

# WILTON

## 13. SIMMONS MILL 296 Simmons Road

A flour mill and a saw mill on Big Creek gave the village its original name Simmons Mills. They were built by Lt. Henry Simmons of Jessup's Rangers who was granted land totalling 1,300 acres in the sixth concession. The present mill dates from the early 1800's and powered by water, steam, diesel and since the 1930's by electricity.

The mill property was in the Simmons name from 1784 to 1982, when it was sold. The mill is still operating under the name Wilton Tack.



## 14. WARNER HOUSE

Along Wilton's Main Street, east of the creek, is a large limestone house which was the home of Sydney Warner, a prominent businessman in Wilton and the County. For most of his life he ran the general store and post office, and was responsible for changing the name of Simmons Mills to Wilton, in 1832. Warner was Justice of the Peace, Reeve of Ernestown for 12 years, and Warden of Lennox and Addington in 1867 and 1868.

## 15. WILTON SCHOOLHOUSE

The stone schoolhouse was built in the 1850's by the Saul brothers who were responsible for many stone churches and homes in the Township.

There had been two earlier schools in the village. Generations of Simmons, Babcocks, Burts and Switzers received their education in the one room school. The school closed in 1970 and the building has since been used as a home, pottery studio, and showroom.



## 16. WILTON HALL 251 Simmons Road

The church was built in 1874 for the large Wesleyan Methodist Congregation. Until 1900, there were three galleries and gracefully curved stairs with brass railings.

After 1925, it was the Emmanuel United Church, but closed in 1968. The first Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was a frame building that was in use for over 30 years.

The building has been restored extensively over the last 20 years.

# AMHERST ISLAND

## 17. WES BROWN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP 5680 Front Road

The shop was first owned by John Robinson who then sold it to John Brown in 1894. In 1913, the old frame shop burned and the present building was erected. About the same time, Wes joined his father and they began repairing and selling farm machinery. The business was eventually left to Wes when his father died and was in operation until 1971.



The little building in front of the blacksmith shop was known as the "dog house". The Browns kept their business records there and many old timers went there for a game of cards and shoptalk.

## 18. VICTORIA HALL 5545 Front Road

In 1866, the Orange Lodge, a society to protect and promote Protestantism, built the Hall. Frequently the Orange Lodge and the Prentice Boys, another similiar society, held concerts, dances and suppers there.

This building typifies a frame house. Some of the distinguishing characteristics are the salt box form, board and batten technique used on outside wall finishings and the six over six double hung windows.



## 19. NEILSON STORE 5220 Front Road

In 1869, James S. Neilson moved to Amherst Island and went into a general store partnership with Polley. By 1873, he had his own business in a smaller store on this location. Ten years later he moved that building down to the water to serve as a coal shed and had the present store built. In 1941, Rod and Fred Neilson became the official owners, continuing the business until 1973 when it was sold. Throughout its operations, Neilson's was one of the biggest commercial operations on the Island.



# AMHERST ISLAND

## 20. ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2045 Stella Forty Foot

The church has a long history on Amherst Island. Since 1849, when its congregation was first organized with the Reverend Daniel McCurdy as its first minister, the church has been a vital part of the Islands community.

A modest frame structure was first built in 1851. Thirty-two years later, in 1883, the little frame church was replaced by the present building of cut limestone. The stone was prepared at Kingston Penitentiary and was hauled in sleighs across the ice by the Island residents.



## 21. Daniel Fowler House 14005 Front Road

Daniel Fowler is remembered as one of the most famous watercolour artists of Canada and a founder of the Royal Canadian Academy. His water colour "Hollyhocks" won a medal at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, the first international award to be won by a Canadian artist. He arrived on Amherst Island from England in 1843 and shortly after built "The Cedars", a typical settler's cabin, on what is known as the Front Road near the head of the Island.

