

ELGIN COUNTY Heritage Guide



Port Stanley Terminal Rail



Aylmer Old Town Hall Theatre & Library



The St. Thomas Armoury



"All Tangled Up" Barn Quilt

• www.elgintourist.com/heritage •


ElginCounty

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Heritage Tree



Manuel Payne House

• HISTORY OF ELGIN COUNTY •



Fingal Wildlife Management Area



Ye Olde Jail



Aylmer Town Hall

The Attawandaron, also known as the Neutral Nation established villages and grew crops in this area of Southwestern Ontario until the mid 17th century. In 1803 Colonel Thomas Talbot, son of an Anglo-Irish nobleman, arrived on the fertile shores of Elgin County. Over the next 30 years, in his role as official land agent, he oversaw the settlement of 3,000 residents in the area stretching from Woodstock to Windsor. Settlers fulfilled conditions such as building roads and clearing land.

During the War of 1812, American raiders plagued the settlement, burning mills and stealing horses, clothing, food and any possessions they could carry. Colonel Thomas Talbot was a target for capture but was never caught. After the war, more settlers arrived: Highland Scots, Irish and Quakers from Pennsylvania. Towns appeared and ports developed along Lake Erie's shores.

Railways arrived in the 1850s. Over the next 50 years five railway lines were established through St. Thomas and Elgin. It was here in 1885 that a locomotive killed Jumbo the elephant, owned by circus impresario P.T. Barnum.

Plants such as the Carnation Milk Company and the Aylmer Canning Factory (Canadian Cannery Limited) in Aylmer as well as cheese factories and fisheries made food processing a key industry. Sandy soils in the County's east were ideal for tobacco production and the Imperial Leaf Tobacco Company opened a plant in Aylmer in 1946.

Today, Elgin County's storied past can be found in the historic village of Sparta, the Southwold Earthworks near Iona, its many museums, and during events such as Doors Open each autumn.

• MUSEUMS & ARCHIVES •

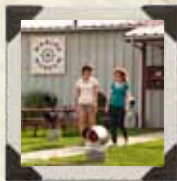
Museums provide a link to our region's rich culture and serve as a source of learning and discovery for visitors. Refer to the museum listings below to plan your next museum visit.



Edison Museum of Vienna

14 Snow Street, Vienna
Phone: 519-874-4999
Off Season: 519-866-5521
www.bayham.on.ca

The Edison Museum of Vienna features many authentic Edison artifacts and furniture. Some of the furniture and artifacts displayed in the Edison Museum were donated by the late Mrs. Nora Edison Coombe. Nora was a first cousin of the inventor Thomas Alva Edison and the last remaining descendant with the Edison name to live in Vienna, Ontario, Canada. Seasonal hours, please call ahead.



Port Burwell Marine Museum & Historic Lighthouse

20 Pitt Street, Port Burwell
Phone: 519-874-4807
Off Season: 519-866-5521
www.bayham.on.ca

This Museum is located across from the 1840s historic Lighthouse in Port Burwell. The Marine Museum houses one of the finest collections of lighthouse lenses on the Great Lakes. On-going activities are hosted throughout the summer. Seasonal hours, please check website.



Aylmer - Malahide Museum & Archives

14 East Street, Aylmer
Phone: 519-773-9723
March Tundra Swan Line: 519-773-7926
www.amtelecom.net/~aylmermuseum/

This community museum preserves, promotes, and presents the history of the town of Aylmer and Malahide Township. The museum offers educational lessons, archives and special events. There are rotating exhibits, displays, public programs and publications. Seasonal hours. Archival appointments please call ahead.



Gay Lea Dairy Heritage Museum

48075 Jamestown Line, RR#2, Aylmer
Phone: 519-773-2955
www.dairyheritemuseum.ca

Owned and operated by Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd., the museum offers a wide variety of dairy and agricultural artifacts for people of all ages. Displays include information about the rich agricultural history of Southern Ontario, sleigh and vehicles, blacksmith and barrel-making corners. Seasonal hours, off season tours by appointment.



Elgin County Archives

450 Sunset Drive, Lower Level, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-631-1460 ext.154

Preserves and provides access to Elgin County municipal records, photographs and other records of Alma College, Scott Photographic Studio, Andersons Department Store, Elgin County Women's Institutes, St. Thomas Times-Journal, Ford St. Thomas Assembly Plant, hundreds of maps and plans, and resources for tracing family history. Open year round.

*Photo Courtesy of Elgin County Archives.



Elgin County Railway Museum

225 Wellington Street, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-637-6284
www.ecrm5700.org

Visitors to the Elgin County Railway Museum have the opportunity to see firsthand the inner workings of a real locomotive shop. Stop by to view an impressive collection of artifacts, or visit during one of the museum's various events throughout the year, including the immensely popular Day Out with Thomas! Please check website for hours of operation.



Elgin Military Museum

30 Talbot Street, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-633-7641
www.elginmilitarymuseum.ca

The Elgin Military Museum was formed in 1979 to recognize the contribution of Elgin County citizens who were called upon to face the extraordinary circumstances of war. Visitors will gain behind-the-scenes insight into life in military service from the War of 1812 to the present and the impact local citizens have had on Canadian history.



Elgin County Museum

4th Floor, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-631-1460 x160
www.elgincounty.ca

The Elgin County Museum presents a series of changing exhibitions, some on loan, and some drawn from its extensive permanent collection. Lectures, demonstrations and special events occur throughout the year. The museum is open year round, featuring a small gift shop and tourist information.



North America Railway Hall of Fame

750 Talbot Street, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-633-2535
www.narhf.org

The Canada Southern Railway Station is a dynamic, highly visible, beautifully restored station, functioning as the catalyst to St. Thomas' overall downtown revitalization. Thousands of people each year come to admire this unique historical structure in the heart of downtown St. Thomas. Open year round, and available for rentals.



Dowler - Karn Museum

43841 Talbot Line, St. Thomas
Phone: 519-631-3810
www.dowlerkarn.com

The "Karn Collection" consists of over 10,000 pieces, including oil paintings and local memorabilia collected for the past 50 years by Jack, Joyce, John, Barb and David Karn. Open every Wednesday from 10am - 4pm or by appointment for tours or groups.



Ye Old Forge and Anvil Museum

46316 Sparta Line, Sparta
Phone: 519-775-2292

Built in 1827, this cob (clay and straw) building was a blacksmith's shop. It now houses the Sparta and District Historical Society's museum of artifacts from the community. Learn about pioneer skills as you watch weavers, spinners and others demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Seasonal hours, please call ahead.



Sparta Church Museum and Cultural Centre

6073 Quaker Road, Sparta
Phone: 519-775-2292

Sparta's newest museum presents a series of changing exhibits from April to October. It also features special events throughout the year and is available for weddings and special celebrations. Seasonal hours, please call ahead.



Stork Club Big Band Museum & Hall of Fame

302 Bridge Street, Port Stanley
www.musicmemories.ca

Visit the Interpretive Centre and Hall of Fame, dedicated to the history of the Stork Club Dance Pavilion and the revival and enjoyment of Swing Era Big Band Music. The Stork Club was one of the most famous dance halls in North America. Open year round.



Backus-Page House Museum

29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown
Phone: 519-762-3072
www.backuspagehouse.ca

Amidst the beauty of John E. Pearce Provincial Park, in the heart of the Talbot Settlement is the Backus-Page House Museum. This Georgian style house has been restored as closely as possible to its 1850s state and is home to a living history museum. Please check website for seasonal hours. Open year round by appointment.

BARN QUILT TRAILS

The Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails

Explore Elgin County's heritage with the Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails. These trails run through the Counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk and Brant as well as the City of Brantford and tell the stories of the communities, families and events that comprise the region's rich heritage.

Barn quilt trails use colourful, decorative murals based on quilt block designs as markers to signal historical and other points of interest. The quilt blocks are painted on an eight foot square wooden frame hung on the side of a barn or farm building or set on free standing posts.

They highlight not only the area's history in a refreshing way, but also the beauty of the quilt designs themselves. All of the trails are accessible by car or bicycle but please remember that the barn quilts are located on private property.

Enjoy Elgin's history, the scenic lakeshore, bustling towns and picturesque countryside!

For more information on the Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails please visit www.barnquilttrails.ca.

Settlement Stories Quilt Trail

A cultural tourism adventure awaits you on the Settlement Stories Quilt Trail. The Quilt Trail showcases unique cultural businesses with a large quilt block sign, which is symbolic of the place. A story of the business, the importance of its history to our settlement area and the reason for that quilt block is assigned to each site. From Port Burwell Provincial Park to the Amish community, discover the heritage behind the businesses of Elgin County. For more information and a printable map visit www.settlementstoriesquilttrail.org.

