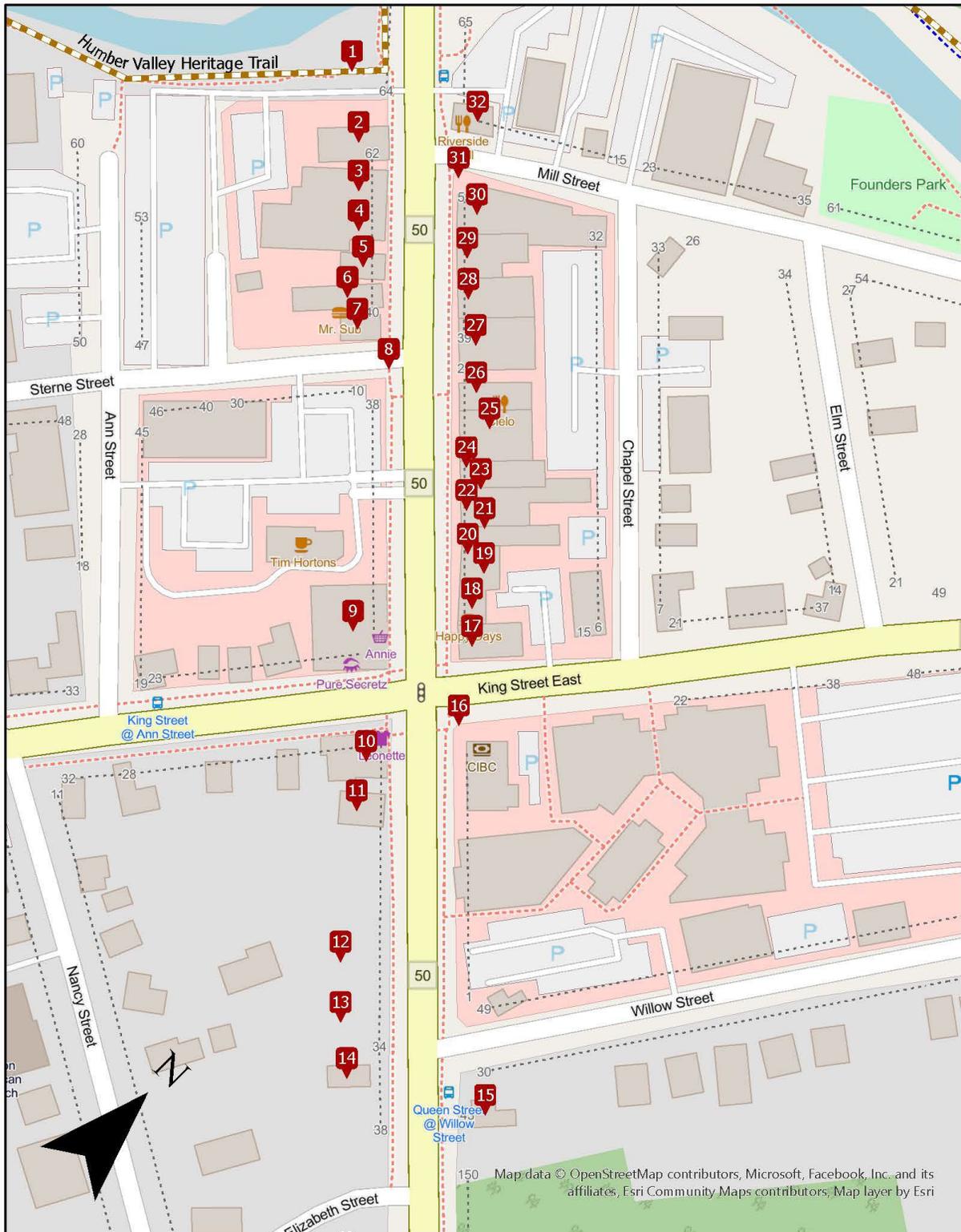


Heritage Caledon Walking Tour Series

Bolton Tour – Village Core



Please respect private property
Last Updated: June 2, 2022.

Indigenous Peoples have unique and enduring relationships with the land.

Indigenous Peoples have lived on and cared for this land throughout the ages. We acknowledge this and we recognize the significance of the land on which we gather and call home.

We acknowledge the traditional Territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples, and the Anishnabek of the Williams Treaties.

This land is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Credit First Nation.

