

HURON EAST TOURS & TRAILS



FEATURING

BRUSSELS
HISTORICAL
WALKING
TOUR

SEAFORTH
HISTORICAL
WALKING
TOUR

VANASTRA
HERITAGE
TRAIL

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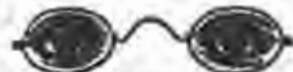
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1877



1877

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This season we are showing a very large Stock of Worsted Coatings, Trousers, Ties, &c. A glance at the Stock kept at the Shop will convince the most skeptical that the quality, price and style is second to none. A Good Fit Guaranteed at All Times.

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D. M. McTavish

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Huron East; a municipality proud of its heritage and agricultural roots and brimming with community spirit!

We invite you to embark on our self-guided historical walking tours where you will:

- **Discover** the industries that sparked the growth of our communities
- **Learn** about some of the first occupants of the Seaforth Heritage Conservation District
- **Marvel** at the architecture of heritage homes and buildings;
- **Unlock** the secret military history of the small community of Vanastra

Extend your stay in the quaint village of Brussels to search for fairies along the routes of the Brussels Fairy Door Trail. You will be amazed at how the community has come together to provide this incredible experience for our residents and visitors.

We have also highlighted our walking and cycling trails, if you are in search of some “off-road” adventures.

Enjoy your stay in Huron East and share your experience on social media using the hashtag **#VisitHuronEast**

For more information about things to see and do, places to stay and our eateries, please visit: www.huroneast.com/tourism. Audio tours of our Historical Walking Trails will be available at www.huroneast.com/tours in late-fall 2023.



Please note that these walking tours do not provide access to privately owned homes and properties.

BRUSSELS HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

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, sawing—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 and Sons, closed in 1967. The town's millpond is a reminder of an industry that once flourished here.



North Tour (Leckie Loop)



1 Brussels Conservation Area – 80 Alfred St.

Milling operations continued at this site until 1967. Maitland Valley Conservation Authority purchased the property in 1972. Enjoy a peaceful walk around the property. The Brussels Horticultural Society Butterfly Garden offers a quiet sanctuary and retreat.



2 Leckie House – 62 Dunedin Dr.

Leckie House was built by a leading industrialist and the first Reeve of Brussels, John A. Leckie. In finest Queen Anne Revival style, it remains largely unchanged to this day. The limestone used in the foundation was quarried from the Maitland River, which flows behind the house.



3 Dunedin Manor – 54 Dunedin Dr.

Based on the beautiful design of Scotland's Dunedin Castle and built in 1887, Dunedin Manor has been home to generations of medical practitioners. It even served as the local maternity hospital from 1946-56. There was a time when it was known as one of the five great Victorian estates in south-western Ontario and featured rich gardens, fountains, stables and a tennis court.



4 Melville Presbyterian Church – 55 Dunedin Dr.

The Melville Presbyterians purchased an acre of land in 1857 and built a wooden structure to hold services in on the corner of Queen and Turnberry Streets. A brick church was built in 1872 and then in 1915, the current structure was built, which was designed by a Mr. Russell of Stratford and named after Andrew Melville.



5 Brussels Mennonite Fellowship and Former Bennett Lumber Yard – 250 Princess St.

This site was home to the Bennett Lumber Yard as early as 1879. In 1929, the McDonald family bought the yard and ran their business on Turnberry St; known today as McDonald Home Hardware Building Centre.

Incorporating an 1875 residence into their church, the Brussels Mennonite Fellowship officially opened in March of 1982 following extensive renovations. Additional improvements were carried out on the building in 1984.



6 The Old Shop – 199 Turnberry St.

Don McNeil has always been a collector, starting as a child, and he especially likes to preserve the history of Brussels in memorabilia. This hobby has grown to encompass thousands of artifacts in his private museum. The museum is open by chance.



7 Brussels Optimist Club Clubhouse - 212 Turnberry St.

In 1873 the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway reached Brussels, running north of the Maitland River, but found itself in financial difficulty. It was taken over by the Grand Trunk Railway and eventually by Canadian National Railway from 1959 to 1991 when all rail service ceased in Brussels. The former station was dismantled and part of it was relocated to its present location. It was used by the Brussels Lawn Bowling Club and now by the Brussels Optimist Club.



8 Former Site of Ronald Engine Works & Cousins Creamery – 310 Stretton St.

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. The building was used by a number of different tenants until it was demolished in 1993.



9 Former Presbyterian Manse – 41 Dunedin Dr.

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



10 Lions Park – corner of Turnberry St. and Dunedin Dr.

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.



11 Former Brussels Electric Light Works and Anglo Petroleum Ltd. Site – 370-390 Turnberry St.

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. A chopping mill was built in 1905 immediately south of the Electric Light Works. The first gas station in the village was built here in 1928.



12 Former Howe's Woollen Mill and Wilson's Block – 373 and 390 Turnberry St.

373 Turnberry St. was the site of Howe's Woollen Mill, which was built in 1884. A carpet factory and a knitting factory also operated here. The building was demolished in 1967 to make way for a new medical/dental centre. The Brussels, Morris and Grey Municipal

Telephone System purchased the brick store adjoining the Woollen mill in 1909. After they moved in 1957, the municipal clerk's office occupied the space. The building was demolished following amalgamation in 2001.



