

Tour 3



Rodney/Blake Streets
WALKING TOUR

Tour 3 MAP

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42 Blake Street

On the north side of Blake Street, Sir James Robert Gowan built the cottage at 42 Blake Street for his coachman. Walking west along Blake from the park, this cottage appears as the one story red and black brick house with the decorative porch nearest to the street. It is all that remains of the once prominent Gowan properties.



99 Blake Street

The attractive residence at 99 Blake was built in the 1870's. One early occupant was a gardener, Edward Justice, whose greenhouse operation stood to the west of the house. Although modest in size, this house exhibits one of the more ambitious examples of decorative brickwork in Barrie. A new porch was added in the 1990s.



103 Blake Street

At the southeast corner of Blake and Rodney is 103 Blake Street. This lovely building is believed to have been built in 1886 by Mr. H.B. Spotton. Spotton was the Principal of the Grammar School and Barrie Collegiate Institute from 1868 to 1891. The house was later owned by another Principal, Mr. Redditt.

4



11 Rodney Street

To view 11 Rodney it is necessary to cross Blake Street and walk south on the east side of Rodney. Set back from the street is this Tudoresque Queen Anne style house that was once known as Glen Ormond.

This stately residence was built in 1895 for John Dickinson, who had a career as a civil engineer, surveyor and lawyer.

For \$3500, Dickinson had George Ball construct the residence according to the design of a local architect Eustace Bird. In 1910, T.D. Rees, the head of a lumber company in New Orleans, Louisiana, purchased Glen Ormond for use as a summer home. Each year Rees and his family, accompanied by their domestic staff, travelled to Barrie in a private railcar. In 1929, Rees sold the property at public auction, complete with furnishings and boats. During World War II, it was rumoured that a gambling den was in operation in the basement. (This may explain the iron doors, false floor in the vault, painted wall mural, and bar that remain in the basement!)

5



113 Blake Street

Looking south to Kempenfelt Bay, it is easy to understand why the Bay has always been the "jewel" of Lake Simcoe and Barrie. Properties such as Glen Ormond enjoyed an unrestricted view of the Bay and boasted their own private bathing beaches. Returning to the southeast corner of Blake and Rodney, the house at 113 Blake was built for the gardener at Glen Ormond.

6



134 Blake Street

Walking east along the south side of Blake reveals the attractive Gothic Revival style residence on the north side at 134 Blake.

The first house on the site was built by a banker, William Holt. Holt sold the property in 1874. Sometime later the building was destroyed, probably by fire. Holt himself was found floating in the Bay in 1882, the apparent victim of an unsolved drowning "accident". Two years later, James Pugh acquitted the property and immediately built the house that stands today.



126 Blake Street

The first headmaster, Frederic Gore, financed an operation of schools through grants and fees. He supplemented his personal income by providing accommodation for the boarding students. By 1856, Gore had constructed the outstanding Georgian style building at 126 Blake as a boarding house and office. On an upstairs window the words "M. Gaviller" (who inhabited this room in September 1858) are scribed. "M.G" can still be seen today. Gaviller was a student who later became an architect and surveyor.



47 Rodney Street

In 1849, Frederic Gore, headmaster for the Grammar School, built the Regency Cottage style residence at 47 Rodney Street. Gore resided there with his wife and, sometimes, as many as twenty-five out-of-town boarding students. In 1863, the building became the home of Benjamin Walker Smith, first Sheriff of Simcoe County. In a dramatic rescue on July 1, 1859, Smith saved the lives of the Hon. John A. Macdonald first Prime Minister of Canada and other dignitaries when their steamer, the Ploughboy, drifted dangerously close to the rocks during a storm on Georgian Bay.



