

- TOUR 1 -

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF

CARLETON PLACE

Take a walk to learn about the history of Carleton Place.

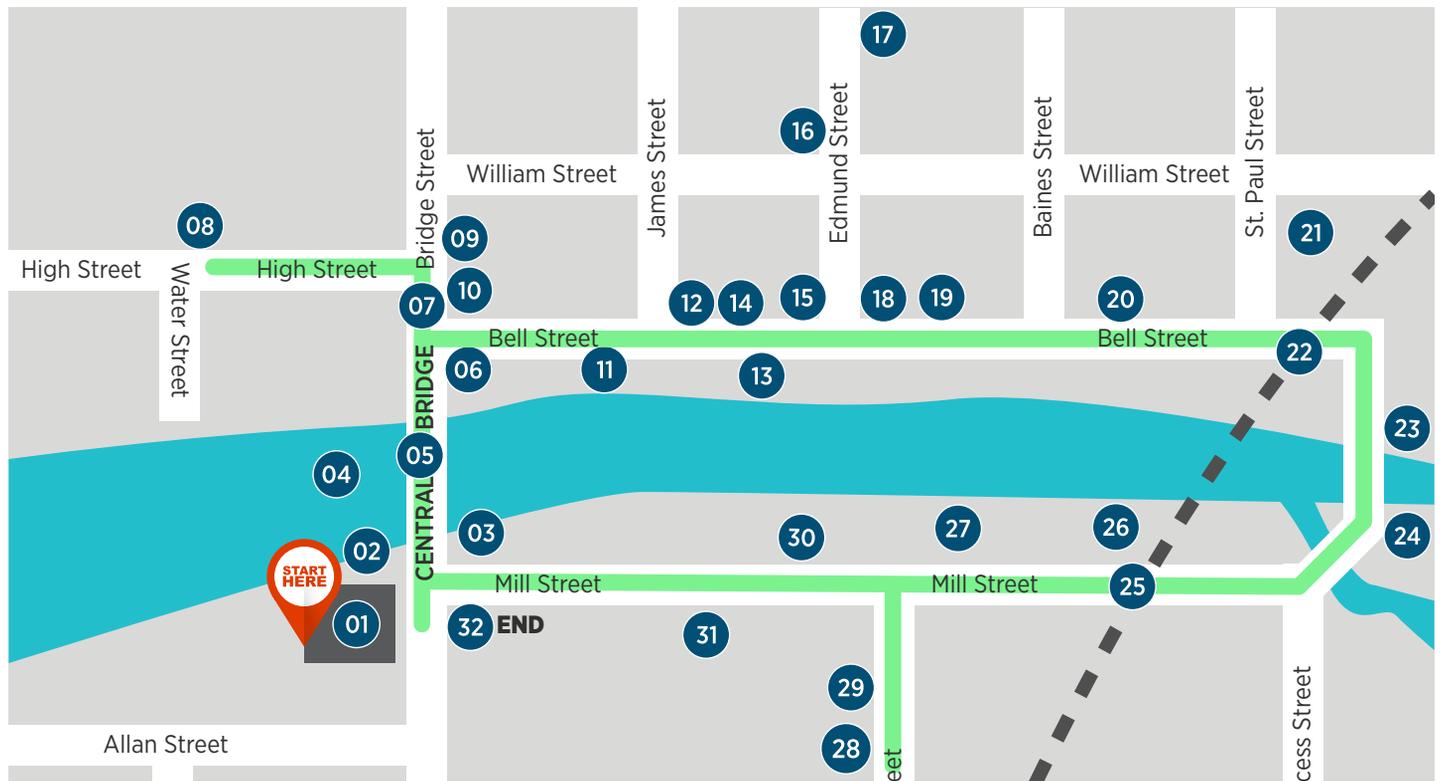



Carleton PLACE

Carleton PLACE  CHAMBER of COMMERCE
AND DISTRICT

Walking Tour Map

TOUR 1



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The Town Hall and surrounding riverfront area is the site of the earliest commercial and residential development in the Town of Carleton Place, which was originally called Morphy's Falls. Bustling mills situated here were the backbone of the pioneer commerce. This tour highlights the river, three surviving mill buildings and the beautiful Town Hall.