13 Grant Block – 401-415 Turnberry St.

Mr. JR Grant, who was the postmaster at the time and owner of the property, constructed this unique flatiron building in 1879 following two devastating fires on the property. Later that same year, the post office was relocated to where it is today. This building has been occupied by a bank, a tailor, a hardware store, dry good merchant, furniture business and more recently a café. This is a designated heritage building.



14 Brussels Carnegie Library – 402 Turnberry St.

This library was constructed in 1910 under a Carnegie Foundation Grant, and was threatened with closure in 2007. The building underwent significant renovations in 2013, which added a room for programming, a larger children's area and improved accessibility. This is a designated heritage building.



15 Former American Hotel Site – 410 Turnberry St.

After a few hotel fires on the property, the new American Hotel was built in 1891. Ownership changed hands several times over the years, and the last hotel to occupy the building (and Brussels' last remaining hotel) before it was demolished in 2008 was the Brussels Country Inn.



16 Leckie Block – 435-441 Turnberry St.

The 1876 Leckie Block is the oldest remaining commercial building on Brussels' main street. A number of banks branches have operated from this building, including: Exchange Bank of Canada; McIntosh and McTaggart Bank; and the Standard Bank. Major renovations were made to the exterior

(and interior) of the Standard Bank in 1909-10. The building has also been home to pharmacies, and Solace on Turnberry Spa. This is a designated heritage building.



17 Homecoming Park – 445 Turnberry St.

Homecoming Park used to be part of the Leckie Block 2. Although it changed ownership several times, a restaurant operated here between the 1940s and 1983. Olympia Restaurant and Turnberry Upholstery were destroyed by fire in October 1983.



18 Holmes Block – 440 – 450 Turnberry St.

This section of the main street has a long history of supplying hardware to rural and town residents. Several hardware stores operated from this location, including the Oldfield Hardware Store. Max Oldfield started the business in 1946 and eventually expanded north into the next two storefronts.



19 Graham Block – 503-521 Turnberry St.

Planned as a two-storey building in 1876, the Graham Block, when completed, boasted 15 foot ceilings on its main floor. Tenants have included, a dry goods merchant, drug store, millinery store, jewellery store and harness shop. Pictured here is the 5¢ to \$1.00 Store, which operated at this location from 1935 to 1991.



20 Brussels United Church – 61 King St.

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

South Tour (Logan Loop)



21 Logan's Mill – 80 Alfred St.

The Vanstone Mill was the first structure on this site and was built in 1859. In 1871, the structure was destroyed by fire, taking out the neighbouring sawmill as well. It was re-built two years later, but again was destroyed by fire in 1911. Logan's Mill, which you see today, was constructed in 1915 and operated until 1967. It was eventually purchased and restored by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.



22 Brussels Morris Grey Community Centre & Arena – 800 Sports Dr.

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. Additional land was donated by Malcolm Jacobs and Sam Workman for easements. This arena replaced the old one, which was located at 470 Elizabeth Street and was dismantled after being condemned.





23 Former Callander Nursing Home – 700 Turnberry St.

From Ross House to Baker's Convalescent Home to Callander Nursing Home, Brussels has always provided for its seniors. Callander Nursing Home operated at this location from 1961 to 1989. In 1993, Brussels was chosen by the County of Huron, as the location for Huronlea Home for the Aged (located at the south end of town).



24 St. John's Anglican Church – 51 McCutcheon Dr.

Replacing the small 1864 frame Anglican Church, St. John's Anglican Church was constructed and opened in 1876. All but the tower and bell were destroyed by fire in 1947, but the Church rebuilt and was rededicated in 1949. St. John's Anglican Church held their last service on April 30, 2023.



25 Former Brussels Public School – 650 Alexander St.

The school pictured here, was built in 1895 and housed both elementary and continuation school students. A six-room public school opened in 1961 and in 1966, a gym and three classrooms were added. The former Avon Maitland Brussels Public School closed in June 2012. The building was occupied by the Brussels Business & Cultural Centre and the Brussels Community Bible Chapel for a short time before being purchased for an Old Colony Christian School.



26 St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church – 17 Flora St.

The congregation of St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church held services in a frame church originally built in 1876 until 1993. A new 8,000 square foot church was built in 1993.



27 Former Brussels Fire Hall – 33 King St.

This is the site of the old Brussels Fire Hall. 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 new Brussels Firehall built in 1994 (51 CN Rd.).



28 Former Queen's Hotel Site – 38 King St.

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.



29 Brussels Post Office – 586 Turnberry St.

This stately Post Office was built in 1935 as part of the federal government's economic stimulus efforts during The Great Depression. In the early days, mail was delivered by stagecoach. In 1891, Beattie Bros. next door was awarded the contract to deliver mail between the Brussels Post Office and the depot and return.



30 Former Beattie Bros. Livery Site – 590 Turnberry St.

The Beattie Bros. finished construction of their new livery barn in 1891. The building was converted into a garage in 1920. The business switched hands a few times before it was sold to Cities Service Oil Co. Ltd. in 1939. Cities Service sold the property to George Bridge in 1961 who a few years later set up with Ford Motor Co. to sell Ford cars and trucks. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1966.





