



**Township of South Frontenac
Heritage Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda**



TIME: 3:00 PM,
DATE: Thursday, November 6, 2025
PLACE: 4432 George Street.

1. Call to Order

- a) Resolution

That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting of November 6, 2025 be called to order at ____ p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a) That the agenda be approved, as presented.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

- a) Resolution

3 - 5

That the minutes of the July 24, 2025 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

5. Delegations

6. Briefings

7. Business

- a) Discussion regarding Walking Tours: Finalize draft Sydenham and Verona text and photograph list, and suggestions regarding other possible tour locations.

6 - 15

- b) Heritage Event - Debrief of October 8th event and suggestions for future speakers.

- c) Heritage Property Inventory

8. Motions

9. Notices of Motion

10. Correspondence

11. Questions of Clarity (from the public on outcome of agenda items)

12. Date of Next Meeting

- a) The 2026 calendar of meetings is to be determined.

13. Adjournment

- a) Resolution

That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting on November 6, 2025 be adjourned.



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC
Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes



Meeting #

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 4490 Battersea Road

Present: Michael Gemmell, John McDougall, Michael Payne

Absent: Wilma Kenny, Councillor Scott Trueman

Staff: Noah Perron - Planner, Heather Woodland - Deputy Clerk

1 Call to Order

a) Resolution

Resolution No. 01

Moved by John McDougall

Seconded by Michael Gemmell

That the meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee be called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Carried

2 Approval of the Agenda

a) Resolution

Resolution No. 02

Moved by Michael Gemmell

Seconded by John McDougall

That the agenda be amended to defer item (7)(a), Bedford Driving Tour, to a subsequent meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee to allow a representative from the Bedford Historical Society to attend the meeting, and as amended be approved.

Carried

3 Confirmation of Minutes

a) Resolution

Resolution No. 03

Moved by John McDougall

Seconded by Michael Gemmell

That the minutes of the April 10, 2025 Heritage Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

4 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

a) There were none.

5 Delegations

a) There were none.

6 Briefings

- a) There were none.

7 Business

- a) Bedford Driving Tour (Deferred)

- b) Inventory Project Discussion

Michael Payne provided an overview of the purpose and value of a heritage property inventory, and posed suggestions for baseline information and criteria for the database going forward. After a brief discussion it was decided that the Committee would propose the criteria for the database which will be reviewed for approval by Planning staff. The database will be kept by the Township and the Committee will be responsible for providing properties of interest and populating the data. It was also determined that staff could support the inventory project by identifying properties of interest during site visits.

- c) Sydenham Walking Tour - next steps

Michael Payne spoke to the work that has been completed to date regarding the Sydenham Walking Tour. As next steps, Heather Woodland will compile a tracking spreadsheet of the stops on the walking tour and the work required to complete the entries including finalized text, historical photographs, and current photographs. Michael Payne committed his and Wilma Kenny's time to complete the text.

- d) Verona Walking Tour - next steps

John McDougall provided an overview of the Verona Walking Tour project and identified the remaining steps to complete it. The Committee discussed the challenges with obtaining historical photos for the tour but would provide whatever is available. Heather Woodland committed to tracking the project using the same method as the Sydenham Walking Tour.

- e) Confirmation of Fall Heritage Event

John McDougall suggested that the museum space would be too small for a venue if the turnout was successful, and there were some suggestions put forward for alternative locations. Heather Woodland committed to reaching out to Dr. Gray and confirming a time during the week of October 6th, and once confirmed would look into booking a space.

8 Motions

- a) There were none.

9 Notices of Motion

- a) There were none.

10 Correspondence

- a) There were none.

11 Questions of Clarity (from the public on outcome of agenda items)

- a) There were none.

Minutes of Heritage Advisory Committee
July, 24, 2025

12 Date of Next Meeting

- a) The next meeting of the Heritage Committee will take place October 16, 2025.

13 Adjournment

- a) Resolution

Resolution No. 04

Moved by Michael Gemmell

Seconded by John McDougall

That the meeting of the July 25, 2025 Heritage Advisory Committee be adjourned
at 4:12 p.m.

