

# DOWNTOWN PORT PERRY WALKING TOUR

## Two Fires in Two Years 1883 & 1884

The beautiful Victorian downtown was the result of two major fires in Port Perry's commercial core.

The first in 1883 wiped out about a third of the commercial centre and then on July 3, 1884 a second fire destroyed the complete downtown.

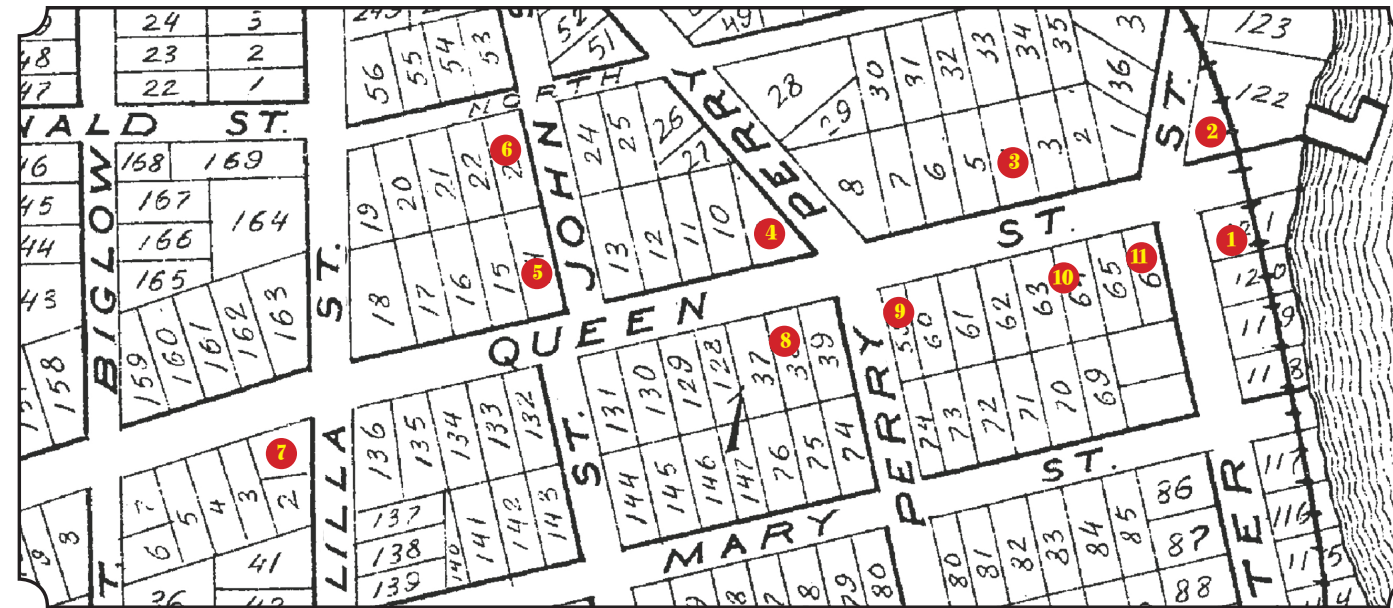
After the second fire disaster the town enacted stringent new by-laws outlawing the use of wood for commercial structures and so today you see the brick buildings that rose from the ashes.

In 2010, the Port Perry downtown was designated as a Heritage Conservation District in order to preserve and protect the 19th century architecture and its significant unique character as well as the connection of Queen Street to Lake Scugog.

### LAKE SCUGOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1969

*Dedicated to the history of  
Scugog Township & Port Perry*



**1** Palmer Memorial Park

**2** Currie Grain Elevator

**3** Jonathan Blong Block

**4** William Leonard Block

**5** War Memorial Library

**6** Anglican Church

**7** Town Hall 1873

**8** Albert J. Davis home

**9** William Willard Block

**10** Brown & Ross, Brock Block

**11** St. Charles Hotel

While on this tour of Downtown Port Perry, it is suggested – to get the best look at the featured buildings, it is better to walk on the opposite side of the street of the buildings you are viewing.

Lake Scugog Historical Society

# HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PORT PERRY



Founded in 1852





# HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PORT PERRY

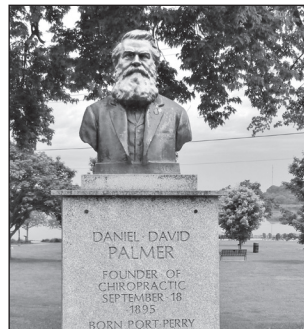


## HISTORIC PORT PERRY

### 1. Palmer Memorial Park

Foot of Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

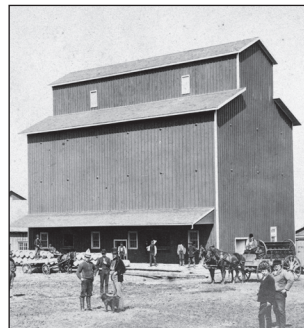
Named after D.D. Palmer founder of Chiropractic the park was dedicated in 1938. In 1946 the massive bronze statue was added. In 2009 a federal plaque recognized D.D. Palmer as a National Historic Person. Palmer spent his youth growing up in Port Perry and moved to the U.S.A at age 20.