The settlers who first received land grants within the present area of the Town of Carleton Place were four members of the William Moore family. The Moore family's grant stretched from present-day Highway 7 to Lake Avenue, and the central part of town was allotted to Edmond Morphy and his three elder sons, John, William and James in 1819. The village, known for approximately ten years as Morphy's Falls, soon began its growth with grist and sawmills harnessing the power of the Mississippi River. Town streets today bear the names of these early settlers.

01 The Moore House

170 BRIDGE STREET

This log building originally sat at the north end of Moore Street opposite Lansdowne Avenue. It was built by James Pearson Moore in about 1873 on land originally deeded to his grandfather William Moore. James and his wife, Katherine, raised their family and operated JP Moore Groceries and Confectionary here until 1936. The store was run by family members until 1973, donated to the town in 2006 and moved to this location in 2007.



02 176 Bridge Street

Long known as "The Riverside Store", this red brick building replaced a frame structure dating to the mid 1820's and destroyed by



fire in 1876. A verandah along the river side, accessible from the street, was added in 1881 and used as a band stand for regatta events on the Mississippi River.

A door at the river's edge was said to be used by local Indigenous Peoples who arrived by boat and traded handmade baskets to general store merchant James L. Murphy in exchange for dry goods.

William Patterson and Sons operated their furniture and undertaking business here for more than 75 years until the 1970's. Their painted advertisement on the north wall was repainted in 2010. Note the plaque commemorating the Findlay Foundry, once visible across the river from this vantage point.

03 Town Hall

175 BRIDGE STREET

A frame home belonging to the Morphy family was situated here prior to 1895. The Morphy family was one of the first to settle in the area. Carleton Place was first



called "Morphy's Falls". That home was purchased and removed to construct this Town Hall. Completed in 1897 at a cost of about \$26,000, it is an excellent example of the Richardson Romanesque style of architecture that was prominent at the end of the 19th century. Constructed of limestone, the town hall at one time contained a fire hall, police station, jail cells and the town library.

The elaborate exterior is complemented by an equally fine interior. Visitors are welcome to view the foyer's grand staircase, the second-floor opera hall, and when available, the original council chambers.

04 The Mississippi River

Central Bridge crosses over the Mississippi River. The name comes from the Ojibwa language, meaning “great” or “long” river. The Mississippi River played an important role in the original settlement of Morphy’s Falls. The river was used to transport lumber, people, and goods. It provided a source of power for lumber, textile and grist mills. Just west of town is the Mississippi Lake system, covering approximately 11 miles.

Looking east we can see a portion of the original falls that led the Morphy family to settle here in 1819. At that time this section of the river was still being used by Indigenous Peoples as both a camp site and a portage route.



05 Central Bridge

The first wooden bridge was constructed here in 1829. Prior to this, a barge transported people and goods across the river.



06 205 Bridge Street

This property was originally owned by Robert Bell and held a white frame home. Dr. M. A. MacFarlane purchased the site and built the red brick home in 1902, modeling it after a home in Scotland. Designed to accommodate the doctor, his family, and his medical practice, it was rented out after his death to Drs. Downing and Ferrill, who practiced here until 1924.



Dr. Allen Johnston next bought the home and lived and worked here for 43 years. He served as MP, MPP, and was Mayor of Carleton Place in 1941 and 1942 and was instrumental in the opening of the local hospital. When fire gutted the house in 1945, he had it reconstructed from the original blueprints.

Dr. Johnston died in 1967. Hundreds of mourners attended the wake here, including the Honourable John Diefenbaker. The building now houses professional offices. Note the arched leaded glass window beside the rear side entrance with “Dr. Ferrill” still present.

07 224–230 Bridge Street

Originally two separate stone buildings, these were built as “The Carleton House” and “British” hotels.



224 was built in about 1840 by brothers Robert and James Bell. It was owned and operated for 17 years by local hotelier Napoleon Lavalée and was the setting for municipal council meetings of the 1840s and 1850s.

A third story was added in about 1900 and includes a false window to provide symmetry. The stone building was renovated into shops and apartments in the 1950s. Note the mural depicting local WWI pilot A. Roy Brown, in battle with Manfred von Richthofen, painted by Sean McGinnis in 2000 on the south side of this building.

