

AN ONTARIO'S SOUTHWEST CYCLING ITINERARY

Lake Erie River Run

Haldimand Grand River Ride



Total Distance:
135 km



**Suggested Ride
and Touring Itinerary:**
2 days, 1 night



Experience Level:
Moderate to experienced



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Daily Ride Distance Average: 66 km

Experience Level: Moderate to experienced.

Route Surface: Paved roads.

Route Map Link: www.ridewithgps.com/routes/14445324

Vehicle Parking/Transportation: Park at booked accommodation in Caledonia or at the parking area at the Caledonia Fairgrounds.



Starting point:

Caledonia Fairgrounds

End Point: Dunnville

Total distance: 51 km

Interesting stops along the day's route:

- Town of Caledonia
- Edinburgh Square – Heritage and Cultural Centre
- Trans Canada Trail
- Taquanyah Conservation Area
- Haldimand County Museum and Archives
- Bains Road Cidery (Optional – 4 km off route)
- Richardson's Farm and Market
- Byng Island Conservation Area
- Town of Dunnville
- Muddy the Mudcat statue
- Kayaking or fishing on the Grand River

**For detailed turn-by-turn directions,
please refer to the route map at:**

<http://www.ridewithgps.com/routes/14445324>

Day 1: Leg 1 of 2

Caledonia to Cayuga – 24 km

Area services: Accommodation, campgrounds, cafes, restaurants, shopping, banking, groceries, attractions and trails. No services available between Caledonia and Cayuga.

- Before setting off, explore some of the attractions in Caledonia including the Grand River and Edinburgh Square – Heritage and Cultural Centre, across from the famous Caledonia Fair Grounds. Ride across the arched Grand River Bridge and follow town roads to River Road.
- Leave town along the quiet and curvy River Road, part of the Trans Canada Trail. Ride for 7 km through picturesque rural Ontario.
- Ride east across the Grand River for a brief stop at York Park. Enjoy riverside views with an ice cream or other refreshments available at York General Store located directly across from park. Public bicycle maintenance station and seasonal washrooms are available in park.
- Ride back across the Grand River and continue south on River Road for 8 km. Enjoy the rolling countryside with frequent river views riding towards the town of Cayuga.
- Head west on Townline Road West for 2 km for a quick stop at Taquanyah Conservation Area and short walk through forests, wetlands and other natural areas.
- Stop for a break or lunch in Cayuga at Twisted Lemon, noted for seasonal and locally inspired cuisine. Dine in or take out and roll down to riverside Bob Baigent Memorial Park with a covered rest area, picnic tables and public washrooms.
- Explore the Haldimand County Museum & Archives, which overlooks the Grand River. Visit their authentic log cabin, which dates back to 1835.

Day 1: Leg 2 of 2

Cayuga to Dunnville – 27 km

Area services: Accommodation, campgrounds, cafes, restaurants, shopping, banking, groceries, attractions and trails. Limited services available between Cayuga and Dunnville.

- From Cayuga, continue south on River Road following the eastern shore of the Grand River. This portion of the route passes working farms perched riverside and rich agricultural lands.
- **Optional** - Take a short (4 km one-way), gravel road detour south on South Cayuga Road to Bains Road. Turn right on Bains Road and visit the Bains Road Cider Company, Haldimand County's only cidery.
- Ride the rolling River Road for 18 km before arriving at Richardson's Farm and Market. Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm. Purchase fresh fruit and produce to enjoy on-site or on the road. Washroom and water available.
- Ride into Byng Island Conservation Area, a 190-hectare park with \$6 day access passes for adults. Explore the Carolinian forests, the river and wetlands along hiking trails or by a kayak (available for rent). Camping sites available. It is suggested to book ahead.
- While in Dunnville be sure to visit "Muddy the Mudcat"! This statue is the largest of its kind in the world and celebrates a type of catfish commonly found in the area. Dunnville has several restaurants and accommodation options available for visitors.
- Also famous for its world-class birding and fishing, round out your day of riding with a trip on the Grand River with one of the local tour operators.



Starting point: Dunnville

End Point: Caledonia

Total distance: 84 km

Interesting stops along the day's route:

- Lake Erie Waterfront Trail
- No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum
- Port Maitland Lighthouse
- James N. Allan Provincial Park
- Knights Beach Resort and Beach Day Access
- Community of Selkirk
- Cottonwood Mansion
- Selkirk Provincial Park
- Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum
- Town of Caledonia
- Caledonia Grand Trunk Station

For detailed turn-by-turn directions,
please refer to the route map at:

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Day 2: Leg 1 of 2

Dunnville to Selkirk – 44 km

Area services: Accommodations, campgrounds, restaurant, attractions, trails and beaches.

Limited services available between Dunnville and Selkirk.

