

\$1.00

# STANHOPE Heritage Driving Tour

*A Self-Guided Tour of the Nooks & Crannies of  
Stanhope Township in the Haliburton Highlands*



A project of the Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum  
[www.stanhopenmuseum.on.ca](http://www.stanhopenmuseum.on.ca)

## ~ WELCOME ~

Within the treed walls of Stanhope's backwoods, and down its many winding roads, is a bounty of historic treasures.

As a rainy day excursion or simply an excuse to explore, this historic jaunt around Stanhope offers a whole new perspective to places and buildings you've wondered about - or maybe never even noticed!

Privacy, accessibility and safety have prevented us from showing you all the great old places we know about, so we've provided a tour that will whet your historic appetite and teach you a little of our history. We've also included some fun trivia.

It's a loop tour, so you can start anywhere along the route. We invite you to start in downtown Carnarvon and head east on Hwy. 118. Follow the map on page 4 and 5, and you're sure to have a pleasant drive.

You'll find food, fuel, a hot cuppa, and washrooms in Carnarvon - why not stop for lunch?

Please use common sense. Always use your signals when slowing down or stopping.

Be considerate of others on the roadways.

This is the second edition of the *Driving Tour*; stay tuned for expanded versions in future years.

All comments about, and suggestions for, this tour are heartily welcomed.

Enjoy!



## On the Cover:

The former Oscar Sisson house at 1167 North Shore Rd. was built in 1913 and originally called "Mountainside Farm". It was home to Brigadoon Riding Stables in the early 1970s before being purchased by Bob and Joan Mann of Highlands Printing in 1976.



## STANHOPE Heritage Driving Tour



### **A ~ Rogers Store: 9271 Hwy. 118 E.**

Rogers, Windsor and Alcorn, the Hitch n' Post, the Hair Lounge. The first phone call in the county was made between here and the Sisson farm on Grass River on November 29, 1921. The house pictured here was lost to fire, and the original mercantile was home to the post office with gas pumps, and the road (now Hwy. 118) once ran right up alongside the front porch, as pictured here.



### **B ~ Thomas Jones' Store: 10458 Hwy. 118 E.**

This store was a general mercantile and the post office, too. In 1911 the Maple Lake post office changed its name to Mill Hill but changed it back in 1912. The Thomas Jones General Merchant sign from the store is a prized item in the museum. This original location of the Maple Lake Post Office and farmhouse made the news in 1897 when William H. Sawyer died after a savage beating by two local men, one of whom was reportedly a jealous husband!



Half of Carnarvon is actually in Minden. The township dividing line is East and West Roads which means that Zion Church is in Stanhope but Pine Reflections is in Minden.



### **C ~ S.S. #2, Upper Maple Lake: 10484 Hwy. 118 E.**

Around 1865 the first public school in the region was built here. In 1908 the log building was replaced by the white frame building that still stands today. In 1920 it was determined that there were enough students to build another school and S.S. #5, Lower Maple Lake was built. In the 1930s this schoolhouse was used as a private home by George Fader and later the building was home to a shop called Audrey's Consignments. The school, along with Thomas Jones' store, the post office and a blacksmith's shop made up the 'hamlet' of Maple Lake.



### **D ~ Maple Lake Church: 10961 Hwy. 118 E.**

Once called the 'Twentieth Century Church', this church sits at "Clark's Corners" and dates back to 1900 when the Pine Lake and Maple Lake Methodist congregations amalgamated. Lumber was hauled from Stevens' mill on Boshkung Lake and the contractor was paid \$115 for 12 weeks' work. Its cemetery was a burying ground before the church was built, and some of Stanhope's most prominent pioneer families are buried here.

