

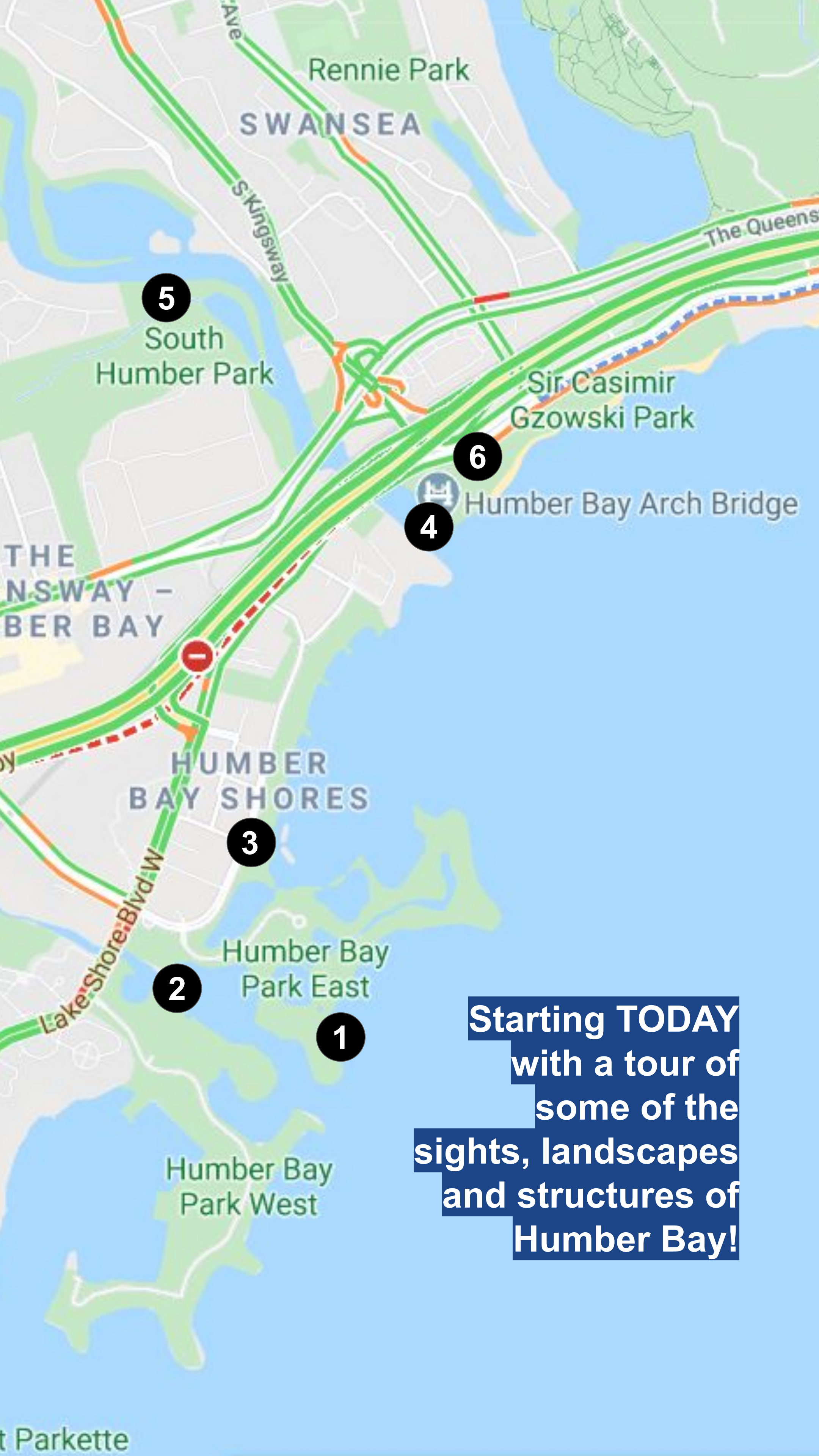
TSA

**Missing our #TSA tours
this summer?**


**We'll put on your walking
shoes because we're
taking you on a walk all
across the waterfront!**

TSA

**Each weekend we'll be
sharing the stories
behind some of
Toronto's waterside
landscapes and
structures - everything
you need to know to go
exploring on your own!**



