

TOWNSHIP OF

MULMUR DRIVING TOUR

175TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



IRA & MURIEL GALLAUGHER ON THEIR WEDDING DAY, MULMUR, 1915
MOD COLLECTION P-1892



Welcome to the Hills (and Valleys!) of Mulmur Township

Your tour begins at Museum of Dufferin at the corner of Hwy 89 and Airport Road in Mulmur Township.

The landscape in the northeastern township of Dufferin can be stunning or intimidating, but never disappointing. The township contains two of Dufferin County's most scenic river valleys – the Boyne and the Pine – as well as the steep slopes of the Niagara Escarpment, and the hills and dales of the Orangeville and Southampton moraines. Yet, there is some of the finest farmland in the county here as well taking advantage of the celebrated Honeywood loam to produce significant ash crops for the local farm economy. What Mulmur lacks is a consistent system of through roads – the geography gets in the way, but for the casual, and patient traveller, the interruptions can be quite rewarding. Our driving tour of the township starts at the Museum of Dufferin.

Driving Directions: Exit the Museum of Dufferin, turning right onto Airport Road. You are now heading north. You will drive past the "Ghost" Village of Stanton - don't worry, you will be circling back here later. Drive over "hill 'n dale" and through the Boyne River valley and you will arrive in Mansfield.

#1 - Village of Mansfield

Named for the "manse in the field" the home of Rev. Alexander Colqhoun on the Presbyterian glebe farm just south of the village. The village was of enough consequence to have a post office in the 1850s. It too was a rural service community, but it had several craftsmen to support the local economy. And hence has always had at least one operating store. There have been many community organizations which have thrived here too, from the Orange Lodge and the Women's Institute to a Literary Society and a lending library.



MANSFIELD GENERAL STORE CA. 1900

Driving Directions: Make a left at the lights heading west along County Rd. 17.

#2 - Perm & Bethel Cemetery

First settlers at Perm were Hugh Gallagher and his family. The Village had a population of 55 by 1887. Perm had two schools (Upper and Lower Perm), a blacksmith shop, stores, a church and cemetery. The church was torn down in 1925. This is Bethel Methodist Cemetery and all that remains of the old settlement of Perm.

If you have a few minutes, park and walk to the back of the cemetery and take in the view over the Boyne River valley. (Image courtesy the Mulmur Historic Settlements webpage)



SS# 21, LOWER PERM SCHOOL, IN 1946

Driving Directions: Continue west and down the hill, turn left (south) on the Fourth Line. You will cross the Boyne River and continue south to the first intersection. Turn left (east) on Five Sideroad. Turn right on 5th Line and continue to the stop sign. At the intersection turn right onto Highway 89, heading west, and proceed about 4 km to Violet Hill. Make a right at Mono-Mulmur Townline.

#3 - Violet Hill

Another "Mulmur" village that straddles the township boundary with neighboring Mono township. The well known restaurant "Mrs. Mitchell's" occupies the school house of SS # 2, Mulmur. Across the street, "Granny Taught Us How" is located in the former Orange Hall in Mono. The main street of the village is actually the township boundary here, not Highway 89. Stand in front of either building and look along the street, You will quickly see how roads have moved to adapt to the topography.



MEMBERS OF LOYAL ORANGE LODGE #354 IN 1909

Driving Directions: Continue west on Highway 89 about 5 km. At the stoplights in Primrose you will be turning right.



MRS. ESTHER MITCHELL,
TEACHER AT SS#2 VIOLET HILL



LOYAL ORANGE LODGE IN 1978

#4 - Primrose

The old village and its landmarks have been obliterated by Highway reconstruction and redevelopment. However, the various businesses of the community continue to offer a diverse range of hospitality and service to passing traffic – continuing an ages old township tradition.

As you descend the hill, watch for the “shoe tree”, a local landmark, on the left. The Tree was started in 1986 by the home owners and has grown to 3 trees and over 120 shoes. Recent ice storms have damaged the trees but many of the shoes remain on this most visited Mulmur landmark..

Driving Directions: Continue north on Prince of Wales Road.



PATTERSON'S WHITE ROSE SERVICE STATION, PRIMROSE, CA. 1940



SS#4 MULMUR IN 1905



SS#4 MULMUR CA. 1920

#5 - Whitfield Schoolhouse

The former SS#4 Whitfield is at the corner, now a private home. Just to the west of it is the farm where it was rumoured Jesse James buried part of his loot. Treasure hunters and metal detectors have yet to find anything. But interestingly, the local blacksmith had the same name as a contemporary of James' gang. Maybe somebody should keep looking?

