



Victoria Park Historical Walking Tour

Heritage Kitchener Committee

1 Victoria Park (1894-1896)

The park was laid out in the romantic landscape style, with a serpentine lake, three islands, footbridges affording attractive vistas and footpaths winding through the park. Much of this walking tour takes in the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District which was created by the City of Kitchener in order to preserve the significant Victorian architecture and the designed landscapes which are unique to this landmark park. The Heritage District is part of the original 448-acre farmstead purchased by Joseph Schneider in 1807. The heritage buildings in this area are associated with much of Kitchener's early history.

2 Victoria Public School (1911)

Formerly a school, this local example of the Edwardian Classical style (popular in Ontario from 1900-1930), has been converted into an apartment complex. This building's Doric columns support the decorative pediment above.

3 City Hall Clock Tower (1924)

This Clock Tower was salvaged and put into storage when the original Neo-Classical City Hall was demolished. In 1995 volunteers raised funds to reassemble and relocate it to Victoria Park. The bell inside the tower which was purchased by the Town of Berlin in 1887 is inscribed *Victoria*.

4 The Commons (1895)

This expanse of open area is characteristic of the romantic landscape style of Victoria Park where sweeps of grass invoke a sense of prospect, and together with other features such as the lake and belts of trees, provides for a multi-dimensional landscape composition. First used by the Berlin Athletic Association as a sportsground, the Commons now serves as a location for various recreational activities from impromptu soccer games and hot air balloon launches in the summer, to ice skating in the winter.

5 100 Water Street (1904)

This red brick Queen Anne style residence first belonged to school teacher David S. Jackman. A charming feature of this home is the conical turret.

6 163 Joseph Street (1888)

Henry J. Lang, a local industrialist, built this Queen Anne style home. Significant features of this home include the porches, turret, latticework, and windows.

7 82 Heins Ave (ca 1924)

The Ellroy Lippert House is a local example of Edwardian Classicism. The most notable classical feature of the house is the use of symmetry. The tall casement windows recall the Regency style while the use of stone and stucco are vernacular "touches" or details.

8 73 Heins Ave/150 Water St S (1910)

Homer Ford, a principal of Berlin Interior Hardware Company, built this Arts and Crafts duplex for himself and his parents. The textures and materials used are noteworthy: stone, brick, wood, stucco and stained glass.

The tour continues with a walk through Victoria Park using the pathways designed to afford scenic views.

9 Victoria Park Pavilion (1924) & Comfort Station (1910)

The current pavilion designed by Jonas and Schmalz, architects of the 1924-1973 City Hall and Clock Tower, replaced the 1902 pavilion which burned down in 1916. The Comfort Station is the oldest building still standing in Victoria Park. The gray quarry stone, enamelled and terrazzo floors, and pressed metal ceilings were meant to last.

10 76 Schneider Ave (1925)

Norman Schneider, son of the sausage maker and meat packer J.M. Schneider, lived here. Norman served as Member of Parliament for Waterloo North. Features of this home include the front porch with pilasters and pediment, and the leaded windows in the central gable.

11 43 Schneider Ave (1888)

Originally built by Tobias and Mary Shantz, this Italianate residence has remained in the same family for over a century. Two acres of land originally surrounded the house, but by 1920 the land was subdivided and sold off to accommodate the development of the residential neighbourhood around it. The shallow arched window openings with surrounding brickwork and paired decorative wooden brackets under the eaves are distinctive.

12 17 Schneider Ave (ca 1910)

This home is known locally as the Bugg House and features chunks of unusual rough-textured red brick protruding from its walls.

13 466 Queen St S (1816)

This timber frame two-storey house in the Mennonite Georgian style was built by Joseph Schneider, one of Kitchener's first Pennsylvania German settlers. Recognized as a National Historic Site, the Schneider Haus has been restored to the period of the 1850's and is owned and operated as a living history museum by the Region of Waterloo. Beside the

house, the path to Victoria Park replicates the course of the original Schneider Creek.

14 399 Queen St S (1930)

The Barra Castle once stood on this site. Barra Castle was built by Molly Marquette and was modelled after a castle in Russia where she lived during her childhood. It was a rare local example of the Neo-Gothic style. The most notable features were the crenellated parapets on the side bays and Gothic arch at the entrance.

15 379 Queen St S (1878)

J.M. Staebler, a prominent insurer, first built Buena Vista as an Italianate style residence. Later he modernized the house to its present Queen Anne style. J.M. Schneider later purchased this house.

16 360 Queen St S (ca 1895)

E.D. Lang, a Berlin general merchant, built this two-storey Queen Anne house. Note the hipped roof construction, corner tower, and large wrap-around verandah.

17 307 Queen St S (ca 1880)

First Vogelsang Ivory Button Factory, later Williams, Greene & Rome (shirt and collar factory), then MacDonald Electric, this building is now Bread & Roses Co-operative Homes. The brickwork over the windows in the gable end is reminiscent of Dutch architecture.

18 22-38 Courtland Ave W (1889)

Known as Nelson Terrace, this block of row houses was built for the female workers employed at the adjacent shirt and collar factory. Original features include the exterior staircases and attractive stained glass.

