



22 McKinley Inn

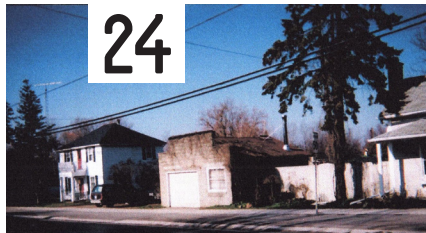
The McKinley Inn and later known as the McMaster Restaurant was the forerunner of the B&B's in the area. It was used by skiers who came to spend the weekend skiing at the Peterborough Ski Club north of Bethany. Skiers came to Dranoel Station and then by to horse and sleigh to Bethany. Evening entertainment of bingo, euchre and dances were held in the Town Hall across the street. The Peterborough Ski Club held the first Canadian Downhill Championship contests in 1938.



1967 there were 400 telephones in the township. The Manvers Municipal System eventually amalgamated with Bell Canada in 1969.

23 Harness Shop

The cement block building with the boom town front was Alex Monk's harness shop and shoe repair. It, along with Ryley's store, was the social hangout for men passing the winter and catching up on local gossip. This building was rebuilt after fire destroyed the original building in 1936. Starting in 1945 Alex Monk offered bus services to Peterborough and Toronto where he became an agent for the Colonial Coach Lines. It is now used as a garage for the house next door.



25 Barbershop

This cement house was a replacement for a wooden structure owned by the Ginn family. Mr. Ginn was the local barber. The new building was owned by Orloe Wright. It remained a barbershop and it also had a pool hall. Herb Patterson was the first barber. His shop was located in front of the family home.

26 Bakery

This building was the replacement bakery built by Girvin Mulligan in 1936. It was a bakeshop/restaurant until the 1950's when it was renovated into a residence.



27 Restaurant

The site of Champions Restaurant is where the first garage in Bethany was built by Harry Johnson and Bob Read. The last garage owner, Ross Neals, remodelled the restaurant into a personal residence. The Jones family bought the property and turned it back into a restaurant. There have been a number of owners since then.



28 Gourley's Automotive Services

Gourley's Automotive Services was originally the site of the local sawmill. When owned by the Bronsma family it was a garage, gas station, convenience store and Post Office. Only the garage remains.

We hope that you enjoyed this walking tour of historic Bethany. If you are interested in seeing many artifacts from Manvers Township's past, along with a historic post office, be sure to visit the Bethany Post Office and the MHS exhibit rooms at the Bethany library.

How to Access the Full Audio Tour

The stories and the map for the Bethany Audio Walking Tour can be accessed at artsandheritagetrail.com. Click on the Bethany Legends and Lore icon on the opening page to the left of the map.

It is also available on the TOUREKA! app, available for both Android and Apple through the App store.

Follow the Walking Tour map on the artsandheritagetrail.com website or TOUREKA! app. Click on the Audio Story button for each story when you reach the destination and are ready to listen.

Travel to the next Legend & Lore location and follow the above instructions to hear the next story as you move along the tour.

An accessible version of the Bethany Legends & Lore brochure is available on request.



LEGENDS & LORE



An Audio Walking Tour of Historic Bethany

Explore our heritage... Experience our charm

ARTSANDHERITAGETRAIL.COM

Welcome to this walking tour of historic Bethany. As you explore the town through this historic lens, we hope that you can envision how various socio-economic factors played a role in the evolution of the village and numerous natural disasters shaped the physical form of the town. In spite of many hardships, Bethany has retained its gallant spirit and today has redirected its energies to meet with the challenges of the future while remembering the contributions of its past. Listen to the full audio tour to hear more.



1 Start of Tour
Aunt Laura's Tea Room

There is a heritage farm at the end of the long laneway. It is now the home of Aunt Laura's Tea Room but it is also the site where a meeting was held around 1856 to decide on the name of the nearby settlement. Michael McAllister, the Post Master and Justice of the Peace owned the property at that time and he and some other gentlemen decided on the name of Bethany.



2 St. Paul's
Anglican Church

St. Paul's Anglican Church was built in 1876 on land donated by William Davis, Sr. The bricks were hand made and much of the material was donated by the local citizens.

The bell in the tower was purchased at a later date at the price of \$3000.00. It was rung for the first time in 1903 at the funeral of Rev. Burges' 19 year old son Clifford, who died from an accidental gunshot wound. It is now a private event venue.

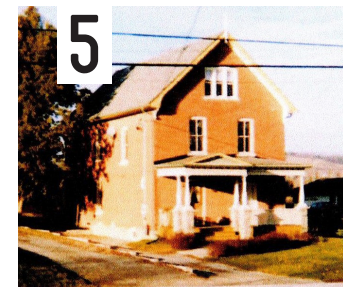


3 Ministers House

The house to the east of St. Paul's church was the home of the first minister, Rev. Burges. It was sold and moved closer to the road when a new rectory was built across the road.

4 Rectory

This house was the rectory for the ministers of St. Paul's church. It was built in 1922 and is now a private residence.



