Heritage Caledon Walking Tour Series

Caledon Village Tour

Please respect private property
A brief history...
Caledon Village is located on Hwy. 10 at the centre of the former Caledon Township. The crossroads community was known first as Raeburn’s Corners, then Charlestown, Charleston, Caledon, finally becoming Caledon Village in 1975. A post office was opened here in 1839 under the name of Charleston, being renamed ‘Caledon’ in 1853. The village prospered with the arrival of the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway in the early 1870s, linking Toronto to Owen Sound, with two trains passing through the village daily.

By 1877, there were 350 people living in the area with three blacksmiths, a doctor, a tailor, two shoemakers, three hotels, two churches, a common school, the Orange Lodge, four driving sheds and three general stores. In the early 1900s, the first acetylene gas station was established to provide gas for street lanterns. Electricity followed shortly after WWI. Residents provided the labour to erect the line of telephone poles from Cataract to the village around 1923.

When the railway was disbanded in the early 1930s, Centre Road (Hurontario Street) became the main thoroughfare north. The road was paved in 1929 and widened in 1955. The volunteer fire department consisted of 50 some people forming a bucket brigade. Many historical buildings were destroyed to fire over the decades, including three hotels and Stuckey’s store.

A branch of the Union Bank of Canada opened in the early 1900s. It later became the Royal Bank and moved from the east to the west side of Hwy. 10, eventually closing in March 1993.

The early Presbyterian Church was near the cemetery on Hwy. 10 and the Methodist Church was south of SS#8 school. After church union in 1925, the Methodist Church was demolished and its bricks used to build not only Bill Stubb’s home on the Methodist Church grounds (#18461 Hurontario Street), but also a 30 foot extension to the rear of the Old Caledon Township Hall (#18365 Hurontario Street).

The first school house was built from logs in 1828. The first brick school was built in 1876, replaced with a second brick school in 1938 (#18473 Hurontario Street)

The village has been the home of the annual Caledon Township Agricultural Fair since 1862 and the fairgrounds have been in their present location since the early 1900s. The Fair is held annually on the 2nd weekend in June.

* Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act

1 2976 Charleston Sideroad  Knox Presbyterian  circa 1872
Members of the Charleston Presbyterian congregation, formed in 1828, began construction of this stone church in 1870 to replace an earlier place of worship. Constructed using locally quarried stone with pews fashioned from local red pine, Knox Presbyterian was dedicated on January 1, 1873. Church union in 1925 resulted in the village’s Methodist and Presbyterian congregations joining to become Knox United Church. Additions entailed a Sunday School extension in 1958 and a new main entrance in 1990.

2 George Street  Neoclassical Cottage  1870s
This small cottage is locally known as Warnock’s House, home of a prominent Caledon Township family. The exterior is clad with red brick with yellow brick patterning. This is an excellent example of Neoclassical style with the centre entry balanced by large windows on either side.
17 George Street  Robert Clark House  circa 1855
Originally a residence constructed for Bob and Sarah Clark and located south of the village, this Neoclassical style house was later moved and used for car repairs by the Caledon Village Garage. It sat in a north/south orientation immediately west of here, and was moved to its current location and refurbished in 1984. It has subsequently housed various businesses and is currently a Mennonite furniture store.

18440 Hurontario Street  Dr. Stubbs House  circa 1915
This red brick, Dutch Revival style home was built by Dr. William Stubbs for his son, Dr. W.F. Rutledge ‘Bucky’ Stubbs. ‘Bill’ Stubbs graduated from the first Canadian veterinary college class (Guelph). Father, and then son, operated a veterinary practice in the barn to the rear of the house until ‘Bucky’ retired in 1958. Caledon Fair board meetings were held in the office from 1959 to 1976. Note the date stone in the wall on the east side of this residence.

18424 Hurontario Street  Village Store  circa 1871
The front room of this residence was initially a store selling electrical and plumbing supplies. Later, British American gasoline was served from two pumps out front; one being air operated and the other hand operated. This family business was operated by W. J. Stubbs and Sons for over 50 years. Since then, it has housed a variety of local businesses.

18420 Hurontario Street  Blacksmith Shop  circa 1880
Built and operated by Simon Kearns and his son Kenneth until 1956, this is possibly the last remaining stone blacksmith building in the Region of Peel. A blacksmith was vital to a rural agricultural community, repairing items for the home and the farm including making metal rims for wagon wheels and runners for sleighs. Hitching rings for horses are still visible on the front of this building.

18414 Hurontario Street  General Store  circa 1930
This traditional country store which housed the local post office sold everything from hardware and boots to food and jewellery. It was operated by Stephen Thompson from 1930 to 1952. Upon his death, his son Perry Thompson and his wife Myrtle (Pat) continued the business. When a new post office was constructed in 1970 with Perry as the postmaster, Pat continued to operate the store alone until 1972. Host to several businesses since then, the building currently houses the ‘Treasure Quest’.
18372 Hurontario Street  Sutton House  *circa 1900
This frame building with its hip roof was one of three hotels in the village and is the only one still standing. It was built by the Sutton family after the Queen’s Hotel, also known as the Moore’s Hotel, was lost to fire in May 1898. The hotel operated until the mid-1960s. It has since housed restaurants and is presently ‘Tim Hortons’.