Dutton/Dunwich Barn Quilt Trail

A trail of 16 new barn quilts has been installed on barns in the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich. Each was hand-painted by members of the community and employ traditional quilt patterns to tell the story of the farms, their founders and owners and the crops and products that once grew on them. As well, five others can be found on structures at the Wallacetown fair grounds. Visit www.elgintourist.com/heritage for more information.

* "Indian Trail" Photo Courtesy of Jan Row.



"Indian Trail", Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails



War of 1812: Defending the Talbot Settlement

• WAR OF 1812 •

Elgin County and the War of 1812

June 18th, 1812, President James Madison and the United States Congress declared war on Great Britain. Battles raged throughout North America for over two years before peace was negotiated.

During this time, American raids plagued Colonel Thomas Talbot's settlement, particularly during 1814 as American soldiers and sympathizers roamed freely along Lake Erie between Detroit and Brantford, burning mills and stealing horses.

2012 marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and celebrations are planned throughout the region to commemorate 200 years of peace. Battle re-enactments, art exhibits, educational lectures and heritage visits are all part of the festivities that will run from 2012-2014.

For more information please visit www.westerncorridor1812.com.



"The Thames", Dutton/Dunwich Barn Quilt Trail



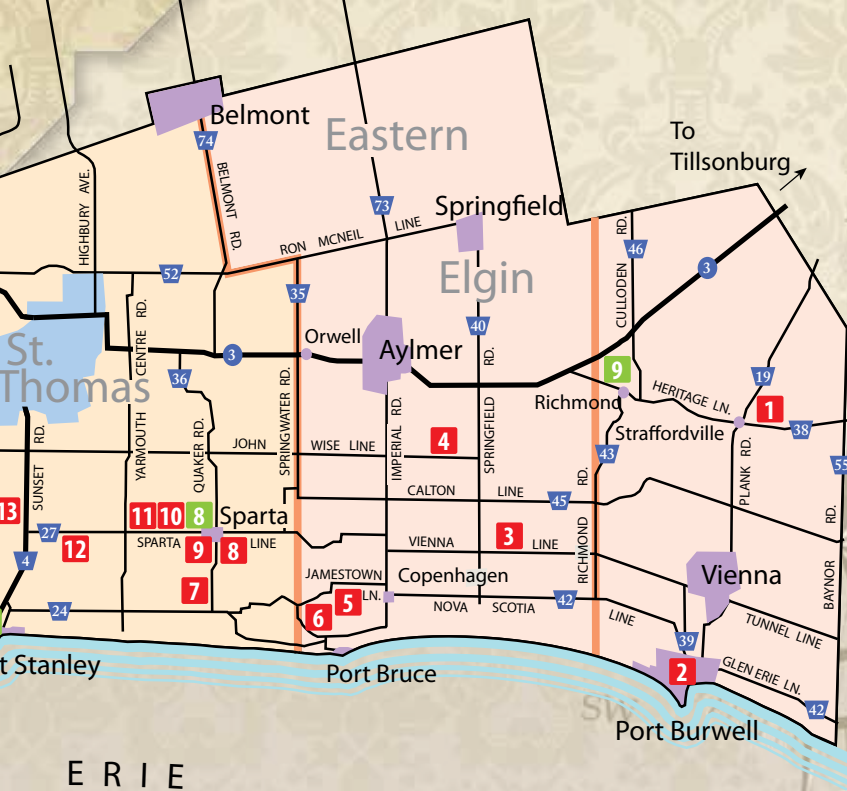
Union Jack", Settlement Stories Quilt Trail

Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails

- 1 Railway Crossing**
56486 Heritage Line, Straffordville
- 2 Compass Rose**
Port Burwell Lighthouse,
17 Robinson Street, Port Burwell
- 3 Pinwheel Star**
Mennill Farm, 51200 Vienna Line,
Malahide
- 4 Bike Wheel**
Luton Community Centre, 50182
John Wise Line, Malahide
- 5 Churn Dash**
Gay Lea Dairy Heritage Museum,
48075 Jamestown Line, Malahide
- 6 Rippling Waters**
Pineo Farm, 47972 Rush Creek
Road, Port Bruce
- 7 Baby Blocks**
Winter Wheat, 5277 Quaker Road,
Sparta
- 8 Little House**
Anything Used, 46361 Sparta Line,
Sparta
- 9 Drunkard's Path**
Morgan Nina's, Corner of Sparta
Line and Hiram Smith Lane, Sparta
- 10 Sugar Maple**
Burgess Barn, 45644 Sparta Line,
Central Elgin
- 11 Evening Star**
Haight-Zavitz House,
45358 Sparta Line, Central Elgin
- 12 Oak Plains**
Plains Baptist Church, 6071
Fairview Road, Central Elgin
- 13 Corn and Beans**
Hayhoe Farm, 6679 Sunset Road,
Central Elgin
- 14 Grandmother's Apple Basket**
Great Lakes Farms,
5111 Union Road, Central Elgin

- 15 Log Cabin**
Shaw Barn, 38662 Fingal Line,
Southwold
- 16 Grist Mill**
Tufford Farm, 37632 Fingal Line,
Southwold
- 17 Scotch Squares**
Brent and Lori Clutterbuck,
6740 Union Road, Southwold
- 18 Indian Trail**
Brown Farm, 33280 Fingal Line,
Southwold
- 19 Dutch Apple**
VanBrenk Fruit Farms,
31760 Erin Line,
Dutton-Dunwich
- 20 Irish Star**
Backus-Page House Museum Barn
29424 Lakeview Line,
Wallacetown
- 21 Star of Bethlehem**
McKillop Farm, 30312 Talbot Line,
Wallacetown





- 22 Rail Fence**
Community Hall, 29593 Talbot Line, Wallacetown
- 23 Four Corners**
Country Seat, 28143 Talbot Line, Dutton-Dunwich
- 24 Welcome With Open Arms**
Lavender Sense, 28011 Ash Line, Wallacetown
- 25 All Tangled Up**
McKillop Farm, 24810 Talbot Line, Eagle
- 26 Peace Star**
Ford Farm, 20272 Talbot Line, West Elgin
- 27 June and John Purcell**
21850 Johnston Line, West Elgin
- 28 Ship at Sea**
Ann and Doug Neville
22924 Johnston Line, West Elgin
- 29 Bounty from the Thames – Fish**
John and Christine Johnston
15611 Morrison Road, West Elgin
- 30 Rising Sun**
Beattie Haven
Retirement Community
23328 Beattie Line, West Elgin

Route 1812: Talbot Trail

- 1 Mill stones rescued from a War of 1812 raid
Memorial Park, 8650 Furnival Road, Port Glasgow
- 2 Site of Gen. Brock's stop on the route to Detroit, August 11, 1812
McColl Cemetery,
24724 Talbot Line, West Elgin
*No plaque present
- 3 Backus-Page House Museum
29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown
- 4 Talbot Settlement National Historic Sites Plaque, Port Talbot
32109 Fingal Line, Wallacetown
- 5 Col. Mahlon Burwell Grave
St. Stephen's Anglican Church graveyard,
33105 Fingal Line, Dutton-Dunwich
- 6 McArthur's raid stop,
November 11, 1814
Rapelje Farm Site, 140 Talbot Street, St. Thomas
*No plaque present
- 7 Col. John Bostwick grave and plaque
Christ Anglican Church,
283 Colborne Street, Port Stanley
- 8 Jonathan Doan and the Settlement of Sparta, 1813
Sparta Community Hall,
46272 Sparta Line, Sparta
- 9 McArthur's raid stop,
November 10, 1814
Defield Farm site, Richmond Village, Municipality of Bayham
*No plaque present

Southwest Ontario Barn Quilt Trails and Route 1812 Sites

HERITAGE EVENTS

Vimy Ridge Lecture

www.elgincounty.ca

Elgin County Museum honours the memory of Wallacetown native Lance-Sgt. Ellis W. Sifton, who was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his actions on the first day of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, by hosting a lecture on some aspect of the battle. Subjects of past talks have included the cave carvings below the battlefield and the identification of unknown soldiers. Early April.

War of 1812: Defending the Talbot Settlement

www.backuspagehouse.ca

The grounds of the Backus-Page House Museum will come alive with re-enactors, sutlers, and historical interpreters. Visitors experience the impact the War of 1812 had on the lives of the people in the early Talbot Settlement along the shores of Lake Erie. Enjoy food, learning, shopping, displays, performers, and military re-enactments.

