

RIPLEY

Historical WALKING TOURS



MacLennan Walk

Ross Walk

MacDonald Walk

Ripley's Story

The village of Ripley is made up of the south parts of Lot 15 and 16 on Con. 8 and Lots 15 and 16 on Con. 7, Huron Twp. The lots, known as School Lands, were offered for sale on July 30th, 1852. The settlers were not issued a Crown Grant until a certain amount of land was cleared, and sizable buildings erected.

The Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway was extended from Lucknow to Kincardine in 1873 and the station was named Ripley after a town in Derbyshire, England, although when Paul D. McInnes was Post Master he had the name of the Post Office changed to Dingwall, a Scottish name. The name Ripley survived and the post office reverted to "Ripley" in 1880.

Ripley was incorporated as a village in 1925. The first council meeting was held in the fire hall at 8 p.m. on June 8th, 1925. The Reeve was J. B. Martyn and Councillors were: Wm. A. Mair, Levi Morgan, Duncan Munn and Robert McDonald. Ripley consisted of 245 acres and 420 people.

The town-wide water supply was installed in 1948. The original well was unique in that the water contained a natural mix of fluorine and phosphorus, a natural inhibitor of tooth decay. The only other well like it in North America was in Texas. A sewage system was installed in the early 1990's.

The current population is about 650. Ripley and Huron Township amalgamated in 1995 and a province-wide municipal reorganization in January 1999 created the Township of Huron-Kinloss when Lucknow, Kinloss and Ripley Huron amalgamated.

The Founders

After the railway station was completed, business around the station began to flourish and lots were sold and subdivided. Murdock McLay and Paul McInnes purchased lots at this time; Malcolm McLennan severed his 50 acres into five lots (L. 216, 217, 218, 219, 20) and sold four of them; Donald MacDonald sold the N1/2 to Wm. Carter in 1872; Angus MacDonald sold his 100 acres to Hugh Ross in 1872 when Angus and his wife returned to Scotland; Hugh Ross' sons, Gustavus and Robert, are deeded the property in 1876 (west 50 acres to Gustavus, east 39 3/5 acres to Robert); and Dr. Daniel Fisher Smith is the owner of the west half in 1884.

The People

The Lewis Settlers arrived in Huron Township in 1852 from the Isle of Lewis of the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, 30 miles west of the Highlands of Rosshire, Scotland. The coasts of Lewis are wild and rugged, almost devoid of trees. The land is swampy and covered in peat.

Prior to 1851 Sir James Matheson purchased the Isle of Lewis. The people, or crofters as they were called, had a hard time making a living. The soil was poor and they raised sheep and fished in the sea and in 1851 many were unable to meet their rents to the landlord and were evicted. Sir James bought their sheep and cattle and offered them free passage to Canada. On May 30, 1851 these people with their families boarded the two sailing vessels at Stornoway, Lewis Island. The trip was long and hazardous. After nine weeks and four days, and weathering a terrific storm during which iron had to be cast overboard and one of the boats lost two of its masts, the boats docked at Quebec on August 4th, 1851. From Quebec they went down the St. Lawrence River to Fort St. Francis. Here they divided into two groups. The larger group went down the St Francis River to settle in Compton County in the province of Quebec and named their village Stornoway.

The smaller party went to Montreal, where they changed boats and proceeded up Lake Ontario touching at Toronto and landing in Hamilton. From August to December they stayed at Hamilton where they worked at railway construction. To add to their troubles, smallpox spread through their families and some died. In December, they went to Guelph, Galt, Stratford and Goderich in search of work.

During the summer of 1852, they all gathered in Goderich, including some who arrived directly from Lewis that summer, and, early in September, they moved to Huron Township – 109 families in all.

This large number of families that settled in the centre of Huron Township came into the backwoods with little knowledge of the country, of clearing up a bush farm, of the requirements of pioneer life, and also of farming, for the majority of these men were fishermen or shepherds and they had the further disadvantage of being able to only speak the Gaelic language, their mother tongue.

The families settled on Concessions 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, and 4 of Huron township and comprised what became known as the Lewis Settlement. Many descendants of the families still reside in the area.

MacLennan Walk

1. Lot #99 Huron Street, Ripley Jubilee Arena

The Jubilee Community Arena Co Ltd. was set up in 1927 to coordinate the building of the first metal arena in this part of Ontario. The Jubilee Arena was so named to celebrate Canada's sixtieth



birthday and the design was copied from the North Side Arena, Toronto, where the Toronto Maple Leafs played their home games. To help finance the construction of the arena, shares were sold at ten dollars each. It was sold and subsequently dismantled when the Ripley Huron Community Centre opened in 1975.

