

THE BEST OF BALDWIN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

This map is the first in a series of community maps of the Town of Georgina to be produced by residents. Its purpose is to showcase what residents think is important about their neighbourhoods and to help protect and enhance what is special.

Gentle Simplicity, Dramatic Landscape ...

The 1200 people who live in Baldwin and the surrounding communities treasure their home for its gentle simplicity. "It's our little patch — we love it!" says one resident and the sentiment is echoed by many. Mostly everyone feels connected to the hills, forests and farmlands, the winding river and wetlands teeming with wildlife.

Ten thousand years ago the whole area lay under the waters of glacial Lake Algonquin. As the waters receded the islands became today's three tallest hills — Hell Hill, the hill on Old Shiloh Road and Vachell Hill on Park Road near Egypt (see view marks →). Later, many First Nations peoples trapped and fur traded here.



Gabi Von Gans

Pioneer Days ...

Pioneer roots in the Baldwin area go deep. The earliest English homesteaders were given land grants for military service in the early 1800s by the Crown, and French Huguenots came to escape persecution. Among stories from early times, is that residents had to travel two days by horse team and wagon to Newmarket for supplies. (It now takes 20 minutes by car.) They went along the ancient aboriginal trail that later became the food supply route — and so was named Catering Road.



Landmarks ...

The main landmark in Baldwin is now, as it always was, the grist mill (a.k.a. the feed mill) on the Black River. The first mill was built in the early 1800s and both it and the next burned down. The current structure, the third mill on the site, was brought from Keswick piece by piece and began operation in 1883.



Liscomb

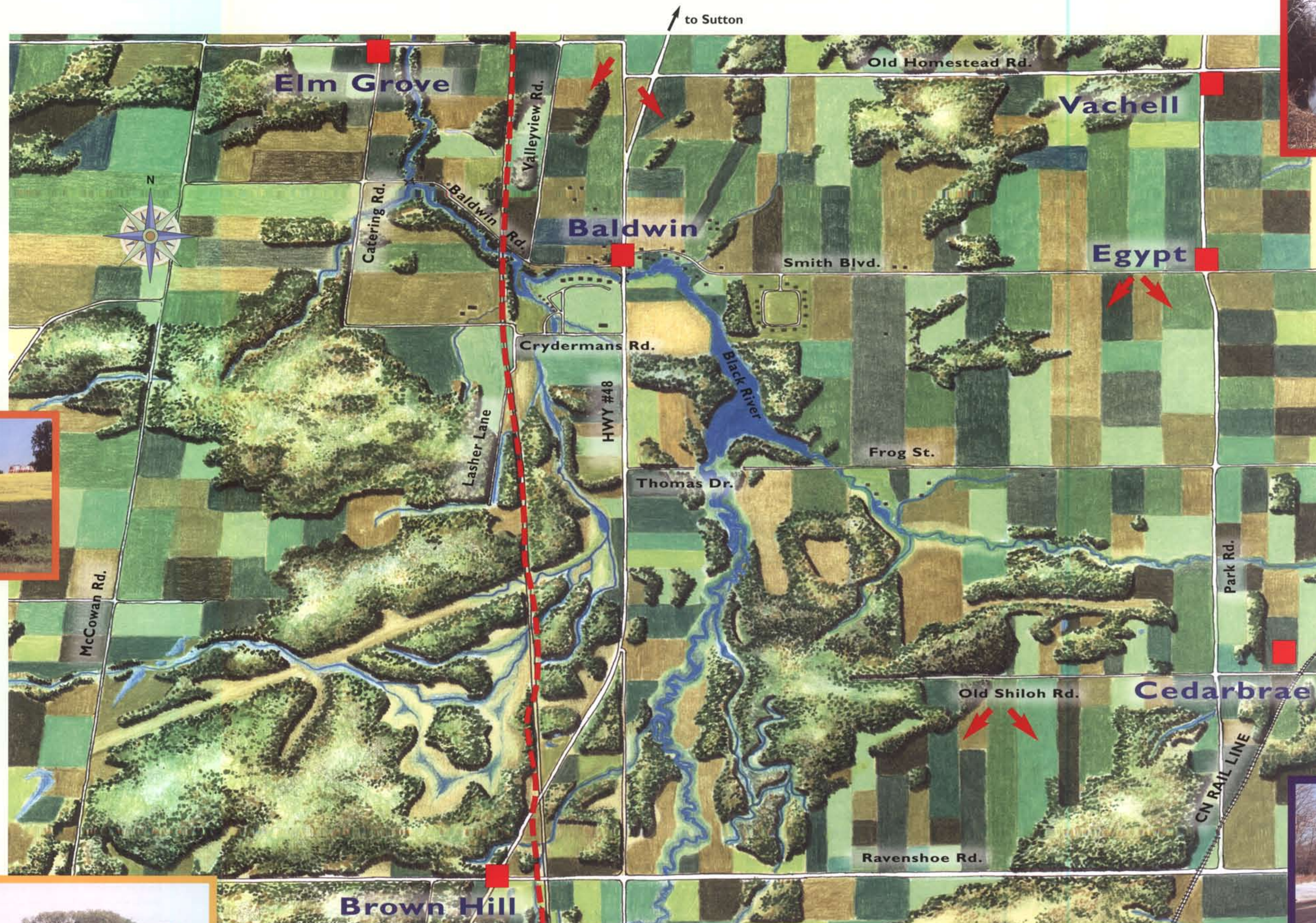
Biking, Canoeing, Walking ...

This region of Georgina is a paradise for bicyclists. Set forth on any road and natural beauty unfolds before you. The hilltops provide vistas well worth the climb. Canoeing/kayaking is also scenic but only for dedicated paddlers. Access is limited. The best idea is to paddle from Sutton, parking by the high school there. The trip to Baldwin takes two hours.

Walkers can follow in the footsteps of residents who, as far back as 1877 used the railway line as a path to Sutton. (Follow the Zephyr Rail Trail, — — — on the map.) Imagine stepping aside for a steam engine hauling up

to eight boxcarsfull of ice from Lake Simcoe to Toronto.

After visiting the hamlet of Baldwin and its gently tree-lined winding roads and attractive buildings you can access the railway trail by heading west from town along Baldwin Road to the trestle bridge. Or, check out the butterfly sanctuary at the Blue Willow Garden Centre on Highway 48, then park at the Sentimental Journey café and antique store just to the north and cut through the back of their property to the trail. Note the old log house from Smith Blvd.



Liscomb

The Black River ...

The Black River has long been a special place to relax. Residents of all ages still watch birds and pick "Baldwinberries" and fiddleheads along the shore. People also fish in the river—there are mostly carp and catfish now, and some pike. Children, for more than a hundred years, have made Devil's Elbow, pictured above, their swimming hole.

Place Names ...

Some names in the area are unusual, others are a total mystery. Baldwin, like many Ontario towns, was named for someone who had nothing to do with the place—in this instance an Admiral Baldwin. No one seems to know where the name Egypt came from, and some remember that there was a Jerusalem right up the road—but where is it now? Another location named for a biblical place is Old Shiloh Road—but why?



Smith Boulevard