Railway Nostalgia Weekend

www.ecrm5700.org

Re-live the great rail adventure at the Elgin County Railway Museum! Discover local railway heritage with interpreters in costume, historical demonstrations, artifacts, model railway displays, children's activities, train hobby show vendors, railway art, locomotives, jiggers, cabooses and more.

Elgin County Heritage is a rich tapestry made of thousands of unique stories. We invite you to a wide variety of special historic events happening throughout the year. From Railway Nostalgia Weekend to Doors Open, discover, admire, be inspired, or relive an adventure.

Elgin Historical Show

www.kettlecreekconservation.on.ca

Each year, the young and old gather the second weekend in August at the Dan Patterson Conservation Area to re-live our historic rural past. Steam threshing, steam & horse ploughing, working saw mill, shingle saw spinning, gas engines, antique cars and trucks, crafts, toys, blacksmithing, a furnished old log cabin and a farmer's market are just some of the attractions. Sponsored by the Kettle Valley Pioneers.

Doors Open Ontario

www.doorsopenontario.on.ca

Doors Open is a Cultural and Heritage Event. Learn about Elgin-St. Thomas' rich culture and history by visiting commercial buildings, courthouses, places of worship, gardens, natural heritage and other heritage sites. Open the doors to some of the most intriguing and charming heritage sites. Admission is free.

Visit the Doors Open Ontario website for a complete listing of participating sites for Doors Open East Elgin, Doors Open Port Stanley & Sparta, and Doors Open St. Thomas.

Heritage Farm Show

www.backuspagehouse.ca

This annual show at the Backus-Page House Museum features steam engines, working horses, threshing, blacksmithing, antiques, tractors, farmer's markets, children's activities, machinery exhibits and more.

Culture Days

www.culturedays.ca

Culture Days is a free annual event designed to invite the public to celebrate and explore arts and culture in communities in every province and territory in Canada. Visit the Culture Days website to learn more about the activities happening in Elgin County and St. Thomas.

Springwater Maple Syrup Festival

www.catfishcreek.ca

Each March, visit the pancake house and the old-fashioned sugar shanty at Springwater Conservation Area for maple products, samples, horse-drawn wagon rides and heritage demonstrations.

Sparta Historical Re-enactment Dinner

The Sparta & District Historical Society annually host a re-enactment dinner the second Saturday in November featuring the food and entertainment of different eras in our history from 1813 to the 1930s. The meal is served by candle light in the old blacksmith shop and all workers are in period costume, as well as many of the guests. Call 519-775-2292 for more information or tickets.

Monthly Lectures on Collection

www.amtelecom.net/~aylmermuseum

"Speaking for the Collection", is a monthly program brought to you by the Aylmer – Malahide Museum and Archives. The last Thursday of each month (March - November) at the Perc Restaurant, Talbot Street East, Aylmer, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. For details and listings on antique topics visit the Aylmer – Malahide Museum and Archives website or call 519-773-9723.

Old St. Thomas Church Christmas Carol Sing

www.elgintourist.com

The famous Christmas Carol Sing is an annual tradition at the Old St. Thomas Church. The event features the Salvation Army Band. Enjoy homemade church shaped cookies, mince tarts, hot cider, and carol singing.



Railway Nostalgia Weekend



Springwater Maple Syrup Festival



Elgin Historical Show

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL PLAQUES

Provincial Plaques in Elgin County

Ontario Heritage Trust's Provincial Plaque Program makes Ontario's history come alive by telling stories of the people, places and events that helped shape our province. They enrich our sense of place. They also introduce newcomers and visitors to the unique character of each region of the province. Provincial plaques located in Elgin County and St. Thomas are included on this page.

Eastern Elgin

The Founding of Aylmer

Corner of Talbot St. West and Centre St. by Town Hall, Aylmer

Lieutenant-Colonel Mahlon Burwell 1783-1846

At the Library, Pitt and Eriev St., Port Burwell

The Edison Homestead

Former homestead, near Otter Creek, Highway 19, southwest of Vienna

The Founding of Springfield

Municipal Building, Ron McNeil Line (formerly Main St.), Springfield

Port Burwell Lighthouse, 1840

In Port Burwell, at the lighthouse on County Road 19, 1 block south of County Road 42

St. Thomas

Honourable Mitchell F. Hepburn, 1896-1953

Mitchell Hepburn Park, Talbot St., St. Thomas

Old St. Thomas Church, 1824

55 Walnut St., St. Thomas

Colonel The Honourable Thomas Talbot 1771-1853

Elgin County Court House, Wellington St., St. Thomas

Captain Daniel Rapelje 1774-1828

City Hall, 545 Talbot St., St. Thomas

Dr. Charles Duncombe 1791-1867

Elgin Military Museum, 32 Talbot St., St. Thomas

Jumbo

Woodworth Ave., at the CNR crossing, St. Thomas

Canada Southern Railway Station

750 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

Centre Elgin

The Quaker Settlement at Sparta

Friends' Cemetery, Union Rd., County Road 27, just west of Sparta

The Honourable John Rolph, M.D. 1793-1870

On south side of Fingal Line, formerly Talbot Road, just west of Highway #4

Lieutenant-Colonel John Bostwick 1780-1849

Christ Church, Colborne and Matilda St., Port Stanley

The London and Port Stanley Railway

At train station by lift bridge in Port Stanley

RCAF N° 4 Bombing and Gunnery School

West of Fingal on Fingal Line

The Talbot Road

West of Highway #4, on Fingal Line, formerly Talbot Road West, just outside the town of St. Thomas

RCAF Technical Training School, St. Thomas

Former school, opposite the Elgin County Administrative Building, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas



Western Elgin

St. Peter's Church, 1827

In Tyrconnell, County Road 8, south east of Wallacetown near John E. Pearce Provincial Park

St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery

In Tyrconnell, County Road 8, south east of Wallacetown near John E. Pearce Provincial Park (across the street from "St. Peter's Church" plaque)

Ellis Wellwood Sifton, V.C. 1891-1917

In Tyrconnell, County Road 8, south east of Wallacetown near John E. Pearce Provincial Park

Federal Plaques in Elgin County

The Talbot Settlement

Port Talbot, 10 km south of Wallacetown

Southwold Earthworks

Iona Road, south of Highway #3, a walking path back from road

Port Stanley

On cairn at main corner in Port Stanley



Port Stanley



Trinity Anglican Church



St. Peter's Church

CHURCHES & CEMETERIES

Churches and cemeteries play an integral role in the settlement of communities, faith and worship. The historic churches and cemeteries below are only a sample of the sites in our area, for a full listing visit www.elgintourist.com/heritage.



Have a smartphone?
Scan this QR code
to go straight to URL



Port Burwell Trinity Anglican Church and Cemetery

25 Pitt Street, Port Burwell

This historic church, built in 1836 by Colonel Mahlon Burwell, is known for its warm atmosphere and beautiful stained glass windows. Many of the early pioneers are buried in the cemetery. The earliest recorded burial was 1818. Many pioneers died during an epidemic that raged through the village in 1878, including many at a tender young age. Weekly services are available to the public. *Provincial plaque on site.*



St. Peter's Anglican Church and Cemetery (Colonel Talbot's grave)

29596 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown

St. Peter's is one of the oldest churches in Southwestern Ontario. Opened in 1827, it is one of two churches west of Niagara Falls to have been in use for over 175 years. It was erected by the first settlers of Tyrconnell on 10 acres of land donated by Mary Storey. The spire and belfry were added in 1845 by Edward Matthews of London. It has come a long way from when the carpenters work bench was used as a pulpit.

Provincial plaque on site.



Old St. Thomas Church and Cemetery,

55 Walnut Street, St. Thomas

The Old St. Thomas Church was built in 1824 and was used for regular worship of area pioneers from 1824 to 1877. It is a brick construction typical of early pioneers, with lancete windows and a castellated tower on which sits a spire. The building continues to be used for public worship and tours during the summer months. The church is surrounded by the pioneer cemetery where most of the early settlers and their descendants are buried. *Provincial plaque on site.*



Quaker Meeting House

6387 Quaker Road, Sparta

The Quaker Meeting House was the third meeting house built in 1865 in the village of Sparta. The first two were built at the Quaker Cemetery, but this colonial style meeting house was built on the current site as many Quakers had settled to the north of the village.

HISTORY OF EASTERN ELGIN

Eastern Elgin encompasses the Municipality of Bayham, the Township of Malahide and the Town of Aylmer. Many communities in eastern Elgin County including Straffordville and Richmond are located along the original Talbot Road route. Colonel Malon Burwell surveyed this road in the first part of the 19th century and was given land for his services including what was later the fishing village of Port Burwell. Considerable amounts of timber cut from the lush forests of Bayham Township were shipped from here as barrel staves in the mid-19th century. In the 1890s a railway built along the historic Plank Road took vacationers to the lakeside at Port Burwell and brought coal to Tillsonburg to fuel the Canadian Pacific Railway. The nearby village of Vienna was once larger than Port Burwell and was founded by the great grandparents of famed inventor Thomas Alva Edison.