5 McCartney House

The large red brick house directly across from the church was built by the McCartney family. The small creek which runs through Bethany was named after this family. The McCartney's ran a carriage making business located on the site of the old fire hall.



6 Home of the
Westlake Reaper

We turn on Davis St., which was named after William Davis, Sr. who cleared 100 behind this site. William Davis was a civil servant and he delivered mail by horse and buggy to Ballyduff, Lotus, Yelverton, Janetville and Lifford, a distance of 32 miles.

On the north side of the road beside McCartneys Creek the Westlake Reaper was manufactured, the first mechanical machine invented to harvest the grain. The Massey Harris Company later produced this equipment. The building was later used as a grist mill. It was torn down in 1961.

Wedding Cake House

The southeast corner of Davis St. and Glengarry St. is the location of the "wedding cake" house. This house was moved from what is now the corner of Hwy. 7A and Ski Hill Rd. when the C P R came through Bethany in 1912. Previously the Presbyterian Church cemetery was located here. The graves were re-located to the Fallis Cemetery, a mile south of Bethany.



Orange Hall

In 1912 the Orange Hall was moved to its present site from George St. to Jakeman St. to make room

for the C P R. At one time this Orange Lodge had the largest membership in Ontario with over 300 members. LOL #1022 was organized in 1859 and sponsored the Bethany Brass Band until 1953. It is now a private residence.

Doctors House & Driving Shed

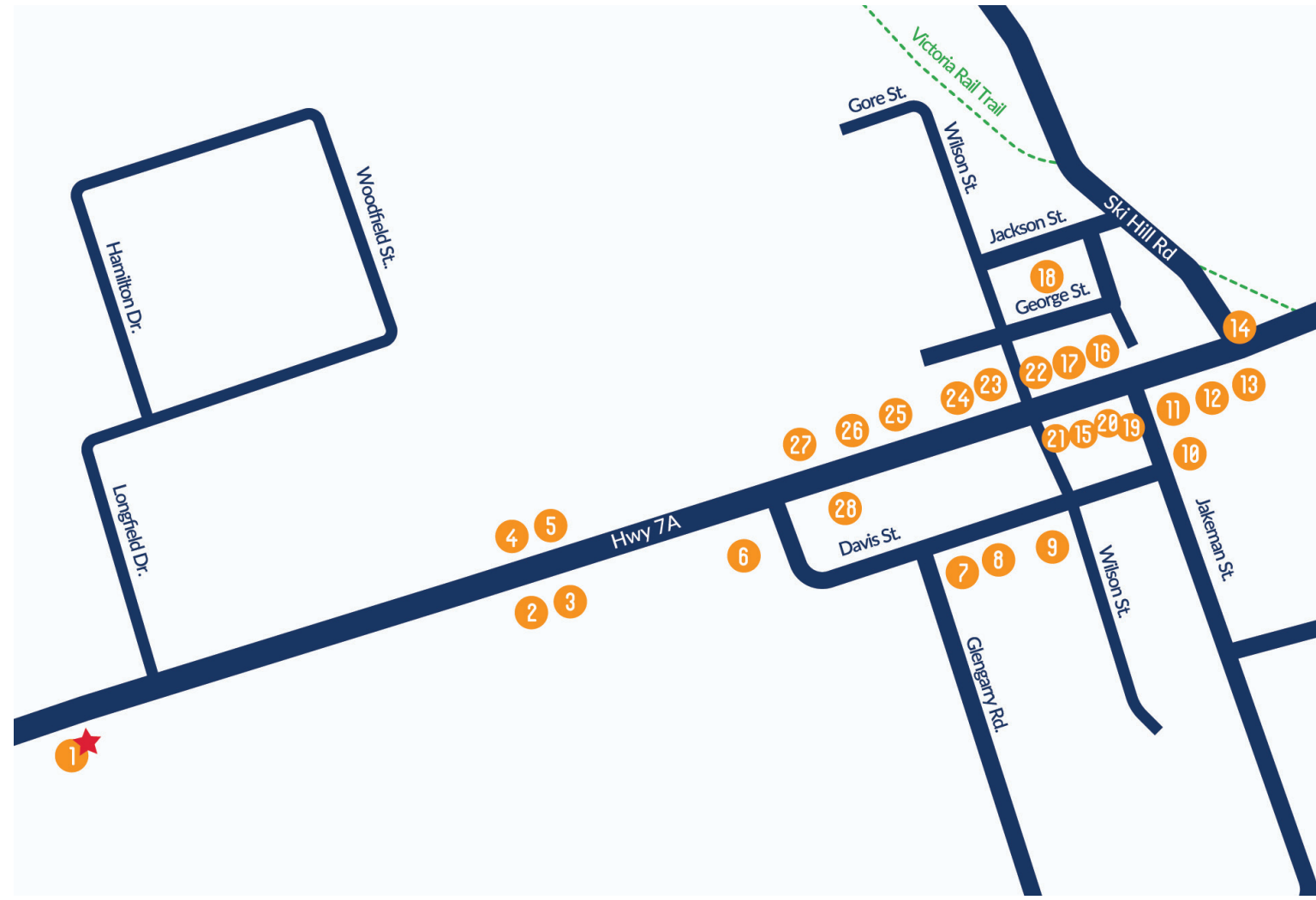
The building to the north of the Orange Hall was once the driving shed for Bethany's first doctor, Dr. C.H. Brereton. It was built after 1911 when a fire wiped out practically the entire south side of Bethany's main street. The red brick house was built by Dr. J.J Hamilton around 1920. It remained a doctor's house and offices until 1966. It is now the home of Sentinel Insurance Company.



