

Lanark County Driving Tour

The Highlands

LANARK
COUNTY

Get Ready

DESCRIPTION

Follow quiet roads to clean lakes and unspoiled rivers – this is true cottage country – and take the time to play a round of golf, satisfy your sweet tooth at a sugar bush or tackle one of the many well-groomed ATV/snowmobile trails, including the former line of the legendary “Kick & Push” Railway. Or just relax and enjoy the view.



Tour starts and finishes in Lanark Village, approximately 65 km.

Points of interest: Village of Lanark, Blueberry Mountain lookout, heritage architecture, Flower Station, Joe’s Lake, Robertson Lake, Purdon Conservation Area, geological features, golf course, sugar bushes.

Start Here

TO BEGIN YOUR TOUR, TAKE HWY 511 NORTH, THEN TURN LEFT ONTO FRENCH LINE.



Take a moment to stop in Green Mountain and take in a spectacular vista of rolling hills and rugged farms. The cemetery at St. Declan’s Roman Catholic Church was opened in 1898, when marked and unmarked graves from along the Clyde River were re-interred here.

TURN LEFT ONTO CAMPBELL’S ROAD, THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO FLOWER STATION ROAD.



A short detour will bring you to Clyde Forks. Clyde Forks provides one of several access points for the K&P, a former rail line from Kingston to Renfrew, now an all-season trail maintained by Mississippi Valley Conservation (MVC). Continuing along Flower Station Road will bring you to the hamlet of Flower Station, a former stop on the K&P, and Flower Lake, a popular place for swimming and picnicking. Both were named after the family who owned much of the K&P stock. Near Flower Station, you can also follow Hill of Peace Road to Blueberry Mountain Trail for one of the best lookout points in Lanark County.



RETRACE YOUR ROUTE TO JOE’S LAKE, TURN RIGHT ON BLACK CREEK RD. TURN RIGHT ONTO SOUTH LAVANT RD/CTY RD 16.

Watch out for pioneer barns and a 1970s “dome” home. Drive to the hamlet of Lavant on Robertson Lake, which has a beach, picnic area and boat launch. Lavant and the historic township of Lavant were named in honour of the county seat in Sussex of the Duke of Richmond, who visited the area in 1819 as governor-in-chief of the Canadas.



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Drive On

TURN LEFT ONTO LAVANT MILL RD

This road is reminiscent of what the country looked like during the 19th-century timber trade; however, please be advised that it is not maintained during the winter. (In that case, retrace your route on South Lavant Road (County Road 16 to Poland and pick up the tour there).



TURN LEFT ON MCDONALD'S CORNERS ROAD.

Head south toward McDonald's Corners. This hilltop village features several churches, including picturesque St. Columbkil's, and a willow labyrinth at the old schoolhouse. You are also just a short drive down Con 9 Dalhousie and Highland line from Wheeler's Maple Sugar Bush.



TURN LEFT ONTO WATSONS CORNERS ROAD

Head toward Dalhousie Lake. A detour to the left on North Shore Road presents a good view of the lake, around which are places for swimming, boating and picnicking.



TURN LEFT ON WATSONS CORNERS RD. TURN LEFT ON DALHOUSIE CONCESSION 8.

Purdon Conservation Area Orchid Trail and Visitors' Centre, Patterson Lake, is in full bloom in late June/early July, but its boardwalk and lookout, all wheelchair accessible, make it an attractive stop other times of the year, too. This rare fen is inhabited by more than 16,000 wild Showy Lady's Slipper orchids, as well as pitcher plants, propagated by the late Joe and Norah Purdon in the mid-20th century.



CONTINUE ON CONCESSION 8 TO POLAND

Drive past old farmsteads, lined with split-rail fences, and dense forest before turning right onto Dalhousie Concession 3 and through the crossroad of Hood, which is distinguished by a cluster of houses and St. James United Church (1859).

Watsons Corners is home to the oldest rural library in Canada, courtesy of the ninth Earl of Dalhousie, governor-in-chief of the Canadas (1820-28).

Before Sheridan Rapids Road, at Fiddler's Hill, you'll see an old schoolhouse where the descendants of early settlers learned their 3 R's, just before a rocky ridge where, on the right, is a geological formation known as an Indian Grindstone.

End Here

TURN LEFT ON SHERIDAN RAPIDS RD, THEN KEEP RIGHT AT THE NEXT INTERSECTION TO RETURN TO LANARK AND THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR TOUR.

