

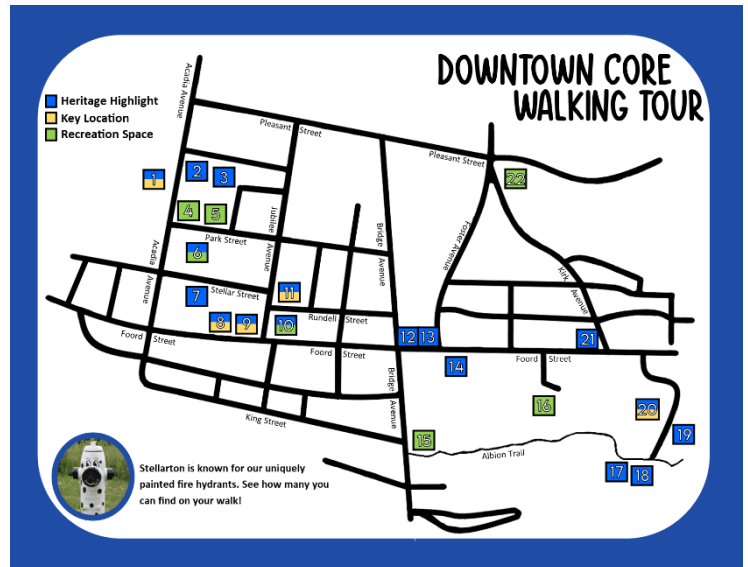


## Stellarton Downtown Core Walking Tour

Welcome to Stellarton's downtown core!

Our Town has a rich history complete with built, cultural, and natural heritage elements. Along this walking tour, you'll learn about many different aspects of Stellarton's past. We welcome you to take time to shop, eat, and play along your adventure; all while expanding your knowledge about Stellarton's historic roots.

For some added fun on your tour, see how many different fire hydrants you can spot. Stellarton is known for our uniquely painted hydrants!



### Map Locations:

#### 1. NSCC Pictou Campus

Location: 39 Acadia Avenue

Information: This education centre was originally opened as the Pictou Regional Vocational School in 1964 and was officially opened as the NSCC Pictou Campus in 1996. This campus offers a beautiful student commons, a large gymnasium, cafeteria, and the Dr. Hamm Trades & Innovation Centre for specialized training and collaboration.

*Visual Description: A large education centre with dark blue and clear glass paneling across the entire front of the building; A digital announcement board is displayed on the left of the main doors.*

#### 2. Birch Hill House Informative Panel

Approximate Location: 11 Albion Avenue, along the Allan Park walking trail, across the street from NSCC Pictou Campus

Information: Before becoming the location of a school, across Acadia Avenue from this panel site stood Birch Hill House. The former building served as the Acadia Coal Mine superintendent's dwelling from 1866 until 1941. In 1945, the house was purchased by the Pictou County Children's Aid Society and became Birch Hill Receiving Home: A place for neglected and homeless children in the community. Birch Hill House was demolished in 1962 to make way for the Pictou County Vocational School.

*Visual Description: Two display panels are positioned across from NSCC; A smaller metal plaque on the right and a larger panel on the left. An image of the Birch Hill Mansion is centered on the large panel - the house is a large, white, Colonial, home – it is surrounded on the panel by additional information on the former home and owners. The smaller plaque has a brief written history.*

### **3. Town Informative Panels**

Approximate Location: 11 Albion Avenue, on a small gravel path off the main park trail, Northwest of the Park's gazebo

Information: This four-piece panel set was installed to showcase aspects of Stellarton's rich history – and how the Town has grown and developed throughout the years. The Town of Stellarton is proud to share and incorporate our history into our daily lives.

