

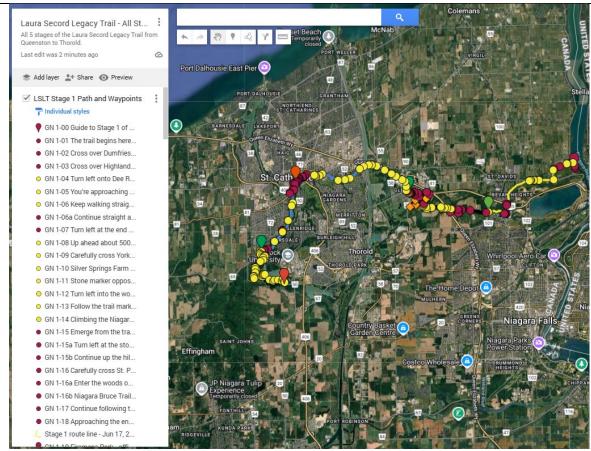
# TURN BY TURN DIRECTIONS and TRAIL GUIDE

Fourth Edition

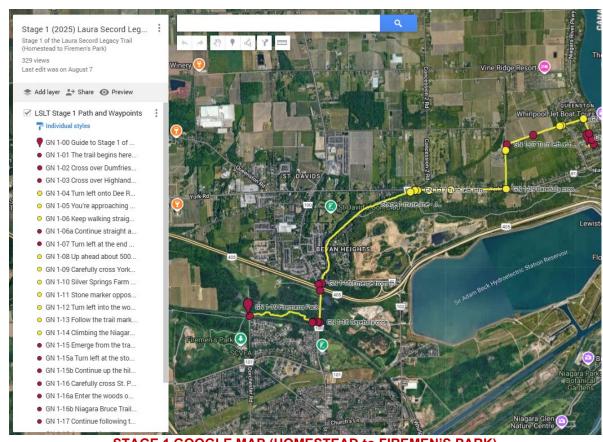
August 2025



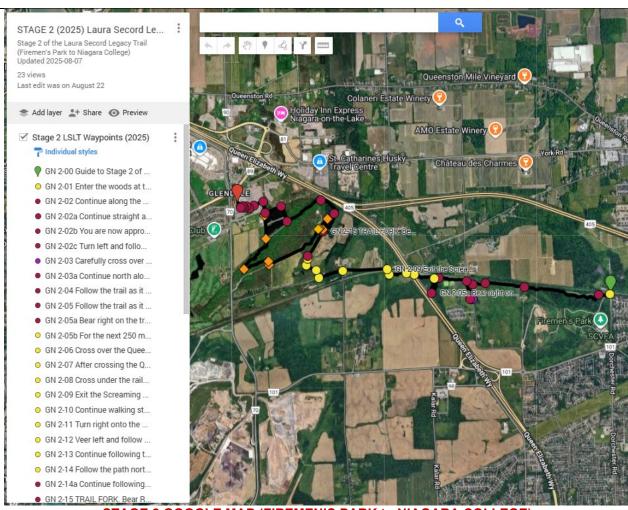




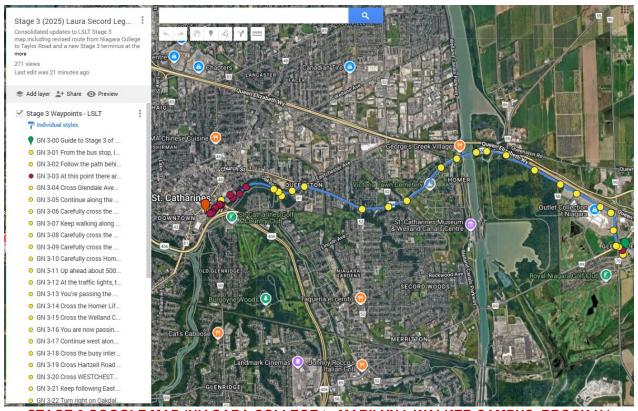
ALL STAGES – LAURA SECORD LEGACY TRAIL
(LAURA SECORD HOMESTEAD TO DECEW HOUSE HERITAGE PARK)



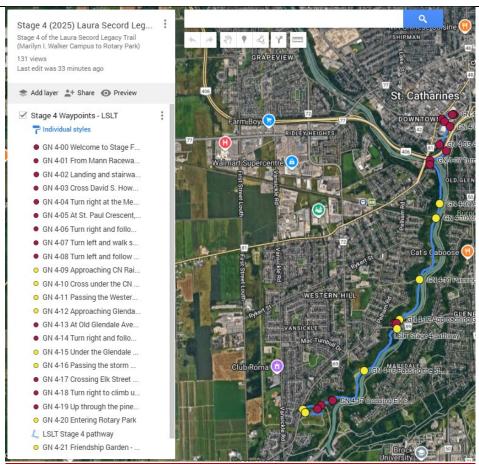
STAGE 1 GOOGLE MAP (HOMESTEAD to FIREMEN'S PARK)



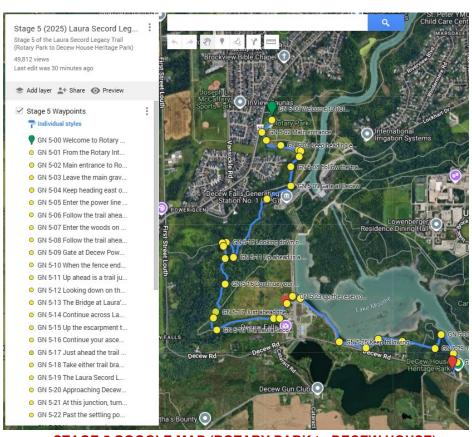




STAGE 3 GOOGLE MAP (NIAGARA COLLEGE to MARILYN I. WALKER CAMPUS, BROCK U.)



