

## START

### 1 Mannheim (est. 1840s)

This village was named for the German city on the Rhine River, from which many immigrants to Waterloo County originated. Note the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church (1873) and cemetery.

### 2 Petersburg (est. 1838)

The village was originally settled in 1838 by John Ernst and later served as a post village and station for the Grand Trunk Railway. Petersburg was named after Peter Wilker, an original settler. Note the Georgian-style Blue Moon Hotel (c. 1855) (formerly the Reindeer Hotel and livery) at the crossroads, several historic homes, and the Lutheran Church and cemetery.

### 3 Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother

As you enter St. Agatha, the shrine is located on your left. Built circa 1860, this cemetery chapel contains over 100 relics of famous Catholic saints and sacred places. Typifying the Swiss and Bavarian style, it is decorated with religious paintings imported from Munich, Germany. It is open Sundays 1-4 p.m., May to October.

### 4 St. Agatha (est. 1824)

This village is the historic centre of Catholicism in Waterloo Region, and first home of St. Jerome's College (1865), which is now associated with the University of Waterloo. It was settled originally by Amish Mennonites and then by Roman Catholics and Lutherans from Alsace-Lorraine. Points of interest include two former inns, a former schoolhouse (1855), a church and cemetery with rare iron cross grave markers.

### 5 Baden Sand Hills

The Baden Sand Hills are a large kame moraine – a huge deposit of sand left roughly 14,000 years ago by the retreating Wisconsin ice sheet. The site is protected due to its status as an International Biological Programme Site.

### 6 Baden (est. 1854)

Baden, historically known as Weissenburg, was laid out by Jacob Beck in 1854. Baden was the birthplace of Sir Adam Beck (1857-1925), founder of Ontario's public hydro-electric system. Note the present day tavern, which is the former Baden Hotel (1874). Other points of interest include the former Steinman Furniture building (1857), general store (1854), Baden Mill, and the Old Baden Mennonite Burying Ground. To download the historic Baden walking tour visit: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

### 7 Castle Kilbride (est. 1877)

This magnificent house was home to James Livingston, the "Flax and Linseed Oil King." It is noted for its Italianate style and interior murals, and is designated as a National Historical Site. Visitor information can be found at: [www.castlekilbride.ca](http://www.castlekilbride.ca).

## 8 Historic Bridges

Watch for the many historic truss bridges as you travel through the Nith Valley, including the Shade Street Bridge (1953), Hartman Bridge (1936), Holland Mills Bridge (1910), Bridge Street Bridge (1913) and the Waterloo-Oxford Road Bridge (1912). There is also a privately constructed and owned pedestrian suspension bridge north of the intersection of Christner Road and Waterloo Street.

### 9 New Hamburg (est. 1830s)

New Hamburg was established in the early 1830s by William Scott. In 1834, Asiatic cholera killed many of the original settlers of New Hamburg. A second wave of German and Scottish settlers arrived in the late 1830s to early 1840s. New Hamburg did not flourish until the advent of the Grand Trunk railway in the 1850s. The village became an important centre for milling and farm machinery production. The New Hamburg core area is designated as a Heritage Conservation District. The village is home to the largest waterwheel in North America, and the Mennonite Relief Quilt Sale is held annually on the last Saturday in May. The historic New Hamburg walking tour is available at: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

### 10 Alternative Routes

Turn right on Tye Road to travel through a scenic area that is home to several wildlife sanctuaries. You will also find two historic truss bridges spanning the Nith River, one on Bridge Street and one on Oxford-Waterloo Road.

### 11 Haysville (Jonesboro, Wilmot Village) (est. 1830s)

This location, where the historic Huron Road crossed the Nith River, was settled by immigrants from the British Isles in the 1830s. They were attracted by offers of land from the Canada Land Company. The name Haysville originated from its first official postmaster, John Hays, appointed in 1853. Before that time it had been called Jonesboro and later Wilmot Village.

