

bell. The church also contains beautiful stained glass windows that were donated in memory of parishioners who passed away.

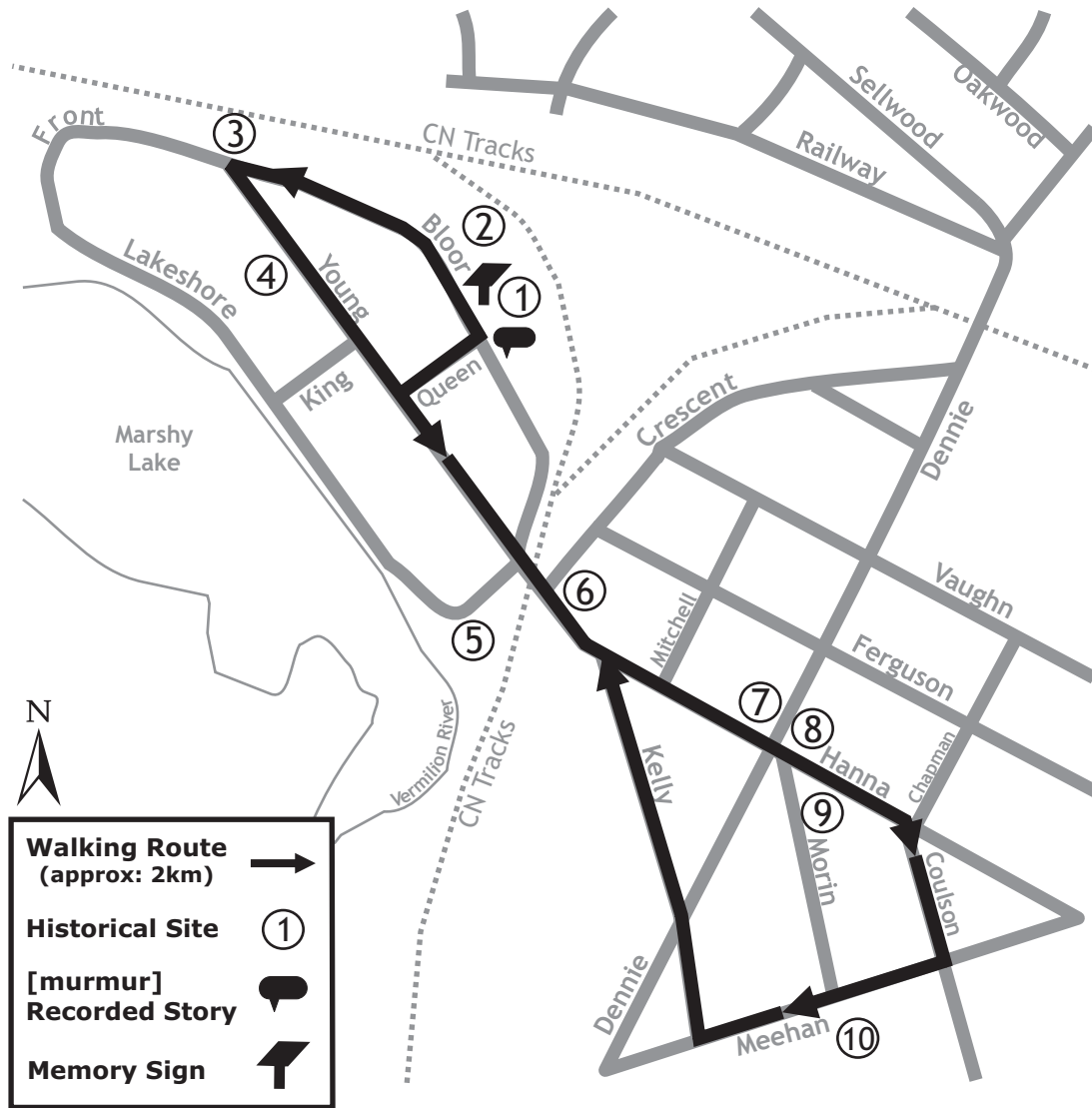
**9. Citizen Service Centre and Library
(9 Morin St.)**



The building that now houses Capreol's Citizen Service Centre and Library was the Central Public School, originally built in 1919. The school operated until 1970 when students were moved to a bigger school, C.R. Judd, which was named after Central Public's first principal. Prior to 1919 students attended class in a temporary location on Young St., and preceding this, in school boxcars. One part of the car served as the classroom and the other as living quarters for the teachers. Students often had to search for the school cars in the morning because they were frequently shunted the night before. Capreol's youngsters attended classes in these types of boxcars until 1915.

**10. Memorial Community Centre and the Millennium Resource Centre
(South Side of Meehan Ave.)**

These two sites demonstrate the commitment of Capreol's citizens to provide their community with topnotch recreation and cultural facilities. Capreol's Memorial Community Centre stands on the location of the original indoor rink which was built in 1928 and destroyed by fire in 1944. The current facility was built in 1949 and contains an arena as well as a community hall for weddings, dances, etc. The Millennium Centre building formerly housed Capreol High School which opened in 1926. Although the high school was closed in the 1990's, the building was reopened as the Millennium Centre in 1998. The centre contains a medical clinic, a fitness centre, a youth centre, 19 bunkhouse rooms, training rooms, and a computer lab.