2. Lot 85-87, 94-96, 7 Malcolm Street

This was the home of Ripley's first post office built by Malcolm MacLennan. "Councillor Dan" MacDonald was also postmaster for about three years. It was a log house, overlaid with board siding. It had two rooms and a false front adjoined



to it on the south side to accommodate a general store and the post office. The home sat at

the street in front of where the current house is located. The log cabin was moved to the 5th sideroad and became the basis for a home.

3. Huron Market, 7 Blake Street

The block formed by Malcolm, Blake and Christina was known as Huron Market Square, originally designed as the centre of town. The Fall Fair was first held here when it moved to Ripley. The shed was the first township hall and, while the date it was built is uncertain, it was referred to as the "old town hall" in 1879 when the basement was used as a public school.

It was vacated as a school in 1885 and as a town hall in 1909.



4. 60 Queen Street

This was the original site of the Ripley Train Station when The Wellington Grey and Bruce Railway Company (W.G. & B.) completed the line from Lucknow to Kincardine in the fall of 1873 naming the station Ripley after a town in Derbyshire, England. The arrival of train services caused business to flourish around the station and farm land was subdivided for village lots. Passenger service was discontinued in 1970 and in 1971 the station was dismantled.



5. 56 Queen Street

This section was referred to as the Martyn Block. It had several retail sections on the main level and apartments above. Some of the businesses conducted from this location include a liquor store (late 1880's), shoe store, millinery, storage for furniture and caskets, and an automobile service garage in the early 1920's. This and most of the buildings to the west were purchased by Courtney Grain & Seed in the 1960's. David Brown is the current owner and has plans for redevelopment of the block. The mural beautifies the buildings while awaiting renewal and depicts some of the history of Ripley.



6. 54 Queen Street

Referred to as the Welsh Block, this building housed many businesses in the retail stores on the street level and apartments on the upper level. At various times a bank, a grocery store, harness shop, and an egg grading station operated from here. From 1891 to 1896 Dr. Robert W. Knechtel practiced in Ripley and had his office and residence on the upper floor.

7. 52 Queen St.

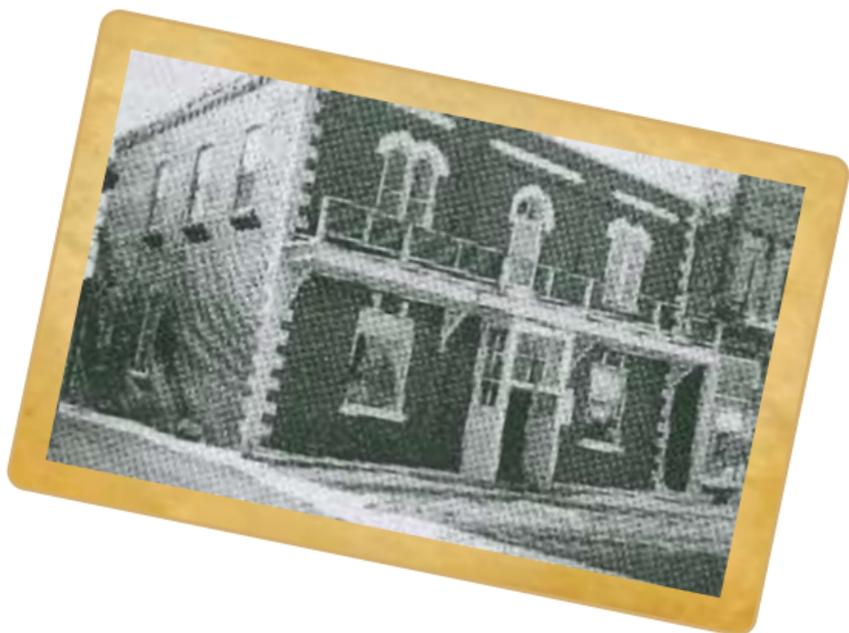
Known as the MacKay Block, many renters and owners have located here. It had at least two entrances at one time and there were several apartments above the retail businesses.

Variety stores, grocery stores, restaurants, and small businesses filled the retail space over the years.



