

WALKING TOUR OF COMBERMERE

This is a walking tour of the streets of Combermere. This tour is a distance of 9.1 kms and takes a minimum of 3 Hours. The tour can be shortened by omitting some sections of the tour. The terrain is relatively flat but with some slightly hilly sections and is all on paved roads. The tour takes you through some picturesque landscape beside the Madawaska River. It is best to park your vehicle at the Combermere Recreation Centre parking lot on Farmer Rd. just off Hwy #62. The brackets () after each point of interest indicate the 911 civic number to assist you in identifying the correct location.



COMBERMERE RECREATION CENTRE (1095AB)

This is the place to park your vehicle. This facility is used year-round for wedding receptions, dances, parties, etc, and behind the building is the township skating rink. The CO Summer Blitz on the Civic Holiday weekend in August takes place here.

2 KATHRYN FARMER'S HOUSE (1087)

To your right, as you walk down Farmer's Rd, is a home that was owned by Kathryn Farmer, one of the area's greatest educators. Kathryn was a well known, respected and loved teacher in many area schools during the 1920's to 1950's. The building was originally owned and built by the George Loveless family. They had a farm behind and a threshing beet took place each summer. Behind and to the right of Kathryn's home was a woollen mill owned by the Reid family. It operated in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

3 MILLER'S HOME AND BARN (1065)

Turn onto Mill St. and to your right is a white house and a barn beside it. This was Combermere's second post office from 1884 to 1951 and also had a BA gas pump in front from 1920's-1950's. John E. H. Miller was the postmaster from 1884 and then his daughter Mabel took over in 1934 and was postmistress for 17 years. John Miller, a great grandson, now occupies the house. To the right of the barn and on the Madawaska River was a grist Mill owned by the Cone family. It operated in the late 1800's and early 1900's. There is no trace of the building today.

4 SUNSET BEACH (1051)

This public beach is used extensively by area and seasonal residents. Swimming classes for children take place during the summer months.

5 THE HUDSON HOUSE (1007)

At the corner of Mill Stand Hwy #62 is the third version of The Hudson House, built circa 1910. The second version was a three-story brick structure built in 1912. An earlier board & batten structure was originally built by Captain John Dennison circa 1875. It was one of two hotels in Combermere in the 1890's. When John Dennison moved to Opeongo Lake, the hotel was taken over by the Hudson family who were related. The building today is a Bed & Breakfast.

Note: At this point you have walked .4 km

6 DENNISON PARK (39325)

Walk across the highway and onto the protected part of the bridge on the left. At the west end of the bridge, carefully cross #62 again so you are walking on the right side of the highway. Approximately where this park is located now was a wooden home and store owned by Charlie & Bernice Dennison. The home was the original Dennison house and a small store on its left was used for many years and for a short period was a pool hall. Both structures were torn down in the mid 1950's to make way for the new curved concrete bridge. Between the park stone monument and Hargreaves Lane in the bush on your right was a shingle manufacturing mill in the early 1900's.

7 SHULIST GARAGE & STORE (39273A)

Continue walking down Hwy #62 and the long white building on your right was Shulist's Garage and store. Joe Shulist and family lived here for many years and operated an automobile garage on the left and a small variety store on the right. During the early 1960's the building housed a coin laundry. Shortly after that there was a chip stand in the left part of the building. Then in the 1980's, Dr. Bruce Harris set up his medical practice in the building and operated it until he moved his practice into the St. Francis Memorial Hospital Clinic in the early 2000's.

This map will print on letter size paper.
Full-size version is available
at Visitor Centre
613-756-5885

8 WALTER BLOOM'S HOUSE & POST OFFICE (39265)

On your right is a two-storey brick building. Until 2004 it was Walter & Ursula Bloom's house and post office from 1953 to 1982. On the right side of the building there was a nice cream parlour from 1957 to 1975.

