

Walking Tour

Sites of Interest

A. Athens Town Hall: Built in 1904 this building was officially opened by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In addition to the municipal offices it also housed a library, fire hall and police office, and Athens Museum. The Joshua Bates Centre on the upper floor is a well-equipped site for the performing arts that features music, theatre, dancing and art. * **Site of History of Athens Interpretive Sign**

B. Joshua Bates Centre: This centre for the performing arts, located above the Town Hall, was restored by the citizens of Athens in 1994.

C. Post Office: Built in 1914, this building has operated as a full service post office since that time.

D. Beer and Liquor Store

E. Centre 76: The indoor skating rink of Centre 76 is the hub of winter activity.

F. Memorial Park & Garden: A cenotaph, and monuments commemorating the pioneer families who settled this area, and the Little Immigrants sent to Canada from the Quarrier Homes and Bernardo Homes in England can be found.

G. Township Hall / Public Library: Built in 1857, this building was the only meeting place in the village. Shows, concerts, court proceedings, political meetings and band practices were once held here. The building also housed the village jail. Today the building operates as a library and is a computer and WiFi site. It also houses the Trinity Rebekah Lodge #277

K. Quaker Cemetery: The Society of Friends met in Athens from the early 1800's until 1888, building a meeting house in 1838, It was the first and only Quaker meeting house in Leeds County.

L. Maple View Lodge: Once known as the House of Industry, today an ultra-modern seniors facility, the original building was erected in 1895 to house the elderly and the poor.

Behind the Lodge is the newly restored Pioneers of Leeds Grenville Cemetery site for some 150 residents who were buried there between 1895 and 1946.

M. United Church: Our oldest church building. This magnificent stone church was built as a Methodist Episcopal Church in 1842. It was later enlarged and renovated in 1902 and recently has had the addition of an accessibility entrance and gardens. Behind the church is also a newly constructed prayer labyrinth.

N. Baptist Church: A frame building was built on this site in 1854 to house a Select School. It was also used as the first meeting place of the Baptists. In 1888 this building was moved next door to allow for the construction of the church.

O. Wiltse Pioneer Cemetery: Benoni Wiltse, a United Empire Loyalist and his brothers settled in this area in 1792. The region around the cemetery is still known as Wiltsetown. Restoration of this pioneer cemetery was begun in 2003 by the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada.

P. Shades of Green: A Memory Garden: Actually three gardens in one! In a circle east of the shade garden lies the memorial rose garden. The eleven red rose bushes surrounding the bronze sundial commemorate the eleven Athens men who died in the first world war.

Q. Reynolds Park: Created on the site of the Reynolds Store.

R. Valleyview Court: Provides apartments targeted for seniors.

S. Gateway Beds Designed, built, planted and maintained by volunteers.

H. Fairgrounds, Centennial Park: The home of Farmersville Fair and other community events, with facilities for soccer and baseball games, a children's play structure and washrooms.

I. Public School / Lions Hall: Originally built in 1860 as a school, and rebuilt in 1905 following a fire. Now owned by the Athens Lions Club, it hosts the Community and Primary Health Care offices and the Township of Athens and Area Heritage Museum. * **Site of Model and Public School Heritage Interpretive Sign**

* **Site of Myles Jeffrey Heritage Interpretive Sign (behind the Lions Hall at 8 Henry St.)**

J. Christian Reformed Church: Constructed between 1863 and 1867 as a Wesleyan Methodist Church, this stone building at one time also housed the Presbyterian and Standard Churches.

T. Children's Play Structure

U. Athens District Health Services Centre: With an updated and expanded building, the Athens District Family Health Team is vital in the community.

* **Site of History of Medicine in Athens Heritage Sign and Garden**

V. Athens Farmers' Market: The outdoor market offers produce and home-made goods throughout the summer.

W. Athens District High School: A fire in 1921 destroyed the original building on this site. In 1925, the students moved into the new high school. ADHS takes great pride in their unique student parliament system and other achievements.

* **Site of the History of Education in Athens Heritage Sign and 1921 Graduation Mural.**

X. Mother Barnes Cabin: The home of famed fortune teller Jane Elizabeth Barnes, known locally by many as the Witch of Plum Hollow, was purchased in 2005 by Navan's Eloda Wachsmuth and has been restored as a museum dedicated to its this noted clairvoyant and kindly woman.

Y. Charleston Lake Public Boat Dock: Your access point to beautiful Charleston Lake.

* **History of Charleston Lake Heritage Sign**

While exploring our unique and friendly little villages, take a few minutes to visit our local merchants. You'll find something for every taste. Why not enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants? We appreciate your support !

Murals

1. "BRAVE DEED"
2. "ATHENS H.S. GRADUATION, 1921"
3. "MAIN STREET SCENE"
4. "STEP INTO THE PAST"
5. "THE LIFE OF JOSHUA BATES"

Don't miss the newest Athens panelled mural on the west side of Athens Fresh Market which features the life of founding father, Joshua Bates!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MURAL NEWSPAPER & TOURIST GUIDE FOR PROVIDING THE ATHENS MAP AND WALKING TOUR!