19 1-17 Hilda Place (ca 1900-1920)

Consisting primarily of 1 1/2 storey homes, built for factory workers, these plain front-gabled red or buff brick houses with front verandahs and few decorative features exemplify the Berlin Vernacular style.

20 19 Roland Street (1900)

Walter Bean, the founder of Waterloo Trust and Savings Co, was born and lived here. Walter Bean's most-loved legacy to this community is the Walter Bean Trail following the Grand River.

21 23 Roland Ave (1897)

This Queen Anne style house was the residence of early paint manufacturer Karl Mueller. This home has a full width verandah with spun wood posts, brick piers and wooden handrails.

22 37 Roland Ave (1897)

S.J. Williams of Williams, Greene & Rome and a principal in the Ontario Sugar Company lived here. This unusual shingle style house features a *porte cochere* entrance.

23 Roos Island & Bandstand (1886)

The present bandstand recreates the original 1895 bandstand and flies the Union Jack to signify Victoria Park's royal connection. Roos Island features many unusual trees - gingko, mulberry, tulip and Katsura. The bridge connecting this island to the rest of the park is the original 1895 structure.

24 Pergola (ca 1922) & Peace Memorial (1996)

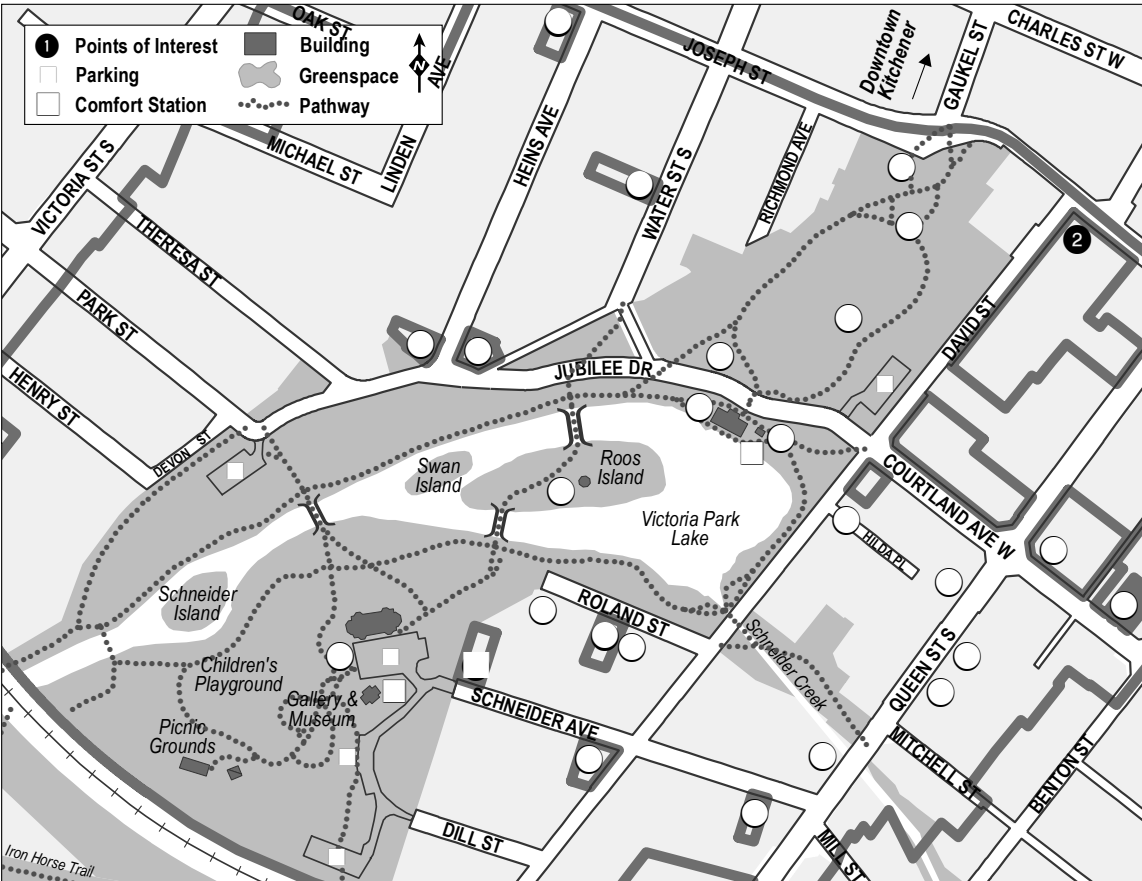
The pergola was built to house the drinking fountain. The adjacent Peace Memorial (Friedensfest Denkmal), erected as part of the park's 100th anniversary, recalls the earlier 1871 Peace Memorial.

25 The Boathouse (1967)

This and the original 1929 boathouse it replaced stored boats and served as a change house until recently.

26 Queen Victoria Statue (1911)

The Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire erected this statue in tribute to Queen Victoria. Sculptor Cavaliere Raffaele Zaccagnini of Rome Italy included the Imperial Lion at the base of the statue as his apology for its late delivery.



Most of the properties are either designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act and located within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District, or are individually designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. An individually designated property can be recognized by the brass designated properties plaque it bears.

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

