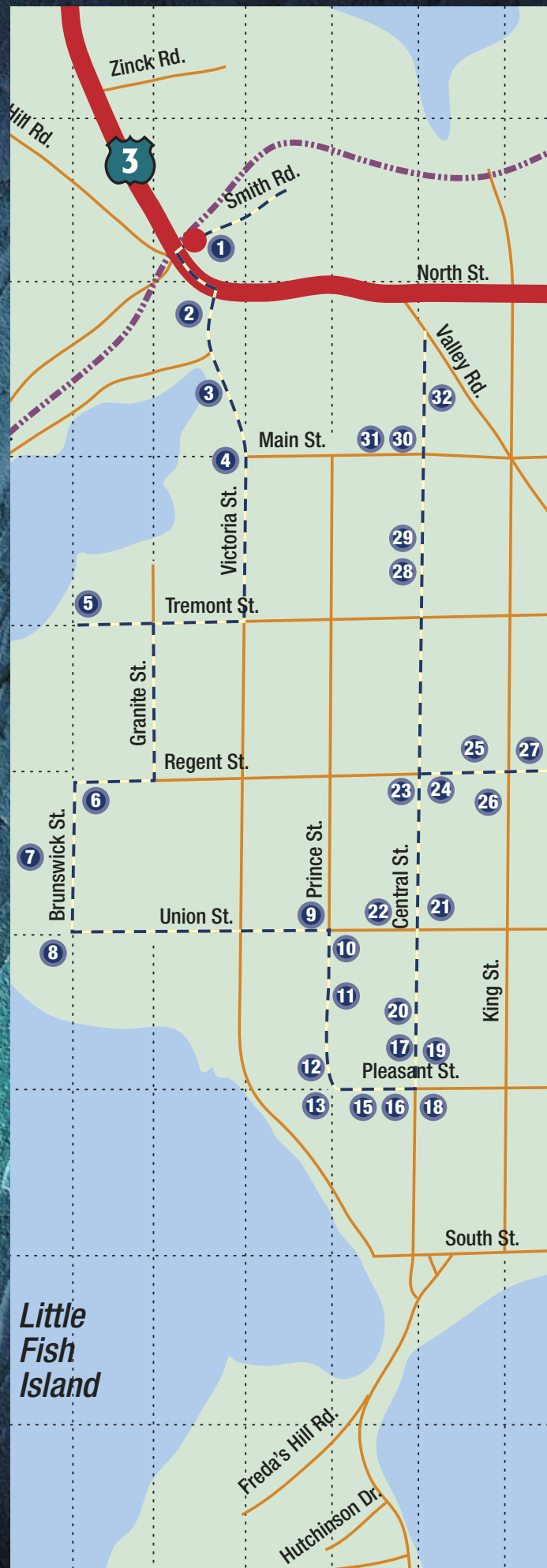


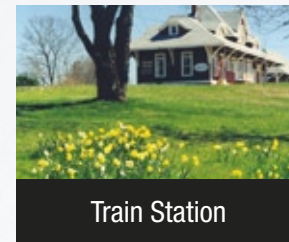
# BACK HARBOUR WALK



**CHESTER NOVA SCOTIA**  
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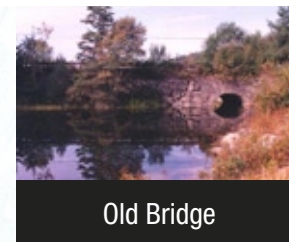
1 Park your car at the *Chester Train Station*, off of North Street. Be sure to visit the *Hawboldt Display* and explore the Train Station. The station, circa 1905, is a standard full-size MacKenzie Mann freight station built by the Halifax and Southwestern Railway. Return to North Street Highway #3 and turn left and continue straight on to Victoria Street.



Train Station

2 The house on your right is the *Fairbanks' House* and is now a private residence. It was built circa 1760 by Joseph Fairbanks who was a carpenter and a farmer.

3 Continue across the bridge at the head of the Mill Cove. This bridge built by Mr. Tufts in 1882, was a replacement for a wooden bridge destroyed in the Saxby Gale which created a running tide over 4 feet above normal. It is said that a murdered man's body was found under the stone bridge. At times he can be seen struggling out of the water and up the hill to knock on the door of a house where the deed supposedly occurred. Stagecoaches entered the village using a road that ran parallel to the bridge. They forded the water and then drove up Prince Street, crossed Main Street and discharged their passengers at the Columbia House, a popular Chester hotel.