### 2. Currie Grain Elevator

Queen & Water St.  
Port Perry, Ontario

Currie Grain Elevator: 139 Queen St. built in 1873 this 58 ft. mill was owned by grain merchants George Currie & Wm. Ross and stored grain until 1980. The only commercial building in downtown to survive the fire of 1884. This site is a legacy to the grain trade and commerce of the early Port Perry Waterfront.



### 3. Jonathan Blong Block

183 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

The Bigelow Royal Arcade was the most impressive building in the community when it opened in 1869. Jonathan Blong bought it in 1878. It was lost to the fires of 1883 & 1884. Blong rebuilt it within 3 months. From 1975-2007 it was home to the Settlement House shops.



### 4. William Leonard Block

217 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

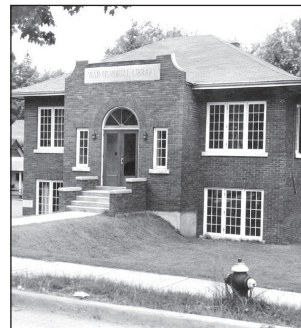
Built after the fire of 1884 this building was purchased by WM. Leonard, a photographer responsible for many of the early photos of Port Perry. Many businesses have operated out of this block of 3 stores including the Post Office, a barber shop, Rose & Co. store and now the Piano Café.



### 5. War Memorial Library

269 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

The site of a post office but in 1934 this building was built & opened to honour local service members from WWI. It served as the community library until 1982 when the library moved to the waterfront. It was sold and converted to office space in 2013.



### 6. Ascension Anglican Church

266 North Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

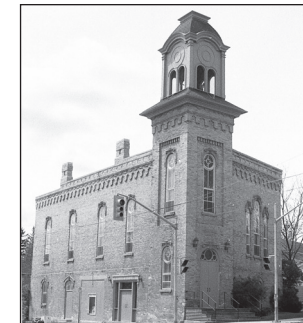
The first service was held here in 1868. It is a copy of a small rural parish in England and a model for Anglican churches in North America. The bell tower came from St. Agnes Church in Greenbank and the rectory next door was built in 1905.



### 7. Town Hall 1873

302 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

This National Historic Site is a stunning example of Italianate architecture. The wall sculpture is a collage of all the many uses of this building throughout its history. Saved from demolition in 1973 it now serves as a performing arts centre.



### 8. Albert J. Davis home

216 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

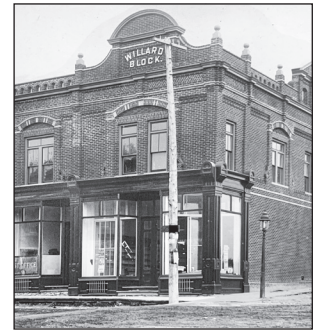
As early as 1847 John Davis was manufacturing furniture from this double lot on the southwest corner of Queen and Perry St. After the fire of 1884 he rebuilt a two story brick building (now Wagg Funeral Home) and in 1888 he built this attractive yellow brick house for his son A.J. Davis, a local druggist.



### 9. William Willard Block

210 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

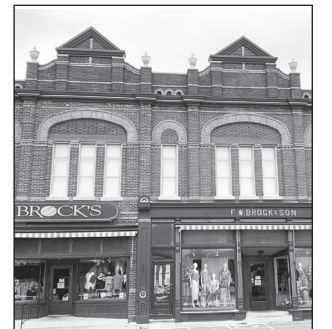
Wm. Willard arrived in Port Perry in 1885 opened this impressive building in 1886. The original building housed a grocery store and post office. Upper floor was a dentist and the public library. Later years was a gas station, car dealership, LCBO and since 1977 the Royal Bank.



### 10. Brown & Ross, Brock Block

155-169 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

This grand and imposing block has been home to the Ontario Bank, Standard Bank, & Ross & Sons general store. Wm Brock purchased the building in the late 1890s. Note the beautiful parapets that were restored in 2024. The 5th generation of Brock's still operate from here.



### 11. St. Charles Hotel

144 Queen Street  
Port Perry, Ontario

This building was built in 1884 on the site of Peter Perry's first store in the 1840s. It was an elegant resting place for tourists arriving by train. The western half was the "sample room" where travelling salesman displayed their wares. Note the signage on the west side wall.

