



24

Brussels Electric Light Works Site

Early electricity in Brussels was provided by a steam-powered generating plant that in 1889, serviced six street lamps and the one light at the Town Hall, to be followed in 1924 by town-wide power provided by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. This site is adjacent to J.R.'s Restaurant & Gas Bar.

Visit this site by following Trail One



C1

Brussels Mennonite Fellowship

Incorporating an 1875 residence into their church, the newly renovated Brussels Mennonite Fellowship officially opened in March of 1982 with additional improvements carried out in 1984.



C2

Melville Presbyterian Church

Built in 1915, designed by a Mr. Russell of Stratford and named after Andrew Melville, Melville Presbyterian's unique interior includes memorial plaques in tribute to area residents who served in war.

Visit this site by following Trail One



C3

Brussels United Church

The former Brussels Methodist Church, built in 1877, is an excellent example of Gothic Revival style architecture and in 1925, at Union, became part of the United Church of Canada, known as Brussels United Church.



C4

St. John's Anglican Church

Replacing the small 1864 frame Anglican Church, St. John's Anglican Church constructed and opened in 1876 was destroyed by fire in 1947 except for the tower and bell, but rebuilt and rededicated in 1949.



C5

Brussels CommUnity Bible Chapel

The Brussels Community Bible Chapel began as an affiliate church of Gorrie Bible Fellowship in Gorrie, Ontario. Services are held in the Brussels Business & Cultural Centre.



C6

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church

The congregation of St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church held services in a frame church originally built in 1876 until 1993, when it was razed to make way for a new 8,000 square foot church.



C7

Masonic Chapel

This miniature church, located in the Masonic Memorial Park on Orchard Lane, was dedicated by the Brussels Masonic Lodge.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



C5

Brussels Business & Cultural Centre

The former Avon Maitland Brussels Public School, recently purchased by the Municipality of Huron East, offers 17,000 square feet of affordable rental space for professional and community use as the new Brussels Business & Cultural Centre. Contact Municipal Offices in Seaforth for rental details.

**Brussels-Morris-Grey****Community Centre & Arena**

The Brussels-Morris-Grey Community Centre & Arena was built in 1977 on a five acre parcel of land offered to the community by Jack Bryans for \$1, with additional land donated by Malcolm Jacobs and Sam Workman for easements.

**Huron East Swimming Pool**

The Brussels Lions Club spearheaded a drive for the now popular, but at the time controversial, community swimming pool that opened in 1986.

Visit this site by following Trail Two

**Municipal Sewage Treatment Plant & Solar Panel Installation**

In May 1979, the largest construction project in the village's history was underway; all streets dug up, sewer pipe installed, backfilled, and repaved. The Maitland River was dammed to install the sewer main from the south of Brussels to the treatment plant in the north. In 2011, the Municipality installed a 10 kw solar tracker system under the Ontario Power Authority's Micro-fit Program.

**Huronlea Home for the Aged**

From Ross House to Baker's convalescent home and Callander Nursing Home, Brussels has always provided for its seniors. In 1993, Brussels was chosen by the County of Huron, as the location for Huronlea Home for the Aged.

**McNeil Museum & Boot Tree**

Don McNeil has always been a collector, starting as a child, and he especially likes to preserve the history of Brussels in memorabilia - a hobby that has grown to encompass thousands of artefacts in his private museum.

**Brussels Optimist Clubhouse**

The Brussels Optimist Clubhouse was once the Brussels Rail Station (circa 1873) but when passenger service ended in 1970, it was dismantled with a part of it used initially by the Brussels Lawn Bowling Club and eventually as it is currently - as the clubhouse of the Brussels Optimist Club.

**Logan's Mill & Brussels Dam**

Due to a disastrous fire, this is the third mill on this site constructed in 1915 and operated until 1968 - eventually purchased and restored by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and the dam rebuilt with support from the federal government, the Village of Brussels and upstream land-owners. The Brussels Conservation Area located across the dam from the mill consists of a playground, picnic tables, benches and a butterfly garden.