31 Former East Huron Produce Emporium and Livery – 589 Turnberry St.

The East Huron Produce Emporium was in business from 1906 until 1955. The Emporium sold apples from the local apple orchard (now Mait-side Orchards), graded eggs and killed and packaged poultry. Egg grading continued for many years after the business switched hands in 1955. The building was torn down in 1986 and is now a municipal parking lot used for community events and markets. The former livery still stands.



32 Brussels Royal Canadian Legion Branch 218 – 620 Turnberry St.

Formed in 1931, the Brussels Legion survived a 1988 break-in, theft, and destructive fire. It re-opened in 1989 and continues to contribute to the community from the site that formerly held the original town hall.



33 Brussels Community Park (also referred to as Victoria Park) – 648 Sports Dr.

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

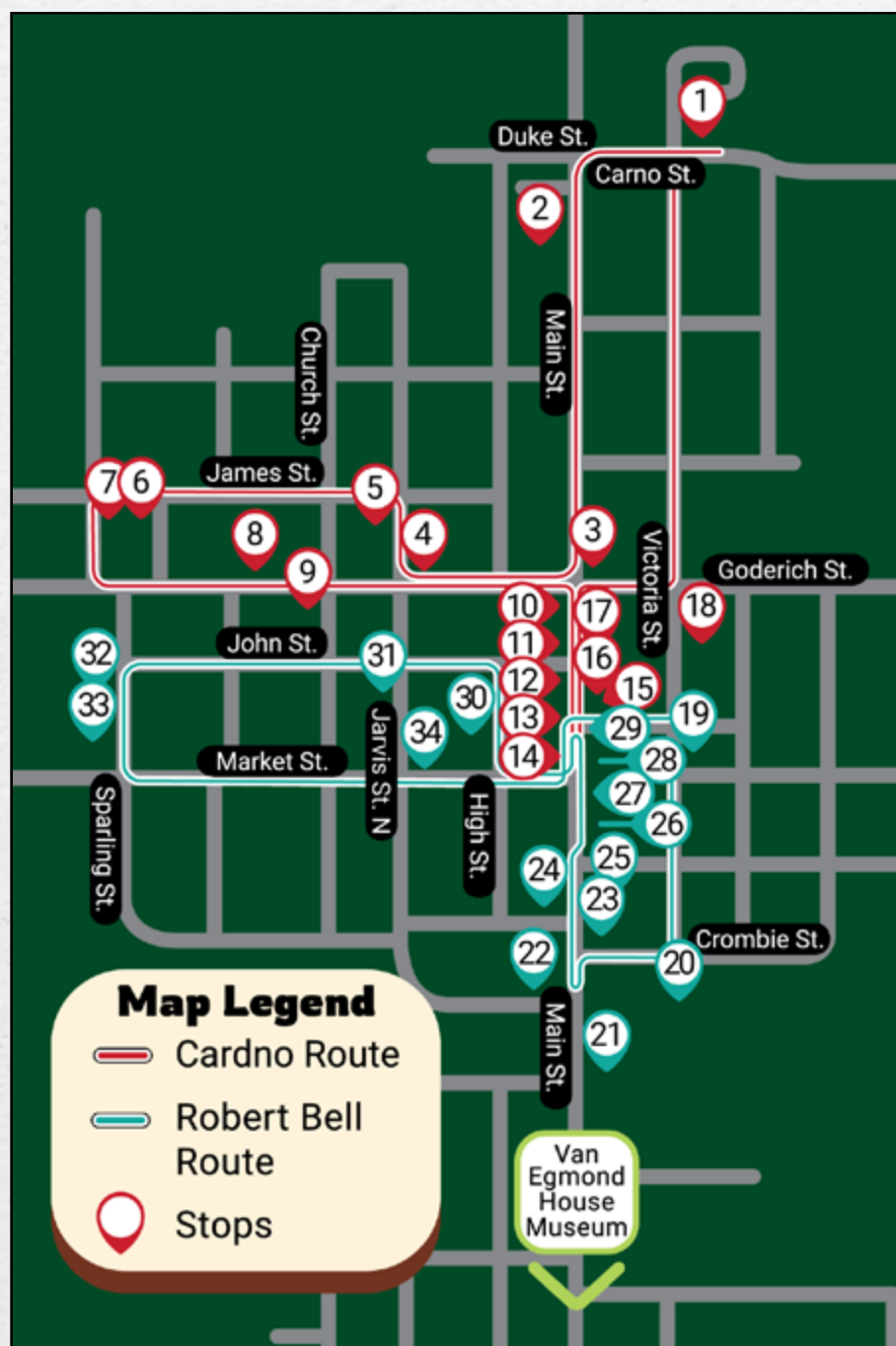
HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

Mait-side Orchards – 23 Orchard Lane

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.

Masonic Chapel – 41 Orchard Lane

This miniature St. John's Masonic Chapel replica is located in the Masonic Memorial Park on Orchard Lane. The chapel was officially dedicated on May 29, 1994 by the Brussels Masonic Lodge, and the interior is complete with an altar and pews. There is a beautiful view of the Maitland River from this site.



Please note that these walking tours do not provide access to privately owned homes and properties.

