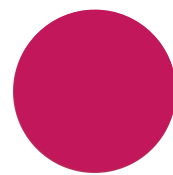


# Introduction



## Welcome Center

Hello and welcome to the Welcome Centre! My name is Keiko and I work with the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre. Today I'll be guiding you through the Film History Tour.



Our mission is to research, preserve, and share the multiple histories of the Lakeshore Grounds where Humber Polytechnic is located. We aim to do this through exhibitions, art shows, cultural programming, and tours just like the one we are about to embark on. Our main space is located right here on the first floor of the Welcome Centre, feel free to stop by weekdays from 10-2 to check it out for yourself!

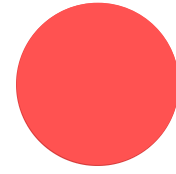
Every red brick building on campus was once a part of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. When the facility closed in 1979, the provincial government retained ownership of the grounds - but did not immediately have a new tenant to make use of the property.

### **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, walk south along Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr and stop just before the crosswalk.



# #1



## A & B Building



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing west toward B building, with your back to Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr.

This lot was once a part of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital's apple orchard. Beyond the sports green and the newly constructed B Building sits Humber's A Building, the former Lakeshore Teacher's College and filming location for *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*.



The original, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002), followed the life of a Greek American woman played by Nia Vardalos, and her marriage to a non-Greek Anglo-Saxon man. It was ground-breaking, as one of the first few indie films with a theatrical release, and still holds the record as the highest grossing romantic comedy of all time (\$241 million).

The sequel follows the same protagonist several years into her marriage and the struggles of her teenage daughter and the influence of extended family.

The gym is used as the location of a high school career fair that the family attends, and also hosts a volleyball tournament at the beginning of the film



Nick Moreau as Howie The Hawk, pictured here in a red Harrison Jersey, extremely stressed.



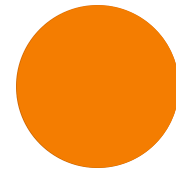
A worm's eye view of the gymnasium. Balcony seats stand behind the full volleyball court.

Humber's mascot, Howie the Hawk, also makes a cameo during this scene. The costume was worn by Nick Moreau, a Humber alumni, who had never worn the Humber Hawk costume prior to appearing in the film, although he is now an experienced mascot performer. He took acting classes at Humber.

## **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, cross Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr at the crosswalk and head east along the sidewalk you reach the north entrance of D cottage.

#2



## Assembly Hall



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing north toward the Assembly Hall, with your back toward C cottage.

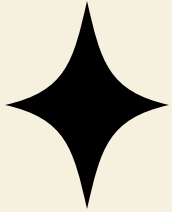
Assembly Hall, or “AH!” for short, was built by patients of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital in 1898, who used it for rehabilitation purposes. The 250-seat cultural venue is owned by the City of Toronto and is used for a variety of events such as weddings, art shows, meetings, community events, and, of course, filming projects.

The most well-known project filmed here is *The Handmaid's Tale* (2017-2025), a dystopian television drama based on the 1985 novel of the same name by Canadian author Margaret Atwood.

In the show, women are dehumanized and forced into child-bearing servitude under a future totalitarian theocracy called Gilead. Scenes for their second season were shot inside the building in November 2017.



With the popularity of the show and the reflection that it has on current events, Margaret Atwood was inspired to release a sequel book titled "The Testaments" It has won the "Booker Prize" in 2019 for the best English Language book.

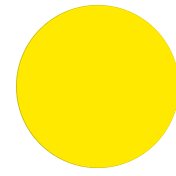


Atwood's inspiration for Gilead was 17th century Puritan New England and Christian fundamentalism. There's "nothing in the book that didn't happen, somewhere."

### **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, follow the sidewalk as it curves right and head south until you reach the east side of G Cottage.

#3



## G Cottage (east)



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing west toward the entrance of G Cottage, with the roundabout behind you.

These two cottage buildings are F and G. G Cottage is the most widely used cottage for filming. Many productions have used the exterior for its aesthetic and 19th century look. This side of G Cottage was used for the mockumentary style TV series *What We Do in the Shadows*. It is based on the 2014 film of the same name that was directed by Taika Waititi (also director of *Thor: Love and Thunder*).



It follows the everyday lives of four vampires and their assistant on Staten Island. The show focuses on their attempts to blend in and adapt to a more modern world, while still taking part in their vampire traditions.

The building was used in season 1 of the show where three of the vampires look through the window at a group of college students that they are looking to sacrifice. The room that was used was on the top floor, so not only did the actors have to be propped up and rigged to the side of the cottage, but since vampires avoid the sun, all the scenes had to be filmed late at night.



