

Collingwood Heritage Walking Tours is a special project of the Heritage Advisory Committee. This project would not have been possible without the support of our community partners:

Architectural Conservancy, Business and Economic Development, B.I.A., Collingwood Historical Society, Collingwood Museum, and Collingwood Library.

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discover
COLLINGWOOD



HERITAGE
WALKS
East Heritage Walk

www.heritagecollingwood.ca

Travelling through
Collingwood's history

For more information regarding numbered historical photographs, architectural features and descriptors of properties, please refer to:

Collingwood Historical Homes and Buildings.

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Collingwood Museum (Photographs from the Collingwood Museum Collection)

Look Up Tour brochure

Reflections COLLINGWOOD An Historical Anthology Editor: B. Arp



take a walk around
COLLINGWOOD

More Discover Collingwood walks are available at:
W W W . discovercollingwood . ca

Welcome to the **East Heritage Walk**. The Discover Collingwood Heritage Walks have been divided into three areas, all beginning and ending at the Town Hall. All of the walks are accessible and were designed to showcase a selection of Collingwood's finest heritage properties, while providing you with a brief history of the people who have designed, built and lived in our historic town. The estimated times and distances for the self-guided tours are without stopping. The longer walks can easily be done in shorter sections as individual time permits.

Three separate brochures have been created for the Discover Collingwood Heritage Walks. The **Downtown Heritage Walk** is approximately 1 km in length and takes about 20 minutes to complete. The **West Heritage Walk** is approximately 3 km in length and should take around 1 hour to complete without stops.

The **East Heritage Walk** is approximately 3 km in length and takes about 1 hour to complete. This walk encompasses what was once the transportation hub of early Collingwood. In January 1855, the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Union Railroad (later known as the Northern Railway) connected from Toronto, through the Barrie area, to the harbour on Georgian Bay. The railway transformed our area from a roadless "impenetrable mass of cedar swamp" to an incorporated Town in 1858.



The port quickly developed and other railways like the Hamilton & North Western constructed lines into Collingwood in the late 1870's. As the population grew so did our milling, fishing, lumbering, grain handling and boat building industries.

The Collingwood Shipbuilding Company was formed in 1889. Trains arrived at the station carrying tradesmen to work in the shipyards. Passengers also arrived by train, on their way to board ships that would carry them westward. This led to the boom of the early hotel industry. Every second building was either a tavern or a saloon, often as part of a hotel. The Tremont House is one of the last surviving 19th-century hotels and can be found on this tour.

Many of the shipyard workers resided in the smaller homes on the east side of Collingwood's main street. Most of these early buildings were made of wood, but it wasn't long before successful businessmen and entrepreneurs coming to our town began building homes of a much larger scale. You'll find some of these significant heritage homes along this self-guided tour, especially on Minnesota and Ste. Marie Streets.

We hope you'll enjoy travelling through Collingwood's history.



Scan the QR code to access links to the Heritage Website, with links to each walk along with maps of each tour.



EAST
HERITAGE WALK

3 km | 1 hour

This self-guided tour starts and ends at the Town Hall, marked with an asterick * on the map.

The East Heritage Walk contains 26 significant numbered properties.

The diamond symbol ♦ is used to represent additional interesting properties along the self-guided tour.

Public Washrooms ♀♂ are located at the Collingwood Museum and Collingwood Public Library.

