litter-less lunches and refillable drink bottles. Please note that Westfield cannot guarantee that our facilities are nut-free.

Please refer to our **Pack like a Pioneer** brochure, included in your information package, for details on how your group can pack healthy, environmentally friendly lunches.

Lunch Space - The Ironwood Hall

The Ironwood Hall is available as a lunchroom and is reserved for groups booking full day programs. The room is available for groups here for a half day at a cost of \$37.29, but needs to be booked in advance. Lunches will be stored here but please note that there is no refrigeration or microwaves available for school use. This area is not locked, so please do not leave valuable items. Washrooms are located in this building as well as a water cooler. Please encourage students to bring a refillable water bottle.

Outside Picnic Area

Groups are welcome to use our picnic area free of charge and the space does not need to be booked in advance. The picnic area is uncovered. You will have access to the washrooms as well as the water cooler for participants to refill their own water bottles.

Storing Belongings

In cases where groups have not booked the Ironwood Hall but wish to have lunch in the picnic area, you will be asked to leave your lunches outside of the Hall while in program. Please note that there is some shade in this area however no refrigeration. Please encourage program participants to pack an icepack and/or use thermo lunch bags.

Dressing for the Weather

Students should dress appropriately for cool, hot or rainy weather. They will be spending the majority of the time outdoors and on gravel roads and in buildings that are heated by methods used during the 19th century. During cold weather boots, mitts, hats and heavy coats are strongly encouraged. In warmer weather sun hats, sunscreen, bug spray are all recommended.

Extreme Weather

All programs continue rain, snow, or shine. During weather extremes however a greater portion of our programs may be conducted indoors or adapted for the safety of participants and staff.

Movement between Stations

To make the most of your program, please encourage your group to move as efficiently as possible from station to station. Your interpreters will direct you to each of your stations.

Supervision

You know your group best, so we will leave it to you to determine how many additional supervisors will be necessary. Please note, however, that due to the small sizes of many of our historic buildings, we recommend you not exceed a ratio of 1:5. You are responsible for supervising your group(s) at all times while on site.

Special Needs

Westfield is working to make the village fully accessible for all visitors, however all areas are not fully accessible at this time. Please let us know if anyone in your group requires special assistance or accommodation and we will do our best to provide the best experience possible.

Costumes

Students and teachers wishing to get into the spirit of the day are welcome to visit in historical costumes. Boys can wear dark dress pants, a white or plaid shirt, suspenders and vest. Girls can wear a dark dress or long dark skirt with cotton blouse and bib-style apron. All can wear straw hats, long black socks and dark leather shoes or boots. No jewelry or makeup should be worn.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is not normally open during school programming days however if requested in advance arrangements may be made.

Program Structure

Winter Work and Play

Location: Bamberger House

When the days were short, the nights long, and the wind was howling outside the door, what did families do for fun? Stop by the Bamberger House to discover some of the favourite winter pastimes of Upper Canadian families. Try your hand at traditional toys and games and find out what types of work kept the pioneers busy during the cold months.

“C” is for Classroom

Location: The Cathcart School

Take a seat in a one room, log schoolhouse and learn about life in an early rural classroom. Find out why schools were more crowded in the wintertime, who kept the fire going, and how young scholars would have travelled to school. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a traditional lesson using slates and slate pencils.

Staying Healthy

Location: Dr. Beattie’s Office and Drugstore

How did the Victorians stay healthy in the wintertime? Learn about natural remedies, patent medicines and the important role of doctors in early communities. A multi-sensory activity will test your medical know-how!

Fireside Tales

Location: The D’Aubigny Inn

Cozy up to the fire in the D’Aubigny Inn and learn what it was like to travel in the wintertime in Upper Canada. Hear a very old story about winter and take part in a hands-on activity to learn about the clothing, equipment and strategies that made winter travel possible.