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- 1) History Hikes of Downtown, McNaughton Subdivision, Flour Mill, Copper Cliff
- 2) Descriptions of the historical photos
- 3) Acknowledgments & Bibliography

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1. Prescott Park and the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre (26 Bloor St.)

In 1966 the Canadian National Railway (CNR) donated Engine 6077 to the citizens of Capreol in commemoration of the town's railway employees. This steam locomotive is used as the centerpiece of Prescott Park which also boasts a wooden caboose and a rules instruction car that was used to educate CNR workers. Located adjacent to the park in the former house of Capreol's first CNR superintendent is the Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre. In addition to providing the history of the railroad in the area, the museum also contains exhibits depicting Capreol's founding and heritage. For more information about the museum visit their website: www.northernontariorailroadmuseum.ca.

2. Site of the Railroad Y.M.C.A. – (Bloor St.)



The Railroad Y.M.C.A. was completed in 1921 and served as a rooming house for CNR workers and as a recreational centre for Capreol's residents. Although a fire delayed its opening, the wait was well worth it as the building became the largest railroad Y.M.C.A. in Canada at that time. The building boasted a bowling alley, billiard tables and a library in addition to its hot baths and boarding rooms. After a deadly train derailment in 1930, the facility was converted for a short time into a makeshift hospital. Although popular in its time, the need for the Y.M.C.A. declined as residents were able to travel to Sudbury on improved roads. The building was closed in 1978 and then demolished in early 1979.

3. Railway Station (Front St.)

The railway station in Capreol has stood on this site since 1915 when the track was relocated from the west bank of the Vermilion River. A newer station and a roundhouse were built in 1919; however, the present structure is comprised of three sections built between 1959 and 1976. Capreol developed outward from the rail yards. Many early families and CNR workers lived in boxcars until permanent homes could be built for them. The patience of these early boxcar dwellers must be admired considering the contents of their homes were shifted and spilled when the cars were shunted around the rail yard in the evening. Pairs

of boxcars were even used as the frames for some homes on Railway Ave. The station was also the location of a royal visit in 1939 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth stepped off their royal train to the cheers of 5000 people.

4. Young St.



Young St. and Bloor St. were the two earliest streets in Capreol. After a major fire in 1920 many of the stores were relocated from the east to the west side of Young St. The west side was also struck by fire two years later. Young St. continues to serve as the main business district in Capreol. Three buildings of special note are the Pro Hardware (#13), the Royal Canadian Legion (#16) and Drago's Store(#37). The site of the Pro Hardware was formerly occupied by the Audion Theatre, originally built as the Imperial Theatre in 1919. As well as screening movies until 1972, the theatre was a temporary home to some of Capreol's church congregations after major church fires or during construction of new churches. The legion building was the former location of Plexman's General Store, one of Capreol's earliest stores. Drago's Store has been a fixture of Young St. since 1920 when it opened as a general store before evolving into a men's clothing and family shoe store. Young St. was also once home to two pool rooms, a butcher shop and a Studebaker sales office.

5. Approximate Location of the First House



The first house in Capreol was a log cabin located fifty feet from the Vermilion River. The cabin was constructed by the founder of Capreol, Frank Dennie, and his brother Mac. Frank purchased 300 acres of land in the area where the CNR was planning to build a divisional post. When plans for the post were finalized, Frank then offered to give the company 100 acres of the land in exchange for a signed document guaranteeing that the CNR would maintain Capreol as a rail centre for all time. Although this agreement was tested in 1958 by the CNR who wanted to move the repair shops, Dennie reminded the company of their commitment and so the shops remained in the town. As an interesting side note, Frank Dennie was once hired by Thomas Edison to supervise the

cutting of a base line east of Garson Mine where Edison missed the main ore body by inches, feet or yards, depending on who tells the story. The name "Capreol" comes from Frederick Chase Capreol who, despite never seeing the area with his own eyes, was chiefly responsible for the concept of building railroads in Ontario.

6. Former Nepitt's General Store (76 Young St.)

Alex and Mary Nepitt operated their general store from this location for over fifty years, providing groceries and other supplies to residents and labour camps. When Moose Mountain Mine in Sellwood closed, Alex had bricks from the blast furnaces hauled to Capreol to build Nepitt's General Store. All the bricks were transported by horse and wagon and construction took over one year to complete before the store was opened in 1923. Remnants of molten metal from the furnaces are still visible on the edges of many bricks.

7. Ghost Towns



If you travel north from this location, Dennie St. becomes Sellwood Ave., a reminder of the ghost town of the same name. Sellwood was a residential centre for workers at Moose Mountain Mine from 1901 to 1920, although prospectors and First Nations people had already settled the area. At its peak, the town had a population of 1500, eight stores, a bowling alley, two hotels and electricity and telephone service. When the mine closed many of the residents migrated to Capreol; the Sellwood town site was eventually abandoned in 1924. Milnet is another ghost town formerly located slightly north of Capreol. Devastating fires in the early 1930's at the town's central employer, the logging mill, resulted in a dwindling population that all but vanished by 1940.

8. St. Alban the Martyr Church (36 Dennie St.)

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church was constructed in 1923 and contains two features that highlight Capreol's history. First, the inseparable relationship with the railroad is evident in the church bell which was installed in 1926 and formerly served as a CNR locomotive