**Municipality of Huron East Brussels Firehall**

The Town Hall bell, that since 1872 had summoned firefighters, called residents to Sunday worship, and tolled for community grief, was incorporated into the landscape adjacent to the Brussels Firehall built in 1994.

**Armstrong Aerodrome**

Located on the 100-acre family farm purchased in 1892, the Armstrong Aerodrome consists of numerous hangars, planes and two runways, along with the 1879 farmhouse where Armstrongs still reside.

**Turnbull's Pond**

In the late 1800's every community had its own salt well. Brussels Turnbull's Pond was rumoured to be a bottomless salt site that contained several abandoned automobiles. This myth was debunked during an extreme drought in 2007 when the pond completely evaporated and gave up no dead cars.

**The Cowboy Loft**

Stocking a large inventory of western tack and clothing, The Cowboy Loft has what's needed for work, play, show, and for just horsing around.

**Brussels Livestock**

Started in 1958, Brussels Livestock continues to be a hive of activity and the hub of livestock sales for the area, providing reliable service to producers in the heartland of Ontario agriculture.



WELCOME TO
Brussels

The Founding of Brussels By William Ainlay

In 1854, enterprising Englishman William Ainlay laid out a town site where the Maitland River crosses the boundary between Grey and Morris Townships.

He named his community Ainlayville, but a sloppy clerk at Her Majesty's Registration Office misspelled it "Ainleyville" and the version stuck.

The first post office came in 1856 - named "Dingle" just to confuse things further. By 1872, the railroad arrived and christened the new station Brussels.

Village incorporation made the new name official - and Brussels came of age.

The year 2012 marked Brussels 140th Anniversary.

Brussels' HISTORIC TRAIL TOURS



VILLAGE OF
Brussels

Brussels was originally called Ainleyville, named after one of the first settlers, William Ainlay, who laid out a town site on the Maitland River in 1855. The official name of the Post Office was Dingle, named after Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, perhaps. When the Southern Extension of the Great Western Railway line opened in December of 1872, the station at the north edge of town was named Brussels. Only days later, when the village was officially incorporated, its name was also changed to Brussels. The Post Office followed suit soon after.

By 1880, the village had a population of 1,000. In its heyday, the village had mills of every sort - planing, gristing, flouring, saw-powered by water and steam. The last of these, the Logan Mill, located on the site of an earlier mill complex owned and operated by Vanstone & Sons, closed in 1967. The town's millpond is a reminder of an industry that once flourished here.

In the winter of 2012, local volunteers worked with the University of Waterloo and the Heritage Resources Centre to undertake a Cultural Heritage Landscape Study for the community of Brussels. By engaging Heritage Planning students, we were able to see our Brussels "through someone else's eyes". The result is an inventory of unique assets - natural, built and human - that make Brussels special and sets us apart from other places. This information will be used to prepare Walking Trails and a Community Improvement Plan for the Brussels Ward that maintains, enhances and promotes these treasures for future generations.

VILLAGE OF BRUSSELS



1

Lions Park

Located north of the bridge on the west side of Turnberry Street, the Brussels Lions Park has served generations of local youth as the best toboggan hill in town. Founded in 1946, The Brussels Lions Club has contributed to many community betterment projects.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



2

Presbyterian Manse

The Presbyterian Manse, constructed of limestone in 1869, served as the church manse until 1958 when the manse adjacent to Melville Presbyterian Church was built.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



3

Former Site of Ronald Engine Works & Cousins Creamery

Beginning in 1878, Ronald Engine Works was a foundry that built early fire engines widely sold nationally. When the foundry building burned, it was rebuilt in 1911 as the Shamrock Creamery, later re-named Brussels Creamery and then operated as Cousins Creamery until 1973.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



4

Masonic Chapel Lookout

This miniature church, located in the Masonic Memorial Park on Orchard Lane, was dedicated by the Brussels Masonic Lodge.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



5

Mait-side Orchards Lookout

The 20-acre property located at 23 Orchard Lane consists of an apple orchard that originated circa 1912. While most of the trees were removed in the early 2000's for a proposed housing development, former owner Lewis Cardiff returned home to re-invigorate the orchard after the housing plan fell through.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



