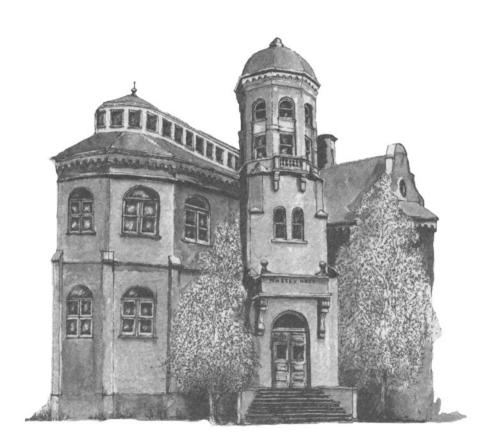
# **Brooklyn and the College Hill**

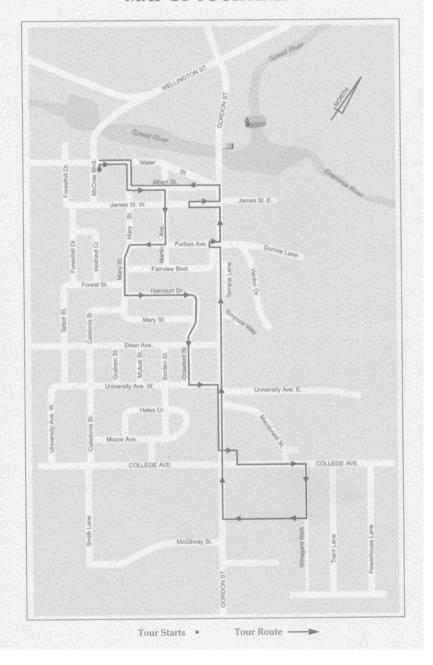
Original text by Florence Partridge Digital revision by Guelph Arts Council (2016) Some photos courtesy of Guelph Museums Map by Andy McLennan

This route is approximately 2 km and takes about 2 hours. Begin this tour at McCrae House, 108 Water Street.



Massey Hall Theatre and Library, University of Guelph Drawing by Andy McLennan

# MAP OF TOUR AREA



# **108 Water Street - McCrae House** (for museum hours check guelphmuseums.ca)

Built in 1858, McCrae house was originally a four-room cottage of local limestone. A one-and-a-half-storey wing was later added to the east side. David and Janet McCrae moved into the house shortly after their



marriage in 1870. McCrae owned woollen mills across the river and later became a stock breeder and importer, as well as a city alderman and wellknown writer on agriculture. Two of the McCraes' three children. Thomas and John, were born here; both became medical doctors. John later became famous for his poem "In Flanders Fields." He received his early education in Guelph and was a member of the Highland Cadet Corps. At 17 he joined the militia field battery commanded by his father. In 1900, John was commissioned a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery and served in the Boer War. On his return from South Africa he practised medicine in Montreal, and lectured at McGill University until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The photo below shows him on the right speaking to student doctors at Alexandra Hospital in Montreal. He enlisted at once and was made Brigade Surgeon of the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, which served in Flanders. There, in 1915, he wrote his famous poem, which is known throughout the English-speaking world and has resulted in the poppy becoming the symbol of the sacrifice of those killed in war. McCrae died of pneumonia while on active service in 1918.





This house was purchased in the 1960s by the Colonel John McCrae Birthplace Society and was renovated as a museum. The building and grounds are now maintained by the City of Guelph Horticultural Society with several species of poppies in the garden.



When John died his medals were sent to his

parents, in this home, and when they died John's sister Geills, who lived in Winnipeg, kept them is a safe box with her lawyer. The whereabouts of the medals was forgotten when Geills died and they were thought to be lost until 65 years later when the law office moved and the unclaimed safe box was found. A member of the law firm took the medals home for his son to play with and later sold them to an antique dealer. Realizing the identity of the medals, the dealer put them up for auction and the Guelph museum tried to raise funds to purchase them. Toronto businessman, Arthur Lee, heard about the medals, purchased them, then donated them to the museum for all Canadians to enjoy.



Walk east on Water Street.

# 96-98 Water Street Bell /O'Donnell House "The House of Heads"

In 1850 Matthew Bell, a stone carver and mason, came to Guelph from Newcastle, England. There were very few stone carvers in Canada

before 1870, and figurative stone carvers were particularly rare. Guelph was attractive to this profession because the local limestone was soft and easy to carve. Bell had his own quarry on Water Street, west of Edinburgh Road. He worked on numerous Guelph homes and businesses, his last endeavour being the Basilica of Our Lady, on Catholic Hill. The three homes Bell built for himself in Brooklyn are exceptions to the small houses

that were prevalent in the neighbourhood. This house, his second residence, was built c. 1858 to accommodate his family of six sons and four daughters. The decorative stonework on the gables, above the windows, and especially the carved heads incorporated in the trim, served as advertising for Bell's work. Notice the front facade is dressed stone while the sides are rubble, which was an economical practice. The larger support stones at the corners are called quoins (pronounced coins). The wooden verandah has been altered and the house has been adapted to a two-family dwelling, but its exterior appearance



remains essentially unchanged. It has been designated by the City as a heritage building.