SEAFORTH HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Known as Guide Board Swamp in the early 1800s, Seaforth became a thriving community after the first train passed through in June of 1858. The railway company officials did not consider putting a station in Seaforth until locals persuaded them by donating the land and building for it. In fact, at the time, the neighbouring communities of Egmondville and Harpurhey were larger, thriving centres.

Seaforth had a post office by December 1859, was incorporated as a village in 1868, and as a town in 1875. In the late 1800s, the salt industry was booming in Seaforth, with three large salt works. In September of 1876, a fire broke out in Mrs. Griffith's Candy and Grocery store raging through Main Street and destroying 12 acres of the business section. The town rebounded and Main Street was rebuilt with the brick and block structures which we see today.

Seaforth's Main Street has been described by architectural critics as one of the finest late 19th century streetscapes remaining in Ontario, and is a designated Heritage Conservation District. Along this tour, you will also see a few of the many designated heritage homes in Seaforth.



Cardno Route



1 The Round House - 122 Duke St.

The Round House was built in 1902 and was formerly referred to as the "Crystal Palace" because of its many large windows. This two-storey octagonal exhibition hall is one of two remaining in Ontario. The first fair at this site was held in September of 1902 and the building is still being used as part of Seaforth's Fair Grounds.



2 The Horthy Residence - 87 Main St. N.

Built in 1872, this house is one of the earliest brick houses built by John Ament. This is an example of a one-and-a-half storey centre gable, centre hall, Ontario farmhouse. It is recognized as Ontario's truly original vernacular architecture.



3 Queen's Hotel - 4 Goderich St. East
 The Queen's Hotel was built in 1877 consisting of two storeys with a mansard roof third storey. There was a livery just east of the hotel for horses and carriages. Unfortunately, this heritage building was gutted by fire in 2014.



**4 Northside United Church
 - 54 Goderich St. West**
 Known in the early days as the Wesleyan Methodist Church, this beautiful church was built in 1877 with an adjacent manse. Two spires were removed some time in the 1950s.



5 Maplewood Manor - 13 Church St.
 In Georgian-style with Italianate influences, this structure was built in 1867 as Seaforth Public School with a symmetrical "T" plan. It is set on a fieldstone foundation with Flemish bond, buff brick walls. The building was used as a school until 1953 and then a warehouse until 1986 when it was renovated as a distinctive seniors' residence and nursing home.



6 The Cornish Residence - 17 Helen St.
 This residence was originally built in 1870 on Main Street. Only one of two portions was relocated to the wrought iron fenced Helen Street property. The front entrance is crowned by an elliptical fanlight and is flanked by side-lights. Noteworthy are the two corner bay windows and Victorian grounds.



7 The Carnochan House - 123 James St.

This clapboard frame house built in 1873 with an asymmetrical floor plan, fine trim details and stained glass windows is a fanciful example of Victorian "cottage" architecture. It is one of the "most fun and eclectic" homes in Seaforth.



8 Lorne Villa Apartments - 92 Goderich St. West

Built between 1886 and 1890. The large proportions, asymmetrical layout, slate roof, multiple chimneys, wrought iron work and coach-house to the rear typify late Victorian architecture for the affluent in Huron County. It was named after the Marquess of Lorne, Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. The home was turned into apartments in the early 1970s and eventually became the home of the Canadian Mental Health Association.



9 First Presbyterian Church - 59 Goderich St. West

This church was built in 1867 from the union of the congregations of Harpurhey and Seaforth, each of which were originally established under the United Secession Church of Scotland in 1904. The church Manse was built in 1879.



10 Mansion House and the Royal Hotel - 1-3 Main St.

After the Carmichael Hotel burned down, the brick "Mansion House" replaced it in 1869. Following another fire, the present building was built in 1877 with two stores south of it. It later become the home of the Royal Hotel.



11 John Kidd Hardware - 15-17 Main St. S
 In 1878, John Kidd, who operated a hardware business, rebuilt his store following the devastating fire of 1876. Mullett and Jackson's Hardware was operating from this location by 1900. The building was home to Hildebrand Paint and Paper for many years before being taken over by a floral shop and financial office.



12 Nifty Korner's - 33 Main St. S
 This is the first brick store in Seaforth, which was built in 1863. The Post Office was here between 1863 and 1869. A variety of proprietors occupied the street level store after this selling such things as dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, and pharmaceuticals. In 1996, the variety store that had been operating since the 1960s, was transformed into a business called Nifty Corners that carried giftware and electronics. It was converted into a real estate office following the closure of Nifty Corners in 2009.



13 The Cardno Block - 39-47 Main St. S
 This is the largest building on Main Street and was erected in 1877 by Alexander Cardno. The building was originally lit by gas that was manufactured on the premise. The upstairs was the site of Cardno's Music and Concert Hall, which was also a gathering place for community events. The Music Hall was in use until 1954.



14 Sills Home Hardware - 69 Main St. S
 This building was constructed in 1869 by Thomas Kidd. He operated a general store in the south storefront, which expanded to the north storefront when William Robertson and Company's "Sign of the Circular Saw" hardware business vacated the space. George A. Sills and Sons operated a hardware business in the block just north of the Cardno Block until moving to this location in 1921-22. In 2018, the fifth generation of the Sill's family took over the hardware business.