Driving Directions: Turn right at the stop sign at the corner of County Rd. 17 and proceed east.

#6 - Whitfield

One of the earliest settlements in the western part of Mulmur, it was a point of entry for many of the early settlers heading further north in the township. It served a thriving farming community. Christ Church (Anglican) and its cemetery are the survivors of the village. If you look to the south, you can see a new building and near it some headstones. They mark the old Methodist Cemetery. The Orange Hall was across the road from it, but later the Lodge used the former Methodist church as its hall. The building has since been removed.

Driving Directions: Continue east along County Rd 17 and pull over at the first field on your right.



WHITFIELD ANGLICAN CHURCH & CEMETERY CA. 1910



#7 - Rock Hill Park

On your right is the famous Rock Hill Park. Willie Nelson, Charlie Pride, The Guess Who, Chilliwack and many other rock, pop and country acts from across Canada and the world played here.

Near the corner are the remnants of a wall of dressed stones. There was a blacksmith shop here operated by Cornelius Fox and a lime kiln run by his brother in law who took advantage of the limestone outcrops to do his work.

The caves and fissures of the Rock Hill are well known locally, and formed the backdrop for Rock Hill Park, created as a recreation site, but famous for its monster rock and country and western concerts in the 1960s and 1970s.

Driving Directions: Continue east along County Rd 17. After the horseshoe curve you will turn left onto 2nd Line. Continue north.



POSTER FOR ROCK HILL PARK'S "FREAK OUT FESTIVAL" IN 1969

#8 - Village of Terra Nova

In Latin the name means “new land” and in the 1880s this part of Mulmur was “discovered” by lumbermen and sawyers who cleared the area of pine and other native trees. The village was founded as a lumber camp, one of the last to open in Mulmur. The Methodist Church (north of the stop sign) and General Store (on your right at the stop sign) were both constructed in 1889. The post office opened at the General Store in 1891.

The Scriver sawmill started operation in 1901 operated by George and William Scriver from Airlie, a hamlet in Mulmur at crossroads of 25 sideroad in Mulmur and Tosorontio Townline.



SCRIVER'S SAWMILL, TERRA NOVA, CA. 1905

Driving Directions: At the Stop Sign, turn left. This is the River Road that winds along the Pine River valley. Pay attention to the curves and bends, some of them are quite sharp. After about 6 km, you will come to a sharp right turn at the intersection of River Road and Centre Road, to the community of...

#9 - Kilgorie

A postal village where people called for the mail from 1881 until 1914 when rural mail delivery was available in the local farming community. The post office is one of a few houses remaining. As you round a sharp bend in the road, the school house of SS#15 Kilgorie and its old flag pole are on your right.

Driving Directions: Continue about 2km.



SS#15 MULMUR (KILGORIE), CA 1940

#10 - Pine River Fishing Area

There is roadside parking. If you are agile and sure-footed, you can climb down the trail to the dam and large lake. While the lake is no longer stocked with fish, the dam ruins are worth a look. This was the site of the Pine River Light and Power Company from 1908 to 1914. Organized by Thompson R. “T. R.” Huxtable, a miller from nearby Horning's Mills, it was one of the early private electricity generators in Ontario, serving Shelburne and Orangeville. The scheme was bankrupted by competition from Ontario Hydro. There is a terrific view from the dam up the lake.



PINE RIVER LIGHT AND POWER, UNDER CONSTRUCTION CA. 1915

Driving Directions: Continue west along River Road. Pass Pine River Institute, formerly Pine River Outdoor Education Centre. You will also notice more than one road signed “No Exit:” Mulmur's geography at work! We have to make a loop around the top end of the Pine River Valley.

#11 - Huxtable's Mill

As you climb the S-shaped hill into Horning's Mills, notice the remnant of Lewis Horning's 1832 mill-site (on the left) and the huge mill-pond just past it. Roll the window down and listen to the rush of the water down the remains of the mill run!

Continue to the stop sign and welcome to the Village of Horning's Mills. Turn right at the stop sign and again when you reach 15 sideroad. Continue east along 15 sideroad (road will change to gravel), and then back into Mulmur township. After about 3 kms, the road swings to the left – so will you! You are now on 2nd Line.



HUXTABLE'S MILL, A FLOUR AND GRIST MILL ON RIVER ROAD AT THE EAST END OF HORNING'S MILLS, CA. 1890



HONEYWOOD, 1909 WITH GENERAL STORE ON THE LEFT

#12 - Village of Honeywood

The oldest settlement in north Mulmur, it was called the "Yorkshire Settlement" because most of its early inhabitants came from that English county as a group in 1848. The community boasted all the usual service businesses, and in time, included some substantial stores and a bank, as well as churches and a continuation school.



