

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  
Downtown 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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Geneology Department: Collingwood Public Library

Collingwood Museum (Photographs from the Collingwood Museum Collection)

Look Up Tour brochure

Reflections COLLINGWOOD An Historical Anthology Editor: B. Arp

the COLLINGWOOD  
MUSEUM



Collingwood  
DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

take a walk around  
COLLINGWOOD

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



In 1854, Collingwood was originally known as the "Hens and Chickens" before becoming the northern terminus of the railway and before the development of the shipyards. These developments made it possible for entrepreneurs to establish businesses and to build their homes. Collingwood was incorporated in 1858, nine years before confederation. The three "Heritage Walks" travel through the town's history by sharing some of the stories that link us with Collingwood's past.

The Heritage Walks are divided into three areas. Each of the three walks are accessible and start and end at the Town Hall. The estimated times and distances for the self-guided tours are without stopping.

You will notice a variety of architectural styles and features that are distinctive to Collingwood. Most



notably are the Flowerpot Houses and Regency bungalows. The sunflower is a popular Victorian motif and was used by particular builders as a symbol of their craftsmanship. The Regency bungalows, in Collingwood, are usually identified by hipped roofs, central hall plans and distinctive central dormers. The indoor-outdoor distinction is minimized, with verandahs providing views of the yards.

Welcome to Heritage Walks: Downtown. The Discover Collingwood Heritage Walks have been divided in to three areas. Each of the three walks are accessible and start and end at the Town Hall. The estimated times and distances for the self-guided tours are without stopping. The longer walks are easily subdivided into shorter walks as individual time permits.

The Downtown Heritage Walk is approximately 1 km in length and takes 20 minutes to complete.

The Heritage Walks to the West and to the East of Hurontario Street are included in a separate brochure. They are each 3 km in length and take approximately 1 hour each to complete.

We hope you enjoy discovering Collingwood.



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



DOWNTOWN  
HERITAGE WALK

1 km | 20 minutes

1. Market Building/Town Hall 1889-1891

Architects: Charles J. Gibson and Henry Simpson  
97 Hurontario Street



Collingwood's Town Hall was originally built as a multi-function "Market Building," housing retail shops, a farmer's market, a courtroom, opera house and council chambers. In 1890, a fire spread from the old market building, gutting the new structure. The hall was quickly rebuilt, with some improvements, under the supervision of local architects Fred T. Hodgson and Thomas Kieswetter. By 1949, a hockey arena had replaced the opera hall. The four-faced clock, installed in the tower in 1951, was crafted by renowned English clockmakers Gillett & Johnston. X970.992.1

2. Burdett's Block c. 1880

89-93 Hurontario Street

This photo from the 1890s shows a dry goods store on the left, a grocery and shoe store on the right, and a wallpaper display at R. Creelman's in the centre. This was one of the first buildings in the downtown core to be restored. 003.50.1



