



Welcome to the Heritage Perth Walking Tour!

The Perth & District Chamber of Commerce and Perth Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee have prepared this walking tour of Perth for your enjoyment. Before you begin, here is a brief history of Heritage 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 monied 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. For example: the Last Fatal Duel was fought between two young law students on the banks of the Tay River on the 13 June 1833 – for a lady's honour.

In 1892, Perth produced the world's biggest cheddar – the Mammoth Cheese – and shipped it 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.

More recently in the 1980s, Perth was a pilot project for Heritage Canada's main street program. The downtown is now a showcase of Victorian shopfronts. This revitalization of the core is the heartbeat of Perth's heritage character. In 2004, the Town of Perth received the prestigious Prince of Wales award in recognition of the preservation of its built heritage.

Starting the tour from the Perth & District Chamber of Commerce...



#34 Herriott – 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 (DHPBIA).



#30 Herriott - The Perth 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. They transported people and parcels, and at one time provided rental services of carriages and wagons.

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



#29 Herriott – Built in 1898, this house served as both the office and home of Dr. A. W. Dwyre. Dr. Dwyre installed an early Xray machine at this location in 1904.



#27 Herriott – Built in 1834, this building was moved to its present site from the location of the Matheson House at 11 Gore Street East.

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

***Note** – 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 were simply known as the “Wampole Houses.”



#4 Drummond St. E. – 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 tolled wallpaper. It is rumoured to have a resident ghost.



#31 Foster St. (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 W. – St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church – This church opened on the 11 March 1928, just five years after the original church had been destroyed by fire. In 1930, the church was presented with the 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 Merchants’ Bank.



#3 Drummond W. – This house was built in 1924-5 of local quarried stone for Lawrence James of James Brothers Hardware Store. Built on the site of his father’s blacksmith shop.



#4, 6 and 8 Drummond W. – A composite building; the stone portion on the corner was built in 1840; the board and batten portion built in 1863; and the stone bungalow (formerly a blacksmith's shop) built in 1832.

Continue along Drummond Street to D'Arcy Street and turn left onto 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 was the Stewart's home, who generously donated the Park to the Town of Perth.



#11 D'Arcy – This house was built in 1846 by James Robertson. From 1862-65, this house was occupied by the Baptist minister, the Rev. Thomas Henderson, 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. His father presented the second telephone set which was connected from this house to the resident's dental office on Foster Street in 1876. Rev. Henderson (father-in-law of the dentist) 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 - 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 buildings current attic. Opera singers from New York would perform here before Bytown (Ottawa) reached significance.



#17 D'Arcy – 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 \$5500.



#21 D'Arcy – 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 – 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 – 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 – Built in 1844, it is one of the oldest hotels in Perth. Known as Barrie's Hotel from 1844-1919, it has also been known as The Imperial and McLaren's.

At the corner of Wilson and Foster Streets turn left onto Foster Street...



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



#80 Foster – This unique building was constructed in 1835 as the Black Sandy Ferguson Hotel. From 1869-1983, it was known as the Revere Hotel, and as the Red Fox since 1983.



#57 Foster – This shop has served as a drug dispensary since 1871 and is one of Canada's oldest Pharmacies.

At the corner of Foster and Gore Streets, turn right onto Gore Street...



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



#2 Gore 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.



#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 in Canada.



#11 Gore – Built in 1840 as the Matheson House, it now houses the Perth Museum. Matheson was the first banker 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. After 1931, the Matheson House has been home to a B&B and the Royal Canadian Legion Hall. It became the town museum in 1966.



#18 Gore – The Balderson Block – This 1914 building was built by Col. Balderson as a theatre. Originally, the theatre featured a 1000 seat auditorium, the largest between Toronto and Montreal. The theatre featured a wide central lobby with merchants' shops fronting onto Gore Street with street access. The theatre closed in 1956 and has served as the location for many shops since. Remnants of the stage and some of the backstage area can still be found in this building.



#30 Gore – 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 motif under the front gable.



