

Township of Tay

Heritage Property Inventory



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The Township is required under the **Ontario Heritage Act** to keep a register of listed heritage properties for which Council has elected to provide protection for their cultural heritage value or interest. (See "**Heritage Registry**")

In addition, Council has elected to maintain an inventory of heritage properties of interest that it has not yet listed for protection.

This inventory has been researched and produced by the Township of Tay Heritage Committee and with the assistance of the following Heritage Students and the Planning Department: Kandas Bondarchuk, Jessica Gibson, Jordan Lambie, Kevin Pighin, Amanda Tucker, and Branko Vidovic. All information was obtained between 2007 – 2012.

Waverley



Address: 6463 Highway 93

Year Built: 1900

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Retirement home of Wilfred Morrison, a prominent figure of the early 1900's. Morrison held the first tavern and built the first mill in Craighurst. He later started the first line of stages along Penetanguishene Road and became the government contractor for the road's improvement over time.



Address: 6507 Highway 93

Year Built: 1885

Built By: John Bannister

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Home of John Bannister, son of David Bannister – the first settler of Waverley in 1829. This property was originally owned by David, until his death. At which time it was passed onto his son, John.



Address: 6565 Highway 93

Year Built: 1910

Built By: John Bannister

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Built and owned by John Bannister, son of David Bannister – the first settler of Waverley in 1829. This property was later passed to John's son, William for some time.



Address: 6670 Highway 93

Year Built: 1890

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: It has been gathered by historians that the property was settled by retired soldiers as they travelled the Old Penetanguishene Road from Barrie to the Penetanguishene naval establishment yearly.



Address: 6454 Highway 93

Year Built: 1885

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: This house is one of the earliest homes built in the community that is still standing. During the time this house was built, Waverley was a developing village – marking the halfway point between Barrie and the naval establishment in Penetanguishene.

Rural Tay



Address: 1038 Rumney Road

Year Built: 1909

Built By: Public School Board of Tay

Type: Schoolhouse

Heritage attributes: The need for another schoolhouse arose after the original S.S.11 Tay schoolhouse burned. In 1909, it was decided that construction would begin that following spring. It is unclear when exactly the schoolhouse opened.



Address: 1163 Gratrix Road

Year Built: 1905

Built By: Thomas Cross

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: One of the first owners of the property, James McMurry, was the President of the North Simcoe Railway Company.



Address: 1183 Old Fort Road

Year Built: 1891

Built By: Alexander Simpson

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: It is said that the trees on the property were planted the day of construction, and much of the construction materials used were from the lands – including the visible fieldstone foundation.



Address: 1315 Newton Street

Year Built: 1900

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Owned by the Campbell family for many years. Due to the property records and the date of construction, it is likely built by the Campbell family as they historically farmed the lands.



Address: 1546 Wood Road

Year Built: 1905

Built By: John Bannister

Type: Barn

Heritage attributes: Like many barns in Tay, this barn was built prior to the primary dwelling being built. This was done by many farmers because it was cheaper, and their work was not interrupted by building a house. Built by John Bannister, a prominent member and early settler of Waverley.



Address: 1594 Old Fort Road

Year Built: 1920

Built By: Eli Jones

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: This property was originally purchased by Henry H. Thompson, the clerk for Tiny and Tay from 1852 –1868. H.H. Thompson bought a fifty-acre plot of land containing the land on which the house currently stands.



Address: 1645 Wood Road
Year Built: 1900
Built By: William Livingstone
Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: The original portion of the home was built in 1900 by William Livingstone Sr. The house has been with the Livingstone family ever since.



Address: 1698 Newton Street
Year Built: 1915
Built By: Sty Klemiskn
Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Due to the background of the builder, the dwelling was built in a Neo-Dutch Colonial style. The property was later purchased for farmland provision by John Rumney, a prominent early settler of the area.



Address: 1711 Old Fort Road
Year Built: 1887
Built By: William Faint
Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Land purchased by William Faint and Francis Rumney, who cleared the land together to farm, build a barn, and build this dwelling.