1. All Saints' Anglican Church 1858



32 Elgin Street
The land for this church was willed by the McMaster Estate. Six members of the church mortgaged all they possessed

to raise funds for the building. They were William B. Hamilton, Charles MacDonnell, George Moberly, Dr. Alexander R. Stephen, Charles Gamon and Col. John Hogg. The original stone structure continues to serve as the nave of the present church. X973.518.1

2. St. Mary's Rectory 1885

63 Elgin Street
Parishioner John J. Long had this rectory built in the Italianate style at his own expense. He also donated the property and materials for the project. Contractors for the project were Michael Boland and Peter Heuser, Jr. X985.9.29s



♦ St. Mary's Church 1888

Architects: Kennedy & Holland
63 Elgin Street
When the parish outgrew its first church (dating to 1858) on Pine Street, this impressive brick structure, designed in the Romanesque Revival style, was erected on land donated by Thomas Long. The new church, built by the Bryan Manufacturing Company, had seating for 500. Long also provided the bell for the steeple. X985.9.29s

3. All Saints' Rectory 1878



75 Ontario Street
The rectory was built from the same plans as the wooden rectory, Claverleigh, in Creemore, but constructed in stone. Contractor Robert Burdett provided a quote of \$1,550 to do the stonework, carpentry, painting and glazing, not including the verandah or front porch. The rectory – one of the few surviving stone buildings in Collingwood – is considered a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture in Ontario.

4. Robert Burdett Duplex 1875

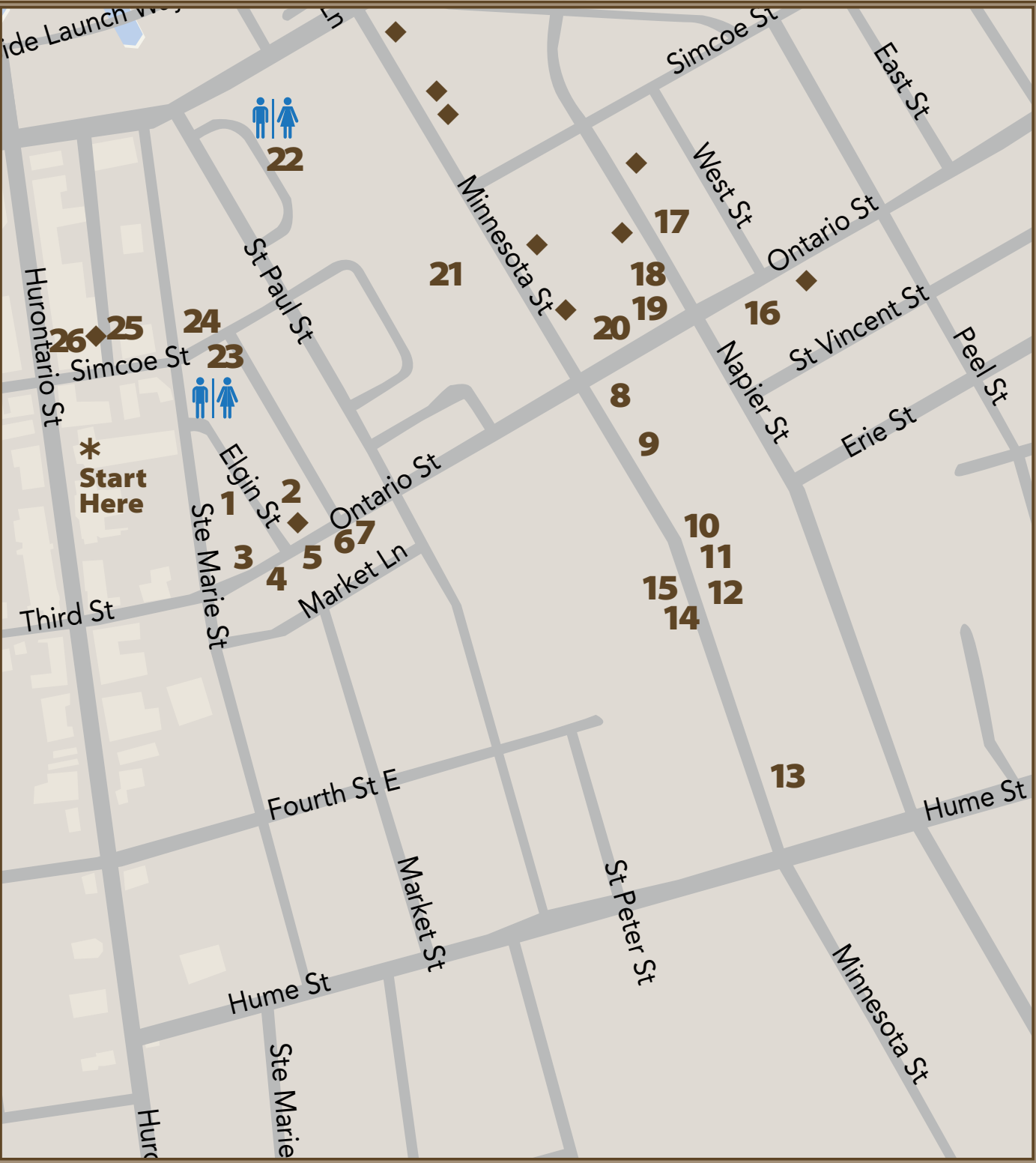
74-76 Ontario Street
John Nettleton, a tailor and one-time mayor, sold this property to Robert Burdett. Burdett, a builder, had a workshop at the back of this property from which he ran his business. He is credited with construction of All Saints' Rectory, the Grand Trunk Railway Station, the Town Hall and a three-storey brick store for Thomas Long & Bros on the east side of Hurontario Street, which burned down in the fire of 1881.