Old Bridge

4 At the corner of Victoria Street and Main Street, on the right, is the former *Swinehamer House*, circa 1800, built by John Anderson. The property was once operated as a tavern and boarding house but is now a private residence.

5 Continue to the corner of Tremont and Victoria Streets and turn right. *Heisler's Marina*, constructed in 1924 by Reuben Heisler from Tancook Island, is located on the right. His son Benjamin designed and built the Chester "C" class yachts. The marina is now operated by Reuben's grandson. Continue down the road and you are at *Steven's Boat Yard*.

6 Retrace your steps and turn right on Granite Street and then right on Regent Street. On your left, at the next corner, the house set among the trees is assumed to have been the original *Catholic Glebe House*.

7 Turn left on Brunswick Street and to your right is the *Old Baptist Burial Grounds*. The oldest stone in this cemetery belongs to Sarah Levy and her daughter and is dated 1761.

8 Continue to Union Street. Look to your right and you can see the back of a house built by Lindley Keasby, the owner of the Hackmatack Inn, and now a private residence. It was built circa 1902, and was originally known as the "*Jib House*". The house was designed to remind Mr. Keasby's bride of her southern U.S. home. It features four large Doric-style pillars that support the pedimented portico. The house overlooks the Back Harbour.

9 Turn left on Union Street and continue across Victoria Street to Prince Street. The house on the left is the *Williams' House*, circa 1868.

10 Diagonally opposite on the corner is the "*Larch*", circa 1905, one of the original annexes to the Hackmatack Inn. The large white house on the right was designed by renowned American architect Stanford White and has always been a private residence. Turn to your right on to Prince Street.

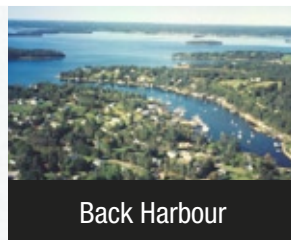


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11 As you proceed, the large cleared space to your left was where the original Baptist Church stood and later the Hackmatack Inn, circa 1900, was built. The Hackmatack was used as the site of a convalescent home for Norwegian seaman during World War II. During its demolition in the 1950's, a World War II bomb was discovered under the front veranda. The bomb was defused and then dumped into the bay.

12 On your right is the former *Champlain Robertson House*, overlooking the Back Harbour. Mrs. Powhatten Clark, a descendant of Indian Chief Powhatten, father of Pocahontas, once owned this house.



Back Harbour

13 Continue down the hill and on your right is the *Jib Lot Park*, donated to the village by Clarissa Anderson Gibbs. In 1994 the Chester Volunteer Fire Department erected a memorial to recognize the service of its members. The site offers a magnificent view of the western sky and beautiful sunsets.

14 The small island with the grey house on it in front of you is called Little Fish Island. It has been the summer home of Dr. John Finney's family since 1904. He chose the island because he felt it was far enough away so that he couldn't be called back for consultations.

15 Behind you on the corner is a large green house, "*Over The Way*", circa 1908. This house was built for Dr. Andrew Anderson in just three months as a summer residence and is still owned by family members.

16 Return up the hill to Pleasant Street. The house that sits to the right at the corner of Central and Pleasant Streets was built by Samuel Prescott, a doctor and merchant and the son of Capt. Jonathan Prescott, one of the founding fathers of Chester. It is an example of a 1½ story Gothic Revival building. It is possible that Samuel may have been the boy who asked where 100 men from the local

militia should be billeted during a Privateer attack on the town. The Reverends Robert D. Clarke and Wright Shreve later owned the property. Reverend Robert Clarke was the founder of the second Masonic Lodge, Clarke Lodge #61, which held its first meeting on December 29, 1870.

17 Opposite, on the left is "*Tamarack*" cottage, circa 1902, annex to the Hackmatack Inn and built by Lindley Keasby circa 1900. The original tennis courts for the Hackmatack were located at the back of this building. Some of the trees on this lot are tamaracks.

