15. Holwell House (now private residence) at 35 Snyder's Road East

This house is known today as "Mill Pond" because the original deed described it as being on a mill pond lot. It was built in 1888 by Noah Cressman and sold in 1896 to Fred Holwell. Livingston Presbyterian Church purchased the property in 1979 and used it as a parsonage. When it was sold to the current owners, the money from the sale went toward church renovations.

16. N. M. Steinman Furniture & Undertaker at 43 Snyder's Road East.

In 1904, Noah M. Steinman sold groceries, feed and seed, Maxwell Cars and furniture on this property. He also made caskets for funerals. Around 1956 Noah decided to focus on furniture and the building became *Steinman Furniture.* It remained in the family until 1994. Like many buildings, this property has changed owners and functions over the years. The building to the east was Walter Bechthold's Motors and an American Motors car dealership. The lot further east of this building was originally the site of Fred Sehl's Tin Shop, which was in operation from 1883 until 1972. The upper level of this building also housed the Baden Mechanics' Institute (Library) that was initiated by James Livingston and established in 1889.

17. General Store (now Central House) at 85 Snyder's Road East.

Although it is now residential, this structure, built in the 1840s, began as the first General Store in the village. Henry Kuntz and brother-in-law, William Pfeffer, owned the huge store which operated on both floors. It has been known by many names throughout the years.

18. Old Maple Leaf Hotel (now apartments) at 72 Snyder's Road East.

Although Baden had four hotels at one time, this building and E.J.'s at Baden are the only two structures remaining. When built by Charles Witte in 1885 it was known as *The Maple Leaf Hotel.* Hotels in Baden did well because of their proximity to the railway.

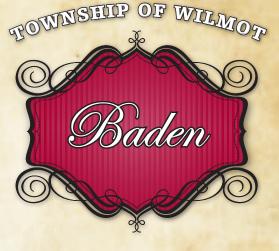### 19. Baden Cheese Factory (currently townhouses) at 149 Snyder's Road East.

Once a little factory here made 5,000 pounds of potent limburger cheese along with other varieties. It was owned and operated by the Gingerich family for nearly a century. Limburger cheese helped put Baden on the map shipping cheese across Canada and the United States.

HERITAGE WILMOT

www.heritagewilmot.ca

TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

Baden

Stroll Through the Past

Livingston & Holwell girls c.1900

History of Baden

The area was first settled in the mid 1820s by Amish Mennonites from Bavaria by way of Pennsylvania. Amidst these first farms, a small settlement named Weissenburg emerged. The Baden we know today did not exist until the 1855 survey by Jacob Beck. He named the place after his hometown, the health resort of Baden-Baden in Germany. Baden was home to two famous residents: James Livingston, the owner of Castle Kilbride and Sir Adam Beck, regarded as the Father of Ontario Hydro.

1. Castle Kilbride (National Historic Site) at 60 Snyder's Road West.

James Livingston, known as the *Flax and Linseed Oil King of Canada*, built this Italianate home in 1877. Named after his birthplace of East Kilbride in Scotland, it remained in the family for three generations until 1988. The main features of the home are the finest examples of rare *Trompe l'oeil* painted wall and ceiling murals in all of Canada. It also boasts exquisite furnishings throughout. Exterior items to note: the heart-shaped driveway and the two-door, triple brick Italianate privy on the west side. The museum was designated a National Historic Site in 1994. It is owned and operated by the Township of Wilmot.
Visit **www.castlekilbride.ca** for more information.

2. Livingston Square

East of Castle Kilbride is a replica of the town band shell which was originally located beside the Town Hall on Beck Street. Noah Zoeller and James Livingston were instrumental in organizing Baden's first band in 1880. The gardens in this square are maintained by the Wilmot Horticultural Society. The ornamental three-tiered fountain marks the former site of the stable for the tavern located across the road.

3. Old General Store at 55 Snyder's Road West.

This general store was built in 1854 and was operated by the Hilborn Brothers until 1900. The brothers sold it to I. R. Shantz, who built the c.1895 Victorian house next door. The store has changed owners and functions many times. Despite these changes, the four large display windows (two on each side of a recessed entrance) and the false front, which are typical of the old style general store, have been preserved.

4. The Baden Hotel (now EJ's at Baden restaurant) at 39 Snyder's Road West.

When Christopher Kraus built the Baden Hotel in 1874 it was strategically located near the Grand Trunk Railway station, making it a focal point for business and social activities. This Georgian style building is one of the oldest continuously operating taverns in Canada. A unique 'cut corner' facing west holds the date stone and Kraus' name. Inside, visitors can see the ornate c.1874 wooden bar, as well as the original hand painted tin ceiling. Local tales suggest that the tiles were painted by a customer in the 1870s to help settle his bill. In 2003, EJ's was designated by the Township of Wilmot under the Ontario Heritage Act.