We honour and respect Indigenous heritage and the long-lasting history of the land and strive to protect the land, water, plants and animals that have inhabited this land for the generations yet to come.

1



Humber River Heritage Park

Kiosk: Early Bolton Industry

This kiosk is standing on land reclaimed from the river in the early 1960s when the sharp bend in the Humber River was removed. The river was shifted closer to Hickman Street to prevent ice jams from forming under the bridge. The Humber was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1999.

2



62 Queen Street North Foundry Showroom

circa 1880s

Built by William Dick, this building was originally used as a showroom for products from the Dick Agricultural Works, such as plows, wagons, sleighs. From 1888 to 1900, it housed Herbert Bolton's newly purchased newsweekly 'The Enterprise'. Frank Leavens, who was initially hired as editor purchased the newspaper and printing operation in 1893. From 1901, it housed real estate and insurance businesses starting with Jack McDonald. By the 1950s, it had been retrofitted as a restaurant.



52 to 56 Queen Street North

These brick commercial buildings were built circa 1881 by Alf Doig and known as the 'Doig Block.' #54 was absorbed into the adjacent Hardware Store in 1907. The two-storey addition to the north side was built by Bert Schaefer in the late 1940s. The block was renovated in 2007 with new brick cladding and the addition of a third storey with residential units.

3



56 Queen Street North Hardware Store

circa 1881

Alf Doig built this store stocking myriad hardware items and keeping a tinsmith busy making everything from buckets to stove pipes. It was a hardware store for 107 years: for 10 years as 'O. M. Hodson' followed by 'Smith & Schaefer' for 61 years (Alex Schaefer, Bert Schaefer and Jim Schaefer) until Jim Schaefer sold to 'Davidson's Home Hardware' (1977-1987). Back in 1907, Robert Smith stabled horses for delivery wagons and stored river ice in sawdust for ice boxes. Fencing was a mainstay of the business. In the late 1940s, toys and china were added to the product mix.

4



52 Queen Street North Newspaper Office *circa* 1881
 This store/residence was originally 'Scott & Son's General Store'. In 1900, George Scott, notable for having defeated plans to install water mains in the village core, sold it to 'Enterprise' owner Frank Leavens, who set up a storefront newsroom with a printing plant in the rear. In 1941, Frank's son Werden Leavens became publisher/editor of 'The Bolton Enterprise', eventually selling to Metrospan in 1976. The building continued as newspaper office until the late 1980s.

5



46 Queen Street North Livery Business *late* 1880s
 This was originally the home/office of Kit Noble, who operated a horse-drawn livery with stables out back. It later became George Stokes' farm implement agency, Eaves' shoe repair and then a dressmaking shop. In the early 1940s, it was enlarged by E. G. 'Curly' Stewart who sold boots and shoes, issued fishing and hunting licenses and expanded the business with men's and boy's wear. Hugh and Ruby Simpson took over in the 1970s and it later became a bridal shop in the 1990s.

6



44 Queen Street North Farm Implement Showroom *circa* 1919
 This commercial building was built by Thomson Dick, who used the storefront as a showroom for implements from 'Dicks Agricultural Works'. He also started an automobile dealership selling the area's first Chevrolet and later added gasoline pumps in front of the building. After the foundry ceased operations in 1947, Dick ran an equipment and appliance agency until 1960. Garth Holtom then opened 'Golden Horseshoe' catering to horse farmers. Around 1986, the building's storefront was renovated.

7



40 Queen Street North Bolton Telephone Company (BTC) 1911
 In 1908, Bolton Telephone Company became Bell Canada's service agent for the long-distance line into Snell's drugstore and thirty local lines, six of which were in Bolton. BTC ran hundreds of new lines locally and in the surrounding townships and built this brick telephone exchange. Party lines were manned 24/7 upstairs; the wagon bay was below. Bell purchased BTC in 1956, introducing dial service five years later. The building later housed a jeans shop, 'Colquette Realty', 'Batty Insurance' and 'Bolton Family Chiropractic' upstairs; downstairs was 'Bert Ray Woodworking', 'Aurora's Dressmaking' and 'Mr. Submarine'. Note the 1911 datestone.

8



Corner of Sterne and Queen Bolton Village Clock
 This village clock is dedicated to local community activist, the late Ralph Ransom, and was installed by the Downtown Bolton Business Improvement Association (BIA) in 2011.