Carried

Stop/Location	Draft Text?	Text Finalized?
Introduction	<p>Welcome to Sydenham village, in the district of Loughborough, South Frontenac Township.</p> <p>The current community was originally named Sloat's Landing, for Michael Sloat, who received a land grant here in the 1790s. Other settlers soon followed, attracted by the sheltered valley with good farmland nearby. The site also offered a small creek flowing into Sydenham Lake that could be dammed and used for waterpower for saw and grist mills and other industries.</p> <p>In the 1800s the village flourished and was renamed Sydenham in honour of Lord Sydenham, a wealthy British merchant and politician who served as Governor-General of the Canadas from 1839 until his death in Kingston in 1841.</p> <p>The village quickly became a commercial and social centre for the surrounding district, and an 1865 directory for the village indicates that it had a population of 354 people. These included carpenters, milliners and dressmakers, wagon makers, blacksmiths, tailors, a harness and saddle maker, a watch maker, and a glazier, among other professions. The village also had a teacher, two physicians, and several clergymen. Local manufacturers and businesses included a distillery, grist and sawmills, a foundry and machine shop, a tannery, general and specialized stores and several hotels and taverns, along with a post office. The village also had a local band and a volunteer militia company, reflecting its active community life. A small steamboat towed barges of mica down the lake from a nearby mine. Daily trains carried goods and passengers to and from Kingston and points north.</p> <p>After World War Two the village grew quieter, and many local businesses closed. As demand for mica declined, many local mines closed and so did most of the local grist and lumber mills and manufacturing operations. Two devastating fires also changed the appearance of Sydenham's streets, and increasingly residents had to seek work in Kingston or other larger centres. The popularization of private cars reduced the need for railways and local hotels. Eventually the railway closed, although you can still walk the route of the railway line along the Cataragui Trail.</p> <p>The last few decades have brought positive changes to Sydenham, as people have rediscovered Sydenham as a great place to live and an interesting place to visit to shop, to hike the Cataragui Trail, or to trace the history of the village through its historic streets and buildings.</p>	
Stop 1 - Township Offices & Library	<p>The original portion of what is now the South Frontenac Township offices was built in 1864 and is now used as the Township's council chambers. It was built to house the Loughborough Township municipal government, before Loughborough Township was amalgamated with the former Portland, Bedford and Storrington to form South Frontenac Township in 1998.</p> <p>The walls of the council chamber are decorated with four quilted hangings that depict the coats of arms of the four former townships, now districts, that make up South Frontenac.</p> <p>The adjoining township offices and library were built in the 1980s on the site of the former Brawley Grist Mill and have since been expanded and updated. The Brawley grist mill was an important early Sydenham business, but it was no longer in operation at the time the township acquired the property and demolished the building.</p> <p>If you look across the road, the current restaurant site was once home to the American Hotel, one of Sydenham's largest and best hotels. Long disused, it was demolished in the 1960s before the current restaurant was built.</p>	

<p>Stop 2 - Sid Davey House, 4449 George Street</p>	<p>The 1865 Directory for Sydenham lists Adam and Chester Davy as carpenters living in the village of Sydenham. The 1851 census suggests that Chester was Adam's son. Later another son, Sidney, also followed in the family profession. Sid Davy, or Davey as he was later known, would become one of Sydenham's most prominent residents. In addition to working as a carpenter and builder, he opened a planing mill near his house. This mill produced many of the stair spindles, newel posts, and decorative wood trim found in Sydenham's older houses.</p> <p>4452 George Street was Sid Davey's own home, but several similar houses on George Street were also built by Davey or incorporated his company's wood finishings. These include 4449 and 4442 George Street. Although frame houses, the Davey houses reflect popular house designs in early Ontario. The Davey house resembles many of the one and half storey stone farmhouses in the surrounding area, particularly the symmetrical front façade with a peaked gable above the front door. The decorative wood trim details also reflect the material produced at the Davey planing mill.</p> <p>Before you cross the small bridge to what is now the Foodland parking lot and site, the Davey Planing mill was located just to the right on the lake shore. You will also see a grindstone displayed from one of the grist mills that once occupied this part of Sydenham.</p>	
<p>Stop 3 - Foodland Site</p>	<p>The area just north of the bridge was Sydenham's industrial and manufacturing centre. Although little remains of the original buildings in this area, it was the location for the Anglin Mill and Powerhouse, the Acme Farmers' Dairy, and close to the current Foodland building, Sydenham's busy railway station. This was also the location where mica from the Lacey, later General Electric, Mine was brought for sorting and processing. The mine operated until about 1947 and a small steamboat, the pride of the village, towed barges loaded with mica from the mine located at the far end of Sydenham Lake.</p> <p>The current location of the Foodland Building was once the site of the Acme Farmers Dairy condensery. This plant produced condensed milk and skim milk powder from milk produced on local dairy farms. The plant was built in 1916 and continued to operate right up to 1953 when it finally closed.</p> <p>Slightly north of the Acme Farmers Dairy was the Sydenham railway station. It was located on the north side of the current Cataraqui Trail near the trail gates. In 1884 the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway connected Sydenham with Napanee. Two years later, this railway was sold to railway financier, E. Rathburn, who connected it to the Kingston and Pembroke, or K & P, Railway that ran from Harrowsmith to Sharbot Lake. The Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway was later renamed the Bay of Quinte Railway. It was eventually acquired by the Canadian National Railway, or CNR, and extended to Smiths Falls and Ottawa in 1914. Sydenham was a busy passenger station and a major shipping point for mica and phosphate, lumber products, and farm produce, including powered milk, hogs, cattle, and flour. The trains stopped running in the 1970s and the station was eventually demolished. The railbed, however, is still used as the Cataraqui Trail, now part of the Trans-Canada Trail system.</p>	
<p>Stop 4 - Sydenham Railway Station</p>	<p>The west side of the bridge at the creek. The Anglin Mill and Powerhouse took advantage of waterpower generated by raising the level of Sydenham Lake where it flows into Millhaven Creek (known locally as Sydenham Creek). The current dam located under the bridge is managed by the Cataraqui Conservation Authority, but historically lake water levels were lower and sometimes dropped so low in summer that a horse-drawn plow was used to scrape mud out of the mill pond to keep area mills and the powerhouse operating.</p> <p>The first saw and grist mills in this location were built by George Yarker in 1835. In 1871 the site was used by the Booth & Woodruffe mill, and then in 1921 by the Anglin mill. The original stone mill building burned in 1897, and Anglin's mill which produced flour, saw lumber and veneer burned in 1947. Most of the veneer was used for making cheese boxes, as many as 100,000 a year at the mill's height of production. These were shipped to cheese factories throughout Ontario. The powerhouse also generated electricity for the village several hours every evening and during the day on Mondays. This enabled some village families to use electric washing machines for Monday washdays. A "ram" pump in the dam moved water to a tank on the top floor of the Anglin home, which ensured water pressure for the family and meant that the mill owner's household never needed the basement rainwater cistern that most other village houses required.</p>	

