

AT HOME WITH THE INFINITELY UNPREDICTABLE CEDARVALE RAVINE



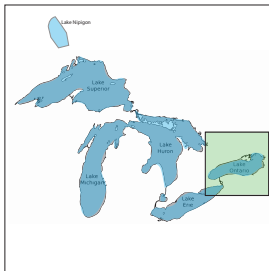
ADRIAN TENNEY

The Cedarvale Ravine made me want to get as close to nature as I possibly could. Only a few minutes away from the house where I grew up, I would spend hours interacting with the ravine's endless bounty of untrimmed trees and choruses of insects, learning how to be confident in my independent exploration, and to cherish the constant revelations it provided. With that foundation, and appreciation for the wild and unpredictable, I now design landscapes that prioritize the chance for discovery. I still prefer to leave dry seed-heads on my shrubs as long as possible (as long as the birds are eating them), and I still make small paths that wind through, rather than skirt around. This way, you can smell more, hear more, see more, learn more, and get to know your plant and animal neighbors more... just like I did in Cedarvale.

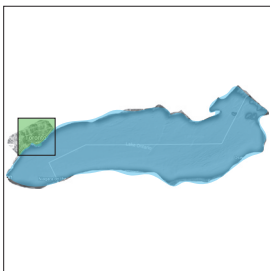
HYDROLOGY



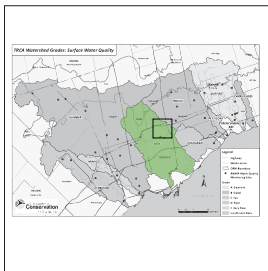
Canada



The Great Lakes

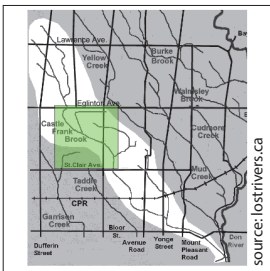


Lake Ontario



Don River Watershed

source: trca.ca



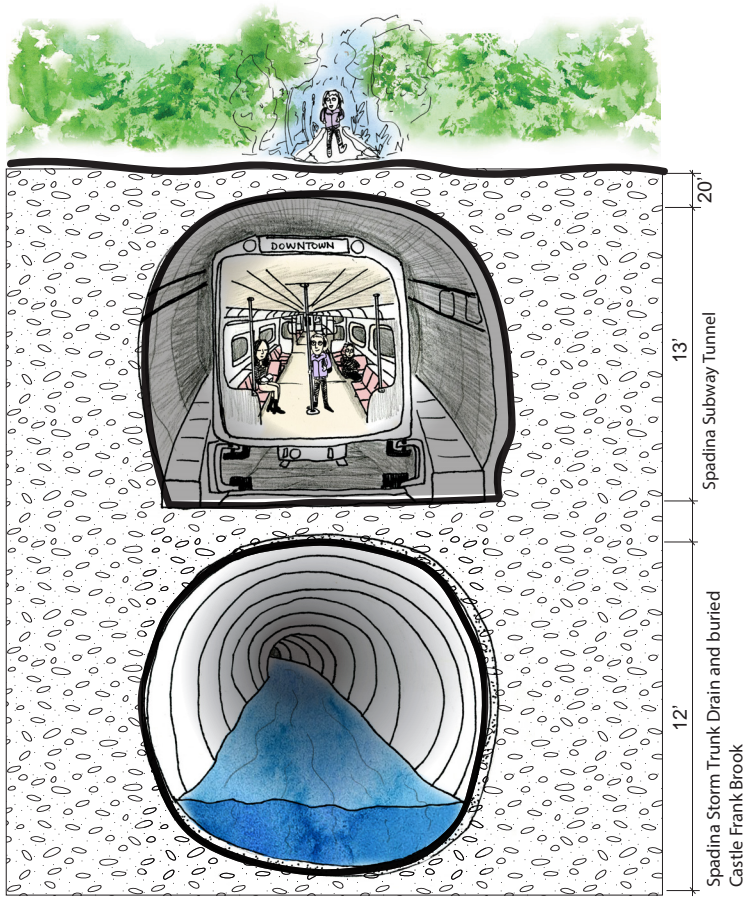
Castle Frank Brook



Cedarvale Ravine

source: lostivers.ca

LAYERS OF DEVELOPMENT



Scale: NTS

HISTORY

Approximately
25,000 years ago

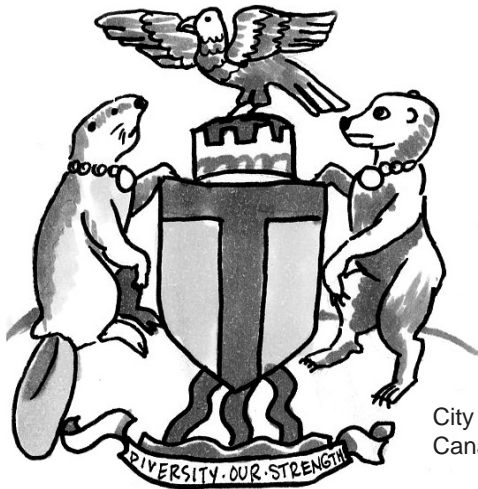


Wisconsin Glacial Episode:
Advancing and retreating ice
carves out Great Lakes.

15,000 years ago–today



First Nations groups,
including the
Mississaugas of the
Credit First Nations,
the Anishnabeg,
the Chippewa,
the Haudenosaunee,
and the Wendat
peoples make their
home in *Tkaronto*
“place where trees
stand in water”.