Nadja, Guillermo, and Laszlo looking through the window at potential victims.



Nadja, Guillermo, and Laszlo outside of G Cottage.

It made sense to film here as all the classrooms were readily available and there was lots of space for the actors and crew to move around.



Nadja and Laszlo floating by the second story windows of G cottage while Guillermo waits below.

More recently, the buildings beside us served as yet another educational institution in the Netflix series *Locke & Key*.

The show is set in the fictional small town of Matheson, Massachusetts and is about a family of three siblings who move with their mother to their ancestral home after their father's violent death. The house is filled with mysterious and magical keys that hold various powers.





Nina and Tyler Locke outside of G Cottage. A light layer of snow covers the lawn and cottages in the background.



Nina and Bode outside after Tyler's Hockey game. G and H Cottages are in the background.



Kinsey and Tyler enter Matheson academy for the first time.

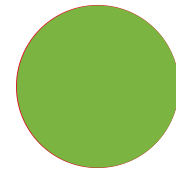
While the action largely takes place at the house, the siblings attend Matheson Academy, a private school which is where the Lakeshore Grounds play a part. The exterior of G Cottage serves as the exterior to Matheson Academy. F and H Cottages are also part of the school campus.

Despite this, the buildings are just an “establishing shot” - once the students step into the buildings, they are in a castle-style interior provided by Casa Loma.

### **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, head west up the ramp along the side of G Cottage.

#4

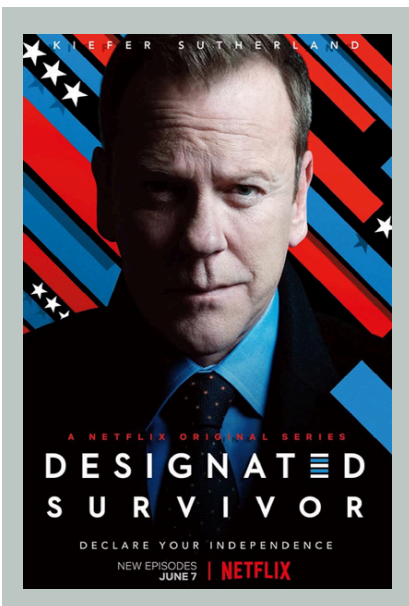


## G Cottage (west)



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing the west entrance of G Cottage, with your back to the courtyard.

This glass addition to G cottage is one of the newer renovations undertaken by Humber College. G cottage was re-opened in 2016 with the addition of an event space and complete interior renovation. This is also the **ONLY** cottage that has an accessible and completely renovated attic. This space provided a setting for the American TV series: *Designated Survivor (2016)*.



In the show, Kiefer Sutherland plays a low-ranking American politician. He quickly finds himself in the unlikely position of serving as the President of the United States after an explosion kills everyone ranked ahead of him in the line of succession to the presidency.

In a scene from season 2, this area served as the waiting room of a hospital, in which one of the characters awaits troubling news.

The production used a lot of the furniture already in the room so if you watch the episode you'll recognize the distinctive orange couches, even though they appear only for a brief time.



Two characters in the glass addition of G Cottage, sitting on the orange couches.



An exterior shot of G and H Cottages. A blue FBI sign sits in front of them.

Perhaps the most famous of all the movies filmed on the Lakeshore Grounds were editions 1, 3, and 4 of the **Police Academy** franchise between 1984-1987.

These films featured a group of unlikely police cadets as they train to become police officers. There are a total of 7 films and a short-lived TV-show based on this franchise. The films used all of the buildings on campus, both inside and out.



This side of G Building served as the front entrance to the Police Academy, with the Commandant's office being located on the second floor directly above the arches. The cottages served as the dorms for the cadets. The buildings along the east side of campus, where we are standing today, feature prominently in the movies making it into a visually “institutionalized” educational environment.



Interior of the Commandant's office in G Cottage.



Police cadets standing in a line with their luggage in front of G Cottage.

All three of the movies offer a glimpse at what the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital looked like following its closure in 1979. The Hospital had closed only a few years prior to filming, so the movies are actually a great way to see what the site looked like before it was renovated by Humber College. For example, the scene where an officer throws a suitcase over G Cottage is one of the only visual record of the original roof and attic windows.

The only change made to the property was the replacement of the sign that read “Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital” with one that read “Police Academy”.



One major exception to this would be the use of the bowl area behind us. This area was converted into a large outdoor swimming pool for Police Academy IV.



A bird's eye view of actors and production crew filming by A Building.