#### STAGE 4 GOOGLE MAP (MARILYN I. WALKER CAMPUS, BROCK U to ROTARY PARK)



STAGE 5 GOOGLE MAP (ROTARY PARK to DECEW HOUSE)

# LAURA SECORD LEGACY TRAIL

Turn-By-Turn Directions – Fourth Edition – AUGUST 2025

Available online in web and PDF format at www.friendsoflaurasecord.com

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#### STAGE 1 - LAURA SECORD HOMESTEAD TO FIREMEN'S PARK

Start: Laura Secord Homestead, 29 Queenston St., Queenston, ON.

End: Lower (north) car park in Firemen's Park west of Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls,

<u>ON.</u>

**Approximate Distance:** 7.4 km.

Average Walking Time: 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending upon trail conditions.

Map available online: **STAGE 1 GOOGLE MAP (SECORD HOMESTEAD TO** 

FIREMEN'S PARK)

1-01

Toilets at Laura Secord Homestead (business hours, May-October) **DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD -** The **Laura Secord Legacy Trail** starts on the sidewalk in front of the **Laura Secord Homestea**d - 29 Queenston Street, Queenston, Ontario. Start at the stone marker beside the main gate on Queenston Street.

**Walk north on Queenston Street -** From the stone marker beside the main gate in front of the Laura Secord Homestead, walk north down the hill on Queenston Street until you reach the intersection with Dee Road (400 m). Dee Road is a small lane. Watch for a red brick house on your left. Dee Road is just after that house, on your left.

Cross over Dumfries Street and continue north on Queenston Street.
You will be turning left onto **Dee Road** in about 300 m.

1-02

1

	during the Battle of Queenston Heights. Though eroded by time, the stone marker says "Sheaffe's Path to Victory - October 13th, 1812".
	Beneath the stone inscription is another engraved plaque which reads, "Erected by The Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines - 1908". This club was founded by Laura Secord biographer Emma Currie on December 3, 1892.
	Keep walking along York Road, past the stone marker.
	Continue west along the south shoulder of York Road to the intersection with <b>Concession 2 Road</b> .
1-12	Just past the intersection with Concession 2 road, you'll see a massive stone wall on the south side of York Road - the remains of an old railway bridge abutment. You will turn left into the woods at stone railway abutment just past the intersection with Concession 2 Road.
1-13	Follow the trail marker sign up into the woods and behind the stone wall- Just before the old railway bridge abutment, look for a couple of trail signs (Laura Secord Legacy Trail and Bruce Trail) which direct you to turn left into the woods and follow the trail up and behind the stone wall. Just follow the marked trail into the woods.
1-14	Climbing the Niagara Escarpment. As you leave York Road, you are climbing the Niagara escarpment - one of the most distinctive geological features in the Niagara region.
	<b>Follow the signs and paint blazes -</b> Follow the Laura Secord Legacy trail signs and the paint blazes (initially blue, then white) on the trees for 2 km.
	Along the way, you will pass the intersection with Kilometer 4.3 of the Bruce Trail. Continue on the shared Laura Secord Legacy Trail / Bruce Trail (where the paint blazes change to white) along the edge of the escarpment.
	Follow the marked trail all the way to the <b>intersection with the old Stamford Townline Road</b> , a quiet dead-end gravel street with a few private houses along its north side (about 2 km).
1-15	Emerge from the trail onto Stamford Townline Road. Exit the woods and turn right (west) onto old Stamford Townline Road.
	Walk out towards the stop sign at the intersection with Four Mile Creek Road / St. Paul Avenue (60 m).
1-15a	Turn left (south) at the stop sign and walk along the shoulder of Four Mile Creek Road (which turns into St. Paul Avenue just ahead). Almost immediately, you will intersect the wide paved Niagara Townline Road which heads up the hill to your left.
	CAREFULLY CROSS OVER the paved Niagara Townline Road and continue south along the shoulder of St. Paul Avenue. You will pass underneath the Highway 405 overpass.
1-15b	Continue up the hill along the east shoulder of St. Paul Avenue, facing traffic, for 550 metres, or about 6 minutes. Watch for a right arrow sign which tells you where to

	cross St. Paul Road and enter the woods again on the opposite side.
	The shoulder is quite narrow here, and is lined with a metal guardrail. Stay as far left as you can, and keep a sharp lookout for fast-moving traffic coming down the hill.
	Carefully cross St. Paul Avenue at the right arrow sign.
1 16	CAUTION: HIGH TRAFFIC AREA! Be very careful as you cross the road.
1-16	Watch for the <b>right arrow sign</b> that points you across St. Paul Avenue. That's where you'll CAREFULLY cross the road and enter the woods again on the opposite (west) side of St. Paul Avenue.
1-16a	Enter the woods on the shared Laura Secord Legacy Trail / Bruce Trail on the west side of St. Paul Avenue. You will see the shared trail, marked by a dirt path, LSLT trail signs, and white paint blazes.
1-16b	About 60m west of St. Paul Avenue, you will pass the wooden gateway to the <b>Niagara Bruce Trail Club Seed Orchard.</b> The seed orchard is a managed planting of specifically selected plants to be used for the mass production of genetically verified seeds to enhance or establish future restoration projects.
1-17	Continue following the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs through the woods (about 1.1 km) until the trail emerges on Dorchester Road.  Between here and Dorchester Road (about 1.1.km), watch carefully for the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs and stay on the designated path.
	CAUTION: There is extensive trail erosion in this area from dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles. Trail conditions may be very muddy and slippery.  The trail in this section has been re-routed several times (and may be re-routed again) to avoid sensitive wildlife habitat, and to bypass seriously eroded and illegal trails caused by dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles.
1-18	After 1.1 km of wooded trail, you will reach the end of Stage 1 of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail. You'll emerge on Dorchester Road, alongside the railway tracks that run parallel to the trail at this point.
1-19	The official end of Stage One is located near the entrance to the lower (north) parking lot of Firemen's Park, on the west side of Dorchester Road.
<b>Å</b> IÅ	This is the end of Stage 1.
Portable toilet at Firemen's Park on Laura Secord Day ONLY	NOTE: <b>Stage 2</b> of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail continues on the south side of the railroad tracks, just up the hill from the car park entrance. Cross over the tracks and look for the railway signal control box. The trail heads into the woods, on your right, immediately alongside the control box.
	CAUTION: RAILWAY CROSSING - Watch and listen for trains!