Turn right onto Mary Street for one block, and then left onto Albert Street.





# 61 and 64 Albert Street

In Guelph there are many variations of this Ontario cottage style, in both stone and brick. A hipped roof (slopes downward in all directions) and central front entrance with a transom window above or sidelights are key characteristics. These two cottages were built c. 1880. Due to maintenance challenges, original features such as decorative chimneys, verandahs and latticework are often removed. The transom window over the door of #64 has

been filled in. Because the properties slopes the entrance for #61is at street level while #64 has entrance steps.

Continue along Albert Street to the corner of Martin Avenue.





### 49 Albert Street - The Hudson House

This was the first limestone house Matthew Bell built for his family in the early 1850s. Of particular interest are the pediments over the front windows, which are embellished with wreaths and rosettes within a recessed panel and supported by double scroll brackets ending in acanthus leaves. Fluted pilasters flank the front door, and the pediment above it is carved with wreaths and a central lamb's head. Similar decorative features can be seen in the portico of Moreton Lodge (also built by Bell) which is on the front campus of the University of Guelph.

In the 1870s this house was owned by James Hodgson, a skilled knitter and weaver. His wife, known in the neighbourhood as "Granny," opened a convenience store in the basement. She also kept a "keg" for those who enjoyed a drink on Saturday night, and allowed patrons to use the room above for this purpose. The house became known as

"Granny Hudson's Tavern," using a surname variant of the original Hodgson. In 1887 the same room became the Brooklyn Sunday School, but, because of the Saturday night activities, the Sunday School soon moved to a nearby cottage.

Turn around and look across Albert Street.

### 58 Albert Street - Brooklyn Sunday School #5



In 1905, after it had occupied four temporary locations, the Brooklyn Sunday School built this yellow brick structure. Its classical facade, with a pedimented entrance at each side, was later marred by the removal of the doorway at the west side (marks of its position can still be

seen) and the construction of an addition at that end. The Sunday School remained here until 1923 when its increasing membership necessitated another move. Over the years the activities of the Sunday School expanded far beyond its initial purpose of providing religious education. It became a community centre which served to bond the people of Brooklyn together. Dr. Robert Harcourt, a professor at the Ontario Agricultural College, was superintendent from 1905 to 1940. In 1917 he married Caroline Forbes, whose family name is commemorated by Forbes Avenue, also on the tour. From the inception of the Sunday School, Caroline Forbes had been one of the most ardent workers, and the Harcourts continued to actively support it all their lives.

Walk south on Martin Avenue.

### 20-27 Martin Avenue - Brick Row

This four-unit terrace, originally built of red brick c. 1875-85, was known as Brick Row. Although this type of multiple-unit dwelling was often used to provide low-cost housing, this seems to be the only one of its kind in Brooklyn. In 1988 the brick was covered with aluminium siding.





# 60 Martin Avenue - Brooklyn Sunday School #6

This tan brick building from the 1920s was the sixth and final home of the Brooklyn Sunday School. It was set well back from the street to allow space for a lawn and tennis court. The Sunday School became Harcourt Memorial United Church in 1956 and occupied this building until its present building, at 87 Dean Avenue, was built in 1962. Across the street where a 1911 red brick house now stands at 61 Martin, is the location of the original Martin family home, after whom the street is named. Mr. Martin is said to have done the plaster work at St. George's Anglican Church. Although the Martin home is gone, honeysuckle from the family's original garden still blooms at the rear of the property and the remains of the house foundation can be seen.

### #63-65 Martin Street

Built in 1910, this Neo-Classic house is a full two storey with an attic that has a shared bay dormer. The gable roof (front and rear slope) has parapet ends that extend above the roof line. It is a twounit residence with coupled entrance porches.



Continue south on Martin Street to Forbes Avenue, which is the original southern boundary of Brooklyn. Turn right and walk to the corner of Mary Street, Brooklyn's original western boundary.

### 84 Forbes Avenue - Braeside

On the south-east corner of Forbes and Mary Streets sits Braeside, which means hillside in the Scots language. This yellow brick villa was built in 1870 in the fashionable Italianate style of that time. Its characteristic features include the asymmetrical design, the bay window, brackets



under the eaves and three tall decorative chimneys. Two extensions have been added, the most recent in 1928, and a new driveway now enters the property from Mary Street. The home's original lot extended from Forbes Avenue up the hill to Fairview Boulevard.

# **College Heights**

The College Heights area was comprised of the land from Dean Avenue to College Avenue and was developed as a result of the establishment, in 1874, of what became the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) at the top of the hill south of the town. In the area between College Heights and Brooklyn there were farms and market gardens until the 1960s.

Continue south on Mary Street then turn left along Harcourt Drive. Be careful the sidewalk ends.

