

# In Creemore the past is always present.

Let this map be your guide to  
Creemore's history through interpretive  
heritage markers around the village.



# These plaques tell many stories.

They tell of the Petun, Indigenous people who lived here and who welcomed the visiting Samuel de Champlain in 1616.

They tell of the people who settled here, built businesses and founded churches and schools, public spaces, medical services and newspapers.

They tell the story of a railroad connecting a small village to the wider world.

They tell of a village changing over time but never losing its essential nature as a caring community whose very name is Irish Gaelic for "Big Heart".

Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture.





# Creemore, Ontario

Take a walk through time.  
The heritage markers are numbered chronologically.



- 1. Life Before Creemore**  
Petun settlement ca.1590
- 2. Champlain Slept Here**  
Visited in 1616
- 3. First Real Estate Developer**  
Creemore in 1842
- 4. An Incredible Journey**  
Creemore's first mill est. 1843
- 5. Creemore's Industrial Park**  
The Mad River in the 1840s
- 6. Our Cemetery**  
Hill south of the river est. 1849
- 7. What's in a Name?**  
Village & streets named in the 1850s
- 8. In Sickness and in Health**  
Medical services since the 1850s
- 9. Gathering Place**  
Gowan Park ca. 1870
- 10. Creemore Log Cabin**  
Relocated 1870s residence
- 11. St. Andrew's Church**  
Presbyterian built 1876
- 12. Our Oldest Business**  
Pharmacy est. 1878
- 13. Regal service**  
Sovereign Hotel est. 1878
- 14. First and Last Train**  
The railway from 1879 to 1955
- 15. An Early Industry**  
Planing mill from 1880s to 1950s
- 16. Mainly Because of the Meat**  
Creemore Meat Market est. 1881
- 17. "Has the Bell Rung Yet?"**  
Public education since 1882
- 18. Local News**  
Newspapers since 1886
- 19. St. John's Church**  
Methodist/United built 1886
- 20. St. Luke's Church**  
Anglican, built 1887
- 21. Matchett House**  
Changing uses since 1889
- 22. Hundred Years Behind the Times**  
May's Hardware est. 1891
- 23. Little Lock Up**  
Creemore's small jail built 1892
- 24. Enterprising Family**  
Entrepreneurs from 1901
- 25. Baptist Church**  
Built 1907
- 26. Noisy River Telephone**  
Telephone service est. 1908
- 27. Saved Our Soles**  
Kembar family business est. 1908
- 28. Man Who Put Us on the Map**  
Creemore Springs Brewery est. 1987
- 29. Creemore's Silent Partner**  
Investing in the village since the 1990s



The Creemore Plaque Project is an initiative of the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society. The Creemore Heritage Walk was developed by a committee of local history enthusiasts to commemorate buildings, people and events in Creemore. These interpretive heritage markers are sponsored by the Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society with the financial support of Creemore Springs Brewery.



To learn more about this local charity, their activities and membership visit

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