# STAGE 2 - FIREMEN'S PARK TO NIAGARA COLLEGE



2-00



2-01

2-02

2-03

Start: Lower (north) car park, Firemen's Park west of Dorchester Rd, Niagara Falls, ON. End: Main bus stop at Niagara College (under the big blue 'nc' logo in front of the main entrance), 135 Taylor Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON.

Stage 2 of the Legacy Trail officially starts near the parking lot at lower Firemen's Park, west of Dorchester Road and north of the CN Railway. The trailhead itself is just south of the railway tracks on Dorchester Road.

**Approximate Distance:** 7 km (short route); 8.4 km (longer alternative route). **Average Walking Time:** 1 hour 20 minutes to 2 hours, depending upon trail conditions.

Available online: STAGE 2 GOOGLE MAP (FIREMEN'S PARK TO NIAGARA COLLEGE)

#### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:**

Enter the woods at the Railway signal control box immediately south of the railway crossing on Dorchester Road.

From the gated car park in lower Firemen's Park, where Stage 1 ends, head south on Dorchester Road. Cross over the tracks and look for the railway signal control box on the right. The trail goes west into the woods just south of the railway control box.

#### **CAUTION: RAILWAY CROSSING - Watch and listen for trains!**

Continue along the Laura Secord Legacy Trail as it meanders westward through the woods. This section of the trail meanders westward for 1.5 kilometres within 100m of the railway line. It skirts the north edge of the Mountain Road Landfill Site, enters **Mewburn Park** (an undeveloped passive park in Niagara Falls), and heads south along the east edge of Mewburn Road to avoid the car traffic on the railway overpass.

This section of the trail has been re-routed several times in recent years due to dirt bike damage and erosion, so you may see several intersecting pathways along the way. Continue following the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs for the best route.

CAUTION: There is extensive trail erosion in this area from motorized vehicles right through to Warner Road. Low-lying stretches of the trail may be very wet and muddy. Please proceed carefully, and avoid doing further damage to the trail.

#### Carefully cross over to the west side of Mewburn Road.

The Laura Secord Legacy Trail crosses Mewburn Road where the steel roadside barrier ends about 180 m south of the railway overpass. Cross the road carefully, watching for fast-moving traffic. On the west side of Mewburn Road, turn right and head north again, approaching the railway embankment.

In rainy weather, this section of the trail may be rutted and muddy.

2-04	Turn left on the trail and continue walking west on the south side of the railway embankment for 70 m. The trail is marked with FLS signs and Bruce Trail blazes. About 80 m west of Mewburn Road, you will pass three large square artificial leachate retention ponds which might be visible the south side of the trail to your left. Depending upon whether the surrounding vegetation has been cleared out by Niagara Region maintenance crews, you may or may not be able to see them clearly. Sometimes in the warmer seasons, they may be covered with green pondweed.  Follow the trail as it curves west past the leachate ponds.
	Follow the trail as it turns south and follows the edge of a ravine.
	About 330m west of Mewburn Road, the trail will turn south (left) along a ravine for 200 m.
	CAUTION: depending upon season and weather conditions, the bottom of the ravine may be wet and muddy.
	The trail will make a U-turn and head north again up the west side of the same ravine.  Bear right on the trail as it loops back north, away from the QEW highway.
2-05	In 170 metres, the trail turns left (west) again and meanders through the woods for 250 m to the intersection with the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) highway and Sand Plant Hill Footbridge crossing. You will be walking west alongside the CN Railway, which runs through the woods to the north.
	Multiple informal trail routes also converge at the crossing, but it is best to <b>follow the</b> marked Laura Secord Legacy Trail.
	At the Queen Elizabeth Way highway, you will reach the Sand Plant Hill foot bridge, a pedestrian overpass over the highway, alongside the railway bridge.
	Cross over the Queen Elizabeth Way using the Sand Plant Hill Footbridge.
2-06	From the west end of the Sand Plant Hill Footbridge, the trail descends to grade level and follows the south side of the CN railway for 360 m before making a sharp right turn and passing through the 25m long 'Screaming Tunnel' under the train tracks.
2-07	After crossing the QEW on the footbridge, make your way down to ground level and follow the trail beside the CN Railway. In 230 metres you'll arrive at the famous Screaming Tunnel, that runs under the Railway.
2.00	Cross under the railway track through the Screaming Tunnel - Walk through the 25m long 'Screaming Tunnel', a quarried limestone tunnel that runs under the present-day CN (once Grand Trunk) Railway line.
2-08	Be careful as you make your way through this dark, wet railway underpass. There is usually running or standing water in the bottom of the tunnel. The stepping stones installed by fellow hikers, though convenient, are often slippery and unsteady.
2-09	Exit the Screaming Tunnel and turn left (west) on Warner Road.  After you have crossed under the railway track through the Screaming Tunnel, turn left and travel along Warner Road. In about 500 metres you will pass the intersection of Garner Road.