230 was built in about 1863 as the British Hotel with a brick addition to the rear added in 1870. Later known as the Revere House, the hotel was sold in 1922 and operated as an auto shop with apartments above. The concrete addition along High Street was added in 1944 as a repair shop, and the entire combined building was then used as a car showroom.

08 15 High Street

This stone home is Georgian in style with front door fan and sidelights and a “coffin” door on the west façade. It was built c. 1830 for John Bell, son of Reverend William Bell of nearby Perth, Ontario. John and brother Robert established an early mercantile business in Carleton Place.



09 233 Bridge Street

This limestone home was built c. 1830 for Robert Bell, son of Reverend William Bell, first Presbyterian minister in Perth. Robert was a merchant, mill owner, magistrate, postmaster and district council warden in Carleton Place.



Purchased by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1919, the home was lived in by a series of bank managers until 1941.

The bell-cast mansard roof and dormers likely replaced the original gable roof. Note the ginkgo tree at the right corner of the building and look for the scar resulting from a truck missing the turn onto Bridge Street from High Street!

10 1 Bell Street

This was the site of Robert Bell’s general store in 1829, and the Carleton Place post office beginning in 1834. Rebuilt of stone in about 1850 as John Sumner’s store, and later the McDiarmid store, it was home to Bennett’s butcher shop for many years. The original storefront with centre door, display windows and commercial cornice was removed in the 1950s.



11 26–30 Bell Street

Built in the 1850s to house workers at the nearby Rosamond Woolen Mill, this frame three-door row house features 6 over 6 Georgian windows. Note the elevated street here, a result of years of adding layers to Bell St.

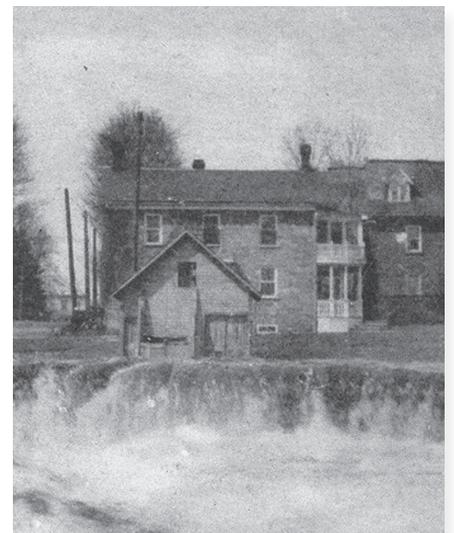


12 Rosamond House

37 BELL STREET

James Rosamond arrived from Ireland in the 1830’s as a chairmaker. He was one of the community’s first industrial developers and together with Robert Bell he financed the first grist mill on the river and built a woolen mill here on the river’s edge in 1838.

Built in 1838, his house is constructed of Beckwith limestone in the Georgian style. The original entrance to the home was on Bell Street and the frame addition was added in 1901.



13 St. James Park

This was the location of James Rosamond's woolen mill built in 1838. In 1846, he expanded to include a mill with spinning and weaving machines. Following a dispute over water rights, Rosamond left Carleton Place in 1857 and reestablished his woolen industry in Almonte.

In 1867, a sawmill was constructed here by John Gillies and John McLaren. It was later bought out by the Canada Lumber Company. After its closure in 1900, it was demolished and replaced in 1911 by the Carleton Place Hydro Electric Plant. This plant supplied electricity to town residents until the 1940's. It was removed in 1970 along with the 1907 dam. The current dam was constructed that same year.

In the park is an "International Peace Cairn", constructed of stones donated from countries from around the world, including a dated stone from the Berlin Wall in Germany.



14 Hurd's Hall

45 BELL STREET

Originally constructed in 1850 for use as a public hall, this frame building was known as "Hurd's Hall". It was built by Dr. Henry Hurd who married Rosalind Rosamond. It originally had an outside staircase to the upper story. It was used for public meetings, concerts and as the Masonic Hall in the 1880s. It was converted to a private residence in 1902.



15 Elliott Hall

224 EDMOND STREET

This was built in 1923 on land once used by the Canada Lumber Company as a lumber yard. Named for Canon Archibald Elliott, Rector of St. James Anglican from 1890 to 1925, it has been used by the community for many religious, social and cultural events. A new Hall was constructed north of the church in 2014 and this building now contains apartments.



