

As the town grew, a new and larger Catholic church was required to replace the building on Hazel Street. The new church on Pine Street was opened as a Jesuit mission in 1906. This mission would be the focal point of Jesuit activities until the opening of Martyr's Shrine in 1926. In November 1914 fire destroyed almost all of the buildings on

This cemetery may well date back to the town's beginnings in 1861. In that year William Hall established a mill on the shore line east from what is now Pine Street. In the ensuing development the first Catholic and Protestant churches were built. One tombstone on the memorial located at the site reads 1876, but the cemetery likely dates from the 1860's. It has been common knowledge that it was used by all denominations, however, due to an underground water problem, burials ceased at this site. "New" Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Royal Canadian Legion cemeteries were opened on Hwy 12 West. A previous Catholic pastor confirmed that all burials for that denomination after 1906 took place in the "new" Catholic cemetery.



Walking Tour # 6 >>> Old Waubaushene Cemetery, Cherry

On the night of November 13-14th, 1914 fire destroyed all other buildings on the property, including the Church, the priest's residence, a chapel, a music hall, and a stable and carriage shed. The Jesuit pastor, Father Nolin, was overcome by smoke and died a few days later. The Forester's Hall was saved by placing wet planks against its outer walls. The Hall was then used as a chapel for the church services until the Church was rebuilt in 1916. In the late 1920's William and Delina Brodeur purchased the hall and had it moved using a horse team and logs to their lot on Cherry St, where it was converted to residential use. An extension was completed in 2006. The original structure was built from planks, then covered by clapboard, then insul brick and then pine siding. The original floors on both levels are visible and run the length of the house. Portions of the pine ceiling and interior plank walls on the ground floor are visible. A number of the furniture items, fixtures, and interior doors are original. The house remains in the family.



The original portion of this residence was built before 1915 as a meeting hall for the Catholic Order of Foresters. The hall building was formerly located on present day Thiffault St. It formed part of a complex of buildings on the St. John's Catholic Church Property.

Walking Tour # 10 >>> 200 Cherry St.



on the property. The present church was opened on Christmas Day, 1916 by Father Bouvrette. The rectory to the south was built in 1949. The school to the north was opened in 1956.

Walking Tour #11 >>> St. John's Roman Catholic Church



THIS EARLY POST CARD photograph of St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Waubaushene, was taken by J. W. Baird about 1910. In 1914 fire broke out in the rectory behind the church. The paragonage behind the rectory and the church was destroyed in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the fire from spreading. Both rectory and church were destroyed by the flames. The caretaker, Dominic Palmer, was trapped and killed. Father J. B. North, C.S.C., died as a result of breathing smoke as he tried to rescue the caretaker. The church was rebuilt by 1916. (Photo: Heronville Museum courtesy St. John's Church)

This building was erected in 1883 by the Roman Catholic Arch Diocese as the second Catholic Church in Waubaushene. The original Catholic place of worship was just a small chapel built in the 1860's by Father Theophile Francis Laboureau, but it was torn down in 1882 to make way for the new Church. When the Jesuit's built a larger church on Pine St. in 1906, this building was used as a school room for younger children to relieve the pressure on other school facilities. It was sold to the Public School Board in 1915. In 1925, after the Waubaushene mill had closed and the population decreased the building was sold to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The local Odd Fellows Lodge had been organized in 1879 and, at one time, had counted as members most of the senior officials and captains of the Lumber Company, as well as independent businessmen. The building, though altered and added to, retains its church-like appearance.

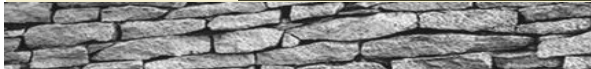


This home was built in 1909 and is one of the few in the area that has a shade of "Italianate" architecture. The Parnham family built the house shortly after the property was bought from the Canada Company. Interestingly enough, it is one of the only properties in the immediate area that was not owned by the Dodge family or built for lumber company personnel. In fact, the family had little to do with the lumber industry altogether. Mr. Parnham ran a mail route during his time in the house. It was then sold to Edwin Jefferies in 1937 and has remained in the family.

Walking Tour 1 >>> 46 Hazel Street



Walking Tour # 14 >>> 465 Sturgeon Bay Rd



the Township. The original ash interiors still remain as do many of the original wood pews and chairs. The Church was built in 1881 by William E. Dodge as a memorial to Theodore Buck, former general manager of the Georgian Bay Lumber Co. mills. Buck died in May of 1881 after suffering from a disease for over two years. It was speculated that a bullet was lodged in his body after the Civil War and had eventually caused lead poisoning.

In the beginning the Church served three different traditions of the Protestant Church: the Methodists, Anglicans, and the Presbyterians. Methodists were very prominent in the area and held a service every Sunday while the Anglicans and Presbyterians held services every other Sunday altering between them.

22 Hazel St. Protestant Church Walking Tour # 2 >>>



Heritage in detail...
Key facts about some of the heritage sites in our community.

