

## START

### 1 Waterloo Region Museum & Doon Heritage Village

The Waterloo Region Museum is the largest community museum in Ontario. It is open daily and provides entrance to Doon Heritage Village, a collection of 27 historic buildings from throughout the Region. Doon Heritage Village depicts the early history and lifestyles of the area from the turn of the 20th-century to World War I.

### 2 Huron Road Bridge

This single-span concrete bridge was constructed in 1930 and reconstructed in 2012. Spanning Schneider Creek, it carries Huron Road, part of the original settlement route through the Huron Tract (1828).

3 Hiking trail access and views of Cressman's Woods and the old growth forest in Homer Watson Park. Note the Cressman's Woods Trail and plaque on Mill Park Drive.

### 4 Lower Doon (est. early 1800s)

While traveling on Old Mill Road watch for the Homer Watson House & Gallery, the Doon Presbyterian Church, the ruin of the Old Ferrie Mill and the ball park that was Willow Lake. On Pinnacle Drive, travel towards Pinnacle Hill taking note of the former Red Lion Inn, the historic houses and the site of the old cooperage.

### 5 English Settlement (est. 1830s)

A small pocket of land developed through an emigration scheme to relocate English working-class families, called the Petworth Project. The old school house (1879) replaced the original log school house.

### 6 Roseville (est. 1820s)

Roseville is one of the earliest settlements in the western portion of the Township. Historic buildings include the Roseville School (1867), which is now a community centre, a general store (1855) and three churches. A cairn commemorates Daniel B. Detweiler (1935), an early advocate of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Corporation. The historic Roseville walking tour is available at: [www.northdumfries.ca](http://www.northdumfries.ca).

### 7 Detweiler Meeting House (est. 1855)

This traditional 19th-century fieldstone Mennonite Meeting House is one of Roseville's oldest standing structures. Note the plaque detailing the site's history.

### 8 Greenfield (est. 1844)

Site of the Goldie Milling Co. (1848-1965) that produced flour and oatmeal. The village includes workers' cottages, the Goldie Farmhouse, a former Schoolhouse USS No. 15, and the "Goldie Family and Village of Greenfield" plaque along Greenfield Road.

### 9 Reidsville (est. 1831)

Founded by John Reid and his brother, who operated a combination of mills on Cedar Creek, which runs near the hamlet. Buildings of note include the Reid House and the former Reidsville School SS No. 20 (1919). Once you pass Reidsville watch for the old stone farmhouses on the north side of Alps Road.

### 10 Dryden Tract

The Dryden Tract is part of the original 900 acres purchased by Andrew Dryden and his family in 1834, who were early settlers in the area from Hawick, Scotland.

### 11 Sudden Tract

Maple, beech, oak and hickory forests cover a moraine left by the ice sheets of the last glaciations. Forest plantations were established when farmers abandoned this poor land in the 1930s. This Carolinian forest is more typical of the northern USA than Canada. Good place for cross-country skiing in winter and viewing Ontario's provincial emblem, the white trillium, in May.

### 12 Bannister and Wrigley Lakes

These kettle lakes contain the largest and best natural marsh system in the Region and are excellent places to watch marsh birds. At one time, Wrigley Lake was a celery farm.

### 13 Ayr (est. 1824)

This prominent destination for Scottish settlers was originally the three closely adjoining villages of Mudge's Mills (1824), Jedburgh (1832) and Nithvale. Historic buildings include the downtown commercial block, Knox United (formerly Presbyterian) Church (1887), Watson's foundry and dam (1848), Carnegie Library (1910), Ice House & Creamery (c.1850), Queens Hotel, a Regency cottage built along the Nith River in the 1840s, old fire hall (1895) and the Ayr Cemetery. The historic Ayr walking tour is available at: [www.northdumfries.ca](http://www.northdumfries.ca).

### 14 The Brant-Waterloo Road

Lined with stone houses, this road provides stunning views of the countryside over steep hills and deep valleys. Continue on West River Road before turning left on Beke Road to enjoy views of valley lands. Keep watch for wildlife including hawks and deer.

15 Return towards the city on the picturesque Shouldice and Edworthy Side Roads. Take note of the silos after jogging to the right on Alps Road.

### 16 Dickie Settlement (est. 1833) & Whistle Bare

These former settlements are no longer in existence but evidence of their presence remains in cemeteries, old school houses and roads named for the historic communities. Whistle Bare Road has been in use since the 1820s.

