

Landmarks of Wallaceburg



- 1 - Von Ayers Cultural Centre
- Jeanne Gordon Theatre
- Frank Murdock Sports Hall of Fame
- Frank & Alan Mann Historians
- Mann Historical Trail
- 2 - Stonehouse Walk Bridge
- 3 - Superior Marine Park
- 4 - Glen Mickle Park
- 5 - Glassford Park
- 6 - Cecile Bechard Bridge
- 7 - Rotary Park
- 8 - Jaycee Park
- 9 - Wallaceburg Tennis Courts
- 10 - Steinhoff Park
- 11 - Frank Dymock Bridge
- 12 - Joseph Shaw Water Tower
- 13 - Crothers Conservation Area
- 14 - Colwell Family Bridge
- 15 - Colwell Park
- 16 - King George Park
- 17 - Jack Bachus Mezzanine
- 18 - Joe Taylor Bridge
- 19 - Bill McDougall Park
- 20 - Frank Murdock Park
- Cecile Bechard Fountain
- J.L. Thompson Service Centre
- Civic Square Park
- 21 - Lee Family Parkette
- 22 - Richardson Parkette
- Harold & Jean Martin Promenade
- 23 - Dundas Bridge
- Kinette Park
- 24 - Steinhoff Memorial Cenotaph
- 25 - Lord Selkirk Bridge
- 26 - McFadden Memorial Park
- 27 - Bertha & Felis Dauw Park
- 28 - Steinhoff & Gordon Industrial Park
- 29 - Kinsmen Park
- 30 - Luster Park
- 31 - W.P. Moynihan Filtration Plant
- 32 - Don Truan Bridge
- 33 - Emma Gordon Park
- 34 - Crawford Langstaff Parkette
- Ruth & Ross Robertson Playground

LANDMARKS OF WALLACEBURG

In 1996 the last mayor for the Municipality Town of Wallaceburg, Jeff Wesley, created a Landmarks Committee mandated to honor contributing citizens of the community. Named to the committee were council members Joe Taylor, Brian Gale, Theresa Pandel, Brian Armitage and citizens Alan Mann and John Gardiner. Ward representative Donald "Chip" Gordon carried on as chair after Chatham-Kent amalgamation in 1997.

The following local landmarks were named:

1 VON AYRES CULTURAL CENTRE (505 King St.) Wallaceburg's "Mr. Music" a great war veteran who was involved in many phases of music from the 1920's to the 1970's. Leader of the famed Kiltie Band, he influenced hundreds to appreciate and enjoy music. The Von Ayres Cultural Centre embraces both the Museum and upper theatre as well as the outdoor agricultural display.

JEANNE GORDON THEATRE (upper 505 King St.) Remembers the fame of (Ruby) Jeanne Gordon who gained international recognition during the 1920's and 1930's soloing in opera houses around the world including New York's prestigious Metropolitan Opera. Daughter of D.A. and Rose Gordon, she died in February of 1952.

FRANK MURDOCK SPORTS HALL OF FAME (within Museum 505 King St.) The "den" of Wallaceburg sportsmen, Frank was born and raised in the immediate area and spent his entire working life in the building, originally Wallaceburg Hydro, now the museum. He led an exemplary life playing, organizing and officiating in all phases of sports during most of the 20th century.

FRANK AND ALAN MANN HISTORIANS (505 King St.) Two men who dedicated their time to ensure that the history of the community of Wallaceburg will be preserved.

MANN HISTORICAL TRAIL (Crothers Park along Nelson St., Wellington St., south along Duncan and McDougall Sts. to the Museum on King St.) Honours members of the Mann family (who came to Wallaceburg in 1873) for preserving and dialoguing local history, helping to found the Wallaceburg Museum in 1984. Developed in 1994, expanded in 2006.

2 **STONEHOUSE WALK BRIDGE** (joins Duncan St. and McDougall St.) Dedicated Nov. 11, 1984 honoring native son Lewellyn (Lou) Stonehouse, a third generation same family mayor who held the top post from 1977 to 1981.

3 **SUPERIOR MARINE PARK** (along Wallace St. opposite the Public Library at waterfront). Location of a government wharf from 1930 to 1962, the steamer Superior of the Northwest Steamship Co. represents a busy period when Wallaceburg was known as "Canada's Inland Deep Water Port" Weekly Great Lakes ships like the Superior docked and carried out local products such as canned goods, trucks, glass, cars and agricultural products. The Superior is depicted on a large mural at the Duncan and James St. corner.

4 **GLEN MICKLE PARK** (off Albert St., south of Duke St.) Opened in 1979 honouring Wallaceburg musician, Parks Board member and unofficial recreational director Glen Mickle who made numerous contributions to Wallaceburg during the 1930 to 1970 period.