#39 Gore – Built in 1848, the Kellock Block has housed *The Perth Courier* since 1898. *The Perth Courier* is recognized as the second oldest newspaper in Canada.

Turn right onto Herriott Street...



#50 Herriott – “Kininvie” was built of reddish sandstone in 1906 for textile manufacture 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.



#51 Herriott – The Code Mill is actually 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 “Fiddleheads” restaurant.

Now, return to Gore Street, cross the street and turn right...



#45-49 Gore – Known as the Brooks Block, this building was erected in 1846.



#51-53 Gore – In 1850, Mr. O'Brien had this 2-1/2 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 – In 1841, Francis Holliday had this 2-1/2 storey building erected. From 1852-1912 it was owned by the Sheriff James V. Thompson – this being the reason it is referred to as the Sheriff's House.



#63-67 Gore – Thomas Wright Building. Erected in 1851, the Wright family occupied this building from 1867 until 1930 as furriers. From 1958 – 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 reason for the name, Thomas Wright Building.



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



#81 Gore – Erected in 1932, this building housed Perth's post office and Canada Customs until 1972. Today, it is home to Crain & Schooley Insurance.



#93-99 Gore – This 3 storey building was erected in 1850 by John Doran with 3 shops and apartments. In 1988, the whole building was restored, Maximilan's restaurant occupies the entire main level.

Now, cross to the other side of Gore Street and turn right...



#100 Gore – A pink stucco covered brick building. Constructed in 1827. From 1860 until 1911, it was known as the Union Hotel. Since that time it has had many occupants.

At the corner of Mill and Gore Streets turn left onto Mill Street...



#9 Mill – This 1-1/2 storey stone house was erected in 1820 by Capt. John McKay. It has had various uses since that time. It is said to be Perth's oldest stone house.



#41 Mill – The Haggart House. This home was built in 1837 by John Haggart who was a Scottish stone mason. This Regency Style house was once the home of the Hon. John C. Haggart, MP. Note the plaque inside the stone wall.

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



This area was used as a farmer's market where until the 1930s produce and live animals were purchased. In the 1930s, this Band Stand was erected.



The 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 here 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 Co. Ltd. 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.



#10 Market Square – This house was erected in 1856, a plank on plank, 2-storey home. The residence of Robert Gemill, a distiller whose business was across the road where part of park is now located. This building has been a law office since 1983.



The Town Hall (#80 Gore Street East) – Erected in 1863 from locally quarried Potsdam sandstone. This Neo Classical structure once housed a concert hall as well as municipal offices. This National Heritage site was lovingly restored in 2003 and is well worth a visit. The clock was installed in the tower in 1874.

Cross Gore Street into the Basin area behind the old Carnegie Library...



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

Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer.



The basin fountains were installed in 2004 by the Rotary Club of Perth. The centre fountain represents the town of Perth while the fountain on the right represents Perth's sister city, Perth, Scotland. The fountain on the left represents Perth's twin city, Asago, Japan.

Return now to Gore Street and turn left. Cross the bridge and continue to the corner of Harvey and Gore Streets...



#105-107-109 Gore St. E. – This is the site of the King’s Store for the original Perth settlement. In 1840, this fine stone building was erected by James Allen, Postmaster from 1842 to 1852. 105-107 Gore St. E. houses private residences; 109 Gore St. E. has had various merchants over the years.



McMartin House (corner of Harvey and Gore Streets facing onto Harvey) – Erected in 1830 by United Empire Loyalist descendant, Daniel McMartin, Perth’s third lawyer. Unique to Perth, it was built in the Federalist style which is more common to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. You can see the “widow’s walk” at the top of the house. Mrs. McMartin, an American, insisted that all the materials for the house be imported from the United States. From 1830-1875, this was the McMartin residence. In 1971, the Ontario Heritage Foundation restored the home to be used as a Senior’s Activity Centre and meeting centre.

Now, continue along Gore Street to the corner of Gore and Craig Streets and turn right onto Craig Street...