### 17 Blair (est. c.1800)

The earliest European settlement in Waterloo County took place here. Prior to European settlement, the flatlands area of Blair was a substantial First Nations encampment site. Blair Village has been designated a Heritage Conservation District. Historic features include a Grist Mill (1846), Sheave Tower (1876), and one of the oldest cemeteries in the Region (1804).

### 18 Upper Doon (est. early 1800s)

Upper Doon, historically known as Tow Town and Oregon, is now a Heritage Conservation District. This village was the birthplace of artist Homer Watson and the home of Benjamin Bear, contractor of the West Montrose Covered Bridge. Ruins of the first successful flax mill in Upper Canada (c.1850-1910) still remain.

This township, now one of the most picturesque rural landscapes in Ontario, was formed 10,000 years ago in the last ice age as the Wisconsin Glacier retreated from the area. The marshes and wetlands on either side of the undulating roads, the stone houses, bank barns and the stone piles at the field edges all bear testimony to the passage of the glacier and to the early Scottish settlers.

Features of both natural and cultural heritage abound on this tour and it can easily be seen as either a day trip or broken into several shorter trips. Shorter excursions might include the Sudden Tract with its areas of Carolinian forest, trails, wildlife and spring flowers or Cressman's Cliffs, close to the Waterloo Region Museum. The location of the Homer Watson House & Gallery and the Village of Doon are also well worth a shorter trip of their own. In Ayr, the visitor can see the imposing Knox United (formerly Presbyterian) Church, enjoy charming stone cottages surrounded by summer gardens, and can picnic by the Jedburgh Dam.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region of Waterloo website or contact the North Dumfries Municipal Heritage Committee at [northdumfriesheritage@gmail.com](mailto:northdumfriesheritage@gmail.com).

**STARTS and ends at the Waterloo Region Museum. Turn left on Huron Road to begin the tour.**

**Note:** Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution. Please keep in mind that some points of interest on this tour are not publicly accessible; enjoy the view only from public property. Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route, but many towns, villages and hamlets offer wonderful establishments in historic buildings.



HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**  
519-575-4400 • TTY 519-575-4608  
or email [planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)