*Visual Description: A set of four informative panels with a colour scheme of burgundy and beige surround a stone pillar. Beginning from the left, the first panel displays the theme of Industry with images that show Stellarton's old train station and coal mines; the second panel displays the theme of Social Community with images that show some of Stellarton's old teams, bands, and clubs; the third panel displays the theme of a Vibrant Town, with images that show the Town's continuing growth like NSCC, Sobeys Head Office, for example; and the fourth panel displays the theme of a Proud Tradition, with images that show the development of Stellarton's downtown area and historic districts like "The Heights."*

### **4. Stellarton Community Centre**

Location: 120 Park Street

Information: The Community Centre was originally built as a Library and Mining Museum to commemorate the centennial of Confederation in 1967. The building currently stands as a recreation facility for community use.

*Visual Description: A small brick building with stairs leading to the main door and a datestone to the right of the door that reads, "Centennial of Confederation: Stellarton Library Mining Museum. Erected by the Town of Stellarton in permanent commemoration of the Centennial of the Confederation of Canada in 1967. Construction was made possible through the cooperation of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada."*

### **5. Allan Park**

Location: 11 Albion Avenue

Information: Formerly Mount Rundell Park, it was once a greenspace used for social events for the General Mining Association. In 1904, this park was gifted to the Town of Stellarton by Acadia Coal President, Sir Hugh Montague Allan. It is still a popular location for picnics, concerts, and weddings.

*Visual Description: A gravel walkway leading to the main entrance of the park; There are stone pillars with a decorative iron fence on either side of the walkway with small garden beds in front of the fences.*

## **6. Albion Ball Field**

Location: 108 Stellar Street

Information: This field was originally created as a cricket pitch for the General Mining Association. In addition to gifting Allan Park to the Town, Sir Hugh Montague Allan, President of Acadia Coal, also gifted the cricket pitch. Sports teams continue to use this field to compete today.

*Visual Description: A traditional baseball diamond situated in the middle of Stellarton's downtown, there are team dugouts on the north side of the field and a score clock on the southeast side that reads, "Albion Ball Field."*

## **7. Former Stellarton Memorial Rink**

Location: 105 Stellar Street

Information: In 1947, the Stellarton Memorial Rink was built as a living memorial to the fallen soldiers of WWI and WWII. A plaque used to be displayed on the front of the rink with the names of 117 fallen soldiers; This plaque is now with the Stellarton Legion, and the names are memorialized at the Cenotaph on Foord Street.

The rink served the community of Stellarton until its closure in 2019.

*Visual Description: A large brick facility with a blue and white awning over the main doors and glass block style windows.*

## **8. Stellarton Town Hall and Police Service**

Location: 250 Foord Street

Information: Built in 1930, Stellarton Town Hall has been the central location for municipal services. It has undergone many transformations over the years. Town Hall was once the home of our former Fire Station, as well as a judge and courthouse; the upstairs level has been a classroom space and living quarters in previous years.

Presently, Town Hall is fully operational for municipal services and the Stellarton Police Service operates out of this historic building. The original Council Chambers in the building are still used today.

*Visual Description: A large red brick building with a clock tower on top and a large front door with a sign above that reads "Stellarton;" There is a datestone to the left of the door that reads "Erected 1930."*

## **9. Stellarton Library and Stellarton Heritage Room**

Location: 248 Foord Street

Information: The Stellarton Library was once at the location of the Stellarton Community Centre on Park Street before moving to the historic Bank of Nova Scotia building in 1987. In addition to regular library programs offered throughout the year, they also offer a variety of special events, workshops, and seminars.

The Town recently established a Heritage Room to serve as a community museum and research space for those interested in learning more about Stellarton's rich history. The Heritage Room is located on the second floor above the library.

*Visual Description: A large light brick building with a stone and iron ramp at the front. The stone above the main door reads, "Bank of Nova Scotia."*

## **10. Sobeys Pavilion at Town Square and Splash Pad**

Location: 246 Foord Street

Information: Stellarton Town Square celebrates Frank H. Sobey, his legacy, and the ongoing commitment of the Sobey Foundation and Sobeys Inc. to the Town of Stellarton, Atlantic Canada, and beyond.

Sobeys Store #1 was opened on this site in 1912 before moving to its location on North Foord Street. Following this, the Jubilee Theatre was built in 1914, and provided entertainment to the community with silent films and local theatrical performances before it was demolished.