The neighbouring Township of Malahide is named for Malahide Castle in Dublin Ireland, the ancestral home of Colonel Thomas Talbot. Malahide's numerous dairy farms and fertile farmland gave rise to evaporated milk and canning plants in the Aylmer area. Malahide is home to Springfield, a village that sprang up as a result of the Michigan Central Railway, and to Port Bruce a village sustained by the fishing and cottage industries.

In 1817 John Van Patter, an emigrant from New York State, obtained 200 acres of land and became the first to settle at the site of present day Aylmer. At the time the settlement was called Troy but was renamed in 1835 for Lord Aylmer the then Governor-General of British North America. By the mid-1860s Aylmer became the marketing centre for a rich agricultural and timber producing area. Aylmer was incorporated as a village in 1872 and as a town in 1887. Over the next several decades Aylmer became the home of many food production plants. Aylmer Cannery was established in 1881 and is still a well-known name in canned fruit and vegetables today. In 1946 the Imperial Tobacco processing plant opened and would stay in the town for over 60 years.



Aylmer Old Town Hall Theatre & Library



Ontario Police College

• EASTERN ELGIN ATTRACTIONS •



Aylmer Old Town Hall Theatre & Library

38 John Street

Visit the Old Town Hall completed in 1874 and admire the original Italianate architectural design, arcaded brickwork, boldly-modelled cornice, and the beautiful Florentine windows. Sit in the Opera house where famous poetess Pauline Johnson once graced the stage in the 1880s and where Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald addressed the residents of Aylmer. Visits will require prior arrangements by calling 519-773-3164.



Aylmer Bandshell

Northeast corner of Centre Street
& Sydenham in the Town Square

The Aylmer Bandshell was built in 1940 as a venue for the Aylmer Boy's Band. The Art Deco Style structure fell into disrepair but was restored in 2010-11 with funds generously donated by the late Dorothy Palmer.

Every Wednesday evening visitors can enjoy live music from mid-June to mid-September.



Amish Community

Glencolin Line, Aylmer

The Old Order Amish community is located on Glencolin Line, Aylmer. Life on Amish farms continues the way it has for generations, with horse-drawn farm equipment and buggies, traditional dress and limited use of modern technology. As you drive through the country roads Amish families can often be seen working in their fields and gardens, gathering the fruits of their labours.

*Photo Courtesy of the Town of Aylmer.



Site of the Royal Salute

Wonnacott Park, Port Bruce Harbour

The plaque tells the history of Port Bruce dating back to 1761 with the arrival of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir William Johnson, who came to negotiate with the native tribes. Other notable historical buildings are the Port Bruce Manor built in 1860, and the 1854 Rocabore Inn (both are private residences now).



Elgin Military Museum of Naval History and the submarine HMCS Ojibwa

3 Pitt Street, Port Burwell, Ontario
www.projectojibwa.ca

Starting in 2013, visitors to the Elgin Military Museum of Naval History will be able to experience for themselves what life was like onboard the HMCS Ojibwa, Canada's first Oberon Class submarine. Scheduled for 2014, the adjacent interpretive centre will take visitors a step further, exposing stories that can only now be told of our exploits in war, espionage and peacetime service.



Port Burwell Historic Lighthouse

17 Robinson Street, Port Burwell

The Port Burwell lighthouse was constructed in 1840. It was part of a national network of light stations equipped with beacon lights to warn or guide ships at sea. The Port Burwell light was used to aid navigation and commercial shipping of local timber on Lake Erie. The tower is 13.7 metres high with its fixed, white light visible for 19 kilometres. It is the oldest wooden lighthouse on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie and one of the oldest surviving lights in Canada.

Provincial plaque on site.



Luton Schoolhouse

County Rd #45

The first schoolhouse was built in the area in 1840 on this lot. Sometime around 1877 a new brick schoolhouse was built and was in use until 1968. Barn Quilt site.



Pinecroft

8122 Rogers Road South, Aylmer

Arthur Caverly had the vision in the 1920s to plant 85,000 pine seedlings and dredge a 2 ½ acre lake with a team of horses. This early conservation project has grown into the beautiful tranquility of Pinecroft Pottery also known as "A Little Muskoka Serenity." Pinecroft Pottery was started by Arthur Caverly's daughter Selma and her husband Jimmie Clennell in 1948, and is known as the oldest continually family operated pottery studio in Canada. Today Pinecroft is owned and operated by Arthur's granddaughter Brenda (Caverly) Smith and her family.



Ontario Police College

10716 Hacienda Road, Aylmer

In the early 1950s, it was proposed by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police the idea of a central provincial police academy. In 1962 the Attorney General announced the formal establishment of the college, and in 1963, the first classes were held on the present site using buildings from a former RCAF base near Aylmer, Ontario.

The present facility, operational since 1976, provides training to police officers to safely and effectively perform their duties upon graduation. The college also employs over 165 full and part-time staff providing the most up-to-date police training courses available.



Aylmer Town Hall (Former Post Office)

46 Talbot Street West

Aylmer's present Town Hall occupies the former post office and customs house and was bought by the Town after the new post office was built in 1974. This building was constructed in 1913-14 by the Borden Government at the instigation of David Marshall, MP for East Elgin and a loyal supporter of Mr. Borden's Conservative Party.

• HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ST. THOMAS •

The City of St. Thomas was first settled in 1810 and named after Colonel Thomas Talbot who settled the area in the early 1800s. The City was named the seat of the newly-created Elgin County in 1852 and was incorporated as a village in 1852, as a town in 1861 and as a city in 1881.

The railway arrived in St. Thomas in the 1850s and played an important role in shaping the growth and development of the community. The L&PS (London & Port Stanley Railway) was constructed in 1856 to facilitate freight and passenger traffic between London and Port Stanley. This railway opened up new markets for farmers and merchants, and as the centre point between the two locations, St. Thomas prospered.

The Canada Southern Railway made St. Thomas its headquarters and completed the impressive Canada Southern Railway Station (CASO). By 1883, it was owned by the Michigan Central Railway (later the New York Central), whose immense 1913 locomotive shops still stand. The Great Western Railway (later Grand Trunk) entered St. Thomas soon after, followed by the Wabash (later Norfolk-Southern), the Pere Marquette (later Chesapeake and Ohio), and the Credit Valley Railway (later the CPR). Three division offices and shops were built in the city sparking phenomenal growth and the railway became a way of life in St. Thomas for the next half a century. In 1906 approximately 46 passenger trains and numerous freight trains came in and out of St. Thomas on a daily basis.

Jumbo the Elephant owned by circus impresario P.T. Barnum was tragically killed in St. Thomas in 1885 when he was struck by a locomotive as he crossed the railway tracks.

The popularity of automobile transportation after World War II caused the railway to decline. Innovation and foresight allowed the city of St. Thomas to move away from the declining railway industry and into the auto and manufacturing industries. With recent uncertainty surrounding these industries, St. Thomas has once again begun to diversify its economy.

*Photo Courtesy of Elgin County Archives.



Talbot Street, St. Thomas, ca. 1929-1930



Canada Southern Railway Station

ST. THOMAS ATTRACTIONS



BX Tower

Moore Street, St. Thomas

Once a very busy place, this structure housed the switches for the New York Central and L&PS railway crossing. It was built in the early 1900s, and was given the arbitrary communication label BX.



Murals

Various locations, downtown St. Thomas
www.ironhorsefestival.com/mural

St. Thomas is home to many beautiful murals painted as a tribute to the city's railway heritage. Take a stroll downtown to see these works of art in person.



Jumbo the Elephant

Old Talbot Street, St. Thomas

Jumbo the Elephant also known as "The King of Elephants" was travelling with the P.T. Barnum circus when he was struck and tragically killed by a Grand Trunk Locomotive in St. Thomas on September 15th, 1885. In 1985 on the 100th anniversary of Jumbo's death, the city of St. Thomas dedicated a 38 tonne statue as a tribute to the most famous elephant who ever lived.



Dr. E.W. Gustin Residence

295 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

This Italianate-style house was built in 1870 for County coroner Dr. Gustin, who moved here from nearby Fingal. He was the company doctor for the Great Western Railway and mayor of St. Thomas.