#66 Craig: Inge-Va House (“Come Here” in Tamil) – This attractive stone house was built in 1824 by the Rev. Michael Harris, Rector of the Perth Military Settlement. It is a superb example of the Colonial Georgian style so popular at this time. It was the home of Robert Lyon, a young law student, who was fatally wounded in the Last Duel fought in Ontario.

At the corner of Craig and Wilson Street (East), turn left onto Wilson Street...



#34 Wilson E. - St. John’s Elementary School (1926) – Previously two wooden schools occupied this area. The original school has had two subsequent additions to accommodate increased enrolment.



#36 Wilson E. - St. John’s Convent (adjacent to the School on Wilson Street) - Erected in 1905 to house the Sisters teaching in the School. From 1985-1992, the building was used as St. John’s High School. Since the 1990s, the building has been used as a Parish Centre and by St. John’s Elementary School.



St. John’s Rectory – Erected in 1856 as the Priest’s House, it has remained largely unchanged since then.



#40 Wilson E - St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church – This fine church was erected in 1848, with an addition in 1899 to accommodate new alters 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 Gore Street by walking down Brock Street. At Gore Street, turn left...



#144 Gore St. E. – Built in 1884, this building was the Methodist Church until 1928. From 1928 until 1964, this building was used as an armoury. Since 1964, the building has been used as Asbury Free Methodist Church.

At the traffic lights at the corner of Gore and Craig Street, turn right onto Craig Street...



#55 Craig – “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 St. E. – 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 – 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.



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.

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



#15 Harvey – From 1830 until 1832, this building was used as a private residence. From 1832 until 1873, this building was used 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.

Continue along Drummond Street...



The Summit House – Built in 1823 this building is similar to “The Grange” at the Art Gallery of Ontario. 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, articulated for Mr. Boulton.



#30 Drummond – From 1835 until 1860, this building was the Coyless Hotel, also known as Farmers Rest. From 1861-1992, this building was a private residence. From 1992 until 2004, this building was used as a B&B.



After crossing the Drummond Street Bridge, turn left into the basin area once again. Note the name of some of the merchants along the Crystal Place from the period when it was a shelter along Rideau Street in Ottawa. 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, note the Royal Canadian Legion as you cross Beckwith Street. Located on the 2nd floor of the Royal Canadian Legion is the Hall of Remembrance. This unique museum holds special significance for local residents. The artifacts donated to the museum are from the men and women of Perth and area who served our country in both World Wars, paying tribute to the sacrifices of these people. 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 towpath meets Riverside Road 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 & Co Ltd. to produce many 100% woollen products, as well as the 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 – (Perth Soap) - 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. In 1988, KOA Corporation of America and Japan became the new owners. Later, in 1993, the plant was sold to the Perth Soap Company who continue to manufacture private label products.

Across the street...

At the end of Herriott Street stood, until demolished in 1979, 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.



The Mammoth Cheese – This monument was built in 1943 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the prize-winning cheese. The original 22 000 pound cheese was made in Perth for the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893 and measured 28 feet in circumference and 6 feet in height.



#5 Sherbrooke – 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 and shops.

Return now to Herriott Street and proceed back towards the Chamber of Commerce...



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

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.

You are now back at the corner of Drummond and Herriott Street. Straight ahead is the Chamber of Commerce and downtown Perth. The Perth & District Chamber of Commerce hopes that you enjoyed your tour and learned a little of Perth’s rich and unique history.

If you any further questions about Heritage Perth or the surrounding community, please feel free to contact the Perth & District Chamber of Commerce by phone at (613) 267-3200 or by email at welcome@perthchamber.com.

For more information about Perth’s history, please visit The Perth Museum at 11 Gore Street East. 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, Professional and Tradespeople of Perth by Gus Quattrocchi
Perth: Tradition & Style in Eastern Ontario by Larry Turner
A Matter of Honour and Other Tales of Early Perth by Susan Code

Thank you again for visiting Perth!