Address: 1845 Reeves Road

Year Built: 1904 - 1908

Built By: Daniel Mount

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Mathew Mount was the first owner of the land, and it remained in the Mount family for some time. The original section of the home, built by Daniel contains the front porch. The remainder of the home shown in the photo is an addition to the original home.



Address: 1951 Newton Street

Year Built: 1890

Built By: William Crooke

Type: Barn

Heritage attributes: The Crooke family was a prominent family of the area and owned a lot of farmland. They were among the first settlers in the area. William Crooke served as the Treasurer of Tay Township from 1881 to 1888.



Address: 2008 Newton Street

Year Built: 1900

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: This property has been owned by the Crooke, Rumney, and Rawson families – three prominent names in Tay Township.



Address: 2110 Reeves Road

Year Built: 1941

Built By: Gabriel Woloski

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Previous owners of the property have strong political ties to Tay Township. Levi S. Taylor was a prominent member of the community and owned a large amount of land in Tay. He was a councilor and sat on the standing committee for Railways.



Address: 2270 Old Fort Road

Year Built: 1900

Built By: Unknown

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: An interview with the current owners and their family has indicated the home was used as a post office until the 1940s, when it became a home. Some political figures of Tay in the past have owned this property.



Address: 2283 Old Fort Road

Year Built: 1877 – 1880

Built By: Benjamin Melonkey

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Land previously owned by local politicians. Assessment rolls suggest the original portion of the home was built between 1877-1880, then the addition was added in 1908.



Address: 2481 Reeves Road

Year Built: 1903

Built By: Richard Power

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Built and owned by Richard Power, a very prominent figure in the area. He owned much of the land in Victoria Harbour, Waubauskene, and other areas around Tay for the purposes of lumbering. He sold much of his land and mill rights to the Dodge and Hall families.



Address: 4562 Reeves Road

Year Built: 1922

Built By: Rauban Yalto

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: The property was most often used for farming, with the barn on the property pre-dating this dwelling by some time.



Address: 4762 Vasey Road

Year Built: 1900

Built By: Robert Hall

Type: Barn

Heritage attributes: Dairy farmer, Robert Hall built this barn to hold milk as well as milk the cattle. It was built completely out of cut fieldstone because the stone would help to keep the milk cooler than the temperature outside of the barn.



Address: 5002 Vasey Road

Year Built: 1880

Built By: The Brown Family

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: Charles Brown, who lived in the home up to the early 50's, was the caretaker of the local cemetery. Charles was a well-respected man and was also reputed to be involved in the local school board during this time (S.S. No.11).



Address: 5020 Talbot Street

Year Built: 1911

Built By: The Title and Trust Company

Type: Gate Posts

Heritage attributes: Two stone pillars are all that remain of what was meant to be the "Chicago of the North". The planned subdivision of Victoria Heights, marked by the stone pillars that were meant to make up the entrance gate.



Address: 5494 Vasey Road

Year Built: 1915

Built By: John Robinson

Type: Dwelling

Heritage attributes: The house was built in 1915 by John Robinson and his family. The Robinson family owned the property for 77 years and farmed the lands until 1961. This was one of the largest farmsteads of the area in the early 1900's.

Bridges

Canadian National Railway Bridges

The Canadian National Railway created smaller railway lines radiating from Toronto connecting growing communities deeper in the province and to Georgian Bay known as the Midland Railway route. The Wye River Trestle Bridge is part of the Port Hope, Lindsay, and Beaverton Railway line off the Midland Railway route. The bridges were constructed between the years of 1873 and 1875 and officially opened for traffic in 1879. The railway was officially abandoned in 1994 but trains stopped running 2 years prior to that. The bridges are still used today as part of the Tay Shore Recreation Trail.



Bridge: CN Rail Hogg River Bridge

Year Built: 1873 – 1975

Built By: CN Rail

Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: The general structure of the bridge over Hogg River has remained relatively the same over time. However, the bridge has undergone regular safety maintenance and resurfacing in recent time.



