

START

1 Waterloo Region Museum & Doon Heritage Village

The Waterloo Region Museum is the largest community museum in Ontario. It is open daily and provides entrance to Doon Heritage Village, a collection of 27 historic buildings from throughout the Region. Doon Heritage Village depicts the early history and lifestyles of the area from the turn of the 20th-century to World War I.

2 Huron Road Bridge

This single-span concrete bridge was constructed in 1930 and reconstructed in 2012. Spanning Schneider Creek, it carries Huron Road, part of the original settlement route through the Huron Tract (1828).

3 Hiking trail access and views of Cressman's Woods and the old growth forest in Homer Watson Park. Note the Cressman's Woods Trail and plaque on Mill Park Drive.

4 Lower Doon (est. early 1800s)

While traveling on Old Mill Road watch for the Homer Watson House & Gallery, the Doon Presbyterian Church, the ruin of the Old Ferrie Mill and the ball park that was Willow Lake. On Pinnacle Drive, travel towards Pinnacle Hill taking note of the former Red Lion Inn, the historic houses and the site of the old cooperage.

5 English Settlement (est. 1830s)

A small pocket of land developed through an emigration scheme to relocate English working-class families, called the Petworth Project. The old school house (1879) replaced the original log school house.

6 Roseville (est. 1820s)

Roseville is one of the earliest settlements in the western portion of the Township. Historic buildings include the Roseville School (1867), which is now a community centre, a general store (1855) and three churches. A cairn commemorates Daniel B. Detweiler (1935), an early advocate of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Corporation. The historic Roseville walking tour is available at: www.northdumfries.ca.

7 Detweiler Meeting House (est. 1855)

This traditional 19th-century fieldstone Mennonite Meeting House is one of Roseville's oldest standing structures. Note the plaque detailing the site's history.

8 Greenfield (est. 1844)

Site of the Goldie Milling Co. (1848-1965) that produced flour and oatmeal. The village includes workers' cottages, the Goldie Farmhouse, a former Schoolhouse USS No. 15, and the "Goldie Family and Village of Greenfield" plaque along Greenfield Road.

9 Reidsville (est. 1831)

Founded by John Reid and his brother, who operated a combination of mills on Cedar Creek, which runs near the hamlet. Buildings of note include the Reid House and the former Reidsville School SS No. 20 (1919). Once you pass Reidsville watch for the old stone farmhouses on the north side of Alps Road.

10 Dryden Tract

The Dryden Tract is part of the original 900 acres purchased by Andrew Dryden and his family in 1834, who were early settlers in the area from Hawick, Scotland.

11 Sudden Tract

Maple, beech, oak and hickory forests cover a moraine left by the ice sheets of the last glaciations. Forest plantations were established when farmers abandoned this poor land in the 1930s. This Carolinian forest is more typical of the northern USA than Canada. Good place for cross-country skiing in winter and viewing Ontario's provincial emblem, the white trillium, in May.

12 Bannister and Wrigley Lakes

These kettle lakes contain the largest and best natural marsh system in the Region and are excellent places to watch marsh birds. At one time, Wrigley Lake was a celery farm.

13 Ayr (est. 1840)

This prominent destination for Scottish settlers was originally the three closely adjoining villages of Mudge's Mills (1824), Jedburgh (1832) and Nithvale. Historic buildings include the downtown commercial block, Knox United (formerly Presbyterian) Church (1887), Watson's foundry and dam (1848), Carnegie Library (1910), Ice House & Creamery (c.1850), Queens Hotel, a Regency cottage built along the Nith River in the 1840s, old fire hall (1895) and the Ayr Cemetery. The historic Ayr walking tour is available at: www.northdumfries.ca.

14 The Brant-Waterloo Road

Lined with stone houses, this road provides stunning views of the countryside over steep hills and deep valleys. Continue on West River Road before turning left on Beke Road to enjoy views of valley lands. Keep watch for wildlife including hawks and deer.

15 Return towards the city on the picturesque Shouldice and Edworthy Side Roads. Take note of the silos after jogging to the right on Alps Road.

