

Lost in Weston?
A History of Weston Street Names
By Cherri Hurst, Weston Historical Society

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to our tour. Please keep your arms and legs inside the buggy at all times.

We are starting at the crossroads of St. John's Road and Main Street South. Formerly the Weston Plank and Gravel Road. As little as forty years ago this would have been half plank road, half gravel. As we travel north notice the remains of Smith and Wilby's Woolen Factory, the most important industry in Weston during its heyday.

We now come to the intersection of Dufferin and Main Street. Travelling east we pass South Station Street, bump over the railroad tracks and then turn left onto North Station Street. Up on the hill we can see the stately home of T. R. Wadsworth, which Mrs. Wadsworth named Springmount. We will now turn right onto William Street then left onto Elm.

Going north we go by Elizabeth Street, Maria (pronounced Mariah) Street, and King Street and then come to the end of Elm. To our right is Beech Street but we are going left onto Church. This land all belonged to William Tyrrell and the streets we are passing, Joseph, Robert and Grattan, all bear the names of his sons. Robert is a doctor, Joseph a geologist and Henry Grattan is a civil engineer.

Once again we come to North Station Street. This street carries on northward as Wadsworth Crescent. Charles and William Wadsworth are prominent families in the neighbourhood. At one time, their mills on the Humber River, boasted the most modern machinery in the area.

Continuing west on Church Street, one of the oldest roads in Weston, and just past Cross Street we will see the site of the Episcopal Methodist Church, from which the street gets

its name. We are now out at Main Street North. Turning north we can see James Coulter's busy foundry on our left and then Coulter Avenue on our right. A little farther we come to Rectory Road so named for the parsonage built by Father Johnston who came to Weston in 1856. North of the rectory is Holley Avenue. Joseph Holley bought this property from John Graves Simcoe's estate and built many mills on the Humber.

Instead of going north to Oak Street and the northern boundary of Weston, we are going to turn around and travel south past LaMaire Avenue, named after our local undertaker and coal dealer Laurent R. LeMaire. Elsmere Avenue is coming up on our left. Look up the street and you can see the lovely home that bears that name. Little Avenue is on our right and it takes us back down to Dufferin Street.

I hope you have enjoyed our tour today. Please come again next year because names change and history can get lost before we even know it is gone.

Did you get lost? Visit www.welcometoweston.ca/whs to view a circa 1910 map. Weston Historical Society is always looking for assistance and new members. Call 416-249-6663.

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