6

Bennett Lumber Yard

The Bennett Lumber Yard was in business as early as 1879. In 1929, Jake McDonald bought the yard and it remains in his family today as McDonald Home Hardware Building Centre.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



7

Former Grand Trunk Railway Line

In 1873 the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway reached Brussels, running north of the Maitland River, but found itself in financial difficulty in 1882 and was taken over by the Grand Trunk Railway - and eventually by Canadian National Railway from 1959 to 1991 when all rail service ceased to Brussels.

Visit this site by following Trail Two



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9

Dunedin Manor

Based on the beautiful design of Scotland's Dunedin Castle and built in 1887, Dunedin Manor has been home to generations of medical practitioners and even served as the local maternity hospital from 1946-56.

Visit this site by following Trail One



10

Leckie House

Leckie House was built by a leading industrialist and the first Reeve of Brussels, John A. Leckie, in finest Queen Anne Revival style and remains largely unchanged to this day.

Visit this site by following Trail One



11

Brussels Horticultural Society Butterfly Garden & Pavillion

Located in the Maitland Valley Conservation Area, the Brussels' Butterfly Garden offers a quiet sanctuary and retreat.

Visit this site by following Trail One



12

Logan's Mill & Brussels Dam

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Visit this site by following Trail One



13

Victoria Park

Designed in 1854 as a market square or common by village founder William Ainlay, Victoria Park continues to serve the community recreationally, hosting sports, carnivals and homecomings.

Visit this site by following Trail One



14

Brussels Royal Canadian Legion Branch 218

Formed in 1931, the Brussels Legion survived a 1988 break-in, theft, and destructive fire, reopening in January 1989 and continuing to contribute to the community from the site that formerly held Brussels original Town Hall.

Visit this site by following Trail One



15

The Livery and Current Brussels Farmers' Market

The previous Livery property and location of the East Huron Produce Emporium wholesaling farmers' goods is fittingly the location of Brussels' new Farmers Market.

Visit this site by following Trail One



16

Brussels Post Office

This stately Post Office was built in 1935 as part of the federal government's economic stimulus efforts during The Great Depression.

Visit this site by following Trail One



17

Queen's Hotel Former Site

Built in 1878, the Queen's Hotel - Brussels centrepiece - was proclaimed in the Belden Atlas as 'one of the finest buildings ever seen in a town of its size.' A section of its façade is preserved in the Huron County Museum in Goderich.

Visit this site by following Trail One



18

Graham Block

Planned as a two-storey building in 1876, the Graham Block when completed was three storeys high and boasted 15 foot ceilings on its main floor - in the year 2012, the Graham Block is one of Brussels' best investment opportunities.

Visit this site by following Trail One



19

Leckie Block

The 1876 Leckie Block is the oldest remaining commercial building on Brussels' main street, having been a bank and pharmacy stores in the past, and currently housing the lovely Solace on Turnberry Spa and busy Burke's Tent Rentals.

Visit this site by following Trail One



20

Former Oldfield's Hardware Store

With hardware operations continuously since 1880, this site has been a key supplier to town and rural residents alike. The year 2012 will mark a new era for this building with the opening of Huron Country Hardware.

Visit this site by following Trail One



21

Brussels Carnegie Library

Constructed and opened in 1910 under a Carnegie Foundation grant, and threatened with closure in 2007. A significant renovation and preservation program is expected to begin in 2013.

Visit this site by following Trail One



22

Grant Block

Located in this unique flatiron building dating from 1879, Cinnamon Jim's Café lives up to its advertising as a great place to eat and hear good music - always a tempting combination.

Visit this site by following Trail One



23

Former Site of Brussels-Morris-Grey Telephone System

Building served as municipal offices from 1959 until amalgamation in 2001, after which the building was demolished. It now serves as a municipal parking lot in the downtown. The adjacent building is the Municipality of Huron East Medical & Dental building.

Visit this site by following Trail One