**Starting TODAY
with a tour of
some of the
sights, landscapes
and structures of
Humber Bay!**

An aerial photograph showing a modern high-rise building on the left side of the frame. The building has a grey facade and white balconies. To the right of the building is a lush green park area with a winding creek. A white arched bridge crosses the creek. In the background, a large body of water (Lake Ontario) is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Our tour begins at the
mouth of Mimico Creek
and the man-made
headlands of
Humber Bay Park**



@dtahtoronto

The park was built through lake-filling operations during the 1970s and 80s to provide recreation options for the immediate and neighbouring communities



1975

***Drawings courtesy of dtah**

Over time, the 43 hectare park has been host to many naturalization projects, including new wetlands, wildflower meadows and carolinian tree plantings; making it a great spot for bird watching!



Connecting both sides of the park is Mimico Creek Pedestrian Bridge, designed by [@calatravaofficial](#) in 1998





@dtahtoronto

There is now a Master Plan by @dtahtoronto to guide future revitalization of the park, enhance existing landscapes and habitats, as well as improve access for recreational uses

**Once at Humber Bay
Park East just follow the
waterfront trail east to
our next stop...**



A photograph of a modern, curved skyscraper with a lush green facade, surrounded by dense vegetation and a butterfly on a rock in the foreground. The building features a dark, curved exterior with multiple levels of glass windows and balconies. The foreground is dominated by a dense thicket of green plants, including tall grasses and various shrubs, growing on a rocky slope. A butterfly is visible on a rock in the lower right foreground. In the background, other modern buildings are visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

The Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat

A photograph of a naturalized area with a dense field of purple and pink flowers. In the background, a multi-story building is visible through the green foliage. The text is overlaid on a dark blue rectangular background.

Opened in 2002 as a joint effort between City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation and @trcahq this naturalized area provides over a hectare of butterfly-friendly habitat and is maintained by volunteers



**In the Home Garden
you can learn about plants
and design elements to
support butterflies in your
backyard/balcony**



It is also home to The Guardians, an art piece by Amy Switzer (itself home to some house sparrows)

Tips for Butterfly Watching

- Warm, sunny days with little wind are best.
- In Toronto, April to mid October is prime butterfly season.
- Use a field guide to help you identify what you are seeing (this park has some built-in ones you can reference!)
- Watch for flowers that attract butterflies, such as milkweed, coneflowers and black-eyed susans (all found here)

**Continue east on the trail
until you arrive to the
Humber River - the border
between the old City of
Toronto and Etobicoke!**





