

Welcome to the Heritage Perth Walking Tour!

Aged to Perfection!

*The Perth Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel
has prepared this walking tour of Perth for your enjoyment.*



A Brief History of Perth

Established in 1816, the era when Upper and Lower Canada were British colonies, Perth was one of three strategic defensive outposts created along the Rideau Corridor after the War of 1812. Named after a town and river in Scotland, this small frontier centre, located in a large wilderness tract, became the social, judicial and administrative hub for the Scottish and Irish who settled here.

In 1823, Perth was named the capital of the District of Bathurst, which attracted a large number of wealthy and educated settlers. When the Rideau Canal was built as a safe inland military route from Kingston to Ottawa between 1826 and 1832, it created a local economic boom.

The Tay Canal, from Perth to the Lower Rideau Lake, was constructed first in the 1830s and rebuilt in the 1880s as a commercial waterway. Like the Rideau Canal, the Tay was abandoned for its original purpose, but evolved into a recreational and tourism Mecca.

Perth is known for its firsts and lasts:

- The Last Fatal Duel was fought between two young law students on the banks of the Tay River on June 13, 1833, for a lady's honor.
- In 1892, Perth produced the world's biggest cheddar. The Mammoth Cheese was shipped by train to the Chicago World's Fair the following year.
- The nation's oldest continuous town band, the Perth Citizens' Band, performs in the bandstand behind the Town Hall throughout the summer.
- The Perth Golf Course (Links O'Tay) is the oldest nine-hole golf course on a permanent site in Canada and is within walking distance from downtown. It is currently an 18 hole course.
- In the 1980s, Perth was a pilot project for Heritage Canada's Main Street program. The downtown is now a showcase of Victorian shop fronts. This revitalization of the core is the heartbeat of Perth's heritage character.

Begin your tour at Matheson House.



11 Gore Street East

Built in 1840 for Roderick Matheson, it is known as the Matheson House. Matheson was the first banker in Perth and original owner of the **neighbouring store, now Shaw's.**

Roderick Matheson became a life member of the Upper Canada Legislative Council and a Confederation Senator. This home remained in the Matheson family for nearly 100 years. Since 1931, the Matheson House has been home to a tea room and inn, a tea house, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #244 and since 1967, it has been the site of the Perth Museum.

From Matheson House head north...



1 Gore Street East

Shaw's Department Store. Roderick Matheson built this store as a saddle and harness shop in 1840. In the early years, its merchandise came up the St. Lawrence from Britain to Montreal and then to Perth by barge via the Rideau and Tay Canals. Until recently, **Shaw's was one of Canada's oldest family operated stores.**

From Shaw's look directly across Foster St. to 1 Gore St. West.



1 Gore Street West

From 1838 until 1979, this property was known as the *Hotel Perth*. In 1958, a fire on the third floor led to the remodeling of the building and removal of the top floor. A wayside inn on this site operated as early as 1817.

Looking across Gore Street...



2 Gore Street East

James Brothers Hardware. This building was constructed in 1840. The hardware shop moved to this location in 1910 when the third floor was added.

Lawrence James joined the firm and after 1921 the store was known as James Brothers. Both brothers continued to work in the store well into their old age.

Continue south along Gore Street. Looking across Gore Street to your right...



30 Gore Street East

The Bank of Montreal was built in 1884. Built of white Bathurst sandstone, this Queen Anne style building once housed the Bank Manager and his family on the second and third floors. Note the sun gable under the front gable.



39 Gore Street East

Built in 1848, the *Kellock Block* housed the Perth Courier from 1898 until 2013. The Perth Courier is recognized as the second oldest weekly newspaper in Canada.

Continuing along Gore Street across Herriott Street...



45-49 Gore Street East

Known as the *Brooks Block*, this building was erected in 1846.



51-53 Gore Street East

In 1850, Mr. O'Brien had this 2.5 storey building erected. In 1979, a fire gutted the building and it was restored by Mr. Matthews to what you see now. Note the plaques.



57-61 Gore Street East

In 1841, Francis Holliday had this 2.5 storey building erected. From 1852-1912 it was owned by Sheriff James V. Thompson and is now referred to as *The Sheriff's House*.



63-67 Gore Street East

Thomas Wright Building. Erected in 1851, the Wright family occupied this building from 1867 until 1930 as furriers. From 1958 to 1972, Jack Thomas, Optometrist, owned the building and operated his practice from the lower level. In 1997, after years of neglect, the building was restored to its present condition. Thus the name, "Thomas Wright Building".



77 Gore Street East

Built in 1907 as the Carnegie Library, the building's design was based on the Bank of Montreal building in Toronto. In January 1980, the building was gutted by fire. After restoration, the building became known as the McMillan Building.