8. 48 Queen Street

In 1876 the Argyle Hotel was new and was advertised as “near the station and provided with every convenience for the comfort of guests and travellers, David Smith, proprietor”. Edward Hodgins was the next inn keeper and during his tenure the Hodgins House, as it was then called, was destroyed by fire in 1888. It was rebuilt in 1891 and in 1896 it was leased to C. H. Smith who named it The Commercial Hotel. The livery stables were behind the hotel (see 46 Queen St.). It remained a hotel until the mid 1940's when George McLean, Sr., bought it and renovated it for apartments. On the street level, George, Jr. operated a harness shop on the east side and a dry goods store on the west side.



9. 46 Queen Street

This property was part of the McInnes Block owned by Paul and Janet McInnes (from 1875 to 1929), which stretched from Queen Street to Jessie St. You can see their name and year the building was built at the top of the building today. The McInnes home was on the south east corner of the lot at the corner of Huron and Jessie St. (80 Huron St.). Edward Hodgins owned the hotel on the east half of Lot 1, 48 Queen St., and built his stable at the south end of his lot, directly behind the McInnes house. In retaliation, Mr. McInnes built a new building at the corner of Queen and Huron Streets as close to Mr. Hodgins' hotel as possible, obliterating any view of light from the hotel's west windows.

Paul McInnes was responsible for changing Ripley's name to Dingwall in 1874.

There are two parts to 46 Queen, the west side being the larger. Munn's dry goods store was in the larger west side and the smaller east side was the premises for Samuel Whiddon, the shoemaker.



10. 39 and 41 Queen Street

The original Royal Hotel which may have been built around 1880 and burned in 1888; a brick building was erected in 1892 to replace it. At one time the livery was to the west behind the hotel and called Morgan Hall after the owners of the time, and the upstairs was used for dances and community events. A blacksmith was located to the north. It was a busy hotel for many years, but as business dropped in the 1940's it took in boarders and other long term guests. In its later years it was used for storage, machinery parts, and a restaurant. The building was destroyed by fire in 1974.



Ross Walk

1. 15 Queen Street

In 1858 the Huron Presbyterian Church was built by the Lewis Settlers on the east half of Lot 14, Con 6 and by 1865 was a two pastoral charge. When the two charges separated in 1874, dissatisfaction with the call for a minister was such that eighty families seceded from the church and built Knox



Presbyterian Church for the cost of \$2,000. Knox was considered the more progressive of the two churches and purchased an organ in 1898. Gaelic services at the church were discontinued in 1900 except for special events. In 1927 the Sunday School area was added at the north end of the church. (See MacDonald Walk #s 12 & 15 for more detail on the history of this congregation.)

2. 21 Queen Street

In November 1908 Huron Township Council authorized the issue and sale of debentures in the amount of \$3,500 for the purchase of lands and the

erection of a township hall and the new hall opened in October 1909.

In 1919 the Women's

Institute built a

raised stage, for \$160, with change rooms at each side and passage across the back. The hall was used extensively for concerts, plays and dances. In 1919, the local Red Cross Society purchased an additional quarter acre of land to be added to the hall property.



The residents' desire to retain the Town Hall led to the decision to renovate the Hall for Council Chambers and add administrative space and in 1997 the Municipal Offices moved from the basement of the Medical Centre to the new addition.

3. 29 Queen Street

Although continuation school work (high school) was taught in Ripley as early as 1904, the first Ripley Continuation School building opened for classes on February 26, 1915 with 81 students. It was two storeys with a gymnasium and Science Room on the lower floor and two classrooms and a teachers' room on the upper floor. University bound students had to go to Kincardine or Wingham for Upper School (Grade 13 equivalent).



On February 8, 1948 the school burned and the current building was erected and opened for classes again in September 1950 at which time it became Ripley District High School. In 1963 a new auditorium and cafeteria were added, but by 1973 enrolled had dropped and senior elementary students were accommodated and the name changed to Ripley District School. In 1983 high school students were transferred to Kincardine and it ceased to operate as a school in 1994 when the addition to Ripley-Huron Community School was completed. The building remained empty for a few years until it was purchased from the Township. The building currently accommodates several businesses.

4. 38 Queen St.

In 1907 Angus Martyn built on this location for his business, established in 1889, as a Conveyancer, Notary Public and Insurance Agent and later built the red brick

house at 34 Queen. He was the son of Lewis Settlers and became a teacher. He served as Clerk of



Huron Twp., Clerk of Division Court, Justice of the Peace and Conveyancer and Notary Public, as well as many other community activities. When Angus Martyn died in 1925, the business was continued by his son, Ross H. Martyn. The insurance business was sold in 1969 to what became Miller Insurance of Kincardine and the building was sold to the proprietors of the law firm of Crawford, Mill and Davies of Wingham who established a Ripley office.