*Alternate formats are available upon request.  
Revised 12/2015*

## TOUR ONE

### TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUMFRIES

## Southern Trail



**Distance: 85 km Time: 2 hours & 10 min.**

Waterloo Region

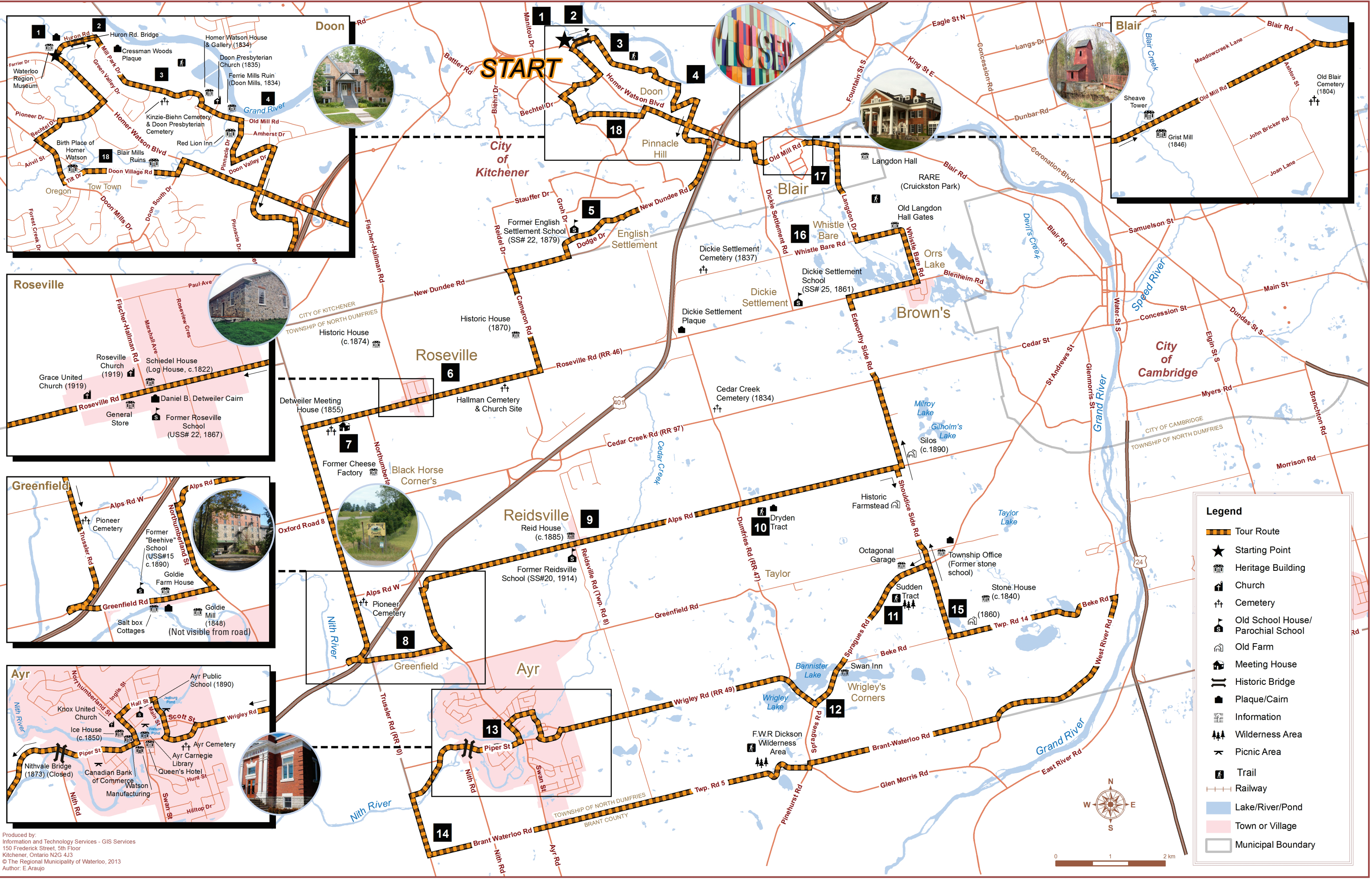


## COUNTRYSIDE TOURS

Moraines,  
marshes,  
vistas and  
views

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)







## START

### 1 St. Jacobs Farmers' Market

Waterloo Region is famous for its bustling farmers' markets. Most local markets are open Saturday mornings plus one additional midweek morning. Along this drive you will find many farms with signs selling fresh local produce.

### 2 St. Jacobs (est. 1830)

Originally called Jakobstettel, the village was settled by John B. Bauman. Historic buildings include: Jacob C. Snider Mill (1852) that houses historical displays, blacksmith shop (1880), Benjamin's Inn originally the Farmer's Inn or Dominion Hotel (1852), the Evangelical Church, antique market and the old shoe factory. The Mennonite Story Visitor's Centre (1406 King St. N.) offers an informative depiction of Mennonite beginnings, lifestyle and culture. The village is also the site of the original Home Hardware, located at 1421 King St. N. The store's national warehouse is on Henry Street. Walk along the Mill Race Trail that follows the Conestogo River to discover the St. Jacobs Railway Viaduct built in 1890 for the Grand Trunk Railway.

### 3 Elmira (est. 1840)

Edward Bristow purchased land here in 1834 from David Musselman. At the time, it was known as Bristow's Corners, but was renamed Elmira in 1853. The settlement was incorporated as a town in 1923 and is now the largest settlement in Woolwich serving as a farmer's shopping centre and the Township's administrative centre. Elmira is famous for its Maple Syrup Festival held annually on the first Saturday in April. Note the historic Gore Park Bandstand (1912) and historic buildings shown on the map.

Watch for horse-drawn buggies as you drive through the patchwork countryside. Many Mennonite farmsteads have doddy houses for seniors and fertile gardens and fields. In late summer, you may see wheat stooks and haying with horses and wagons that remind us of simpler times. Watch for road side stands that offer fresh produce, quilts, and maple syrup. No Sunday sales.

### 4 Sand Hills and Trail

Site of some of the most mature coniferous plantations in the region (80 years). The Sand Hills area was established as a public works project in the Depression of the 1930s to control severe wind erosion. This is also the site of the Sand Hills Baptist Cemetery and a previous church. The congregation was organized in 1852, and by 1890 the church closed. The gravestones have been organized into two rows.

### 5 Grand River Valley

As you crisscross over the Grand River, a Canadian Heritage River (1994), take note of the historic bridges, spectacular views of the valley, and hiking trails.

### 6 West Montrose (est. 1850s)

Land was purchased in this area as early as 1807 by Augustus Jones together with John and Jacob Erb, agents of the German Company, and was mainly settled by English and Scottish settlers. The covered bridge, built in 1881, is the only surviving historic covered bridge in Ontario, and is locally known as the "Kissing

Bridge" as it provided privacy for kissing couples. Also note the historic homes and general store. Caution: Please observe posted load restrictions before crossing the bridge.