### **E ~ St. Peter's Church: 1213 St. Peter's Rd.**

St. Peter's is the most famous of stonemason John Billing's architectural contributions to Stanhope. The Dawson family donated the land and in 1887 the first frame church was built. The stone church replaced its wooden predecessor in 1905 and the entire congregation helped by donating timber and by carrying stones, sand and gravel from nearby locations. The large, square white house directly at the end of the bridge at 1717 North Shore Rd. was originally St. Peter's manse. It's now a private home.

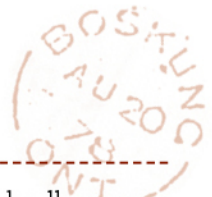


The first recorded settler in Stanhope was a squatter named Isaac Hunter who lived on the "tongue of land" between Little and Big Boshkung in 1857.



### **F ~ Lower Maple Lake School: 1703 North Shore Rd.**

Most commonly recalled as the last municipal offices, this schoolhouse was built in 1921, and in September of that year, 18 students reported for classes. The first teacher taught eight grades in one room, and used concerts to raise money for a clock and a bell. The building was home to the municipal offices from 1968 to 1991 when the current offices were built. The old school is now a private home and has been altered considerably.







### **G ~ The Ferguson Farm: 1515 North Shore Rd.**

The picturesque Alven Ferguson farm is a stunning example of an original homestead, with its well-maintained house and out buildings. It was built in 1905 by John Billing, who built several other significant stone and brick buildings in the area. The rolling hills on the property were once home to grazing cattle, and a short-lived post office named Winston is said to have been located somewhere on the large property. The big barn was lost in the August 2006 tornado.



Stanhope's glorious lakes have an interesting history of names: Boshkung was called Bushconk, Bosking and Buskank; Beech was Sawamishi; Maple was Ninatigo; Kushog has been known as, or called, Kashagawi, Cushog, Koo-Shog, and Kashagawigamog; and Little Hawk was Pipikwabi.

### **H ~ The Stanhope Museum: 1135 North Shore Rd.**

This quaint little building was the township's first council chambers, used from 1910 to 1946. It was also home to square dances and community meetings. It was moved from near the Beech River to its current location in 1996 and opened as the township's community museum a year later. Please see the back cover of this guide for more info. And please stop in for a look-see!



### **I ~ Archer's Store: 16433 Hwy. 35**

Most often recalled as Foster's, this little shop was opened by Harold Archer after he sold out his shares in the Matabanick Inn, the Boshkung Lake resort started by his parents, Tom & Lily, in the early 1920s. The store enjoyed several owners, many years of success, and more than a few stories were shared across the counter! The gas pumps were removed several years ago, and (for now) the store stands empty.

# LEGEND

 Walk Around

 Picnic Area


 Restrooms

 Hiking Trail

 Photo Opportunity

 Information

 Food

 **PLEASE** respect this Private Property icon, and stay off lawns, fences and driveways. There are protective dogs and/or security systems at some of these properties.





## “DID YOU KNOW?”



- Legend says there's gold somewhere above Hawk Lake. The story goes that a pioneer from the area moved to Guilford and explained the location of the gold to a friend. But by the time the friend managed to get back to look for the booty, two trees identifying the spot had disappeared. The gold mine has never been found.
- Remnants of Native camps have been discovered all over Haliburton County, including several sites on Boshkung Lake.
- The bell of St. Peter's Church rang for the first time on June 29, 1887. The church, then a frame structure, was re-built of stone in 1905.
- Half of Carnarvon is in Minden Township, so Stanhope is a township without a town.
- The land surrounded by Kushog, Boshkung and Halls Lake was, for a long time, called The Island because it seemed to be surrounded by water.
- There used to be a bowling alley at Buttermilk Falls and dance halls at Halls Lake and Carnarvon!
- The first telephone operators worked out of a lean-to shed attached to a farmhouse on what's now Airport Rd. The telephone office later moved to the corner to Highway 35 and North Shore Rd.
- In 1896 Stanhope suffered a diphtheria epidemic during which schools were closed and all public gatherings, including church services, were forbidden. Stanhope council passed a motion to have Minden pay \$60 “as compensation for the stamping out of the diphtheria epidemic caused by the negligence of the Minden Board of Health in handling their own epidemic”. In 1904 smallpox swept through the township and the same curfews were imposed.