2-10	At the intersection with Garner Road, continue walking straight ahead on Warner Road.  Coming up – in about 300, the trail will take a sudden hard right turn off Warner Road and into the field to the north.
2-11	Watch for a pathway on your right where you will make an abrupt right turn off Warner Road, about 300 m west of the Garner Road intersection.  The trail junction is marked with Laura Secord trail signs and Bruce Trail directional signs and blazes.  On the pathway you'll go past a metal gate and through a patch of woods, skirting the western edge of an agricultural field. Follow the trail north for 100 m towards the agricultural field.
2-12	When you reach the field, veer left (northwest) along the edge.  Stay close to the edge of the field, and watch for the trail markers up ahead (you'll see them marking the trail where you leave the open area and head into the woods).
2-13	The path will curve right (towards the northeast) as it follows the edge of the farm field.
2-14	On the west edge of the field, <b>the trail will enter the woods</b> .  Follow the FLS and Bruce Trail markers as the trail turns right and heads northeast through the woods, parallel to the southeastern boundary of the Woodend Conservation Area.  In about 340 m, the trail will fork.
	<ul> <li>About 340 m from where you last entered the woods, the trail FORKS.</li> <li>At this point, you have a choice. Either:</li> <li>bear RIGHT and follow the shorter 7 km MAIN ROUTE alongside the QEW and Wetland Ridge Side Trail to Niagara College. The main Wetland Ridge Side Trail to the right is shorter and flatter, and bypasses the buildings and entrance road of Wood End Conservation Area.</li> </ul>
2-15	→ CONTINUE WITH MAIN ROUTE DIRECTIONS BELOW
	OR
	<ul> <li>keep LEFT and take the longer 8.4 km ALTERNATE ROUTE up the hill, through the grounds of Woodend Conservation Area, and along the rugged talus slopes near the Niagara College Vinyards at the base of the Escarpment. If you keep left and go up the hill, you will emerge onto the paved road at Wood End Conservation Area near the main building complex.</li> <li>→ SKIP TO ALTERNATE ROUTE DIRECTIONS BELOW</li> </ul>

MAIN ROUTE DIRECTIONS This is the shorter 7 km Stage 2 route along the Wetland Ridge Side Trail
In about 200 metres, the <b>trail will curve left and run parallel to the Queen Elizabeth Way</b> . You should be able to hear the traffic and see the QEW up ahead.
The trail will run parallel to the QEW highway for about 200 m, and then it will <b>curve left once again and head southeast through the woods</b> . In 400 m, when you reach the Niagara College Wetland Ponds, you will make a hard right turn and travel north along the west edge of the ponds.
At the Niagara College Wetland Ponds, turn right and follow the path north along the west edge of both of the ponds.
At the end of the path, turn left and follow the trail along the north edge of the pond, which takes you towards Niagara College.
At the west end of the pond, your path will intersect the main Wetland Ridge trail near the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Garden. Turn right and walk north along the trail past the utility yards and barns of Niagara College until you reach the Niagara College car park.
Entering the campus of Niagara College - When you reach the paved entrance road to the Niagara College car park, turn left and head across the parking lot towards the Canadian Food and Wine Institute building. Cross the parking lot and follow the sidewalk south of the Canadian Food and Wine Institute.
The sidewalk continues westward through the campus, south of the Canadian Food Institute, for about 160 m until it reaches the distinctive round building that houses the Benchmark Restaurant and the Niagara College Teaching Spa.
Follow the sidewalk around the round Benchmark Restaurant building as it curves north, and then
turn left and head westward for 30 m on the first sidewalk north of the Benchmark Restaurant.
At the end of the sidewalk, turn right again and head north for 25 m, towards the main building.
At the end of the sidewalk, near the southeast corner of the main building, turn left again and head west for 35 m towards the car park and transit stop in front of the main building.
In front of the main building, turn right and make your way along the sidewalk for 60 m to the bus stops and Transit Loop.
Stage 2 ends at the Transit Loop and bus stops in front of the main Niagara College building, under the big blue 'nc' logo.  This is the end of Stage 2.

	STAGE 2 ALTERNATE ROUTE DIRECTIONS (continued from 2-15 above)  This longer (8.4 km) Stage 2 route takes you through Woodend Conservation Area, along the talus slopes at the base of the Niagara Escarpment, and past the Niagara College vineyards before re-joining the main trail.
ALT 2-1	Keep LEFT and follow the pathway UP the hill towards the north. In about 150 m
ALT 2-2	the trail will switch back towards the south for about another 150 m, still climbing the hill.
ALT 2-3	You will come to the base of a <b>flight of stairs on your right</b> which ascends the hillside. Climb the stairs up to the paved access road to Woodend Conservation Centre.
ALT 2-4	At the top of the stairs, turn LEFT and follow the paved road <b>for 750 m</b> as it meanders southwest through Wood End Conservation Area.
	Watch for the Laura Secord ALT trail signs marking your path.
ALT 2-5	About 750 m west of the flight of stairs that you climbed, you will leave the paved access road and turn right (north) onto an unpaved trail through the woods.  Watch for the arrow directing you to turn right off of the paved access road and the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs along the path.  After heading north for about 50 m
ALT 2-6	the trail will merge with the <b>Paul Naray (Silurian) Side Trail</b> and <b>head westward for about 320 m</b> , gradually descending the escarpment slope.  Follow the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs.
ALT 2-7	As you descend towards the base of the escarpment, the trail will double back and follow the southeastern edge of the Niagara College vineyards. which may soon be visible through the trees about 50m to the north.  Keep walking along this trail, but be careful – it is a talus slope, littered with loose stones from ancient glaciation and erosion of the Escarpment.  CAUTION: Rocky trail with loose stones and uneven footing.  WALK CAREFULLY!
ALT 2-8	Passing Niagara College Vineyards and Ponds - The trail heads northward and emerges at the eastern edge of the Niagara College vineyards.  Continue straight north for about 440 m, passing the wetland ponds (lagoons) and the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Garden on your right along the way. You'll see the vineyards and the agricultural service buildings through the fringe of trees on your left.