### 7 Winterbourne (Cox Creek) (est. c.1807)

In 1854, William Henry Lanphier built a dam on Cox Creek, leading to the establishment of Winterbourne's first sawmill and gristmill. Lanphier named the village Winterbourne, after his ancestral home in England. The fine stonework of Scottish stonemasons can be seen in many of the older buildings throughout the settlement. You will enter Winterbourne on Peel Street by crossing the Winterbourne Bridge, a double span through truss bridge built in 1913. The village has several older houses, the virtually unchanged former Chalmers Presbyterian Church (1870), the Pioneer Methodist Cemetery and stone blacksmith shop.

### 8 Maryhill (est. 1820s)

Maryhill, known as New Germany until 1941, was settled in the 1840s by Roman Catholic emigrants from the Alsatian region of France and is the heart of Catholicism in Woolwich Township. Historic buildings include St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church (1877-1878), St. Boniface Separate School (built in 1896, third school on site), Maryhill Inn (1852), Commercial Tavern (1853), and the Edward Halter House (c.1850), now the St. Boniface Maryhill Historical Society. There are interesting iron crosses in the St. Boniface R.C. Cemetery and a Wayside Cross is located on the south side of St. Charles Street East, just east of Maryhill.

### 9 Breslau (est. 1820s)

The Village of Breslau, established in the 1820s, is located where a ford crossed the Grand River. Joseph Erb laid out the village in 1857. In 1869, a flour mill, steam mill, and mechanics shop were built. Breslau Mennonite Church, founded in 1834, has an interesting adjoining pioneer cemetery.

### 10 Bloomingdale (est. 1861)

The historic Grand River crossing (Snyder's Flats) at Bloomingdale, established in 1808, provided farmers with access to Abraham Erb's sawmill in Waterloo. The first European settlers, from Baden-Baden, Germany, arrived in 1826 and the village was incorporated in 1861. Snyder's Flats was a popular picnic and recreation site in the late 1800s. Note the cairn to Jacob Schneider and the Bloomingdale Mennonite Church and cemetery.

### 11 Conestogo (Musselman's Mills) (est. 1830)

Founded by David Musselman, early development in the 1840s was based on saw and flour mills. The first settlers were predominantly Mennonites who had emigrated from Pennsylvania. They were followed by people of German and British descent. The historic core area contains many Victorian-era homes, the Old Township Hall, former United Church (1878), Sittler's bakery, Black Forest Inn and many other shops along Sawmill Road. As you leave the village on Glasgow Street, you will cross over the Conestogo Bridge (1886), a two-span steel truss bridge.

12 As you finish the route, keep watch for the historic Elam Martin Farmstead, the springhouse and Martin Meeting House and Cemetery.

Mennonite and Germanic cultural, historical and architectural diversity awaits you on this tour. Beginning at the well-known St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, you will then head north to the Village of St. Jacobs where fashion, quilts, crafts and antiques can be found.

Follow the clip-clop of horse-drawn buggies into the rich countryside where Mennonite farmsteads with their fertile fields and gardens are easily recognizable. In summer, wheat stooks and haying with horse and wagon remind us of simpler times. Stroll through towns and villages, sample mouth-watering local food, meander on trails and enjoy views of the Canadian Heritage Grand River watershed. Take note of the West Montrose Covered Bridge and the spire of Maryhill's St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church that guides the way to where people from Alsace-Lorraine settled over 150 years ago.

Continue on the tour through the historic Village of Conestogo and cross over the Conestogo Bridge, a rare double-span steel truss bridge. You will end the journey by passing the Elam Martin Farmstead, a sixth-generation Mennonite family farm, a stone springhouse, as well as the Georgian style Martin Meeting House and Cemetery, the last remaining early Mennonite meeting house in Waterloo. Upon completing the tour and returning to the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, you can either continue on Tour Four through Wellesley Township or return to Waterloo.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region's website or contact Woolwich Township at 519-669-1647.

**STARTS at the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market. Exit the market's parking lot by turning right onto Weber Street North. Continue straight on Weber Street North, which turns into King Street North at the stoplights. Follow King Street to the Village of St. Jacobs.**

**Note:** Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution as you share the roads with horse-drawn vehicles and cyclists. Please keep in mind that some points of interest on this tour are not publicly accessible; enjoy the view only from public property. Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route, but many towns, villages and hamlets offer wonderful establishments in historic buildings.



