



4. Prospect

On the road between Richmond and Franktown is found a small community known as Prospect. King's Creek flows to the west of the Village. Prospect was located on one of the first roads in Lanark County which connected the military settlements of Richmond and Perth. In 1857, the Canada Directory stated that Prospect had daily mail and a population of about seventy-five.

5. Cuckoo's Nest

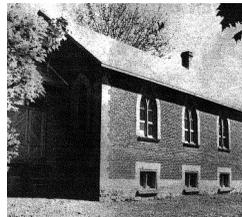


Around 1830, Robert Saunders and neighbours decided to build a school house in the southeast of Beckwith Township. While clearing a corner lot on the third concession they discovered a bird nesting in one of the trees. They identified that bird as a Cuckoo and decided to preserve the tree for the bird's home. The school then became known as "Cuckoo's Nest School", which then led to the School Section itself becoming known as "Cuckoo's Nest."



6. Franktown

Franktown, originally considered for the capital of Canada, is now a small village known as the "Lilac Capital of Ontario." Each spring in the village of Franktown, lilacs bloom in abundance. An annual "Franktown Lilac Festival" is celebrated each year on the 4th Saturday in May. Franktown is home to one of the oldest Anglican churches in the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario, St. James Anglican Church (1822).



7. Gillies Corners

Just west of Franktown, on the Settler's first road between Perth and Beckwith is Gillies Corners. Archibald Gillies was settled there in 1819 ran a licensed Inn for a period from the 1830's to the 1850's. A good location as Gillies Corners was on the main road to Smiths Falls before highway 29 was built in 1929.



8. Tennyson

Tennyson is located between Black's Corners and Perth, probably can be taken to have been named for the poet Lord Tennyson. It was first settled in 1817 and grew to have a school house, Baptist and Anglican churches, cemetery, store, post office and cheese factory.



9. Scotch Corners

Scotch Corners, lying north and west of the Mississippi Lake in the Township of Beckwith, though not on a highway, is rich in the history of brave and hardy settlers.

The earliest Scotch settlers made their appearance here in 1828. Little is known of how these settlers reached here, but no doubt the trip was long and arduous. The majority of the earliest settlers were Perthshire, Scotland, hence the name Scotch Corners.

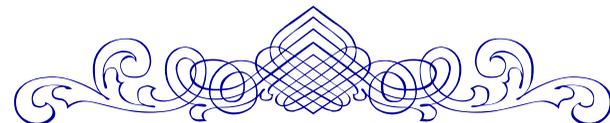


Township of Beckwith

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Heritage Driving Tours

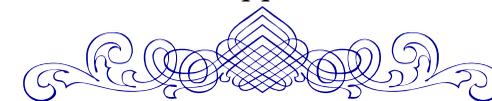
Hamlets of BECKWITH TOWNSHIP



Franktown Hotel

Photo by James Drapeau in 2013

Distance: Approx 80km



Tour Four



1. Blacks Corners

Blacks Corners was first settled in the 1830's by Mr. John Black who opened and operated a blacksmith shop. Mr. J. Black remained in the area until after the Township purchased land from Mr. John Roberts to build a municipal hall. Mr. Alexander Stewart opened a shop during this time period and was so successful that he was able to build a large stone house and other out-buildings.

In 1857 the first municipal hall was built on lot 14 in the 8th Concession. Blacks Corners was thought to be the centre of the Township's population and therefore the best place to build the meeting hall.

In 2017 a plaque was installed to commemorate the Original Municipal Office at the site on Dakers Road.

2. Ashton



The emergence of Ashton as a local centre began with the arrival of English immigrant John Sumner. Sumner erected the first mill of Ashton in 1841, as well as a general store. 10 years later Sumners' store became one of the first rural post offices in the British colonies. Ashton was originally name Sumner's Corners, and was re-named by the Federal Government. Ashton Village is divided between Beckwith Township and the City of Ottawa.



3. The Derry

The name "Derry" comes from the Gaelic word meaning a grove of trees. According to local tradition early settlers were reminded of the word "Derry" by the groves of ash, oak and birch trees that covered the landscape in the Derry. The Derry was isolated by swamp on three sides.

A Brief History of Beckwith Township

The Township of Beckwith was surveyed in 1816 and settlement started around 1817 with about 27 land grants being acted on.

The Township was named after Sir Thomas Sydney Beckwith (born in 1772 and died in 1831). Sir Sydney Beckwith was the Quarter Master General for Canada between 1815 and 1823.

By the 1860's Beckwith's population was 2,629 which included Villages with schools, churches, blacksmith shops, cobblers, tailors, coopers, taverns, general stores, etc.

In 2016 Beckwith's population was 7,644 made up of those "Proud of their past and confident in the Future".

