



North Harbour Walk

(access via North Harbour Rd., Waterloo St. steps or Tiger Dunlop Trail)

GPS: N43°44'50" W81°42'57"

9 FLOUR MILLS

Before 1866, a 'mill race' and 'dam' were constructed in this area to divert water from the Maitland River for power to run a flour mill once operated by Samuel Platt...

10 THE "RIDGE"

The following is a brief history of the "Ridge" throughout the ages:

1828: The core of the white mansion on the bluff opposite and facing the harbour is the original 50' x 50' log hunting lodge built for Baron van Tuyl ...

11 1872-73 RIVER WALL

From their beginning in the 1830s, the inadequacies of the Canada Company harbour facilities at Goderich were debated in the legislature for Canada West! There was periodic damage to ships and docks...Plans quickly unfolded to divert the Maitland River to the north and create a safe and stable harbour...

12 THE ICE HARVEST

In the coldest parts of winter each year, teams of workers ventured onto the harbour or put out on the lake to harvest the ice. In the days before refrigeration, residents depended on ice blocks to preserve perishable foods in the household ice box...

13 THE CPR BRIDGE

In 1905-1906 a wooden trestle was constructed across the Maitland River to permit the construction of the 695-foot CPR Bridge. Each span was 104 feet by 12 feet and weighed 38 tonnes. Upon its completion, it was the longest railway bridge in Ontario...

14 THE BLACK HOLE, PIPER'S DAM

The Maitland River hosts some interesting spots that abound with intriguing tales. The 'Black Hole' -upriver along the Maitland Trail, carries a number of tales of diving, drowning and tragic events...



GODERICH
Canada's prettiest town

Waterfront

The Port of Goderich waterfront and harbour have a rich marine history dating back to the days before the first European settlers arrived in the late 1820s, founding Goderich in 1827. An intriguing blend of maritime, social and manufacturing history combines to create a special heritage chronicle.

Strolling the waterfront, bluff and north harbour walkways will permit you to immerse yourself in the vivid memories from years ago in the very locations where these events took place.

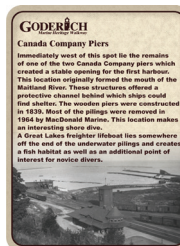
The Marine Heritage Walkway Signs are written as a very readable local history and highlight many points of interest in the port. This brochure, describing only part of each sign, is meant to make you curious enough to find each sign and read the rest.

For even more information refer to Illustrated Guide to Goderich Harbour & Waterfront by Paul Carroll, 2015, available at local bookstores.

For more information:

Port of Goderich Tourism
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Produced by:



Lighthouse photo by Gordon Strathdee

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GODERICH
Canada's prettiest town

Marine Heritage Walks

A Guide to
Heritage Signage
along the Waterfront, Bluffs and Harbour

The Waterfront Walk

continued

(Open flap to reveal first portion of the walk)

33 THE BREAKWALLS

Controversial from the first attempts to construct them in 1904, the Goderich harbour breakwalls have provided protection to the inner harbour since 1908...

34 HIBERNIA TERRACE

...ran generally west of...Essex St. from the west end of Britannia Rd. to Beach St. in the Lower Town...In the late 1860s a freak spring freshet...cut a deep channel along the bottom of the cliff and a large section of the ...bluff slipped into the lake, including a major portion of the road...

35 HURON ROAD MEETS LAKE HURON

Directly above this location is the western terminus of the original Huron Road. The road was first surveyed by John MacDonald, and travelled by William Tiger Dunlop, 1828-29...

36 LIGHT, POWER AND WATER

The Goderich filtration plant purifies an average of 1.25 million gallons of water annually, to meet town needs. Clean water is pumped to an elevated storage tower on the east side of town...

37 THE BONEYARD

Approximately 200 metres off Rotary Beach Arch is the "Boneyard" where the remains of several ships lie. The area has become a popular shallow-water dive site...

38 GODERICH RIFLE RANGE

In 1902, blueprints and contract specifications were produced for a military shooting range to be built along the waterfront...

39 STABILIZING THE BLUFFS

As the town developed, the bluffs along the waterfront have changed in many ways. First they were cleared of large trees -with lumber used to fuel the huge evaporator pans in the salt extraction plants...

40 & 41 INTERNATIONAL SALT WORKS

Immediately south of this location was MacEwan's International Salt Works, which produced 600 barrels of salt per day. The wells and the evaporator kettles were located at the top of the hill. A two-track tramway ran down the hill to a private wharf...



The Bluff Walk

GPS: N43°44'21" W81°43'26"

Marine Heritage Sign Locations

1 THE COTTAGES

Along the top of the bluff were numerous frame, summer cottages. A few of the original structures can still be seen...

View signs in any order

2 SUNSET HOTEL

This large 3-storey, 100-room hotel, flanked by broad verandahs on the south and west sides, sat at the end of Britannia Road...