5. 44 and 42 Queen Street

The west part of this property was purchased in 1928 for a farm equipment business and has operated as a farm implement or supply company



ever since. The Traders Bank of Canada occupied the east half of the lot in 1903. In 1912 The Royal Bank of Canada took over from the Traders Bank and continued business in the same

location. In 1977 the Royal Bank vacated the premises constructing a new building across Queen Street. Since then, various businesses have operated from here including a variety store, women's clothing store, and a flower shop.

6. 87 Huron Street

W. J. Crawford opened a grocery business in 1898 in this building, newly built to replace one lost in a

fire. Mr. Crawford and his son, Orah, continued in the grocery business until 1941 when the business was sold to George Johnston. Mr. Reg Moore

purchased the store in 1946 and continued the grocery business to 1971.

Many changes to the façade were made over the years. The grocery tradition continued for several more decades and ended only in recent times.



7. 85 Huron Street

The building was known as the Long Block as A. T. Long operated a tailor shop here in 1894 and was owner of the lot in 1879 until the early 1920's. It has housed a barber shop and a shoe repair shop and in the early 1900s many milliners were listed as operating from these premises. The building had at least two sections with separate entrances. The Bank of Hamilton was located in the south end of this building. The Royal Bank also did business from this location prior to moving to 89 Huron St. (44 Queen). In the mid 1900's it housed a grocery store then was a butcher shop through several decades.

8. 83 Huron St.

In 1882 it was called the Shelton Block and a drug store was operated from here for many years by Dr. Daniel Fisher Smith and by Dr. McCrimmon. In 1919 Russell and Isabella White came to Ripley and took over the drug store from Dr. McCrimmon, purchasing it in 1929 and living in the upstairs apartment. The drugstore burned in 1964 and this was the end of a drug store in Ripley. In 1992 Macadam's Mini Mart expanded into it.

9. 81 Huron Street

Built in the late 1880's or early 1890's, this building at one time had two sections with separate entrances. A jewelry shop operated from one section and a shoe repair shop on the other side. In 1896 a watchmaker from Switzerland is listed as a jeweller at this location and "Chid" Jackson, a local early entrepreneur, also operated a jewelry store from this location. Other enterprises run from this location included a book store, a grocery store, and a furniture store. In 1988 it was amalgamated into the variety store next door.

10. 79 Huron Street

Harry Palmer Chapman built this location and operated a book store from 1903 to 1923 when the family moved to Kincardine. Harry ran a weekly newspaper called the Ripley Enquirer from the back of the

building and sold it for three cents or one dollar a year. He was also appointed Justice of the Peace. He

would hold the hearings of minor disputes in the rear of the store, among his law books and racks of wallpaper.

Watt's Variety store operated from this location from 1946 to 1982, although they had operated



their business in Ripley at various locations since 1938. In 1988 it became Mac Adam's Mini Mart which expanded into 81 and 83 Huron. Although ownership has changed in more recent years the name and purpose remains.

11. 77 Huron Street

Continuously operated as a hardware store from the late 1800's until the mid 1990s, T. W. Davis and

his daughter Priscilla Clapp were the first owners, about 1890, and rented out the premises. Duncan Munn joined with Mr. Davis in operating a hardware store



at this location in the early

1900's and according to an article in the Hardware and Metal Journal, July 5, 1924, Mr. Munn was an enterprising business man and active community member. Andrew Porteous was another merchant who operated a hardware business from this location. In 1944 Priscilla Clapp sold the building to Duncan McArthur and he purchased the business from Mr. Porteous. Later owners were the McArthurs, the Bensons, the Reeves, the Fullers, the Kosmerlys and finally the Lucknow District Co-Op. This ended its era as a hardware store.

12. 75 Huron Street

One of the first bakers listed for Ripley is P. F.

Hamlin who came to Ripley in 1893 and he is listed as owner of this property in 1896. It operated as a bakery and grocery for many years and in 1914 Wm. N. Bushell



purchased it and operated it for 30 years. Donald and Margaret Blue operated Blue's Grocery and Bakery from 1944 to 1962. The last family to operate the bake shop was Elliott and Grace Carruthers.

The "Bread Wagon" was used to deliver bread and groceries up and down the concessions. The winter of 1947 was exceptionally stormy and the roads were closed much of the time. Yeast ran out at the Bake Shop and had to be dropped by plane at the cemetery.