Continue along Gore Street ...



81 Gore Street East

Erected in 1932, this building housed the Perth Post Office and Canada Customs until 1972. Today it is home to Crain and Schooley Insurance Brokers Limited.



93-99 Gore Street East

This three storey building was erected in 1850 by John Doran with three shops and apartments. In 1988, the whole building **was restored with Maximilian's Restaurant** occupying the main floor.

Looking across Gore Street at the corner of Gore and Mill Streets...



100 Gore Street East

This stucco covered brick building was constructed in 1827. From 1860 to 1911 it was known as the Union Hotel. Since that time it has had many occupants and is the current home of the Sunflower Bakery.

Looking down Mill Street...



9 Mill Street

This 1.5 storey stone house was erected in 1820 by Captain John McKay. It has had various uses since that time and is said to be the oldest stone house in Perth.



105-109 Gore Street East

This is the site of the King's Store for the original Perth Settlement. This fine stone building was erected by James Allen, Postmaster from 1842-1852. 105-107 Gore St. East houses private residences; 109 Gore St. East has had various merchants over the years.



McMartin House

(Corner of Harvey and Gore Streets)

The building was erected in 1830 by United Empire Loyalist descendant, Daniel McMartin, Perth's second lawyer. Built in the Federalist style that is common to the eastern seaboard of the United States, it is unique to Perth. You can see the "widow's walk" at the top of the house.

Mrs. McMartin, an American, insisted that all of the materials for the house be imported from the United States. From 1830 – 1875 it was the McMartin's residence. In 1971, the Ontario Heritage Trust restored the building to be used as a seniors' activity and meeting centre. It is a designated National Historic Site.

Turn west on Harvey Street and turn left on to Wilson Street East and continue south on Wilson Street East to Craig Street.



34 Wilson Street East

St. John Elementary School was built in 1926 replacing two wooden structures. Two additions were added to the school to accommodate increased enrolment.

Continue south on Wilson Street East...



36 Wilson Street East

St. John Convent was erected in 1905 to house the Sisters teaching in the school. From 1985-1992, the building was used as **St. John's Catholic High School**. Since then it has been used as a Parish Centre and as

an annex to the elementary school to deal with increased enrollment.



St. John's Rectory

Erected in 1856 as the Priest's House, it has remained largely unchanged since then.



40 Wilson Street East

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church. This fine church was erected in 1848, with an addition in 1899 to accommodate new altars and more seating. It is the oldest church structure in Perth and was located outside of the original town limits. The land for the Church **was donated by an Anglican, Dr. Alexander Thom, Perth's first surgeon.** The Church is noted for its vaulted ceilings, stained glass windows, Stations of the Cross and pews scaled to the smaller physiques of the 1800s.

Return to Craig Street from Wilson Street East, on your right...



66 Craig Street

Inge-Va House (“Come here” in Tamil). This attractive stone house was built in 1824 by the Reverend Michael Harris, Rector of the Perth Military Settlement. It is a superb example of the Colonial Georgian style so popular

at the time. It was the home of an early Perth lawyer, Thomas Radenhurst. The young law student, Robert Lyon, who was fatally wounded in the Last Duel fought in Upper Canada, died in this house.

Follow Craig to Gore Street, turning right...



144 Gore Street East

Built in 1884, this building was the Methodist Church until 1928. From 1928 until 1964, this building was used as an armory. Since 1964, the building has been used as the Asbury

Free Methodist Church.

Return to the corner of Craig and Gore Street crossing east on Craig Street.



55 Craig Street

The Red House (1816). As the first building in Perth, this oak log structure served as Officers' Quarters, Tavern, Church, School, Meeting Place and Print Office. It was so named after the 1816 visit of the Duke of Richmond who suggested that it be painted red. It has been painted white since 1822.

Proceed up the hill to Drummond Street and turn left.

48 Drummond Street East



From 1832-1865, this was Dennis Kane's Hotel. From 1865, this building has been a private residence of descendants of the Kane family.

Registry Office (1872-1974)



This stone building was the home of the Lanark County Registry Office. Today, it is a law library.

43 Drummond Street



The County Court House (Circa 1842). Seat of Justice for the District of Bathurst and later Lanark County. Justice has been dispensed from this site since 1820. The County Gaol, now closed, but formerly used for executions, is on Beckwith

Street, behind the Court

House.



12 Harvey Street

St. James The Apostle Anglican Church.

