

## A Brief History of Wilmot Township 1791 to 1850

Wilmot Township was designated a Crown Reserve following the Canada Act of 1791 which created Upper & Lower Canada. Following a government survey in 1824, Mennonites from Waterloo Township and Amish from Europe claimed lots and began clearing roadways and farms. The Canada Land Company opened the Huron Road through the southern part of the township in 1828. Soon after, Roman Catholics and Lutherans from Alsace and Germany, Anglicans from the British Isles and others joined the initial settlers in clearing land and building roads, mills, shops, churches, schools and villages. Along the settlements three main roads were cleared for passage from one to the other. They named the roads Oberstrasse (Upper Street), Mittlestrasse (Middle Street) and Unterstrasse (Lower Street). These roads are now known as Erb's Road, Snyder's Road and Bleams Road.

Heritage settlement signage can be found throughout Wilmot Township. These brown and gold signs acknowledge the pioneer settlement areas of Berlett's Corners, Rosebank, Holland Mills, Pinehill, Josephsburg, New Prussia, Victoriaburg, Punkeydoodles Corners and Waldau. The traditions that early pioneers brought to Wilmot Township helped shape the way our communities are today. They are noted as "*A Wilmot Heritage Community*."

In 1840, Wilmot Township became part of the District of Wellington. The Baldwin Act, passed in May 1849, established a new framework for municipal government. Townships and incorporated villages were recognized as rural units of government. They gained power to elect their own local officials and to tax land owners for local improvements. On January 21, 1850, the first elected Council of the Township of Wilmot met in Wilmot Centre.

Today the sitting wall at the Oasis in the Centre represents both the foundation of the 1850 Wilmot Township Hall and the strong community foundation built by those early settlers.

The Oasis in the Centre pays tribute to our cultural and natural heritage. It represents the spirit of community involvement of many generations of Wilmot Township residents.



HERITAGE WILMOT



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

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