## Continue north on the path. You will pass the First Nations Metis and Inuit Garden on your right. This garden was planted near the Niagara College campus wetlands to provide a ALT 2-9 learning experience for visitors, employees and students. The design of the garden focuses on Aboriginal Knowledge and is home to native plants and special features that are important for ceremonial food and traditional medicines. It provides a natural learning environment for ecology, food science and agriculture. Entering the campus of Niagara College - When you reach the paved entrance road to the Niagara College car park, turn left and head across the parking lot towards the Canadian Food and Wine Institute building. ALT 2-10 Cross the parking lot and follow the sidewalk south of the Canadian Food and Wine Institute. The sidewalk continues westward through the campus for about 160 m until it reaches the distinctive round building that houses the Benchmark Restaurant and the Niagara College Teaching Spa. **ALT 2-11** Follow the sidewalk around the building as it curves north, and then zig-zag westward on the sidewalks towards the main building of Niagara College. At the front of the main building, turn right and make your way to the bus stop and Transit Loop. The Transit Loop and bus stops are in front of the main college building, under the big blue 'nc' logo. Campus (business hours. year-round)

This is the end of Stage 2.



Laura Secord Legacy Trail volunteer trail inspectors (I to r): Judy Fox, Mike Fox, Pamela Ward, and John Convey.

#### Special thanks to our trail volunteers!

The Laura Secord Legacy Trail depends upon the generous contributions of time and labour by community members who share our vision.

> Special thanks to the following kind folks for their efforts over the years:

Jee Yan Chu, Mike and Judy Fox, Pamela Ward, John Convey, Cate Mee, the late Roy McCormick, Bryant; Ross Macdonald, Lori Steglinski, Leah Bercovitch (trail routing and mapping); Bruce and Robin Hogg and the Sunflowers Cycling Club; Paul Humber; Rick Waters and the Niagara Bruce Trail Club (trail maintenance); Shannon Millar, Matt MacMillan, Niagara Region and municipalities, and everyone else who has assisted with route planning, mapping, and trail creation and maintenance.



3-00



3-01

3-02

# STAGE 3 - NIAGARA COLLEGE to MARILYN I. WALKER SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS, BROCK UNIVERSITY (MANN RACEWAY PLAZA)

**Start:** Main bus stop at Niagara College Transit Loop (under the big blue 'nc' logo in front of the main entrance), 135 Taylor Road, Niagara on the Lake, ON.

**End:** <u>Mann Raceway Plaza, behind the Marilyn I. Walker (downtown) campus of Brock</u> University, 15 Artists' Common, St. Catharines, ON L2R 0B5

Approximate Distance: 8.3 km.

Average Walking Time: 1 hour 50 minutes to 2 hours 15 minutes, depending upon road

and trail conditions.

Map available online: <u>STAGE 3 GOOGLE MAP (NIAGARA COLLEGE TO MARILYN I.</u> WALKER SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS, BROCK UNIVERSITY)

Stage 3 begins at the Transit Loop bus stop in front of the main entrance of Niagara College, under the big blue 'nc' logo.

From the bus stop, look for the pedestrian path near the bike racks that goes towards Glendale Avenue.

**Follow the path behind the bicycle racks towards Glendale Avenue -** From the bus stop in front of the main entrance to Niagara College, look for the pedestrian pathway that meanders from the bike racks at the transit loop to the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Rd. Follow the path north, around the circular planter, and over the small footbridge, where it emerges at the southeast corner of Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue.

(ALTERNATE) – 50 m from the bike racks, there are two paths which lead towards Glendale Avenue. For a shorter alternate route, turn left at the path junction and follow the shortcut to Taylor Road. When you reach Taylor Road, turn right and walk towards the traffic lights and the pedestrian cross walk at the intersection with Glendale Avenue.

3-04

3-03



Toilets in Mall / McDonald's / Starbucks (business hours, year-round)

3-05

Cross Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road, then walk towards McDonald's and Starbucks - At the traffic lights, carefully cross Glendale Avenue using the pedestrian crosswalk. On the other side, cross Taylor Road. You'll be heading towards McDonalds, and the Outlet Mall.

Continue along the sidewalk on the west side of Taylor Road, towards McDonalds and Starbucks. There should be Laura Secord Legacy Trail decals on the lamp posts along the sidewalk.

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vill pass the <b>Homer Cemetery</b> on your der between Niagara-on-the-Lake
the south shoulder of York Road e of the Homer Bridge).
ase proceed carefully!
<b>anal</b> (240 m). Use the pedestrian e. You may have an opportunity to
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3-16	As you walk along <b>Queenston Street</b> and cross <b>Emmett Road</b> , you will pass through <b>Victoria Lawn Cemetery</b> (700 m). It was established as the St. Catharines Cemetery in 1856, and renamed after Queen Victoria in the early 1900s.
	There are now more than 79,000 souls interred in its 170 acres, which is more than half of the current living population of St. Catharines.
3-17	Continue west along Queenston Street and <b>cross Spring Street</b> on your way to Bunting Road (300 m ahead).
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-18	Cross the busy intersection at Bunting Road and Queenston Street at the crosswalk. Continue on Queenston Street to Hartzell Road (400 m).
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-19	Cross the busy intersection at Hartzell Rd. Continue west along Queenston St. for 900 m to Westchester Crescent.  CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
	At the intersection of <b>Queenston Street and Westchester Crescent</b> , directions get a bit tricky - so pay attention!
	Cross over Westchester Crescent and immediately turn left, but do not go straight down the hill on Westchester Crescent.
3-20	Instead, follow the sidewalk that heads along Eastchester Avenue and down the hill on the diagonal. You will see a one-way street sign that directs you onto Eastchester Avenue. Follow the sidewalk down Eastchester Avenue.
	THIS INTERSECTION CAN BE A BIT CONFUSING CHECK THAT YOU ARE NOW FOLLOWING EASTCHESTER AVENUE TOWARDS CENTENNIAL PARK.
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-21	<b>Keep following Eastchester Avenue</b> southwest (downhill) for about 200 metres, until you meet the intersection with Oakdale Avenue.
3-22	Turn right on Oakdale Avenue, and walk north on Oakdale for 80 metres, towards the car park on your left. The car park is actually an entrance to Richard Pierpoint Park (formerly Centennial Park Gardens) – which is part of the system of parks that follow Dick's Creek and the old Welland Canal through the heart of St. Catharines.
	Cross Oakdale Avenue and enter the car park, then turn right and head past the road barrier into the valley. Follow the trail into Richard Pierpoint Park (formerly Centennial Park).
3-23	All along this section of the trail, partially hidden by the vegetation on your left, is <b>Dick's Creek</b> . This creek was part of the original Welland Canal system, and is believed to be named after celebrated Black Loyalist Richard 'Captain Dick' Pierpoint, who was granted land in this area. You'll see a plaque commemorating him beside the car park.