Built in 1861, it was designed by the architects of the original Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. This is a Royal Charter Church and was built to be the **District's Cathedral on the site of the Garrison Church**. The columns supporting the vaulted ceilings are solid pine. The intricately carved screens and the stained glass windows are of the highest quality and regimental flags are still proudly displayed. The tower and spire were added in 1888.



The Summit House

Built in 1823, this building is similar to The Grange at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto. It was built using local bricks by James Boulton, an early Perth Lawyer. Miss Elizabeth Hughes, over whom the

Last Fatal Duel was fought, lived here as Governess, while John Wilson, the Duel's survivor, articled for Mr. Boulton.

At the corner of Drummond and Harvey Streets, look to your left.



15 Harvey Street

From 1830 until 1832, this building was used as a private residence. From 1832 until 1873, this building was known as the St. George Hotel. From 1953-1970, this building was

used as a Synagogue. Since that time the building has been converted into apartments.



30 Drummond Street East

From 1835 until 1860, this building was the Coyles Hotel, also known as Farmers Rest. From 1861-1992, this building was a private residence and in recent years has been in operation as a bed and breakfast.

Continue to the Tay Basin.



In the late 1800s the Basin area was busy with commercial and passenger boats. In the 1990s, the *Crystal Palace* was erected by the Perth Theatre Project as part of a planned development which did not materialize. The structure came from the Rideau Street Mall in Ottawa and the names of some of the merchants are still visible. The structure is currently home to the Perth Farmers' Market on Saturdays throughout the summer.



In 1892-93, the Lanark County Milk Producers worked together to produce a **22,000 lb. piece of cheese for the World's Fair in Chicago**. This monument is an exact size replica of that extraordinary achievement.

The *International Friendship Fountains* were installed in 2004 with funding from the Rotary Club of Perth. The centre fountain represents the Town of Perth while the **fountain on the left represents Perth's Twin City of Perth, Scotland. The fountain on the right represents Perth's Sister City, Asago, Japan.**



Walk through the Crystal Palace to the walkway along the river.



This boardwalk is part of the Rideau Trail, Tay River Trail and the Tow Path. Walk east along the path away from the downtown area. As you walk along the path, take note of the Royal Canadian Legion as you cross Beckwith Street. The

Legion's Hall of Remembrance is well worth a visit.



Continue walking along Riverside Drive, noting the small blue house. This house is known as the *Bridgemaster's House* and was built in 1889.

Continue walking along Riverside Drive to Sherbrooke Street. Turn left onto Sherbrooke Street.



Along the bank of the Tay River where the Tow Path meets Riverside Drive and Sherbrooke Street was the beginning of the textile industry. In 1911, the Perth Carpet Company received an order for 2000 yards of carpet for the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. In 1917, it was replaced by Boyd

Caldwell & Company Ltd. which produced 100% woolen products, as well as their famous blankets and specialty tartans. In 1976, it was replaced by the Collie Mills which operated until it was destroyed by fire in 1979.

At the corner of Herriott and Sherbrooke Streets...



5 Herriott Street

Originally a two storey building constructed in 1912 for the Andrew Jergens Company. In 1939, an extra 3 floors were added for the expanded production of soap and cosmetics. The factory has had a few changes in ownership, but soap continues to be made there today.

Across the street...

At the end of Herriott Street stood the old train station, built of mottled freestone from nearby Otty Lake. It was surrounded by freight sheds and there were spur railway lines that once served the factories. It was demolished in 1979.



5 Sherbrooke Street

This is the building of the 1905 Winn & Co Shoe Company, later the Perth Shoe Company Ltd. It was the only factory devoted exclusively to Goodyear welted shoes for ladies, the famous *Naturalizers*. The company was sold to Brown Shoe Company in 1954 that later moved to new locations at Sunset Blvd. and Rogers Road. In 2004, the building underwent extensive restorations and is now home to many studios, shops and a theatre.

Return now to Herriott Street and proceed back towards Drummond Street.

8 Herriott Street



The Children's Aid Society complex was once one of the H.K. Wampole & Co. warehouses. The building had been abandoned for many years before it was restored to its present condition.

As you proceed up Drummond Street notice the houses along Drummond Street on the right hand side...

These houses, combining stucco and brick, were built during the latter part of the First World War by the H.K. Wampole Company as housing for their employees. Locally, these houses are simply known as the "Wampole Houses".

Follow Herriott Street back towards Drummond Street.

On the left side of Herriott Street at the corner of Beckwith Street once stood the 1899 James Brothers Arena. In 1933, a hardwood floor was installed and it became a popular roller skating centre, as well as a focus for many community activities. The building **was demolished in 1964 and replaced with the current seniors' apartments.**

Along Herriott Street at the corner of Drummond Street...



