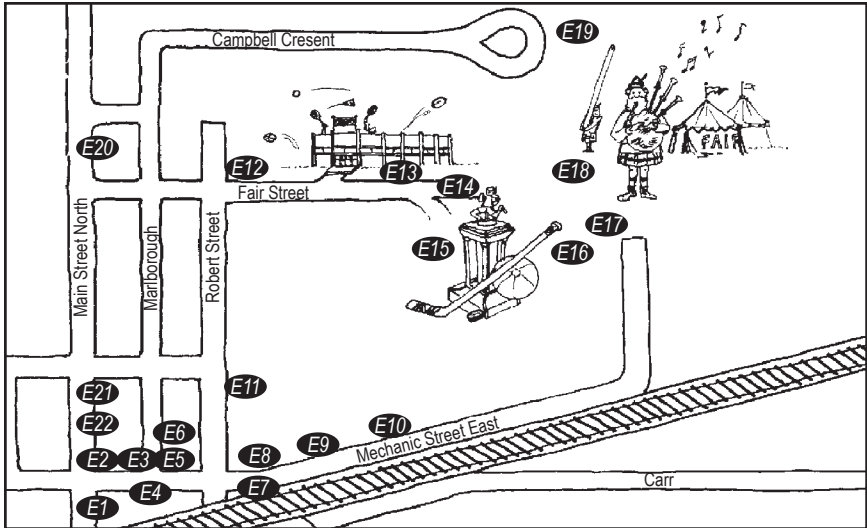


A WALK AROUND MAXVILLE'S NORTHEAST SIDE



This is a self-guided walking tour through Maxville's northeast side which gives you a view of the village's history as well as it's present. Enjoy the country feel of this small community and it's beautiful natural surroundings.

<http://tourism.NorthGlengarry.on.ca>
tourism@tourism.NorthGlengarry.on.ca
 P.O. Box 430, Alexandria, ON K0C 1A0
 613-527-5318



☛ **Start at the Tourist Information Booth and head South down Main Street**

THE ORIGINAL MAIN STREET

At one time, the principle north-south road through Maxville came south up what is now Marlborough Street, jogged west one block along Mechanic Street East and then turned south again to cross the railway tracks. The names of Main Street North and Marlborough Street were interchanged after the Highland Road was diverted at the north end of Maxville, around 1967, to provide better access to increasing road traffic. At that time Fair Street was also extended to provide access from the "new" Main Street to the Fair Grounds.

STOP #E1

SCOTT'S CONVENIENCE STORE, MAIN ST. NORTH (EAST SIDE)

The first meat shop in Maxville, owned by Ben Garner, was situated here. The original building possibly dates back to the 1860's. Around 1930, there was a livery stable, trucking and taxi service here, owned by John Pilon. He used to operate an old-fashioned boarding house with his wife, which was north of the store, at the corner of Main Street North and Mechanic Street East, where the laundromat now stands before it was torn down. On the roof of the store, the antique tin from the original construction is still visible.

☛ **Turn left on to Mechanic Street East**

STOP #E2**MACKAY BLOCK, MECHANIC ST. EAST
(NORTH SIDE)**

From 1921 to 1971, the post office used to occupy the left side of this building. Robert MacKay used to sell insurance here as well as having a car dealership in the late 1930's. In the summer of 1984, the village library made its third move from various other locations to this building, before moving to it's present location at École St. Bernard on Robert Street. Also situated in this building are the offices of Maxville's Barrister and Solicitors.

STOP #E3**3 MECHANIC ST. EAST (NORTH SIDE)**

In the 1820's, what is now Maxville used to be four farms situated at the corners of the intersection of what are now Marlborough, Main and Mechanic Streets. This building was built in 1890 by William McEwen on the south east corner of his mother's farm. The McEwens were among the first settlers in the area. The building was used as a general store until approximately 1978 and, at one time, even had a gasoline pump. John Jamieson ran the store from 1914 until 1948. Behind the store used to be horse sheds where as many as 18 horses were tied, while farmers made their daily shopping visits after delivering milk to the Borden Plant. Around the time of the Great Depression, there used to be a tennis court behind the Jamieson store. The apartment building attached to the west side was converted from a warehouse in the 1950's and now houses "The Old Corner Store" Bed and Breakfast.

STOP #E4**MCDONALD ELECTRIC, 4 MECHANIC ST. EAST
(SOUTH SIDE)**

This is one of the most historic buildings in Maxville. It used to be a paint shop and the upstairs portion of the building housed the first school in Maxville sometime after 1882. There also used to be a shoe repair shop here as well as an electrical shop and contracting business in 1946. In 1953, Duncan McDonald bought the business which is still in the family and operated by his sons.