5. Early Presbyterian Church 1862



90 Ontario Street
The original stucco building was actually the 1st Presbyterian Church, built in 1856. This 20ft x 30ft building was later destroyed by fire. The second frame 26ft x 36ft building on this site was built shortly after. There were 3 long narrow windows on each side and 2 at one end. Between these 2 windows stood the pulpit. Due to a growing congregation, the building was enlarged twice more, before being sold in 1881 to William Hamilton, who built the present duplex. X970.388.1



6. Coates House
106 Ontario Street
Shilson Osbert Coates owned a barber shop on Hurontario Street, which he expanded to include the sale of confectionery. The sweet side of his business was so successful that, in 1906, he changed the name of his company to the S.O. Coates Ice Cream Parlour. It was later renamed “The Sugar Bowl.” In 1912, Coates purchased this house. x968.816.01



7. Heuser House 1889
114 Ontario Street
Alexander Heuser incorporated elements of the popular Italianate and Queen Anne Revival styles in construction of this house in 1889. He sold the property to Harry and Catherine Trott in 1896. The couple’s daughter, Georgina, was married here in 1910.



8. Charles Stephens House 1898-1899
167 Minnesota Street
This rambling Queen Anne Revival mansion was built by the Bryan Manufacturing Company for prominent businessman Charles E. Stephens at a cost of \$11,000. Fitted with the finest materials and latest conveniences, it was the most luxurious residence in town in its day. The house passed out of the Stephens family in 1947 and operated as a boarding house for many years before it was restored as a single-family home. x981.820.1



9. The Rocks 1874-1876
189 Minnesota Street
William Basil Hamilton, Collingwood’s first mayor (1858), lived out his retirement years, with his wife, Jessie, in this solid brick house, known as “The Rocks.” An early speculator, Hamilton won and lost several fortunes before being appointed postmaster in 1861. He held the job for 22 years until he retired to make way for his son, William A. Hamilton. In the 1960s, the Rocks’ new owners built an addition using reclaimed logs from an old barn in Peterborough. 004.58.2t



10. The Hut 1883
217 Minnesota Street
This unusual, poured-concrete home, modelled after Colborne Lodge in Toronto’s High Park, was built for Anglican minister Thomas P. Hodge and his wife, Sarah. In the summer of 1883, the Reverend Hodge suffered a heart attack and never had the chance to live in the house. Maurice Gaviller, a civil engineer and land surveyor, rented the house for a number of years before buying it in 1897. “The Hut,” as the Gavillers called it, remained in the family until the death of Gaviller’s daughter, Babette, in 1970. Babette was awarded the Order of Merit from both the British and Canadian governments for her wartime service heading up a volunteer medical aid division in Europe. She also organized the first Brownie troop in Collingwood. x968.820.1



