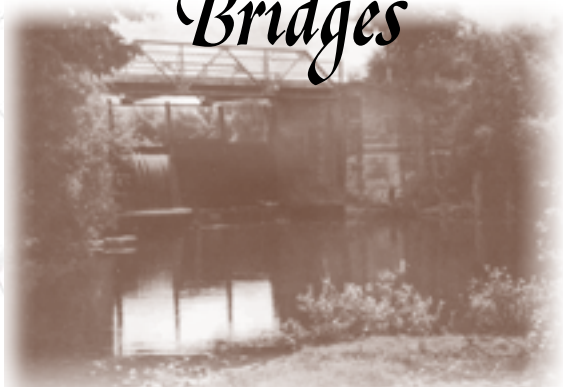


Tour Two

TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH

Historical DRIVING TOURS IN Waterloo Region

Mennonite Farms, Creeks, Rivers and Bridges



Winterbourne Dam, Waterloo County Scenic Calendar, 1999
DHC 2004.020.006

Distance: 95 km

Time: Approximately 2 hours

Country Lanes

START

1 Farmers' Market:

Waterloo Region is famous for its bustling farmers' markets. Most local markets are open Saturday mornings plus one additional midweek morning.

2 St. Jacobs (1830):

Originally called Jakobstettel, settled by John B. Bauman. Historical buildings include: St. Jacobs Country Mill (1852), blacksmith shop (1880), Benjamin's Inn originally the Farmer's Inn (1852), the Evangelical Church, antique market and the old shoe factory. The Visitor's Centre offers an accurate depiction of Mennonite beginnings, lifestyle and culture. Home of the original Home Hardware located on King St. The store's national warehouse is on Henry St.

3 Elmira (1840):

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

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

4 Grand River Valley:

As you crisscross over the Grand River take note of the historic bridges, spectacular views of the valley, and the many hiking trails.

5 West Montrose (1850s):

Land was purchased in this area as early as 1807 by Augustus Jones together with John and Jacob Erb, agents of the German Company, and was mainly settled by English and Scottish settlers. The

covered bridge, built in 1881, is the only surviving covered bridge in Ontario, and is locally known as the "Kissing Bridge" as it provides privacy for kissing couples.

6 Winterbourne (1814):

Originally known as Cox's Creek, Winterbourne has several older houses, Chalmers Presbyterian Church (1870), as well as a stone blacksmith shop.

7 Maryhill (New Germany) (1820's):

Historical buildings include St. Boniface R.C. Church (1877-1878), two inns (one est. in 1851), the Halter residence and a separate school built in 1896. There are interesting iron crosses in the cemetery.

8 Breslau:

Off route to the south is the village of Breslau where a ford across the Grand River was established in the 1820's. Joseph Erb laid out the village in 1857. In 1869 a flour mill, steam mill, and mechanics shop were built. Breslau Mennonite Church which was founded in 1834 has an interesting adjoining pioneer cemetery.

9 Bloomingdale:

The Grand River crossing at Bloomingdale, established in 1808, provided farmers with access to Abraham Erb's sawmill in Waterloo. Snyder's Flats was a popular picnic and recreation site in the late 1800's.

10 Conestogo (1830):

Founded by David Musselman. Early development in the 1840's was based on saw mills and flour mills. The historic core area contains many old Victorian homes.

11 Woodside National Historic Site:

The boyhood home of former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King has been restored to represent a middle-class home of the early 1890's.

Country Lanes

Mennonite Farms, Creeks, Rivers and Bridges



Mennonite and Germanic cultural, historical and architectural diversity awaits you on this tour. Leaving Waterloo, the road passes local farmers' markets then heads to St. Jacobs where fashion, quilts, crafts and antiques can be found.

Follow the clip-clop of horse drawn buggies into the rich countryside where Mennonite farmsteads with their fertile fields and gardens are easily recognizable. In summer, wheat stooks and haying with horse and wagon remind us of simpler times.

Stroll through towns and villages, sample mouth-watering local food, meander on trails and enjoy views of the Canadian Heritage Grand River Watershed. Take note of the West Montrose covered bridge and the spire of Maryhill's St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church that guides the way to where people from Alsace-Lorraine settled.

You may end the journey with a visit to Woodside, the childhood home of former Prime Minister William Lyon McKenzie King by turning left of Wellington St, or turn right to return to Waterloo Town Square via Wellington and King Streets. Gute Riese!

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

STARTS at Waterloo Town Square. At the front of the square turn left on King, left on Bridgeport Rd. and then right on Albert. (You cannot turn left on Erb from King as it is a one way street going the wrong way).

Note: Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution as you share the roads with horse drawn vehicles.

Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route.



Region of Waterloo

HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact
PLANNING, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
at the Region of Waterloo (519) 575-4047
or email planninginfo@region.waterloo.on.ca

www.region.waterloo.on.ca

St. Jacobs Points of Interest:

St. Jacobs Country Mill (1852), blacksmith shop (1880), Benjamins Inn (1852), Evangelical Church.

Elmira Points of Interest:

Bristow Inn, historic bandshell, horse drawn buggies.

Legend

-  Driving Tour
-  Starting Point
-  Heritage Building/Landmark
-  Trail
-  Church/Meeting House
-  View
-  Old School House
-  Farm
-  Cemetery
-  Historic Bridge
-  Lakes/River
-  Information

Maryhill Points of Interest:
St. Boniface R.C. Church (1877-1878)
two inns (one est. in 1851).

Woodside National Historic Site Point of Interest:
The boyhood home of former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

Breslau Points of Interest:
Flour mill, steam mill and mechanics shop.