13. 84 Huron Street

A new building was erected on this site in 1930 by George MacLean, Sr., to house his barbershop, harness making business and a tailor shop. In 1945 the Huron & Kinloss Telephone Company purchased it. The Huron Kinloss Municipal Telephone System was established in 1911 by the Township of Huron to serve the interests of the rural population. It was the first "subscriber owned" municipal telephone system in the Province of Ontario. The Central Office, relocated from 32 Queen Street, had a new two-position switchboard. When the telephones first came into use the cost was \$10 per year paid with your taxes and each customer had to provide two, dry cell batteries!

14. 82 Huron Street

The Post Office opened on this location in 1873, previously at 7 Malcolm Street, due to the influence of Wm. Carter who wanted it in

or near his liquor store!

The McInnes family was in charge for many years and Paul McInnes, a Scotsman, had

the name changed to Dingwall from 1874 to 1880



when it reverted to Ripley. The original building may have burned in the 1888 fire which swept through Ripley. John Angus "Gus" MacLeod was a long time post master and he added the upstairs apartment for living quarters. The Post Office moved to its new location at 21 Jessie Street in 1969.

15. 80 Huron Street

The house was built about 1875 and was the family home of the McInnes family (see also 46 Queen and 82 Huron). In 1930 the first of the "doctors" moved to Ripley and purchased this home. Dr. Donald R. Finlayson, Dr. Dario D. Carpeneto and Dr. J. B. Tindall lived consecutively in this home and operated their practices from here. An addition was built for a reception room and office which was later enlarged and a second storey added. Dr. Tindall was the last resident doctor in Ripley.

16. 18 Jessie Street

Early accounts for this property report that Norman MacKay operated a barber shop from a building that was brought in from the "bombing range" on Conc. 6 Huron Twp., and a barn that housed Wm. Bushell's horses and van for deliveries of his groceries and baking (see 75 Huron St.). Branch 440 of the Royal Canadian Legion purchased the property in 1956 and the shop was sold and the barn used as part of the new hall. The Legion Hall contained a room for the Ripley Public Library and public washrooms.



17. 17 Jessie Street

About 1903 some of the local citizens organized the Acetylene Gas Company. The first plant was located on this property and pipes ran all over Ripley. The plant was mostly automatic but a person was employed to add a fresh charge of calcium carbide and maintain a supply of water. He also lit the street lamps at 7 p.m. in the winter and turned them off at 9 a.m. The number of customers increased so that in 1906 it was necessary to enlarge the plant and a lot was purchased on Tain Street. It wasn't until 1921 that hydro power was installed.

18. 11 Jessie Street

In 1881 the Ripley Branch of the Kincardine Baptist Church purchased the property and erected a church. Richard Congram and his three sons built the church and took the timbers from their own bush and hauled them to Kay's mill between the 6th and 8th Concession for sawing. It ceased to function as a church in 1903. It changed hands several times and in about 1915 it was converted to a residence.

19. 2-4 Jessie Street

In 1885 a two-room brick school designated S. S. 10, Huron Twp., was constructed, with a third classroom added in 1896.

Enrollment fluctuated and in 1930 the third classroom closed, to be reopened in 1949. The diminishing rural population forced many school sections to close their buildings and join in Ripley. In 1953 a Township Area School

Board was formed and in 1963 five more school sections decided to join Ripley which necessitated the building of a new school at 1 Queen Street. The school was sold and converted to apartments.



20. I Jessie Street

This gracious triple brick home at the bottom of what was then two dead- end streets, Jessie and McGill, was built in 1885, by Dr. Daniel Smith. He bought 25 acres stretching from Queen St. to Park St., and subdivided the land, planted walnut trees, and named the streets. He designed and built the house in the centre. The house, called Bernhardt, is 3,000 sq. feet, and the walls are three layers of brick. The reception room and office were on the east side of the house. The house and practice was sold to Dr. Donald A. McCrimmon in 1895 and in 1918 to the J. B. Martyn Family. The house remained in the Martyn family until 1999.



MacDonald Walk

I. I MacDonald Street (formerly Ross St.)

This house was built in 1909 for Duncan Munn and his wife, Mary Alice "Allie" Harris, one of two houses built with post and beam construction in Ripley. It remained in the Munn family until 1988.

Duncan was a prominent citizen and a dry goods merchant

that operated on Queen St.