9 RIVERVIEW MOTEL (39261)

The two-storey building, part of the motel, was originally the home of Ira Perrier, area blacksmith. In the early 1960's, the motel was built as part of the structure and the Frank Bond family owned and operated the business.

10 BOAT LAUNCH RAMP (39249)

The boat launch was built in the 1960's. Prior to that, in the early 1900's, there was a blacksmith shop located there and operated by Ira Perrier. To the left is Mayflower Park established in 1967 in memory of the nine people drowned in the sinking of the steamer Mayflower.

11 NELSON BOEHME'S HOUSE (39221)

Continue walking southwest to a white building on your right. This is Nelson & Bernice Boehme's house. Nelson is a descendant of one of the pioneer Combermere German families. The house was originally the Rectory for the German Wendish Methodist Church that was across the highway where the Craft Shoppe is today.

12 COMBERMERE METHODIST CEMETERY (20)

Walk carefully on the shoulder of the road and take White Pine Crescent. On your right is the Combermere Methodist Cemetery. The first interment was Ethel Lansdowne (infant) in March 1884.

13 OHIO RD

Continue walking on the right-hand shoulder of #62 to Ohio Rd. The name of this road came from the fact that, originally, many of the property owners were summer residents from various parts of Ohio State in the USA.

14 JOHNSON'S CREEK

Carefully cross the highway and you will see evidence of a creek. This is called Johnson's Creek after the first store and post office operated by Daniel Johnson. During the late 1800's there was a sawmill here that produced lumber and shingles. These products were sold in his store where the Valley Market is now located. You can still see some parts of the sawmill concrete foundation.

NOTE: At this point you have walked 2.9 kms

15 HYDE'S BAY MODEL TRAIN STATION (39102)

For children of all ages, this model train station, built in 1999, with many trains of various descriptions, track runs, miniature buildings, is as amazing as you will see anywhere. Take a few minutes to see this exhibit. It was designed, built and operated by Klaas Staal.

16 CRAFT SHOPPE (39224)

This log building on the hill is a craft shoppe selling items made by local women. The building was moved here in the mid 1960's from where the Inn Towne Restaurant parking lot is today. On this site was the German Wendish Methodist Church. It was built circa 1860 and was the first church in Combermere, primarily to serve the German pioneer families who emigrated from the Wendish section of Prussia during the 1860's. From about 1900 to about 1920 the church building served as the Town Hall and in the 1940's and early 1950's as a movie theater.

17 YELLOW HOUSE (39224)

This yellow house was originally the home and business of William Boehme. He was a tailor by trade and was known as "tailor Boehme". He was one of the councilor's for the township in 1912 and drowned November 12, 1912 when the Mayflower sternwheeler steamer sank.

18 VALLEY MARKET STORE (39264)

This site has always been a general store, with many owners since the building was built in the 1860's by Daniel Johnson. Johnson also had a post office in his store from 1865 to the early 1900's and was Combermere's first postmaster. It currently is owned and operated by Chris Hicks who took over the business in the spring of 2005 from Peter and Beryl Tomlin who operated the business from June 1984. In the early 1900's there was a sawmill behind the store.

19 POST OFFICE (39276)

This is the fourth version of the Combermere post office and was built in 1982. On this site previously was Bailey Adrain's log house and garage, the building that moved to and became the Craft Shoppe.

20 INN TOWNE RESTAURANT (39280)

On this site in the early 1900's was McAllister's shoe shop. The restaurant is operated by Judy Maika. Her husband Bob owns the land and building where the post office is today.

21 WHITE BUILDING (3)

This building was the C.F. Canon public school for Combermere. It was built in 1953 and served the area elementary students until it closed in the 1960's. Kathryn Farmer was the first teacher. Approximately on this site but a little to your left was the original location of Combermere's first elementary school. It was housed in a log building for a few years until a new larger white school was built and served until the C. F. Canon School was built.

NOTE: At this point, you have walked 4.8 kms and if you wish to shorten your tour, you may return to your vehicle the way you came. Go to point # 27 for instructions.