### 12 Huron Road (constructed 1827-28)

In 1827, Dr. William 'Tiger' Dunlop of the Canada Company opened this heritage highway as a 95-mile corduroy road connecting the newly established town sites of Guelph and Goderich. It was improved the following year to promote the sale of Company lands in the million-acre Huron Tract, comprising parts of modern Huron, Perth, Middlesex and Lambton Counties. The lookout point from the hill at Pinehill cemetery provides a vista of much of Wilmot Township.

### 13 New Dundee (est. 1830)

Originally settled by John and Frederick Millar, this village was the home of William J. Wintemberg (1876-1941), an outstanding Canadian archaeologist who gained international recognition as an authority on Iroquoian prehistory. Make sure to see the New Dundee Emporium, an excellent Victorian mercantile block built in 1887 by Gottlieb Bettschen as the Jubilee Block. To download the historic New Dundee walking tour visit: [www.heritagewilmot.ca](http://www.heritagewilmot.ca).

This tour begins at the edge of Kitchener and heads west through the historic German Block, an area carefully subdivided by early settlers along the Huron, Upper, Middle and Lower Roads. As you travel through the countryside along Wilmot Township's pioneer settlement roads, you will pass by Georgian style stone houses, historic crossroad settlements, and a number of churches with their adjoining cemeteries. Points of interest include the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother in St. Agatha, Castle Kilbride in Baden and the Heritage Conservation District in the core of New Hamburg.

There are numerous places to stop along the way for a stroll and an opportunity to enjoy a picnic along the banks of the Nith River in New Hamburg or by Alder Lake in New Dundee.

As you travel south through the Nith River valley, enjoy the scenic valley lands and wildlife preservation areas. Take note of the heritage bridges you will pass along the way. Wilmot Township is home to five historic steel truss bridges, all built between 1910 and 1953. Finally you will travel on the historic Huron Road (1828), passing Pinehill Pioneer Cemetery and on the scenic Bethel Road towards New Dundee.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region's website or contact Heritage Wilmot at [info@heritagewilmot.ca](mailto:info@heritagewilmot.ca).

**STARTS at the corner of Fischer-Hallman and Bleams Road, the original location of the historic settlement of Williamsburg. Begin by travelling west on Bleams Road.**

**Note:** Some roads are gravel and several older bridges are single lane with weight restrictions. Please drive with caution. Please keep in mind that some points of interest on this tour are not publicly accessible; enjoy the view only from public property. Refreshments and/or public washrooms may not be available along rural sections of the route, but many towns, villages and hamlets offer wonderful establishments in historic buildings.



Region of Waterloo

HERITAGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, contact  
**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

519-575-4400 • TTY: 519-575-4608

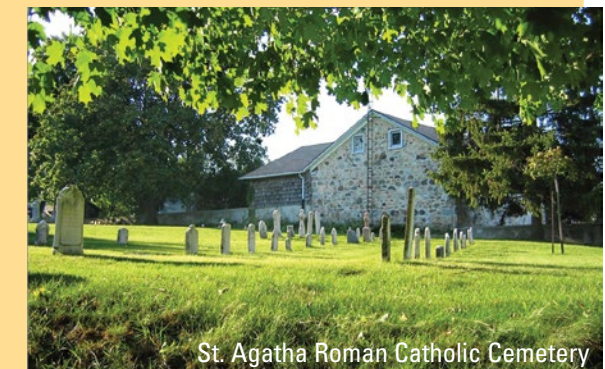
or email [planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)

