



St. Mary's Historical Walking Tour

Heritage Kitchener Committee

1 St. Mary's Interpretive Area: Veterans' Green

The St. Mary's Heritage Conservation District (HCD) represents an important and formative aspect of post World War II construction, planning and development. The construction of the neighbourhood created much-needed housing for WWII veterans. A monument has been installed to honour Kitchener veterans. Read the interpretive panels to gain an appreciation of the significance of the HCD, including the history behind the establishment of two housing companies; Wartime Housing Limited (WHL) and Housing Enterprises of Canada Limited (HEC), and the distinguishing characteristics of the building styles.

To begin the tour, cross Spadina Road toward 142 Spadina Road East.

2 142 Spadina Road East

This 1 1/2 storey house is a good example of one of two WHL styles. At approximately 700 sq. ft. when built, the design is simplistic and compact. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

Follow Spadina Road and cross the boulevard, on your left, to Windsor Crescent. Windsor Crescent is a small cul-de-sac with just ten properties.

3 45 Windsor Crescent

This house and its neighbour at 49 Windsor Crescent are examples of the second of two WHL styles. When constructed, this 1 storey house with side gabled roof and low profile measured a modest 480 sq. ft. While you walk through the district, you will see many houses that are similar to this style.

4 49 Windsor Crescent

This 1 storey house with side gabled roof and low profile has a side front entrance and a simple porch which is an extension of the main roofline. This particular house has been reclad, but remains very much in its original form.

5 109 Spadina Road East

This 1 1/2 storey house features a steep side gabled roof and wood frame construction. The off-centre front entrance is flanked by a window on either side. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

Continue down Spadina Road toward the starting point and follow the sidewalk through the interpretive area until you reach Glen Road.

Glen Road

Glen Road leads you to the heart of the district, and although it does not have a boulevard, it is considerably green. The mature trees stretch over the road giving much needed shade from the summer sun and shelter against the rain.

Continue and take St. Clair Avenue on your left.

6 53 St. Clair Avenue

This 1 storey house is an example of one of four HEC styles. The house is constructed of concrete block and features a side entrance and single window in the projecting front gable which is clad with siding. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

7 17 Norfolk Crescent

This 1 1/2 storey house is an example of the second of four HEC styles. This concrete block house with side gable features decorative quoins, fascia, cladding in the upper side gables, and an exterior brick chimney on the side elevation. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

Approximately halfway along Norfolk Crescent, turn right and take the pedestrian pathway that links the crescent to Pleasant Avenue. Walkways such as this provide a quick and easy route from one street to the other within the neighbourhood. Turn left on Pleasant Avenue.

Pleasant Avenue

This avenue and its trees are smaller in comparison to Spadina Road. Here there is a mix of housing styles and building materials, with a large number of properties constructed of brick.

8 142 Pleasant Avenue

This 1 storey frame house has a low profile roof with side gables and a front porch roof which is an extension of that roofline. It has a side front entrance and both a single and double window on the front elevation.

9 152 Pleasant Avenue

This 1 1/2 storey house features a double sash window on the front elevation, a double window located in the upper side gable and two single windows on the first floor. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

As you approach Stirling Avenue, formerly called Shoemaker Avenue, you are nearing the boundary of the HCD but will shortly re-enter the district.

10 584 Stirling Avenue South

This building was constructed in 1951

and for many years was known as Station #8, a PUC utility building. In 1988, it was declared surplus and was acquired by Kitchener Housing to be converted to a house. As the original brick structure was only 615 sq. ft., a 255 sq. ft. addition was added to the building. This house is a great example of adaptive reuse.

11 570 Stirling Avenue South

Part of the New Life Pentecostal Assembly was built in 1948. If you look at the left-hand portion of the building, you will notice the simple gable-front structure that served the community as Bethel Baptist Church for many years.

Turn left onto St. Clair Avenue.

12 74 St. Clair Avenue

This 1 storey house is constructed of concrete block. This house style as originally constructed, without additions, modestly served families at approximately 570 sq. ft.

Continue and turn right to walk through the open space until you reach Lorne Crescent, and then turn right.

13 148 Lorne Crescent

This 1 storey hipped roof house is an example of the third of four HEC styles. This concrete block house features a decorative fascia band, decorative quoins, and an off-centre front entrance flanked by 6/6 sash windows.

Next you will be taking a left onto Seneca Drive, formerly called Huron Avenue.

14 24-26 Seneca Drive

This 1 1/2 storey semi-detached house is constructed of brick veneer. The front elevation is composed of side entrances and two windows per side. It also consists of fascia board and wood door frame detailing, cladding in the upper side gables, a central wood shed dormer and brick chimney.

Continue down Seneca Drive and turn left at Lorne Crescent.