30 Herriott Street

The Perth and District Union Library at the corner of Herriott and Drummond Streets was built in 1981 after a devastating fire in the Carnegie Library (77 Gore Street). On this site once stood the Lowes Livery Stables, which

transported people and parcels, and at one time provided rental services of carriages and wagons.



34 Herriott Street

The Old Fire Hall was originally built in 1855. In 1883, the second floor and hose tower were added. The building was used as the Town of Perth fire station until the 1940s. The building is currently occupied by the Perth & District Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Heritage Perth Business Improvement Area .

Immediately across the street from the Old Fire Hall...



29 Herriott Street

Built in 1898, this house served as both the office and home of Dr. A. W. Dwyre. Dr. Dwyre installed an early x-ray machine at this location in 1904.



27 Herriott Street

Built in 1817-18, this building was moved to its present site from the location of the Matheson House at 11 Gore Street East in 1837.

At the corner of Herriott and Drummond Streets, turn left and proceed up Drummond Street.



4 Drummond Street East

This home was built in 1904 for the local merchant **Henry Shaw**, of Shaw's Department Store. It remained in the family for 85 years. This house was noted for its unique wainscoting and hand-tooled wallpaper. It is rumored to have a resident ghost.



31 Foster Street (At the corner of Drummond and Foster). This fine structure was built in 1864 of 24 inch sandstone for William Shaw. His family lived here until 1898. It was purchased in 1917 to become the Thomas Caldwell residence. Thomas Caldwell represented North Lanark in the Federal Parliament under Sir Wilfred Laurier. During Caldwell's time, a stone addition was added at the rear where stables

had once been. In 1942, the new owner had the building divided into apartments. In 1988, a law firm took over the residence for their offices.

As you approach Foster Street, you may have noticed that the civic numbers have been descending; this is true for either side of Drummond Street. Early town planners decided that Foster would divide Perth on an east/west bias, although the town runs north/south. As you continue along Drummond Street, notice how the civic numbers once again ascend from Foster Street.



1 Drummond Street West

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church opened on March 11, 1928, just five years after the original church had been destroyed by fire. In 1930, the church was presented with a bell from the First Presbyterian Church, which

had also been destroyed by fire in 1867. This bell hangs in the church tower. **St. Andrew's Hall (next door, facing Foster Street)** was purchased in 1921 from the Merchant's Bank.



3 Drummond Street West

This house was built in 1924-25 of local quarried stone for Lawrence James of James Brothers Hardware Store. The house was built on the site of his father's blacksmith shop.

4, 6 & 8 Drummond Street W.



A composite building: the stone portion on the corner was built in 1840; the board and batten portion was built in 1863; and the stone bungalow (formerly a **blacksmith's shop**) was built in 1832.

Continue along Drummond Street to D'Arcy Street and turn left on to D'Arcy Street.

*Note: *From the corner of D'Arcy and Drummond Streets, you can see the grounds of the Perth Manor on Drummond Street. This home belonged to the Hon. John and Jessie Stewart. Mrs. Stewart generously donated the Park to the Town of Perth in her husband's memory.*



11 D'Arcy Street

This house was built in 1846 by James Robertson. From 1862-65, this house was occupied by the Baptist minister, the Rev. Thomas Henderson, a longtime friend in Edinburgh of Alexander Melville Bell. Rev. Henderson was largely responsible for persuading the Bell family to emigrate to Canada for the sake of their only surviving son who was in poor health. The inventor

of the telephone maintained his contact here. In 1876, Bell placed **one of his earliest phones in the D'Arcy St. building so Rev. Henderson's son-in-law**, a dentist, could be connected with his office on Foster Street. Rev. Henderson is buried in Elmwood Cemetery here in Perth. In 1954, the Telephone Pioneers of America placed a bronze plaque on his grave to commemorate his contribution to the early establishment of the telephone.

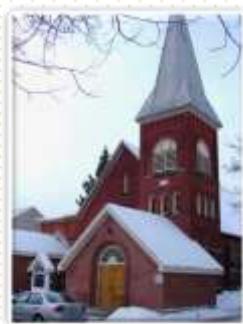
15 D'Arcy Street



Built in 1851, this building is known as the Farmer Block. Originally, the second floor was used as a concert hall, complete with an ornate plaster ceiling which remains in the **building's current attic**. Opera singers from New York would

perform here before Bytown (Ottawa) reached significance.