HONEYWOOD BALL TEAM, 1914

Driving Directions: Turn right at the stop sign at the corner of County Rd. 21 and proceed east.

#13 - Black Bank

Once a scenic hamlet and mill town, little remains today apart from a commemorative sign. In 1876, Mary Plewes built a flour mill on "Dufferin Creek." It burned down about 10 years later, and wasn't replaced. A thriving Presbyterian church existed here for many years. It hosted a popular church supper that attracted hundreds each year from far and wide.



CHURCH SUPPER AT BLACK BANK JULY 1ST, 1908

Driving Directions: Continue east on County Road 21, uphill again. At the top, the long view opens up south and east across the Pine River Valley and on into Simcoe County.

#14 - Ruskview

This corner was originally "Black Bank" until the post office moved west to the mill community about 1875. In 1883 a new post office opened up here named "Ruskview"; named for the Rusk family who farmed here, and the view. The building on the southwest corner was built in 1880 and housed a blacksmith, a store and a family home. There was also a school and an Orange hall. As the Mulmur historian says: "Thus was the corner built up and torn down, and the family after which it received its name all gone. Still the view remains, the grandeur unsurpassed."



SS#7 MULMUR (RUSKVIEW)

Pull over at the 2nd Line corner and enjoy the spectacular view; one of the highest points in Dufferin County.

DRIVING ROUTE OPTIONS:

- 1. The Main Route:** Continue east on County Rd. 21 to stop #15 - Randwick. You will be making a right turn at Airport Road after the next stop.
- 2. Good Weather Only:** Continue east on County Rd. 21 and turn left (north) on 5th Line East. This road travels past some interesting farms and buildings on its way to the Mulmur-Nottawasaga Townline. As you approach the corner, you will see Banda School on the left. There has been a school there since 1860. The first frame building was replaced by brick in 1907. It burned down the same year, and the school house you see now was built in 1908. Turn right toward Banda. Turn right at Airport Rd. The next stop (Randwick) is at the corner of Airport Rd. and County Rd. 21.



SS#6 MULMUR (BANDA), CA. 1900

#15 - Randwick

At the northwest corner of Cty Rd. 21 and Airport Rd, the former school house (now a private home) and Burger Bus restaurant are all that remain to mark the site of the old village. Randwick was a lumber camp, and for many years had been further south. The lumber operation of W.J. Parkhill was called Randwick and helped clear the Pine Plains of its timber.

The camp kept moving north following the cutting line and settled finally here. Once the pines were gone, wind and water erosion started their work. By 1931, the County of Dufferin was buying abandoned land at tax sales and planting the tracts of the Dufferin County forest.



FIRST TREE BEING PLANTED IN THE DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST, MULMUR ON MAY 8, 1931

If you followed the Main Route Option - Driving Directions: At the stop sign, turn right (south) on Airport Road.

#16 - Rookery Creek

Just south of Randwick on the right side of Airport road is the former site of the Parkhill & Smith lumber mills 1873 -1887, purchased by Henry brothers, known as Rookery Creek. This settlement soon became a self-sustained community with many homes, a Methodist church, general store, boarding house and an Orange lodge. The settlement of Rookery Creek grew up on the 6th line (now Airport Road) and the 20th sideroad just to the south of the community of Randwick. These were the sites of sawmills and moved to follow the availability of the pine forests. A mill was built at Rookery Creek in 1870 by an unknown builder and was purchased in 1873 by William and Robert Henry, who operated it until 1887. Rookery Creek boasted of two thoroughfares, Main Street and Turkey Run. The close proximity with Randwick allowed the two communities to enjoy a self-sustained settlement, 37 homes, a Methodist Church, an Orange Hall, Mrs. Parkhill's general Store, and the Dickson's boarding house.

DRIVING ROUTE OPTIONS:

- 1. Main route:** Continue south on Airport road and you will soon see the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest on your left. Since it was established in 1930, the Dufferin County forest has grown to include over 1,600 acres of land, the largest tract being here in Mulmur Township. It is open for public use! Make a quick stop to stretch your legs on the trails and learn more about the history of the main tract. Did you know that Camp Dufferin, a camp for young offenders, once operated on the property? When you continue your tour, turn left onto Airport Road and continue south through Mansfield Village, continuing south towards 5 sideroad where you will turn left.
- 2. Alternate (scenic view route):** Make a right turn at 20 Sideroad. Make a turn at the first left, 5th Line East. This used to be the travelled road around the hills on Airport Road. We also pick up the Pine River again on its way to join the Nottawasaga. As the road turns east, you get a good look at the hills of the Mansfield Ski Club to the south of 17 Sideroad. Turn right at the stop sign (Airport Rd.). Proceed through Mansfield and into the Boyne Mill valley. Continue south towards 5 sideroad where you will turn left.