He was Reeve of Ripley for 17 years and Ripley's first Warden of Bruce Co. in 1935. Allie Harris Munn was a talented musician and shared her talent with the community. She also ran a millinery shop for many years. See also Ross Walk, #11 for more detail.

Their daughter, Marion, was also talented in music and became a teacher, teaching 10 years in the Ripley public school and 30 years in Toronto. She continued to spend her summers in Ripley. Their son, John Duncan Munn, became a doctor and in 1946 was the head of Radiology Dept. at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto and Professor of Radiology at the U. of T. He was the founding director of the Ontario Orthopedic and Arthritic Hospital and he practiced at Ontario Crippled Children's Hospital in Toronto from 1968 – 77. He also had a private practice for 22 years. He and his wife retired to a farm near Lurgan Beach in 1978. The Ripley Medical Centre was built on land donated by Dr. Munn.



2. 27 Tain Street

This was the former site of the Methodist Church and, while the date of building is unknown, the deed for the property is dated 1880 and records of

meetings are dated as early as 1884. The building was a fine brick structure, Gothic in style, seating about 125. In 1890 the congregation purchased the house across the road for a

parsonage; and in 1925, the congregation joined St. Andrew's United Church. This brick home was constructed in about 1934 after the Methodist Church was torn down. The house sits on the foundation of the old church. Notice the cut stones in the foundation.



3. 69 Huron Street

The original building on this lot was a buggy factory. The downstairs was used for manufacturing and the upstairs as a showroom with a large hand operated elevator to move the carriages and buggies up and down. With the advent of motorized vehicles the building was sold and used as an implement shop to sell McCormick Deering machinery. Clarence Pollock purchased the building in 1950 for an electric and plumbing store and the upstairs was converted to an apartment. The front section was added in 1976. In 2000, the building was demolished when Keith Pollock, son of Clarence expanded Pollock Electric.



4. 69 B Huron Street

The earliest record of a blacksmith at this location is the 1881 census. David Irwin is listed as a blacksmith and he may have built this “two forge shop”. There were many blacksmiths and their



apprentices over the years shoeing horses and repairing farm machinery. Wagon wheel rims were made in a cement form at the rear of the building, the wood was pieced together and the spokes fitted on. Pollock Electric purchased the building for storage. In 2000, the building was demolished for expansion.

5. 70-72 Huron Street

These two houses were once one structure called the Queen's Hotel, also known as the King Edward and perhaps the Farmers. It was built in 1877 and changed hands several times. In 1900 it was sold when the owner purchased the Commercial Hotel (48 Queen St.). The new owner divided the building to make two dwellings, a cement block one at 72 Huron and a frame one at 70 Huron.

6. 74 Huron Street

The early building on this lot was used for woodworking and storage, and a carriage shop. In 1940 it was purchased by the village and used as a municipal building with a fire hall, council chambers, clerk's office and library. In 1974 the present



building was erected. The Ripley Huron Fire Department is a volunteer fire department and in 2015 hired its first full time Chief.

7. 76 Huron Street

The first paper edited in Ripley was known as the "Telephone"

and was edited by H.P.

Chapman (see 79 Huron St.).

In 1894 the name changed to the Ripley Enquirer and in

1895 it was

sold to George H. Mooney who changed the name to the Ripley Express. In 1900 Mr. Mooney moved the paper to this location which fronted on Jessie Street. The paper sold for \$1.50 for a yearly subscription. It was a weekly paper with a circulation of about 800. The library was at the back (south end) and a dwelling at the east side. A liquor store where candy, tobacco and clay pipes were sold in the area that became the library. In 1929 The Ripley Express was sold to J. J. Hunter of Kincardine. After the exit of the printing business the building was used for a tinsmith and electrical shop and furniture storage. It eventually became the parking lot and gas pump area for the Shell Station, later the Heinisch Service Centre. The service centre was removed in 2011.



8. 23 Jessie Street

The Ripley "Mechanic's Institute" was organized in 1887 and it became the Ripley Public Library in 1895. Subscriptions to religious bulletins, daily newspapers, and illustrated periodicals were paid by readers, and municipal and county grants. The reading room was first in the rear of the H. P Chapman store at 79 Huron St. and in 1891 it moved to Angus Martyn's office at 38 Queen St.

But, over the years, the library had many homes including 76 Huron St., the fire hall, and a room in the Legion



Hall. In 1967 Bruce

County took over the operation of all libraries in the County. This building was opened in 1987 funded, in part, by proceeds from the 1985 Reunion matched by government grants.