3 & 32 GODERICH LIGHTHOUSE

The beacon at the top of the bluff is actually the second Goderich lighthouse, said to be built in 1847. The land was acquired by the Crown...

4 HARBOUR PLANS

Goderich Harbour has changed several times. In the beginning, the 'harbour' was actually the mouth of the Menesetung (Maitland) River...

5 THE ORIGINAL LIGHTHOUSE

In this...area was the first lighthouse built as a navigational aid for the Port of Goderich. It was likely the inner light tower for a range light...

6 CANADA COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

The Park House, once known as the Harbour Park Inn, was built as the residence of Thomas Mercer Jones, Commissioner of the Canada Company, 1839 until 1859...

7 TIGER DUNLOP'S CASTLE

Following the founding of Guelph in April 1827, William 'Tiger' Dunlop travelled through the forests to the site of Goderich at the mouth of the Maitland...

8 THE MILITARY CAMPS

On the river flats below -now the site of the Maitland Golf and Country Club- across the river on the 'Big Meadow' along the top of the far bluff...and in the fields at the location of the present day airport - were military camps...



North Harbour Walk Signs #9-14 are described on the opposite flap.

The Waterfront Walk

GPS: N43°44'36" W81°43'18"

15 SALT BRINE PLANTS

It is difficult to estimate the total number of salt wells and brine evaporation plants that existed in Goderich from the time of the first discovery of salt...

16 THE OCEAN HOUSE HOTEL

As a mariner, Captain Babbs realized the need for good accommodation for passengers arriving by water and waiting to catch the stagecoach for points east. The nearby Menesetung Mineral Springs offered curative salt baths...

17 LOWER TOWN COMMUNITY

In the early days, the harbour flats, first known as 'Goosey Green', formed a bustling community complete with shops, taverns, factories and hotels...

18 IMPERIAL OIL TANKS

This site was home to a number of large, circular steel storage tanks painted silver, owned by Imperial Oil and bearing the 'ESSO' logo. They provided temporary liquid storage for up to two million gallons of fuel...

19 GODERICH ELEVATORS

In 1859, the Canada Company deeded land to the Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway for transportation and grain storage. By 1866, the first 60,000-bushel elevator was opened...

20 THE WATERWORKS

The Electric Light and Water Plant, 1887, was the first municipal steam-powered electric generation water pumping station. The buildings were located on the current site of the Wheelhouse Marine Museum...

21 CHARLES C. LEE SHIP CHANDLERS

East of this location was the site of the Charles C. Lee Hardware, Plumbing and Heating Coal Yard and Ship Chandlery business... He, and then his family, also operated the Sunset Hotel...

22 FISH SHANTIES

Until the 1970s, the South pier was lined with buildings used by commercial fisheries. The only remaining structure is the Siddall fish house...

23 THE BATHING HOUSE (Pt 2)

In the early 1930s, Bert MacDonald, a ship builder at the Marlton shipyard, leased the sheds for the building of small boats and vessels. As the demand for boat-building decreased, Bert created a bathing house...

24 THE BATHING HOUSE

The building known as the Bathing House...was originally built in 1907 by the CPR to be used as a marine terminal... The freight shed was never used for its intended purpose...

25 WORKING AT THE BATHING HOUSE

The old 'green bathing house' was the site for summertime students' jobs... The Bathing House had stalls to change your clothes and boxes that were rented out to keep your clothes in... also had to rent bathing suits to the sailors...

26 GODERICH HARBOUR

... The harbour basin itself was originally formed by the Maitland River mouth. ...Where you are standing would have been on the north side of the harbour opening...

27 SHIP ISLAND

...was located in the northeast corner of the present harbour. Originally some four acres in size, it served...as a base for shipyards. Over 100 ships were built there starting in 1831...

28 CAPTAIN BABB'S BATHING HOUSE

Adjacent to the waterfront, as part of the 'Ocean House' hotel complex operated by Captain William Babbs was a bathing house...located very close to the shoreline

29 CANADA COMPANY PIERS

Immediately west of this spot lie the remains of one of the two Canada Company piers which created a stable opening for the first harbour. This location originally formed the mouth of the Maitland River...

30 CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY STATION

This unique structure was built to service passenger and freight needs for the new Goderich-Guelph railway line...commencing in 1907. Its original location was at the base of the embankment behind, with the building facing the tracks along its north side...

31 CPR ROUNDHOUSE

Near this location but west of the station (original location) was the site of the CPR locomotive 'roundhouse' where yard engines were maintained and turned around on a turntable...

32 & 3 GODERICH LIGHTHOUSE

The beacon at the top of the bluff is actually the second Goderich lighthouse, said to be built in 1847...

Descriptions continue on opposite flap.