

HISTORY

The present-day Heritage Trail in Niagara-on-the-Lake follows the historic rail line of the old Erie and Ontario Railway, later the Michigan Central Railroad, which provided a connection for steamship passengers coming from Toronto to Niagara Falls, Buffalo and beyond for nearly 100 years. Eventually rail service was discontinued and the rails pulled up in the late 1950's.

QUEEN STREET STATION, M. C. R. R. NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE.





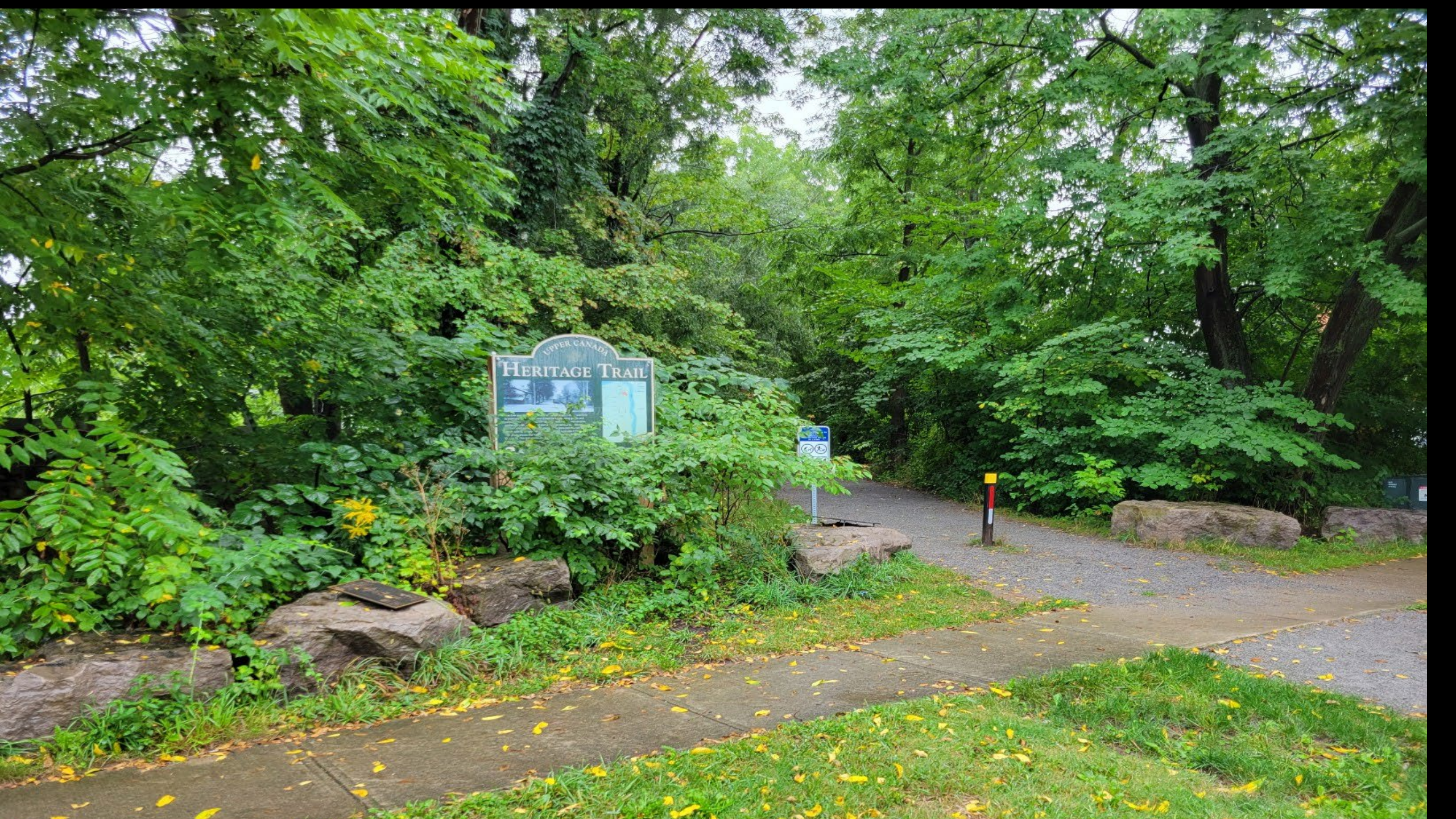
RESTORATION

The Heritage Trail restoration follows the old railway bed from John Street heading south and ending at York Road near the village of Queenston and St Davids. Phase 2 and 3 is the section along Concession 1 from East-West Line to Line 9. The trail's accessibility and prominence has been compromised by years of disrepair, overgrowth of foliage and erosion.



Group St. Andrews Centennial 1894





UPPER CANADA

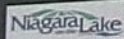
HERITAGE TRAIL



This trail follows the old Erie and Ontario Railway line. Going northerly the trail ends at John St, but the old rail line continued to the dock area. Going south the rail line went to Niagara Falls, but the trail ends at York Rd. Close to here was the spur line that served the military Camp Niagara bringing supplies and troops to the camp. Used as a training camp during World War 1 some 75,000 Canadian soldiers were trained here. The photo shows the train stopped in Niagara Camp with soldiers preparing to board. Enjoy the beauty of Niagara's vineyards and orchards.



The trail crosses many roads. Take extra caution at road crossings. Be courteous to trail users.



Preservation of this trail is a legacy project of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sesquicentennial Committee.

RESTORATION

The official town committee is restoring the Heritage Trail back to a state that will support eco-tourism, walking/cycling, and community engagement. The plan is to reconnect the trail as a side trail to the Bruce Trail at the same time connecting three different communities in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



POSITIVE RESULTS

Everything about this project has been positive. Many local individuals and different organizations have told us that they appreciate and support the value of having a finished, multi-purpose trail connecting our communities. The completed Phase 1 and now Phase 2, has drawn a large and very positive reaction.

Phase 2 is providing a wide, finished pathway that would get hikers and cyclists off Concession 1 road and at the same time connect old town with St Davids and the Bruce Trail?



To construct a proper trail along the 10 km's of the former railroad right of way, the plan is to do it in 4 phases. This will take several years and there is no firm timetable.





Ecotourism

This 10K trail has and will continue to attract hiking and cycling tourists to the area. How do they hear about it? It is listed on trail websites like “All Trails” with many positive reviews.

To further enhance the trail, we’ve added lots of trees along the trail and now, interpretive signage to help create an “Experience Corridor”.



- Ecotourists are attracted to this multi-purpose trail that focuses on active participation in an unadulterated, pristine natural environment
- It builds cultural and environmental awareness
- It encourages an active and positive nature experience for visitors as well as hosts
- It minimizes the impact of tourism on the environment.





Phase 2 under construction

Phase 2 work to Line 3 will be completed this fall



PHASE 3

Now that Phase 1 & 2 have will soon be successfully completed to Line 3 the Heritage Trail Committee is beginning to raise funds for the next section heading south. Phase 3 to run from Line 3 to Line 9.

The cost of creating a proper trail through the next section is approximately \$210,000.



FUNDRAISING

The fundraising efforts, have been successful in raising over \$170,000 to date. Much of this was through a campaign when local people donated \$100 or more. We were thrilled with the reaction. Over 180 donors have donated in the past 2 years.

Here is the plaque honouring corporate sponsors. This will be repeated at the start of each phase as the list of donors expands.