*Alternate formats are available upon request.*

## TOUR THREE

### TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

# Nith Valley Trail



St. Agatha Roman Catholic Cemetery

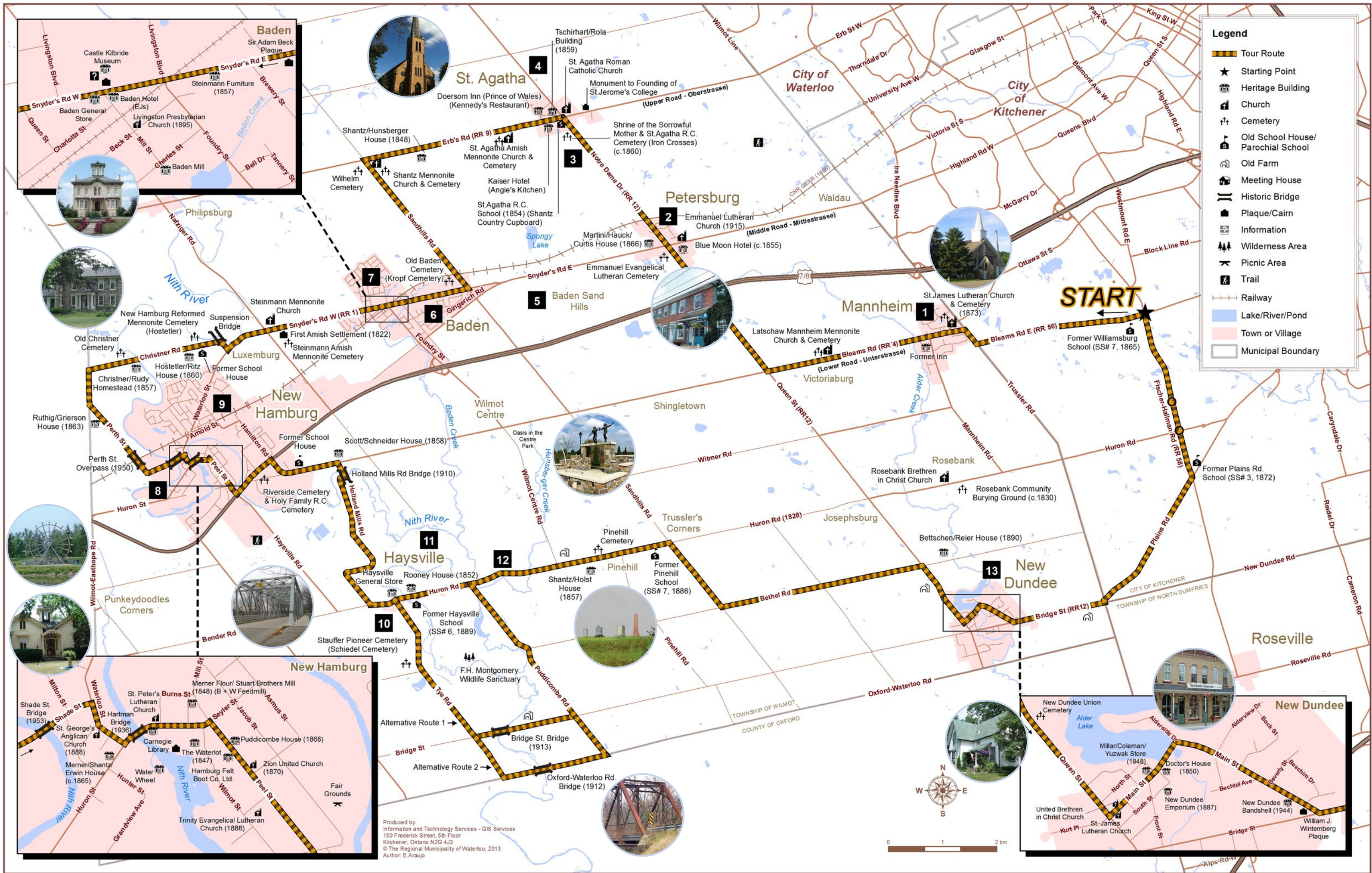
**Distance: 97 km Time: 2 hours & 30 min.**

Waterloo Region

*Historic*  
**COUNTRYSIDE  
TOURS**

Bridges,  
churches and  
pioneer  
cemeteries

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)



Legend

- Tour Route
- Starting Point
- Heritage Building
- Church
- Cemetery
- Old School House/Parochial School
- Old Farm
- Meeting House
- Historic Bridge
- Plaque/Cairn
- Information
- Wilderness Area
- Picnic Area
- Trail
- Railway
- Lake/River/Pond
- Town or Village
- Municipal Boundary

Produced by:  
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