5 **GLASSFORD PARK** (King St.W. between Prince St. and Bruce St.) Named for Frank (Cap) Glassford, long time municipal clerk and barrister from 1935 to 1957.

6 **CECILIE BECHARD BRIDGE** (joins Murray and Water St. over east branch of Sydenham River) Honours Wallaceburg's first female politician Cecile Bechard, who served as councillor and mayor 1970 to 1975. She represented the will of her citizens and was always willing to listen. She helped establish the youth Guidance League in the early 1950's and offered a strong voice in representing her beloved Wallaceburg community. She died as mayor during the town's centennial in 1975. Opened 1974.

7 **ROTARY PARK** (Margaret Ave. Main and Mary Sts.) Originally Winston Churchill Park. Opened in 1980 by Wallaceburg Rotary Club, chartered in 1945.

8 **JAYCEE PARK** (Larkwood St.) opened in 1990 by Wallaceburg Jaycees, chartered in 1948.

9 **WALLACEBURG TENNIS COURTS** (Park St. at Collins) established in 1933.

10 **STEINHOFF PARK** (bordered by Napier, Collins, Mary St. off Main St.) This recreational area was donated to Wallaceburg by local patriarch Capt. James Steinhoff in 1905. It has been the scene of many exciting sports and entertainment events including baseball, football, softball, lacrosse and soccer. Nearby tennis and lawn bowling layouts were situated. The field house on the south side was built in 1926 during the popular game of field lacrosse enjoying immense popularity when crowds of 5000 were common.

11 **FRANK DYMOCK BRIDGE** (spans Otter Creek at main St. extension) Named in honour of community volunteer Frank Dymock who has worked for his adopted community in numerous initiatives. His popular skate shop on Collins St. is a community hub, where he rallies his visitors in getting behind local projects that better the community. Frank is an informed ambassador for Wallaceburg using every opportunity to boost the community. Dedicated January 21, 2000.

12 **JOSEPH SHAW WATER TOWER** (Water St. extension at Otter Line) Named to honour hardware merchant Joseph Shaw who served as Wallaceburg water commissioner for 10 years. He was active with Kinsmen, golf, curling, was a volunteer fireman, was with the Downtown Business Association, and served with other community organizations and initiatives during the post second world war period.

13 **CROTHERS CONSERVATION AREA** (along Running Creek between Nelson St. and Forhan St.) Honours the Crothers family, local florists and horticulturalists (1906 to 1999)

14 **COLWELL FAMILY BRIDGE** (spans Running Creek north of Nelson St.) Honours the William Colwell family who arrived in 1895 soon establishing the Wallaceburg News that became the media voice of the community. The family was also engaged in retailing, presented the town with an outdoor swimming pool, established the first post war housing survey in 1944 and was engaged in sports such as lawn bowling and football. Opened 2000.

15 **COLWELL PARK** (located on Running Creek Drive) Opened in 1958 when Colwell swimming pool was donated to the municipality by descendants of the Wm. Colwell family, founder of the Wallaceburg News in 1896.

16 **KING GEORGE PARK** (Duncan Street, bordered by Trafalgar and Nelson Sts.) Opened in 1939 by Parks Board in honour of King George VI. Became home of Optimist Minor Baseball play with field honouring the tireless efforts of Mike Childs youth baseball proponent.

17 **JACK BACHUS MEZZANINE** (within Memorial Arena 800 Wall St.) Considered one of Wallaceburg's most avid sports fans, his "heartly hearty Wallaceburg" was a familiar chant at local contests. A Canada Customs officer at Walpole Island, Jack was very active in the volunteer building program when memorial Arena was built. He was also a familiar figure in the officials' time box during hockey games in the 1950's. Named 1997.

18 **JOE TAYLOR BRIDGE** (Forhan St. crossing Running Creek) Named for longtime councillor who also served as Kent Warden and mayor in 1975. He was also active in sports, church work and community projects. Built in 2000.

19 **BILL MCDUGALL PARK** (Elizabeth St. and Agnes St.) Honours long time Parks Board member and sportsman, who continually gave to Wallaceburg as a volunteer. Opened Nov. 1989.

20 **FRANK MURDOCK PARK** (corner Wellington, Lisgar and Dufferin Ave.) named for local sportsman Frank Murdock who served many years on the Parks Board beginning in 1933.

CECILIE BECHARD FOUNTAIN (in Civic Park opposite Service centre) Honours Wallaceburg's first female politician, a strong voice for local citizens.

J.L. THOMPSON SERVICE CENTRE (800 Dufferin Ave.) Honours civic worker Jack Thompson who served as Wallaceburg mayor in 1957 and 1958. Built in 1972.

CIVIC SQUARE PARK (adjacent to Sydenham River along Dufferin Ave. Lisgar St. and includes Steinhoff Cenotaph and Rocks of Honour) Opened July 2, 1978 to honour all elected and professional officials who served Wallaceburg since village status in 1875.