<p>Stop 5 - West Side of George Street</p>	<p>This portion of George Street includes several interesting residences and commercial buildings. The frame houses at 4443 and 4449 George Street were built by Sid Davey about 1900 for Jack Woodruffe, who owned what became the Anglin Mill and Powerhouse. Both reflect house designs popular in the pre-World War One era, and many of the windows featured panes of coloured glass that homeowners in the Victorian period felt added a touch of elegance to the property. The house at 4449 George Street was the Anglin family's home , ideally located beside the Anglin Mill.</p> <p>The stone house at 4447 George Street was originally built as a commercial building. It may have housed George Yarker's "domestic cloth manufactory," or woolen mill before it was converted into Bradshaw's Maple Lodge Dairy. After the dairy closed, it became a private residence.</p>	
<p>Stop 6 - 4413C George Street</p>	<p>This small stone has been used as a private residence for most of its history, but it is also associated with Captain James Wood and the Loughborough Volunteer Cavalry Troop, a local militia group. The Loughborough Cavalry were formed in August 1856 as part of a major reorganization of Canada's military defences following passage of the Militia Act of 1855. The hope was to reduce Canada's reliance on British forces then stationed in Canada.</p> <p>The Loughborough militia consisted of three officers and fifty men commanded by Captain Wood, a local farmer and township reeve. The troop was described as being made up of "intelligent, hardy, farmers, well-horsed and equipped..." This small house is believed to have been used by the militia to store their firearms.</p>	
<p>Stop 7 - Sydenham Food Market/former Upton Hotel</p>	<p>This building has had several uses over the years, including a grocery store. However, it was originally built as the Upton Hotel that dated from the later 19th century. In January 1872 a public meeting was held at the hotel to discuss the need for schooling in the village. A decision was made at the meeting to approach the County for a grant to build a "Grammar School" in Sydenham. This became Sydenham High School which formally opened for classes in 1874.</p>	
<p>Stop 7? - 4402 George Street (east side) Mace-Tovell House</p>	<p>This unusual double stone house has an interesting history. It was constructed in stone for William Mace, a Sydenham brewer and distiller, who also operated a small tavern on one side of the building. It probably dates from the 1850s or 1860s as local directories from that period show Mace as a resident of Sydenham. After Mace's death in 1866, his properties were sold, and the building was later purchased by Dr. Tovell. It served Dr. Tovell as both a residence and office prior to his death in 1928. In addition to his medical duties, Dr. Tovell was also a notary and on occasion provided emergency veterinarian services. His son, Dr. Ralph Tovell, also trained as a physician and he too practised briefly in Sydenham. In 1929 he took up a position at the Mayo Clinic and went on to have a highly distinguished career as an anesthesiologist in the United States.</p> <p>Subsequently it has been used as two residences. The building, however, still shows clear evidence of its original construction as a residence and business premises as the façade details are not symmetrical, and the stonework suggests that the façade has been altered to change window openings at some point.</p>	
<p>Stop 8 - 1875 Blacksmith Shop</p>	<p>Built in 1875 for John McConnell, a local blacksmith, this building has served a variety of purposes in Sydenham over the years. At various times it has been a library, pharmacy, florist shop, and tearoom. Florence Boyce, who worked here as a pharmacist, was one of the first married women to graduate from the Toronto College of Pharmacy in 1919. Although adapted over the years to this variety of uses, the building reflects the work of a 19th century blacksmith in small communities such as Sydenham. Like most blacksmiths, much of his work involved repair of wagons and other vehicles and the 1898 fire insurance map shows the building as being used both as a blacksmith and wagon shop. The map also shows a sloping area on one side of the side addition to the main shop, perhaps used as a ramp or driveway for bringing wagons in for repair.</p>	