#17 - Stanton

At the crossroads of Airport Road and 5 sideroad was the village of Stanton. Once a thriving hamlet with a court house, two hotels, a general store, post office and school. On your left once stood Win Hand's hotel, aka the Stanton Hotel. It was built in 1863, and operated as a hotel for about 15 years before it was turned into a wagon shop in the bottom with the family living upstairs. Beatty's Stanton Hotel was on your right and continued in business for more than 40 years. The building was removed in the early 20th century. Across the way, the General Store on the corner and the former post office beside it, built by John A. Love, are now both private residences.



CHURCH SUPPER AT BLACK BANK JULY 1ST, 1908

Driving Directions: Turn left onto 5 sideroad and continue east.

#18 - Stanton Schoolhouse

Stanton school (SS#1) is on your right on the knoll. This was the first school section in the township. Ahead on the left is the former Creary farm. The stone farmhouse once served as a bastion to protect the women and children of the community. In 1866, rumours were flying that the Fenians were coming – an Irish American army of invaders who were going to capture Canada and hold to ransom for Irish independence. The fiery Orange men of Mulmur deposited their families here, and adjourned to Rosemont to await the Fenians in the three hotels in the village, certain sure the Irish Catholics of nearby Adjala would rise in support of the Fenian brotherhood. The longer they stayed in the hotels, the more dire the threat became. In the middle of the night, the local doctor trotted his horse into the village, returning from a maternity call. He told them to go home, the people in Adjala were all sound asleep in their beds unaware of the near riot in Rosemont. Saner heads prevailed, and the “militia” dispersed.



SS#1 MULMUR (STANTON), 1952

Driving Directions: At the intersection, turn right, and head south on the 7th Line. As you head south and cross the creek, St. Luke's Cemetery is on your right.

#19 - St. Luke's Anglican Cemetery

The untamed bush and trees in the middle is the remains of St. Luke's Anglican Church replaced in 1927 by the church in Rosemont. As the oldest burying ground in the township, the cemetery was used by families in the community whether Anglican or not. Some of the area's first settlers lie buried here. The stone house across the road belonged to Edward Little. The house to the south, stone front and brick ell, belonged to his brother Captain John Little and his wife Mary Fletcher, regarded as the first settlers in Mulmur. They arrived in 1825 having exchanged a pair of boots for the 200 acres of land. A man of affairs, John Little was a captain in the militia, the postmaster, the local magistrate and clerk of the township council.



ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH & CEMETERY,
CA. 1920

Driving Directions: Continue south towards the intersection with Highway #89.

#20 - Mulmur Corners

Nothing really remains of the first settlement in Mulmur. Murphy's store stood on the east side of the road at the intersection, owned by John and Mary Murphy. A few other services clustered here, including the first post office in the township; a great place for residents to catch up on all the local news. At the intersection, look across the road to the left and you will see USS #17, Rosemont Schoolhouse, now a private home.



MURPHY'S STORE, MULMUR CORNERS, CA. 1915



USS#17 MONO (ROSEMONT), 1910

This is the end of your tour of Mulmur Township. Turn right on Hwy #89 and then a right at the lights at Airport Rd. to return to the Museum of Dufferin. Stop in for a visit and explore the everchanging exhibits and explore more of Dufferin County's history in the Archives!

If you aren't ready for the tour to end, make a left onto hwy#89 and continue to our bonus stop!