Centrally located, the Sobeys Pavilion at Town Square remains a gathering place for community events. An in-ground splash pad is located in the square, making it a great location to cool off in the warmer months.

*Visual Description: A large stone reading "Stellarton Town Square" is positioned at the front; a paved walkway outlines the square, lined with wooden benches; a display structure reading "Stellarton Town Square Pavilion" is located towards the southeast corner; a splash pad with inground activation sensors is on the right of the Town stone.*

## **11. Stellarton Fire Hall**

Location: 8 Jubilee Avenue

Information: The Stellarton Fire Department was originally formed in 1890 with 36 members. At the time, there were two departments in the community – one to serve the Lourdes area given the proximity to the Allan Shaft (where Sobeys Regional Head Office is located now), and the other in the central area of Town.

This structure has served as the Fire Hall since 1977. Prior to this, the station was located at the back of the current Town Hall building.

*Visual Description: A large beige and brick building with “Stellarton Fire Hall” on the front; the building has four large red garage bay doors on the front; a granite monument with a Nova Scotia and a Canada flag is displayed to the left of the front doors, the stone is a tribute to the volunteer members who have served with the Fire Department.*

## **12. Stellarton Cenotaph**

Approximate Location: 216 Foord Street, on the corner of Bridge Avenue

Information: This memorial was erected in tribute to the men of Stellarton who laid down their lives in two World Wars and in everlasting gratitude to those who survived. It is also in memory of those who perished during the Korean Conflict and the War in Afghanistan.

It was officially unveiled on June 17, 1967.

*Visual Description: A large granite monument to memorialize those who lost their lives serving their county; the left panel lists names of those who died in WWI, the right panel lists names of those who died in WWII at the top and the names of those who died in Afghanistan at the bottom, and the centre panel commemorates the Korean Conflict.*

## **13. James P. Robertson V.C. Memorial**

Approximate Location: 216 Foord Street, on the corner of Foster Avenue

Information: James P. Robertson was born in Albion Mines – what we know now as Stellarton – and was a recipient of the Victoria Cross during the First World War, this being the highest and most prestigious award that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Private Robertson’s platoon had been held up by a machine gun when he rushed the gun and was able to turn it on the enemy. He was able to lead his platoon to the final position. He was later killed by a shell immediately after returning two wounded snipers on his own side.

*Visual Description: A large granite monument honouring Private James Peter Robertson; the Memorial Stone is front of a large wall with the names of those who bravely served their country.*

## **14. Miners’ Monument**

Approximate Location: 207 Foord Street

Information: Following the 1918 Allan Shaft explosion, the Stellarton United Mine Workers took the initiative to erect a permanent memorial to our fallen miners. Two little girls whose fathers had been killed in the explosion unveiled the monument at a ceremony on Labour Day in 1921. Five years later, upon the recovery of some of the Foord Pit explosion victims (1880), the ground was consecrated as a cemetery. The Foord Pit victims were interred and later, other Foord explosion victims were buried there.

*Visual Description: Located behind a black iron fence, a large monument is displayed with grey granite at the top and base, black granite for the pillar in the middle, and a figure of a miner wearing a cap and carrying a mining lantern stands on the top; names are etched into the black pillar; 1921 is displayed in the top grey granite.*

## **15. Entrance to the Albion Trail**

Approximate Location: Bridge Avenue (just after King Street towards Blue Acres)

Information: Named after the Albion Mines, the Albion trails follows the East River and connects to the Samson Trail in nearby New Glasgow. This is the original route of the Albion Rail Road – the first iron railroad in Canada. The Samson, on display at the nearby Museum of Industry, was the first iron locomotive to run on iron rails in Canada.

Interpretive panels are displayed along the trail, highlighting various landmarks that relate to the mining history of the area. This 2.3km trail is convenient for walking, running, and biking.