<p>Stop 9 - Trousdale's General Store</p>	<p>Trousdale's General Store is believed to be the oldest continuously operating general store in Ontario and one of the oldest family-owned and operated businesses in Canada. The store is directly connected to the story of the Trousdale family who played a large role as pioneer farmers and businesspeople in South Frontenac. Members of the family have been involved in the general store business, a bakery, grain milling and other enterprises in Sydenham and area from 1836 onwards, and they remain so to this day.</p> <p>By the early 20th century, Percy Trousdale had consolidated the family retail businesses, including operating a store on this site. In 1927 he replaced the older store with a new larger building. The new store's concrete construction helped it to survive the devastating fire that burned much of Sydenham's commercial core in 1935. Many of the original store fixtures remain in place, including a marble soda fountain, counters and mirrors, although its interior has been remodeled several times to reflect changes in the grocery and retail businesses.</p> <p>The Trousdale family lived immediately behind the general store for many years on Mill Street. One of the largest houses in Sydenham at the time, it features a large front verandah or porch and above that a screened second story porch as well. These second story screened porches were often used as summer bedrooms as the screened area was cooler for sleeping in hot weather.</p>	
<p>Stop 10 - 9739 Mill Street - former Telephone Exchange</p>	<p>When telephones were introduced in Sydenham, the bay window at the front of this building was used as a telephone exchange. Local operators sat behind the window 24 hours a day ready to route peoples' telephone calls through a manual switchboard. It was a challenging occupation and required operators to physically connect wires between the caller's telephone and the intended recipient of the call, quickly and with minimal errors.</p>	
<p>Stop 11 - Sydenham Post Office (immediately across Mill Street)</p>	<p>Post Office records held by Library and Archives Canada indicate that there was a post office in Sydenham from at least 1853 onwards. The first postmaster was Hugh Madden who served from 1853 to 1874. He was then replaced by his son, Hugh Madden Junior, who held the post from 1875 to 1891. The current post office building appears to date from the early 1930s when Power and Son architects of Kingston produced drawings for a new post office in Sydenham. An undated photograph in the National Archives shows a building with the same design and structure as the current building. The exterior of current building has been considerably altered, including a new door, and windows, but the basic design and layout remains largely intact.</p> <p><i>Sydenham Post Office n.d., LAC: Public Works Collection, Accession number: 1979-140 NPC, Box number: 4379.</i></p>	
<p>Stop 12 - 4369 Mill Street Guess House</p>	<p>The extended Guess Family were among the first residents of the Sydenham area. A County Directory from 1865 lists seven individuals with the surname Guess heading households in Loughborough Township. As Sydenham grew several moved into the village and this house was owned by ?????</p>	
<p>Stop 13 - 4345 Mill Street Dr. Sargent House</p>	<p>This was the family home of Dr. Francis Robert Sargent, a physician who practised in Sydenham for about 35 years from 1909 until his death in 1944. Although the house exterior has been modernized over the years, the basic design of a large brick home with third story dormers remains intact, as does the large town lot. Originally the house featured a large porch facing the street, which still can be traced on the front façade of the house. The house has always been one Sydenham's largest and most distinctive family homes, and it reflects Dr. Sargent's prominent position as a physician in Sydenham.</p>	
<p>Stop 14 - 4336 Mill Street - St. Paul's Anglican Church</p>	<p>This church has an unusual and complicated history. The original Anglican church in Sydenham was begun in 1837 on land donated by Sarah Switzer. A rectory was added in 1848 and the land the church occupied was only transferred to the Anglican Church in 1851. The church was consecrated as St. Paul's Anglican Church in 1852. In 1910 the railway line through Sydenham was relocated to improve the grade of the tracks and this necessitated the demolition of the original St. Paul's Church and its relocation and reconstruction on a new site on Mill Street. While the rectory remained in place on its original site, the cemetery associated with St. Paul's Church was also relocated.</p> <p>The new church was designed by Joseph William Power of Kingston. Power was a prominent and very successful architect in eastern Ontario. He designed a number of buildings at Queen's University, and he maintained a very successful practise designing churches in the area. His papers and those of his firm are held by Library and Archives Canada and he merits lengthy entries in Canadian architectural directories. Several notable ministers looked after the Sydenham parish including the first minister, the Reverend T.W. Allen and later the Reverend John Astley. Although he only served in Sydenham for one year in 1862, the Reverend Philip Tocque is also an interesting character. Originally from Newfoundland, he wrote several articles and books, including one of the first histories of Newfoundland published in 1878. He has been called "Newfoundland's first man of letters."</p>	

