

Lanark County Driving Tours



Mississippi Tour

Get Ready

DESCRIPTION

Quiet villages, rugged farmland and acres upon acres of sugar bush draw strength from the Mississippi River which, for nearly 200 years, has fuelled the growth of this corner of Lanark County. Mills, timber, agriculture and now recreation have tapped into the Mississippi as it gathers steam, travelling across the breadth of Lanark County before emptying into the Ottawa River.



The tour starts and finishes in Almonte, approximately 90km.

Points of interest: Downtown Almonte, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, Blakeney Rapids, Pakenham Five-Span Bridge, Fulton's Sugar Bush, village of Clayton, Mill of Kintail, Mississippi River.



Start Here

EXIT ALMONTE VIA MARTIN ST NORTH (COUNTY RD 17) TO BLAKENEY

One hundred and fifty years ago, Almonte was named "Little Manchester" after the milling activity – especially textiles. Visitors can tour the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum to learn about the textile history. Once known as Shipman's Mills, Shepherd's Falls and Waterford, the town became known as Almonte, once and for all, in the 1850s, after a Mexican general of the time who gained renown for defending his country from encroachment by the United States.



Once a bustling milling community comprising woolen mills, a brewery, a flour mill, sawmills and a tannery, Blakeney is now a suburb of Almonte.



CONTINUE NORTH ON COUNTY RD 17 INTO PAKENHAM

Pakenham features a five-span, century old, stone-arch bridge across the Mississippi River. Once known for lumber mills, today it's famous for skiing, shopping and sightseeing. The village was once called Harvey's Mills at a site known as Little Falls, but was renamed for General Edward Michael Pakenham, who was killed at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

Lanark County Driving Tours



Mississippi Tour

Drive On

LEAVE PAKENHAM ON COUNTY ROAD 20 (WABA ROAD)

As you leave Pakenham on Waba Road (County Road 20), the RCMP breeding farm can be seen, where horses for the Musical Ride are raised. Continue as this becomes Campbell Side Road (County Road 24).



TURN LEFT ONTO CAMPBELL SIDE ROAD, THEN TURN LEFT ON BELLAMY ROAD. CONTINUE ONTO CONCESSION 6/SUGAR BUSH ROAD.

Follow Bellamy Road south then east to continue on 6th Concession Pakenham and Sugar Bush Road, past Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar Bush. Be sure to stop in for some pancakes!

TURN RIGHT ON RAMSAY CONCESSION 7B. TURN RIGHT ONTO BELLAMY MILLS ROAD. TURN LEFT ON TATLOCK ROAD.

Stop at the village of Clayton. Originally known as Bellamy's Mills, by 1890, Clayton had become a flourishing commercial centre with a tannery, cooperage, wagon maker, shoemaker, blacksmith, hotels, several mills and more than a dozen merchants. Stop in at the Clayton General Store for snacks, then leave Clayton heading south.



TURN LEFT ON CLAYTON ROAD. TURN LEFT ON CONCESSION 7B. TURN RIGHT ON BENNIE'S CORNERS RD.

Follow Ramsay Concession 8 to visit the Mill of Kintail. In 1930, sculptor, surgeon and physical education instructor R. Tait McKenzie transformed this former flour mill, built a century before, into a studio. Today, it is an art gallery and museum with walking trails and picnic areas throughout the 63-hectare property on the Indian River.



End Here

RETURN TO BENNIE'S CORNERS ROAD AND TURN RIGHT. TURN RIGHT AT HWY 29. TURN LEFT ON ALMONTE ST TO REACH ALMONTE AND THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR TOUR.

In the 1830s, Bennie's Corners, with several mills, threatened to rival nearby Shipman's Mills (later Almonte); however, when the railway bypassed the village in the 1850s, it soon fell into a decline, eventually becoming a ghost town. Yet, it remains the birthplace of Dr. James Naismith, physician, minister and inventor of basketball. It was also honoured in 1863 by a visit from the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII.