29 Elizabeth Street  Former Church Manse  *circa 1905
This red brick house with its Romanesque style front entry has a pyramidal hip roof, rounded window arches and Italianate inspired paired brackets along the eaves. It replaced the original frame Presbyterian manse and after church union, served the ministers of Knox United Church until 1949, when the minister relocated to Alton. Subsequently rented and then sold in 1966, it is presently ‘Caledon Mountain Veterinary Hospital’.

18346 Hurontario Street  *Atkinson-Staite House  *circa 1870
This 1½ storey frame Ontario Cottage has a characteristic centre entry, centre gable with a gothic window. With its board and batten exterior cladding, the style is locally referred to as Rural Gothic or Carpenter’s Gothic. William and Verda Atkinson, known locally as “Billy A. and the herb lady, operated ‘The Wee Gardens’ here from 1945 to 1975. The Atkinsons grew their own plants, bottled the herbs, spices and condiments in the house and shipped product all over the world under their own label.

18338 Hurontario St  Johnson House  *circa 1855
This is an interesting and very early example of a square-timbered Neoclassical style cottage. A front room served as the Caledon Municipal Telephone Exchange operated by the R.J. Speers family and others from 1930 to 1961 when the company was purchased by Bell Canada. At some point, the front window openings were altered. The building was later converted to a clothing store and is currently vacant.

18314 Hurontario Street  *Village Creamery  *circa 1850
The barns that once stood on the southwest corner of the property reflected the agricultural nature of the village in an earlier period. Harvey McCort operated the creamery, collecting milk from the local farmers and delivering it to the village train station. McCort also raised bees, chickens, foxes and later mink, and at one time manufactured concrete tiles here.
**18260 Hurontario Street**  *Isaac Harris House  *circa 1880
Built by the Isaac Harris family, this Victorian Gothic brick house was left to their daughter Carrie who married Dr. Duncan McFayden. McFayden practiced for 33 years and Dr. James Thomas took over in 1912, remaining until 1960. Both doctors were well respected by this community. They ran their practices from the house and delivered many of the residents in the village and area. The house was the first in the village to be served by electricity from its own generator.

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**1 Travelled Rd**  *Alexander McFaul House  *circa 1870
Alexander McFaul, Minister of Knox Presbyterian Church from 1858 to 1888, owned this 1½ storey frame Victorian end-gable house from 1871 to 1899. It was moved on rollers from the corner of Elizabeth Street and Charleston Sideroad to this location when the brick manse was constructed in 1905 across from Knox Church. There is a modern addition to the rear.

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**18 Troiless St**  *Station House  *circa 1873
Now a residence, this structure was built as the Caledon Village Station on the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway serving both as station and station agent’s home for 65 years. It was also the library and station agent Charles Campbell acted as librarian until 1920. Surrounding the station were stockyards, a potato house and Caledon Village’s only grain elevator which for over 40 years was owned and operated by William Warnock’s family. The railway tracks were removed around 1932 and the house and surrounding 3.2 acres of land were sold to blacksmith Simon Kearns in 1934.

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**18297 Hurontario St**  *Exhibit Hall  *circa 1864
This heavy timber frame building was built as an exhibit hall, has been used continuously as such and is one of the few remaining active fair buildings in rural Ontario. It was moved to this site in 1903, used for ice skating and broom ball for a few winter seasons in the late 1920s and featured in the 1970s CBC television series ‘The White Oaks of Jalna’.

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**18313 Hurontario St**  *Legend of the Rock
This granite boulder is located beside the Cairn of Peace that commemorates the 11th Annual International Ploughing Match held on Conn Smythe’s farm in Caledon Township in October 1963. The boulder was found near Escarpment Sideroad where Highway 10 zig-zagged up the Niagara Escarpment and was moved here when the highway was widened. According to local legend, a missionary was forced to do penance by chipping and chiseling a deep cross into the rock.
**18365 Hurontario Street**  *Township Hall  circa 1875*

This building served as a court house, township hall, library and social centre for 88 years. When a new Township hall was constructed to the south of this building in 1963, the Town of Caledon agreed to lease this to the Caledon Townhall Players, an amateur theatre group. During the preparation for widening Highway 10, this building was moved east and south starting in July 2003 and a full basement was constructed.

**Other Points of Interest**

**18625 Hurontario Street**  *Cemetery  established 1825*

Land for the Caledon United Church Cemetery (formerly the joint Wesleyan Methodist and Presbyterian Cemetery) was donated by George Bell. Records indicate Thomas Bell, George’s son, was the first burial in 1825. Local legend has it that the caskets are held down with rocks due to the high water table. Records for the cemetery were allegedly lost to fire while being stored on private premises. The cemetery is maintained by the members of Knox United Church.

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**A 40th Anniversary Project of Heritage Caledon in 2016**

*Information courtesy of the Caledon Village Heritage Committee*

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