9



2 Queen Street North 'Beaver' General Store 1893

This Italianate style brick store was built by William, Edwin and Wyatt A. Jaffary, replacing their father's 1863 frame store. The name 'Jaffary', is bricked into the façade but hidden under the current sign. The store offered groceries, dry goods and tobacco. Until 1914, whisky was also sold, poured from casks into whatever container the customer brought with them. Maggie Alexander made hats upstairs until 1920. After 1943, various managers ran the store until Ted Houston assumed sole ownership in 1951, bought the building in 1954 and moved into the residence upstairs.

***DIRECTION:** Turn right at the corner to view the heritage 'art' on the light signal boxes*

10



2 Queen Street South Confectionary & Grocery Store circa 1894

This Italianate style brick corner store was first operated by Buists as a confectionary. They made ice cream in the 'Oddfellow's Hall' behind. The Buists were followed by a long line of grocers, both owner-merchants as well as tenant operators: William Stubbs, Alexander Gosleigh, Fawcetts, William and Jack Watts, Charles Pegg and Forest (Sam) Hutchison. By the 1980s, it had become the 'Village Shop' selling women's sportswear.

11



6 Queen Street South James Stork House circa 1854

This Victorian Gothic frame house was James Stork's Drug and Seed store and home. The building was moved from the SW corner of King /Queen in 1894. It housed Bolton's library, run by Stork's daughter Nancy from 1891-1914. Stork later worked as an agent attracting UK immigrants, matching them to housing and jobs. In 1922, Wilfred Maw purchased the house. He installed and managed Bolton's initial electrical lines and raised eight children here. It later housed offices and became 'Allegro Fine Foods' restaurant in 1997.

12



26 Queen Street South Tom Baron House circa 1905

This Edwardian Classical style house was built for blacksmith Thomas Wesley Baron and his wife Mary. Tom was part of Bolton's highly successful baseball team which won the three counties championship. The house's subsequent owners were electrician E. R. Boughton then Walter Richards. Note the limestone lintels over the windows. The bricks are likely from the local Norton brickyard. The house has been renovated for commercial use.

13



34 Queen Street South Italianate Style House circa 1890

The red and yellow brick used in this imposing Italianate style house likely came from Norton's brickyard. The detailing, including the paired bracketed eaves, lends the house an elegant urban character. Its south wing is a later addition. The house has been converted to professional offices.

14



38 Queen Street South Bradley House *circa* 1908

This ‘four-square’ house was built for Richard Bradley in Edwardian Classical style, characterized by a verandah with turned woodwork, asymmetrical floor plan and hipped roof. It was sold in 1937 to Florence and Albert Kennedy. From 1988 until 2000, it housed ‘Let’s Decorate.’ Its frame construction is unusual for Bolton where most houses of this era are brick.

DIRECTIONS: From this point, view 43 Queen Street South, the house on the east side of Queen that follows:

15

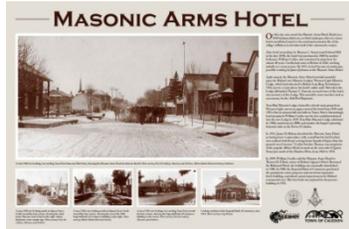


43 Queen Street South Samuel Walford House *circa* 1849

Samuel A. Walford arrived in Bolton in 1834 at age 16 with his parents and sister. He experienced the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, became Bolton’s first teacher under government inspection in 1842 and later apprenticed as a tallow maker in York. He returned to Bolton to work in his father’s soap and candle business and built this frame house with its distinctive roof. Walford served as Clerk of the Village of Bolton from 1873-1898, and for years, as secretary of both the school board and agricultural society. The house, purchased by Dan Mabee in 1901, was later owned by his daughter and her husband Cecil McCort, an agricultural implement dealer.