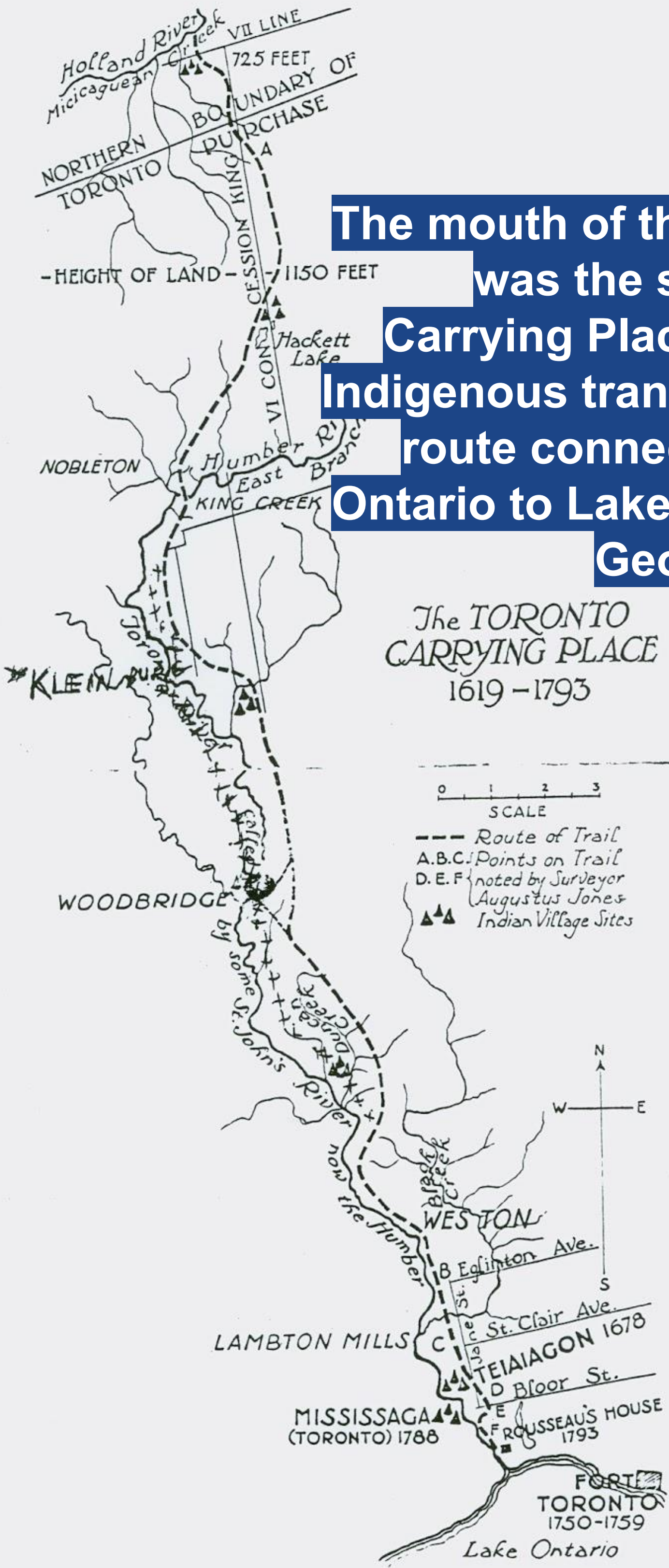
Facts about the Humber River

- Originates in the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine
- Its watershed encompasses 911 square kilometres and is home to more than 850,000 people