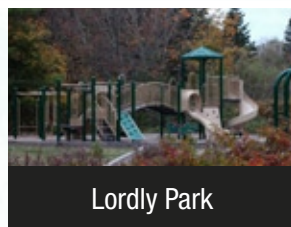
18 Across the street on the right is the *Charles Saunders House*, circa 1824. A subsequent owner, Captain Mills, used the rear section of the second floor as a sail loft and the front as a residence.

19 On the opposite corner is the *George Mitchell House*, the site of the first public school in Chester and at one time the local telephone office. Mr. Mitchell provided conveyances for the Hackmatack and other hotels in the village.

20 Proceed down Central Street. On your left the "*Hemlock House*", a modified Gothic style circa 1900.

21 At the corner of Central and Union Streets, is the former *James David Houghton House*, circa 1911.

22 To your left is *Lordly Park* and a children's playground which was constructed in 2007.



Lordly Park

23 Wander through the park or continue along the road to the corner of Regent and Central Street to *Lordly Manor*, a municipal museum. Lordly Manor, circa 1806, is a good example of Georgian architecture. It



Lordly House Museum

was originally built for Captain McCurdy and known as "Evergreen Hall". It later became the home of Charles Lordly and his son Edwin, the first two Municipal Clerks of the Municipality of Chester.

24 Turn right on to Regent Street. The *Zoe Valle Library*, circa 1800, is a Cape Cod-style house with its original wide front door, flagstone walk and dug well. It belonged to Capt. J. Allen who sold it in 1864 to John A. Webber (Deputy Sheriff in 1875). He sold the property to Mrs. Lightfoote around 1902. The library was a gift to the village in 1928 from Mrs. Isobel Austin, New York, in memory of her sister, the late Mrs. Zoe Valle Lightfoote. The Tower in the yard, built circa 1902, was used to watch the yacht races in summer.

25 Across the street is *St. Stephen's Anglican Church*, built in 1795. Several sailors who perished in the explosion of the ship "*Young Teazer*" are buried in the cemetery. There is also a cross in the church that was made from wood salvaged from the *Young Teazer*. This is the second church on this site. In June, 1840 the original church was torn down and replaced within a single week at a cost of 1,100 pounds. Reverend. Seccombe, one of the first ministers to this area, is buried in this churchyard and his journals are still used for reference today. The original church hall, circa 1845, was used as a school until 1870. A new Parish Centre was built in 2008.

26 *St. Augustine's Catholic Church*, at the corner of Regent and King Streets, is the second oldest Catholic Church in Lunenburg County, built in 1844 by Mr. Schmitt, under the leadership of Reverend. Edward Doyle. The first donation to the church was made in 1884 by William O'Brien in the amount of 7 pounds, 10 shillings. The cemetery is the final resting place of Indian Joe, whose grandfather was one of the guides who led General Wolfe on his expedition to Quebec.

27 Diagonally across on the opposite corner is the former *Stanford House* built by William Marvin, a local carpenter, circa 1864. It has a pitched-hipped roof and is an example

of late Georgian style; Dr. Stanford was the local dentist who kept his appointments written on the walls of his office. His wife, Lucy, maintained the deeds office until 1957. It is said that Dr. Stanford's fillings never fell out. He pried the teeth apart, inserted the filling and then allowed the teeth to settle back in place.

28 Retrace your steps to Central Street and turn right past the Chester Volunteer Fire Department, founded in 1936. Cross Tremont Street, and the second house, circa 1899, belonged to the Williams family. The house was occupied by Judge Charles Williams during his lifetime.

29 The next house is the former *Hiltz House*, constructed for Edward Robinson, a local merchant. Coffins were built in a small building on the property.

30 Turn left on Main Street. The two-story Greek Revival house with large trees in front was once the home of Artemus Fader, a carriage builder. The house, circa 1860, was later the home of Mrs. Bess Cox who was the church organist at St. Stephen's as well as a local school teacher.

31 The adjacent property is known as the *Old Carriage Shop*, a Greek Revival-style building, circa 1817. The wide doorway allowed carriages to be brought in and out of the shop. Carriages constructed here were exported to England and New England. Main street was originally the main road leading into the village from the highway.

32 Continue down Central Street toward Valley Road. On your right you will see signs for the *MATLADY* and the *SIGN GUY*. These two home-based businesses serve customers around the world.