15 Post Office - 52 Main St. S

The three floor red brick building with the central clock tower is Seaforth's Post Office built in 1911-13. Prior to 1913, the Post Office had been located in the James Dickson Block (1863-1869) and at 87 Main St. S, in the Samuel Dickson Block. The first Post Office in Seaforth opened in December of 1859; however, there is no record of its location.



16 CIBC - 44 Main St. S

The Canadian Bank of Commerce, or Royal Canadian Bank as it was known then, relocated to this building when it was constructed in 1905. The Bank had been operating from the Dominion Block since 1878. This building is a good example of the Classical Revival Style of architecture.



17 William Robertson Block - 20-22 Main St. S

This building was built in 1877 for William M. Robertson, a hardware merchant. William O. Reid was the manager. They sold builder's hardware in one store and carriage hardware, wagon and carriage material (upstairs), oils, paint, glass and more in the other store. Robertson and Reid's "Sign of the Circular Saw" Hardware became Reid and Wilson Hardware by 1884 (and still used "Sign of the Circular Saw" in their name). Box Furniture relocated to one of the stores in 1945, and by 1955, took over the entire William Robertson block. In 1990, the block and adjoining block to the North



was beautifully restored to its original design. For a history of Box Furniture, please see location #34.



18 St. James Roman Catholic Church - 14 Victoria St.

Built in 1869 with adjacent Rectory constructed in 1897. The front addition to the Church was built in 1990. The St. James Roman Catholic Cemetery is located east of Seaforth at 43048 Huron Road.



19 Victoria Park - Gouinlock St.

The land for Victoria Park was donated to the Town by Dr. William Gouinlock in 1875, which was one year after Seaforth was officially incorporated. The bandshell was constructed in 1920. The front wall is actually a series of folding doors. The bandshell, having excellent acoustics, is apparently designed with the same proportions and coved ceiling as the bandshell at the CNE.



20 Seaforth Flour Mills - 27 Crombie St.

A four-storey flour mill was constructed here in 1868 and had a capacity of producing 150 barrels of flour a day to start and 1800 barrels of flour a day by 1909. The building was sold to Topnotch Feeds Ltd. in 1953. The building is now occupied by Seaforth Elevators and Expediting Inc.



21 Robert Bell Engine and Thresher Company - 156 Main St. S

Robert Bell and John Finlayson took over the Coleman Foundry and Machine Shop at this location in 1899. In 1903, the Robert Bell Engine and Thresher Company was formed specializing in threshing machines,

which were popular until combines were introduced. The company also made high and low pressure boilers. The plant was sold in 1949 and the company was reorganized as Robert Bell Industries Ltd. Boilersmith Ltd. commenced the manufacturing of packaged boilers and associated equipment in 1986.



22 Seaforth Electric Light, Heat and Power Co. - 151 Main St. S

Between 1889 and 1894, this was the site of the Seaforth Electric Light, Heat and Power Co., which was operated by the town council. In 1914, the power house was converted to the Seaforth Creamery. Over the years, products such as spreadable dairy products and salad dressings were made here.

Following the closure of the creamery in 2013, Everspring Farms Inc. purchased the facility where they sprout more than thirty grains, seeds and beans and create finished sprouted ingredients.

Detour



Van Egmond House Museum - 80 KIPPEN RD.

The Van Egmond House was built in 1847 by Constant Louis Van Egmond, who founded the village of Egmondville two years prior. The Van Egmond House Museum is owned and operated by the Van Egmond Foundation, which hosts a number of events on the property each year, including their popular Ciderfest. Take a tour of the home while attending one of their events and learn more about the history of Egmondville.



23 Boshart Furniture - 126 Main St. S

Houghton's Hotel and stables, was located here in 1870. A shoe factory opened in 1906, then a clothing factory and eventually a furniture factory starting in the late 1930s. John Boshart & Sons Ltd manufactured a wide range of furniture until 1965. After being vacant for a number of years, a Canadian Tire store opened in 1974 and served the community until the late 1980s. In 1999, the Bethel Bible Church, a longstanding local organization, purchased the 24,000 square foot structure, renovating and opening a new place of worship for Seaforth and area.



24 The Dick House - 117 Main St. S.

This former hotel was built in 1873 and with changes in ownership, came changes in the hotel name. It was first known as McCallum's, then Hawkshaw House, Kling's Hotel and lastly The Dick House. The building was converted into apartments in 1986.



25 The Library - 108 Main St. S

Built in 1913, this is one of many libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie. It is in "Victorian Palladian Style" as seen in the impressive portico. The library at one time had a tennis court on the side lawn, and its exterior walls were once entirely covered with ivy. Renovations were made to the building in 1984, and again in 1995, modernizing it and adding wheel chair accessibility.



26 John Gallop Building “The Livery” - 100 Main St. S

The first livery on the property (and carriage storage building), was built in 1873. It remained a livery until 1915 when it burned to the ground. After being vacant for over a decade, John Gallop purchased the property in 1928 and built the existing building.

He ran an implement business, a garage complete with gasoline pumps, a machine shop, and car sales out of it over the next 16 years. Among other ventures, this building has accommodated, the Huron Expositor (the town’s newspaper), municipal offices, and a professional physiotherapy business.