15 38 Lorne Crescent

This 1 1/2 storey brick house stands apart from the other houses because it predates the construction of the subdivision. Records indicate the house was built circa 1927.

16 50-52 Lorne Crescent

This 1 1/2 storey semi-detached house is the last example of the four HEC styles. The house was originally constructed of concrete block but has since been reclad. The front elevation is composed of a side entrance with two windows (note the windows at #50 have been modified), a central brick chimney, and a central shed dormer.

Continue along Lorne Crescent and turn left at Veterans' Park. Walk thru Veterans' Park. Turn right on Lorne Crescent.

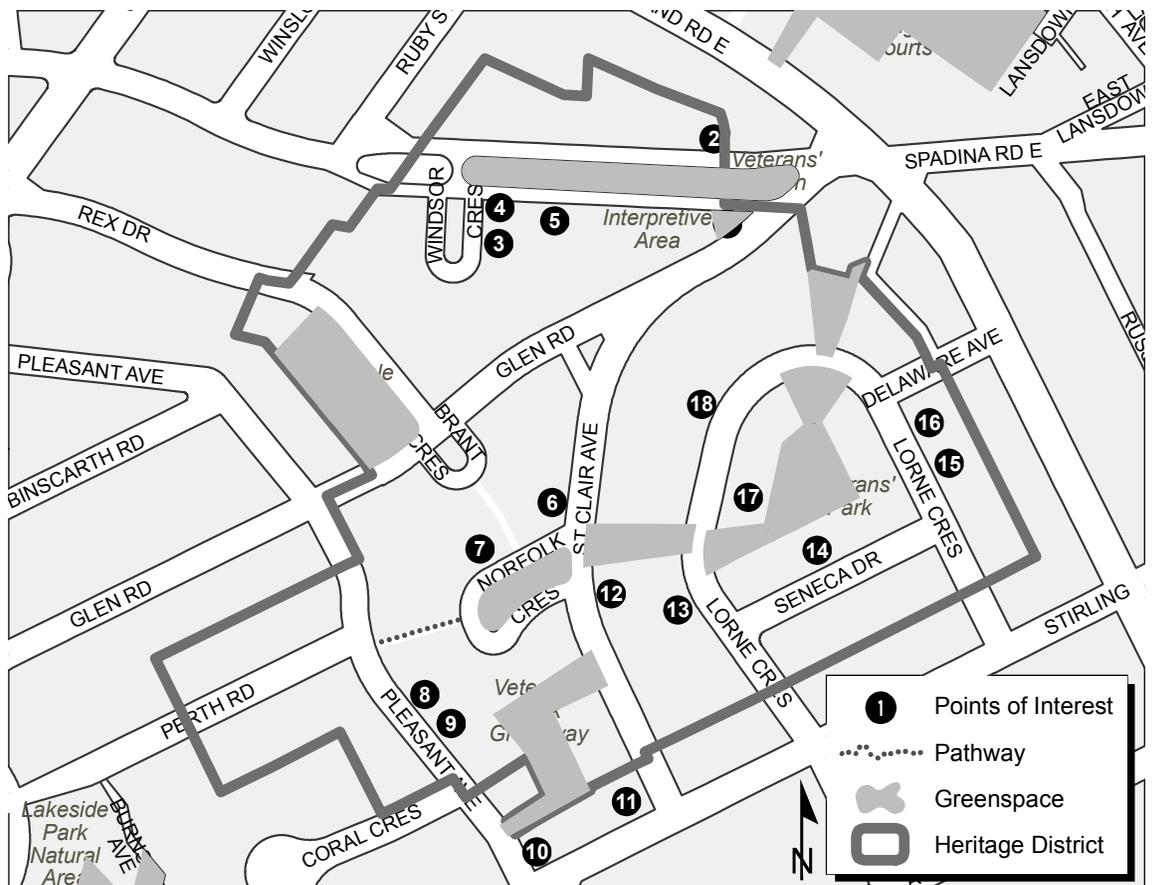
17 117 Lorne Crescent

This 1 1/2 storey house features a side gable and concrete block construction. The house also features a side front entrance with a triple sash window, wood cladding and a single window in the upper side gable, and a chimney on the side elevation. The house is identified in the St. Mary's HCD Plan as a house of particular heritage interest.

18 104 Lorne Crescent

This 1 1/2 storey house features a side gable and brick veneer construction. The house also features a side entrance; a triple, multi-pane, double hung window on the front elevation; varying shades of textured red brick accented with black; and, siding in the side gable.

Continue along Lorne Crescent. Turn left at Delaware Avenue. Turn left at Highland Road East. Walk one block and you will arrive at the intersection of Glen Road and Spadina Road East - the Tour starting point at the Interpretive Area.



Please respect the rights of the private properties listed in this tour and remain on the sidewalks to view the houses.

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