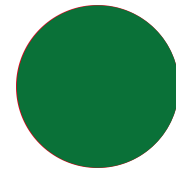
Cast and crew watching the shoot in front of A Building. Two people look back toward the camera, one is waving excitedly.

Photos from the Humber Archives

## **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, take the ramp back to the east side of G Cottage and follow the sidewalk to the right. Head south and follow the right curve of the sidewalk until you reach the south side of I Cottage.

#5



## I Cottage (south)



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing south toward the cricket pitch, with your back to I Cottage

Another famous movie filmed on the Lakeshore Grounds is ***Strange Brew*** (1983) featuring Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis as Bob and Doug Mackenzie.



The movie opens with the brothers making their own post-apocalyptic film which they set along the shoreline of Lake Ontario, right here on the Grounds. But after their film fails, they set off to the fictional Elsinore Brewery in an attempt to swindle free beer – instead, they end up employed on the automated bottling line where they uncover the evil plot that the Brewmeister has to take over the world by placing a mind-control drug in the beer.

A total spoiler alert but, towards the end of the movie, the brothers race off to Oktoberfest where drug-tainted beer is at risk of being consumed by the public. Rather than traveling all the way to Kitchener-Waterloo, where Oktoberfest normally takes place, the Oktoberfest in the film was staged right here on the lawn.



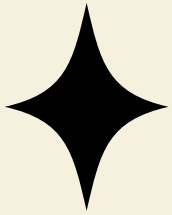
The McKenzie brothers are greeted by a Peel Regional Police officer in front of G Cottage. F Cottage can be seen in the distance, note the original attic windows!



Bob standing awkwardly on the rocky lakeshore in a "futuristic" costume (a hockey helmet and a jock strap over his clothes).



A group of people holding a "WELCOME TO OKTOBERFEST" banner walk across the roundabout. Flags are hung from light posts and bright fall-coloured trees.

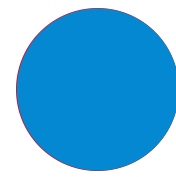


Strange brew is a loose adaptation of Hamlet! Bob and Doug represent Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The brewery and castle share the name "Elsinore" and Claude's daughter in law's name is Pam (presumably short for Pamlet).

### **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, continue along the sidewalk to the next building, J Cottage.

#6

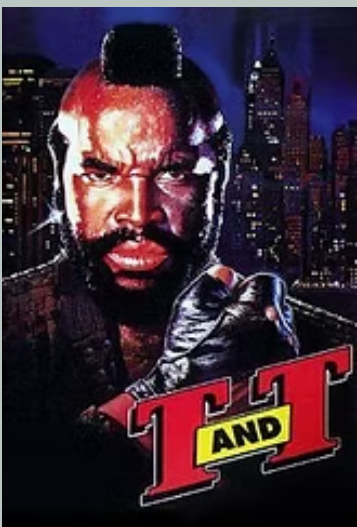


## J Cottage (south)



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing the cricket pitch, with your back toward the south side of J Cottage.

As mentioned at the beginning of the tour, one of the biggest appeals of this property are the multiple “set” options it offers. While the buildings are one of the more recognizable pieces, the shoreline and the field just south of us have also been popularly used over the years. Both *Strange Brew* and *Police Academy* made extensive use of the field and shoreline as part of their productions, as did *T and T*. This Canadian TV series starring Mr. T, that aired from 1987-1990, just after the cancellation of his well-known 1980s series, *The A Team*.



In *T and T*, Mr. T is a streetwise kid turned boxer who is framed for a murder he didn't commit. A young public defender comes to his rescue and in turn, Mr. T begins working with the lawyer in the role of a private detective, helping those who aren't able to defend themselves.

A number of episodes make use of the field, the gazebo at the southern edge, and the shoreline – as well as various rooms within the cottages. These days, the cricket pitch is mostly used for Australian football and a nice place for students to go for a run.

Another show that features this part of the grounds is ***Night Heat***, a 1980s late-night TV drama that featured the exploits of two big-city police officers who work the graveyard shift. Their adventures were then documented in the “Night Heat” column of the local newspaper, which was featured in the narration at the beginning and end of each episode. I Cottage is where the interior rooms of the precinct were located.

Night Heat has a special place in Canadian television history, as it was the first ever Canadian TV Show to be syndicated for viewing in the US while it was still on the air.



Four people in a meeting room.



Two officers wearing suits in the precinct's reception desk.

The show filmed at sites all around Toronto as a part of its appeal for viewers was spotting familiar sites and locations during each episode. It was officially set in a “any city”, America, which shows how easily Toronto can fit this niche.

