

#### 4. LESLIE & WICKSTEED

At this intersection you can see the CP rail line which reminds us that Leaside started off as a railway town. Here you will see a few of the remaining industries at work, including Siltech (specialty silicones and surfactants) and Tremco (sealants and waterproofing).

To the west is Lincoln Electric (electric motors and welding).

#### 5. COMMERCIAL ROAD & INDUSTRIAL ST

These road names reveal the fact that this is indeed a hardworking industrial area. At 30 Commercial Road you can see small businesses and the still operating House of Metals as well as St. Mary's Cement at 55 Industrial Street.

#### 6. INDUSTRIAL ST & ESANDAR DRIVE

At 42 Industrial Street you will find the Leaside Commercial Centre, a 1920s built office and work space, now home to a Canadian owned business Revelo, a folding-bicycle manufacturer.

#### 7. LOWER ESANDAR DRIVE

This part of the Business Park includes the Amsterdam Brewery and Skyzone, two popular additions to the area. Here we can see the last two remaining CP locomotive maintenance buildings, one being Longo's and the other a smaller brick warehouse located at 25 Esandar. The Longo's has been beautifully restored but 25 Esandar is heritage listed but not designated as of yet.



CP Railway complex, circa 1917

#### 8. ESANDAR & LAIRD DRIVE

Esandar is a combination of the names Elisha, Smith and Alfred Robinson Ltd., a packaging company originally from Bristol UK and located where you now stand. There were factory buildings on either side of the intersection, and a tunnel linked them under the road.

#### 9. INDUSTRIAL STREET & LAIRD DRIVE

Make a detour to 10 Industrial Street. Here you will find a unique late 1920s factory and office space, originally housing the APCO chemical company. The building is covered in stucco with dormers and mock tudor beams on the west and east sides.



Former RBC Leaside Branch, 143 Laird, Circa 1950

As we approach the end of our tour, notice the building at the southeast corner of Commercial & Laird. This is the former Royal Bank of Canada branch where in 1951 the Boyd Gang pulled off the biggest heist in Canadian history. Just north of the bank, what is now the Leaside Smart Centre was for 80 years home of Canada Wire and Cable as well as the Durant Motor Company. The headquarters for Durant Motors is across the street and its facade is being incorporated into a seniors residence, now under construction.

#### 10. LAIRD & MCRAE

There have been various restaurants in this building since the 1940s. In the early days it served meals mostly to factory workers. Presently, it is named The Leaside Pub.



## FACTORIES & BEYOND: THE EVOLUTION OF THE LEASIDE BUSINESS PARK

Generously sponsored by Leaside Life  
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## Leaside Business Park Map



### WALK START AND END POINT: MCRAE DRIVE AND LAIRD DRIVE (BESIDE THE LEASIDE PUB)

1. Pease Foundry Building
2. Brentcliffe and Vanderhoof
3. Glassworks Drive and Vanderhoof
4. Leslie and Wicksteed
5. Commercial Road and Industrial Street
6. Industrial St & Esandar Drive
7. Lower Esandar Drive
8. Esandar and Laird Drive
9. Industrial Street & Laird Drive
10. Laird & McRae

## A Walking Tour of “The Factories”

Urban planners today talk a lot about “complete community.” But 100 years ago, they delivered. Leaside was designed by the landscape architect Frederick Gage Todd in 1912 as a complete community. By “complete” they meant “homes AND jobs.” This dedicated industrial zone meant Leaside had the lowest property taxes in the Toronto area.

Todd’s plan for the Town of Leaside designated residential uses (west) and industrial uses (east) areas separated by Laird Drive.

But since then the Leaside Business Park has been in a constant state of flux.

After completing this walk, you will appreciate Leaside’s industrial past and imagine where the area is heading.



### 1. PEASE FOUNDRY COMPANY, 211 LAIRD

This property was originally occupied by the Pease Foundry Company, manufacturers of plumbing and heating supplies. It was completed in 1950, heritage listed in 2010, and designated in 2012. Its associative value is its link to the practice of the Toronto architect Earle C. Morgan, designer of Toronto’s O’Keefe Centre.

### 2. BRENTCLIFFE ROAD & VANDERHOOF, 119 VANDERHOOF

Close to this site was Research Enterprises Ltd. which was Leaside’s biggest employer in the 1940s, with over 7,500 workers making radar and optical equipment for the war. This is also the site of the Leaside Aerodrome where in 1918 Canada’s first air mail delivery was made. From 1947-1991 Corning Glass occupied the REL buildings, manufacturing their famous “cornflower blue” cookware.



Factory workers waiting for a bus, circa WW2

### 3. GLASSWORKS DRIVE & VANDERHOOF

The Philips factory was located at this site, manufacturing radio and television tubes. It has now evolved into the Scenic apartments built in the early 2000s as well as a skate park and a children’s playground. There is also a path that leads to ET Seton Park and the Don Trail.