#### **Harcourt Drive Ranch Homes**

As you proceed along Harcourt Drive you will notice that the neighbourhood was developed with 1950s' ranch style homes. This domestic style of architecture originated in the United States. These homes are known for their long, low profiles, large windows and minimal exterior ornamentation. This post-war architecture was popular for the informal life style that it represented.

### 25 Harcourt Drive - Summerhill

This house was built on land granted in 1828 by Guelph's founder, John Galt, to James Thompson as payment for handling Canada Company

deeds. It was bounded on the east by the Guelph-Dundas Road (now Gordon Street) and originally extended from the Speed River to the present Dean Avenue. On the brow of the hill, Thompson built the house in 1840, and later sold it (along with land down to Forbes



Avenue) to the Neeve brothers. They altered the house to create this symmetrical three-bay, two-storey Georgian-style dwelling. Its wide, dignified front door with side-lights, transom and classical moulded surround originally had a knocker, but no outside latch. This was customary at the time when a servant would be available to open the door



from inside. A circular drive was added which has now been replaced by a curving walkway. In 1865 this house was rented to Colonel Thomas Saunders, Wellington County's first magistrate, and his wife. The photo left shows Saunders and his wife, Lucy Anne Wilcocks, in front with two of his many daughters Louisa (left) and Frances. Saunders' daughter Elinor



married Douglas Sutherland, a civil engineer, and they lived in Guelph where he worked on the Grand Trunk Railway. Later Sutherland took work in New York City, then Brazil. In 1862 the Sutherlands moved to England, where their first daughter, Lucy Christiana, was born. In 1865, Sutherland died of typhoid fever just three months after the birth of his second daughter, also named Elinor. Saunders' widowed daughter, Elinor, returned to Guelph and lived at Summerhill for several years (Elinor and daughters shown middle left). Grandmother Lucy Saunders had always viewed her family as aristocratic and raised her granddaughters to have good manners, dress well and have high expectations. As she promised her deceased husband, Elinor Saunders took her daughters back to England to raise them, and later remarried to David Kennedy. Both Saunders' granddaughters had illustrious



careers. The eldest, became Lady Lucile Duff Gordon (bottom left), a



fashion designer and owner of the couturier House of Lucile in London. Her career was tainted when she became a Titanic survivor, along with her husband Cosmo, and had to face the scandal of the public inquiry at which she was reported to have said while in a lifeboat: "There is your beautiful nightdress gone." The younger daughter Elinor (left) married Clayton Glyn and became a best-selling writer in the early twentieth century, notorious for her risqué novels. She was drawn to Hollywood where she

wrote screen plays, socialized with stars and was one of the first female directors.

In 1874 the Neeve brothers, then Summerhill's owners, sold the home to Robert Forbes, a local industrialist. At that time the estate was still largely self-sufficient, with stables, livestock, pasturelands, sizeable formal and kitchen gardens and extensive landscaping. After Forbes, the property passed to his daughter Caroline, of the Brooklyn Sunday School, and her husband Robert Harcourt. They lived in Summerhill until her death in 1953. Since then the property has been subdivided and succeeding owners have each made changes and improvements to the residence while retaining the straightforward beauty of its stone facade.

Continue along Harcourt Drive to Dean Avenue. Cross to Crawford Avenue proceed up to University Avenue

# 14 University Avenue West

On the south side of University, right (west) of the intersection, is #14. Recycling is not new to Guelph. There are many examples in the city where the limestone used in some of its early buildings has reappeared in a new form.



Among them is this house. Its design and golden-hued stone are reminiscent of the picturesque houses in England's Cotswold hills northwest of London. It was built c. 1930 using stone salvaged from the

Moreton Lodge (right), the home of F.W. Stone whose farm property was the nucleus of the present University of Guelph campus. The Lodge was the first building occupied by the School of Agriculture in 1874, and its portico will be seen on the university's front campus later on this route



Walk east on University Avenue to Gordon Street then turn right to travel south along Gordon.

# 359 Gordon Street - The Cosmopolitan Club

The two-colour brick house was built in 1870-75. In 1911 it became the home of the Ontario Agricultural College's Cosmopolitan Club, the purpose of which was to provide a meeting place for social interaction among students of different nationalities along with Canadians. It had seven bedrooms rented to students, a billiard room and big double living room where members could play cards and entertain friends. Because the

house was built on a slope, the caretaker's basement apartment opened onto the garden. The caretaker's wife provided light lunches and evening tea with toast. World War I brought about the beginning of the Club's decline, due to financial difficulties. It was disbanded in 1923 and since that time the house has been a private residence.



Continue to the College Avenue stoplights. Cross over to the south lawn of the Art Gallery of Guelph.

# 358 Gordon Street - Art Gallery of Guelph



For gallery exhibits and times check artgalleryofguelph.ca.

The Art Gallery building stands on what was originally the farm of Christopher Keogh and his wife Ann, who were the first couple married in Guelph in August 1827. In 1904 the first

consolidated school in Ontario (left 1926) was built on this site with funds provided by Sir William Macdonald. a tobacco manufacturer in Montreal. The aim of such schools was to upgrade rural education by bringing together several small country schools into one larger building where better facilities and staff could be provided. Children were to be transported to the school by horse-drawn vans.