Region of Waterloo

#### HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

519-575-4400 • TTY 519-575-4608

or email [planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)

*Alternate formats are available upon request.*

## TOUR TWO

### TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

# Country Lanes



West Montrose Covered Bridge

**Distance: 95 km   Time: 2 hours & 20 min.**

Waterloo Region



# COUNTRYSIDE TOURS

Mennonite farms,  
creeks, rivers  
and bridges

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)







## START

### 1 Mannheim (est. 1840s)

This village was named for the German city on the Rhine River, from which many immigrants to Waterloo County originated. Note the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church (1873) and cemetery.

### 2 Petersburg (est. 1838)

The village was originally settled in 1838 by John Ernst and later served as a post village and station for the Grand Trunk Railway. Petersburg was named after Peter Wilker, an original settler. Note the Georgian-style Blue Moon Hotel (c. 1855) (formerly the Reindeer Hotel and livery) at the crossroads, several historic homes, and the Lutheran Church and cemetery.

### 3 Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother

As you enter St. Agatha, the shrine is located on your left. Built circa 1860, this cemetery chapel contains over 100 relics of famous Catholic saints and sacred places. Typifying the Swiss and Bavarian style, it is decorated with religious paintings imported from Munich, Germany. It is open Sundays 1-4 p.m., May to October.

### 4 St. Agatha (est. 1824)

This village is the historic centre of Catholicism in Waterloo Region, and first home of St. Jerome's College (1865), which is now associated with the University of Waterloo. It was settled originally by Amish Mennonites and then by Roman Catholics and Lutherans from Alsace-Lorraine. Points of interest include two former inns, a former schoolhouse (1855), a church and cemetery with rare iron cross grave markers.

### 5 Baden Sand Hills

The Baden Sand Hills are a large kame moraine – a huge deposit of sand left roughly 14,000 years ago by the retreating Wisconsin ice sheet. The site is protected due to its status as an International Biological Programme Site.

### 6 Baden (est. 1854)

Baden, historically known as Weissenburg, was laid out by Jacob Beck in 1854. Baden was the birthplace of Sir Adam Beck (1857-1925), founder of Ontario's public hydro-electric system. Note the present day tavern, which is the former Baden Hotel (1874). Other points of interest include the former Steinman Furniture building (1857), general store (1854), Baden Mill, and the Old Baden Mennonite Burying Ground. To download the historic Baden walking tour visit: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

### 7 Castle Kilbride (est. 1877)

This magnificent house was home to James Livingston, the "Flax and Linseed Oil King." It is noted for its Italianate style and interior murals, and is designated as a National Historical Site. Visitor information can be found at: [www.castlekilbride.ca](http://www.castlekilbride.ca).

## 8 Historic Bridges

Watch for the many historic truss bridges as you travel through the Nith Valley, including the Shade Street Bridge (1953), Hartman Bridge (1936), Holland Mills Bridge (1910), Bridge Street Bridge (1913) and the Waterloo-Oxford Road Bridge (1912). There is also a privately constructed and owned pedestrian suspension bridge north of the intersection of Christner Road and Waterloo Street.

### 9 New Hamburg (est. 1830s)

New Hamburg was established in the early 1830s by William Scott. In 1834, Asiatic cholera killed many of the original settlers of New Hamburg. A second wave of German and Scottish settlers arrived in the late 1830s to early 1840s. New Hamburg did not flourish until the advent of the Grand Trunk railway in the 1850s. The village became an important centre for milling and farm machinery production. The New Hamburg core area is designated as a Heritage Conservation District. The village is home to the largest waterwheel in North America, and the Mennonite Relief Quilt Sale is held annually on the last Saturday in May. The historic New Hamburg walking tour is available at: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

### 10 Alternative Routes

Turn right on Tye Road to travel through a scenic area that is home to several wildlife sanctuaries. You will also find two historic truss bridges spanning the Nith River, one on Bridge Street and one on Oxford-Waterloo Road.

### 11 Haysville (Jonesboro, Wilmot Village) (est. 1830s)

This location, where the historic Huron Road crossed the Nith River, was settled by immigrants from the British Isles in the 1830s. They were attracted by offers of land from the Canada Land Company. The name Haysville originated from its first official postmaster, John Hays, appointed in 1853. Before that time it had been called Jonesboro and later Wilmot Village.

### 12 Huron Road (constructed 1827-28)

In 1827, Dr. William 'Tiger' Dunlop of the Canada Company opened this heritage highway as a 95-mile corduroy road connecting the newly established town sites of Guelph and Goderich. It was improved the following year to promote the sale of Company lands in the million-acre Huron Tract, comprising parts of modern Huron, Perth, Middlesex and Lambton Counties. The lookout point from the hill at Pinehill cemetery provides a vista of much of Wilmot Township.