27 Dominion Block - 90-94 Main St. S.

Upon completion in 1874, the first tenant in the Dominion Block’s north section was the Canadian Bank of Commerce. After the bank moved down the street, a butcher shop operated here between 1905 and 1907. John Beattie moved his grocery/dry goods/variety store enterprise from across the street to

the northernmost Dominion Block storefront in 1907. Following its closure in 1935, the building has had a number of tenants including a telegraph office, Vincent’s Farm Equipment, and more recently, the Cotton Harvest Quilt Shop.



28 Commercial Hotel - 84 Main St. S

This beautiful building was built in 1895 after fire raged through the original Commercial Hotel. The north part of the ground floor of the hotel originally housed a bank, complete with vault, and in 1898, the space was used as a telegraph and express office that operated through to the 1950’s. The building was converted into apartments in 2008.



29 The Town Hall - 72 Main St. S

The Town Hall (Municipality of Huron East Municipal Office) was built in 1893/94 and is an impressive civic building. It is an integral part of the historic streetscape and is distinguished by its high front tower and gabled front elevation. The front porch was removed in 1957 and a replica was built in 1989. Back in the 1930s, there was an active badminton club who utilized the third floor!



30 The Box Residence - 57 High St.
This Queen Anne style dwelling has a corner turret, wood shingles, exterior paneled doors, decorative garlands over the front bay windows, and decorative finials on the roof. It was built in 1907.



31 Parish of the Holy Spirit - 21 Jarvis St. N
This was the first permanent place of worship in Seaforth, built in 1863. It is a fine example of "Carpenter's Gothic" architecture in religious buildings. The chancel was added in 1872 and the wings in 1878.



32 The Pletsch Residence - 17-19 Sparling St.
This home is associated with I.V. Fear, who was involved in the founding of the first telephone system in Seaforth. This house, built in 1895, has curved cast-stone window heads, ornamental gables, curved stained glass window heads in the living room and upper hall and a keyhole window opening to the front porch.



33 The Hansen Residence - 23 Sparling St.
Built in 1885, this was the residence of William Gray, a partner in Gray, Young and Sparling Salt Works. With its mixture of stylish elements, it becomes a "nameless vernacular" style of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture having a Queen Anne-like circular veranda and Italianate window hoods.



34 Broadfoot Planing Mill - 50 Market St.
An apartment building is here today, but in the late 1860s, John Broadfoot moved his planing mill business from Harpurhey to this location. William T. Box, a cabinet maker from Stratford, joined the business in 1876. By 1878, they had a planing mill and a two-storey factory. In 1894, they took over John Porter's Furniture business at 36 and 40 Main St. S (where the Seaforth BIA Office is) to use as their showroom. The factory buildings were left vacant for a decade before the Hesky Flax Company took them over in 1941.



Please note that due to health and safety regulations, these walking tours do not provide access to the industrial buildings and properties

VANASTRA HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Welcome to the former Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) No. 5 Clinton! As a former top-secret air force base and military installation, Vanastra is quite a unique community. The initial air base was established in 1941 by the Royal Air Force with the purchase of a 100-acre farm. The base was used to train and supply over 7,000 radar technicians and support staff for American, British and Canadian forces; radar, being a technology that was key to winning the Second World War.



After the war, the base grew as radar became even more important with the nuclear threat during the Cold War. At its peak, the base grew to 250 acres with an on-site population of over 2,000 people. The base was shut down in 1972 and evolved into the community of Vanastra as the old military buildings were converted to residential and industrial uses.



Vanastra Recreation Centre - 26 Toronto Blvd

You are standing in front of the former Protestant Chapel, which was acquired by an enthusiastic citizens' group after the base closed in 1971. With support from the community, it was converted into the Vanastra Recreation Centre, which houses a heated indoor pool, fully equipped fitness facility and community hall. It is also home to the Vanastra Early Childhood Learning Centre.



1 Home of the Thunderbolts - 7th Ave at end of Toronto Blvd

Home of the "Clinton Thunderbolts-The Champs of 1962," the arena saw Air Force as well as civilian teams face-off at center ice providing fast-paced entertainment for fans of the game. The 23,000 sq. ft. ice skating arena, officially opened on March 4, 1961, included seating for 500 spectators, dressing rooms, offices and storage areas. Its ice surface was comparable to that of Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens. Sadly, after the phase-out of CFB Clinton, the arena burned to the ground due to the spontaneous combustion of the hay stored within it.



