

The walking tour of Bobcaygeon starts in front of the Chamber of Commerce. East on Canal Street, down William Street to King Street to Sherwood Street, up Sherwood Street then East along Park Street to John Eakins Walkway. Follow the walkway along and cross the Canal Footbridge (at Lock #32), follow Bolton Street North across the Bridges to Market Square area, back across the Chamber of Commerce. Approximate length of tour is 45 minutes.



The Old School House, Bobcaygeon

The Founding of Bobcaygeon

In 1833, shortly after the settlement of the region began, Thomas Need settled at Bobcaygeon, the narrows between Sturgeon and Pigeon Lakes. When the Government began construction of a small lock and canal, Need surveyed a village plot north of the Big Bob River which was named Rokeby by Lieutenant Governor Sir John Colborne. The south side of the Big Bob River was commonly called Bobcaygeon. Mr. Need opened a store and erected a sawmill and a gristmill. By 1857 the Community contained 150 inhabitants and growth was subsequently stimulated by the construction of the Bobcaygeon Colonization Road and by the development of the large lumbering business of Mossom Boyd and his son. Bobcaygeon, with a population of about 1000, was incorporated as a village by a Victoria County By-Law in 1876.

The name “Bobcaygeon” is said to have been derived from the Native word “Bobcaygewanunk” meaning “Shallow Rapids”. A visit to Bobcaygeon is particularly enhanced by its beautiful natural setting. It is built on three islands and joined by a series of bridges with Lock #32 of the Trent-Severn Waterway system located in the centre of the Village.

Bobcaygeon offers a wide variety of activities – cottaging, boating, swimming, fishing, camping, unique shopping and great eating. Special events throughout the year add to the attraction for residents and visitors alike.

Bobcaygeon is proud of the preservation of the community’s heritage and history with the development of the Kawartha Settler’s Village and Boyd Heritage Museum.

Bobcaygeon Walking Tour



Bobcaygeon Chamber of Commerce

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Points of Interest

1. Chamber of Commerce, Boyd Heritage Museum and Library

At one time this building was the office of the M.M. Boyd Lumber Co. Mr. Boyd was called “The Lumber King of Trent Valley”. His lumbering operations at times employed as many as 600 men. The Boyd Heritage Museum contains some of the artifacts of the History of Bobcaygeon and the Boyd Family. The Amy Cosh Room (Art Room) was added in Canada’s Centennial Year (1967).

2. Boyd Property

Across from the Library entrance once stood the Original Home of the previously mentioned Boyd Family. First constructed in 1850 – fire finally destroyed it in 1994. The Boyd Lumber Mill was located across the canal on Bobcaygeon’s middle island.

3. William Street

Along this tour one will notice homes and businesses bearing plaques reading “Century Home” or “Century Building”. These plaques were erected in Canada’s Centennial Year (1967), commemorating places that were at least 100 years old at the time.

4. Trinity United Church

Bobcaygeon’s only Methodist Church erected in 1869. Most recent addition was completed in 1979.

5. Medical Centre

Looking to the left, notice the building with the tower. Built in 1873, it was the town’s Public School until 1956 when a new school was built at the town’s north end.

6. Beer Store

This was once the site of curling and skating rinks that featured natural ice.

7. Orr Building

King and Bolton Streets – Started out as a temperance hotel built by Alexander Orr. Over the years this building has worn many

banners from a Dry Goods Store, A Toy and Novelty Co., an Inn, Restaurant, and the Town’s Library until 1952. Currently belongs to the Masonic Lodge and their Temple is upstairs.

8. Poole Plaza

This corner (housing the Bank of Commerce) was once the site of Moore’s Wagon Shop which fire destroyed in 1913. A Mr. Poole ran a garage and car lot until 1970 when these current buildings were constructed.

9. Baptist Church

Constructed in about 1876 with the most recent addition (a Bible School room) completed in 1963.

10. Anglican Church

Original construction began in 1870 by the Boyd family. There were stables at the back of the Church which were torn down in 1946 to build the choir room.

11. Beach Park

One of two public beaches in Bobcaygeon. The other is Riverview Park on Little Bob River. This area used to be the railroad station (Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool R.R.Co.) from 1904 to 1958.

12. John Eakins Walkway

Follow the walkway along Regency Pointe. Here at the turn of the Century once stood the Whyte House – Bobcaygeon’s first summer resort hotel. Sherwood Gardens is now located here.

13. The corner of Bigley’s Shoes

Originally a brick building. Was a General Store which burned in 1913. Reconstructed with limestone which was quarried in Bobcaygeon and housed the Bank of North America.

14. Lock #32

Was the first lock constructed along the Trent Severn Waterway back in 1833. The Bobcaygeon Lock is one of the busiest on the Waterway and features the system’s only Swing Bridge. Its original location until 1920 was further East. The Lock was constructed in its present location between 1920 – 1922. Rebuilt last in 1967 – 1968 to operate gates starting in 1969.

15. Old Post Office Building

The Town’s Fire Hall stood here until 1920. In 1938 the current building was built and housed the Post Office until 1979.

16. Dam

In the spring, fishermen line this dam and the river banks trying to catch the Walleye that spawn in these areas.

17. Orange Hall

On the left, was once the Orange Hall, originally constructed by Irish Protestants in 1906. Was also a blacksmith shop.

18. Bobcaygeon Inn

This popular resort hotel (Locust Lodge back in 1924) has changed hands many times but each owner has maintained the quaint atmosphere of the original inn.

19. Market Square

This location was the first site of the town’s Fall Fair (now 139+ years old). Today farmers still sell fresh produce during the summer and fall.

20. New Iroquois Apartments

In 1873 this site was the Hotel Rokeby. It became an apartment complex in 1939.

21. Buckeye Centre

Was once the site of Dr. Bonnell’s office and residence. At one time, the store was home to the Bobcaygeon Independent Newspaper. The present building was rebuilt in 1953.

22. Old Bobcaygeon Police Station

Built with public donations about 1950, was home to the Bobcaygeon and Area Chamber of Commerce Tourist Centre until the move in 1997 to the current location.

23. El Toro Restaurant

First building was an elegant hotel of limestone and lumber – The Rockland House. After burning in 1904 it was rebuilt in brick and wood. The wall behind the New Rockland Motel was originally constructed as a firewall to protect the Boyd Lumber Company offices.