STOP #E5**5 MECHANIC ST. EAST (SOUTH SIDE) AND 3
MARLBOROUGH ST. (EAST SIDE)**

The red brick building with white and green trim used to be the Alguire Hardware store in 1924. Mr. Alguire handled hardware, harness, musical

instruments and agricultural implements and handles. The white building attached to the hardware store was probably Alguire's warehouse. Both buildings are now apartments.

STOP #E6**5 MARLBOROUGH ST. (EAST SIDE)**

This building used to be a bake shop. The owner, James Ross, used to sell a loaf of bread for six pennies. He would also travel to local farms and deliver his bread during the winter months.

STOP #E7**LOG HOUSE, (24 MECHANIC ST. EAST; ON THE
RIGHT)**

This little log house was owned by the Sprott family. It is approximately 100 years old. It is said that the wooden floors rotted and the house now has earth floors. The white house to the right of the log house used to be an ice house.

STOP #E8**17 MECHANIC ST. EAST (ON THE LEFT)**

This house is fairly old. Possibly built about 1889 by Duncan McMillan who owned a confectionery store. Mr. McMillan was very much interested in photography and was the town's first photographer in the days of "tin-types" (an early form of photograph). Interestingly, he arranged for the first balloon ascent in Glengarry county, in order to advertise Maxville.

STOP #E9**23 MECHANIC ST. EAST (NORTH SIDE)**

The original house, before renovations, was built around 1886-87. It was one of the first houses in Maxville. The owner, John Cass (son of the ashery operator, Elijah Cass) was also interested in photography. He owned a gallery where he produced the early photographs known as "tin-types". Later on, his photographs were made into postcards.

STOP #E10**31 MECHANIC ST. EAST (NORTH SIDE)**

This house was built in 1878 by Elijah Cass. The building was named the "Ashery House" after the ashery, or potash plant, that was built next to the house around 1880. The Ashery House was occupied by Elijah until his death in 1891, when it became a home for the potash-makers and helpers. The ashery was torn down after the second World War when there was no more market for potash.

A little history on the asheries:

Most settlers of the area had to clear their land of many trees in order to grow their crops. The excess wood was burnt and the ashes would be bought and made into potash by those who owned asheries. Many housewives used to go to the asheries with pails of fat which was mixed with lye, from the potash kettles, to make a strong, thick brown soap used in cleaning floors.

☛ Explore as far as you wish to the end of the street, then turn around, walk back and turn right on Robert Street

STOP #E11

ECOLE SAINT-BERNARD, ROBERT ST. (EAST SIDE; ON THE RIGHT)

This separate school was opened in 1954 under the guidance of Rev. Bernard Guindon and the efforts of the families of St. James Catholic Parish. It was administered by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart until they left the parish in August of 1988, after 34 years of teaching and pastoral work. Lay teachers took over.

☛ Turn right on Fair Street

STOP #E12

11 FAIR ST. (NORTH SIDE; ON THE LEFT)

This beautiful brick house used to be the home of Osie F. Villeneuve and his wife, Alma from 1931. Mr. Villeneuve worked very hard to make Maxville what it is today. He had a political career that spanned close to 40 years. He served a term as the village reeve and, in 1948, was elected as a member of the Ontario Legislature. He helped organize the Glengarry Highland Games, took part in founding the famous local hockey team, the "Maxville Millionaires", and was involved with the building of the Maxville Sports Complex, as well as being involved in many other community organizations. In 1957, Osie and wife were presented to the Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip at a social function following the opening of the House of Commons, and again in 1976 at Upper Canada Village.

STOP #E13

MAXVILLE AND DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX, FAIR ST. (NORTH SIDE; ON THE LEFT)

This building was officially opened in May of 1978. The building was paid for outright through a fund

raising drive which combined the donations and grants from Wintario, local governments, local service clubs, and other organizations. The ice surface in the rink is NHL regulation size and is said to be one of the best ice surfaces in Eastern Ontario. The building was officially named the "Osie F. Villeneuve Arena" to commemorate his hard work in securing funds from the Ontario Government. The ball park, to the north-west of the building, and the childrens' playground were both built in 1991 as a project for Maxville's Centennial.

STOP #E14

KENYON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (K.A.S.) GATES, FAIR GROUNDS

The original arch was designed by Dr. Don Gamble in 1953 and sealed in one corner of the arch was a 1953 prize list. This was replaced in 1991 with the present stone gates, as part of the Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame construction.