Stop 15 - Loughborough Public Library	The house across the street from St. Paul's Church at the corner of Mill and Brewery Streets was used for many years as the Loughborough Memorial Library. The library was started by local citizens in 1903, and it was financed and operated by village residents until 1969. In 1969 it became the first branch of the newly created Frontenac County Library system. A new, much expanded library was built adjacent to the South Frontenac Township offices and this building became a private residence.	
Stop 16 - Sydenham High School and Loughborough Public School	The corner of Mill Street and Rutledge Road has long been the centre of education in Sydenham and area. The original Sydenham High School, which opened in 1874, was demolished and replaced by the present building, but the distinctive bell tower from the original school can still be seen at the corner of the schoolyard. The stonemasons, Schammerhorn & Truscott, were hired to build the original school and their work can also be seen on the original township council building. The high school served not only students from the village of Sydenham, but much of the surrounding area. Today most of these students arrive by school bus, but in earlier years students from the surrounding area often boarded with Sydenham families or rented rooms while they attended school in the village. Loughborough Public School is located just east of the current high school. It too is a more modern replacement of an earlier stone schoolhouse that stood on the high school grounds. The schoolhouse was used for younger students from the village before they attended the high school.	
Stop 17 - United Church Manse - Rutledge Road	From the high school turn right on Rutledge Road and you will pass by the former manse of the Sydenham United Church.	
Stop 18 - 2907 Rutledge Road - Freeman House	This house is one of Sydenham's most distinctive early houses. It features a large projecting two storey central bay, a front door with sidelights, a large arched window above, and a porthole window in the peak. The house was reportedly built using bricks imported from Britain by Peter Freeman. Peter Freeman (1824-1907) was a member of a prominent local family with United Empire Loyalist connections. This house is described as his town residence on an 1878 county map. The same map shows a P.W. Freeman as owning a large farm of about 300 acres near Wilmer, and local city directories from the mid-19th century suggest he may have acted as the postmaster at the Wilmer (or Wilmur) post office. The 1878 County Atlas, however, lists his occupation as agent for the Canada Land Company. The 1878 County Atlas of Frontenac included this illustration of the Freeman house in Sydenham and portraits of Peter Wesley Freeman and his wife Harriet (see below) <i>The Freeman Farm near Wilmer</i>	
Stop 19 - Church Street Bridge	Continue on Rutledge Road until you reach Church street where you turn right. Like the current Foodland site, the Church Street Bridge area was also a hub of manufacturing in early Sydenham. There was a shingle mill on either side of the bridge, and a low brick building on the far side of the bridge housed a cheese factory run by a local farmer's cooperative. Milk was delivered to the factory and turned into cheese on a daily basis. The cheeses was stored in cheese boxes produced at Anglin's veneer mill located just upstream, a good example of how Sydenham's early industries complimented each other. Foxton's Brick works was also located just across the bridge, and the island you see just west of the bridge was constructed to divert water through a flume for use by these industries. The Sydenham Village Cemetery is also located on Church Street on the far side of the bridge. Most of the burials there are members of Sydenham's Protestant families. The Roman Catholic cemetery for the area that was located on Keeler Road.	
Stop 20 - Foxton Family House and Brickworks	Located at the corner of William and Brewery Streets this large brick house was home to the Foxton family, who operated a brickworks just across the steam from the house. The Foxton brickworks provided bricks for many of Sydenham's early brick houses and buildings, including this house. In addition to producing bricks, Foxton family members also worked as masons or bricklayers according to census records.	
Stop 21 - 2927B Brewery Street - Trousdale's Bakery and General Store	The Trousdale Family has owned and operated a variety of businesses in Sydenham. This simple wood frame building housed a bakery and general store. Some of the bakery equipment is still located in the basement. At its peak in the early 1900s, the Trousdale bakery produced 400 to 500 loaves of bread a day. Many were sold in the village but horse drawn delivery carts also transported bread to Inverary, Elginburg, Battersea and the mine sites located north of Sydenham. The building is now a private residence but you can still evidence of its original use as a store and bakery in the large display window on its front façade.	

<p>Stop 22 - Holiness Church</p>	<p>Turn left off Brewery Street onto Amelia Street.</p> <p>The Holiness Church is not shown on the 1898 fire insurance map for Sydenham, but other sources suggest it dates from 1897. This corresponds with the origins of the Holiness Movement as an off shoot of Methodism. The Holiness Movement was begun by the Reverend Ralph Horner, an evangelical minister from Shawville, Quebec. It was strongly rooted in eastern Ontario, where Horner's theological ideas and evangelical approach found an eager audience. In 1894 Horner split with the Methodist Church and within a few years he had founded a new church. He would later leave the Holiness Movement as well to found a second church organization known as the Standard Church of America.</p> <p>The Holiness Churches remained close to Methodism, although they did not join with the Methodists who helped establish the United Church of Canada in 1925. Instead in 1958 the remaining Holiness Movement congregations joined the Free Methodist Church.</p> <p>According to an early photograph the house beside the current church was also used as a parsonage</p>	
<p>Stop 23 - Bob Richardson Royal Canadian Legion Branch 496</p>	<p>Legion #496 Sydenham was granted its official Charter on January 14th, 1949. In 1960 the same year Sydenham received its Cenotaph, the branch was named after Private Robert (Bob) Miles Richardson. Private Richardson was a local resident who joined the Canadian infantry in January 1916 at the age of 41. He served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles both at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. Richardson suffered a severe gunshot wound in his left hand in December 1917, before being repatriated to Canada where he lived in Sydenham until his death in 1949.</p> <p>The building had previously been used as a Primitive Methodist Church. The Primitive Methodist movement was strongly evangelical and emphasized camp meetings and revivals. The building dates from 1862 and it appears to have been repurposed in 1895, not long after the amalgamation of the Primitive Methodist movement into the larger Methodist Church of Canada. From then up to 1953 it was operated as Wesley Hall, serving as a community hall and auditorium. Its current use by the Canadian Legion continues this tradition, which is now well over a century of use as a community social centre. The original building had a bell tower, and the front entrance and some windows appear to have been changed in the transition from former church to Legion Branch.</p>	
<p>Stop 24 - William Street businesses and the 1935 Fire</p>	<p>Amelia Street ends at William Street and if you right you will return to the Township Offices. The left (or west) side of William Street from Amelia to about Mill Street was the commercial centre of Sydenham until 1935. Over time a number of businesses have returned to this area but in 1935 much of the street burned in a devastating fire. These kinds of large fires were experienced by many eastern Ontario towns and villages in the pre-World War Two era. Wood frame construction and closely built buildings made fire a constant danger, and a large fires like the one in Sydenham in 1935 could completely reshape commercial and industrial areas.</p> <p>The gas pumps at the One Stop station are located on the site of the American Hotel, once Sydenham's largest and most refined. Although built of brick, it caught fire in 1935 along with three neighbouring structures including a brick bank building and an apothecary. Older Sydenham residents remember the spectacularly unsuccessful attempt to rescue a piano from the hotel by lowering to the street from a second-floor balcony.</p> <p>The 1935 fire burned much of the west side of William and George Streets, then the commercial heart of Sydenham, and changing the streetscape forever.</p> <p>If you have time...these sites can be reached on foot but may be more easily visited by car or bicycle.</p>	
<p>Stop 24 - 4295 Stage Coach Road - Grace United Church and the Grace Centre</p>	<p>This church was built in 1861 as one of two Methodist Churches built in Sydenham for different branches of the Canadian Methodist movement. The Primitive Methodist Church was built on Amelia Street. Grace Church was originally built for the Episcopal Methodists in Sydenham and area. The Episcopal Methodist movement was centred in the United States and was better established in Upper Canada than other versions of Methodism. It joined other branches of the movement in 1884 to form a unified Methodist Church in Canada and then in 1925 again to form the United Church of Canada.</p> <p>The final service was held at the church on 16 May 2010, and shortly afterwards the church and surrounding property was sold to the South Frontenac Community Services Corporation.</p> <p>Although the church bell tower was lost, the SFCSC incorporated much of the original church structure in a larger building renovated and rebuilt as a community services hub after it acquired the church in 2011. The design of the new facility was undertaken by Colbourne and Kemble Architects.</p>	