*Visual Description: A gravel pathway with a bench on the right of the path leading towards a trail through a wooded area.*

## **16. Dorrington Softball Complex**

Location: 175 Foord Street

Information: The Dorrington Softball Complex is now home to the Stellarton and Area Minor Girls Softball Association. Before being used as a recreation space, this area was the location of a coal mine.

The Bye Pits were located where the ball fields exist now. The Bye Pits proved to be dangerous over the years of operation – with fires and explosions throughout. In 1867, there was a fire so severe that the pit had to be abandoned.

The Complex is named for Aubrey Dorrington who is one of Stellarton’s most recognized historians.

Aubrey left school at the age of 13 to begin working in the coal mines after the death of his father. At the age of 26, he enlisted to serve in WWII, but was unable to travel overseas after being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. Aubrey published his book, *History of Stellarton*, in 1976 that provided a sketch of the industrial, cultural, and religious background of the Town.

*Visual Description: A white Clubhouse is situated in a parking lot between two traditional softball fields; the Clubhouse features the Stellarton Stingers team logo on the side – a bee holding a bat, ready to swing.*

## **17. Foundry Site**

Approximate Location: 147 Foord Street, along the Albion Trail

Information: Located near the first coal mine established in 1827, the Foundry of the General Mining Association cast the first iron rails and working steam engines in Canada. The site has been the focus of several archaeological digs, most recently in 2016 – 2018.

*Visual Description: Large pieces of industrial remains are displayed behind a chain link fence.*

## **18. VIA Station**

Approximate Location: 147 Foord Street, along the Albion Trail

Information: Opened in 1989, the VIA Station was the last commuter rail station to be constructed in Nova Scotia. It became part of the Museum of Industry site when passenger rail service between Truro and Sydney was discontinued in 1991.

*Visual Description: A small brick train station with a yellow door, a small brick tower on top with a clock face on the front of it.*

## **19. Cornish Pump House**

Approximate Location: 147 Foord Street, parking lot of Museum of Industry

Information: Known as the Cornish Pump House, this stone structure was built in 1866 to house a steam-powered pump used to drain water from the Foord Pit coal mine. Originally located closer to the highway overpass, the Pump House was moved to its current location and partially reconstructed in 1989.

*Visual Description: A large, stone structure, with a boarded-up window; a datestone at the top reads Foord Works, 1867; a pile of the same large stones lies beside the pumphouse behind a chain link fence.*

## **20. Museum of Industry**

Location: 147 Foord Street

Information: Opened in 1995, the Museum of Industry tells the story of work and workers in Nova Scotia. One of Canada's few comprehensive industrial museums, the Museum's exhibits, demonstrations, artifacts, and hands-on activities, appeal to children and adults alike.

*Visual Description: A large brick industrial museum with a green and white roof that reads "Museum of Industry;" a black train is displayed coming out of the Museum to the left of the main doors.*

## **21. Reverend George Monro Grant Informative Panel**

Approximate Location: 162 Foord Street

Information: Often referred to as one of the most influential non-political men of his time, this Albion Mines-born man suffered a life-changing injury as a child at the age of eight, which resulted in losing his fingers on his right hand. Unable to work in farming, Grant's life and education led him to the ministry. He was instrumental in establishing multiple churches and institutions in the Maritimes and was the first principal of Queen's University in Ontario.

*Visual Description: Two commemorative displays for the life of Reverend George Monro Grant; one iron plaque with a brief history of Reverend Grant by the Government of Canada; the second panel is a more decorative informative panel with a further history of Reverend Grant, unveiled July 25, 2019.*

## **22. Horseshoe Pits Park**

Location: 44 and 46 Foster Avenue

Information: Located near the Back Mines and historic neighbourhood of the Red Row, this park is a popular location for picnics and residential recreation. Traditionally, this park is also the location for a Horseshoe Tournament during Stellararton's Homecoming week.

*Visual Description: Five sets of in-ground horseshoe pits are positioned in the back area of the park, a paved basketball court with traditional nets is set up beside the parking lot, several pieces of playground equipment are placed throughout the park.*