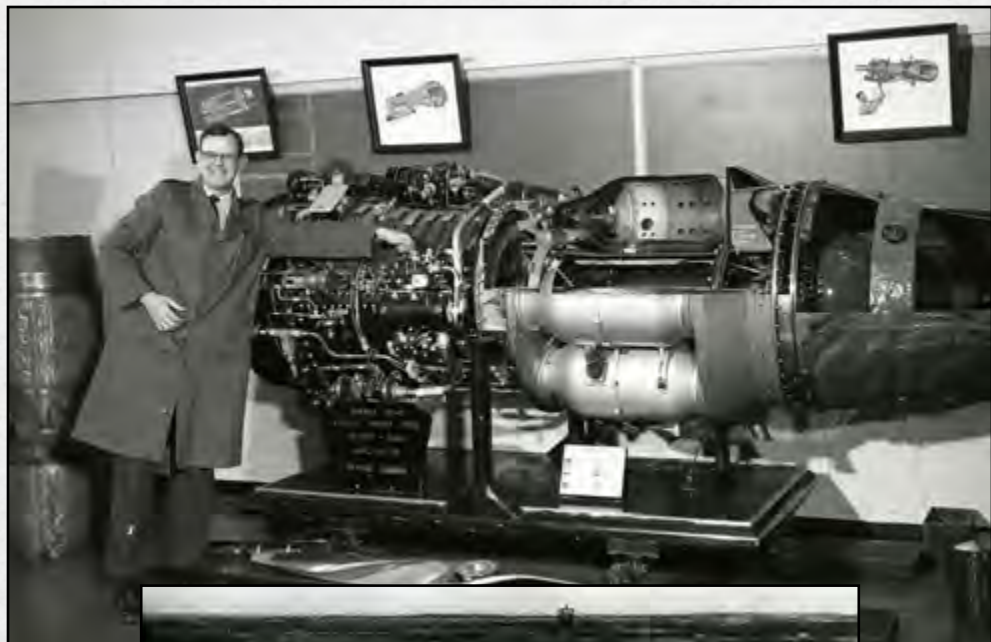
2 Mess Hall - Other Ranks (Junior Ranks) - 79 7th Ave.

From a central kitchen, food service staff prepared and served up to 3,000 meals a day in its many-windowed dining wings for servicemen stationed at the Clinton Base. Mess Dinners were official occasions requiring formal uniform (mess kit) with strict adherence to tradition and customs; the most important on April 1st each year to mark the 1924 founding of the RCAF. A special Christmas dinner was also held annually at which Officers served non-commissioned members a full holiday feast, and the youngest member of the Wing became Wing Commander for the day.



3 Radar & Communications School - Applied Training - 25 Winnipeg Rd.

Applied Training was housed in three large Qyanset-type buildings connected by passageways and an adjoining entrance/administrative area. Under the supervision of skilled instructors, Radar and Telecommunication Operators as well as Radar and Telecommunication Technicians diligently put to practical use all the theory they had learned, in preparation for postings in the field or at other Canadian Forces installations. The Technician knew and understood what was going on inside the black boxes and the Operator used the system of black boxes.



4 Radar & Communications School - 36 Winnipeg Rd.

The 150,000 square foot Radar & Communications School located on Winnipeg Street was built in 1952-53 at a cost of \$2.5 million dollars (\$20 million today). It had its own power generators, and housed electronic equipment, then valued at \$5 million dollars, in its 80 classrooms and laboratories. During its first year, the school graduated 2,000 students and within four years, 6,500 Canadians & 2,325 Americans graduated from its courses. Following the war, the world-class training centre at RCAF/CFB Clinton was designated a peacetime Signals School.



5 CFB Clinton-Vanastra Curling Club - 39 1st Ave.

Since the first rock was thrown in the 1950's, the Curling Club has been well-used. Four ice sheets, locker rooms, social areas and the accoutrement's of the game made for a good time to be had by all. In 1981 with a provincial grant available for recreational facilities and through fundraising by members, the club was rebuilt, updating and guaranteeing its structural longevity. A new ladies change room was added in 2001-2002-form and function needed the addition of a few decor touches and more space.



6 The Radome - 40 1st Ave.

The building and dome were built to the specifications of Air Defence Command in 1960 to house a state-of-the-art radar antennae and its corresponding electronics. RADAR—an acronym of RAdio Detection And Ranging utilizes pulses of radio energy which show up on a radar set as a single line (the time base). When reflected from a target, a radio echo is sent to the receiver, and a vertical 'blip' appears on the time base line. From this, distance, speed and location are determined. During the war, operators also learned they could identify weather systems with radar—a surprise even to scientists.



7 Stone Pillars & Parade Grounds - 2nd St.

Designated an historic site in 1984, these pillars and gates stand in mute but powerful testament to Canadian ingenuity, capability, and international diplomacy. The fieldstone pillars and wrought iron gates on Highway 4 mark the original entrance to the Royal Canadian Air Force/ Canadian Forces Base Clinton established in 1941, site of the first Radar & Communications School in North America - second worldwide to the only other training establishment located in England as of the late 1930's. They also mark the entrance to the former Parade Grounds that currently store road salt used to maintain local roads during the winter months.



8 The Tyndall Farm & The Silo - Corner of 2nd St. and 5th Ave

In the midst of spring plowing, Norman Tyndall's life changed irrevocably in 1941. Four officers arrived at his home and within 48 hours, his 100-acre farm was purchased to become the future RCAF No. 5 Clinton base. Within 14 weeks of purchase, the first trainees arrived at the top-secret base to begin their Radar & Communications training. The first (RAF) Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Adrian Cocks, felt the farm's silo should remain as a 'mark of distinction' and as a result, it became affectionately called "Cocks' Folly".



9 Recreation Centre & Pool - 13 5th Ave

Built in 1941 as one of the Base's original buildings, the drill hall and physical training facility evolved into a very busy recreation and sports Centre. With the adjacent Olympic-standard swimming pool constructed in 1955, the "Rec" Centre, as it was known, was an important part of social life and exercise at CFB Clinton. Its large gymnasium, eight-lane bowling alley, exercise rooms, classrooms and ancillary areas comprised 35,000 square feet of space that facilitated countless hours of leisure time activities for base personnel and their families.



