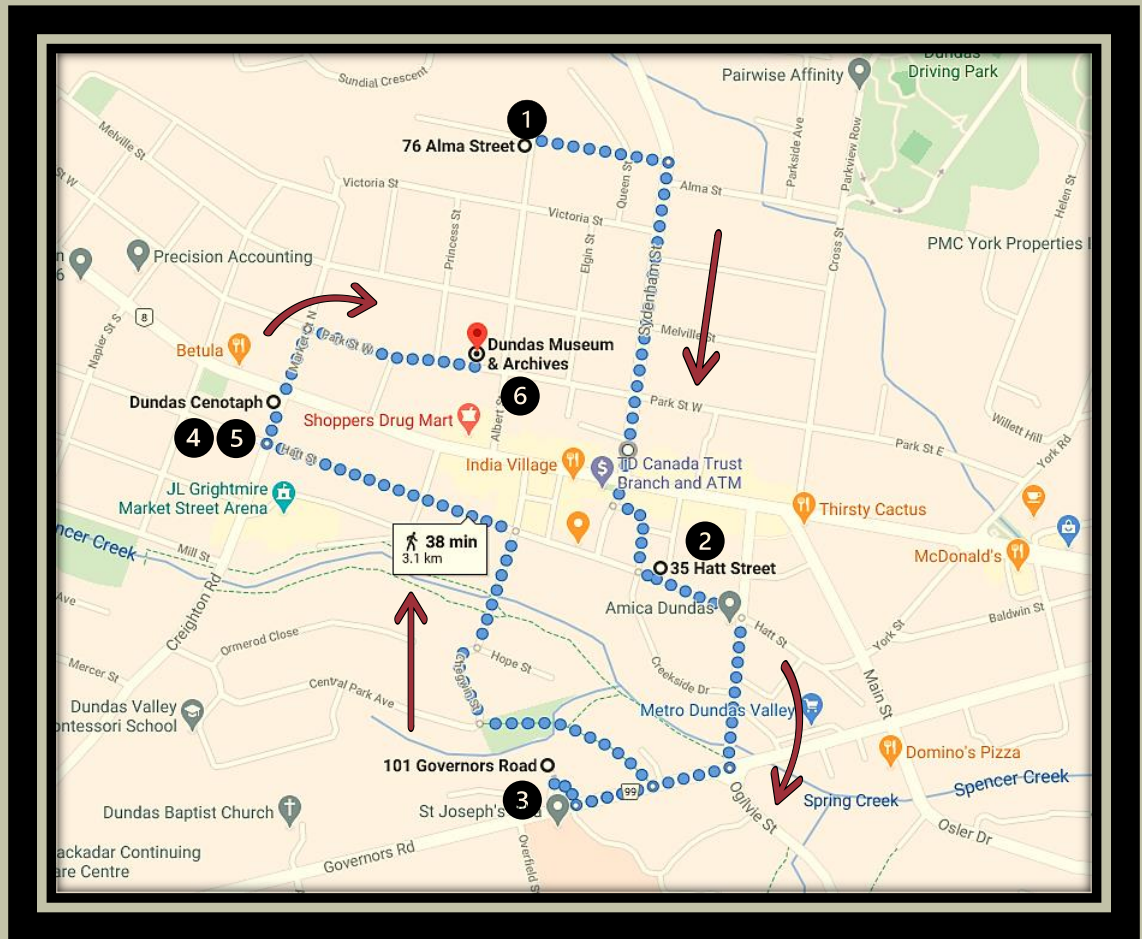




2021 HISTORIC DUNDAS WALKING TOURS: *LENNARD BERTRAM AND THE BERTRAM FAMILY*

In June of 1914, **Lennard Bertram**, the 5th child of Henry Bertram and Jennie Graham, was studying at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph to realize his dream of owning a farm. Two months later, his life was uprooted as he sailed with the **77th Wentworth Regiment** to become part of the first Canadian soldiers to fight in the **First World War**, a conflict that lasted over four years.

This self-guided tour of tranquil **Dundas, Ontario** will explore the life and experiences of Lennard Halliday Bertram – from his childhood years spent in Dundas, to his enlistment and experience during war, to his return to Ontario. During this tour, you will learn more about the **Bertram Family** and their connection with the town of Dundas, and about the other young men who served, fought, and died for their country.



Lennard as a private when he first enlisted in 1914.



Lennard (left) and his life-long best friend, Arthur Turner (right).

Who: Anyone interested in learning more about the history of Dundas and the First World War!
(Recommended ages: 13+).

Where: This tour will take you throughout downtown Dundas, including hilly areas and on the sidewalks of busy streets. If you are walking, please plan accordingly.