16 53 William Street

This red brick home was built in 1900 to serve as the rectory for St. James Anglican Church.

Sold by the church in the mid-1970s, it is now a private home.



17 Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum

267 EDMUND STREET

Erected in 1872 as the Town Hall, this heritage designated building held the town offices, a concert hall and the community's lockup. It was converted to a school in 1879 and served this purpose until 1969. The museum opened here in 1983 and is open year-round. The Victoria School Garden is maintained by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and the Community Labyrinth is in the rear of the property.



18 St. James Anglican Church

225 EDMUND STREET

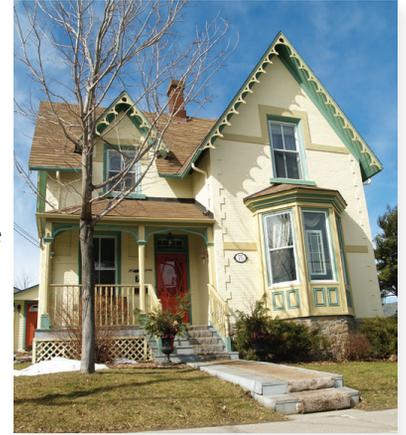
St. James Church was built of stone in 1884 to replace a smaller frame church dating back to 1834. The steep roof, buttresses, pointed windows, cruciform plan and offset tower are classic Gothic style. Inside is an Honour Roll of members of the congregation who volunteered for service for Canada's Armed Forces. The church organ was installed in 1903 and is still in daily use. The bells ring out a tune every hour and are heard across town.



19 Elliott House

75 BELL STREET

Built in 1865, this house predates the present St. James Church. Canon Elliott lived here after his retirement, purchasing the house in 1925 for a sum of \$2,000. The side entrance, bay window, projecting brick trim and gingerbread trim make this a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture.



20 Dr. Wilson House

105 BELL STREET

This house is one of the finest 1 ½ story Georgian houses in Carleton Place. The Loyalist door and exterior details remain unaltered except for the window glazing. The impressive entry features an elliptical transom, elaborate lozenge pattern in the sidelights and transom, and panelled reveals to match the cross and bible door.

The house was built in 1845 for Dr. William Wilson, a surgeon and coroner for 40 years. His granddaughter, Evelyn Wilson, served as a nursing sister in WWI. She managed several field hospitals and was awarded the Bar to the Royal Red Cross for her services under fire – one of only 4 women to receive this honour. She lived in the home until her death in 1967.



21 Commons Park

This triangular shaped lot has always been a public space. The former St. Andrews Church visible on William Street was built in 1869. It was never used as a church, but rather for hay storage, and is now a duplex.



22 Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail

The Brockville and Ottawa Railway was laid along this route in 1857. "Ottawa" refers to the Ottawa River, and the rails ran north and south. The first train station was a simple wooden structure, located on William Street to the north. Later owned and operated by Canadian Pacific, the tracks were pulled up in 2013 and the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail was created in 2018.



23 Gillies Machine Works

150 ROSAMOND STREET



Built in 1875 by John Gillies, this building was originally four stories. It was built as a business venture for

his son Alexander. It originally manufactured steam engines, water wheels, gearing, shafting, pullies, and boat engines. Alexander died tragically at 23 and John sold the business.

Later owned by Bates and Innes Mills as a felting operation, it has since been home to several electronic and high-tech companies. Note the coloured glass circular window at the peak of the south façade. The stone building to the north was originally used as a blacksmith shop.

24 McArthur Woolen Mill

150 MILL STREET

This five-story stone mill was built on a man-made island in 1870 by Archibald McArthur. The McArthur Woolen Mill produced fine worsteds and tweeds. It was powered by a turbine water wheel with teak wooden teeth built outside on free standing timbers rather than internally to prevent the end of the mill from being shaken to pieces. The building originally had an open basement allowing the river to run underneath and enabling raw wool to be washed clean in the current.