Map Ref #	Location	Built	Built By/For	History
1	46 Hazel St	1883	Roman Catholic Church	2nd Catholic Church in town. Land donated by GBL Co. Later used as a school..
2	22 Hazel St	1881	William E. Dodge GBL Co.	Built in memory of T.W. Buck. The 2nd Protestant Church in Waubaushene.
3	33 Coldwater Rd	c. 1900	Georgian Bay Lumber Co.	Originally a waterfront storage, then a residence.
4	115 Coldwater Rd	1878	Georgian Bay Lumber Co.	Donated by Company as town library.
5	127 Coldwater Rd	c. 1890	Georgian Bay Lumber Co.	Mill workers' house. "Salt-box" style.
6	Old Waubaushene Cemetery	c. 1870	-	Built as town cemetery used before 1906.
7	235 Cherry St	1878	Georgian Bay Lumber Co.	Mill workers' house. Original pine board and batten exterior.
8	49 Elm St.	c. 1888	Dr. Porter	Used by the town's doctor from 1900—1934
9	53 Elm St.	1927	CP Stocking	Home of the Director of the Georgian Bay Lumber Co.
10	200 Cherry St	Before 1914	Catholic Order of Foresters	Served as Catholic chapel 1914-16. Converted to Brodeur family home in 1928.
11	St. John's Catholic Church	1916	Roman Catholic Arch Diocese	Replaced former church on same site built in 1906 that was destroyed by fire in 1914
12	337 Pine St.	Unknown	Carters Food Store	Now Waubaushene Heritage
13	414 Sturgeon Bay Rd	1886	Georgian Bay Lumber Co.	Mill workers house. Nimmons family were long term residents
14	465 Sturgeon Bay Rd	1909	Mr. Parnham	One of the few brick homes. Italianate architecture which was rare for this area.



Tay Township Heritage Committee

Waubaushene Heritage

A WALKING TOUR >>>

Waubaushene is a growing community rich with history. Throughout this walking tour you will discover many homes and sites that provide a glimpse into our heritage.



A Brief History of Waubaushene ...

The name of "Waubaushene" probably came from the native word "Wau-bau-shine" meaning rocky shore. This village once grew to a population of over 2000 residents.

In 1861 William Hall of Hamilton built a sawmill at Waubaushene. Development of the surrounding 260 acre town site began as the company built housing and amenities for the mill—workers and managers.

In the years 1869-1872, Anson G. Phelps Dodge, an American entrepreneur, arrived to buy and expand the Hall and eight other lumber mills around Georgian Bay.

The Dodge Mills were incorporated in three companies, including the Georgian Bay Lumber Company, with the headquarters, senior management and the largest of the mills at Waubaushene. This mill alone employed 250 men besides hundreds in the lumber camps and on drive.

In its heyday, the town numbered over 2,000 people. Waubaushene became a model "mill village", similar to Victoria Harbour and other mill villages in Ontario and the U.S.

By 1920 however, most of the commercial pine below Sault Ste. Marie had been harvested and the company ceased operations in 1924, by 1925 the mill was torn down and most of the company property was sold. Several hundred workers were laid off and the town lost its economic base.

Dodge promoted community in Waubaushene, providing a hockey and curling rink, and a library.

~ Tay Heritage Committee

WAUBAUSHENE



heritage locations

Waubaushene is home to many historical sites and houses. This walking tour will take you through some of our local history. Many of the sites are featured throughout this booklet with further historical information. We hope you enjoy your heritage tour of our community!



Walking Tour Locations

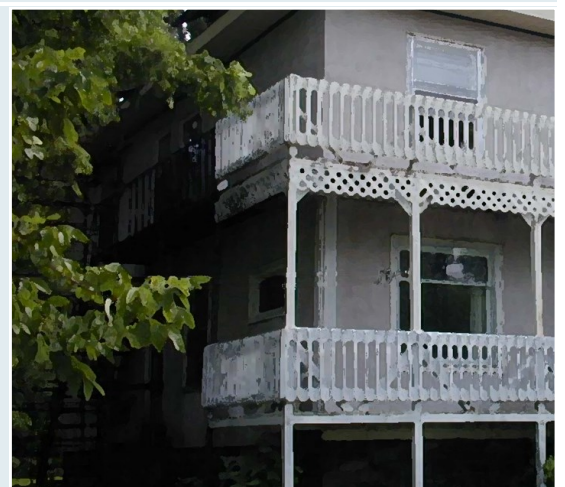
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|---|---|
| 1. 46 Hazel Street | 9. 53 Elm Street |
| 2. 22 Hazel Street
(Protestant Church) | 10. 200 Cherry Street |
| 3. 33 Coldwater Road | 11. St. John's Roman Catholic Church |
| 4. 115 Coldwater Road | 12. 337 Pine Street
(Waubaushene Heritage) |
| 5. 127 Coldwater Road | 13. 414 Sturgeon Bay Road |
| 6. Old Waubaushene Cemetery | 14. 465 Sturgeon Bay Road |
| 7. 235 Cherry Street | 15. Tay Shore Trail |
| 8. 49 Elm Street
(Town Doctor) | |

Please note these properties are NOT open for visitation

Walking Tour # 8 >>>

49 Elm St. - Town Doctor 1900 - 1934

Built in approximately 1888 this home was originally clad in Manitoba wood siding that was painted green. In 1900 Dr. Frank Porter moved to Waubaushene after completing his studies at Trinity College in Toronto. He served as town doctor in Waubaushene for 34 years until his death. His home at 49 Elm Street often became a community refuge and hospital with up to ten beds fitting in the living room and dining room. He also held summer clinics here for tonsillectomies to help reduce the costs for children's medical care in the future. Active in the Waubaushene curling and hockey teams, Dr. Porter was a prominent member of the community. He was the president of the Simcoe County Medicine Association and the Midland General and Marine Hospital. Dr. Porter was also a Mason and Oddfellow and served on the



area's school board as a trustee and secretary treasurer. After Dr. Porter's death in 1934 the house was passed to Elna Porter and remained in the family until members of the Gouett family bought the property. The home was then turned into a hotel for many years when Waubaushene was a popular tourist location for hunters and vacationers. The home is now currently used as apartments.