- Is home to 755 species of plants, 42 species of fish and over 185 animal species
- It's the GTA's only designated Canadian Heritage River (and one of 40 in Canada) recognizing its significant cultural value

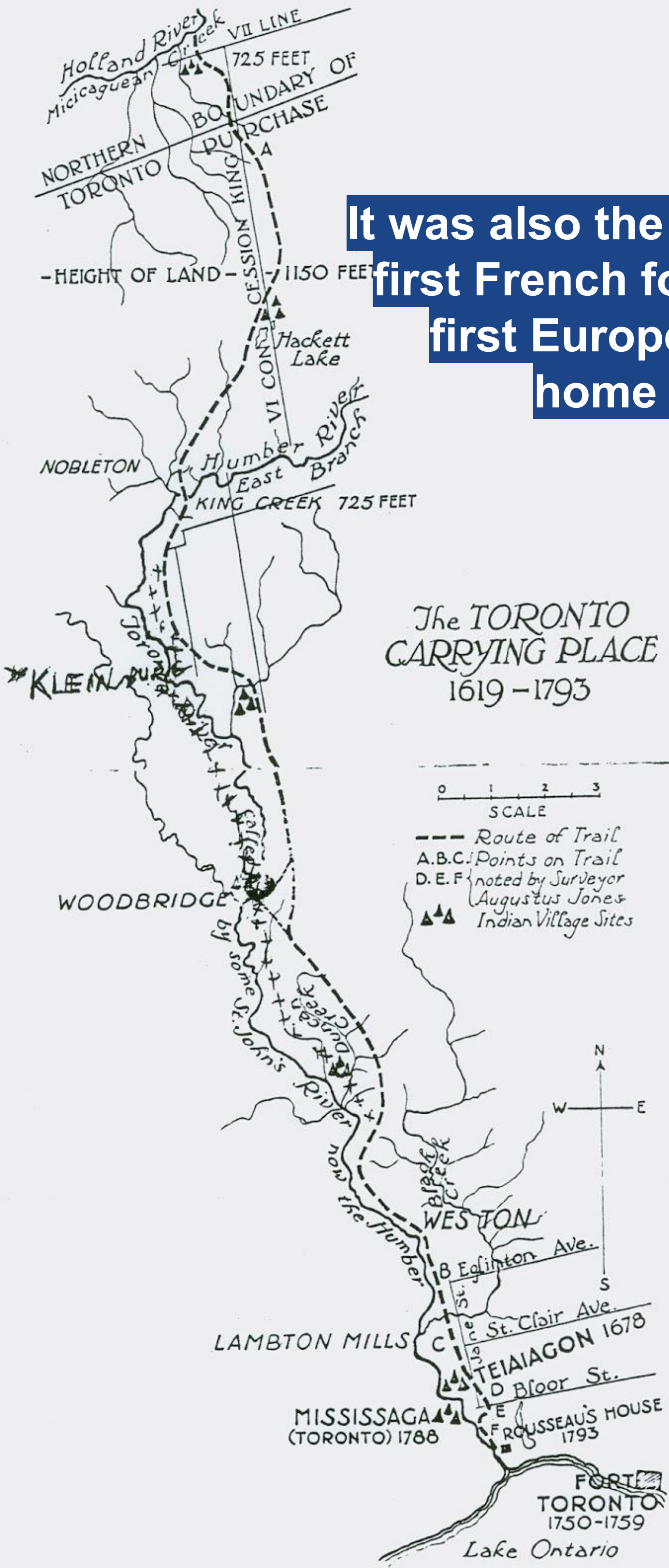
Image courtesy of Toronto Public Library