22 MADONNA HOUSE GIFT SHOP & MUSEUM (2887)

Continue walking south on Dafeo Rd. and go past Perrier Rd. On your right is Madonna House Museum and Gift Shop. Be sure to spend a few minutes to browse and look at the many interesting artifacts, books and other items of interest.

23 RAINBOW RAFTS (2865)

At this location Emile Bouchard builds, delivers and installs rafts and docks of steel and wood for the many waterfront properties in the area. In the early 1900's it was the location of a harness and saddle business for the miners and farmers of Craigmont, Combermere and area.

24 CANADIAN MARTYRS CHURCH (2797)

Continue walking down Dafeo Rd. On your right is Canadian Martyrs Roman Catholic Church. On this site was a Catholic church called Sacred Heart, which was built in 1907. The church burned on November 11, 1951 and a new church was built and re-named. Prior to 1907, Catholics who wanted to go to church had to travel to St. Mary's Church in Brudenell.

25 MADONNA HOUSE ST. MARY'S (2768)

Continue south on Dafeo Rd and cross the road at a large building called St. Mary's. This is now part of Madonna House facilities. It was a convent and a Catholic high school from 1948 to 1977.

NOTE: You have now walked 5.8 kms, This is the farthest point on the tour.

26 MADONNA HOUSE MAIN BUILDING (2888)

Turn back on Dafeo Rd and on your right is the main Madonna House buildings. Take a few minutes and inquire about taking a tour of the facilities. This is a world renowned Catholic lay community founded in the mid 1940's by Baroness Catherine de Hueck Doherty. On this site during the early 1900's was an extensive cheese factory.

27 ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE (3058)

As you get to the junction of Dafeo Rd and Hwy # 62, the building on your right is St. Joseph's House. It was originally the O'Brien House Hotel owned by Paddy O'Brien. At one time, Dr. George Sadler lived there and had his medical practice in the downstairs front part of the building. In the early 1950's the building was purchased by Madonna House and is now a flea market. When Sadler had his practice there, O. R. Miller operated a store and a restaurant called the "Lilac Lantern".

Carefully cross the Hwy #62 and enter Mill St. the way you walked earlier.

28 ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (1048B)

The church was built circa 1885, about the same time as St. Leonard's Anglican church in Rockingham. Rev James Robinson served both churches. This was the second church in Combermere after the German Wendish Methodist church at the other end of Combermere.

29 MISSION HOUSE MUSEUM & GALLERY (1050)

This museum & gallery officially opened May 21, 2005 after seven years of negotiation for the building, obtaining financial grants and making extensive renovations. The building was built circa 1885 as the Rectory for the Anglican priests of St. Paul's Anglican Church, two doors away. Take a few minutes to enjoy the local heritage museum and art gallery. There is a nominal fee for visiting the Mission House.

30 SUNSET INN BED & BREAKFAST (1058)

On your right is a modern style home set back off the road. A former Sunset Inn on this site was the original home of Captain John Hudson and his wife Maggie and son Edwin. This was the same Captain Hudson who was owner of the Hudson House and of the sternwheeler steamer "Mayflower" that sank Nov. 12, 1912. He drowned in that tragedy. The house was not fully completed at the time of his drowning. The family lived in the house for many more years. The house accidentally burned from a chimney fire in the 1970's.

31 DREVNIOK HOUSE (1086)

The building on your left at the junction of Farmers Rd and Mill St. is occupied by the John and Karen Drevniok family. John's grandfather Henry came to Combermere from Germany early in the 1900's. In the 1920- 1960's it was known as "Drevniok's Cabins" and was a summer resort for American and Canadian fishermen to stay before heading out to fish on the Madawaska River.

32 GOLDEN YEARS ACTIVITIES CENTER (1090)

As you turn the corner onto Farmer's Rd on your right is the Golden Years Activities Center - Combermere's Seniors Centre. At one time on this site was the home and barn of Charles Stubbs, one of the founding families of Combermere.