3

3-24	Keep walking along the trail (shared with the Merritt Trail) through Richard Pierpoint Park. Up ahead, about 500 metres west of the park entrance, you'll see the former Totem Pole Garden. Keep walking straight ahead along the trail.
	Pass the stone wall which borders the former Totem Pole Garden.
3-24a	The Totem Pole itself was removed in December 2019, restored, and installed in Canada Games Park in 2025, but its circular base can still be seen.
	Continue walking west on the Merritt Trail for 180 m.
3-25	The trail will fork up ahead. Bear right on the paved section of the trail and climb the stairs to Riordan Street.
3-26	At the top of the stairs, follow the left (west) sidewalk of Riordan Street straight ahead to Gale Crescent.
3-27	Turn left (west) on Gale Crescent, and walk all the way to Geneva Street (170 m).
3-28	<b>Turn left on Geneva Street.</b> Walk south on Geneva Street for 70 m. At the traffic light, CAREFULLY cross over the Hwy 406 off-ramp.
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-29	After you cross the off ramp from Hwy 406, immediately turn right and cross Geneva Street to the opposite side on the pedestrian crosswalk. You'll be on the southeast corner of Geneva Street and Race Street. (Race Street turns into McGuire Street 150 metres ahead, at the intersection with Carlisle Street).
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-30	Turn right, and use the pedestrian crosswalk to CAREFULLY cross over to the sidewalk on the northwest corner of Race and Geneva Streets.
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
3-30a	Turn left at the corner and walk southwest on the sidewalk on Race Street. It will curve to the southwest. (When you reach the intersection with Carlisle Street, Race Street turns into McGuire Street.)
	Continue walking southwest and stay left on the sidewalk along Race Street.
3-31	Just ahead, you will cross Carlisle Street.
	CAUTION: High traffic area - Please proceed carefully!
	Cross Carlisle Street. At this point, Race Street becomes McGuire Street.
3-32	On your right, you will see the front of Brock University's downtown campus – the <b>Marilyn</b> I. Walker School for Fine and Performing Arts. Further ahead is the Meridian Arena.

4

3-33	At the corner of Carlisle Street and McGuire Street, take the stairway (right) or the winding path (left) that descends the hill and connects to the path that goes BEHIND the Marilyn I. Walker complex.
3-34	Follow the path behind the Marilyn I. Walker complex.  In 50 m, you will arrive at Mann Raceway Plaza, where you will see some benches around a small grassy square, and a sign commemorating the Lancaster, Brooks and Welch pathway.  Stage 3 of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail ends here at Mann Raceway Plaza.  This is the end of Stage 3.
Toilets in Marilyn I Walker building and Meridian Centre (year-round, business hours)	Stage 3 of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail ends at Mann Raceway Plaza, where you will see some benches around a small grassy square, and a sign commemorating the Lancaster, Brooks and Welch pathway.  This is the end of Stage 3.
	STAGE 4 – MARILYN I. WALKER SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS (MANN RACEWAY PLAZA) TO ROTARY PARK
4-00	Start: Mann Raceway Plaza, behind the Marilyn I. Walker (downtown) campus of Brock University, 15 Artists' Common, St. Catharines, ON L2R 0B5
<b>Å</b> Im	End: Rotary Park (395 Pelham Street, St. Catharines L2S 0A2) (at Rotary International logo).

Toilets in Marilyn I Walker building (year-round, business hours)

4-01

Free parking available onsite

Distance: 5.7 km

Average Walking Time: 55 min to 1.25 hours for the average walker, depending upon trail conditions.

Available online: STAGE 4 GOOGLE MAP (MARILYN I. WALKER CAMPUS of BROCK **UNIVERSITY TO ROTARY PARK)** 

From Mann Raceway Plaza, follow the pedestrian pathway west for 140 m behind Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, towards the Meridian Centre.

You will pass the rear entrance to the School and go through a passage under an overhead building before arriving at a stairway on the left of the path.

lot, west of the Marilyn I. Walker School.

Descend both sets of stairs to the sidewalk alongside the David S. Howes parking

Follow the path to the pedestrian crossing across David S. Howes Way (40 m).