This Brochure developed by

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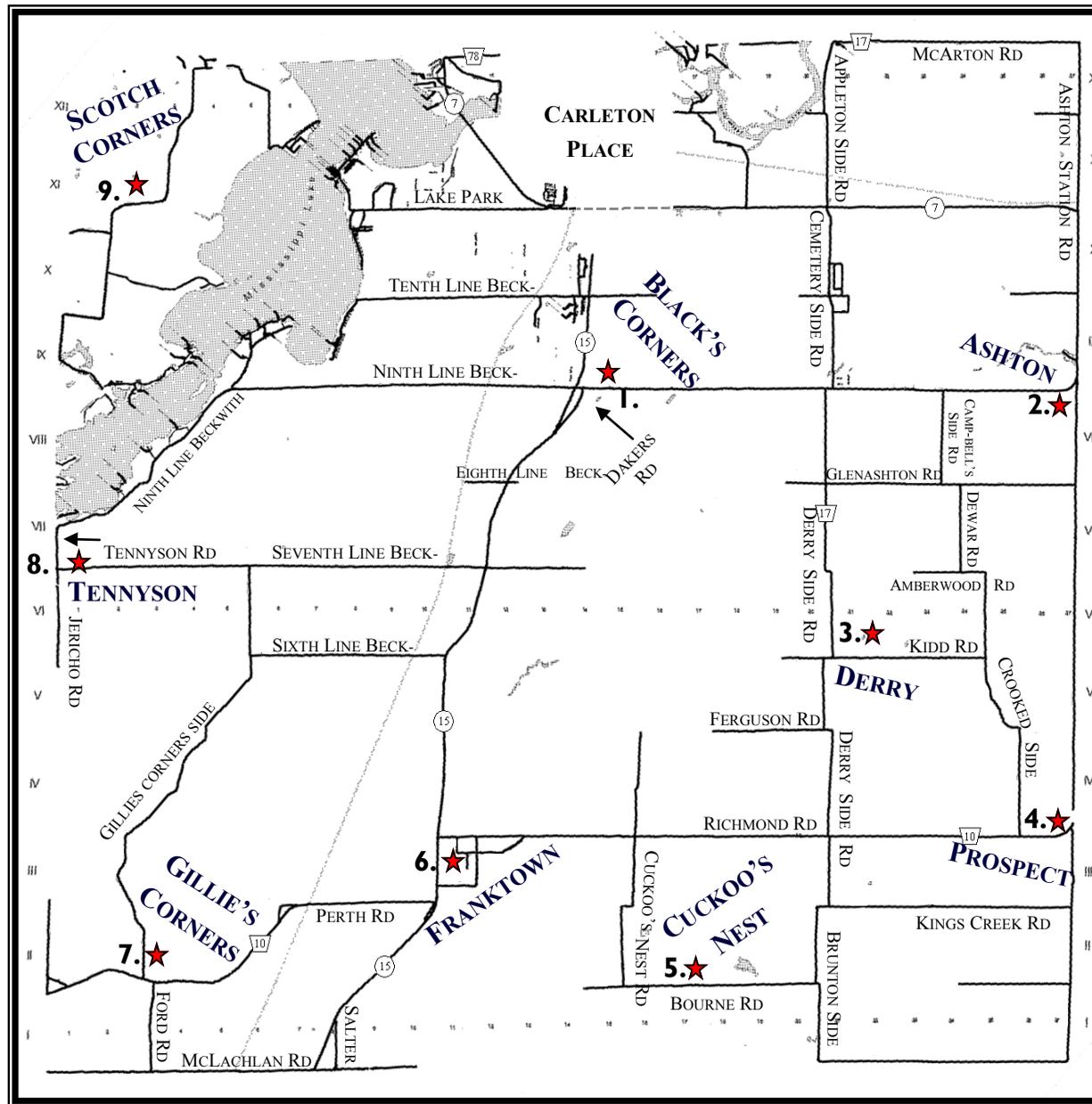


Beckwith

Then and Now

Beckwith Then and

Now is a keepsake book containing historical stories, facts, recipes and photos of the people who helped create the modern day *Beckwith in the Bushes*. Books can be purchased at the Beckwith Township Office for \$45.10 (HST included).



Hamlets of Beckwith Township

Black's Corners 1.

Ashton 2.

The Derry 3.

Prospect 4.

5. Cuckoo's Nest

6. Franktown

7. Gillie's Corners

8. Tennyson

9. Scotch Corners

*Please Remember to
Respect Private Property
while visiting these sites.*

For More Information

[Beckwith Historical Interactive Map](#)

The Beckwith Heritage Committee has developed an Historical Interactive Map on the history of the Township of Beckwith. Please consult our website www.twp.beckwith.on.ca under Community—History— Beckwith Historical Map.

[Beckwith Book](#)

An extensive history of the Township of Beckwith was published in 1991 by Glen J. Lockwood *Beckwith: Irish and Scottish Identities in a Canadian Community*. Copies are on display and available for sale in the Township Office reception area at the price of \$45.10 (HST included).

If you have any information or pictures in relation to any of the Hamlets that you would like to contribute to our interactive map, please contact the Township Office at 613-257-1539.