George Miller, a Toronto architect, designed this building as well as several others on the university campus. Unfortunately, the trustees underestimated the cost, and to stay within their budget changes were made resulting in a plain, three-storey brick building on a stone foundation with a simple peakroofed porch over the front entrance. Sir William had not been informed of the changes, and when he arrived for the ceremonial opening he was so



enraged by the appearance of the building that he refused to get out of his carriage, and returned to Montreal. A few years later, the trustees raised enough money to embellish the facade with the Neo-Classical columned porch that we see today (left 1914).

The venture into consolidated education, however, did not prove a success, and in 1907 the project was abandoned. The school was absorbed by the Guelph Township School Board, but for years was still referred to as the Macdonald Consolidated School. In 1972, faced with extensive



renovations to meet modern building codes, it was closed. At that time, the need for a public art gallery in the Guelph area was apparent. The Macdonald Stewart Foundation (established by Walter Stewart, the son of Sir William's heir) was interested in the suggestion that the building be preserved and developed as an art gallery. The Foundation offered a naming grant and additional funds were solicited from governments, corporations and private donors. Architect Raymond Moriyama was chosen to transform the old schoolhouse into a gallery which would meet international standards. His designs lengthened the building with the addition of two wings while retaining the original facade and roofline. The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre opened in 1980 as the city's first public gallery. In 2015 the building was once again refurbished and the name was changed to Art Gallery of Guelph to clarify its mandate. The gallery exhibitions include Canadian and international historical, contemporary and Inuit art. The Sculpture Park in the surrounding grounds is the largest at a public gallery in all of Canada, and is an outstanding venue for permanent sculpture by Canadian artists.

Walk across the lawn to the corner of College Avenue East and Gordon.

Look across College Avenue.



### War Memorial Hall

This impressive building of Georgetown limestone, in Collegiate Gothic style, was built as a memorial to the Ontario Agricultural College students, faculty and staff who served in World War I (left 1925). The OAC class of 1922 initiated the project,

raising funds through a student theatre group known as The Sodbusters. which performed a variety show in 68 towns and villages throughout Western Ontario. On the present building's site there was a stand of large trees and faculty objected to their removal. The students, however, favoured this spot as it was handy to street cars from downtown. The controversy ended when the students took drastic action and the campus awoke to find the trees converted into neat piles of logs. It seemed that while one group of students cut them down, another group occupied the only faculty member on campus in a game of cards, explaining the loud, crashing noises during the night as other students slamming their doors. Using horses, scrapers and shovels loaned by the farm department, the students later dug the excavation for the foundation (with official approval this time). Because of the lack of funds for much of the year the gaping hole was christened by some as the "Memorial Hole." The official opening of the then 800-seat hall was held on the 50th anniversary of OAC in 1930. In the memorial alcove is a bronze tablet by Alfred Howell, a distinguished Canadian artist who also designed the war memorial in Guelph's Trafalgar Square. The stained glass windows representing war and peace are the work of artist Peter Haworth, and were fabricated by McCausland and Sons, for fifty years stained glass specialists for many churches and public buildings across Canada. Designed to accommodate cultural, official and social events of the university community, its use has been frequently extended to the people of Guelph.

Walk east along College Avenue and cut north across the parking lot behind the Art Gallery.

### 50 Macdonald Street - Macdonald Institute

As a 1902 college report noted, "The site for the Macdonald buildings is a ... beautifully located plot of about twelve acres immediately north of the College Campus, from which it is separated by a public road, along which the Guelph Street Railway runs, forming a loop round the college grounds. From all parts of this ... site there are splendid views of the City of Guelph, of the country away to the southwest, and ... over the valley ... in the



northeast." In 1903, through the influence of Adelaide Hoodless (above), founder of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the provincial Department of Agriculture recognized the need to improve the quality of family life, especially in rural areas. Hoodless was motivated to act by the death of her infant son from unpasteurized milk. To address the need for education, the Macdonald Institute offered instruction in Household Science. It was financed, along with the Macdonald Consolidated School, by Sir William Macdonald and designed by the same architect, George Miller. Built of pressed brick, in the Beaux Arts style fashionable at the time, its intricate decorative detail includes fine examples of moulded terra cotta work around the windows and portico.





### 74 Macdonald Street - Macdonald Hall

Macdonald Hall was built in 1903 as a residence for the young women attending the Institute. It was also financed by Sir William Macdonald and designed by George Miller. The building was renovated in 1969, 1997 and 2016, but the modified Tudor exterior of this building remains intact. It once housed 150 students and is now the College of Business and Economics

Walk back to College Avenue and continue east to view the stone house south-east of Macdonald Hall.

# 100 College Avenue East - The President's House

This twelve-room stone house was built in 1882 and was originally on the opposite side of College Avenue. Teams of horse-drawn vans moved it to its present location in 1912 (photo below). At that time the wife of the professor who lived there was told she need not remove any fragile articles.