16 Dickie Settlement (est. 1833) & Whistle Bare

These former settlements are no longer in existence but evidence of their presence remains in cemeteries, old school houses and roads named for the historic communities. Whistle Bare Road has been in use since the 1820s.

17 Blair (est. c.1800)

The earliest European settlement in Waterloo County took place here. Prior to European settlement, the flatlands area of Blair was a substantial First Nations encampment site. Blair Village has been designated a Heritage Conservation District. Historic features include a Grist Mill (1846), Sheave Tower (1876), and one of the oldest cemeteries in the Region (1804).

18 Upper Doon (est. early 1800s)

Upper Doon, historically known as Tow Town and Oregon, is now a Heritage Conservation District. This village was the birthplace of artist Homer Watson and the home of Benjamin Bear, contractor of the West Montrose Covered Bridge. Ruins of the first successful flax mill in Upper Canada (c.1850-1910) still remain.

This township, now one of the most picturesque rural landscapes in Ontario, was formed 10,000 years ago in the last ice age as the Wisconsin Glacier retreated from the area. The marshes and wetlands on either side of the undulating roads, the stone houses, bank barns and the stone piles at the field edges all bear testimony to the passage of the glacier and to the early Scottish settlers.

Features of both natural and cultural heritage abound on this tour and it can easily be seen as either a day trip or broken into several shorter trips. Shorter excursions might include the Sudden Tract with its areas of Carolinian forest, trails, wildlife and spring flowers or Cressman's Cliffs, close to the Waterloo Region Museum. The location of the Homer Watson House & Gallery and the Village of Doon are also well worth a shorter trip of their own. In Ayr, the visitor can see the imposing Knox United (formerly Presbyterian) Church, enjoy charming stone cottages surrounded by summer gardens, and can picnic by the Jedburgh Dam.

For more detailed historic information on this area, visit the Region of Waterloo website or contact the North Dumfries Municipal Heritage Committee at northdumfriesheritage@gmail.com.

STARTS and ends at the Waterloo Region Museum. Turn left on Huron Road to begin the tour.

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
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519-575-4400 • TTY 519-575-4608
or email planninginfo@regionofwaterloo.ca

Alternate formats are available upon request.