K-5-a Hudson #5700



"Circle of Life", Pinafore Park



St. Thomas City Hall



The St. Thomas Armoury

Chester and Wilson Street, St. Thomas

The Armoury building was constructed in 1903. It features corner towers, a projecting frontispiece, large round arched windows and contrasting stone details. The Armoury is a very good example of a building associated with the pre-First World War Armoury building campaign and the reform and expansion of the volunteer militia.



St. Thomas City Hall

545 Talbot Street

The St. Thomas City Hall, designed by Neil R. Darrach and constructed in 1899, is an outstanding example of a City Hall designed in the late Richardsonian Romanesque. *Provincial plaque on site.*



Visual Heritage Display

St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre,
301 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

The historical component of the Collection is based on approximately 400 works by local artists from the 19th and 20th century, with content that demonstrates Elgin's important history, which includes, oil paintings, prints, sculpture and watercolours. Several major gifts of artwork have been made to the Collection, including the St. Thomas-Smith and Clark McDougall works and through a purchase of the artwork from Alma College.



Canada Southern Railway Station

750 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

The Canada Southern Railway Station, built in 1873, served for 106 years as St. Thomas's main depot. The Station was built to serve as the headquarters for the Canada Southern Railway. In 1883, the Michigan Central Railroad assumed operations. This large and impressive structure is the only existing railway station in Ontario built in the Italianate style and is protected through an easement with the Ontario Heritage Trust. The west and central portions of the station have been restored. *Provincial plaque on site.*



Michigan Central Railroad Kettle Creek Bridge

This bridge sits on a historic railway crossing that dates back to 1871. The current bridge structure dates to 1929 and was a major engineering feat, recognized by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering as a National Historic Civil Engineering Site. No longer used as a rail corridor, a local community group is working to convert it into Canada's first elevated park. More info at www.OnTrackStThomas.ca.



Elgin County Court House

Wellington Street, St. Thomas

The Elgin County Court House was originally designed by architect John Turner and completed in 1854. After a fire in 1898, the original building was repaired and enlarged by architect N.R. Darrach, resulting in the present Palladian style. This is expressed by its symmetry, rectangular and round-arched openings. The building is currently undergoing renovations, and soon will become the consolidated courthouse for Elgin-St. Thomas.

• HISTORY OF CENTRE ELGIN •

The Central portion of Elgin County includes the Municipality of Central Elgin and the Township of Southwold. The southern portion of Central Elgin, particularly around the Village of Sparta, was settled by Quakers in the early 19th century. The 1865 Quaker Meeting House is still in use today. Port Stanley became Elgin County's major shipping port beginning in the 1830s and a well-traveled road was built between Port Stanley and London. The London & Port Stanley Railway was constructed to carry passengers and freight between Port Stanley and London. By the turn of the century, the Port was also a major London resort. Eventually known as the Coney Island of Canada, Port Stanley attracted thousands of visitors each weekend to sunbathe on the shores of Lake Erie and dance the night away at the famous Stork Club Dance Hall. Other communities developed in Central Elgin including New Sarum, Union and Belmont, which was incorporated as a village in 1961.

The neighbouring Township of Southwold is home to the Southwold Earthworks, the site of a village occupied by 800 to 900 Attawandarons for approximately 20 years in the early 16th century. The early communities of Fingal and Iona were built on the original Talbot Road. In the 1870s other communities such as Shedden and Iona Station appeared on the Canada Southern Railway Line. The N°4 Bombing and Gunnery School located outside Fingal was in operation from November 1940 to February 1945. This unit was one of 105 Canadian and British Air Schools that were a part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada.

*Photos Courtesy of Elgin County Archives.



Kettle Creek Inn, ca. 1940



Port Stanley Casino, ca. 1920



Sparta Intersection, ca. 1950

CENTRE ELGIN ATTRACTIONS



The Sparta House

46342 Sparta Line, Sparta

When the Sparta House was constructed in 1838 -1840 by David Mills, it was considered to be a grand structure with its double decked verandah and colonial trappings. The building was first used as a hotel, then an undertaking and hardware store business. The Sparta House has been restored to its former glory and is ready to once again welcome its local customers.



Eakins General Store

46361 Sparta Line, Sparta

The back brick section of this building was built by Henry Yarwood prior to 1846. The Eakins built the front brick section as a General Store and Post Office. For many years Erie Oille and later son Norman ran the store. The heritage building is currently a candle shop and home décor store.



Hiram Smith's Tailor Shop

6137 Hiram Smith Lane, Sparta

Hiram Smith's Tailoring business began in the 1830s. The 1846 brick store is made of small handmade bricks and features a scooped awning to keep rain away from the foundation. The counter, brass yard measure, shelves, cash drawer and pressed metal ceiling are original.



Elgin County Administrative Building

450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas

This Art Deco style building was constructed in 1939 and housed the Nurses' residence for the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital. The building was purchased by the County of Elgin in 1985. The carved wings over the front door represent the occupation of the building by Royal Canadian Air Force officers during the time that the Psychiatric hospital was used as a training facility during WWII.

Provincial plaque located on opposite side of road.



Patterson Cabin

Patterson Conservation Area

Highbury Ave, St. Thomas

Alexander Patterson, his wife and family left their ancestral home in the parish of Croy, Inverness Scotland in 1832. The journey to North America took seven weeks. Patterson was a carpenter and built this log house with an upstairs. A replica water tower and windmill have also been located on this site.



Livery Stable

215 Main Street, Port Stanley

This whimsical building may be the oldest structure in the village, and has been a livery, a confectionary shop, a retail store, and temporarily the Village Hall. Its large display windows in the front, distinctive features, and main location has always kept the Livery Stable at the hub of village life.



Manuel Payne House

205 Main Street, Port Stanley

Payne was the customs officer for Port Stanley whose office once stood near the road in front of this house. He also operated the post office and a telegraph line from his home. The building is currently occupied by the Telegraph House B & B and Harbourn town Fudge.



Russell House

211 Main Street, Port Stanley

Russell House Apparel occupies the main floor of a beautiful historic building on Main Street, Port Stanley. Built in the early 1870s with locally made strawberry bricks, the building has since been used as a stagecoach hotel, bank, clothing store, and more.



Kettle Creek Inn

216 Joseph Street, Port Stanley

Built as a summer home for the local Port Stanley Justice of the Peace in 1849, the main building first became an inn in 1918. The buildings were significantly restored in 1983 and 1990 by the present owners. English style gardens, a folksy gazebo, and the two cozy dining rooms all provide old world charm.



The Shepard House

324 Smith Street, Port Stanley

Situated in the heart of Port Stanley, the Shepard House (circa 1854) was built by Samuel Shepard, a prominent business man and grain merchant. The house has been tastefully restored to become the Windjammer Inn featuring relaxed, comfortable rooms, with award winning cuisine.

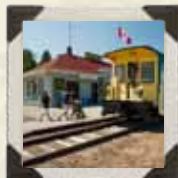
CENTRE ELGIN ATTRACTIONS



Cork Kiln

187- 183 Main Street, Port Stanley

Built around 1915 at the end of Main Street during the boom of the fishing industry, the cork kiln was used for drying the cork for floating fishing nets. The kiln was built into the side of the hill as a natural means of maintaining dry heat, and was once home to the East Side Fish Company.



Port Stanley Terminal Rail

Bridge Street, Port Stanley

The London and Port Stanley Railway was designed to alleviate congestion and connect Port Stanley to London. Entirely constructed by hand labour, the railway project began in 1853, shortly after the Great Western Railway reached London. On July 15th, 1856 the first passenger train arrived in Port Stanley. In 1913 the City of London took over the operation and converted the entire line to a high speed electric railway. Between 1915 and 1957 over 28 million people rode the 23 mile route to Port Stanley. The original Port Stanley station is still in use today, restored by the Port Stanley Terminal Rail (PSTR) volunteers for use as a museum/gift shop. The PSTR began offering train rides in 1983 and is the longest running tourist operation in Elgin County.



King George VI Lift Bridge

Bridge Street, Port Stanley

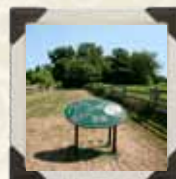
This magnificent 1939 bridge spans Kettle Creek just before it reaches Lake Erie. The bridge is a bascule drawbridge that is so finely counterbalanced that it can be raised and lowered manually. During navigation season, the bridge opens every half an hour for pleasure and commercial craft to pass.



Fingal Wildlife Management Area

35663 Fingal Line, Southwold

A site just west of Fingal in Southwold Township, was established by the Canadian Government as the N°.4 Bombing and Gunnery School for the Royal Canadian Air Force. The main site operated from November 25, 1940 to February 17, 1945, during which time over 6,000 non-pilot aircrew members, from many countries in the British Empire, graduated from the school. Today, the Fingal Wildlife Management Area spans more than 724 acres including three main trails.