### 13 New Dundee (est. 1830)

Originally settled by John and Frederick Millar, this village was the home of William J. Wintemberg (1876-1941), an outstanding Canadian archaeologist who gained international recognition as an authority on Iroquoian prehistory. Make sure to see the New Dundee Emporium, an excellent Victorian mercantile block built in 1887 by Gottlieb Bettschen as the Jubilee Block. To download the historic New Dundee walking tour visit: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

This tour begins at the edge of Kitchener and heads west through the historic German Block, an area carefully subdivided by early settlers along the Huron, Upper, Middle and Lower Roads. As you travel through the countryside along Wilmot Township's pioneer settlement roads, you will pass by Georgian style stone houses, historic crossroad settlements, and a number of churches with their adjoining cemeteries. Points of interest include the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother in St. Agatha, Castle Kilbride in Baden and the Heritage Conservation District in the core of New Hamburg.

There are numerous places to stop along the way for a stroll and an opportunity to enjoy a picnic along the banks of the Nith River in New Hamburg or by Alder Lake in New Dundee.

As you travel south through the Nith River valley, enjoy the scenic valley lands and wildlife preservation areas. Take note of the heritage bridges you will pass along the way. Wilmot Township is home to five historic steel truss bridges, all built between 1910 and 1953. Finally you will travel on the historic Huron Road (1828), passing Pinehill Pioneer Cemetery and on the scenic Bethel Road towards New Dundee.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region's website or contact Heritage Wilmot at [info@heritagewilmot.ca](mailto:info@heritagewilmot.ca).

**STARTS at the corner of Fischer-Hallman and Bleams Road, the original location of the historic settlement of Williamsburg. Begin by travelling west on Bleams Road.**

**Note:** Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution. Please keep in mind that some points of interest on this tour are not publicly accessible; enjoy the view only from public property. Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route, but many towns, villages and hamlets offer wonderful establishments in historic buildings.



Region of Waterloo

HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

519-575-4400 • TTY: 519-575-4608

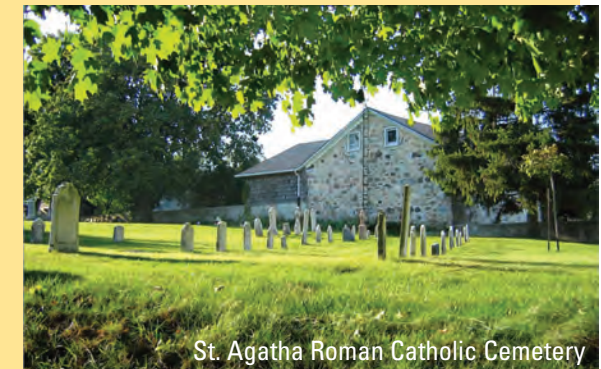
or email [planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)