3. Grand Central Hotel 1876

81-83 Hurontario Street

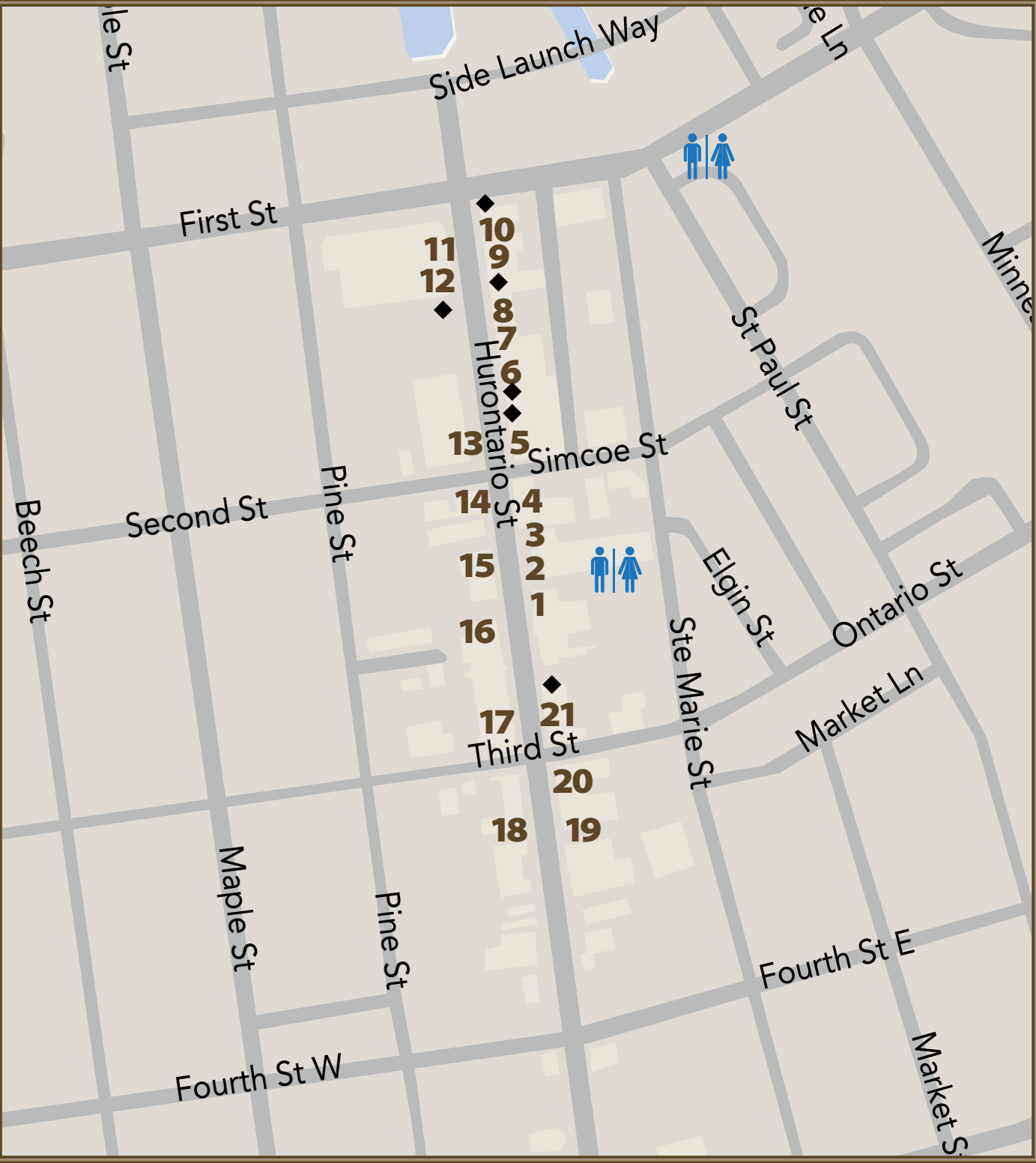
This building is all that remains of what was once Collingwood's largest hotel, the Grand Central. This section housed the hotel's bar room. A former hotel entry also survives and now provides access to the new "Grand Central Apartments." The rest of the hotel was taken down around 1917 after a devastating fire. The Merchants Bank of Canada rose in its place. If you look up, you will see the name of the hotel owner (Thomas Collins) below the third-storey windows. X969.818



4. Merchants Bank of Canada 1919

Architect: Morley W. Hogle, Montreal  
79 Hurontario Street

Originally built as The Merchants Bank of Canada in 1919, the neo-classical structure was the home of the Bank of Montreal until the new BMO branch relocated to Huron Street in 2015. After major interior renovations and restoration of key architectural features, the former bank reopened as a restaurant in 2016. X970.327.1





**5. 1890**  
69-77  
*Hurontario Street*  
Sandell's Meats occupied the corner storefront from 1927 until the 1970s. X970.444.1



◆ **63-65 Hurontario Street**  
This storefront was the original Woolworth's five and dime store.

◆ **59 Hurontario Street**  
Brown's Books and Stationery occupied the centre of this three-storefront block, selling everything from pens to bicycles.

