



business in 1936 and operated it until 1972 when he retired at the age of 80. The upper floor was the location of the Mechanics

Institute, the public library in 1889.

14. Central House:

This building was built in the 1840s and was operated as a General Store by Carl Fisher until 1906 when Henry Kuntz began operating it. Henry eventually purchased the store from Mary Boye in 1917 and it stayed in the Kuntz family until 1957. It was known as H. Kuntz General Store, Schwartzentruber's, Hummel's, The Central House, Meyers' General Store and Bob's Variety. Today it is residential apartments. Across the street from the Central House is a white building that was known as The *Witte Hotel*. This building was built around 1885. Today, it is used as residential housing.



Vesper Springs Manor: These retirement apartments were built on the site of Baden's oldest and longest running blacksmith shop and incorporated the old home into the design. In 1874 Henry Decher came to Baden and opened up a blacksmith shop. His two sons John and Theodore joined him in 1900. They continued with this business until the late 1960s.

Words written & compiled by Rene Eby. Photos by Gary Beach and are courtesy of Heritage Wilmot.

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Welcome to **BADEN**

*Take a Step
Back in Time
and Discover
our Past*

*Self Guided
**Walking
Tour***

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1. Castle Kilbride:

James Livingston, known as the Flax and Linseed Oil King of Canada, built this National Historic site in 1877. The house boasts one of the finest collections of trompe l'oeil paintings in Canada. The house has been lovingly restored to the turn of the century appearance and includes Italian marble fireplaces, antique furniture (many of them original to the house) and Homer Watson paintings. Check the website for current hours of operation. (www.castlekilbride.ca) This property has a Wilmot Township Heritage designation.

2. Livingston Square:

This square is located just beside Castle Kilbride and includes a bandstand and an ornamental three - tiered fountain that sits amidst flowerbeds planted and maintained by the Wilmot Horticultural Society.



3. EJ's Family Restaurant:



Built in 1874 by Christopher Kraus, this building is just across the street from Castle Kilbride. It has been in continuous operation since opening and served as a strategic place of commerce as well as a meeting place for travelers coming to and from the Grand Trunk Railway station that was nearby. See the ornate wooden bar with fifteen kinds of draft on tap and look at the ceiling paintings that a customer painted to help pay for his hotel bill. This hotel is open everyday for lunch or dinners and is a great meeting spot for friends. This property has a Wilmot Township Heritage designation.

4. Castlevew Variety: Originally a country store built in the 1850s, it was initially managed by the Hilborn Bros. and later by David Hunsberger. The interior has been changed many times but the exterior has remained much like it was years ago. Today it operates as a Variety store, postal station, bakery and diner.



5. Livingston Presbyterian Church:



The Livingston family built this church between 1890 and 1895 for \$2500 as they were staunch Presbyterians and did not want to attend the nearby Lutheran Church. It has served continuously as the only Presbyterian Church in Wilmot Township. The Livingston family donated the ornate

stain glass windows dedicated to family members. It also has one of the finest pipe organs in the region and is still in use every Sunday morning. This was installed c1934. Services are Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

6. St. James Lutheran Church:

This church was built in 1862 and was the first building in Baden to have electricity turned on. Sir Adam Beck, Hydro Commissioner of Ontario and a member of this church, returned to his birthplace to perform this duty. His father, Jacob Beck, the founder of Baden had donated land for this church to be built. Today, it has about 145 members. Services are Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.





7. Master Feeds: Master Feeds has been in Baden since 1952 when it acquired the assets and buildings of the Dominion Linseed Oil Company. In

1879, James Livingston built these buildings for The Dominion Linseed Oil Company that was the largest linseed oil manufacturer in the Dominion at the turn of the century.

8. Baden Pond:

The Baden Pond has changed in size over the years but remains a pretty and quiet place in Baden where one can sit and have a picnic or fish for the trout that is stocked in the pond.



9. Baden Fire Hall & Ambulance Depot:



Just across the street from the Baden Pond is the Baden Fire Hall & Ambulance Depot. Because Baden is central in location

in the township, the Baden Fire Hall is the number 1 station in Wilmot Township.

10. Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades: This small building on Bell Drive houses a number of historic fire trucks. The history of the local fire service forms a rich and important aspect of Wilmot Township's heritage. Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades has acquired 7 fire trucks (1935 to 1974), a 1879 horse drawn steamer pumper, hand pulled hose reels, photos, documents,

uniforms and equipment. See an early defibrillator (designed to shock the heart to begin beating again), check the weight of a nozzle (firefighters had to hold it for hours), or explore the list of firefighters who gave their time and energy to provide safety to the citizens of Wilmot. And more! Check our website at www.whfb.ca

11. Opera House:

The Baden Opera House once dominated this corner of Foundry and Snyder's Road and served as the cultural center of Baden for many years.