This lot had a varied history. At one time an oatmeal mill was here, later it was used as a livery for the Commercial Hotel, 48 Queen St., and a small home was built in the early 1920's.

9. 25 Jessie Street

Ripley's jail was once on this property. It was built in 1885 for \$36 including "extra facilities". The building was sold in 1920 and at some time later the railroad section house was moved from Gore Park (now Lewis Park) to this location to form the basis of the current home.



10. 21 Ripley Street

In 1907 this property was the Ripley Lawn Bowling Club Green. The Club, of about 20 individuals, purchased the property for the bowling green and remained active until the 1940's. The current home was built in 1972.



11. 2-4 Ripley Street

In 1896 the Ripley Flax Co. Ltd. was registered as the owners of this property. Farmers were contracted to grow the flax, mostly on Con. 6 west of Ripley. The flax was harvested, left to dry on the ground in bundles, then the dried bundles were gathered and stored in sheds. In the winter the flax was processed by feeding the stalks into a machine called a scutcher. The seeds were cleaned and used for the next crop, or sold and made into flax seed meal and the oil was pressed out of the seed to

make linseed oil, and the fibre was sold to make fine linen. It is reported that the Mill employed as



many as 50 workers during the summer and 20 during the winter. In 1914 the business was sold and in 1920 the flax crop failed. In 1932 the flax mill burned. The homes on these two lots were built in the early 1950's.

12. Lewis Trail

A 3 km loop out and back, the trail meanders back to a bush which is on the site of the former Huron Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, established by the first Lewis settlers. Follow the trail into the bush to the cemetery memorial. The headstones mounted in the cement cairns represent only a few of the approximately 300 Lewis settlers who were buried in the cemetery. Erosion of the river bank destroyed many of the headstones and in 1977 a Cemetery Committee was struck to preserve the remaining headstones.



13. 32 Park Street

Donald "Councillor Dan" MacDonald arrived with the Lewis Settlers along with his wife, Christina MacLeod, his parents, Angus MacDonald and Catherine Campbell, and three siblings. All are buried in the Huron Presbyterian Church Cemetery (see #12 Lewis Trail). Mr. MacDonald laid claim to the north fifty acres of L. 15 on Con. 7 of Huron (basically the town of Ripley) in 1852 and received the patent for the land in 1869, after the conditions for improvements to the land had been made. He sold all but four acres (this property and the property to the east) to Wm. Carter in 1873. This property, the location of the original log home, remained in the hands of direct descendants: his granddaughter, Christena Matheson Picot, and then her daughter, Margaret (Peggy) Chappell, until 2005.



Donald MacDonald played an important role in the development of municipal government. He served on council, as bailiff, warden and postmaster. He helped administer the police village of Ripley in 1878 and was known as "Councillor Dan", founder of Ripley.

14. 24 Park Street

The Huron Township Agricultural Society was reportedly organized in 1863. The fall fair moved into Ripley in about 1877 to what was then called Huron Market (see

7 Blake St.). In

1887 a framed fall fair building was built at this

location and the

fair moved to

this site. The first

Ripley arena was in the Agricultural

Society building on this site and the Curling Club

built a clubroom at the north end. Later the north

part was metal covered and used by Huron

Township as a storage shed.

The Turf Club, operating under the charter of the

Agricultural Society, purchased land adjacent to the agricultural grounds in 1920 which allowed the $\frac{1}{4}$

mile racing track to be increased to a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile racing track with a starters stand just north of the

grandstand (built in 1914). There are records of

races held in 1921, 1922 and 1923. However, in

1923 the Club introduced betting which met with

violent opposition from local ministers and appears to have caused the demise of the Turf Club.

In 1949 the Agricultural Society purchased the fall

fair hall from Huron Township and moved the fair

site to the ball park (Memorial Park, Queen Street).



15. I James Street

When the congregation of the Huron Presbyterian Church, established by the Lewis Settlers on the 6th concession, out grew their log church they built this large, brick building in 1886 and it became St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Services continued to be held in both Gaelic and English. In 1922 after much discord, the Huron and Knox Presbyterian congregations amalgamated under St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Knox Presbyterian Church was sold.



However, the union of all churches in Canada was strongly recommended and the proposed union was to merge Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches. Presbyterians were given the right to vote for or against union. The group who chose to remain in the Presbyterian Church bought back Knox and St. Andrew's United Church was established on this site in 1925.