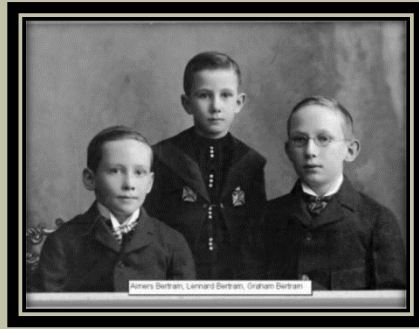
What will you need: A comfortable pair of shoes and a water bottle!

Prior Knowledge: None needed!

Duration: 60 – 70 minutes on foot.

1 76 Alma Street

Lennard was born on this site on February 10th, 1893 to Henry Bertram and Jennie Graham. The house was originally built by Henry in 1878 and much of it is still preserved today. At the time of his birth, Lennard had three siblings: Jennie Kirkhope Bertram (nine years old), Graham Bertram, (seven years old), and Aimers Bertram (five years old). Aimers would also serve in the First World War with Lennard.



Lennard Bertram (center) with his two brothers, Aimers (left) and Graham (right).

2 50 Hatt Street – John Bertram & Sons Company Limited

These grounds were home to a factory for Canada Tool Works, the major metalworking company that Lennard’s grandfather John Bertram built when he first emigrated from Scotland in 1852. In 1886, Lennard’s father joined the business, and it became John Bertram & Sons Company Ltd. However, Lennard (pictured right, about 20 years olds) had little desire to work in metalworking, and he instead he enrolled Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph with the hope that he would become a farmer. It is likely that Lennard would have worked on these grounds during the summers. **Why do you think Lennard decided to become a farmer instead of working with his family? How do you think his family felt about that?**



3 101 Governor’s Road – “Glenhome”

Now home to a series of apartments, these grounds were the sight of “Glenhome”, and eight-and-a-half-acre estate that belonged to the Bertram family. Lennard’s family was living here when he put his farming dreams on hold and left with the 77th Wentworth Regiment for Europe when war broke in August of 1914. In 1918, Lennard returned to “Glenhome” during a leave of absence – however, he did not come alone. He brought his new wife, Edith Sims, whom he had met at a Christmas party in 1915. The two quickly fell in love, and during a 10-day leave of absence in early December, Lennard travelled to England married Edith on December 4th, 1916. The day after his wedding, Lennard returned to the front to partake in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. **How would you feel about meeting, marrying, and bringing home a new partner in the span of two years?**



A portrait of Edith taken in 1914, a year before she met Lennard.

4 4 Market Street South – The Dundas Cenotaph

Originally located at Memorial Square (at King and Sydenham), the Dundas Cenotaph was constructed in honour of those who had served and been killed during the First and Second World War. During his experiences at war, Lennard participated in several key battles, including the 2nd Battle of Ypres (April 1915), in which he experienced the first use of mustard gas as a weapon. He would also be shot in the face, recovering with only a crooked nose. In 1917, Lennard directed the 20th Battalion at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Later that year, he would be promoted to the rank of Major and controlled the “D” Company of the 20th Battalion during the Battle of Passchendaele, one of the deadliest conflicts of the war. Lennard was part of the “Gimmie Club”, a group of Dundas boys who had volunteered to serve in the war. Another member of the club was Arthur Turner, Lennard’s lifelong friend. On the Cenotaph is a plaque that lists all the names of those killed – amongst them is Lennard’s cousin James Knowles Bertram, and his brother Aimers Stirling Bertram.



Lennard as a Lieutenant with the 20th Battalion – notice the crook in his nose from his injury.

4 Market Street South – The Dundas Armoury

After being discharged from service in 1918, Lennard returned to Canada with Edith and settled on a 100-acre farm in Snelgrove Ontario, just north of Brampton. Lennard and Edith lived a peaceful life and became active members of their community. The couple had three children: Mary in 1919, John in 1921, and Janet in 1931. In 1955, Lennard would return to this building for a reunion with the 1st Battalion, B Company, the first battalion he joined when he enlisted. Also in attendance was Arthur Turner and several others. Lennard passed away peacefully on June 24th, 1962.

6 139 Park Street West – The Dundas Museum and Archives

Although he escaped the war with little wounds, Lennard often refused to talk about his experiences at war. Lennard’s daughter Janet remembers that Lennard always had a gas mask with him at his home in Snelgrove, perhaps as a reminder of the gruesome nature of war. Lennard’s story serves as a testament to the horrors of the First World War. If you are interested in learning more, please visit the Dundas Museum and Archives, which currently holds Lennard’s medal collection (pictured right).