11. The Birches 1871 -1872
Architect: Richard Palin
227 Minnesota Street
This home was custom-designed by Richard Palin, an English-born civil engineer and co-owner of the Collingwood Tannery. Richard and his wife raised four children in the English-style farmhouse they called “The Birches.” One of their sons, Philip Coles Palin, became an architect who designed many of the town’s finer homes, as well as the Federal Building on Hurontario Street. The house changed hands many times until 1946 when it was sold to Dr. Douglas Harvie, a GP who practised medicine until 1973. His wife, Madeleine, was well known for her contributions to activities of the Red Cross and the Victorian Order of Nurses.



12. Worsley/Biltmore 1891
241 Minnesota Street
When Alfred L. Stephens had this Queen Anne Revival home built in 1891, it was considered the height of elegance. Inspired by Biltmore, Cornelius Vanderbilt’s lavish country house in Asheville, North Carolina, it featured four fireplaces, five sets of panelled pocket doors, fine stained glass and quality craftsmanship throughout. Alfred was a partner, with his brother, Charles, in C. Stephens and Co., a prosperous retail and wholesale business. In 1898, Charles built an even bigger house down the street at 167 Minnesota Street.



13. Eastbourne 1868/1886
Architect: Thomas Kieswetter
323 Minnesota Street
This home began as a modest two-storey dwelling built in 1868 for Charles Gamon, a lawyer and former town councillor. The large south wing, designed by local architect Thomas Kieswetter, was added in 1886 at a cost of \$850. In 1912, Frank W. Bryan and his wife, Jeanette, purchased the property. Frank, a senior partner of Bryan Manufacturing Company, played a leading role in the political and social life of the community. Following Frank’s death in 1937, his son, George, took over as head of the family firm and moved into Eastbourne with his wife, Faith.



14. White Gate 1873
240 Minnesota Street
George Buck, a cooper, shingle manufacturer and lumber merchant, built this Classical Vernacular, two-storey clapboard home in 1873. He was principal owner of George Buck and Company, later known as Melville, Fair and Company, with a factory located at the north end of Minnesota Street. It is likely that the Buck Company produced much of the building material used in construction of the dwelling. The house became known as “White Gate” when owner Mary Bellerby opened a small tea room in the home during her occupancy from 1923-1951. A charming white fence and gate bounded the property at this time. Other notable owners (1951-1969) were Captain Merton Plunkett, founder of the First World War-era vaudeville troupe, the Dumbells, and his wife, Lila. x2009.22.1



15. William Hamilton House 1873-1874
224 Minnesota Street
Irish-born William Hamilton was just 16 in 1854 when he came to Collingwood and began working for the Northern Railway as a “wharfinger” (railway wharf warehouse worker). He had this stately home built circa 1873. William and his wife, Anne, raised eight children there before ill health forced him to quit his employment of 28 years at the railway and move to a farm outside of town. David Wilson, a retired boot and shoemaker, bought the property for \$2,000 in 1883. The large Wilson family lived in the house until 1919. The current owners have occupied the designated home since 1975.



16. Victoria Terrace 1883
Architect: Marshall B. Aylsworth
272-278 Ontario Street
Although this property has a regal name, it was said to have been built for Eliza Lett to block the lake view of her neighbours to the north. Eliza, the wealthy widow of Reverend Stephen Lett, used the four-plex as an income property. An influential and active citizen, Eliza was well known for her fundraising efforts to build the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital. The High Victorian building is notable for its elaborate patterned brickwork, elegant bay windows and decorative gables.



◆ **282 Ontario Street**
This property was also owned by Elizabeth Lett and sold to Henry and Pauline Arnold. Henry was a ship’s purser.