Southwold Earthworks National Historic Site of Canada

7930 Iona Road, Fingal

The Earthworks are the only visible remains of a native village inhabited around 1500 by the Attawandaron. The Southwold Prehistoric Earthworks was recognized as a National Historic Site in 1923 and is now under the care of Parks Canada. The outstanding feature of the site is the double row of earthworks which completely surround it. As a double palisade fort, Southwold is unique not only in Canada, but among all known prehistoric earthworks on the North American continent north of Mexico. *Provincial plaque on site.*

• HISTORY OF WESTERN ELGIN •

Western Elgin County includes the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich and the Municipality of West Elgin.

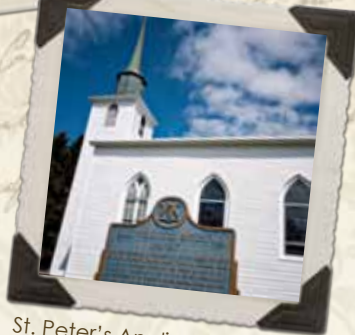
Dutton-Dunwich was settled on the shores of Lake Erie by Colonel Thomas Talbot in 1803 followed by families of Irish descent from the United States. These first settlers were placed near the Talbot Creek and the former fishing village of Tyrconnell. In the following decades many Scottish immigrants arrived and were given land grants further north within Dunwich and also into Aldborough Township which is now the Municipality of West Elgin. Many of their descendents still farm in the area today. Their wheat and corn crops were eventually joined by tobacco in the 1920s.

Colonel Thomas Talbot is buried at St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery near Tyrconnell. Several homes dating back to the early Talbot Settlement are still in existence including the 1850s Georgian style residence that is now the Backus-Page House Museum.

The communities of Wallacetown and Eagle were built along the original Talbot Road. Later the village of Dutton and the twin railway towns of West Lorne and Rodney flourished due to the presence of railway stations in their communities.



Colonel Talbot's Grave



St. Peter's Anglican Church



Backus-Page House Museum

• WESTERN ELGIN ATTRACTIONS •



John E. Pearce Provincial Park & Monument

29551 Lakeview Line, Wallacestown

John E. Pearce gave a woodlot on a high bluff, overlooking Lake Erie, to the province for use as a provincial park in 1955. The park's Spicer Trail, part of the Trans Canada Trail, is free to those wanting to explore the 1.26 km undemanding walk. The Pearce Monument depicts a settler uprooting a stump. It commemorates the settling of the area by Pearce's ancestors.

The first to settle in the area was Thomas Talbot, who in 1803 founded the Talbot Settlement. Many other reminders of this period in history can still be seen at nearby attractions, and many homes along Lakeview Line that were built by the early settlers.



The Arts & Cookery Bank

242 Graham Road, West Lorne

Two buildings - a 1914 Bank of Montreal and an 1883 timber frame barn - offer an intriguing marriage of bricks and barn board. This stunning venue is the home of The Arts & Cookery Bank, a regional cultural destination.

Seeing the value in preserving its local heritage by creating a living legacy for generations to come, The Bank is unleashing the potential of rural southwestern Ontario and is a testament to what volunteers can do for their community.



Ye Olde Jail

135 Queen Street, Rodney

Built in 1890, this tiny Rodney Jail is North America's oldest and smallest jail measuring at 15ft x 18ft. The building still bares its original steel cell doors, stove, and yellow brick exterior. Visitors can visit the jail from the May long weekend to Labour Day.



Port Glasgow Memorial Park

8650 Furnival Road, Port Glasgow

The former Soldiers' and Pioneers' Memorial Park was opened in 1920 and was for many years the scene of an annual reunion of residents of what was the Township of Aldborough. The site was near the landing point of the earliest of the settlers to this area, called Cnoc Nealladh (Gaelic for Nelly's Hill) by the highlanders who arrived here first starting in 1818. Today the entrance to the former park is marked by the original gates and a cairn as well as two mill stones that survived from the first mill built by Col. Talbot at Port Talbot in 1805 and burned by the Americans during the War of 1812.

HERITAGE WALKING TOURS & TREES

Heritage Walking Tours

Experience our heritage by taking a stroll through one of our villages, towns or the City of St. Thomas on one of the many heritage walking tours. Each tour uncovers unique treasures, while telling the stories behind the people, landscapes and historic buildings that bring Elgin County to life. Explore the walking tour maps in the pages that follow to begin your journey.



Old St. Thomas Church Cemetery



Heritage Tree

Heritage Trees

The Heritage Tree Committee of the St. Thomas Field Naturalists Club has been promoting tree appreciation since the early 1990s. Some of the largest, oldest, tallest and rarest native and exotic tree species growing in our area have been identified and labelled, providing an insight into the variety and richness of the woodlands, parks, cemeteries and gardens of the county. Heritage Tree maps are available for East Elgin, West Elgin and St. Thomas. The trees represented in these maps are only a portion of the area's natural heritage.

Please visit www.elgintourist.com/heritage to download the Heritage Walking Tours and Heritage Trees maps or call 519-631-1460 x 164 for a printed copy.

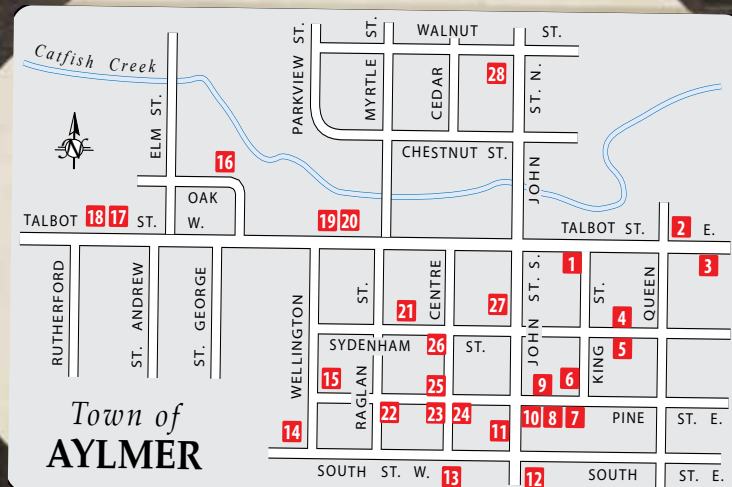


Ayler Old Town Hall Theatre & Library



Have a smartphone?
Scan this QR code
to go straight to URL

AYLMER WALKING TOUR



Hike or Bike Heritage Aylmer

This map highlights the heritage of the Town of Aylmer by focusing on buildings that have been recognized by the Town and highlighting those designated by the Province of Ontario under the Ontario Heritage Act.

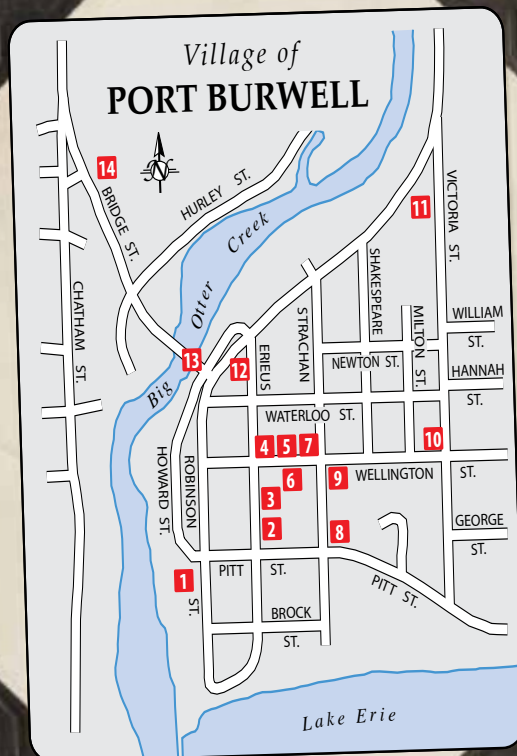
1. The Central Hotel 1883
62 Talbot Street
2. St. Paul's United Church 1874
5 Queen Street
3. Greek Revival Period Home 1874
236 Talbot Street
4. McCausland House 1906
113 Sydenham Street
5. Conn House 1883
116 Sydenham Street
6. Bingham-Dell House 1882
76 King Street
7. McLay-Minielly House 1853
24 Pine Street
8. Beecher's House 1884
20 Pine Street
9. Bingham-Foy House 1878-1879
11 Pine Street
10. Aylmer Baptist Church 1871
153 John Street
11. Victorian Style Home
170 John Street
12. King-Summer House 1886-1909
193 John Street
13. Belvedere House 1862
30 South Street
14. Heiter House 1891
58 Wellington Street
15. Neo-Classical Victorian/
Edwardian Home 1886
59 Pine Street
16. Bingham-Douglas House 1889
23 Oak Street
17. The Swiss Cottage 1887
369 Talbot Street
18. Davis-Toth House 1878
375 Talbot Street
19. Love House 1885
187 Talbot Street
20. York-Sinclair House 1864
155 Talbot Street
21. Confederation Classical
Style Time House 1873
103 Sydenham Street
22. Starr House 1875
36 Pine Street
23. Murray-Stewart House 1868
26 Pine Street
24. Bingham-Stevens House 1878-1879
18 Pine Street
25. The Mann House/Rectory
74 Centre Street
26. Carnegie Library 1912
62 Centre Street
27. Old Town Hall 1874
38 John Street
28. The Anglican Church 1879
170 John Street

*Printed guides available at the Aylmer Library, 38 John Street.