Stop 25 - 4440 Portland Street, William Holditch House	This large house was owned by William Holditch, a prominent early resident of Sydenham and the man often credited with changing the name of the village from Sloat's Landing (or Loughborough as it was sometimes called) to Sydenham. The new name was chosen to honour Lord Sydenham, the former Governor-General of the Canadas, who died in Kingston in 1841. William Holditch emigrated from England to Upper Canada and he appears to have served as an officer with the Frontenac Militia in the late 1830s. Most sources describe him as a "Gentleman," or someone who lived by private means. He married Mary Ann Johnston, a daughter of Captain John Johnston, a military officer who served at Fort Lennox and Kingston. In later years Holditch and his wife left Sydenham and seem to have returned England where Holditch died in 1869. Mary Ann returned to Canada and eventually settled in Ottawa where she died in 1885.	
Stop 26 - 4519 Portland Street Switzer Hotel	This stone and frame building is now a private residence. It dates from about 1836, and it was originally operated as an inn and tavern by the Switzer family. The 1857-58 directory for Sydenham lists John Switzer as an innkeeper in the village, and in 1865 he was listed as a tavern-keeper. In the 1850s the inn was used by the Loughborough Township council for its meetings prior to the completion of the township hall on George Street. It is a good example of the stone construction commonly used for homes and businesses in early Sydenham. The nearby Switzer Road is also named after the Switzer family.	
Stop 26 - The Point	Long a popular local picnic and recreational area, the Point was purchased in 1971 by the Sydenham Women's Institute and the Sydenham Board of Trade to preserve the area. It was then donated to the township for use as a public park, and to ensure on-going public access to Sydenham Lake. The park includes sports fields, tennis and pickleball courts, a boat launch, walking trails and a beach with swimming area.	
Stop 27 - Mica Mine Loop Trail - Gould Lake Conservation	Several mica mines operated just north of Sydenham, and mica production was a significant industry in Sydenham's early history. The largest of these mines was the Lacey or General Electric Mine located near the northeast end of Sydenham Lake. The McClatchey Mine is more easily visited. It was briefly owned and operated by J.W. Trousdale of Sydenham before it closed due to flooding and declining demand for Canadian mica in 1913. This mine is located in the Gould Lake Conservation area and is located on the Mica Mine Trail just off the Rideau Trail. You can still see remains of the mine pit and traces of mica in the rocks along the trail. The world's largest documented single mica crystal was found in the Sydenham area at the Lacey Mine. It measured 10 x 4.3 x 4.3 metres and weighed about 330 tonnes.	