Purchased by Bates and Innes Mills in 1907, the company played a key role in supplying wool to military for WWI and WWII uniforms. In 1918, at their peak, they supplied one million dollars' worth of underwear and blankets to the armed forces. Their OV, "Ottawa Valley", label produced underwear, blankets and knitted suits, but by 1959 were devoted entirely to blankets. The mill closed in the early 1960s. Note the original pump house building with its unique roof.



25 Canadian Pacific Rail Bridge Underpass

This was built in 1859 by William Willoughby, a local stonemason who also built Town Hall, St. Andrew's and Zion churches, and most of the culverts and railway abutments between here and Renfrew.



26 Hackberry Park

This park was created as an "Opportunities for Youth" project. The stand of Hackberry trees is the largest in Eastern Ontario. This site is believed to have been a portage site for nomadic Algonquin Peoples crossing the Mississippi River. They used the Hackberry fruit for medicinal purposes.



27 MacDonald House

69-71 MILL STREET

Constructed originally as two separate houses, the earlier, to the right, was built in 1850 for Allan MacDonald. He operated the MacDonald and Brown woolen mill, formerly located to the west, in the parking lot of the condominium property. The newer addition to the left was built in 1880.



28 146 Judson Street

This brick home was built for James Morton Brown. His eldest son Arthur Roy Brown was a fighter pilot in WWI and is credited with downing Baron von Richthofen, the "Red Baron", in 1918. Look for the memorial brick set into the sidewalk.



29 156 Judson Street

This stone building was once part of the Boulton Brown Mill Complex.



30 The Boulton Brown Mill

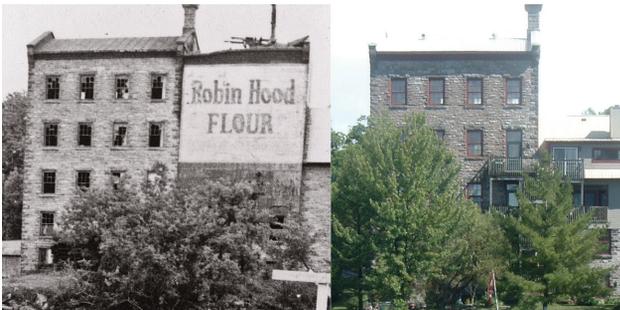
45-49 MILL STREET

The rapids here provided an ideal location for a grist mill. The first was built in 1823 by Hugh Boulton and financed by Robert Bell and James Rosamond.

Horace Brown purchased the mill in 1878, and in 1885 he added the 5-story roller process mill and elevator. His son James Morton carried on the business and built the Brown Electric power company, generating electricity from the river for his mill and for homeowners.

The mill ran under various owners between 1920 and the 1960s when it was badly damaged by fire. It was renovated in the 1980s and now houses condominiums.

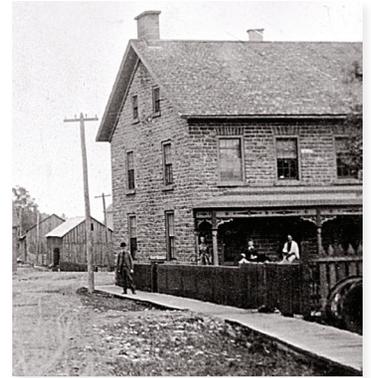
Located across the street, is a millstone produced by Boulton of locally sourced granite. It was found during renovations to the building in the 1980s and placed here.



31 Mill Owner's Home

38 MILL STREET

Built in 1823 for Hugh Boulton, this was the mill owner's home. Constructed directly across from his place of business in the European tradition, it is built of Beckwith limestone and retains an early barn in the rear yard. The second story sun porch and the kitchen wing were added by Horace Brown in 1878.



The basement level opens to a sunken garden which was once renowned for its rose garden, maintained by Mrs. Horace Brown (Harriet). She sadly suffered a fall off the back step which resulted in her eventual death in 1913.

32 The Taylor Block

159 – 167 BRIDGE STREET

The original site of the McArthur general store in 1846, this red brick building is the result of several stone and brick additions. The brick portion was added in 1888 by William Taylor. The Taylor brothers operated as hardware and fuel merchants and eventually as auto dealers until closing in 1930. The painted advertising signs were refreshed in the early 2000s.

Now the largest commercial range building on Bridge Street, the three story structure is dressed with Beckwith limestone sills and lintels and is topped by a pressed metal cornice.