Only a small part of the original Opera House remains after a fire destroyed it in the late 1940s. Today, various small businesses occupy the lower floors. J.C. Miller Antiques and residential apartments are across the street.

12. The Baden Emporium: N.M. Steinman opened



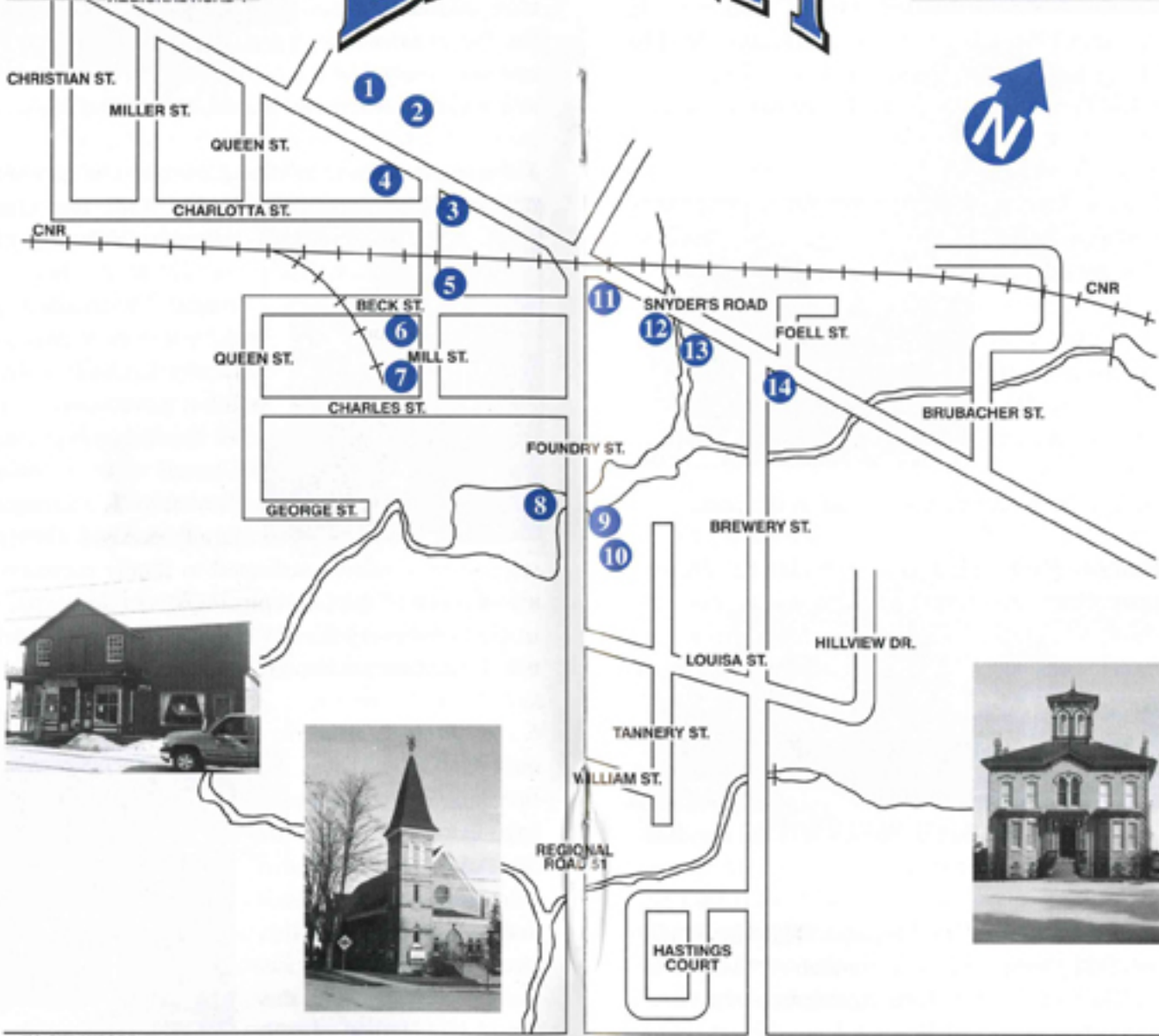
a furniture and feed and seed store in 1904. He was also the undertaker for Baden. For many years, it was operated as a furniture store by his son, Delton Steinman. It

was closed for a period and was recently occupied by The Baden Emporium, a retail outlet that offered an eclectic variety of country folk and contemporary crafts. There was also a Café that served light lunches. This business recently closed.

13. The Olde Tin Shop: Fred Sehl established a hardware, plumbing and Tinsmith business in 1883 in this building. His son, Fred, took over the



BADEN



TO STRATFORD

REGIONAL ROAD 6

TO KITCHENER

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