4-02

	walking south on the main Laura Secord Legacy Trail, keeping Twelve Mile Creek on your left.
4-12	Approaching the Glendale Avenue Pedestrian Bridge - Just before the Laura Secord Legacy Trail intersects with Glendale Avenue, you'll see the Glendale Avenue Pedestrian Bridge at Old Glendale Avenue. Follow the trail as it rises towards the bridge.
4-13	At Old Glendale Avenue, make a left turn towards the Glendale Avenue Pedestrian Bridge (40 m) but do not cross it.
4-14	Instead Turn right and follow the Laura Secord Legacy Trail south, past the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) barrier gate.  Continue straight ahead under the busy Glendale Avenue Overpass.
4-15	After you've walked under the Glendale Avenue Overpass, continue walking south on the Laura Secord Legacy Trail as it curves down into the wooded valley of the Twelve Mile Creek.
4-16	Passing the storm water retention pond - About 900 m south of the Glendale Avenue Overpass, you will come upon some brush-covered berms (mounds) on your right. These are the banks of a large storm water retention pond. Follow the path along the southeastern edge of these berms, keeping them on your right, and the shoreline of Twelve Mile Creek on your left. After you've reached the end of the berms, continue along the trail that follows Twelve Mile Creek.
4-17	Crossing Elk Street Flats – About 560 m south of the storm water retention pond, the trail will meander through the Elk Street Flats. This is a low-lying area that is undergoing reforestation. After 600 m you will come to a small rise, where you will begin your ascent to Rotary Park.
4-18	Bear right at the trail intersection - After 160 m, the main gravel trail will come to a t-intersection. Turn RIGHT at this corner and follow the trail WEST for 100 m towards the stand of pine trees on the hillside (Rotary Pines North). Continue on the trail as it climbs up towards the stand of pine trees on the hillside. If you turn left, and see a leachate pumping station, you'll know you've gone the wrong way.
4-19	<b>Up through the pines to Rotary Park -</b> Follow the path up the hillside and through the pines towards Rotary Park.
4-20	<b>Entering Rotary Park</b> - As you emerge from the trees at the top of the hill, you'll be entering Rotary Park. Turn left here, and follow the curving trail towards the large circular stone structure about 50 m ahead. It is hard to tell from here, but it is a raised stone garden featuring the Rotary International Logo.
4-21	Friendship Garden - Rotary Logo - End of Stage 4  The raised circular garden on the edge of Rotary Park is known as the Friendship Garden. It displays a large Rotary International logo, surrounded by ornamental grasses and junipers. The 24 foot wheel, made of steel, is said to symbolize movement and civilization. Stage 4 ends at the big yellow and blue Rotary Garden monument in Rotary Park.  This is the end of Stage 4.







#### STAGE 5 - ROTARY PARK TO DECEW HOUSE

Start: Rotary Park (entrance opposite 392 Pelham Street, St. Catharines L2S 0A2) (at Rotary International logo).

End: Decew House Hertiage Park, Decew Road, 628 m west of Merrittville Highway, St. Catharines.

Approximate Distance: 4.5 km

Average Walking Time: 55 min to 1.25 hours for the average walker, depending upon

trail conditions.

Stage Five begins immediately in front of the big blue and yellow Rotary International logo.

Available online: STAGE 5 GOOGLE MAP (ROTARY PARK TO DECEW HOUSE)

	Available offilite. OTAGE 3 GOOGLE WAT (NOTART FARR TO BEGEW HOOGL)
5-01	From the Rotary International logo, walk along the path towards the large boulder with the bronze plaque.
	Just past the boulder, turn right on the pedestrian pathway and make your way to the park entrance at Pelham Road. Watch for the Laura Second Legacy Trail marker. From there, you'll follow the gravel path as it skirts the edge of the park.
5-02	Just past the boulder, turn right on the pedestrian pathway and make your way to the main entrance to the park at Pelham Road.  From the main entrance, look for the Laura Secord Legacy trail marker, and walk south along the wide gravel path, keeping Pelham Road to your right.  Follow the path until it bears left.
5-03	At the bend, you'll see the trail marker for the Laura Secord Legacy Trail, which continues straight ahead, heading south.
	Leave the main gravel path and follow the pedestrian trail.
	This path may be somewhat overgrown and indistinct, It heads south and then bends left (east) along the edge of the hill towards a stand of pine trees (Rotary Pines South) in the valley of the Twelve Mile Creek. Follow this pathway down the hillside and into the valley.

5-04

Unfortunately, an infestation of bark borer insects has seriously damaged the pine trees in this area. You will see only a few healthy pine trees, and many dead and dying trees with obvious damage to their trunks.

Descending towards Rotary Pines South - Keep heading east on the trail into a stand

Follow this pathway down the hillside and into the valley.

of pine trees. This grove of trees is called Rotary Pines South.

5-05	Entering the power line corridor - The trail emerges into a wide power line corridor and curves right.
	In late fall, winter, and early spring, you will have a good view from here of the DeCew Power Generating Station on the opposite (east) side of the creek.
	Follow the trail ahead as it crosses under the power lines and continues into the woods.
5-06	Follow the trail straight ahead as it crosses under the power lines.
5-07	Enter the woods on the south side of the power line corridor.  Continue down the trail into the valley of Twelve Mile Creek.
5-08	Follow the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs through the woods. You will see a network of intersecting mountain bike trails in this area. Follow the Laura Secord Legacy Trail signs to stay on the correct path.
5-08a	About 160 m south of the power line corridor, the trail forks. Keep right at the fork and follow the upper trail along the edge of the slope.
	Gate at DeCew Power Generating Station - At the bottom of the valley, the trail emerges at the foot of Tailrace Road by the gate of the DeCew Power Generating Station.
5-09	Follow the trail which parallels the chain-link fence to the right of this gate.
	CAUTION: This section of the trail can be wet, muddy, and slippery.  Proceed carefully!
5-10	When the fence ends, bear left on the trail and climb up on the slight rise to the old DeCew Power Plant access path. Follow the dirt path south, parallel to Twelve Mile Creek. The creek is much narrower here, upstream from the power station.
5-10a	Ruins of the Peter Thomas Mill Dam - About 650 m after the end of the power station fence, look left. You will see the ruins of the old Peter Thomas Mill Dam bridging the Twelve Mile Creek. You can view it from a small lookout to the left of the main trail. Return to the main trail and continue south.
5-11	Climbing the 'hogsback' ridge - About 50 m south of the Peter Thomas Mill Dam, you will come to a trail junction. Bear RIGHT and follow the gravelled section of the trail as it climbs the 'hogsback' ridge. Follow the hogsback trail for 250 m as it heads north, following the meander in the creek, and then loops back south, descending to eventually cross the 12 Mile Creek at 'The Bridge at Laura's Crossing'.
5-12	<b>Looking down on the Bridge at Laura's Crossing -</b> As you descend the slope from the hogsback, look through the trees on your left and you should be able to see the metal span of The Bridge at Laura's Crossing.
	At the bottom of the hill, at the trail junction, turn left and head towards the bridge. You'll be using this bridge to cross Twelve Mile Creek.