Fence/Barn on Collingwood Street

The barn belongs to the Gore/Smith residence and replaced one which burned in 1915. Observing the flames from Glen Ormond, David Rees rushed to the site. Grabbing a ladder and fire axe, Rees cut a hole in the roof of the summer kitchen. He ordered a firefighter to direct a hose into the roof and prevented the fire from

spreading to the house. Not original to its present location, the attractive wood fences adjoining the barn dates to about 1850. The solid boards along the base are called pig boards. These were designed to keep stray pigs from entering the yard around the house!





10

142 Collingwood Street

At the top of the hill, 142 Collingwood Street, is the Second Empire style mansion built by dentist Charles Bosanko. Many of the finest homes in Barrie were built on natural ridges of land and faced south to command a sweeping view of Kempenfelt Bay. Dr. Bosanko built his residence, which once featured a centre tower with a mansard roof and iron cresting, in 1879. Unfortunately, he soon found commuting to his dental practice on Collier Street too difficult and sold the house. The Carriage stone on the lawn bears the name Beverly Hall, which is believed to be an early name for the Bosanko residence.



11

310 Codrington Street

On the north side of Codrington Street facing the eastern end of a small park located at the intersection of Cook, Codrington and Highland Avenue, is the delightful structure at 310 Codrington. This home probably was built in 1874 by a local printer, Alexander Laurie.



12

268 Codrington Street

Captain William Grubbe built this modest home at 268 Codrington about 1851. It was likely the first house built in the area known as "The Commons", and is the only one placed at a considerable distance from the street. Captain Grubbe was born in England in 1812 and entered the service of the East India Company when in his teens. In 1845, he was promoted to the rank of captain for his bravery in storming a citadel in India. Two years later, he and his family settled in Barrie. Trained at a time when cameras were rare, Captain Grubbe was skilled at accurately portraying landscapes. In 1853, he painted a water colour that remains the earliest known panoramic view of Barrie. The water colour is preserved at the Simcoe County Archives in Midhurst.



Barrie Heritage Awards

The Heritage Barrie Committee holds the Barrie Heritage Awards each year for property owners and individuals who've made strides in fostering local identity through heritage preservation and awareness in Barrie. During the nomination period, all residents are invited to submit nominations for a property from any of the following categories:

- Residential Buildings
- Commercial Building with a business including office, restaurant or store
- Institutional Building such as a church, school, or public facility
- Individual or Group of people who stand out in terms of their heritage contribution to the community.