1834

City of Toronto integrated into
Canada under the British Crown.



1920

Cedarvale Ravine
becomes designated
park within
the City of York,
Toronto.

1960s and '70s



Community protestors (including local resident and author Jane Jacobs) stop expansion of Spadina expressway. Toronto Transit Commission builds the Spadina subway line directly underneath the ravine.

1985—2000



Cedarvale Ravine becomes the center of my natural world awareness, the closest thing to wilderness I know in the middle of metropolitan Toronto.

TREES

Thuja occidentalis
Cedar

Populus grandidentata
Aspen

Salix x rubens
Willow

Betula papyrifera
Paper Birch

Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter



Acer saccharinum
Sugar Maple



Ginkgo biloba
Maidenhair Tree



Quercus macrocarpa
White Oak





My House

Walking my little brother to school.



French Immersion at Arlington Middle School.
Très difficile pour moi!



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Ice Rink



"Killer Hill"



Arlington Playground
Jerome gives me a ring with a missing gem. I thought it was weird and it made me like him even more.



The Pond



Then I became a teenager...



My Subway Station:
Eglinton West

Subway
Emergency
Exits



My elementary school:
Cedarvale



Ginkgo biloba trees at the top of the hill. The first time and place I ever noticed a special leaf.



My favorite pizza place
La Lucciola
where I first learned how money works:
you trade it for pizza.

Beginning of wooded area



Glen Cedar Bridge



Hanging out under
the bridge

Legend: Next Page...

MEMORY MAP



Shredding on
my rollerblades!



Singing in the choir at
Grace Church on the Hill.

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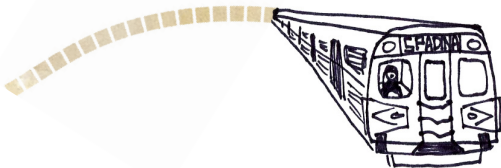
LEGEND

Scale:



Important Locations ①

Subway Route



Bike Route



Walking Route



ACCESSIBILITY



Within the urban grid of Toronto, I used the park to reach my everyday destinations.

The time it took to reach the other end by train was 15 minutes.

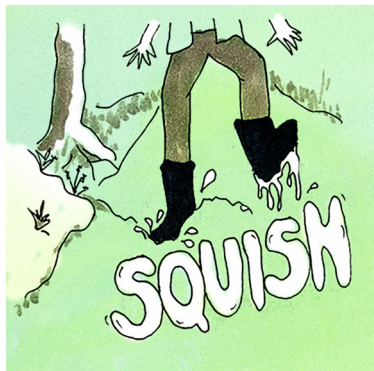
The time it took to reach the other end by bike was the same: 15

minutes. The time it took to reach the other end walking, depended on how many distracting discoveries I would make on the way.

The park was at the center of my network of travel and gave me an appreciation for accessibility that I still value today.

SEASONAL EXPERIENCE

SPRING AVERAGE TEMP 46°F



Sinking into the soaked mud from all the winter's melting ice. Aka "soakers".



Screaming in joy for the long-awaited warmth of springtime.



My big brother breaking through the thawing ice into the pond. He was fine.



Marsh Wren munching on old cattail seeds, still good after the long winter.

SUMMER AVERAGE TEMP 70°F



Finding frog friends under the Glen Cedar bridge



Discovering the subway emergency exits.

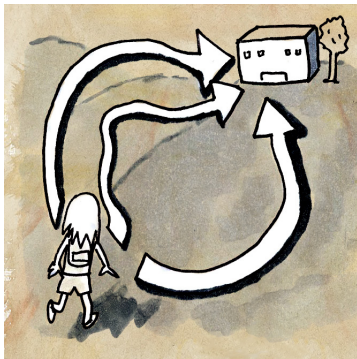


Dripping wet from summer thunderstorms and high humidity.



Surrounded by the sounds of cicadas singing love songs after 17 years underground.

FALL AVERAGE TEMP 53°F



Taking multiple routes through the middle, and around the edges of the park to school.



Crunching in the piles of drying Maple leaves.



Playing in the Zamboni's dirty parking lot snow piles because it's the only "snow" around.



Surviving the heartbreak of teen drama on school field trips to the ice rink.

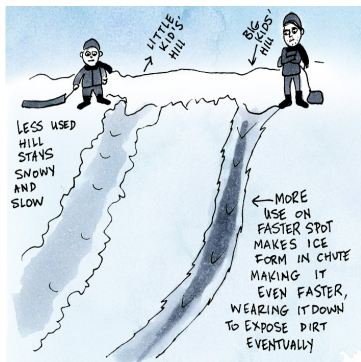
WINTER AVERAGE TEMP 27°F



Dragging my brother uphill and through the snow to go sledding with me.



Using the concave slopes of "Killer Hill" for the fastest and most satisfying sledding experience.



Taking big-kid risks on the icy snow chutes. Witnessing lots of ice-related injuries.



Taking night walks in the silence of the dampened sounds of snowfall.

THE FROZEN POND



- A. *Lepus americanus*, Snowshoe Hare in its winter coat
- B. *Typha latifolia*, Cattails
- C. Hibernating *Lithobates clamitans*, Green Frog
- D. Highest density of water allowing for surface to freeze at 39°F
- E. Water Beetles skimming under the ice for air bubbles
- F. *Micropterus salmoides*, Largemouth Bass
- G. Minimum depth of water allowing for stratified frozen layers at 35"
- H. *Nuphar variegatum*, Yellow Pond Lily
- I. *Sagittaria latifolia*, Broad-leaved Arrowhead