Port Burwell Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour

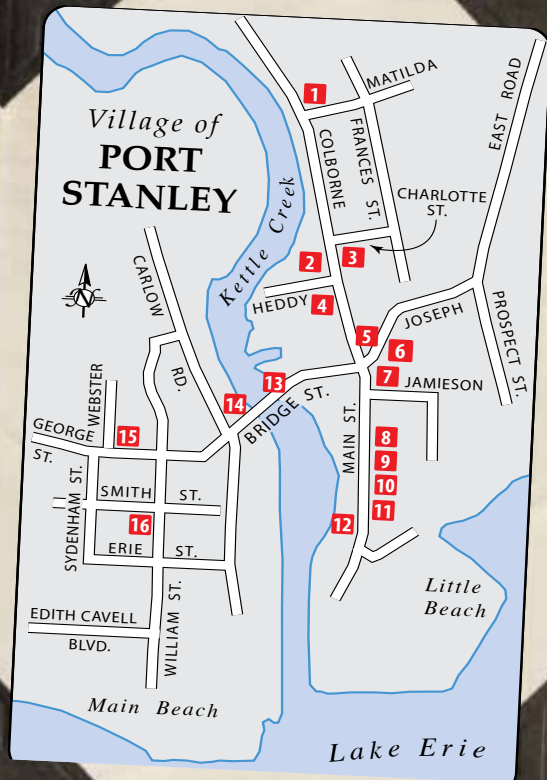
Enjoy an interesting and historical 90 minute walk of the village of Port Burwell. Many of the buildings in the tour were homes built by prominent early settlers, while others are now historic landmarks.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Port Burwell Lighthouse 1840
17 Robinson Street | 8. Trinity Anglican Church 1836
25 Pitt Street |
| 2. J.P. Bellairs Classical Revival House 1830s
16 Erius Street | 9. The Trinity Parish Hall 1908
26 Strachan Street |
| 3. First Rector Neoclassic House 1837
20 Erius Street | 10. Wright House 1895
47 Wellington Street |
| 4. William Family Queen Anne Revival/Baptist Manse
31 Wellington Street | 11. Gothic Revival House
102 Robinson Street |
| 5. Queen Anne Revival House 1874
35 Wellington Street | 12. St. Paul's United Church 1852
41 Erius Street |
| 6. Greek Revival Style House 1989
22 Erius Street | 13. View from Bridge Site of Historic Ship Building Area 1821 |
| 7. Queen Anne Revival House
37 Wellington Street | 14. Beechwood 1842
3 Bridge Street |



*Printed Guides available at the Port Burwell Library,
21 Pitt Street, and the Marine Museum, 20 Pitt Street.

• PORT STANLEY WALKING TOUR •



Heritage Walking Tour of Port Stanley

Heritage Port Stanley created the 75-90 minute historical walking tour around the village that takes in many of its historical buildings. The tour begins at Port Stanley's oldest place of worship, Christ Church dating back to 1845.

1. Christ Church 1845
289 Colborne Street
2. St. John's Presbyterian Church 1852
238 Colborne Street
3. Port Stanley United Church 1889
239 Colborne Street
4. Thomson House 1840
232 Colborne Street
5. Bank Building 1910
Corner of Colborne and Bridge Street
6. Kettle Creek Inn 1849
216 Joseph Street
7. The Livery
215 Main Street
8. The Russell House 1870s
211 Main Street
9. The Bostwick Warehouse 1822
207 Main Street
10. The Payne House 1873
205 Main Street
11. The Cork Kiln 1915
187-183 Main Street
12. The East Side Fish Company 1917
194 Main Street
13. The King George VI Lift Bridge 1939
14. The London and Port Stanley Railway 1856
15. St. Joseph's Catholic Church 1912
335 George Street
16. The Samuel Shepard House 1854
324 Smith Street

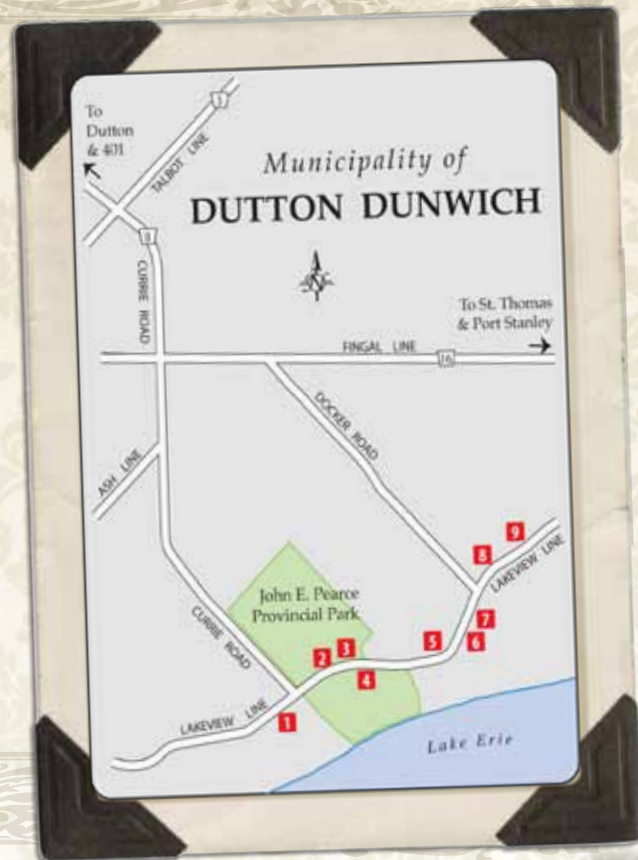
*Printed guides available at the Port Stanley Library, 302 Bridge Street.

Early Talbot Settlement Tour

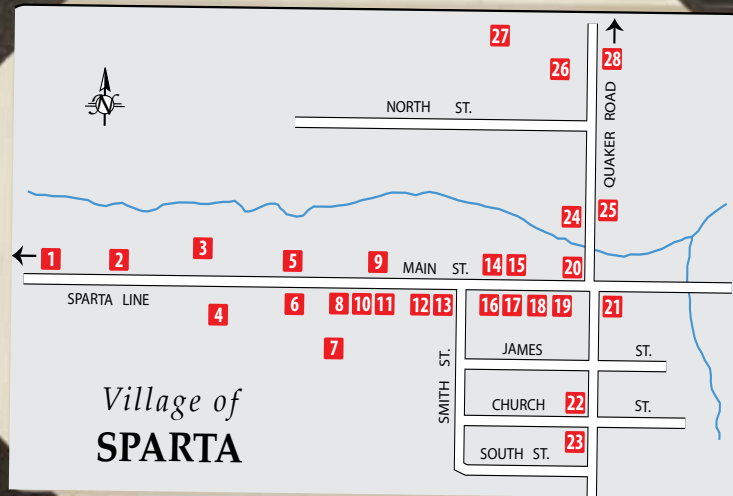
Tyrconnell Heritage Society organized this 1 hour 15 minute walking and 15-30 minute driving tour. The tour takes visitors to the various homes and attractions where the Honourable Colonel Thomas Talbot placed early settlers.

1. John S. Pearce House 1874
29283 Lakeview Line
2. Backus-Page House Museum 1850
29424 Lakeview Line
- 3./4. John E. Pearce Provincial Park 1957
29551 Lakeview Line
5. St. Peter's Anglican Church 1827
29596 Lakeview Line
6. St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery 1818
29625 Lakeview Line
7. Colonel Leslie Patterson House 1826
29643 Lakeview Line
8. Stephen Backus Farm 1825
30022 Lakeview Line
9. Meredith Conn Sr. House 1828
30256 Lakeview Line

*Printed Guides available at the Backus-Page House Museum.