She was delighted to discover, that not one piece of glass or china had suffered so much as a crack. Except for the exclosure of the verandah, the exterior remains unchanged. Note the rusticated stonework, with dressed stone around the windows and doors and the wooden bargeboards, finials and eave



brackets. Above the fireplace in the living room the OAC crest is carved into the mantlepiece. As one of the oldest buildings on the campus, the house was named a heritage building by the City of Guelph in 1985.

Cross College Avenue at the crosswalk and pause in Creelman Plaza.

# 99 College Avenue East - Creelman Hall

The handsome stone structure on the east side of the plaza was built in Classic Revival style (right 1913). It opened in 1914 as a dining hall for OAC students, with Macdonald Hall residents admitted later on. Until after World War II, however, the sexes remained segregated for meals, with men seated at one side of the hall and women at the other. Major dances and social events were



held in Creelman for many years, and the building was used by the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. Remodelling of the interior has taken place from time to time to provide for a much larger university population, but Creelman remains a venue for student meals. It was named for George Christie Creelman (below), who was president of the OAC from 1904 to 1920. As a first year OAC student in 1885, Creelman regularly wrote home, and the following is an excerpt from one of those

letters: "The bath tubs are so big you can get right in them. There is hot water and steam with every one, too. Some boys take a bath every once or twice a week.... The boys have a Literary Society and meet in the upper classroom every Friday night, and they have some fine speeches and recitations and debates. I am going to join, and the first chance I get I am going to recite that nice piece I gave at the church social last winter."

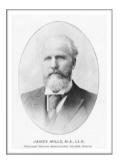


# 61 College Avenue East - Mills Hall

This Collegiate Gothic style building on the west side of the plaza had its foundation laid in 1914, but because of World War I was not actually constructed until 1919. It is an L-shaped building of Georgetown limestone which opened in 1921 to provide accommodation exclusively for senior male

OAC students. It was named after the college's first president, James Mills (right), who served in that role for 25 years. Mills was driven to seek an advanced education when he lost his right arm in a farming accident at age 20, rendering him unable to undertake the manual labour associated with farming. Mills Hall now serves as a residence for 160 male and female students living in single, double and triple rooms.







Continue along Winegard Walk towards the clock tower of Johnston Hall.

# Winegard Walk

The brick pedestrian walkway which extends south from Creelman Plaza to the University Centre building was named in honour of William (Bill) Winegard (left), University President from 1967 to 1975. Winegard was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1924. During World War II

he was the youngest officer in the history of the Canadian Navy, where he served from 1942 to 1945. After the military he earned a doctorate in metallurgical engineering from the University of Toronto. He was an educator, scientist and the Conservative Member of Parliament for Guelph from 1984 to 1988. In retirement he continues to reside in Guelph where he was a vocal advocate for the rights of veterans. A public elementary school has been named in his honour.

# **Portico of Moreton Lodge**

To the right (west) as you begin walking along Winegard Walk, shaded by tall evergreens, is a classically-styled portico that once formed the entrance to Moreton Lodge. It was designed by Matthew Bell, the prominent stone carver whose homes were earlier on this route. When the Lodge was demolished in 1929, the portico was re-erected here as part of the



Diamond Jubilee Celebration for the Ontario Agricultural College. It not only ornaments the campus green, but also stands as a reminder of the university's origin. A tablet installed by the OAC Alumni Association reads: "Entrance to Old Main Building - 56 generations of students passed through these portals from 1874 - 1930."





# **Johnston Hall**

This impressive Queenston limestone building, with its Gothic tower, forms the visual centre of the university, dominating the sweeping green lawn of the front campus (above 1910). The architect copied the design of an 11th-century residence at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge. This building was the focal point of the Ontario Agricultural College, and was named after William Johnston (above) the college's principal 1874-79. Johnston's family immigrated to Canada when he was three. He graduated from Toronto's Victoria College and took a teaching position in Northumberland County at age 15. Illness forced him to return to Scotland,

where he attended Edinburgh University, but he finished his degree at the University of Toronto in 1872-74. Johnston began at OAC as a rector in 1874. Previously on this site was the stone farmhouse of Frederick W.

Stone, called Moreton Lodge, mentioned previously on this tour. When the college began in 1874, Moreton Lodge housed classrooms, offices and the student residence. By 1882 two storeys and a tower had been added to the original house, as well as a three-storey wing on each side. Right is an image from 1925. In 1929 Moreton Lodge was demolished to be replaced by the present structure.



Look across the front campus to the west.

#### **Johnston Green**

In 1882, it was decided that a master landscaping plan was needed for the developing college. A prominent Philadelphia landscaping firm was employed to lay out the grounds (right 1937). They designed a horseshoe-shaped



drive from the Dundas Road (now Gordon Street) enclosing the large sweep of lawn, with a large formal flower bed on the other side of the driveway. Although the floral landscaping no longer exists, the shape of Johnston Green remains as it was established more than a century ago, maintaining a link with the past and contributing to the beauty of the campus.