Old Post Office

The Bethany Old Post Office was built in 1875 to be an office for a railroad grain company. It has also been used as a law office and constituency office. The building was bigger than the existing one

and was divided into two rooms. It was purchased by James McKinnon and his daughter Frances to be used as a Post Office. The building was moved to this location after the railway ceased running through Bethany. The last owner and Post Mistress, Emma Lamb, sold the building to the Manvers Township Historical Society in 1983. It was again moved but only back from the road. It was restored by the Historical Society and now serves as their Research Centre. It is the only few freestanding post office building in Ontario and was designated as a Heritage Building in 2023.



Sprinkles 'n Things

This is the site of Dawes dry goods store and millinery store. Lockers to freeze meat and vegetables used by the local townspeople was located on the west side. At a much

later date a bowling alley was added to the east side. The entire structure burned to the ground in 1973. Eventually the lot was split into two sections and Canada Post built a post office on one half. The present building was built by cartoonist Doug Brooks. It was eventually renovated to become a B&B and is now the home of Sprinkles 'n Things, a popular cafe.



Ski Hill Rd. & Hwy. 7A

The centre of this intersection was the site of the C P R railway station and grain sheds. This track was used from 1912 until the 1960's. Before 1912 this was the site of the McKinnon Hotel and the Farmer's Bank. They were demolished to make room for the railway. Across the road sat the Midland Railway Station. The Midland Railway came to Bethany in 1856.

Reynolds Hardware

Beside the CPR Station was the first free standing telephone office in Bethany, Reynold's Hardware and Furniture Store and the Funeral Home.

To the right and up the hill is the site of SS # 15 & 16, Bethany Public School. It also served as a Continuation School, Grades 9 & 10 for the surrounding one room school houses. After Grade 10, the students would go to Lindsay, Millbrook or Port Hope. The school closed in 1967 when Grandview Public School opened, consolidating all public schools. It is now a private residence.



The bank remained open until 2019. A couple of businesses have been located in the bank but at the moment it remains empty and for sale.

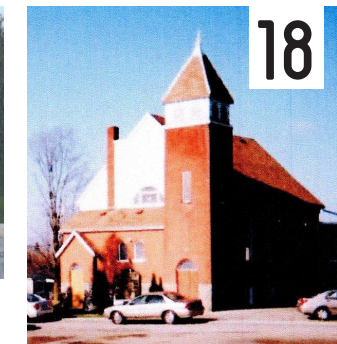
Bank

The Toronto Dominion Bank was the first bank and it opened in one room. Until the bank was built in 1920 -21 business from the stores were taken to the Millbrook Bank.



Ryley's Store

Ryley's General Store was built around 1852 by Alfred Ryley and the adjoining house was built at the same time. Dry goods, groceries and farm supplies were available. Eventually the first gas pumps in town were located here. The business passed from father to son until 1980's. It is now owned by new proprietors but it is still known as Bethany General Store.



Bethany United Church

Bethany United Church sits on a side street behind Ryley's Store. The original property belonged to the Reynolds family. The first building was a wooden structure just east to the present building and beside the blacksmith shop. In 1876 this brick church was built. It is the only remaining church left in the village as well as the only remaining public meeting place.

Cenotaph & Town Hall

The cenotaph is located across the street from the General Store. It was dedicated on November 11, 1965 honouring the fallen soldiers of Manvers Township in two World Wars. A tin shop was once located on this spot.

Next door to the cenotaph is the Bethany Town Hall. The original town hall, which was built in 1876, was also located on this site but it was destroyed by the fire of 1911. A new Town Hall was built and the Manvers Township Council was housed here as well as the Manvers Red Cross. Today it houses the community public library and service centre for the amalgamated City of Kawartha Lakes. The Manvers Township Historical Society has displays in the building.



Williams Design Studio

Williams Design Studios, beside the library, was once Jacksons Grocery and Meat Store. It boasted of the first ice cream cones in town. Stephen Sisson owned the first grocery on this site and Reg Edmonds and Wally Reid were the last two proprietors to run the general store.



Presbyterian Church

Rev. Ewing came to Bethany in a hand car on the Midland Railway to conduct services at the Presbyterian church which was opened in 1872. An organ was purchased in 1884 and some of the congregation left the church because it was considered sacrilegious to play an instrument of noise in God's House. The church closed in 1925 and was remodelled into a private residence.



Wilson House

This is one of the oldest houses in Bethany. It was built by Josiah Wilson who was one of the first councillors and a member of the United Counties of Durham and Northumberland. The street to the east of this house is named after the Wilson family. Bethany Athletic Park is located at the south end of this street.