The precinct, where many of the scenes took place, used the exterior of the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children on College Street, which is now home to the Canadian Blood Services Regional Blood Center.

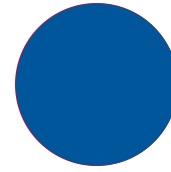
This is another example of how easy it is for a production to portray the Lakeshore Grounds as almost any institutionalized environment.

### **DIRECTION:**

To reach our next stop, head west and turn right once you reach Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr, take the stairs or ramp up toward the entrance to K cottage. Head along the path to the building next to it, J Cottage.

#7

## L Building



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be at the north entrance of J Cottage, looking left across the field at the L Building.

L Building is obviously one of the newer buildings as it doesn't have that signature red brick that I mentioned earlier. The new design was, however, used for one of the most recent projects to be filmed on the Grounds.

The Netflix film **Work It**, starring Sabrina Carpenter and Liza Koshy, premiered in 2020 and is a coming of age story about a high school senior that tries to get into a better college by attempting to win a dance competition. Since this is already a college, making these grounds look like an educational institution is fairly easy.



Parts of the hallway were decorated with signage and posters to make it look like a high school. You can see the cast walk between classes down the hallways in the movie.

Between June and August 2019, students would see posters on the wall that advertise a Halloween Dance and signs by the doors stating “Woodwright High School”.



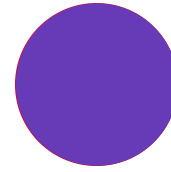
Jasmine and Quinn In the L Commons.



Quinn standing in front of windows which look out onto the courtyard. F, G, and I Cottages can be seen behind her.

## **DIRECTION:**

Our next stop is two buildings to our right, H Cottage.



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing the H Cottage, with the courtyard behind you.

This building is home of The Longo Faculty of Business, and was also used in the 2005 movie: **Martha Behind Bars**, a made-for-TV movie that featured the story of Martha Stewart and her fall from grace after she was convicted of tax evasion and insider trading.

Cybill Shepherd played the role of Martha and the film mostly focuses on her conviction and five month imprisonment. Humber College stood in as the prison where Martha served her sentence and a number of the cottage buildings can be seen throughout the film. Many of the inmates can be seen running around doing exercise, with the cottages in the background.



The long windowed room we're next to is The International Centre, it was used as the location for the cafeteria of the prison. This is because the area used to be the actual cafeteria for the college, with cement floors and monotone tables.

It was an easy upgrade to make it look like a women's prison from Upstate New York, essentially flipping one institutionalized cafeteria for another.



Martha with her arms raised in front of H Cottage.



Martha and others eating in the prison cafeteria, now International Centre of H Cottage.

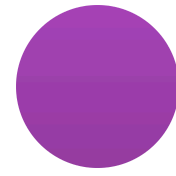


A black car driving through campus. Several cottage buildings and four chimneys can be seen in the background.

## **DIRECTION:**

For our next stop, we'll return to the west entrance of G Cottage. Head north along the sidewalk to get there.

#9



## G Cottage (west)



**ORIENTATION:** You should now be facing the west entrance of G Cottage, welcome back.

Remember in the beginning when I mentioned the futuristic look of the Assembly Hall? The reason for that was to connect it to the outside of G Cottage. As you can see, there have been some exterior renovations to create a space for the Longo Centre for Entrepreneurship. This new and sleek design served as a hospital in season 3 of the *Handmaid's Tale*.



In the scene, June, played by Elisabeth Moss, exits these doors and walks out into the area that we are standing at right now. It soon starts to rain and she embraces the weather before heading back inside. You can see L Building in the distance, along with ambulances, medical trucks, and the three detached chimneys.



Areal view of Offred outside of G Building in the rain.



Offred from behind, looking toward L Building.

As I've highlighted, many of the film productions follow a similar pattern of choosing to use these grounds for the purposes of showcasing an institutionalized environment: we've seen it as hospitals, various types of schools and academies, a police precinct, and even several penitentiaries. Now, we'll just have to wait to see how the grounds might be portrayed next.

## Conclusion

That brings us to the end of our tour today. Thank you for joining us. As you have noticed, there is quite a vibrant history that exists on these grounds.

If you happen to be watching a film or television show and think it might have been filmed on the grounds, don't be afraid to let us know. We are always looking to update the tour, and showcase more of the history that has been featured.

Our guided Film History Tour includes a walk through Humber's tunnel system. If you're interested in attending and seeing where movies like **Suicide Squad** and **Blue Monkey** were filmed, be sure to book an in person tour through the home page of our website.

I hope to see you at one of the Interpretive Centre's other tours or at our exhibits on the first floor of the welcome centre. Happy Trails!