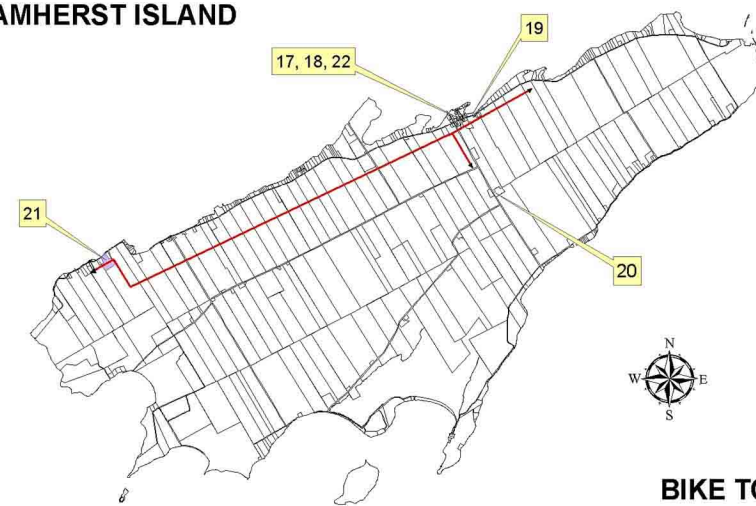


## 22. TRINITY UNITED CHURCH 5555 Front Road

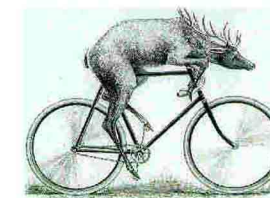
The Methodists were one of the smallest religious groups, but as early as the 1840's they were conducting services on the Island. In the year 1872, the First Methodist minister, Rev. John Ferguson, was sent to the Island. In 1873 the building of the present structure was begun. It was completed in 1874 and dedicated to the service of God. In 1925, this church initiated a union with the Presbyterian Church and assumed the name Trinity United Church. It has been used as a Township office since the 1970's.



## AMHERST ISLAND



## BIKE TOUR



Other sites include:

- Pentland Cemetery - 1652 Front Road
- Bowen House - 13555 Front Road
- Chown's Shop - 5530 Front Road
- Christ Church - 12525 Front Road
- Glenn Store - 5695 Front Road
- Hieatt House - 2750 Front Road
- Ice Cream Parlour - 5600 Front Road
- McMullen House - 15095 Front Road
- Stella Cheese Factory - 5360 Front Road
- Town Hall - 5545 Front Road

# LOYALIST TOWNSHIP



# HISTORIC DRIVING TOUR



# AND THE AMHERST ISLAND HISTORIC BICYCLE TOUR

Prepared By The Loyalist Township Planning Department

# BATH

## 1. The Reeves Brothers House 452 Main Street

The Reeves Brothers served the Village as Presbyterian ministers and as shoemakers, and their shop was located in the structure. The building, circa 1850, originally one storey, is now two stories high. The alterations enlarging it are believed to have occurred during the early 1900s. The east wing was added in 1948 as a waiting room when the house was owned by Dr. Burleigh, a physician and local historian.



## 2. Bath Old Town Hall 434 Main Street

Construction of Bath's most classical building was completed in 1861 on the instigation of a Division Court Judge who objected to the noise of the school children when he held court in the Academy. He refused to return until a permanent court house was built.



Its Tuscan portico is patterned after Roman buildings with civic or judicial functions. It was the Bath Town Hall until circa 1970. Most recently it has become a business office. In the intervening period, it was used for a wide variety of community activities

## 3. E. D. Priest Store 428 Main Street

Constructed in 1820, this is typical of the commercial architecture of Old Bath and is the only double-verandah building left in the Village. In its heyday, Main Street was lined with such structures.



Originally this building was clapboard with a central door and a verandah on each floor. The verandah and its lattice work reflect the influence of the Regency style of the first half of the 19th Century. Today this building is the Masonic Hall.

## 4. The Layer Cake Hall 193 Davy Street

Constructed in 1859, this structure received its name from both its elaborate ornamentation and the use of its interior. During the 1890s the Presbyterians occupied the lower storey, or layer, while the Anglicans used the upper storey. Built by the village carpenter, Abraham Harris, it is Bath's only example of Gothic revival architecture with each gable containing strongly pointed windows.



# BATH

## 5. BATH ACADEMY 352 ACADEMY STREET

The original structure, built in 1811 and paid for by local subscription, was the province's first grammar school and public library. It was twice destroyed by fire and rebuilt. This third building was constructed in 1910. The school's first teacher, Barnabas Bidwell, was a radical political reformer and supporter of William Lyon McKenzie. It was used as a barracks in the War of 1812, and today is a residence.



