Self Guided Tour of Historic Cargill

Cargill Visitor Centre
201 Main Street, Cargill ON, N0G 1J0

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Cargill Tour Stops

1. Cargill Visitor Centre
   The first bank in Cargill was a Trader Bank established in 1880. It burned down in 1924, but was rebuilt, becoming the Royal Bank in 1912-1913.

2. Cargill Hotel (Powers Hotel)
   The Cargill or Power’s Hotel was a popular watering hole for many years. This three-story yellow brick building was built in 1885. It was affectionately called the “Rubber Boot” because it was often frequented by workers, still wearing their rubber boots!

3. Blacksmith Shop (Former Stables)
   Dustin Wolski, a local blacksmith, has set up shop in this historic building for the summer. Situated directly behind the hotel, this building was once the stable for the horses of hotel patrons.

4. SS #2 Schoolhouse
   The first schoolhouse was a large, two-story building built in 1903. The Public School Board resided in the top story of this building from 1926-1929. The building burnt in 1948, and a one-story red brick schoolhouse was built, and still stands today. It is now a private residence. The school closed in 1968.

5. Worker’s Cottages
   Henry Cargill funded the construction of all these houses in the late 1880’s for his men. While some houses were built for two families, there are also single-family homes. Today, they continue to house local families.

6. St. Joseph’s Separate School
   The school was established in 1927. Classes were held in the upper level of the schoolhouse from 1927 until 1929. The school moved into the original school house from 1930 until 1950. In 1951, a new, red-brick schoolhouse was built west of the village. It was in operation until 1967.

7. Bester’s Auto Garage / Former Blacksmith
   This building, (one of the newer buildings in the Village), was Bester’s Auto Garage. It is built on the same lot as the original blacksmith shop owned by Joe Ahrens. Which burned down in 1924.

8. Detwiler’s Grocery Store
   This store was built by George Detwiler in 1901. For several years, the upper stories were utilized as tailor and dressmaking shops. The Cameron family ran the store for 32 years, beginning in 1914. It was then sold to the McLennan family and has changed hands numerous times.

9. Keeling’s Grocery Store
   In 1879, Henry Cargill built the general store on the south side of the street. Four years later, Charles Keeling and Moses Eby purchased the building and it continued as a general store. In 1902, it became home to a small switchboard which handled the calls of all eight telephones in Cargill. The store eventually closed in the 1930’s.

10. Hardware Store
    This hardware store was originally owned by E.J Weber and eventually sold to Joseph Weber and Sons. In addition to regular supplies, it also sold harnesses, saddles, and leather goods.

11. Henry Cargill “Red House”
    Henry Cargill grand home (called the red house), was built in the late 1800’s on the empty lot east of the current St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. Unfortunately, it burned to the ground in 1920. Cargill was an influential business man and was well loved by the community for his generosity and the men he employed through his vast logging industry.

12. Cargill “White House”
    Originally built in 1888, this home was built for Henry Cargill’s son, Wellington David Cargill or W.D. It still houses a local family and is designated a Heritage Property.

13. Woolen Mill
    In the early 1910’s the mill became the foundry building. Now an apartment building, this building was originally in use as a woolen mill, known as “Cargill Clothing and Woolen Manufacturing Inc.”

14. Bruce County Public Library – Cargill Branch
    This is the fourth public library in Cargill since the late 1800’s. The first was funded by Henry Cargill in 1903. In 1917, the library moved to the second story of the existing foundry building. In 1968, it was moved to the front porch of a house on King Street. Construction on the current building began in 1991 and was fully functional by 1992.