*Alternate formats are available upon request.*

## TOUR THREE

### TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

# Nith Valley Trail



St. Agatha Roman Catholic Cemetery

**Distance: 97 km Time: 2 hours & 30 min.**

Waterloo Region

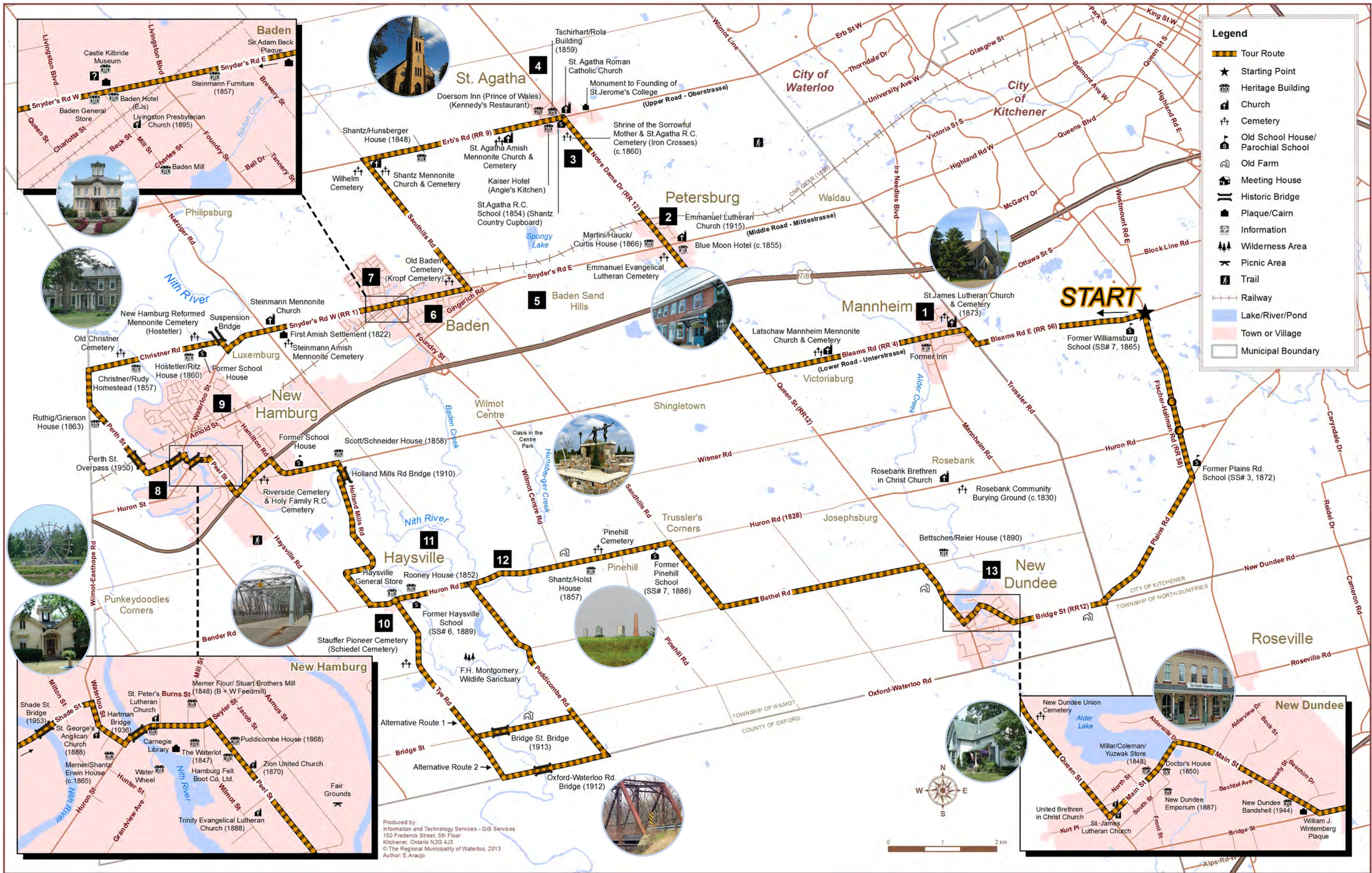


# COUNTRYSIDE TOURS

Bridges,  
churches and  
pioneer  
cemeteries

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)







## START

### 1 St. Jacobs Farmers' Market

Waterloo Region is famous for its bustling farmers' markets. Most local markets are open Saturday mornings plus one additional midweek morning. Along this drive you will find many farms with signs selling fresh local produce.

### 2 Erbsville (est. 1845)

Established by Samuel Erb. A blacksmith shop, general store, post office, schoolhouse and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church were clustered near the main intersection of this hamlet.

### 3 Paradise Lake

The shore of this kettle lake is dotted with luxurious homes with well-maintained grounds. Please note that this is a private lake and the properties do not provide public access.

### 4 Heidelberg (est. 1832)

This village was named after its first postmaster's home town in Germany and was the first area to be settled in Wellesley Township. The Olde Heidelberg House (c.1840s) is a former stagecoach stop and still operates as a restaurant and hotel today. Other points of interest include the Lutheran church (1869) and the former Heidelberg School USS No. 11 (1911), Ament Burrel House (1865), and a former church (1894) that has been converted into Hauser Hall.

### 5 St. Clements (St. Alphonse) (est. c.1842)

Settled by Adolphus Schickler, this village was the centre of Catholicism in Wellesley Township. Historic structures include the Roman Catholic Church (1858), Tavern (1880), a former store, and a cemetery. Note the church's statues, interior wall paintings, stained glass windows, and the wrought iron crosses in the cemetery.

### 6 Hessen Strasse

This area was settled by Hessian Lutherans from Germany. St. John's Lutheran Church (1872) is one of the oldest fieldstone churches in the area.

### 7 Village of Wellesley (Schmittsville, Smithsville) (est. 1845)

Established by James Ferris, John Schmitt expanded the original dam site in 1847 and began settlement. There are approximately 32 historic buildings in the town to explore including the old mill and the Wellesley Historical Society in the former Wellesley School. To download the historic Village of Wellesley walking tour visit: [www.wellesleyhistory.org](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org).

