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PELHAM

The Town of Pelham (2011 population 16,598) is located in the centre of Niagara Region.

The town's southern boundary is formed by the Welland River, a meandering waterway that flows into the Niagara River. To the west is the township of West Lincoln, to the east the city of Welland, and to the north the city of St. Catharines. North Pelham contains the picturesque Short Hills (see attractions). Two important creeks have their headwaters within Pelham; Coyle Creek, which flows south into the Welland River, and Twelve Mile creek, a spring-fed stream that flows north into Lake Ontario.

Pelham Township was part of Welland County since the 1780s. Although during the War of 1812 there were no battles in Pelham, after the war, a major fortification was proposed in the north of the township in the Short Hills area. The high-rising hills were thought to be an excellent defence spot, and 900 acres (3.6 km²) of lands were purchased by the government. The site was surveyed and named *Wellington Height* after the Duke of Wellington. The planned stronghold was named *King George's Battery*. However, the plan was repeatedly deferred, before being finally abandoned in 1860s. The land was sold off as farmland. From the top of the hill on a clear day it is possible to see Toronto, Hamilton and western New York State. At one time a ski tow was installed on the north side of the hill on a golf course, but it was a commercial failure and no longer operates. In 1970, the Town of Pelham unified five historical communities: Fonthill, Ridgeville, Effingham, North Pelham and Fenwick into a single town covering 126.42 square kilometres. This integration brought together a mix of farming (agriculture) and growing commercialism.

The Comfort Maple Tree is estimated to be Canada's largest Sugar Maple tree, approximately 500 years old. Named after the Comfort family on whose land the tree once stood, it has been designated a Conservation site for its biological and historical significance. The Comfort Maple is located in the village of North Pelham.

Short Hills Provincial Park, located along the northern border of Pelham, is a wildlife preserve of 6.6 square kilometres. It once consisted of a valley filled with sedimentary deposits and glacial till, until Twelve Mile Creek sliced through, forming the "Short Hills." In addition there is also St. John's Conservation area, which has a fish pond and a set of trails.

Pelham is a good location for avid golfers, having a steadily growing number of golf courses. The town's oldest course, Lookout Point Golf and Country Club, was founded in 1922 by a group of Welland businessmen. (Its name has been shortened to Lookout Point Country Club.) Interestingly, the planned King George's Battery would have been located on site of the course, in an area currently occupied by parking, clubhouse, and the first tee.

.....from Wikipedia



MAPLE AVENUE, FONTHILL, ONT.









