

CONCIERGE DESK - The Dining Room at Osgoode Hall

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside that beautiful building at the corner of Queen and University? What lies behind the stunning black wrought iron fence with its "cow gate" entrance? Osgoode Hall was built in 1832 and named after William Osgoode, Chief Justice of Upper Canada from 1792–1794, and also the man credited with initiating the basis of our Canadian justice system. It houses the Ontario Court of Appeal, parts of the Superior Court of Justice, the Law Society of Upper Canada and this month's "hidden gem."

On the second floor of Osgoode Hall hides one of the best lunch spots in Toronto. The dining room at Osgoode Hall is essentially the lawyers' cafeteria, where working lawyers from several of the building's courts can choose from either a twenty dollar prix fixe or an inexpensive, delicious a la carte menu. Best of all, this fabulous lunch spot is open to the public! Monday through Friday, from noon to 2 p.m. (September to June) you can enjoy lunch in this grand, high-ceilinged room, with ten magnificent stained glass windows and walls lined with historic law books. The cuisine is French, the service is attentive and although you may be casually dressed (even jeans are acceptable), do not be surprised if sitting beside you are lawyers dressed in black robes and tabbed white collars.

At the back of the room is an entrance to the "Great Library," arguably one of Canada's most beautiful rooms. If you do venture in, be sure to walk quietly. Although the floor is made of cork, specifically for the purpose of absorbing sound, it was varnished after its construction. Needless to say, this completely negated the designers' intentions! On your way out, give yourself a little time to look at the extraordinary photos of Toronto on the first floor hallways. Images of historic Toronto that will undoubtedly remain with you as you step back onto the busy bustling streets of our magnificent city.

Reservations are recommended, so please call ahead at 416-947-3361. Although the restaurant is closed during the summer months, take advantage of the free tour of Osgoode Hall every weekday at 1:15 p.m. from July 2–August 29.

www.osgoodehall.com

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