### 8 Rushes Cemetery

Rushes Cemetery, one of the oldest in the Township, dates from 1851 and serves the Crosshill area. It contains many 19th-century grave markers including the puzzle tombstone to the two young wives of Dr. Samuel Bean.

### 9 Crosshill (est. 1843)

The namesake of a town in Ayrshire, Scotland, this village was settled by Scots. Since the village was located near the Township's geographical centre, Council Chambers (1855) were established here and are still in use today. Historic structures include the former stone School House SS No. 17 (1874), a Mennonite church (1888), a former hotel, former general store (red-brick building), and several old homes.

### 10 Queen's Bush

Lands to the west of and including Wellesley Township were historically known as the Queen's Bush, a large tract of land (approximately 1,500,000 acres) ceded to the British by the Ojibway Nation in 1836. The tract was a Clergy Reserve, land set aside and later sold as income for the maintenance of the Protestant Church in Canada. Before the American Civil War, many fugitive slaves settled in the southern parts of the Queen's Bush. Township roads were named for black pioneer families that settled in the area, such as Lawson Line and Posey Line.

### 11 Linwood (est. 1846)

The village's name is Welsh and means "a pool in the woods." Linwood's hardware store and two general stores are worth visiting. Schnurr's General Store is Canada's oldest family run grocery store. Consecutive generations of fathers and sons have run the business since 1858. Note St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the old drive shed on Gordon Hain Street. Linwood hosts two annual festivals, Snofest and Cruising with the King, both of which offer fun, food and family entertainment.

### 12 Alternative Route

Turn left on Powell Road to follow an optional route through the rural back roads of Wellesley's rolling terrain with outstanding views of traditional Mennonite farmsteads en route to the historic farming community of Wallenstein.

### 13 Wallenstein (est. 1860)

Originally part of the Queen's Bush crown lands, the area was settled by a mix of immigrants from Great Britain and Germany. A hotel, the Wallenstein General Store (still operational today), a brick yard and two Methodist churches catered to the surrounding farming community, which is today predominantly Mennonite.

### 14 Hawkesville (est. 1846)

Hawkesville's historic structures include a former blacksmith shop, a church (1868), a dam and various houses, including the home of the grandfather of former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. The Hawkesville community centre is now housed in the former Schoolhouse SS No. 13. The village is famous in the Region for quality custom furniture. To download the historic Hawkesville walking tour visit: [www.wellesleyhistory.org/walking-tours.html](http://www.wellesleyhistory.org/walking-tours.html).

The "Wellesley Byway" begins at the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, travels through an Environmentally Sensitive Area named Schaefer's Woods and skirts Paradise Lake. On the journey you will pass through "Mennonite Country." Enjoy the rolling scenic agricultural land interspersed with an abundance of traditional Mennonite farmsteads and fine vistas. You will see signs at farm gates offering produce. The vegetables and fruit are first class and the people are always friendly. Please note: No Sunday sales. The meeting houses that dot the landscape in Wellesley Township are fine examples of Mennonite architecture. However, more importantly, they are places of worship. Please keep this in mind and remember that meeting houses are private property and not open to the general public.

The Village of Wellesley contains fine older buildings. The mill pond in the centre of town is a pleasant spot for a stroll or picnic. Wellesley is home to the annual Apple Butter & Cheese Festival, held on the last Saturday in September.

The area to the north of the Village of Wellesley contains a peaceful mosaic of farmland and woodlots, and an optional back roads loop is presented to view more picturesque Mennonite landscapes. Returning through Hawkesville, the route meanders beside the Conestogo River. There are some good fishing spots along this part of the route. Upon completing the tour and returning to the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, you can either continue on Tour Two through Woolwich Township or return to Waterloo.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region's website or contact the Wellesley Township Office at 519-699-4611.

**STARTS at the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market. When exiting the Market's parking lot, turn left on to Weber Street North and then right on to Benjamin Road to begin the tour.**

**Note:** Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution as you share the roads with horse-drawn vehicles and cyclists. Please keep in mind that some points of interest on this tour are not publicly accessible; enjoy the view only from public property. Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route, but many towns, villages and hamlets offer wonderful establishments in historic buildings.



HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**  
519-575-4400 • TTY: 519-575-4608  
or email [planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)  
*Alternate formats are available upon request.*

## TOUR FOUR

### TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

# Wellesley Byway



**Distance: 93 km (With alternate route)**  
**Time: 2 hours & 30 min.**

Waterloo Region

*Historic*  
**COUNTRYSIDE  
TOURS**

Apple butter, corn  
and scenic  
views

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)