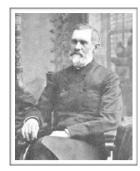
Take the Alumni Walk to the right just past the end of the green.

# **Massey Hall and Library**

George Miller, who designed the Macdonald buildings mentioned earlier, was also the architect of this unusual 1901 building, It is a version of the Flemish Renaissance style. The building was a gift from the estate of Hart Almerrin Massey (right), of

the well-known philanthropic family whose fortune was made in the manufacture of agricultural implements. Other notable buildings from his estate include Massey Hall in Toronto, and Hart House on the University of Toronto Campus. This building is constructed of pressed red brick with trim of Credit Valley brownstone. With its rounded end, tower and intricately-patterned brickwork, it is a marked contrast to the other buildings on campus. Clerestory windows above the roofline serve to let in light and fresh air. The large stained-glass window which lights its stairwell (below right)

displays the colourful OAC coat-of-arms. Until 1968 it was the central library for the campus, and the hall on the main floor was used for large lectures, debates, concerts, theatricals and art exhibitions. The bulding now contains auxiliary space for the Drama Department. Flanked by younger buildings, Massey Hall holds a prominent place on the perimeter of the campus green, where it acts as a link to the more modern setting of the south campus. It has been designated as a heritage building by the City of Guelph.









#### Continue towards Gordon Street along Alumni Walk.

# J.D. MacLachlan Building

Built in 1902, for biology, geology and physics, this building is named for John Douglas MacLachlan (1906-87). He was a botany professor, president at the Ontario Agricultural College, and first president of the University of Guelph when it was founded in 1964. This fine brick structure features arched windows and a symmetrical design (right 1905).



At Gordon Street look across to the west side to the Dairy Building.

# **Ontario Agricultural College - Dairy Building**

The Ontario Agricultural College, Macdonald Institute and Ontario Veterinary College were the three founding colleges of the University of Guelph. As you look across Gordon Street you will notice a red brick building crowned with a cupola. This was built in 1923 as the Dairy Building, for instruction in all branches of dairy manufacturing. It now houses the University of Guelph's Department of Food Sciences.



Walk north on Gordon Street to the College Avenue intersection.

# **Ontario Veterinary College**

In 1862 the Upper Canada Veterinary School was established as a private enterprise, in Toronto, by Andrew Smith, a graduate of the Dick Veterinary School in Edinburgh, Scotland. Smith immigrated to



Canada in 1861. In 1908 the school was bought by the Ontario Government's Department of Agriculture and was relocated in 1922 to Guelph, where this classic red brick structure was built to accommodate it. The College's second principal was E.A.A. Grange (another Guelph street name). The Ontario Veterinary College now occupies buildings extending west from Gordon Street to Smith Lane (named for Andrew Smith), and south from College Avenue to McGilvray Street. Doctor C.D. McGilvray became the OVC's third principal when Grange retired in 1918. The OVC's reputation is worldwide, and for years many of its students came from the United States. The OVC is the oldest veterinary institution in Canada and the United States.

Cross to the west side of Gordon Street at the intersection with College Avenue.

Walk north to the crown of the hill.

### 329 Gordon Street - Dunara

The dark red brick Queen Anne Revival style house with a round turret and slate roof was built in 1888 for John McKinnon, a bank inspector. The name Dunara was said to be an Irish word meaning "a house or fortress on a hill." This is a suitable name for its style: stately,



imposing and heavy. Noteworthy are the curved verandah with Tuscan columns, the heavy, rusticated stone ears over the windows and the decorative chimney. Note the patterned shingle gables and transom windows.

#### 325 Gordon Street

This was the home of Henry Hoshel Dean (right), a professor at the OAC and for whom Dean Avenue was named. Dean graduated from OAC in 1890 and became a founding member of the National Association of

Dairy Instructors in 1906. He was pivotal in modernizing butter and cheese production. This Queen Anne style house is made attractive by its late Victorian features of wood scales in the gable, spindled verandahs on two levels and bracketed verandah columns. It was built in 1895 and is a "T" layout with rusticated stone sills and lintels. Note the sunburst pattern of the shingled gables. In 1989 the owners received an honourable mention heritage award from





Guelph Arts Council for the restoration of the verandah and balcony and sensitive treatment of interior details.

Continue north to the intersection of Gordon Street and Forbes Avenue.



### **Gordon Street Stone Wall**

The stone wall extending from Dean Avenue along Gordon Street indicates the original boundary of the Summerhill property seen earlier on this route on Harcourt Drive. The Gordon gateway (left), and another on Dean, led to Summerhill. When Gordon St. was widened in the

mid-1990s the old wall along Gordon was removed except for this gateway section. The height and character of the original wall may be seen in the large quarry-faced stones. From this vantage point one can also visualize the extent of the Summerhill property.

