

## Summary of Louville History.

- 1) Louville lies on the banks of the Twelve Mile Creek, also known as Bronte Creek, surrounded by the hills of the Niagara Escarpment, now designated a World Biosphere Reserve. This area is home to a significant habitat of endangered and threatened species. There are over 36 historical sites in Louville with many of the descendants of the original owners still living in them. Louville is now home to approximately 300 people. Close by, the peaks of Mount Clemo and Rattlesnake Point can be seen. This area was once home to our Iroquois Indians and could quite well contain their burial grounds.
- 2) Louville Park was created from farmland in 1947 when a group of citizens purchased a 100 acre portion of the Featherstone farm for \$9,000., taking 56 men with 11 tractors a whole day to clear the Hawthorn bushes. The park now covers 67 acres of riverside property and also includes a one-acre plot with a 123-year-old preserved building which was once the Louville village school. John Readhead, farmer, became clerk of the Township in 1905 and his name is inscribed on one of the 104 cement steps in Louville Park, which were built in 1919 to replace the wooden steps connecting Louville to Highville. These steps are still in use today.
- 3) Louville United Church, situated on the south west corner of Britannia Rd. and Guelph Line. Built in 1872 on land donated by Joseph Colling in 1833. An extension was built on to it in 1984. It is still used as a place of worship as well as social functions and village meetings.



- 4) Louville Pioneer Cemetery. Situated on Britannia Rd. west of Guelph Line. Family names on gravestones include Colling, Featherstone, Gunby, Readhead, and Coulson, and burials still take place.
- 5) The United Church Manse situated on the north west corner of Britannia Rd. and Guelph Line. In 1883-84 a ten-room brick manse was built on land donated by Thomas Colling. The present owners have done extensive restoration and it was designated as a Heritage site by L.A.C.A.C. in 1994.
- 6) Louville School situated on its original site in Louville Park, was built of stone in 1889 on the banks of the Louville Creek on an acre of land donated by Joseph Featherstone. It is now used for various functions in the park. Its designation was School Section #9 Nelson Township.
- 7) Louville Golf Club, situated on Britannia Rd. west of Guelph Line. Originally part of the 600-acre Colling Block owned by Joseph Colling, who drew his first Plot in 1819. The design and creation of the course was started in 1971 by Eric Gudgeon, and later sold in 1998, when the new owners made major modifications. A large expansion of the clubhouse was completed in 2005.
- 8) Conservation Halton Headquarters on Britannia Rd. west of Guelph Line are located in what was once Fairview Public School, which was built to replace the old Louville Schoolhouse. The school is now situated in Kilbride.



- 9) Robert Bateman's House on the corner of Britannia Rd. and Blind Line, where the international artist and naturalist Robert Bateman purchased 10 acres from Eric Gudgeon in 1959 and designed and had the house built in 1965. It is now named Studio Brigitte Gallery, the present owners purchasing the property in 1986, with Brigitte continuing the tradition of professional artist.
- 10) The Louville General Store / Bistro on Guelph Line at Louville Park Rd. In 1853 Daniel Pickett's son Andrew, built a General Store on Guelph Line near 12 mile creek. Fire damaged it in the early 1930's. Jim Auckland rebuilt it and in 1937 his son Fred took ownership. Since then it's seen many transformations and is now known as The Louville Bistro, a very popular "watering place."
- 11) Squire Cleaver's House James Cleaver built a large field-stone house c 1837 on high ground in the forest between Louville and Cedar Springs. The ruins of this house are adjacent to a loop off the Bruce Trail, west of the millpond in Louville.
- 12) Louville Mill. Between 1834 and 1837 James Cleaver built a limestone grist mill on the east side of Guelph Line and built a dam across 12 mile creek, which created the millpond, supplying a flow of water, called the millrace, to turn the mill's water wheel. This dam is the first one upstream from Lake Ontario. Adjacent to the mill, now a residence, is the miller's house which was rebuilt in 1932 on the original home's foundations. In 1992 the mill was designated a heritage site by Burlington L.A.C.A.C. Cleaver's descendants still live in the area.



- 13) The Round House on Guelph line north of Britannia. Thomas Pickett built this octagonal house in 1860/1861. One white pine tree, cut at the Pickett sawmill in Louville, provided wood for the doors and floors. The design of the house was based on the philosophy of O.S. Fowler, an American phrenologist, who believed it ensured domestic bliss for the occupants. Pickett's descendants still live in the area.
- 14) The Boulson Home. Thomas Bolling built this house in 1872. His daughter Frances married John Boulson. Their youngest son Howard, married Irma Rochfort, who still lives here. The property has been designated as a Heritage site by Burlington L.A.C.A.C. in 1994.
- 15) McCay-Richardson-Sovereign House, constructed in 1847 by George McCay, was the first brick home built north of Dundas Highway in Nelson Township, and situated in Louville on 200 acres of land. The Campbellville Brick Plant made bricks for the house's construction from clay taken from the McCay farm. John Richardson purchased the farm in 1897, and married Clara Readhead. It is his name inscribed on the Louville to Highville steps. Audrey Boulson inherited the farm in 1951. Richard Sovereign, a 7th generation farmer, purchased the farm in 1963, and for 35 years this land became the hub of a large award-winning operation. The property is now owned and operated as kennels by Tom Breton.



- 16) Kilbride and Cumminsville. Cumminsville was named for Titus Cummins, who purchased land in 1844, on Cedar Springs Rd. just south of Kilbride. The plan of the village was laid out in 1857. The village of Kilbride was laid out by Francis Baker and William Panton around 1850. There are two pioneer cemeteries and various historic buildings. Kilbride Public School serves an area for miles around.