Stop/Location	Historical Photo
South Frontenac Township Council Chamber/Brawley Grist Mill	Yes
Union Hotel Site/Lenny's	Yes
4452 George Street (Sid Davey's House)	Yes
4449 George Street	
4442 George Street	
Anglin and Power House	Yes
Milk Condesery	Yes
Saw Mill and Grist Mill	Yes
Former Railway Station/Cataraqui Trail	Yes
Mill Stones	
4449 George Street	
4447 George Street	Yes
4113C George Street	Yes
Sydenham Food Market	Yes
4402 George Street	Yes
4395 George Street	Yes
Carriage Shop and Hardware Store	Yes
Trousdale General Store	Yes
Former Site of American Hotel	Yes
Trousdale Family Home	
4379 Mill Street - Post Office	

4345 Mill Street - Dr. Sargeant House	
4369 Mill Street - Guess Family Home	
9379 Mill Street - Telephone Exchange	Yes
First Trousdale Store	Yes
Former Library	Yes
St. Paul's Anglican Church	Yes
Sydenham High School Bell Tower	Yes
Loughborough Public School	Yes
United Church Manse	
2907 Rutledge Road Freeman House	Yes
Church Street Bridge	Yes
Sydenham Cemetery	Yes
Former site of Foxtan Brickworkds	Yes
William Street - Foxtan House	
Brewery Street - 2927B Brewery	Yes
Amelia Street - Primitive Methodist Church	Yes
Amelia - Holiness Church	Yes
William Street (businesses built on land covered by 1935 fire)	
Grace United Church/Grace Centre	Yes
Original Anglican Rectory	Yes
Holdich House	Yes
Switzer Hotel	Yes
The Point	Yes

Stop/Location	Draft Text?	Text Finalized?	Historical Photo
Start	Start your Tour at the K & P Trailhead in the parking lot at the corner of Bellrock Road and Road 38, adjacent to the Verona Railway station historical kiosk. The kiosk was designed and built by volunteers from the Verona Community Association. Details are listed on the recognition plaque.		Picture of early days of Verona
Kiosk	Verona, located in the central part of the former Portland Township, was the commercial hub of the region. Surrounded by primarily farming communities, Verona was where they did their banking, went to church and brought their groceries, dry goods, hardware and other necessities of life. Richardson, the original name for Verona, amalgamated with Verona as the village is now called.		
Bellrock Road on K&P Trail	From the Kiosk, walk south across Bellrock Road to K&P Trail bridge to the interpretive signage for Napanee River Watershed. This area, the Cameron Bog, is one of the largest bogs in Ontario.		
K&P Trail - Railway history	The idea of building a railroad from Kingston to Pembroke was probably first discussed during the late 1860's. The early success of the K & P was because of C.F. Gildersleeve' a member of a wealthy shipbuilding family in Kingston. It was chartered on April 14, 1871 but for financial and political reasons never ever reached Pembroke. The rail line was never a true success, although there were good years for the lumber business and many citizens benefitted from its existence by bringing them closer to the outside world. The 180 kilometres of tracks were fully removed in the 1970's signalling the birth of the K & P Trail that was eventually developed by the City of Kingston and the County of Frontenac. The Trail stretches from Kingston to Sharbot Lake.		
Muddy Waters - Hwy 38	Discuss history of Highway 38: Highway 38 was established in the mid-1930s shortly after the completion of Highway 7 between Madoc and Perth in August 1932. The Department of Highways (DHO) assumed responsibility over the 76.0 km (47.2 mi) Sharbot Lake Road on April 25, 1934,[1] which was gravel-surfaced north of Cataragui and generally paralleled the K&P Railway. Originally beginning in downtown Kingston, it connected Highway 2, then the main route between Toronto and Montreal with the newer Highway 7, a portion of the Trans-Canada Highway that linked Madoc to Perth before eventually continuing on to Ottawa. In 1936 the DHO began construction of the Verona-Hartington Diversion, which bypassed the original route of the highway along what is now Boyce Road, Quarry Road and Burnett Road. The 3.5 km (2.2 mi) diversion was completed in early 1938, and the old routing decommissioned on January 10, 1938. This realignment of the highway led to the expansion of Verona, which was strategically located along the highway. For many years, Highway 38 was the main connecting highway between the major east-west highways paralleling Lake Ontario (old Highway 2 and later the 401) and Highway 7 which led to Ottawa. Although less busy now, it remains one of the most important north-south highways in eastern Ontario.		
Doctor's Office & Clinic	A great example of community initiative and creative thinking. For many years Verona struggled to attract a resident doctor. In 1963, the community had raised \$ 14 000 to build a suitable residence to attract a qualified doctor. A group of 11 citizens held the mortgage, managed the property, advertised for and found the young doctor, Dr. Gordon Day and his wife Louise. The Verona Lion's Club offered to pay their moving expenses and to donate some medical equipment. The Days committed themselves to the community and stayed for 36 years until 1999. After Dr. Day's retirement, Dr. Laurel Dempsey took over the practise. When she retired, the Township of South Frontenac purchased the clinic and made it available as an incentive to attract a new doctor. Verona now enjoys our resident physician, Dr. Sabra Gibbens..		
Asselstine Hotel	Built in 1899 by Samuel Asselstine, the Asselstine Hotel accommodated travelling salesmen and American tourists until the late 50's when it was renovated into apartments.		
Nice House	This beautiful red brick home was built in the early part of the century by Harold Kerr, a renowned builder whose last project was the "new" post office erected in 1967. As the years went on it was the headquarters for a well drilling business, the first telephone exchange, a life insurance business and the home of the Edna and Ray Walker who managed a very successful general store.		
Farm to Table Centre/Food Less Travelled	Stop 8: Farm to Table Centre/Food Less Travelled A growing interest in purchasing food from local producers and eating a more seasonal, local and sustainable diet has led many to seek out alternatives to grocery shopping at large chain stores. A number of farm to table businesses and farmers' markets have opened in South Frontenac. In Verona, "Food Less Travelled" offers consumers the option of buying groceries produced locally. The site now also hosts the Verona Drug Store. The property was the site of several auto-related businesses over the years. A car dealership began in the 40's selling DeSotos and Dodge cars and trucks. In the 50's, it became Verona Motors and dealt with General Motors vehicles.		
Trinity United Church	The church was built on land donated by Alexander Spike, around 1886. The original frame church, which was destroyed by fire in May 1910, was completed before the actual planning of the village. The Christian Education addition was built to allow for the amalgamation of the Bellrock, Verona and Godfrey United Churches in 1967.		
Revell Ford	Verona's largest employer and one of its oldest businesses, Revell Ford was begun by Wesley Revell in 1936. He began by selling cars and trucks as a sideline to his original grocery business, but Verona's location on Highway 38 and role as the central service centre for a much larger region meant that more and more customers came to The business looking to buy cars and trucks or to have their vehicles serviced and repaired. Revell Ford became a cornerstone of the local economy and it remains one of the most successful dealerships in eastern Ontario.		
Doctor's House (Stop 11)	This imposing concrete block house was the home of Dr. Goodfellow. The office was on the right hand site, but the examination room was in a small den off the office area. There was a large fireplace in the room with a spittoon on the hearth. The doctor was a tobacco chewer and he often missed the spittoon while examining a patient. Many thought the building was haunted.		
Park and Cenotaph	NO TEXT - PICTURE ONLY	N/A	N/A
McMullen Property/McMullen Family	Joseph McMullen (1831-1892) emigrated to Canada from Ireland c. 1850-1853. He married Anne Johnson in Toronto in 1856. The McMullens came to Verona in the 1860's where he was a dry goods store merchant. Their son Henry (1857-1935) married Mary Goodfellow (1859-1940) at Piccadilly / Godfrey in 1876. Henry was a store merchant, line merchant and farmer. He was Portland Township Reeve in 1904 and Councillor for 7 terms. He was also Justice of the Peace Clerk of the 4th Division Court, County of Frontenac. McMullen Beach and Park, The Verona Cemetery, McMullen Manor (1980), the Verona Cenotaph and McMullen Lane are legacies of the McMullen family. All of these were built on the McMullen farm property. Portland Township purchased land from the family for the McMullen Beach on Rock Lake and the Verona Cemetery next door. The land for the 28 unit McMullen Manor on Road 38 was donated to the Township by the family. This apartment complex, owned by the Kingston and Frontenac Housing Corporation, was completely destroyed by fire in 2021. We are still waiting for it to be rebuilt. The McMullen family presence continued in Verona into the 1960's.		
Verona Cemetery	See above	N/A	N/A
McMullen Park Beach and Verona Lake	See above	N/A	N/A