The mouth of the Humber was the start of the Carrying Place Trail, an Indigenous transportation route connecting Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe & Georgian Bay

The TORONTO CARRYING PLACE 1619 - 1793



It was also the site of the first French fort and the first European settler home in Toronto



**Spanning the Humber is
the iconic Humber Bay
Arch Bridge!**



@montgomerysisam , 1996



Designed by @Montgomerysisam and an interdisciplinary team of architects, engineers, landscape architects and artists, the bridge references the historical, cultural, and natural significance of the site through its architecture



The superstructure connecting the arches is patterned as an abstract Thunderbird - a legendary bird common across many Indigenous cultures in Toronto & North America

 **@montgomerysisam**

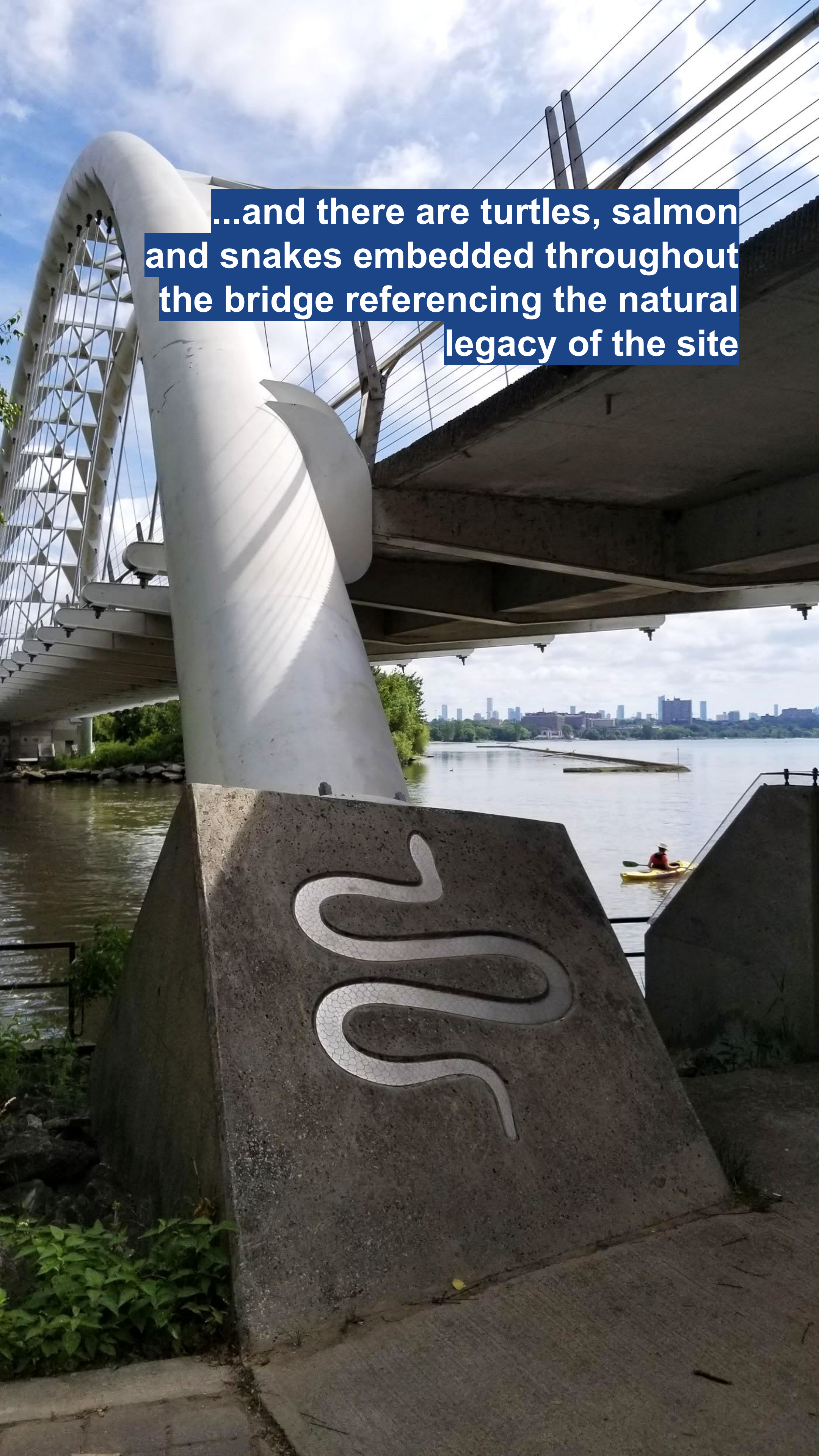



**Renowned Ojibwe artist Ahmoo
Angeconebe was the Indigenous
Collaborating Artist on this project.**



@montgomerysisam

**...and there are turtles, salmon
and snakes embedded throughout
the bridge referencing the natural
legacy of the site**



A photograph taken from a low angle under a concrete bridge. The bridge's structure, including its beams and supports, is visible overhead. Below, a river flows, and a person in a red kayak is visible in the distance. The far bank is lined with green trees and a rocky shoreline. A tall building is visible in the background on the left. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

**Make sure to go
under the bridge!**

**There are plaques on either side
explaining the bridge's design
and site's history**



If you look up you can also catch some more bird architecture... like these cliff swallow nests!

Now we are heading north on the recreational trail on the west bank of the Humber River under the Gardiner and Lakeshore...



There is lots of great street art along this path including these ethereal portraits by [@noodletank](#)

**And this wonderful mural by
Indigenous artist @philipcote1**



***behind this wall is the Humber
Water Treatment Plant**



**About 10 minutes later
you'll reach our next
stop: The Oculus!**

Designed by Alan Crossley in 1958 and completed in 1959, the Oculus is a little modernist gem that is both beautiful and functional



The building was designed to provide shelter along the path as well as washrooms - essential for making public spaces accessible to everyone!




@arconserv

Neglected and vandalized over the years, @acotoronto, @parkpeople and @giamioarchitects are currently working to restore this space-age structure





Now head back down the river and cross the Humber Bridge for our last stop in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park



Along the way you
will see Palace Pier
and its younger
sibling

Built in 1978 and designed by architect Edward Isaac Richmond, Palace Pier tower was among the first luxury condominiums built in Toronto - many decades before the condo boom we see today in this area

Its name references the Palace Pier - an amusement pier including a dance hall that jutted out into Lake Ontario



The structure, designed by Craig and Madill, opened in 1941. Its existence was short-lived, as it succumbed to flames in 1963