DIRECTIONS: Turn back and follow the sidewalk to the light signals at the foot of the hill

16



SE corner of King Street East/Queen Street South

Commemorative Plaque: Masonic Arms Hotel

17



1 Queen Street North Shields Dry Goods Store *circa* 1852

Callendar Brothers built this landmark brick store. It lay empty until William Shields purchased it in 1858, hiring William Hughes and Sam Bolton to finish the interior as a general store. Shields prospered as a merchant and his family later made a substantial endowment to Toronto General Hospital. The building was in use as a general store until 1932, notably from 1882-91 as newcomer David Hughes’ store, ‘The Leading House’. Coronet player Hughes founded the Bolton Band, ran the Mechanic’s Institute lending library, organized and played on the three counties championship baseball team and was a school board member. Following Hughes, the store was called ‘the Toronto Bargain Shop’ operated by H.A. Rutherford and Mr. Wood. After World War 1, the building and business were bought by W. A. Gardner who ran ‘The Handy Store’ until 1932 when it closed, a casualty of the depression. In 1933, the store became Leggett’s Pharmacy, evolving to ‘Leggett & Smith’ in 1951. The 1940s rear addition housed Ted Wand’s ‘Master Meat Market’, Allengame’s ‘Bolton Florist’, and was later incorporated into the store itself.

18

**5-7 Queen Street North** Commercial Building 1886

Built after a devastating fire on February 19th, 1886, this building was used as two separate stores. It housed Harry Austin's barber shop until 1908, then McMurter's barber shop until 1911. From 1932-34, the whole space was used for the McCort-Westlake harness and 'Massey Harris' implement agency. Later businesses included Wiggs' jewellery, Clark Pressick's dress shop, 'Francines', 'Reasons and Seasons' and 'Towne Shop'. The storefronts were restored in 2018.

**11-25 Queen Street North** Rutherford Block 1886

This block of six buildings was constructed after a devastating fire, in February 1886, engulfed the street, destroying the 1860s frame storefronts/residences and leaving only the corner brick store standing. Built with red and yellow brick from Norton's brickyard, the block shares Italianate design elements. Sloping roofs directed rainwater into basement reservoirs to be hand-pumped to second-floor dwellings. Back privies were the norm well into the 20th century.

19

**11 Queen Street North** Jewellery Store - Rutherford Block 1886

After the 1886 fire, Robert Russell re-built his jewellery business in this brick store. He reportedly kept a 'splendid stock of watch clocks', and continued until 1911 when barber Percy McMurter, later a Bolton Reeve, bought it. Under McMurter, haircuts were 25¢ and gents had their own shaving mugs. McMurter's daughter Inez married Edgar Bowes who barbered while she offered permanent waves. In the 1980s-90s Ralph Ransom operated a travel business here. The storefront was restored in 2018.

20

**15 Queen Street North** Drugstore - Rutherford Block 1886

After the 1886 fire, Samuel J. Snell re-built his patent medicine shop in this brick store. He sold traditional remedies like 'Wampoles', horehound, seltzer powders, and camphor. Snell was postmaster from 1881-1908, managed the long-distance telephone from 1888-1908 and was Reeve from 1892-3. The building continued in use as a drugstore for another 71 years under druggists Mr. Hammell, Mr. Shoemaker, Charles Chambers, Helen Weaver Bowes and Clarence White (1948-79). It became 'Bolton Milk and Variety' in 1981.

21

**17 Queen Street North** Confectionary - Rutherford Block 1886

After the 1886 fire, James Murch re-built his confectionary in this brick store. By 1915, it was Robert Studholme's tailor shop. His son Roy recalled waking up to the sound of shopkeepers sweeping Queen Street's wooden sidewalks. It later became 'Bolton Dairy', owned by Mr. Chamberlain, which was bought in 1948 by Hilliard Allan, Bolton's last Reeve. The dairy moved in 1959 and was succeeded by 'Munro Meats', 'Drennans Clothing', and 'Facin Shoes' which closed in 2013 after 31 years in business. The building became a restaurant in 2021.

22



19 Queen Street North Showroom - Rutherford Block 1886
 Around 1893, this became James H. Bolton's sewing machine, piano & organ showroom. His residence was upstairs. Bolton, great nephew of village founder George Bolton, wrote '*Bolton – Some History and Events*'. In the 1930s, the store became Orland Downey & John Keyes showroom for 'International Harvester'. Downey, who was Reeve in 1952-3, was a financial services manager until the late 1950s. More recently, the store housed 'The Thought Shop' (1980s) and 'Clementines' (until 2014).

23



23 Queen Street North Bakery - Rutherford Block 1886
 After the 1886 fire, the Rummens re-built the early 1860s bakery of Mr. Yelland, in this brick store. John baked while Henrietta cooked and sold meals. Freman T. Porritt and William Newlove bought the store in 1902, adding groceries. After WWI, William Gordon took over, baking 200 loaves of bread a day for 40 years, selling the building in 1961 to jeweller W. Wigg. Jewellery replaced groceries and Harry Sharpe continued the bakery. It remained a jewellery store through the 1970s, then became 'Kimberley's Gifts' (1984), 'Sullivan's Treasures' (1994), then Cucci's. Storefront was renovated in 2021.