Verona Free Methodist Church	The present brick church was built in the late 50's and was dedicated in October 1959. The Christian Education Wings was added in 1993. The original frame church, built in 1891, was moved a few blocks north-east and made over into an apartment building. Several camp meetings were held in Verona; the first in 1890. Some revival meetings lasted over two weeks.		
Garage/Stables	Before cars and trucks were common, many homeowners kept a carriage and horse or horses at their houses for transportation, even in towns and cities. These older carriage stables were often replaced by purpose built car or truck garages as carriages were replaced, but many still remain. You can see the door providing access to a loft for hay and feed and a large sliding door for access to the carriage or buggy.		
Nice House	Across the road you can also see another well-maintained example of a combined stables and carriage shed.		
Asselstine Hardware	This building is now a hardware store but it was originally used as Verona's icehouse. Before electrical and propane powered refrigerators were common, most households relied on ice-boxes to keep foods cold and from spoiling. Every winter large blocks of ice were cut on local lakes and transported to an icehouse where they were stored in sawdust for insulation until purchased by area residents for their ice boxes. The local ice-man often delivered blocks of ice directly to residents' doors every few days from an ice wagon.		
Verona Pentecostal Assembly	The Verona Pentecostal Church was established in 1946 under the direction of Rev. W. B. Greenwood, a church planner and district leader in the Pentecostal movement in Canada. The founding pastors were Rev. Hope Smith and Rev. Laurie Price from 1947-1950.		
End of Tour	<p>At the back of the church parking lot walk back along Verona Street which parallels the K&P Railway Trail or use the trail itself to return to your car. Verona Street was built as a bypass for Road 38 when the village roads were being paved. It continues to be an option in times of emergency or special occasions.</p> <p>As you walk back you will pass the area of the village where a new housing development is in progress. You will see the original Davy Well Drilling truck and the backs of the business community of Verona.</p> <p>Be sure to stop for refreshment as you head back to the Trail Head.</p> <p>HAVE A GREAT DAY!!!</p> <p>This Tour is courtesy the Township of South Frontenac and the South Frontenac Museum Society. South Frontenac Museum Society 5595 Road 38, Hartington, ON K0H 1W0 southfrontenacmuseum.ca</p>		