21 **LEE FAMILY PARKETTE** (James St. opposite St. James Anglican Church) Located near the family homestead. The Lee's were involved as ship builders and repairers, engaged in politics, as educators and supported their community in many ways. James Paris Lee perfected the world famous repeating rifle along the nearby waterfront with the Lee family giving much more to Wallaceburg over the years.

22 **RICHARDSON PARKETTE** (southwest corner of James and Nelson St.) Honours a pioneer family who gave much to Wallaceburg. Dr. Stanley A. Richardson not only tended to the needs of citizens through his medical profession but was also Wallaceburg mayor during the 1920's. His son Stanley J. was an obstetrician at Sydenham Hospital while Verne and Laird operated Rich-Hill's clothing store nearby from 1939 until 2002.

HAROLD & JEAN MARTIN PROMENADE (downtown waterfront area) Wallaceburg's popular summer celebration WAMBO (Antique Motor, and Boat Ouing) owes its founding to "Pard" and Jean. Owner of a three generation insurance and travel business since 1884, Harold was a proponent of continually boosting his hometown through diligence, valuable contacts and ingenuity in getting things accomplished.

24 **STEINHOFF MEMORIAL GENOTAPH** (within Civic Park west section). One of the few privately financed cenotaphs in Canada, donated by Capt. James Steinhoff, first Wallaceburg mayor. Dedicated July, 1921 and moved to this location from James and Nelson in June 1974.

25 **LORD SELKIRK BRIDGE** (joins Lisgar St. with McNaughton Ave.) Named in honour of Thomas Douglas the Earl of Selkirk who established the Baldoon Settlement in 1804 which eventually led to the founding of Wallaceburg, the bridge opened Nov. 23, 1950.

26 **MCFADDEN MEMORIAL PARK** (off Oak St) named for Bill McFadden, long time Parks Board member and baseball great who gave much to Wallaceburg during the 1930 to 1970 period. Park opened in 1979.

27 **BERTHA AND FELIX DAUW PARK** (off Elgin St. west of Forhan St.) the park area was originally donated by the Dauw's to the local Separate School Board for possible building of a school for west Wallaceburg. The Dauw's were strong proponents of giving to their community, particularly their church Our Lady Help of Christians. A housing subdivision was also established by the enterprising couple.

28 **STEINHOFF & GORDON INDUSTRIAL PARK** (entrance at Arnold St. and Dufferin Ave.) Honours Capt. James W. Steinhoff and his nephew David Alexander Gordon who combined their energies in placing Wallaceburg on an industrial path following the decline of lumbering in the late 1800's. Both were instrumental in establishing a glass works (1894) using sugar processing plant (1900) and a brass manufacturing industry in 1905. During ensuing years many other industries followed this new orientation boosting and maintaining the economy of Wallaceburg.

29 **KINSMEN PARK** (west Wallaceburg bordered by Argyle and Elm Sts.) Opened in 1961 by Wallaceburg Kinsmen Club chartered in 1932. the Andy Johnston Field honours a prominent local baseball and hockey performer.

30 **LUSTER PARK** (Old Glass Road) originally the park was named after Dr. William Hird. After the land was purchased by Luster, the name was changed to Luster and today the Municipality agreement remains as Luster Park

31 **W.P.MOYNIHAN FILTRATION PLANT** (Baseline Road) Honoured as past Water Commissioner

32 **DON TRUAN BRIDGE** (spans main branch of Sydenham River at Base Line Road) Honours Donald Truan, long time local politician who served as councillor and mayor from 1981 to 1985. As production manager of the local glass factory, he worked his best on behalf of Wallaceburg, always making certain the community voice was heard no matter where he traveled. He was active in athletics in early years and worked diligently in seeing that Wallaceburg had a museum when the former Hydro building was vacated in 1984. The bridge opened October 3, 1994.

33 **EMMA GORDON PARK** (Gillard St. west at rail line) Honours Emma (Mrs. John) Gordon who encouraged children's recreation areas and a strong voice in encouraging residents to beautify Wallaceburg by planting gardens. Opened in 1935.

34 **CRAWFORD LANGSTAFF PARKETTE** (immediately west of Museum bordering Herbert Street). Honours local agriculturist who appreciated what the rural community did for the area. The water wheel and various display components represent the rich agricultural orientation of the area. Crawford Langstaff also served as a politician, was a Rotarian, served on the board of Sydenham Hospital and was involved in various community projects during the 1930 to 1980 period.

RUTH & ROSS ROBERTSON PLAYGROUND (within Water Tower Park, Herbert & Queen St.) Location of the town's water tower until 2003, the playground is named in honour of two citizens who arrived in 1958. They immediately began contributing to their new community through Rotary, Little Theatre, church work, special celebrations such as Centennial, (1975) working tirelessly making Wallaceburg a much better place to live and enjoy.