## STANHOPE TOWNSHIP



## J ~ Buttermilk Falls: 16909 Hwy. 35.

This tumbling waterway was originally called Davis' Rapids, and was used to carry logs down to Minden. Buttermilk Falls has been home to a bowling alley, roller skating rink, dance hall, post office and general store. The post office closed in 1938 and the other buildings burned down in 1951. The original general store and gas pumps, pictured here, belonged to the Hewitt family of Halls Lake. It burnt down in the 1930s. There are public washrooms and a picnic area here.

## K ~ Pioneer Cemetery & Cairn:

*Boshkung Lake Rd., 100m off Hwy. 35, at the speed sign.*

Nestled among the trees stand a handful of headstones marking the final resting place of some of the area's earliest pioneers. The headstones are almost illegible from years of weather, but a stone cairn lists their names so we won't forget them. Look for the painted rock behind the speed limit sign, just past the hydro lines, on your right. Take the trail behind the cairn.



According to *Ripley's Believe it or Not*, pioneer Thomas Mason would have died on May 31, 1863 when a log rolled on him and slit his throat if not for the quick thinking of Mrs. Peggy Hewitt who took her sewing kit and stitched Thomas' neck closed with an ordinary needle and cotton thread.



## L ~ Camp Calumet Dinosaurs: *1554 Boshkung Lake Rd.*

These stone giants were built in the 1940s by camp staff and kids. The Calumet property has been subdivided into cottage lots and only two dinosaurs, one named Ogosaurus Sapiens, remain visible and they represent a million memories.







### **M ~ Mason Farm & Cemetery:** *2 kms. from Hwy. 35 at T-junction.*

Thomas Mason has been called the Patriarch of Boshkung because of his authoritative presence in rural life on “the island”. Once called The Maples, the farm was home to 3 generations of Masons over 134 years. On the corner is a tiny cemetery surrounded by cedar trees. A small brass plaque remembers the lives of 3 children, including 2 year-old George Mason, who drowned in Boshkung Lake in 1865. The cemetery is public; the farm is not.

### **N ~ The Henry Jones Home:** *1112 Boshkung Lake Rd.*

This log house was built in 1883 and originally stood near by St. Peter’s Rd. and Highway 118. At one time the minister of St. Peter’s Church boarded there. In 1976 it was purchased for \$3000, dismantled log by log, moved, restored and renovated into the permanent home you see here.



### **O ~ Boshkung School: 1001 Boshkung Lake Rd.**

The Boshkung schoolhouse was originally a log building overlooking the lake, but it burned down in 1874. A new frame school was built a little farther down the road in 1876, and a third, pictured here, was built in 1905 on the corner of Walker Line and the Buckslide Road. It is now a private home but the shape gives away its history!



Early settlers often enjoyed a little game of baseball to while away the pleasant summer evenings. The teams? Maple Lake, Boshkung Lake and Minden! It’s said that the players from Boshkung didn’t think twice about travelling to Guinn’s Corners (Hwy. 118 and Kushog Lake Rd.) for practice after a hard day in the fields.



### **P ~ St. Stephen's Church:** 2072 Buckslide Rd.

Built in 1901 on land donated by Thomas Godwin, it is his last resting place as well as the burial ground of many pioneer folk and their families. Services are no longer held here, and the building is owned by the Friends of St. Stephen's, a local not-for-profit organization. This photo is from just after the building was completed.



Contrary to popular folklore, Halls Lake isn't bottomless, and it wasn't formed by either a meteorite or a volcano.

### **Q ~ Hewitt House:** 2073 Buckslide Rd.

Records about this magnificent stone house are few and far between, but we know William Hewitt claimed the land in 1873 and that there's a stone outhouse around the back! It was built by a stonemason named King, the same man who built St. Stephen's church. The house has stood empty since the early 1950s and remains an icon in the community.