Bonus Stop - Village of Rosemont

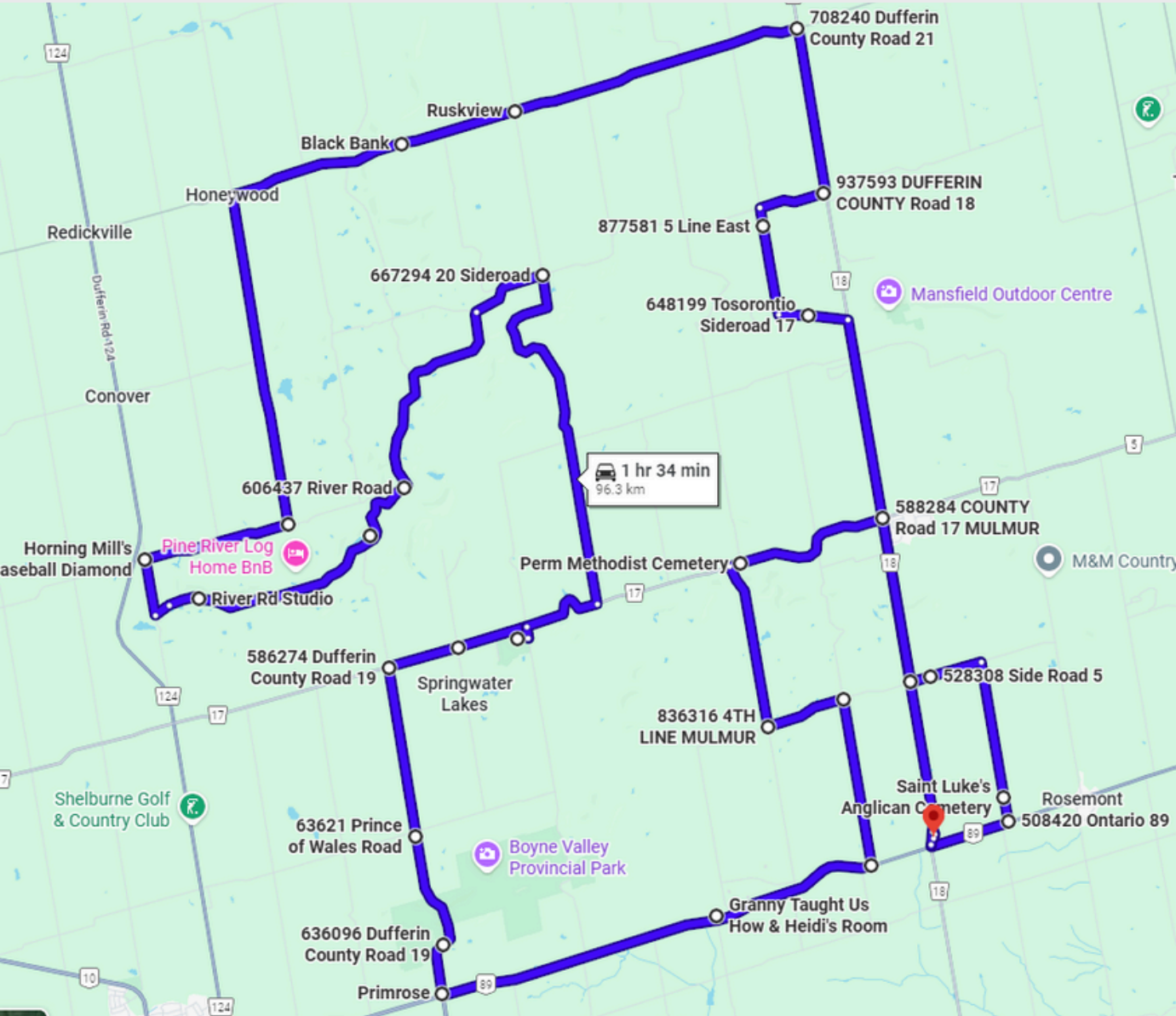
Originally settled by Irish settlers, by the 1860s Rosemont had several hundred residents. The Village grew and prospered, consisting of 10 stores including a tailor, fancy goods and a general store with a post office, 2 blacksmiths, a painter and decorator, carriage shop, an undertaker, veterinarian, 2 hotels, 2 churches and a doctor. Rosemont also became well known for its fairs and cattle shows.

Interesting tale about the two hotels in town - McCartee's Hotel's on the north side of the main road and the Globe Hotel on the south side. On night, McCartee's Hotel caught fire and legend tells us that the Globe's owner's wife guarded the well on her property, the only well at the corner, with a shotgun and would not allow the firefighters to use it to save the opposition's building. Good way to eliminate your competition!



THE GLOBE HOTEL, CA. 1900

Driving Tour Route



GET IN TOUCH

Nestled in the hills of Mulmur Township, the Museum of Dufferin prides itself on offering a welcoming, unique, and enriching environment for our visitors. Each year the MoD offers an eclectic variety of experiences by way of exhibitions, events, programs, and tours. Want to learn more about Dufferin's past? Visit the archives at the MoD.

- 📍 936029 Airport Rd., Mulmur, ON
- ☎ 519-941-1114
- ✉ info@dufferinmuseum.com
- 🖱 dufferinmuseum.com