#### **Gordon Street**

Gordon Street was named by John Galt for Margaret Gordon who visited Guelph in June 1827, just two months after the first tree was felled. An excerpt from an 1827 letter states: "Lines of streets were cut through the woods; the principle one, the woodland sovereign (John Galt) christened Gordon Street, in honour of Margaret, who was not only the first lady but the only woman, excepting her companion, who ever penetrated this far into the wilderness." The name applied to the street as far as the southern limit, which was then the Speed River at the bottom of the hill where you now stand. Beyond that, it was known as Dundas or Brock Road. As the city limit moved farther south, so did Gordon Street and the name is now applied as far south as Clair Road.

### **Cutten Fields Golf Course**

If you look east across Gordon Street at the corner of Forbes, you will see Dormie Lane. The property on that side of Gordon was the homestead of the Macdonald family, who were among the first settlers in Guelph. John Macdonald



was employed as a surveryor by John Galt and was a member of the group who participated in the ceremonial founding of Guelph on April 23, 1827.

His sister Margaret, and her husband Hugh Macdonald (not related), moved to Galt in the early years to farm 188 acres obtained from the Canada Company. The Macdonald farm home was the vine-covered stone house which still stands at the end of Dormie Lane. Hugh's seven grandsons were all at some time connected with the Guelph dry goods business of D.E. Macdonald & Bros. (flyer right) which is highlighted on the "Where Guelph Began"



tour. A great grandson, Evan Macdonald, became a well-known Ontario artist who painted portraits of many Guelph residents, as well as landscapes of the city and surrounding area.

The property remained farmland until it was purchased by multimillionaire Guelph native, Arthur Cutten, who dreamed of developing a recreational complex called Cutten Fields. Cutten wanted the local MPP to provide free labour from the Reformatory inmates, but this request did not meet with success. He developed the Cutten Fields Golf Course which opened in 1931. More details on Cutten are provided on the "Slopes of the Speed" tour.



Walk west a short way on Forbes Avenue.

#### 14 Forbes Avenue

This house on the south-east corner of Forbes and Fairview was built in 1875 and has had extensive additions. From 1889 to 1919 this was the home of Hugh and Hannah Macdonald, a grandson of the Hugh mentioned above. In 1921, an OAC professor

named Fred Ferguson bought the house and to date it remains in that family. In 1985, using stone from a town hall that was demolished in Fergus, the extensive addition was built to provide a garage and living space opening onto a garden screened from Gordon Street traffic. The front facade of the house, with the central peak and pointed Gothic window, has not been altered.

### 21 Forbes Avenue

This classic Ontario stone cottage was built in 1875. The entrance had top and side transom windows. Noteworthy is the centre gable with the ornamental finial.



Return to Gordon Street and travel north to James Street intersection.

### 218-220 Gordon Street - Edgehill

The large stone building on the south-east corner of the intersection was not originally one structure. The present northern section was a 1857 grocery store with a dwelling above. An earlier building on the site of the



middle section was destroyed by fire, but an 1875 reconstruction joined the two and added a wing on the south. In 1992 part of the stone was faced with siding. The structure was renovated to offer housing for university students.

# 30 James Street West - Victoria School

This building, now a private residence, was once the one-room Victoria School built in 1891. The property extends through from James Street to Forbes Avenue. It has a hip roof with a projecting centre gable that has louvred openings. There is patterned brickwork above the entrance and a decorative inset in the walls. This school served the children of Brooklyn until 1950 when the John McCrae school was built on Water Street. It is said that the lines of the former blackboard keep showing through the paint layered over them. The photo below is a class from 1922.



Return to Gordon Street.

# 22 James Street East - Electric Rail Depot

From this intersection you can look across Gordon Street, to the north side of James Street East, to see a painted brick building that now serves as apartments. This building was the passenger depot, package express office and power station for the Toronto Suburban Street Railway, an electric line



running on overhead wires to Guelph from the western outskirts of Toronto. Cars arriving at this depot were able to connect with the other passenger depot on Carden Street, near the CNR Station, by travelling over the tracks of the Guelph Street Railway and on to the regular line. The electric railway operated from 1917 to 1931, but incurred deficits each year from

1923, due to the rise of automobile use. The old right-of-way that starts along the south bank of the Eramosa River now forms the basis of the Guelph Trail Club's hiking/cycling route from Guelph to Limehouse.

A few features of the original attractive railway building remain. There are arcaded windows, wide corner pilasters and deep moulded fascia boards under the eaves





# The Boathouse and Covered Bridge

A slight diversion from this route, over the Gordon Street bridge, leads to The Boathouse Tearoom. This is the site of last boathouse associated with Guelph's river systems. The original structure was built in 1876, and the longest proprietorship was that of William Johnson, from 1885 to 1924. In the

1880s this was the home of the Speed River Canoe Club, one of the city's most active social and sporting organizations, boasting a membership of 250 between 1895 and 1900. A new boathouse was built in 1916, followed by the present building in the 1930s featuring pavilion-style architecture in

its upturned eaves and wooden brackets. The Navy League's Sea Cadets operated from this building from the 1940s to 1993. Restoration of the boathouse was completed in 1997 and it now houses a cafe. It is considered a significant heritage riverside feature at this gateway to the city's core.