TOUR ONE

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUMFRIES

Southern Trail



Workers cottages, Greenfield Village

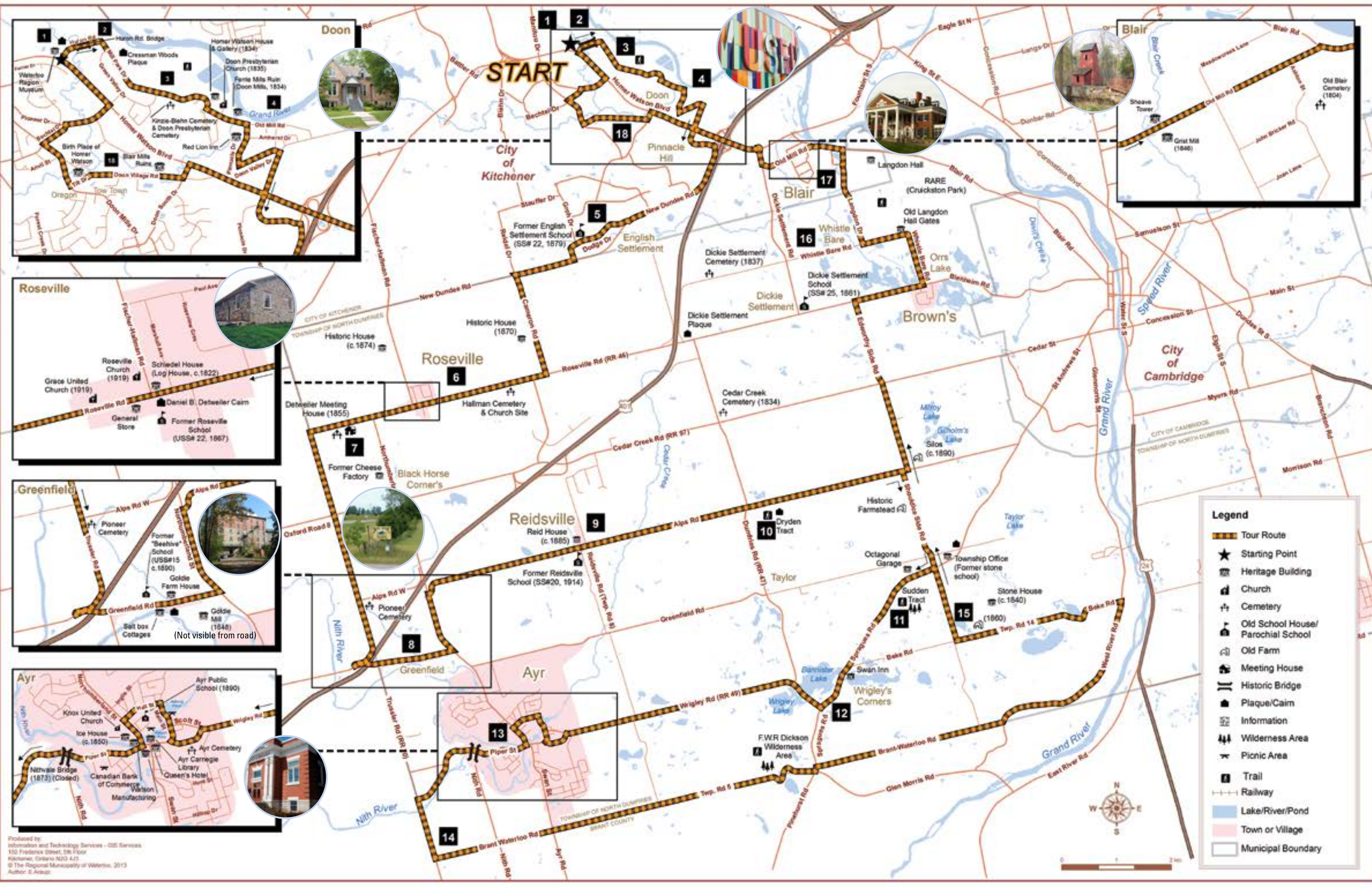
Distance: 85 km Time: 2 hours & 10 min.

Waterloo Region

Historic
**COUNTRYSIDE
TOURS**

Moraines,
marshes,
vistas and
views

www.regionofwaterloo.ca



Doon

1 Waterloo Region Museum
 2 Homer Rd. Bridge
 3 Cressman Woods Plaque
 4 Homer Watson House & Gallery (1834)
 5 Doon Presbyterian Church (1835)
 6 Fort Mills Ruin (Doon Mills, 1834)
 7 Kinzie-Bahn Cemetery & Doon Presbyterian Cemetery
 8 Red Lion Inn
 9 Old Mill Rd.
 10 Birth Place of Homer Watson
 11 Doon Village Rd.
 12 Blair Mills Ruins
 13 Doon Valley Rd.
 14 Green Valley Dr.
 15 Pioneer Dr.
 16 Pioneer Dr.
 17 Pioneer Dr.
 18 Pioneer Dr.

Roseville

19 Grace United Church (1919)
 20 Roseville Church (1919)
 21 Schiedel House (Log House, c.1822)
 22 Daniel B. DeWeiler Cairn
 23 General Store
 24 Former Roseville School (USS# 22, 1867)

Greenfield

25 Pioneer Cemetery
 26 Former "Beehive" School (USS#15, c.1890)
 27 Goldie Farm House
 28 Salt box Cottages
 29 Goldie Mill (1848)
 (Not visible from road)

Ayr

30 Knox United Church
 31 Ice House (c.1850)
 32 Ayr Cemetery
 33 Ayr Carnegie Library
 34 Queen's Hotel
 35 Canadian Bank of Commerce
 36 Watson Manufacturing
 37 Nithvale Bridge (1873) (Closed)

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

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