Bridge: CN Rail Highway 12 Bridge

Year Built: 1873 – 1875

Built By: CN Rail

Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: Up until 2007, this bridge remained largely the same since its construction between 1873-1875. The bridge was reconstructed in 2007 when this section of the Tay Shore Recreation Trail was paved.



Bridge: CN Rail Wye River Bridge

Year Built: 1873 – 1975

Built By: CN Rail

Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: This trestle bridge is constructed of timber and was used for the trains coming and going from Midland. The entire support system of the trestle bridge is made of timber and logs, mimicking its sister bridge which traveled over Hog Bay.



Bridge: CN Rail Duffy Road Bridge

Year Built: 1873 – 1975

Built By: CN Rail

Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: This railway bridge follows a common structure the Canadian National Railway Company built. The bridge was resurfaced in 2007.



Bridge: CN Rail Old Fort Road Bridge

Year Built: 1875

Built By: CN Rail

Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: The Old Fort Road Bridge was originally a wooden trestle bridge built in 1875. It has since been reconstructed several times, with the latest reconstruction being in 2023.

Canadian Pacific Railway Bridges

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company decided that in 1903, new rail line links were required because of the high demand of wheat across the province. In April 1905, the CPR chose a new terminal site on Georgian Bay opposite the community of Victoria Harbour later known as Port McNicoll. In 1907, a construction contract was given to build the new site on Georgian Bay. The railway link that was being built was called The Georgian Bay and Seaboard Railway, running from Port McNicoll to Dranoel (north of Millbrook). The Port McNicoll station became the primary harbour for the CPR when all passenger and freight operations were transferred from Owen Sound. This created more volume over top of the bridges, making their structural integrity paramount. The railway line and bridges were abandoned in 1987, with the rail line is now used as a recreational trail. These rail lines lead to the Hole in the Wall on Hwy 12 and the Hogg Bay Trestle Bridge which was torn down. The railway ran across rural lands through the concession roads because it was faster for the grain to be transported.



Bridge: CP Rail Reeves Road Bridge
Year Built: 1907 – 1909
Built By: CP Rail
Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: The bridge crosses over a stream which historically saw fluctuating water levels. Therefore, the reason for having a concrete bridge would be for durability, as wood would have rotten, and maintenance would have been high.



Bridge: CP Rail Sturgeon River Bridge
Year Built: 1907 – 1909
Built By: CP Rail
Type: Train Bridge

Structural attributes: This bridge has required minimal maintenance since first being constructed. The bridge is supported by concrete on both sides and underneath. As well, underneath, there is a steel support beam.

Duck Bay Road Bridge

The Federal Government was petitioned in 1882, 1885 and 1905 by Simcoe County to build this bridge due to a large amount of traffic ferrying across the inlet of Matchedash Bay. It wasn't until the closing of the mills in 1927 that grant money was obtained. The bridge came from Atherley. It was a swing bridge which had served Atherley for 40 years. The community of Waubaushene donated labour, horsepower, and material to help construct the bridge. Peter Gouett donated the land on the Waubaushene side for the bridge to be built. Henry Gouett's horse and buggy was the first vehicle to cross the bridge. The ribbon was cut on June 11, 1927, by the Honourable William Finlayson who was the Provincial Minister of Lands and Forests and the MP from Midland. Bands played, children marched, and at night the residents held a dance.

The bridge played a key part in the redevelopment of Tay's commerce after the lumber industry died and the development of the new tourism industry grew. The bridge opened markets to the settlers to the north and allowed tourists access through Waubaushene from the south. Up until about twenty years ago the bridge was open to two-way traffic. Today, stop lights control traffic one direction at a time.



Bridge: Duck Bay Road Bridge

Year Built: 1927

Built By: Base and supports constructed by Waubaushene residents

Type: Vehicle Bridge

Structural attributes: The original swing bridge from Atherly remained largely the same up until 2015, when it was reconstructed.