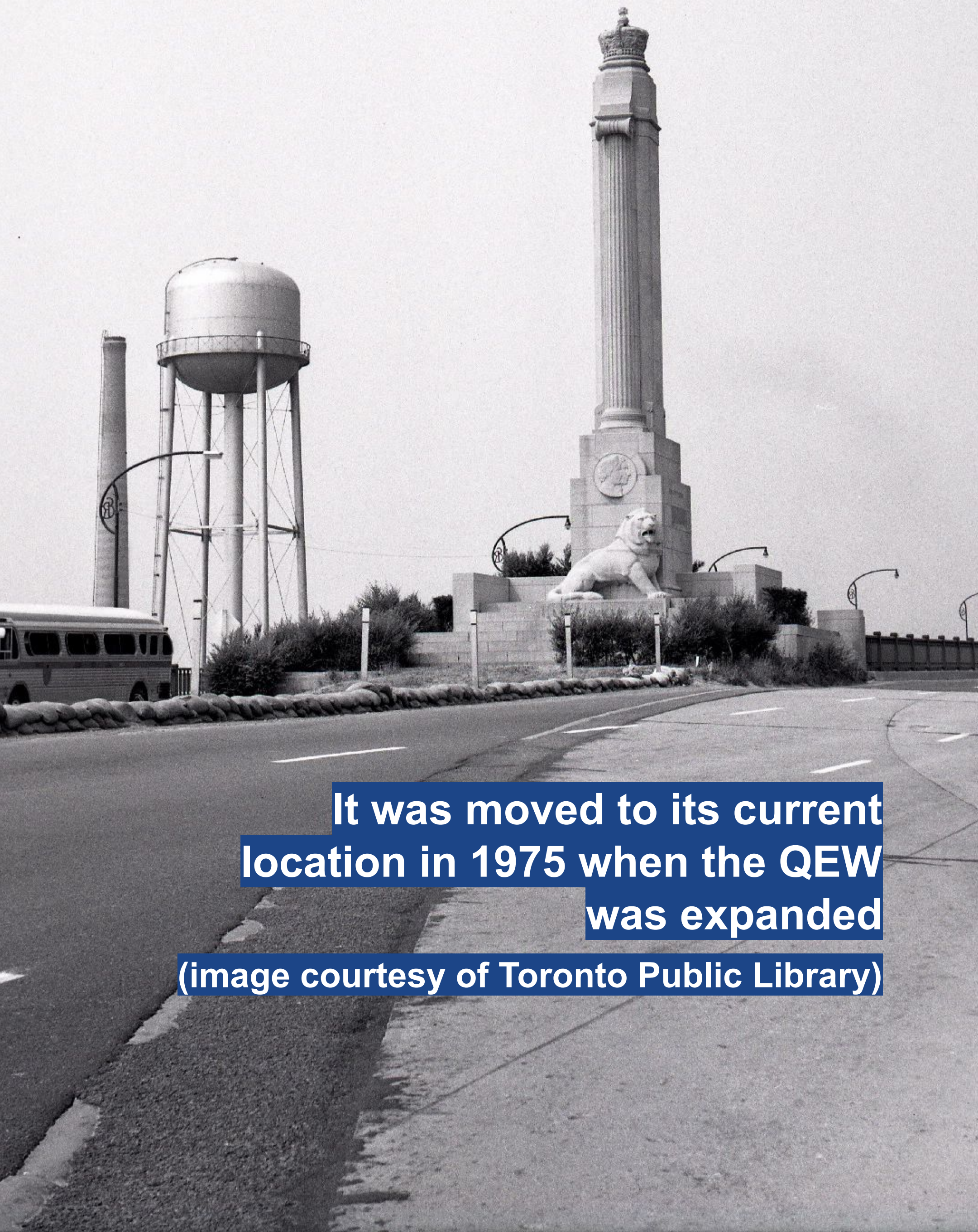
Image Courtesy of Toronto Public Library @torontolibrary

...and now our
last stop

The Queen
Elizabeth Way
Monument
designed by
architect William
Lyon Somerville
in 1939



It once sat in the middle of the highway marking the Toronto entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Way



It was moved to its current location in 1975 when the QEW was expanded

(image courtesy of Toronto Public Library)



The “snarling, defiant British lion” was designed and sculpted by Frances Loring after Canada and Britain entered WW2

**And that's a wrap for
our virtual #TSAtour of
Humber Bay.**

**Now it's your turn to
go out and explore!**



Thanks for joining us!



@montgomerysisam

TSA

...and remember, when exploring bring some water, wear some sun screen and make sure to practice physical distancing!

TSA

**...and don't forget to
share your explorations
with us!**

**@tosoarch
#TSATour**