10 The Officers' Mess Hall - 3 7th Ave

As with others on the Base, the Officers' Mess was a place of camaraderie, special events, dining, socializing and also for entertaining distinguished guests. Originally this 15,400 sq. ft. building, now a retail enterprise and formerly the Red Maple Inn, contained two lounges, two bars, a television room, a dining room that could accommodate 200, kitchens and washrooms, all spread over four levels within two storeys. To the north just behind the building, the hillock that once surrounded the Officers' Mess pool can still be seen. A nearby outdoor patio added to the enjoyment of a summer's evening for those visiting the Mess.

A highlight at the Officers' Mess, as well as at other messes, was the family dinners held each month. Entire families gathered to enjoy a meal and the get-together. And those attending events at a Mess "dressed"—women donned evening wear and the enlisted men their mess kit (a more formal uniform). Local dignitaries, such as the Town of Clinton mayor, lawyers, physicians, bankers, and their wives were Associate Members of the Officers' Mess and were often invited there. It was a place of respite, a place where the responsibilities of command could be left at the door—along with headgear as none were worn by RCAF personnel once inside. The Officers' Mess was a private enclave amidst the busyness of the largest base in Canada.



BRUSSELS FAIRY DOOR TRAIL

The fairies of Brussels invite you to come and explore their unique village! From Homecoming Park (445 Turnberry St. Brussels), embark on your adventure by following one or more of our three routes! Search for fairy doors and fairy homes and gardens. Each door has been lovingly made and decorated to fit the fairy that lives in it. You will find them nestled against trees along the road or by businesses, churches and community facilities. We have highlighted a few locations along these routes for you to visit but we have mapped dozens more on our online map!

The fairies ask that you please respect their space and not touch them, their homes or their belongings as they could lose their magic! Keep in mind that fairies do move around, so please move on to another location if you do not see any.

For an up-to-date map of all the fairy door locations, please visit:

www.huroneast.com/tours



WALKING AND CYCLING TRAILS

Looking for some nature trails and paths for walking, cycling, skiing and snowshoeing? Huron East is fortunate to have well-maintained trails and trails that connect us to other communities.

ATWOOD TO HENFRYN TRAIL

LOCATION The trailhead is at the North-end of Henfryn on Henfryn Line

DISTANCE 6.5 km

SURFACE Flat, gravel surface

TRAIL USE

Walking,
Cycling, Cross-
Country Skiing,
Snowshoeing



G2G (GODERICH TO GUELPH) RAIL TRAIL



LOCATION Huron East trailheads in Walton and at McNaught Line (not far from Blyth Rd.)

DISTANCE 132 km

(~142 km with detours); 10.23 km between Huron East trailheads

SURFACE stonedust

TRAIL USE Walking, Cycling, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing

MUNN'S GROVE WALKING TRAIL

LOCATION corner of North St. and West St. in Seaforth

DISTANCE 550 m loop

SURFACE Flat, stonedust surface

TRAIL USE

Walking,
Snowshoeing,
Cycling



REA MEMORIAL TRACT



LOCATION 42817 Walton Rd., Walton

DISTANCE 1.2 km

SURFACE Natural and gravel surfaces. Slippery slopes and steps and old building foundations near trail

TRAIL USE Walking, Snowshoeing, Mountain Biking

CONSERVATION AREAS

- Brussels
- Clinton
- Ethel
- Maple Keys
- George Taylor



SPECIAL THANK YOU'S AND REFERENCES

Historical walking tours of Brussels, Seaforth and Vanastra were developed by the Huron East Economic Development Department and community volunteers a number of years ago. Thanks to the support of Huron County's Supporting Local Economic Development (SLED) Program, municipal staff were able to put together this guide featuring updated historical walking tours, the new Brussels Fairy Door Trail and our other walking and cycling trails.

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Information was collected from the following sources to update the Seaforth and Brussels Historical Walking Tours:

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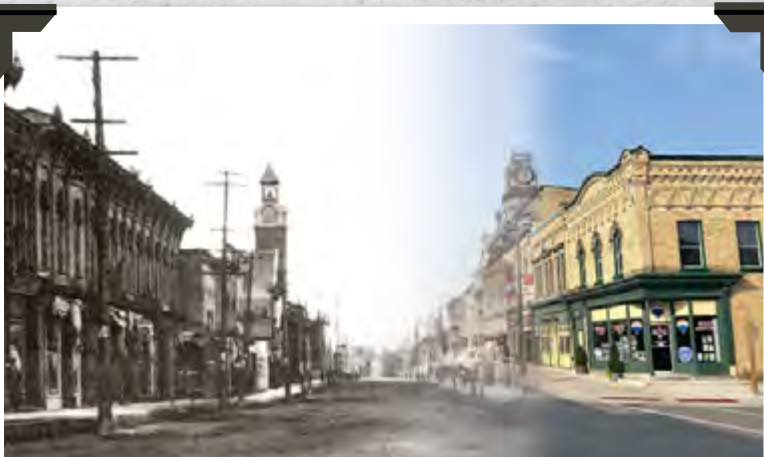
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REDISCOVER

HURON EAST



Downtown Brussels 1905 - *Present*



Downtown Seaforth 1905 - *Present*



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