

# A WEEKEND WITH JANE AUSTEN

April 7 – 9, 2017

*An immersive experience at Mackenzie House and Historic Montgomery's Inn, Toronto Historic Sites, Ontario, Canada.*

With 2017 marking the bicentennial of Jane Austen's death, our weekend this year will focus on Austen herself: her life, family, world and pleasures.

This event is packed with historical meals by firelight, music, dancing, hands-on workshops, lectures, demonstrations and displays, an open-hearth cooking workshop, a concert of pieces for harp, and historical fashion. Featured speakers include Dr Elaine Bander (President, Jane Austen Society Canada), who will address Austen's favourite writers; Kimberly Alexander, a professor of Museum Studies and Material Culture who will give an illustrated talk on Austen's shoes; Commodore Thomas Hurlbut, Naval Establishment, Crown Forces North America, who will speak on Austen's naval brothers Charles and Francis; author and historian Dane Morrison, who will address the fraught but always intriguing Anglo-American relationship so important in Austen's time; fromager Martin Raymond, who will give a talk and cheese-tasting on the cheeses that Austen knew and ate; and Kat Akerfeldt of Toronto's First Post Office, who will give an illustrated lecture on postal arrangements and letter-writing in Austen's time as well as teaching a workshop on how to write, fold and seal a letter using quill pens and sealing wax. Historical seamstress Elizabeth Webb will give an illustrated talk on Regency-era underwear, lacemaker Linda Lorraine will offer a display and demonstration of bobbin-lace making, Toronto Museums staff will teach a cooking workshop on foods known to Austen and her family, Karen Millyard will speak on the realities of the Regency ballroom and eating habits in Austen's time, and much more!

The event will begin on Friday afternoon, with a bell-tower tour and demonstration of bell-ringing through the ages at historic St James Cathedral near St Lawrence Market, followed by a tour of the cathedral itself. Then a promenade through the lovely St James's Park and the formal gardens, and a visit to that little gem of Old Town Toronto: National Historic Site Toronto's First Post Office.

We then will enjoy a very special evening at Mackenzie House Museum. After a simple historical supper, we'll visit William Lyon Mackenzie's print shop and learn about print technology (largely unchanged since Austen's time); gather in the parlour for a scene straight out of Austen, performed by a young lady harpist (professional musician Alanna Ellison), indulge in elegant refreshments, and explore the fun and novelty of historical games played by Austen and her family.

On Saturday, we begin with a delicious breakfast by the fire at Montgomery's Inn, then move on to an afternoon of lectures, displays and hands-on workshops, including a tasting of cheeses known to Austen and what they actually tasted like in her time. The lively and fun Regency dance class prepares us for the ball on Saturday night. (The ball is beginner-friendly, and all you need is to attend the afternoon workshop; no other dance experience is required. No partner is needed, and there is no lead and follow.)

A dinner of dishes known to Austen will be served prior to the ball.

On Sunday, we'll enjoy another breakfast, more lectures and two very special hands-on workshops: a hearth-cooking workshop in the historic kitchen and a quill-writing workshop taught by Kat Akerfeldt of Toronto's First Post Office.

Throughout the weekend there will be discussion groups, historical games, displays, historical meals of dishes cooked from Austen family recipes, and much more.

More elements will be added to this event. For updates keep an eye on our website, [www.JaneAustenDancing.ca](http://www.JaneAustenDancing.ca), call us at (416) 578-1031, follow @JaneAustenDance on Twitter, or join the mailing list via our website.