The historical walk around the village of Ripley dates back to the first known settlement in the mid 1800's. The tour will take you around Ripley describing various land marks, first settlers and the businesses that once stood on the streets of Ripley.

We hope you enjoy the walking tour and the many interesting historical facts about the village of Ripley.

Resources Used

A History of Huron and it's Hub Ripley 1850-1975

Families and Farms of Huron,
with it's hub Ripley 1852-1984

Ripley, Huron's Hub 1875-1992

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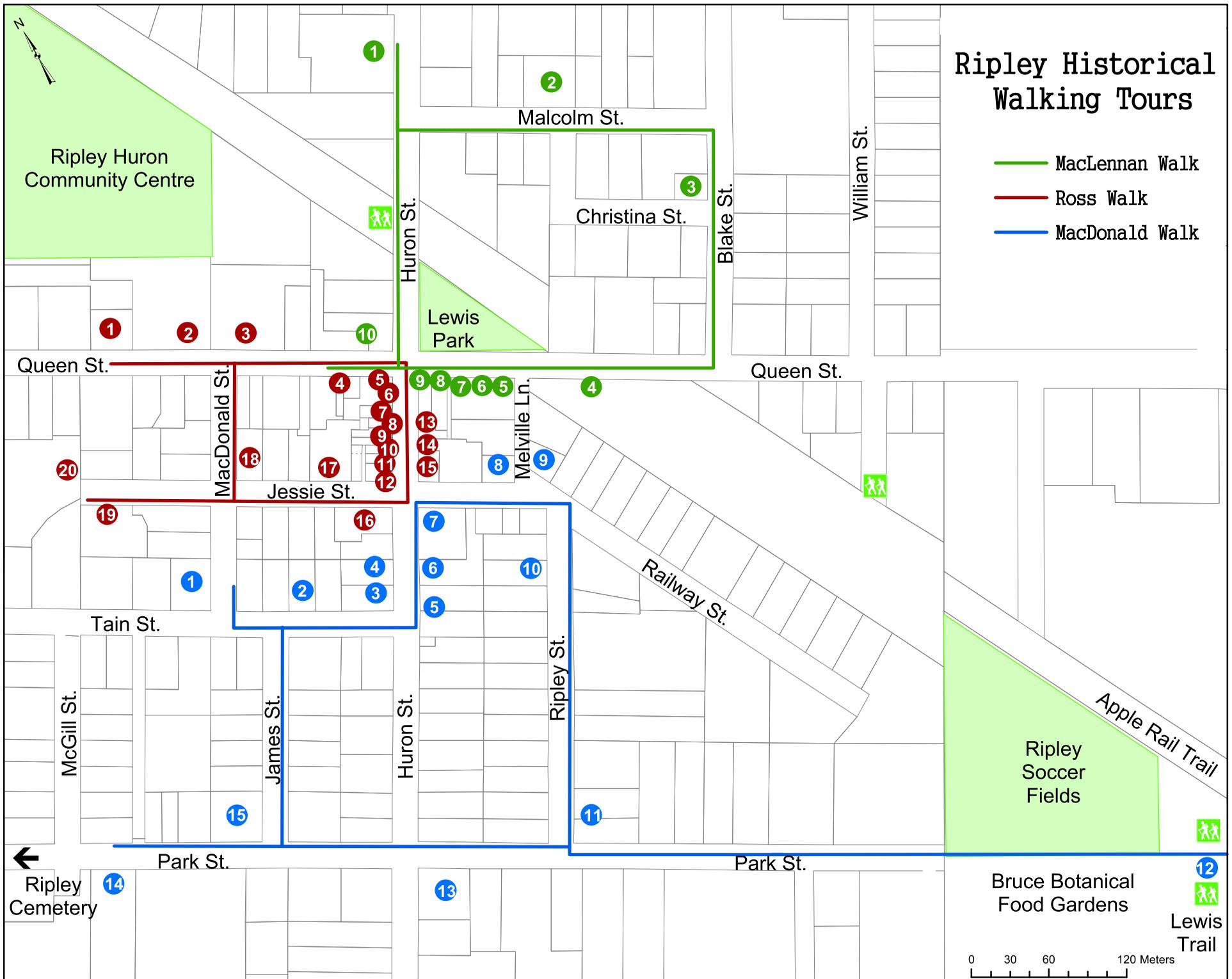
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Ripley Historical Walking Tours

-  MacLennan Walk
-  Ross Walk
-  MacDonald Walk



0 30 60 120 Meters

12
Lewis Trail