5. Livingston Presbyterian Church/ Masonic Hall at 44 Beck Street.

This turn of the century Gothic Revival style church is the only Presbyterian Church in Wilmot Township. In 1895 James Livingston provided the land and a large portion of funding for the construction of this church. The cost to build was $2,180. The Livingston family also donated the memorial stained glass windows, a painting of The Last Supper by Edward R. Glen, the baptismal font and the pipe organ.
Wilmot Masonic Lodge No. 318 was established in July 1874. The Lodge was originally located in a room at the Baden Hotel. It relocated to the second floor of the church in 1951. Regular meetings are still held in this room which is decorated with furnishings that are over one hundred years old, including two chandeliers (1888) and the Lodge seal (1874). Note: Livingston was a Charter member and attained the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite, the highest rank of the Masonic Order.

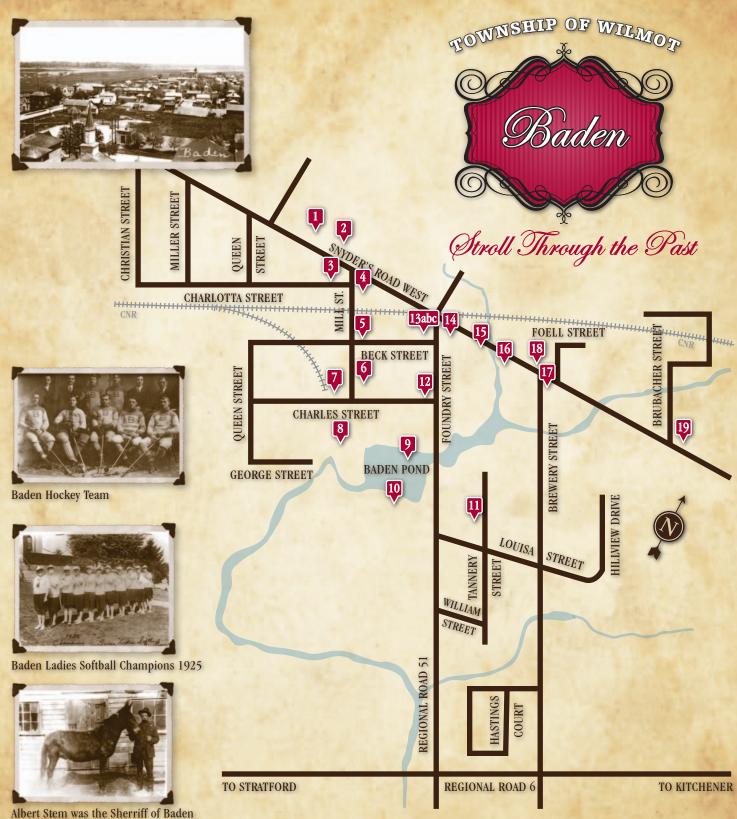## 6. Old Town Hall lot on South side of Beck Street.

In 1858, Jacob Beck built a town hall and courthouse here to house the Fifth Division Court of the County of Waterloo. This Classical Revival style building was decommissioned and moved to Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village in 1967. It was restored and opened to the public as the Town Hall. This land once featured a park (c.1909), which held the original 1880 band shell where the Baden Band performed outdoor summer concerts.

7. St. James Lutheran Church at 66 Mill Street

In 1862, Jacob Beck sold this land for $50 to *St. Jacobus Kirche* (St. Jacobs Church). The church was officially built for $1,000. On December 29, 1911 at 8 p.m. the Church became the first building in Baden to have hydro when the Power Minister, the Honourable Adam Beck switched on public hydro-electric power. This illuminated the interior light fixtures that he had donated to the church in memory of his mother Charlotte (Hespeler) Beck. They are still being used today.

TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

Baden

Stroll Through the Past

Baden Hockey Team

Baden Ladies Softball Champions 1925

Albert Stem was the Sherriff of Baden
when Baden was its own Police Village

CHRISTIAN STREET

MILLER STREET

QUEEN STREET

SNYDER'S ROAD WEST

CHARLOTTA STREET

CNR

MILL ST.

