AT EACH STOP

1 | Start Emancipation Day Plaque
Corner of Broadway St. & Temperance Rd. (Township Rd 28)
A roadside marker beside the river commemorating the Black community's presence in Hawkesville.

2 | Temperance Island & Susand's Land
A forested island once split by the river; freedom seeker Peter Susand farmed the east bank here in the 1840s.

3 | Douglass Farm
Virginia-born Vincent and Martha Douglass escaped north with four children and cleared this corner field in the 1840s. In 1877 they moved to Peel Township.

4 | Little Farm
John and Martha (named as "Eliza" in Benjamin Drew's book) Little arrived in 1841 among Peel Township's very first settlers; the rail trail now crosses their former farm. In 1862, they moved to Haiti.

5 | Davis, Dunn & Smith Farms
Three families farmed this land across the Queen's Bush era: John Davis (1845-1871) and James Dunn and his son David Smith (1845-1916). Margaret Moore Johnston and her daughter Emeline lived here, direct ancestors of Reverend Addie Aylestock, the first Black woman ordained as a minister in Canada.

6 | BME Church & Graveyard
Reverend Samuel Brown built the settlement's second church here around 1845; the British Methodist Episcopal Cemetery still stands, last burial in 1930.

7 | William Lawson's Farm
Dangerfield Lawson escaped slavery in Virginia and arrived here in 1844; his son William became the region's most successful Black farmer, working nearly 300 acres.

8 | Richard and Pollyzenia Travis Farm
Farmed by Richard and Pollyzenia Travis, part of a 53-person Pennsylvania family who found refuge on land owned by white farmer George Farr after their UGRR network closed. Also the site of Queen's Bush Cemetery #4.

9 | Adeline Aylestock's Birthplace
Born at this corner farm in 1909, Mabel Adeline Aylestock became the first Black woman ordained as a minister in Canada in 1951.

10 | Hisson Farm
Edward Hisson, whose grandparents came via the Underground Railroad, married Mabel Lawson and farmed here; their son Norman was the last descendant to leave the Settlement in 1987.

11 | Glen Allan
By the 1850s Black families had established homes on the east hill; the Hisson family graves remain in the village cemetery beside the ravine.

12 | Dennis & Eliza Jackson Farm
Dennis Jackson settled here in 1843 and purchased the property in 1845; though he never received the Crown Deed, it passed to Elizabeth and stayed in the family until 1893.

13 | Mount Pleasant School
Fidelia Coburn opened Mount Pleasant Mission School in 1844 for the American Missionary Association; after marrying John Brooks in 1846, they opened Mount Hope School north of Wallenstein.

14 | Stewart Farm
Jacob Stewart farmed this land in the 1840s until his death in 1888, one of many settlers known today only through survey notes, land claims, and petition signatures.

15 | Mallott Farm & First Church of Reverend Jacob Dorcey
Josephus and Lucinda Mallott settled here in 1841; Reverend Dorcey built the settlement's first church steps away. Sophia Burthen Pooley (formerly enslaved by Mohawk leader Joseph Brant and Ancaster Mill owner Samuel Hatt) spent her final years with the Mallotts. Mount Hope School across the road.

16 | John and Lucinda Brown's Farm
John Brown escaped enslavement in Virginia, met free-born Lucinda Green in Pennsylvania, and the couple settled at 7232, Line 86 behind a row of houses about 4 doors east of present day Pathfinder School.

17 | End "The Song Continues" by DRPN SOUL
Earthscape Play, 7215 Wellington Rd 86, Mapleton
Unveiled August 15, 2026, a permanent landmark honouring the families who built, lost, and endured in the Queen's Bush Settlement.

WELCOME TO THE QUEEN'S BUSH

Just west of Elmira, the rolling farmland around Hawkesville, Yatton, Glen Allan and Wallenstein sits atop the heart of the Queen's Bush Settlement, one of Upper Canada's largest Black communities. Between 1839 and 1865, freedom seekers and free-born settlers cleared this land, raised churches and schools, and built a life rooted in dignity and self-determination. Some families remained for generations. The land itself carries their story.

To explore the full history and learn about the families and the mural, visit heartsopenforeveryone.ca/queens-bush-mural.

Scan to open the full interactive driving map on your phone or visit heartsopenforeveryone.ca/qbs-tour-map.

ABOUT THE TOUR

This self-guided driving tour traces key sites established by Black settlers of the Queen's Bush Settlement.

BEFORE YOU GO

Many sites are working farms or private homes. View from the road and do not enter property. Drive carefully on rural side roads. At many locations no original buildings survive; the land itself carries the story.

Approximately 42 km and one hour by car.