Just past the boathouse is a 120-ft covered bridge that was constructed in 1992 by the Timber Framers Guild of North America, a group of craftspeople dedicated to the traditional art of framing and building with rough-hewed timber. The bridge is called the Town Lattice Covered Bridge, and the word "Town" refers to Ithiel Town, an architect and builder from Connecticut who patented the diamond-patterned grid in the 1820s.

Built where the Speed and Eramosa Rivers merge, the bridge was a gift from approximately 400 timber framers who gathered in Guelph for their annual conference, the first held outside of the United States. They donated their labour and created an extraordinary covered bridge for the community, one of only two in all of Ontario. Except for the shingles and flooring, the rough-cut timbers of British Columbia Douglas fir are held in place by mortise and tenon joints and hundreds of wooden pegs. The bridge provides a link in the 18-km Royal Recreational Trail System, enabling pedestrians and cyclists to cross the Speed River.





Walk left (west) on Albert Street.







# 16, 20, 26 Albert Street - Ontario Cottages

On the south side of Albert Street you will see a series of classic Ontario cottages. At #16 is a c. 1860 red brick house with "white" brick flush corner quoins. The entrance porch is a later addition. The 1860 Neo-Classic stone cottage at #20 was originally one storey, and a second level has been added with a dormer featuring Palladian windows. At #26 is a c. 1880 stone cottage with a later shed-roofed verandah with ornamental fretwork.



#### 40 Albert Street

The original house on this site was a oneroom frame dwelling which faced towards Gordon Street. Stone carver Matthew Bell bought the property from one of his sons and converted it to the present structure between 1867 and 1872. His workshop was at the rear of the

house, where the kitchen is now located. Some years after Bell's death one of his grandsons wrote: "During the winter when no building was carried on, Grandpa Bell would work on the sculpture. He would select blocks of stone and lay them up for winter work. Then it was that he would do such work as fancy lintels for doorways, ready to use in buildings in spring and

summer." Of the three carved stone heads on the building's central facade, the middle is a likeness of Lord Palmerston (right), who was Prime Minister of England in the early part of the nineteenth century. The stone of the main structure is not finely dressed, in contrast to that of the outstanding decorative ornamentation. The moulded windows, supported by carved brackets, have a rounded pediment above each



arch. Over the door is an entablature of Greek orders: moulded architrave, frieze and cornice, surmounted by a triangular pediment. The unusual pilasters framing the door are intersected by four plain, square blocks with beautifully carved ramshorn capitals. In 1977, this building received the first Guelph Arts Council Bronze Plaque Heritage Award in recognition of the painstaking restoration work done by the owner over the years, and in 1979 it was designated a heritage building by the City of Guelph. One of Guelph's most distinguished residential buildings, this is the third and last house which Matthew Bell built for himself in Brooklyn. Learn more about Matthew Bell and his work on the "Downtown Guelph" and "Altar and Hearth: Catholic Hill" tours.

Proceed west on Albert Street, turn right on Martin back to Water Street and the McCrae House. As you depart, go west on Water Street then turn right onto McCrae Boulevard to cross Gow's Bridge.



Gow's Bridge

Seventeen years after Guelph was founded in 1827, Scottish emigrant Peter Gow arrived. He established a tannery on the Speed River, at what is now McCrae Boulevard, and kept a leather store. About ten years later, he built woollen and oatmeal mills. These and other industries in the neighbourhood employed many labourers, and even though the land along the river was subject to frequent flooding, the small lots between Water and James Streets were soon occupied by low-income families, mostly mill and quarry employees. By the 1850s, Guelph had become an important centre for the milling of grain and marketing of agricultural produce from the surrounding area. Flour dealers brought their produce to town for milling, and then went on to Dundas to sell it. The only bridge across the Speed River on the road to Dundas had several toll gates along its route, and in

1852 the toll was substantially increased. The Town Council recognized the hardship this imposed on teamsters and travellers, so they authorized the construction of a second bridge to create an alternative route that bypassed the toll booths. It was called Gow's bridge because of its proximity to the complex of mills established by Gow. The first bridge was a wooden one, replaced in 1897 by the present arched structure of



limestone quarried locally from the extensive deposits on both sides of the river to the west. Gow's Bridge, which adds a picturesque charm to the area, is one of the few stone bridges remaining in Ontario. The City of Guelph designated it a heritage structure in 1990.

In addition to being a successful and prosperous citizen, Peter Gow (above) was active in municipal and county politics. After Confederation he became the first representative of Wellington South in the Legislative Assembly.

In 1929 the dam up river at Goldie's Mill was washed out in the spring floods and there was severe damage down river in the Brooklyn area, where the river's banks gave way. This was also the year of the stock market crash, and the resulting economic depression caused mass unemployment. To provide work, the city council decided to deepen and clear the river channel and support the banks with stone and concrete walls.

For several years, old automotive chassis and all sorts of other scrap metal were dumped on the north side of the river and buried with earth. Trees and grass were planted and the result is what is now Royal City Park with its mature trees, flower beds, playground equipment and picnic tables.



This is the end of the route. Head back to Water Street.