17. East Ward/Connaught Public School 1884
Architect: Marshall B. Aylsworth
125 Napier Street
Originally called East Ward School, it was renamed in 1911 in honour of Queen Victoria’s son, the Duke of Connaught. The school was one of two designed by Marshall B. Aylsworth in the Romanesque Revival style, and erected in 1884. (The other was built at 400 Maple Street). A two-classroom addition, designed by John Wilson, was built in 1902. The town-owned property was used for a number of years as a health club with an indoor pool. After standing empty for some time, it was purchased by developers in 2011. An excellent example of adaptive reuse, the old school was converted to condominiums and dubbed “The Duke.”



◆ **Daniel Wilson House 1888-1894**
103 Napier Street
Daniel Wilson was mayor of Collingwood from 1904-1907. During his time in office, his wife died, causing him to resign to care for his five children. The Wilson family owned Wilson Bros. Lumber.



◆ **James Wilson Regency Bungalow 1887-1889**
128 Napier Street
James Wilson was the brother of architect and contractor John Wilson, who is associated with the “Flowerpot houses,” as well as, the original Collingwood Collegiate.



18. Regency Cottage 1886
148 Napier Street
Henry G. Nopes purchased this property from William McMaster in 1884. It was originally built as a one room house in 1886, but many additions have been made to expand this Regency bungalow with its central hall plan. The property was later sold to the Stoutenburg family for \$1700 in 1912. The Stoutenbergs also built and ran a local saw mill. The front entrance sconces and pantry light of the home were added from the Arlington Hotel before it was devastated by fire in 1987. x2014.5.1



19. Warren Home 1881
231 Ontario Street
This was originally a small house or cabin when Philip and Caroline Warren purchased three lots on the corner of Ontario and Napier Streets in 1881. Philip was an engineer on the Grand Trunk Railroad for over 30 years.



20. Herrington House c. 1900
Architect: John Wilson
133 Minnesota Street
This solid brick house was built for William T. Herrington at the turn of the century in time for his marriage to Louisa Knox. It was constructed by Bryan Manufacturing where William Herrington was employed as treasurer. Following William’s death, his wife, Louisa, continued to live there with her son, daughter and son-in-law, John Ditson of Ditson Bakery.



◆ **Clapboard House**
119 Minnesota Street



21. FRIENDSHIP GARDEN PATHWAY
The Town of Collingwood and the city of Katano, Japan established a Sister City relationship in 1980. There are many trees and benches in the Japanese style garden commemorating the relationship over the years.

From the Friendship Gardens, you may either follow the pathway to the museum, or proceed North on Minnesota Street to continue the self-guided tour.

◆ **Ontario Regency Cottage 1884**
91 Minnesota Street
This home was built for Anne O’Grady, who purchased the property for \$110 in 1870. She was married to a railway engineer. The home was sold for \$1,750 in 1906.

◆ **1882**
45 Minnesota Street

◆ **Ontario Vernacular Cottage 1880**
39 Minnesota Street

◆ **William Bryan House 1901**
3 Minnesota Street
The home of William Bryan, an owner of Bryan Manufacturing Company, was conveniently located opposite his business on the property now occupied by Sobeyes. William was a warden of All Saints’ Anglican Church and a representative of the Board of Education. Lumber businesses were prone to fire and Bryan Manufacturing suffered several setbacks due to fire. In the 1960s, with the influx of large franchises such as Beaver Lumber, it became clear that the company would be unable to compete at this level. The Bryan Manufacturing property remained vacant for several years and the buildings were finally demolished in 1983.

