

- 1  **466 Dundas St. Museum 1853**

This Old Town Hall was our first municipal building opened as a meeting place of council, original farmers' market and public assembly hall. The design by Antoine Grobl is modelled after the architecture of the Woodstock, UK, town hall. Over the years, it has also served as a fire hall, police station, and many decades now a museum. A great place to start or end your walk.
- 2  **476 Peel St. Dufferin Hotel Pre-1896**

Of Woodstock's many early hotels, the Oxford Hotel (opposite corner) gets a lot of the glory but Dufferin House, later called the New Dufferin Hotel, was a popular place to stay. Proprietor George Douglas advertised updates such as hot and cold water, electric lights and ample barn space to board horses. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) owned it from 1917 until the 1980s when the upkeep of the co-op housing was too much.
- 3  **60 Finkle St. Cuthbert's Garage 1954**

Finkle Street has a long history and this site has been a home or various businesses since at least the 1880s. Notably this was Elmer Cuthbert's tire shop which opened in 1954. A garage and also a gas bar in the 1970s, Cuthbert's was a central place for auto service. It's large tire stock was apparently used by musicians for album cover photoshoots! Owned afterwards by a Cuthbert family member, it still serves customers today.
- 4  **95 Finkle St. House 1880s**

This is not a designated property but one of the many lovely historic houses throughout the city. The interior has been updated but the exterior still maintains its historic beauty. Notice the simple clover design gingerbread. The Showers family owned the house for a few generations beginning in the 1920s. See a virtual tour of the updated home [HERE](#).
- 5  **Finkle Street Pedestrian Bridge 1870s**

Rail lines run through the centre of the City, but many bridges and over/underpasses make it safe to cross this busy rail corridor by car or foot. A great place to catch a glimpse of a passing train. (If you prefer to avoid stairs by going around, take Main Street west/right to the first left at Butler Street, followed by another left at Henry Street. Frolicking dogs in the dog park might be seen as you continue to the first right which is Finkle Street again.)

6



Finkle Street Southside Park 1909

Land purchased in 1909 has become a gem of the city. This 65 acre park was a bit swampy in early days and some citizens were wary that it could be transformed. Besides the beautiful pond and creek, today it boasts amenities such as the Southside Aquatic Centre, picnic shelters, playground equipment, washrooms, outdoor volleyball court, lighted baseball diamonds and soccer pitch among others. Enjoy all the park has to offer.

7



192 Old Wellington St. S. Victory Arch 1925

This arch was built because of the love of a brother. George Revell, who was born in Woodstock, lost his life in WWI. He moved away many years before, so his name was ineligible to include on the cenotaph. His brother, Dr. Richard Revell still wanted to honour him. The Revell family donated funds for the arch built by the parks department and Dr. Revell, head of the Horticultural Society, raised funds in the community for 100 pin oak trees from England to be planted on the perimeter of the park.

8



Park Sea Cadet Hall 1976

Known as “The Ship,” this converted dance hall is the most recent home of the Sea Cadets. Meeting locations since being established in 1940 included the Armouries and a handful of years at the Fair Grounds. When the Sea Cadets moved here, training equipment included rappel towers, a hovercraft and landsailer (a personal sailboat on wheels). Cadets built rope bridges across the creek, snowshoed and learned survival skills in winter.

9



Park Southside Pond 1913-1918

A few years after acquiring land for the Park, construction of a dam along Cedar Creek began. Bain & Ross of Embro were awarded the contract for the dam and bridge construction which began in 1913. The pond was popular for swimming and boating in the 1930s. Boats were available in the boathouse — now a picnic shelter. Water levels were lowered in fall for winter skating. A fountain and swans still attract visitors to the pond created over 100 years ago.

10



Park Cedar Creek

Southside Park has a creek which flows through the land. The recently naturalized creek area, north of the pond, enjoys increased wildlife sightings like this Great Blue Heron or sunning turtles. Take a few photos from a distance or just relax and watch the ducks. Native plant species like wild asters are a treat to see along this part of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the South Thames River.

11  **Park Local Roots At The Park 1920s**

The park has often had a concession booth selling food and drink to sports fans watching a game and picnickers. In the 1920s there was an electrified kitchen cabin free for “motor tourists,” campers or day visitors to use. The current inception is Local Roots, which is a social enterprise of the Southgate Centre, a seniors activity hub found just past the historic Arch. Ballpark franks, ice cream cones and much more are on offer in the summer.

12  **Finkle Street Cricket Club 1860s**

As one of the oldest sporting clubs formed in the city the Cricket Club has been using Southside Park’s cricket pitch since at least 1924. At one time two Woodstock teams existed and played teams from south-western Ontario. This city clubhouse is much more modern than the team and though renovations have been done since, it was opened in 1972. The Club has international members but like many sports its popularity waxes and wanes.

13  **130 Finkle St. Oldest House 1819**

Taking the route (left onto Henry Street, right at Butler St., right on Main St., returning to Finkle Street) or the Finkle Street footbridge back to the beginning of the tour you will not be able to see this house well. The house was built here by Levi Hoyt Perry (1791-1867) in 1819 over 40 years before the railway arrived. The Perry/Hill family lived here for many generations and it is the oldest house in Woodstock today. Louise Hill, a curator of our Museum in the 1940s, was the last generation to live in the home.

14  **404 Main St. Purina 1928**

Cereal making in the city dates back to 1857 when Eaton & Wood were flouring on Main street in this general area. The Great Western Flour and Oatmeal Mills ran here until fire destroyed the business. Next, the Woodstock Cereal Co. Ltd rebuilt and thanks to the rail line dealt in oats, split peas and barley until 1912, followed by Peerless Cereal Mills Ltd. Finally in 1928 Ralston Purina Co. opened and still operates today, now owned by Cargill.