BECK STREET

QUEEN STREET

CHARLES STREET

GEORGE STREET

BADEN POND

FOUNDRY STREET

FOELL STREET

BRUBACHER STREET

CNR

BREWERY STREET

HILLVIEW DRIVE

LOUISA STREET

TANNERY STREET

WILLIAM STREET

HASTINGS COURT

REGIONAL ROAD 51

TO STRATFORD

REGIONAL ROAD 6

TO KITCHENER

N

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13abc 14 15 16 17 18 19

8. Livingston Linseed Oil Mill at 76 Mill Street

In 1872, brothers James & John Livingston established the Baden mill for the *J & J Livingston Linseed Oil Company.* By the turn of the century this company would become the largest manufacturer of linseed oil in Canada and renamed the Dominion Linseed Oil Company. For over 70 years, Baden remained the headquarters for the Livingston business. With the invention of latex paint, the decline in demand for linseed oil directly affected the once prosperous flax empire. Many of the assets and buildings of Livingston's flax mills across Canada were sold to other companies c.1950. Note: linseed oil was the main ingredient in paint.

9.The Baden Pond

Around 1850, Jacob Beck dammed Spring Creek to create a mill pond for his new foundry and grist mill. Soon the pond was a source of power for many other 19th century businesses. The original pond was a larger body of water and was located on both sides of Foundry Street. Today's pond is owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority and is a quiet place to fish or relax.

10. Beck House at 35 Louisa Street.

Beneath the siding is a red brick house built in 1855 by Jacob Beck, the founder of Baden. Beck bought 200 acres beside Spring Creek where he erected this house, the grist-mill and the foundry. In 1856 he subdivided his farm, selling lots in order to develop the village of Baden. His son, Adam Beck, born here on June 20, 1857, would later become the founder of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. Adam was an early and prominent advocate of publicly owned electricity grids. He became Sir Adam Beck after he was knighted by King George V in 1914. In recognition of the Beck influence in Baden, you will see Beck Street, Beck Park, Sir Adam Beck Public School and the Sir Adam Beck Archives at the Township of Wilmot offices.

11. Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades (behind the Baden Fire Station) at 10 Bell Drive.

This building houses one of Canada's finest collections of firefighting artifacts. The collection includes: an 1879 horse drawn steamer pumper, antique fire trucks from the 1930s, hand pumpers, hose reels, documents, uniforms, photographs, and other artifacts highlighting firefighting history in Wilmot Township. Tours are free Wednesday evenings year round and Saturday mornings in June, July & August or by appointment.

Visit **www.wilmotfiremuseum.com** for more information.

12. Dr. Butler's House (now Baden Veterinary Hospital) at 50 Foundry Street

The property was originally owned by James Livingston; it was sold to William Copper, foreman at the Livingston's linseed mill for $100, in 1886. The house and lands were sold to Dr. John Butler in 1902. The front of the house was the waiting room and the back was the examination room. Note: the stained glass window that bears Dr. Butler's name.

13a. Lorentz House & Canadian Bank of Commerce 14 Foundry Street.

The house on the corner of Foundry & Beck Streets was built by John Lorentz c.1880.

13b. Canadian Bank of Commerce 12 Foundry Street.

The Baden post office was originally established here on July 1, 1854. The first postmaster was Jacob Beck; he served for 25 years. The post office was removed and the Canadian Bank of Commerce was built on this site c.1890. Note: look up to see the original symbol for the bank. The ancient symbol was associated with Hermes, the Greek god of commerce. The symbol consists of a rod representing power with two snakes symbolizing wisdom twisted around it, surmounted by two small wings.

13c. The Hardware Store (now J.C. Miller Antiques) at 8 Foundry Street.

John Lorentz built this hardware store in the 1880s. A succession of owners have operated the store including J.P. Livingston and his son-in-law Harris Veitch. Veitch opened an antique business here; in 1980, Jim Miller purchased the building and store. Today J. C. Miller Antiques is owned and operated by his sons. Note: The original door, store front and decorative porch reflect the store's Victorian architecture.

14. Opera House (lot at corner of Foundry St. and Snyder's Rd.) at 11 Foundry Street.

The Baden Opera House once dominated this corner and hosted touring companies which brought plays and entertainment to the village. It was also used for school concerts, dances, box socials and political meetings. The Opera House was originally located on the top floor and part of the first floor; it was destroyed by one of Baden's largest fires in 1949. The lower floor housed a number of businesses throughout the years including a dry goods store, liquor store, the Dominion Bank and a harness shop. Only a small part of the original building remains today. Note: At exactly 6:11 p.m. on December 29, 1911, Beck returned to Baden to a hero's welcome and turned on the hydro from this location. It was the day that electricity from Niagara Falls was first turned on in the village.