22. The Collingwood Museum c. 1874
45 St. Paul Street
Collingwood’s first railway depot was built in 1855, three years before the incorporation of the town. The wooden station, believed to be the design of railway manager Frederick W. Cumberland, who was also a noted Toronto architect, was destroyed by fire around 1864. A new brick station, an Italianate design featuring a picturesque square tower, was erected around 1874. But this station, too, was extensively damaged in a 1932 fire. The building was restored, but without its tower and sheltering wings. With the advent of new highways and the convenience of automobile travel, passenger train service declined and finally ended in 1960. The railway station was closed and in 1965, the property was purchased by the Town of Collingwood for the purpose of housing the Collingwood Museum. In 1997, the building was deemed a fire hazard and was torn down. It was replaced by a simplified replica of the 1874 building with climate-controls suitable for storing museum artifacts. x976.626.1



23. The Tremont House 1889
Architect: John Chamberlain
80 Simcoe Street
The Tremont House was built in 1889 for John McCormick as a 24-room hotel. It is one of the last



surviving 19th-century hotels in the downtown heritage district, although it narrowly escaped demolition in recent years. It was erected during the active building period after the 1881 fire that devastated a large part of the downtown. The proximity of the hotel to the railway station made it a popular destination for travellers through the mid 1900s. After advocating to save the building, which had fallen into disrepair, Richard and Anke Lex bought the property in 2009, restored the exterior and converted the interior to artists’ studios, retail and gallery space, a restaurant, and apartments. The project earned the 2010 Peter Stokes Award for Restoration, awarded by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

24. The Tremont Annex c. 1870
77-79 Simcoe Street
This duplex is one of the oldest surviving brick buildings in the downtown. It is situated on land that was once owned by the Sandford Fleming family. The duplex was privately owned until 1988 when it was sold to Thomson Newspapers Ltd., along with the neighbouring property at the corner of Simcoe and Ste. Marie. In 2011, the Lex family purchased the boarded-up duplex, which had been empty for five years, and gave it new life. The Tremont Annex, as it has been dubbed, was home to the Enterprise Bulletin until its closure in 2017. The building is now home to artists’ studios.



25. John Chamberlain Block 1897
27, 31, 33 Simcoe Street
These buildings were constructed by enterprising contractor John Chamberlain for various businesses.

◆ **27 Simcoe**
In 1898, John Chamberlain sold this building to William Williams, the first headmaster of Collingwood Collegiate Institute. It became home to the Collingwood Bulletin newspaper. The newspaper was politically liberal, as opposed to the Collingwood Enterprise, which supported the Tory line. Following Williams’ death, the paper was passed to his son, David Williams, for \$1. In 1932, the two papers were amalgamated into the Enterprise-Bulletin. The newspaper continued to be published from this location until the late 1980s when its offices and printing press moved to a new building at the northeast corner of Simcoe and Ste. Marie.

◆ **31 Simcoe**
This building was purchased by James MacFarlane, who ran a furniture store from the premises. MacFarlane sold the property to the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church in 1919. The property recently underwent major renovations.

◆ **33-35 Simcoe**
This property was sold to Robert E. Fair, Barrister (later Bruce and Fair, Barristers). In 1947, it was purchased by the Canadian Legion Br. 63 and then in 1953 by the Victoria Loyal Orange Lodge. The current building, thought to have been constructed around 1907, has recently been gutted and renovated. During renovations, a vibrant two-storey advertisement for the Quaker Oats Company was uncovered on the east interior wall. It was originally the exterior wall of 31 Simcoe Street. A painted banner for “Jas. MacFarlane Furniture” was also revealed near the roofline.

26. 11 Simcoe Street
This unit was once occupied by Alf Staples, a tailor. He was a Canadian Home Boy in Toronto when he was adopted at the age of 10 by tailor Donald Smith of Duntroon. It was here that he apprenticed as a tailor. He later moved to Vancouver, between 1912 and 1915, where he made a fortune dabbling in real estate. On his return to Collingwood, he purchased a large house at Third and Maple Streets (now demolished). He also purchased the Scenic Caves property at the Blue Mountains, which he turned into a tourist attraction. Known as a “Man of Nature,” he would walk to the Scenic Caves daily. He also made a name for himself when, at the age of 63, he walked the 600 miles to Chicago to attend the fair. x970.444.1