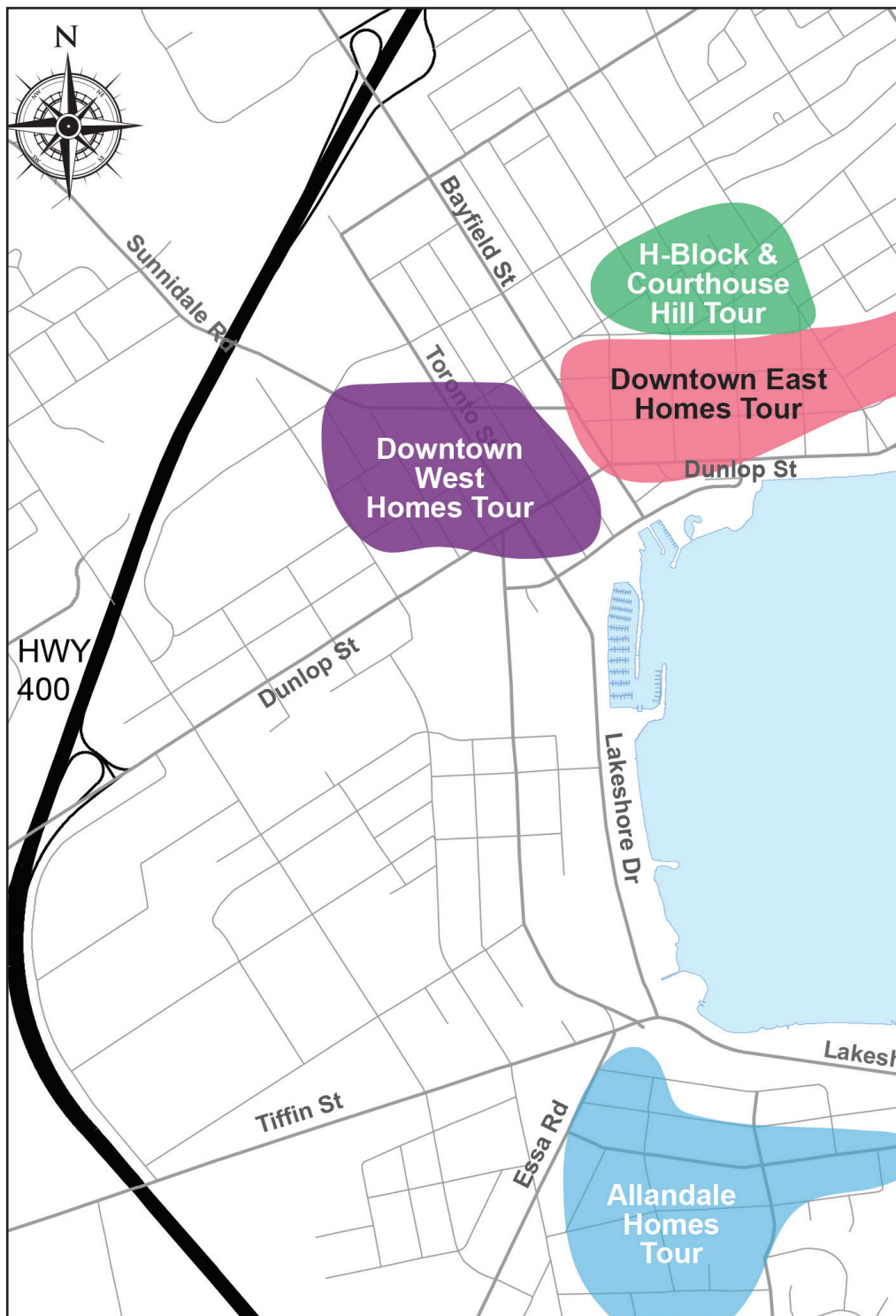
Nominations for **buildings with at least two of the following attributes** will be considered:

