

Heritage Daytripping in North Middlesex

Exploring history, land, memory, and community

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

Plan your own itinerary for a lovely summer day trip celebrating the rich heritage of Ailsa Craig and North Middlesex—a region known for its remarkable commitment to preserving archives, stories, artifacts, and community history. This is an opportunity to visit several unique local sites, meet devoted volunteers, and explore some of the most meaningful places in our rural landscape.

Most stops will be staffed from 10 - 4 p.m.

End the day at [New Moon Community Homestead](#), 27093 New Ontario Road, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0. Food available 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Registration encouraged but not required. The organizers would like to have an idea of how many to expect.

<https://www.ailsacraigmuseum.ca/event-details/a-heritage-day-in-north-middlesex>

Finding your Way

There are a number of options, so study the list of stops, prepare your route, and fill up your car for a Friday day trip on June 12th.

Here is the Google Map with our points of interest marked. "[View Larger Map](#)"

More digital maps.

North Middlesex Barn Quilt Trail

The North Middlesex Barn Quilt Trail highlights the region's agricultural heritage and community storytelling through public art. Go to <https://barnquilttrails.ca/trails/north-middlesex/> and [printable map](#) or [this one](#)

The Heritage Trail – North Middlesex

An interactive heritage map for North Middlesex and surrounding Middlesex municipalities:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/374be4d414af4e9d881abde57158e2cb>

Lunch Options for Visitors

Crown and Fox Pub, [143 Ailsa Craig Main St, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0](#). Facebook [Page](#)

Winnie's Road House, [245 Parkhill Main St, Parkhill, ON N0M 2K0](#)

North Star Restaurant, 14368 Elginfield Road, Lucan, ON N0M 2J0

New Moon Community Homestead at the end of the day to eat and celebrate

27093 New Ontario Road, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0

Open 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Website - <https://newmooncommunityhomestead.ca/>

Food and drink! At the end of your day, drive to this beautiful farm to be a part of Farm Gate Friday, a foodie celebration of local agriculture!

On the second Friday of each month from June to September there is an evening filled with delicious farm-fresh dinners, live music, and an array of amazing local vendors. The store will be open, so after enjoying your meal, you can grab fresh groceries and make it a one-stop shop for all things tasty. It will be an evening full of fun, community, and great times you won't want to miss!

The Stops

The Presbyterian Heritage Centre

19 Falkirk Street, Carlisle, ON N0M 1P0 [Carlisle United Church](#)

Open 10 - 5:00 p.m.

Website - <http://pcheritagecentre.ca/>

A dedicated volunteer group has transformed space within an historic United Church into a new Heritage Centre, providing a permanent home for a significant national collection of Presbyterian artifacts after it was required to leave its former location in Toronto.

Carlisle United Church continues to worship and enjoy fellowship in the lower hall.

This project reflects years of commitment and care and offers visitors insight into faith history, congregational life, and the evolution of rural Presbyterian communities.

Three mini organ concerts on the 1930 pipe organ rescued from the former Dorchester Presbyterian Church will be held throughout the day.

11:00 to 11:15

12:30 to 1:00

2:00 to 2:15

Guided tours will not be held during the organ concerts so that conversation will not interrupt the organ playing.

Host: Ian Mason, (647) 494-4559, pcheritagecentre [at] [gmail.com](mailto:pcheritagecentre@gmail.com)

CARLISLE CEMETERY TOURS

Carlisle United Church Cemetery is one of the primary and historic cemeteries of North Middlesex. The earliest gravestone dates to 1854. It is maintained as an active cemetery.

Doug Carmichael, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre and a resident of Carlisle, will lead tours throughout the day.

The Marg & Leroy Walker Research Room

158 Church Street, Ailsa Craig, ON

Open 10 - 5:00 p.m.

Website - <https://www.ailsacraigmuseum.ca/trinity-chapel>

The former Trinity Anglican Church houses the Marg & Leroy Walker Research Room. The Research Room contains all of the Historical Society's archives, including thousands of

historical documents, photographs, and scrapbooks documenting the people and places of North Middlesex.

Host: Shawna Pickering northmiddlesexhs@gmail.com

Donald Hughes Annex Museum

159 George Street, Ailsa Craig, ON

Open 10 - 5:00 p.m.

Website -

Located in what was once the village's Baptist church, the Donald Hughes Annex Museum serves as a central hub for Ailsa Craig's local history. The building now functions as a gallery and collections space.

With more than 10,000 artifacts, the exhibits feature an eclectic mix of local—and occasionally not-so-local—objects. There is always something new being brought out for display.

Host: Shawna Pickering northmiddlesexhs@gmail.com

Ailsa Craig Arts Centre (ACAC)

160D Main Street, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0 (*Located at the back of Ye Olde Towne Hall*)

Open 10 - 4 p.m. Regular Hours: Tuesday, Thursdays & Saturdays 1 - 4 pm

Website: <https://ailsacraigartscentre.wildapricot.org>

The Ailsa Craig Arts Centre is a membership based, intergenerational learning centre where people can explore and further their creative potential.

Every six weeks we have a new exhibit featuring artists from the community and surrounding area. On June 12 we are especially pleased to present a collaboration between our writers' group and the "Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London" where original poems have been interpreted by textile artists.

We host drop-in groups such as cardmaking, knitting, and crocheting; special interest art-based groups such as watercolour; a writer's group, a book club, and several youth programs. A wide range of classes are scheduled year round.

The ACAC is a legacy project by the Ailsa Craig Quilt and Fibre Festival and completely volunteer run.

Host: Rebecca Bender (519) 870-1974 ailsacraigartscentre@gmail.com

Parkhill Artisan Collective

233 Parkhill Main St, Parkhill, ON N0M 2K0

Open 10 - 4 p.m.

Website - <https://www.parkhillgallery.ca/about-us>

We are a membership based art centre located at the Parkhill Carnegie Gallery. We offer a showcase for local artisans, a teaching area for workshops/classes and a group meeting space for local groups in the area of North Middlesex, Ontario.

This beautiful building with its central steps, the wood floors and trim, and high ceilings make a great setting for concerts, special events and displaying works of art.

One aspect of our mandate is to preserve this building for arts and cultural purposes; another is to offer opportunities for emerging artists.

Website - <https://www.parkhillgallery.ca/about-us>

Host: Rebecca Bender (519) 870-1974 carnegiegalleryparkhill@gmail.com

Additional Stops & Points of Interest

- **Walking Tours of Ailsa Craig and Parkhill**
 - Download the maps [here](#).
- **The Church at Nairn Cemetery**
26459 Bear Creek Road, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0
- **First Nairn Cemetery**
4430 Mill Crescent, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0
- **Carlisle United Church Cemetery**
1432 Centre Road, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H1
- **Siddallville Cemetery Cairn**
12439 Siddall Road (#12341), Exeter, ON N0M 1P0
- **West Cemetery**

- 3793 W Corner Dr, Ailsa Craig, ON N0M 1A0
- **Parkhill Library**
 - 229 B Parkhill Main St, Parkhill, ON N0M 2K0
 - Open Friday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
 - Website: <https://library.middlesex.ca/locations> Search for Parkhill

Thank you for joining us to:

- **Celebrate the volunteers and organizations who safeguard our local history**
- **Encourage visitors to explore North Middlesex’s cultural and archival riches**
- **Strengthen relationships among museums, heritage centres, homesteads, and the wider community**
- **Share stories that have shaped this place, from early settlement to the present**