**6. Nettleton and Best's Liquor Store 1883**  
*51 Hurontario Street*  
After the Great Fire of 1881, Nettleton's Best Liquor Store was the first store to rise from the ashes. William Nettleton and partner, D.M. Best, commissioned the construction of this three-storey building in 1883 at a cost of \$3,000. The business closed in 1896. X973.649.1



**7. E.R. Carpenter Drug Store 1884**  
*45-49 Hurontario Street*



Edward R. Carpenter, a Connecticut native who arrived in Collingwood in 1858, started as a tannery clerk and built a successful wholesale and retail drug business from this location. By 1880, he was wealthy enough to begin construction of a mansion (Elmwood) at 241 Third Street. At the back of his drug store, he installed the first telephone switchboard in Collingwood. Jury & Gregory later took over the storefront business. X968.902.1

**8. Thomas Fair & Co.**  
*43 Hurontario Street*  
Thomas Fair & Co. built this dry goods store. Thomas's widow, Elizabeth Fair, took over the business, and kept it prosperous for many years. This building was lost to fire in 1961. X985.9.291



◆ **41 Hurontario Street c. 1880**  
The original Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce occupied this building until it was renovated and became the Public Works building. X985.9.291

**9. James Lindsay Store 1868**  
*23-25 Hurontario Street*



James Lindsay, one of the earliest merchants in Collingwood, owned this property from 1868 until his death in 1903. The original building housed Lindsay's dry goods store, as well as the Masonic Lodge, the early library, and a variety of offices. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1905. X970.445.1

**10. Callary Block 1890**  
*Architect: Thomas Kieswetter*  
*15-21 Hurontario Street*  
This was the original North American Hotel and the Collingwood Headquarters for the stage lines running to Meaford and Owen Sound. This building was later purchased by Bernard Callary, a Collingwood mayor in the 1890s. After Callary's death, William Carmichael bought the building. Over the years, this store has housed a variety of commercial enterprises such as a bowling alley, cigar shop and hardware store. It was destroyed by fire in 1905. X970.977.1



◆ **5 Hurontario Street c. 1882**  
One of Hurontario Street's oldest surviving commercial buildings, it is now missing its distinctive triangular brickwork. It was home to L.L. Robinson's butcher shop for many years.

**11. The Federal Building 1913-1915**  
*Architect: Philip C. Palin | 44 Hurontario Street*



Designed by Collingwood native Philip Coles Palin to house federal functions such as the post office and custom house, this Classical-inspired structure looked nothing like the typical post office designs dictated by the federal government's chief architect of the day. Construction, by the Bryan Manufacturing Company of Collingwood and Michael Healy of Toronto, took three years and cost a staggering \$144,000. Remarkable for its Beaux-Arts design, quality craftsmanship and rich materials, the Collingwood landmark is recognized as a significant national heritage building. It is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The marble-clad façade has undergone several major restorations. A restored stained-glass dome, hidden for many years, is a highlight of the fine interior public space. X970.769.1

**12. Collingwood Enterprise**  
*50 Hurontario Street*



This was the long-time home of the Collingwood Enterprise newspaper, which was managed by Editor John Hogg and his son, W.A. Hogg, for decades. The paper merged with the Collingwood Bulletin during the 1930s to form The Enterprise-Bulletin. X970.964.1

◆ **Telfer Bros. Block 1880**  
*52 -58 Hurontario Street*  
This was the home of Telfer Bros. Biscuit Co., founded by Hall Telfer, and later operated by sons, Herbert and James Telfer. The warehouses were located in the rear of the building as well as on Second Street. The baking ovens were on the second floor. Although known for its biscuits, the company also specialized in brooms and cheeses. X970.964.1

**13. A.H. Johnson c. 1890**  
*60-70 Hurontario Street*  
A.H. Johnson operated a drug store in this building. In 1896, one son left Collingwood by dogsled to prospect for gold in the Yukon. X970.454.14



**14. Trott's Furniture c. 1880**  
*72-76 Hurontario Street*

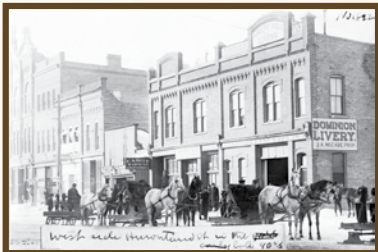


Trott's Furniture occupied this corner from 1867 until mid-1980. At one point, the

building housed furniture showrooms and workrooms for making cabinets, chairs and other furniture on site. The cabinetmaking business spanned five generations and continued until the shipyards closed down in 1986. The Trotts' skills in cabinetmaking transferred well to constructing coffins when they became the undertakers for the town. X971.562.1