THE K.A.S. FAIR GROUNDS

The K.A.S. has taken part in many projects to improve and advance the village of Maxville. Agricultural societies were developed to encourage interest, promote improvements and advance the standards of Ontario's agricultural industry owing to the importance of agriculture in the economy. In 1907, the K.A.S. moved the fair grounds to its present location from the old site on the east of Peter Street. The property started out with five acres bought from A.D. McRae and has slowly expanded through the years. In 1948, the K.A.S. jointly sponsored the first Glengarry Highland Games with the Williamstown Agricultural Society. The W.A.S. was replaced by the original Maxville Chamber of Commerce, but in 1971 the K.A.S. became the sole sponsor. The Games have been held on the K.A.S. Fair Grounds, in Maxville, every year since.

STOP #E15

GLENGARRY SPORTS' HALL OF FAME, FAIR GROUNDS

This building was constructed in 1991 to recognize the achievements of Glengarry's many athletes. One of the main features of this building is a large boardroom that provides privacy and accommodation for judges during the K.A.S. Fair and the Glengarry Highland Games.

STOP #E16

WASHROOM FACILITIES, FAIR GROUNDS (ON THE RIGHT, PAST THE GATES)

When the poultry division was removed from the prize list after the annual fair in 1946, the hen house was converted into the washroom facilities that are still in use today.

STOP #E17

ANGUS GRAY CENTRE, FAIR GROUNDS (STRAIGHT THROUGH FROM THE GATES)

This building was built in 1960 as the new show hall. It was named to honour Angus Gray, who died in 1972 leaving half of his estate to the K.A.S. - although in 2004 in a criminal act the original Angus Grey was purposely burnt to the ground. A new Angus Grey completed by the the KAS and members of the community.

STOP #E18

THE GRANDSTANDS, FAIR GROUNDS (LEFT, INSIDE THE GATES)

During the early years of the Glengarry Highland Games, there was a problem with crowd control. To solve that dilemma, bleachers were built. At first, the bleachers were portable and sat only 1200 people. Then, in 1957, a log barn was bought, torn down and rebuilt to make permanent bleachers to seat nearly 3000 people. To further control the crowd, two mounds were built on the east and north sides of the infield and page wire was put around the infield.

STOP #E19

MAXVILLE AIRPORT, FAIR GROUNDS (FAR LEFT OF THE INFELD AND MOUNDS)

The airport was built in the summer of 1960, on a field owned by Bill MacEwen, with a runway suitable for small aircraft. A storage shed and an open-front hangar made for two planes were built soon after. Since then, the airport has been well maintained and is currently active. Runway lights were eventually added for night flying. The Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon. Lester B. Pearson landed here, in 1963, when he officiated at the opening of the Glengarry Highland Games. The airfield is remembered by many local citizens as the site of their first plane ride.

➔ Wander through the fair grounds and come back down Fair Street

STOP #E20

JOHN DEERE DEALERSHIP, MARLBOROUGH ST. (WEST SIDE)

This large business used to be an equally successful business in its time, called Ferguson's Thresher. James Ferguson set up shop in 1881 on part of the McEwen property (one of the original farms). He built his first thresher in 1874 and redesigned his gear in 1884, which was patented by Henry Grist & Company of Ottawa, the patent attorneys of the day. He received another patent later on and continued to improve tread power (power supplied by horses walking up an inclined tread belt). This business boomed until 1910, when gas engines came into regular use. One of Ferguson's early thresher and tread power machines is on display and still operational at Morrisburg's Upper Canada Village. Mr. Ferguson made part of his building into a hall. The Ferguson Hall became a place for dances, concerts and other social events for the community and for Maxville High School students in the 1940's. The Ferguson family still operates a machine shop on the site in the shed closest to Fair Street.

➔ Turn left on Main Street North

STOP #E21

MAXVILLE'S POST OFFICE, MAIN ST. NORTH (EAST SIDE)

Maxville's post office moved to its present location in 1971.

STOP #E22

TOURIST INFORMATION BOOTH, MAIN ST. NORTH (EAST SIDE)

This booth was built in 1991 with donations from members of the newly formed Maxville & District Chamber of Commerce (reestablished that same year as part of Maxville's centennial celebrations). Originally situated near Highway 417, the booth was brought to its present site in 1993 to help promote tourism in Maxville and the Seaway Valley region - the tourist booth remains on the same lot just moved north. next to the post office.

With acknowledgements to the Maxville & District Chamber of Commerce

Sponsored by Canada-Ontario Business Recovery Assistance, Perfect Vision (Productions) Inc. and Tamarack Creek Communications Inc.

© North Glengarry Community Economic Development Group, 2000