17 D'Arcy Street



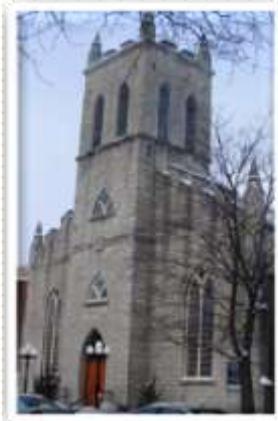
The First Baptist Church. The present church was built in 1888 to replace a frame structure built in 1842. The estimated cost of the new building (in 1888) was \$5,500.00.



21 D'Arcy Street.

Built in 1863, the Baptist Church parsonage remains as originally built, with a modification in 1925 when the roof was raised to provide a full second storey.

At the corner of D'Arcy and Gore Streets...



25 Gore Street West

St. Paul's United Church, formally Knox Presbyterian Church, was built in 1854. In 1925, it became part of the new United Church of Canada. In 1926, it took the name St. Paul's United Church. In 1964, extensive brick wings were added for Christian education.

Cross Gore Street and proceed along D'Arcy Street to Wilson Street.



30 D'Arcy Street

Built in 1834, this stone building was the site of the first Grammar School, a temporary location until a combined Public and Grammar School could be built in 1852.

At the corner of D'Arcy and Wilson Streets, turn left onto Wilson Street.



27 Wilson Street

Built in 1844, it was one of the oldest hotels in Perth. Known as **Barrie's Hotel from 1844 to 1919**, it has also been known as the Imperial and McLaren's.



2 Wilson Street

Built in the Art Deco style, this 1946 building was originally a car showroom and garage.

Looking on to Foster Street...



80 Foster Street

This unique building was constructed in 1835 as the Black Sandy Ferguson Hotel. From 1869 to 1983, it was known as the Revere Hotel. Since 1983 it has been known as *The Red Fox*.



57 Foster Street

This shop has served as a drug dispensary since 1871 and is one of **Canada's oldest pharmacies**.

Continue down Wilson Street to Herriott Street.



53 Herriott Street

The Code's Mill is a collage of five different buildings dating from 1842. T.A. Code moved to Perth in 1876 and shortly thereafter acquired the mill. The mill is now home to many fine shops and *Fiddlehead's* restaurant.



50 Herriot Street

“Kininvie” (“where my family lives”) was built of reddish sandstone in 1906 for textile manufacturer Thomas A. Code. This grand Edwardian residence is said to have been heated by steam from the factory across the street. Unlike earlier walled garden

homes, the Code mansion gloried in its open expansive lawns and garden overlooking the Tay River.

Walk through the park across the red bridge.



Stewart Park

The park is located on both Islands in the centre of Perth. It was designed, constructed and, for many years, maintained by Jessie Stewart as a memorial to her husband, the Honourable John Alexander Stewart.

Educated in Perth and Toronto, John Stewart practiced law in Perth from 1895 until his death in 1922 at the age of 55. He had been President of the Henry K. Wampole Co. Ltd., the Andrew Jergens Company Ltd., and the Perth Shoe Company. Elected to the House of Commons in 1918, he served as Minister of Railways in the Meighen Cabinet. In 1947, the park was conveyed to the Town with an endowment fund to provide for its maintenance. Mrs. Stewart also placed some conditions on the gift: that the park should remain in essentially the same condition and that it was not to be used for any sort of commercial purpose.



41 Mill Street

The Haggart House was built in 1837 by John Haggart who was a Scottish stone mason. This Regency style house was once the home of the Honourable John C. Haggart, MP. Note the plaque inside the stone wall.

As you walk back down Mill Street, turn left onto Market Square.



10 Market Square

This house is a plank on plank, two storey structure built in 1856. It was the residence of Robert Gemmill, a distiller whose business was across the road where part of Stewart Park is now located. The building has

housed a law office since 1983.



The Perth Bandstand was erected in 1852. The area had previously been **used as a Farmers' Market** where produce and live animals could be purchased.

End the tour at the Perth Town Hall.



80 Gore Street East

The Perth Town Hall was erected in 1863 from locally quarried Potsdam sandstone. This Neo-classical structure once housed a concert hall along with the municipal offices. This National Historic Site was lovingly restored in 2003 and is well worth a visit. The clock was installed in the tower in 1874.

The Perth Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel hopes that you have enjoyed your tour and learned a little about Perth's rich and unique history.

For more information about Perth's heritage, please visit:

The Perth Museum at 11 Gore Street East.

613-267-1947

www.perth.ca

While at the Perth Museum, please note they have a selection of literature available about the history of the Town of Perth. Some of the titles include:

The Merchants, Professionals and Tradespeople of Perth
by Gus Quattrocchi

The Memorable Duel at Perth
by Edward Shortt

A Matter of Honour and Other Tales of Early Perth
by Susan Code

Thank you again for visiting Perth!

Aged to Perfection!

Notes



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