## 6. Fairfield-Gutzeit House 341 Main Street

This house, built in 1796, is one of the earliest classical buildings in Ontario. The Fairfields came to Bath in 1793 when William Jr. and Benjamin left their parents' home near Amherstview. The original structure has gone through many changes; in its original form the roof was plain, without gables, dormers or the south side porch. The symmetrical south façade with a side-lighted entrance is original.



The House contains many original 1800s paintings and furniture of the period. The Fairfield-Gutzeit Society maintains the House and it is open to the public for tours in the summer months.

# AMHERSTVIEW

## 7. FAIRFIELD HOUSE 4574 Bath Road

One of the earliest surviving homes in Ontario is the Fairfield House, built in 1793. William Fairfield was part of Jessups Loyal Rangers, whose members made up a large proportion of the Loyalists in Ernestown. With his family, he built this imposing frame home facing the lake.



For many years, part of the house was used as an inn, established in the early 1800's. The Georgian style of the house is shown in the symmetry of the windows and doorway which reflect the interior arrangement of the rooms and a centre hall. In 1959, the Fairfield House was donated to the St. Lawrence Parks Commission by the family who occupied until 1972. It is now owned by Loyalist Township.

## 8. JOSHUA BOOTH HOUSE 4423 Bath Road

The Booth House is called Stone-watch because it was said to have been used as a lookout for United States ships during the war of 1812. The builder, Joshua Booth, served as a sergeant in the Revolutionary Wars and was one of the first settlers in Ernestown. He became a prosperous landowner and miller, operating the first mills in the township at Millhaven. Booth was a Justice of the Peace and a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada between 1792 and 1796. He died in 1813 shortly after this home was built. The spacious stone house was suitable to his position in the Township.



# ODESSA

## 9. REGENCY COTTAGE 86 Main Street

On Odessa's Main Street, beside Mill Creek stands a charming Regency Cottage that is thought to have been built by Phillip D. Booth after 1855, when he bought the property.

A member of the first Township Council, Phillip was elected fourteen times, and in 1869 was Warden of Lennox and Addington County.



The Regency Cottage was a popular style in Ontario in the first half of the nineteenth century. The house with its square plan is decorated with wrought iron on the roof and wooden openwork on the veranda which shades it on three sides.

## 10. BABCOCK MILL 100 Bridge Street

The mill was built by John K Booth and Phillip Booth in 1855. It was the first contract in Upper Canada for Hugh and William Saul, stonemasons, who went on to construct many of the outstanding buildings in Lennox and Addington.



The mill was operated, along with three other mills, by members of the Booth family, until after the turn of the century. It was then bought by the Babcock brothers who ran it until the 1960's.

The Township bought the mill and thirteen acres surrounding it to preserve the last operating mill of its type in the area, and to make this sample of early life available to the public.

## 11. BENJAMIN BOOTH HOUSE 114 Factory Street

Beautifully situated on a lot that slopes towards the stream, this large stone home was built by Benjamin Booth in the 1840's.



Benjamin followed his father Joshua, as operator of the first mill built in Ernestown, at Millhaven. He later established a grist mill, a saw mill and a planing mill in the immediate area.

Benjamin Booth was a veteran of the Rebellion of 1837 and prominent in business and Township affairs. The Booth family is said to have donated the land for all the churches built in Odessa.

## 12. SKIBBEREEN CASTLE 97 Factory Street

Skibbereen Castle was the name given to John K. Booth's home located on Factory Street.

Built about 1839, the unique building was constructed with 18 inch rubble stone walls and included a kitchen wing and side hall. The original veranda and doors still remain.



## DIRECTIONS

START IN THE VILLAGE OF BATH  
MOVING EAST ON HWY 33  
ENJOY THE SCENIC DRIVE ALONG  
THE SHORES OF  
LAKE ONTARIO TO AMHERSTVIEW.

TRAVELLING NORTH ON COUNTY  
ROAD SIX, ENTERING THE VILLAGE  
OF ODESSA THEN CONTINUING ON  
COUNTY ROAD SIX AND TAKING A  
RIGHT ON SIMMONS ROAD TO THE  
VILLAGE OF WILTON.