- Today's route explores a mix of beautiful lakeside riding, as well cycling along country roads in the region's rural hinterland.
- Need bike supplies or service? Be sure to stop at Buckner's Source for Sports or visit the public bicycle maintenance station in William Wingfield Park, Dunnville.
- Head south east out of Dunnville and connect to the signed Lake Erie Waterfront Trail and Port Maitland Road for 7 km.
- Visit the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum, the location of one of the first Service Flying Training Schools to be built to train Air Force pilots, who would eventually serve in World War II. Take the time to explore the exhibits, vintage aircraft and even try out their flight simulator.
- Approaching the mouth of the Grand River, take in the views of Lake Erie and the Port Maitland Lighthouse. Dating back to 1836, a number of different structures here housed lighthouse keepers until 1937.
- Ride west on the Waterfront Trail for 9 km, while enjoying flat quiet roads along the shore of Lake Erie. Visit James N. Allan Provincial Park just off the Waterfront Trail with sandy beach access. The park has no visitor facilities.
- A suggested stop on this itinerary is Knights Beach Resort, a certified bicycle friendly business and approximately 19 km from Port Maitland. This location has a restaurant (seasonal hours), beach access, restrooms and water.
- Setting off west from Knights Beach Resort, enjoy 16 km of stunning riding past charming summer vacation homes along Lakeshore Road while hugging the shore of Lake Erie.
- Stop at the Sunflower Café in the community of Selkirk for some quick refreshments. If time permits, enjoy a historical self-guided tour of the community. Downloadable map available here www.selkirk-ontario.com/history.

Day 2: Leg 2 of 2

Selkirk to Caledonia – 40 km

Area Services: Accommodation, cafes, restaurants, shopping, groceries and banking are all located in Caledonia. Limited services available between Selkirk and Caledonia.

- Connect back to the Waterfront Trail through Waterfront Way Park and across the new Waterfront Way Bridge towards Selkirk Provincial Park. Stop and enjoy beach access and hiking trails. Park access is free for cyclists with flush toilets and park store available.
- Only 2 km from the park is the Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum. Step back in time and experience what a classroom and rural education would have been like in 1925.
- Heading away from Lake Erie, the route begins north through a rural landscape dotted with livestock, windfarms and fields of Haldimand's agricultural bounty. Ride for 14 km before heading towards McKenzie Road.
- **Note:** Bicycle services, public restrooms, cafes, restaurants, shopping, banking and groceries are available in Hagersville, 3 km off this route.
- The final 14 km along McKenzie Road is quintessential southwest Ontario riding. This well-paved quiet county road brings riders north past farmland and country homes back in to the town of Caledonia
- Consider ending your ride with a visit to the Caledonia Grand Trunk Station, the Caledonia Fair Grounds or the Oasis Drive-In, Canada's oldest drive-in restaurant, which has been serving home-made meals since 1927. Take a self-guided walking tour of Caledonia with information available at www.caledonia-ontario.com.

Stay a little longer...

Extend your journey an extra day or two and spend time exploring Haldimand County, the Grand River or the Lake Erie coast.

- Haldimand County businesses are welcoming to cyclists and may offer discounts to those on bikes. Ask about discounts for cyclists during your stay.
- Stay an extra night in Dunnville and spend a day out on Lake Erie fishing with local operators. Or rent a kayak, canoe or other water craft and explore the mouth of the Grand River and Lake Erie. Consider staying at certified bicycle friendly accommodations, Lalor Estate Inn or the Riverview Motel. Additional accommodations available.
- Extend the trip by spending a day or two fishing or relaxing at one of the several Lake Erie beaches along this route. Accommodation options vary and could include staying at one of the many camping or roofed accommodations.
- Haldimand County hosts dozens of fairs, festivals and other great events each year, so be sure to check the events calendar before and during your visit (www.haldimandcounty.on.ca/calendar.aspx). If you're riding in late fall, don't miss the Caledonia Fair, which has been celebrated in the community for over 140 years! Weekly farmers' markets occur in Caledonia, Hagersville and Dunnville.

This is a suggested ride itinerary.

The daily route distances can be increased or decreased to suit individual riders.

Bike Shops: Four locations offering bicycle services are located along this route; two being located in Dunnville, the others located in Caledonia and Hagersville. Note: Mercer & Dixon and the two Canadian Tire locations are not full service bike shops.

- Canadian Tire (Limited parts & service)
365 Argyle St S, Caledonia
(519) 344-0515 or www.thebicycleshopsarnia.ca
- Public Bicycle Maintenance Station
Front St. S, York. Located in York Park
- Buckner's Source for Sports
151 Queen St, Dunnville
(905) 774-8871 or www.sourceforsports.com
- Canadian Tire (Limited parts & service)
1002 Broad St E, Dunnville
(905) 774-7545 or www.canadiantire.ca
- Public Bicycle Maintenance Station
Main St. W (west of the dam), Dunnville
- Mercer and Dixon General Repairs
16 King St E, Hagersville
(905) 768-3742

Additional Resources and Visitor Information

- www.OntariosSouthwest.com
- www.tourismhaldimand.ca
- <http://maps.haldimandcounty.on.ca/extra/cycling/>
- www.waterfronttrail.org/haldimand
- www.tctrail.ca/
- www.ontariobybike.ca/haldimand