• SPARTA WALKING TOUR •



A Tour of the Historic Village of Sparta

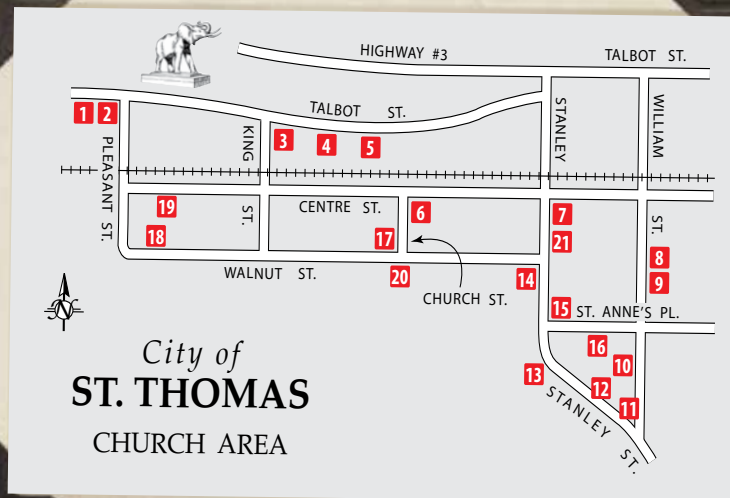
The Sparta area was investigated and settlement began while the war of 1812 was still on. Follow this tour to discover the many historic buildings and homes dating back to the times of early settlers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Haight-Zavitz House 1837
45358 Quaker Road | 17. Tinsmiths Shop 1840
46341 Sparta Line |
| 2. Religious Society
of Friends Cemetery (Quaker) 1820
45870 Sparta Line | 18. Israel Doan House 1845 |
| 3. House and Cheese Factory 1870 | 19. Temperance House 1840s |
| 4. Sanderson House 1859 | 20. The Sparta House 1840
46342 Sparta Line |
| 5. Baptist Church 1869
46170 Sparta Line | 21. Eakin's General Store 1846
46361 Sparta Line |
| 6. Mud Cottage 1830
46173 Sparta Line | 22. Sparta United Church
and Manse 1886
6073 Quaker Road |
| 7. Hiram Smith House 1865
46211 Sparta Line | 23. Honsinger House 1851
Corner of Church St
and Quaker Rd |
| 8. Enright House 1854 | 24. Vary House 1834 |
| 9. Salt Box House 1980s | 25. Esmond Smith House 1862 |
| 10. Baptist Parsonage 1855 | 26. The Friends' Meeting House 1865
6387 Quaker Road |
| 11. Dominion Hotel 1853 | 27. John Moore House 1825
Quaker Road |
| 12. Lundy House 1842 | 28. Cobblestone House 1872
6738 Quaker Road |
| 13. Hiram Smith's Store 1846
6137 Hiram Smith Lane | |
| 14. Blacksmith's Shop 1827
46316 Sparta Line | |
| 15. The Abbey 1840s | |
| 16. Oille House 1838 | |

Walking Tour of Old St. Thomas Church Area Heritage Homes

Take a self-guided tour of the beautiful architectural area surrounding the Anglican Church built in 1822. This area was the first to be settled in St. Thomas.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Elgin Military Museum 1852
30 Talbot Street | 12. Regency Cottage 1876
55 Stanley Street |
| 2. Elijah Duncombe house 1848
32 Talbot Street | 13. Bella Vista 1871
48 Stanley Street |
| 3. John McKay-Mulligan House 1842
76 Talbot Street | 14. Edward Ermatinger House 1853
59 Walnut Street |
| 4. Murdock McKenzie House, 1842
86 Talbot Street | 15. Georgian Cottage 1855
1 St. Anne's Place |
| 5. Regency Cottage 1863
94 Talbot Street | 16. Bannerwood 1830
6 St. Anne's Place |
| 6. Two-Story Italianate House 1878
44 Centre Street | 17. Italianate Home 1858
7 Church Street |
| 7. Queen Anne House 1895
66 Centre Street | 18. Board and Batten Clad Cottage 1860
20 Walnut Street |
| 8. Colonial 1860
35 William Street | 19. Regency Home 1834
10 Centre Street |
| 9. Richard Traverse House 1855
39 William Street | 20. Old St. Thomas Church 1824
55 Walnut Street |
| 10. Gothic Home 1861
50 William Street | 21. Home Built of Railway Paving Blocks 1920s
31 Stanley Street |
| 11. Unusual Queen Anne House 1873
56 William Street | |



*Printed guides available at St. Thomas City Hall, 545 Talbot Street and at the Anglican Church.

ST. THOMAS COURTHOUSE WALKING TOUR



Walking Tour of Courthouse Area Heritage Homes

The Elgin County Courthouse was originally designed and built in 1853. Explore one of St. Thomas' most architecturally appealing areas with this self-guided tour.

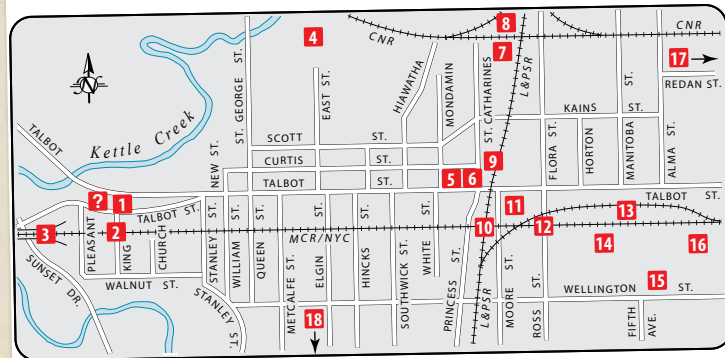
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Two-Style Italianate Home 1878
9 Wellington Street | 10. Two-Story Frame Gothic 1875
25 Margaret Street |
| 2. Gothic House 1881
13 Wellington Street | 11. Two-Story Georgian
Frame Home 1871
20 Margaret Street |
| 3. Two-Story Gothic House 1875
72 Metcalfe Street | 12. Harding-Ball House 1872
96 Metcalfe Street |
| 4. Italianate House 1874
73 Metcalfe Street | 13. Two-Story Gothic
Frame House 1875
92 Metcalfe Street |
| 5. Georgian Neo-Classic House 1850
77 Metcalfe Street | 14. Handford House 1878
13 Margaret Street |
| 6. Griffin-Dingman House 1871
91 Metcalfe Street | 15. Georgian Home 1876
3 Drake Street |
| 7. Coyne House 1858
95 Metcalfe Street | 16. Two-Story Italianate Home 1878
5 Wellington Street |
| 8. Italianate Home 1872
105 Metcalfe Street | 17. McLachlin House 1878
1 Wellington Street |
| 9. Queen Anne Style Home 1892
2 Prince Albert Street | |

*Printed guides available at St. Thomas City Hall, 545 Talbot Street.

St. Thomas Railway Walking Tour

Back track through St. Thomas' rich railway history with its first railway tour. Take a relaxing walk through the many historic sites and see why we are proud to call ourselves "The Railway Capital of Canada".

1. Jumbo Monument 1985
64 Talbot Street
2. King Street Underpass c. 1883
3. Michigan Central Railway (MCR) Trestle 1929
Sunset Drive & Fingal Line
4. Wabash-Grand Trunk-CNR Trestle c. 1900 Athletic Park (St. George Street)
5. St. Thomas City Hall 1899
545 Talbot Street
6. Engineer's Building 1909
561 Talbot Street
7. Site of the Wabash passenger station c. 1890-1960
North end of St. Catharine Street
8. Site of Wabash-Grand Trunk-CNR turntable and roundhouse c. 1890-1960
North end of St. Catharine Street
9. Site of the London and Port Stanley Railway (L&PSR) Station c. 1856-1960
Talbot Street and St. Catharine Street
10. Site of the worst rail disaster in St. Thomas history 1887
Moore Street
11. BX Tower c. 1910
Moore Street
12. Ross Street Underpass c. 1900
13. Canada Southern Railway Station 1873
750 Talbot Street
14. Trans Canada Trail Pavilion & Parkette/Jonas Park
15. New York Central (NYC) Ball Park
47 Jonas Street
16. Michigan Central Railway Locomotive shops 1913 (Elgin County Railway Museum)
225 Wellington Street
17. Site of Jumbo's death 1885
Woodworth Ave at CNR Crossing
18. Foundation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway turntable and roundhouse c. 1940
Corner of Elm Street and Wilson Avenue near the Memorial Arena





Backus-Page House Museum



Canada Southern Railway Station



Christ Anglican Church



Pinecroft



Port Burwell Lighthouse

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