CONTACT US

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QUEEN'S BUSH SETTLEMENT

Self-Guided Driving Tour

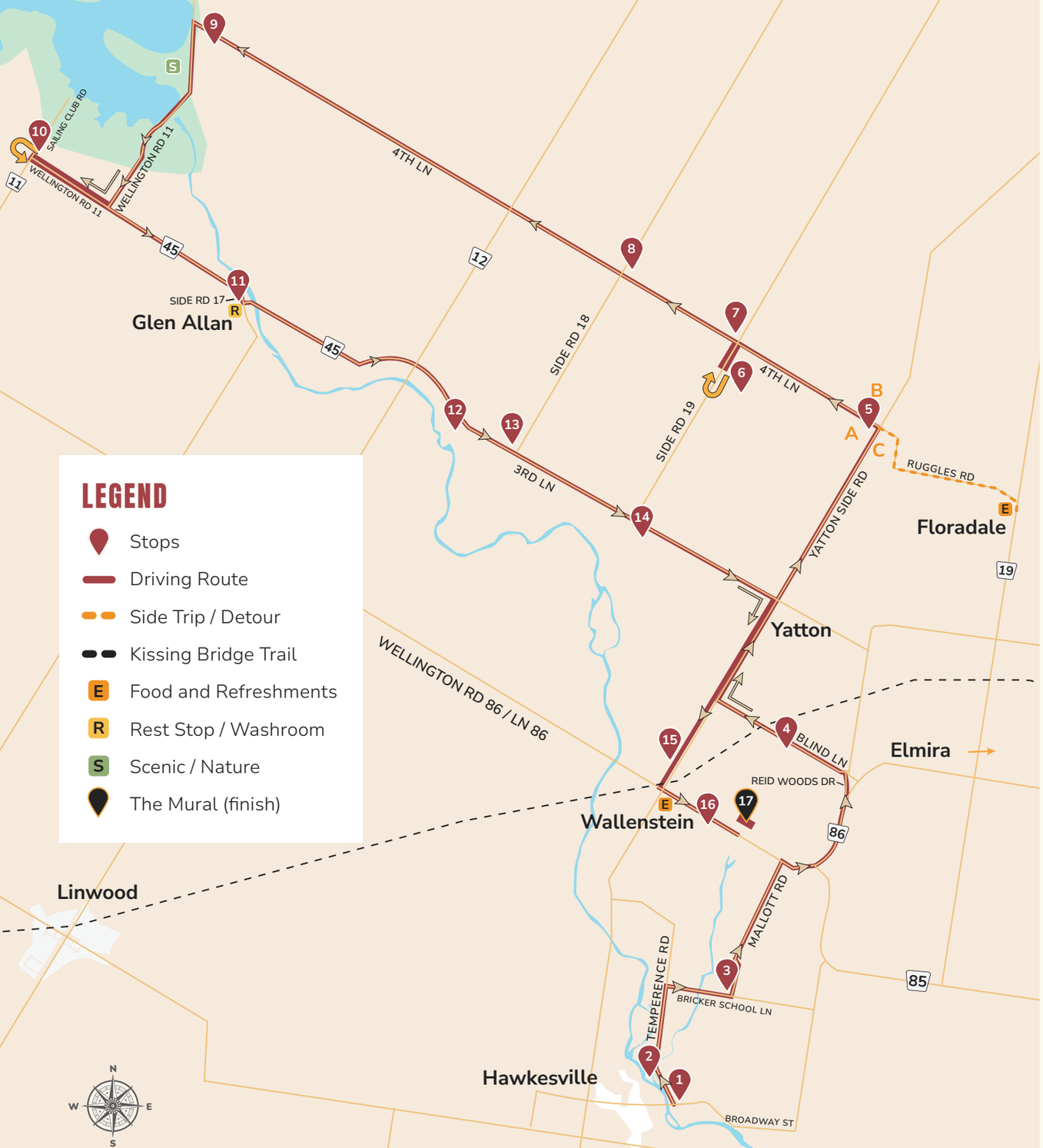
A JOURNEY THROUGH A SIGNIFICANT SITE IN BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY

"THE SONG CONTINUES" BY DRPN SOUL

41.3	17	~1
KM	STOPS	HOUR

PRESENTED BY

Hearts Open for Everyone, Earthscape Play & the Queen's Bush Settlement Mural Advisory Committee



ROUTE

Site descriptions on reverse side of map

1. Emancipation Day Plaque: By the river
2. Temperance Island & Susand's Land: Wooded island in the river; Peter Susand farmed the east bank
3. Douglass Farm: NW corner field
4. Little Farm & Kissing Bridge Trail: On Blind Line at the rail-trail crossing
5. A | Davis Farm
   B | Dunn Farm
   C | Smith Farm (also home to Margaret Johnston, Levi Carroll's wife) and daughter Emeline, ancestors of Adeline Aylestock
   E Restaurant, Floradale
6. BME Church & Graveyard: Short way south on Sideroad 19 & Reverend Samuel Brown's farm
7. William Lawson's Farm
8. Richard and Pollyzenia Travis Farm
9. Adeline Aylestock's Birthplace & Farm
   S Conestogo Lake Conservation Area, beach & picnic
10. Hisson Farm: At the corner of County Rd 45 & Sailing Club Rd
11. Glen Allan: Cemetery with Hisson graves; Black neighbourhood on the east hill
    R Washroom & picnic, Glen Allen
12. Dennis & Eliza Jackson Farm
13. Mount Pleasant School: Originally built on SE Lot 12; rebuilt on SW Lot 13 after a fire
14. Stewart Farm
15. Mallott Farm & First Church of Reverend Jacob Dorcey: On Yatton Sideroad; Mount Hope School across the road
    E Snacks & supplies, Wallenstein
16. John and Lucinda Brown's Farm
17. "The Song Continues" by DRPN SOUL at Earthscape Play

PRESENTED BY

HOPE
HEARTS OPEN FOR EVERYONE

earthscape

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