Buckslide Road was named after Daniel Buck who, in the 1880s, built a timber slide to get logs from Kushog to Boshkung. It was called Buck's Slide and eventually became Buckslide Road as it's called today.



### **R ~ Hillcrest Lodge:** 17526 Hwy. 35.

This interesting brick house was built by John Billing, the same stonemason who created St. Peter's Church. It was built for William Cooper and his wife Amy (Welch) who ran it as Hillcrest Lodge, where dances often featured William on the fiddle and Amy on the piano. The dirt road in this photo is now Hwy. 35 and the home is privately owned.





## S ~ Hawk Lake Log Chute: *1584 Big Hawk Lake Rd.*

Rebuilt in early 2005, this chute is the last one of its kind in the province! The new park, interpretive pavillion, picnic area and trail make a wonderful - and very educational, stopping point. Plan to spend some time here! This photo is from 1920 and is the oldest photo on record.



## T ~ Ox Narrows: *3494 Kushog Lake Rd. (at Hwy. 35)*

The cabins at Ox Narrows Lodge are the same shanties used by the road gangs working on Highway 35 in the 1930s. The round log lodge retains its tremendous welcoming charm and the open verandah is now closed in to accommodate restaurant guests. This photo is from 1958.



## U ~ Zion Church: *1021 East Rd.*

On January 24, 1891 the first meeting was held to discuss the erection of the first Methodist church in Stanhope at Brown's Corners "on the north side of Minden road between it and the little lake" on a half-acre donated by Alf Thomas. It was dedicated on September 13, 1891 and still enjoys a lively and dedicated congregation. This photo is from the 1940s.



## V ~ Red Barn Snack Bar: *15589 Hwy. 35.*

The Red Barn was built in 1946 by William and Vera Irvine from Niagara Falls. The place enjoyed success as a 'soda fountain' for almost 8 years. Young men from both Sherwood Forest and Calumet camps on Boshkung were frequent visitors. The Red Barn was sold in 1952, and shortly thereafter the Harrisons turned it into the home you see now. It appears to be quite a ways off the road in the photo for a reason: Hwy. 35 wasn't where it is today.





# Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum

## The Museum:

The Stanhope Museum may be small in size but our quaint little building is chock full of weird and wonderful tidbits and tales.

We annually rotate displays of 144 years of local documents, photos and artifacts, so come and meet our pioneers, hear a story, learn a lesson or spin a yarn yourself - we're always eager to learn more history!

See the working scale model of the Hawk Lake Log Chute, watch fun videos and check out the artifacts. Look for relatives in our photo album or visit The Sawyer, our 14' lumberjack who's always ready for a photo op.

## The Heritage Gardens:

Spend some time in our Heritage Gardens and learn about the historic medicinal uses of wild plants. Visit the Perennial Garden, the Herb Garden, and see what's up in the Vegetable Garden. The gardens attract abundant wildlife so keep a sharp eye! There's no admission, so just drop by whenever it suits you.

## Location:

1135 North Shore Rd., just 700m east from Hwy. 35

## Admission:

By donation

## Hours:

June through to October

Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Saturday

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

We are open year round at [www.stanhopemuseum.on.ca](http://www.stanhopemuseum.on.ca) with research info, photo galleries, the Hawk Lake Log Chute and our newsletter.

*We're 100% volunteer and proud of it! Wanna help? Give us a call at: (705) 489-2379*



HALIBURTON COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
A Community Futures Development Corporation

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) through its Community Economic Development Fund for the development and printing of this fabulous project.

Special thanks to Alan Bagg for letting us photograph his wonderful cars!

*Brochure designed by: Boomer Creative ~ (705) 754-4400 ~ [www.boomercreative.ca](http://www.boomercreative.ca)*