24



25 Queen Street North Butcher Shop - Rutherford Block 1886
 After the 1886 fire, William Extence re-built his harness business in this brick store. He sold it in the early 1890s to Ernie and William Beamish for their butcher shop. River ice covered in sawdust between its floors kept meat fresh and their family farm served as a slaughter house. Later, it became 'Bolton Plumbing & Heating'. Emmett Grogan altered the storefront in 1974 and built boutiques along Beamish Lane. In 1987, 'Humber Valley Dentistry' took over the upper levels. The 'Caledon Citizen' occupied the lower level until 2015.

25



29 Queen Street North Egan Brothers Store circa 1947
 This store was built by Bill and Harold Egan who operated the local funeral home. The main floor housed hardware and appliances, while a furniture department and casket selection room operated upstairs. Egan's relocated the business in the late 1970s after which the building housed a billiard parlour upstairs with a dollar store below. It was later renovated with a new front façade and became 'Baffo's Pizza and Pasta' which continued until 2014.

26



33 Queen Street North Post Office circa 1945
 This building was originally a single storey Post Office built by postmaster Byron Leavens. Shortly after, Leavens, a First World War veteran, died unexpectedly. His widow Mary carried on as postmistress until Calvert Daines succeeded her as postmaster in 1947. Daines then added a second storey for his residence. The post office moved to its current location on King Street West in 1962.

27



39 Queen Street North Bamboo Garden Dancehall *circa* 1928
This building was built by Norman and Frank Clarke as a dancehall which locals called 'The Casino'. Otto Hardwick owned and operated it for years. Stores stayed open late on Saturday and Bolton's downtown was a lively spot. Later, it was Eric Armstrong's used furniture store until Egan Brothers Furniture store expanded here in the 1970s. From the late 1970s-2014 it was 'The Main Street Station'.

28



43 Queen Street North *circa* 1965
This store was built between the dancehall to the south and the side entrance to the former Hesp residence above 43B Queen Street North, on what originally was the Hesp family's lawn and garden.

29



43B Queen Street North Store *circa* 1874
The opulent detailing of this Victorian Gothic red and yellow brick store, built for Hannah and John Gardhouse, is hidden under white brick cladding. By 1889, it was owned by their son James and used for Hannah's millinery shop. By early 1900s, it was Lincoln Hutton's real estate office. Later it housed the Post Office, the McCort-Keyes 'Massey Harris' showroom (1934-45) and 'Jack Gibson Insurance'.

30



49 Queen Street North Gardhouse General Store *circa* 1874
This modern storefront comprises two buildings. The c.1874 building was grist mill owner John Gardhouse's Victorian Gothic style general store, built by George Watson using locally made red and yellow brick. After John's death in 1878, his widow Hannah managed it until 1881 when a young James Clarke purchased it. It remained a general store for many years with Miss Maggie O'Dea's dressmaking shop upstairs. The second building was a pre-1891, adjoining, two-storey red brick home, set back with a separate entrance.

31



51 Queen Street North Cold Storage Lockers *circa* 1941
This building which replaced the 1880s Bonnar Block was built in 1941 by entrepreneur Otto Hardwick. He rented 300 freezer lockers at a time before home freezing was available. Hardwick had earlier developed the first pasteurization facility in the area. In 1947, Robert Bullock purchased the locker business, added a retail meat business with fast-freezing, and, in 1955, expanded it into an IGA store. In 1961, the building was converted to a Canadian Tire franchise and in the late 1970s it became Egan Brothers' Furniture Store.

32



65 Queen Street North Former Tavern and Inn *early* 1840s
Built on the site of Thomas Roger's early smithy/inn, this building was blacksmith Elijah Harsent's 1840s tavern and inn. James Wolfe, also a blacksmith, acquired the business in the early 1850s and, by 1890, it became Robert Elliott's shoemaking shop and residence. Around 1900, it was the showroom of painter-paperhanger John Lake who later converted it to a butcher shop. By 1943, it was Jack Bryan's home, at which time the single gable roofline was clipped.

Information courtesy of the Albion Bolton Historical Society