**15. Rule's Livery 1890**  
*108 Hurontario Street*

In 1890, this was the home of Rule's Livery. From 1908 to 1924, it was occupied by the Royal Bank of Canada, and later by G.E. McLean's tobacco wholesale shop. X970.961.1



**16. The Temple Building 1890**  
*Architect: Thomas Kieswetter*  
*126 Hurontario Street*



Constructed by the Wilson Brothers of Collingwood in the Renaissance Revival style, The Temple was a joint venture to house members of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF)

and the Masons, whose headquarters had been destroyed by fire in 1889. The Temple provided space for a variety of commercial tenants, including the office of contractor-turned-architect John Wilson. Upstairs, the auditorium was a popular venue for dances and community meetings. The building was consumed by fire in 2000. The new building shares much of the original design. X970.470.1

**17. The Bell Telephone Co. 1917-1919**  
*Architect: William J. Carmichael*  
*150 Hurontario Street*

This handsome building was erected when it became obvious that the telephone business was more than a passing fad. The dial office was located on Fifth Street. X972.2.1



**18. Dorchester Hotel c. 1890's**  
*174 Hurontario Street*  
This was originally a frame building called the Dominion Hotel. Two balconies extended from the second and third storeys. The hotel was rebuilt, using locally quarried split rock, and converted to rental units called the Balmoral Apartments. It was later known as the Morrison Apartments under the ownership of MP Julian Ferguson, founder of Clyde Aircraft. When it opened, the Dorchester Hotel boasted the first elevator in Collingwood.



**19. Finlay Block 1893**  
*197, 199, 201, 203 Hurontario Street*



In 1894, H. Finlay had a large blacksmith shop here for horseshoeing, carriage and iron work. Before the

present brick additions were built, a frame building housed the Ditson grocery business and picture framing shop. After the war, Reg and Roy Potts purchased the building for Potts' Dairy Bar, famous for its milkshakes and lemon custard ice-cream. X969.732.1

**20. The Gayety Theatre 1911**  
*161 Hurontario Street*

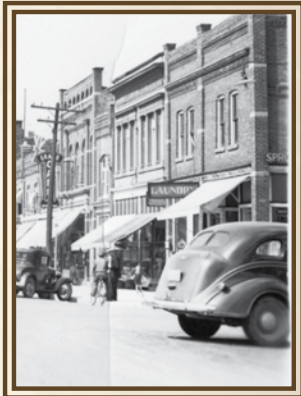
This was the original site of the True Blue House, a frame hotel mainly frequented by farmers and workhands. Stephen



Burnside bought the brick building in 1911, bringing entertainment to the Empire Theatre. The theatre was closed in 1922, but reopened later that year as the Rex Theatre. Since 1927, it has been known as the Gayety Theatre. In December, 1928, a colossal sign with 1,500 electric bulbs (shown in photo) was illuminated with much fanfare. The current sign was installed in 1958. In 2003, the Gayety was renovated by new owner, Sid Dickinson. The space was recently upgraded as a modern Centre for the Performing Arts and is now known as the Historic Gayety Theatre. X968.551.1

**21. Prentice & Sproule**

*153 Hurontario Street*  
Prentice & Sproule ran a grocery and dry goods business here in the early 1900s. The next storefront was occupied by Lee Bros., a Chinese laundry. 997.3.1



◆ **137-139 Hurontario Street 1897**

*Architect: Fred T. Hodgson*  
Designed by Collingwood architect Fred T. Hodgson, this two-storey building was intended to serve as a temporary post office. Postmaster William Hamilton footed the bill for construction of the brick structure to replace a frame post office that had been destroyed, along with many of Collingwood's original wooden buildings, in the fire of 1881. The modest building continued to house the post office until the spectacular Federal Building was completed in 1915. As a tribute to the building's postal history, the coffee shop that opened in 2004 in the redesigned space at 139 Hurontario was named "Espresso Post."