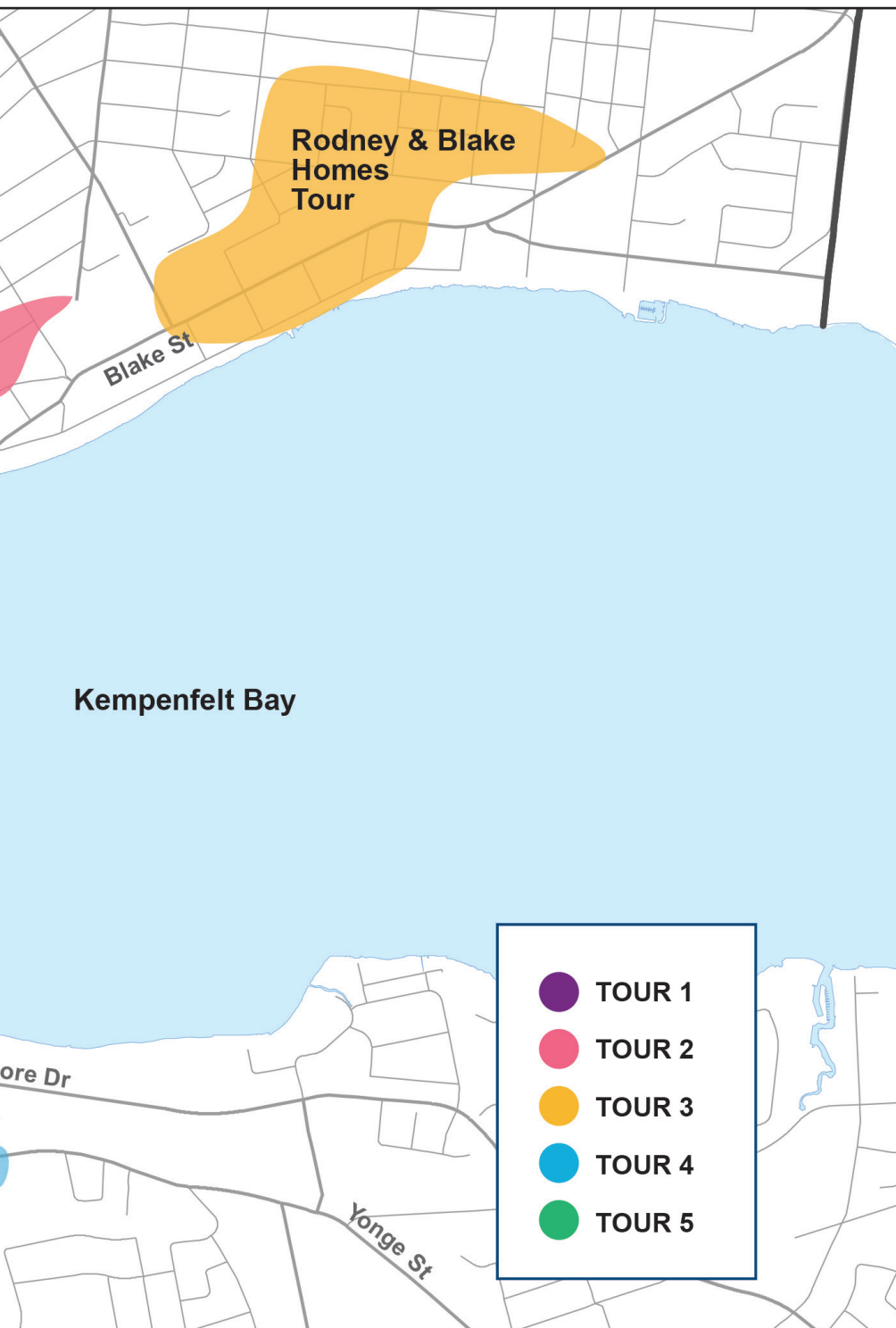
- Are at least one hundred years old
- The property and buildings are well maintained
- Are sensitive to the heritage features of the property, especially if the property has been restored, rehabilitated or adaptively re-used
- Enhances the streetscape
- Assists in revitalizing the community through heritage conservation

Nominations for an Individual **with the following attributes** will be considered:

- Demonstrate a commitment to heritage preservation
- Built awareness and understanding of local history and heritage
- Help revitalize the community through building local heritage awareness

Heritage Barrie Committee members will select award winners at a regular Heritage Barrie Committee meeting. Awards are presented at a Barrie City Council meeting in December each year.







What is a Heritage Designation?

Heritage designation is an important aspect of the mandate of Heritage Barrie. Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act allows municipal councils to pass bylaws to protect properties that have architectural and/or historical significance to the community.

The designation bylaw does not prevent alteration nor does it require the owner to restore the building. Its purpose is to ensure that any proposed changes to the designated features are in keeping with, or are sympathetic to, the reasons for designation.

For further information and the list of properties designated or on the Cultural Heritage Resources Inventory, contact Heritage Barrie, c/o Planning and Development, Barrie City Hall, PO Box 400, Barrie, ON, L4M 4T5.

Municipal Heritage Register

A Municipal Heritage Register is a publically accessible list of properties that includes Designated Buildings and Buildings of Heritage Interest. It can be used to determine areas of heritage interest within a municipality. The register is regularly reviewed and updated and serves the following purposes:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in a community.
- Fosters civic identity and pride by drawing attention to the heritage and development of a community.
- Promotes knowledge and enhances an understanding of a community's cultural heritage.
- Provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage value for land-use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.
- Used as a central element of a municipal cultural plan that begins with mapping local cultural resources and then leverages these resources for economic development and community building.