5-13	Cross the Bridge at Laura's Crossing into Laura's Meadow.  The Bridge at Laura's Crossing was installed in May 2013, and officially dedicated on June 22 – exactly two hundred years to the day after Laura Secord's momentous journey. As you cross this simple but unique bridge, remember that according to her own accounts, Laura Secord crossed the 12 Mile Creek on a fallen log. This footbridge, built with generous donations by the Toby family and Rankin Construction and based on a design donated by the Government of New Zealand, makes the crossing a whole lot easier.
5-14	After crossing the bridge, continue straight on the trail across Laura's Meadow, towards the Escarpment. (250 m).
5-15	Up the escarpment to the 'Bench on the Bench' - Follow the gravel trail up the hill, and into the woods. Soon you'll see a log seating area on a gentle slope of the escarpment, a level area known geologically as a 'bench'.  You can take a rest here on what's now known as 'The Bench on the Bench'.
5-16	<b>Take either trail branch -</b> Just after the Bench, the trail splits (left or right). You can take either branch. Both paths will converge further up the escarpment, but the right branch is a little longer.
5-17	Trail convergence - On the brow of the Escarpment, the Laura Secord Legacy Trail rejoins the Bruce Trail. Stay on the trail as it heads southwest towards the 'nose' of the Escarpment (370 m), and then back eastward overlooking the valley of Beaverdams Creek for 450 m. You will soon see the gorge of DeCew Falls on your right, as you approach at DeCew Falls and Morningstar Mill.  NOTE: The Laura Secord Legacy Trail turns left and heads northeast just before you get to the DeCew Falls lookout and the Morningstar Mill property. If you choose to visit the Mill, note the trail junction where the Laura Secord Legacy Trail continues so you can return and continue your walk.
Permanent portable toilet at Morningstar Mill (year-round)	Approaching Morningstar Mill - As the trail approaches DeCew Falls and Morningstar Mill, you will come to a trail junction.  The Laura Secord Legacy Trail turns left there, and head north. If you turn right at the junction, you'll end up on the Morningstar Mill property. Morningstar Mill is definitely worth a visit. But if you choose to visit the Mill, note the trail junction where the Laura Secord Legacy Trail continues so you can return and continue your walk.
5-19	Along DeCew's Field - At the junction where the trail splits towards Morningstar Mill, turn left and follow the trail for 200 metres along the west edge of the Niagara Region's DeCew Water Treatment Plant.  On your left you'll see two small brick buildings – these are pumping stations. The open grassy field, on your left, is part of DeCew's Field. Somewhere in that field Laura Secord had her famous encounter with the First Nations warriors.

5-20	Past the ponds and trees to the reservoir - About 50m past the pumping station building you will see two round settling ponds at the water treatment plant. On your left, just before the gate to the settling ponds, look for a small pathway that leads past a grove of trees. It will curve towards the stone wall of the Lake Moodie Hydro reservoir. Follow that path.
5-21	<b>Up the reservoir wall -</b> Carefully climb the angled path up the stone wall of the reservoir, and turn right when you reach the top. The trail continues along the top of the wall. Once you're there you'll see some sweeping views of the escarpment, and the complete reservoir system.
5-22	Continue on top of the reservoir wall - Stay on the trail atop the crushed stone berm as it follows the edge of the reservoir. Keep the reservoir on your left. Up ahead you'll be approaching Decew Road.
	Stay on the raised trail as it follows the south edge of the reservoir, parallel to Decew Road.
5-23	Remain on the trail on top of the reservoir wall as it curves away from Decew Road along the edge of the reservoir for 130 m and descends to grade level.
5-24	<b>Down from the reservoir wall to the trail -</b> The path descends from the stone reservoir wall, and follows a short section of the shoreline of Lake Moodie before heading east through forest and meadow (400 m). Follow the trail as it heads into the forest. The forest can be damp through here - watch out for mud puddles! The trail will turn left (north) for 80 m, and then make a sharp right turn towards the southeast at the water's edge.
	<b>Turn right when the trail reaches the shoreline -</b> On this stretch of trail, you will approach a hydro feeder canal which supplies water to the Decew Falls Generating Station (which is located on the edge of the escarpment just north of this location).
5-25	Make a sharp right turn along the water's edge. Be careful - the banks can be slippery, and the water here is fast-flowing and very dangerous. It connects the Lake Moodie hydro reservoir system with Lake Gibson. At this point, you will be on the final approach to DeCew House Heritage Park.
5-26	Arriving at Decew House Heritage Park - The final approach to DeCew House follows the swift-flowing channel connecting Lake Moodie and Lake Gibson for 300 m before emerging at DeCew House Heritage Park.
Portable toilet at Decew House Heritage Park on Laura Secord Day ONLY	Decew House Heritage Park, which is the end of Stage 5 (and of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail). Decew House is where Laura Secord came to deliver her fateful message to Lieutenant Fitzgibbon, and walked into history.
	The park is also the location of the <b>First Nations Peace Monument</b> , designed by celebrated Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal.
5-27	This is the end of Stage Five, and of the Laura Secord Legacy Trail.  Congratulations – you've just followed in Laura Secord's footsteps!



# THE FOLLOWING ONLINE MAPS CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE 'TRAIL' TAB AT

### www.friendsoflaurasecord.com

STAGE 1 GOOGLE MAP (HOMESTEAD to FIREMEN'S PARK)

STAGE 2 GOOGLE MAP (FIREMEN'S PARK to NIAGARA COLLEGE)

STAGE 3 GOOGLE MAP (NIAGARA COLLEGE to MARILYN I. WALKER CAMPUS, BROCK UNIVERSITY)

STAGE 4 GOOGLE MAP (MARILYN I. WALKER CAMPUS, BROCK UNIVERSITY to ROTARY PARK)

STAGE 5 GOOGLE MAP (ROTARY PARK to DECEW HOUSE HERITAGE PARK)

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