

# Waterfalls of Ancaster



Sherman Falls

It is reported that there are more than 50 waterfalls in the Greater Hamilton region. They tumble over the 250-foot (76 meters) dominant face of the Niagara Escarpment that forms a wide horseshoe shaped valley at the head of Lake Ontario. No other major urban region in Canada is festooned with so many waterfalls. Several of them are very impressive, including Webster's Falls in Dundas, Albion Falls in Hamilton, and Devils Punch Bowl in Stoney Creek. The township of Ancaster has ten waterfalls along the escarpment described here from east to west.



**Hamilton  
Civic  
Museums**

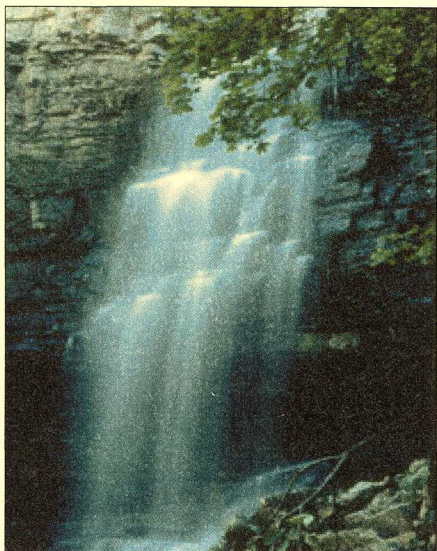
Owned and operated by the  
City of Hamilton

[www.hamilton.ca/museums](http://www.hamilton.ca/museums)



## Peller (Shaver) Falls

Located on a seasonal stream 200 yards up a broad gully is **Peller Falls (1)**. It can be reached off the Bruce Trail at the northern end of Filman Road. The unnamed stream originates in a sulphur spring beside Filman Road where the Chedoke Rail Trail crosses Highway 403. The sulphur spring was once the site of a trading post and hotel and until fifty years ago was maintained as a garden. It is recognizable today as a gray film on the soggy ground and a strong sulphur odor. Downstream, the creek crosses Highway 2 just below Harper's Garden Centre at the intersection of Lower Lions Club Road.



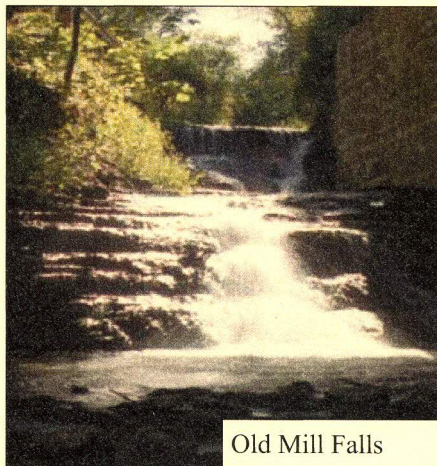
## The Falls of Tiffany Creek (pictured left)

Tiffany Creek has its origin in a spring behind Bowman Church on the south side of Garner Road. It turns north at Glancaster Road passing through Meadowlands Shopping Centre at Tim Horton's and through the Linc ramp by the Tamahaac Club where it enters the Tiffany Falls Conservation Area.

The first falls is behind the Tamahaac Club and is known as **Stephanie Falls (2)**. A quarter mile further on is **Washboard Falls (3)** which, leads into **Tiffany Falls (4)**. The creek then flows through Bulmer's Glen and passes under Highway 2 through a fine cut stone culvert before emptying into Ancaster Creek.

## The Falls of Ancaster Creek

Ancaster Creek begins as a spring fed pond in the Hamilton Golf and Country Club. It flows north until passing under Rousseau Street where it turns west towards Wilson Street. This is the site of the first dam and gristmill built in Ancaster in 1791 by James Wilson and Richard Beasley. After passing under Wilson Street the creek turns north to another mill site which is the location of the **Old Mill Falls (5)**. The creek then passes under Old Ancaster Road before the road descends the escarpment. Just above the junction with Lions Club Road is **Sherman Falls (6)** (Ancaster Falls). Frank Sherman, President of Dofasco, once owned this property. At the bottom of the hill is the former site of Richard Hatt's grist mill and Kelley's Woolen Mill dating back to 1800.



Old Mill Falls





### **Milne Falls (pictured left)**

Further west from Sherman Falls along Lions Club Road is **Milne Falls (7)** named after the first settlers on this site. Milne Creek is a seasonal stream that has its origins near the Fieldcote Museum. It flows into Hermitage Creek.

### **Gatehouse Falls**

Hermitage Creek derives its name from the summer home built by George Leith in 1855. Destroyed by fire in 1934, it is now a stone ruin.

The **Gatehouse Waterfall (8)** derives its name from the gatehouse to the Hermitage. The creek has its origins in a spring fed bog on the west side of Sulphur Springs Road near the junction of Woodview Crescent. Below the waterfall the stream empties into a pond behind the hermitage before flowing east to join up with Milne Creek.

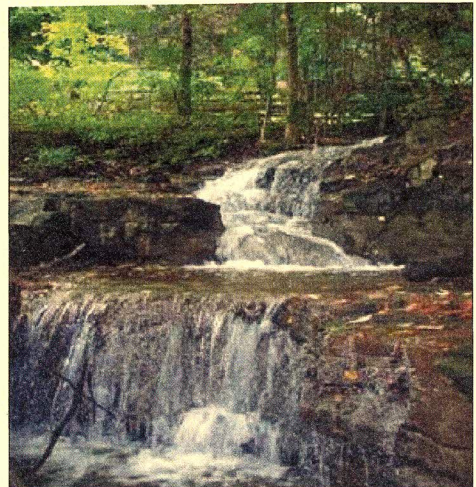
### **Griffin Falls**

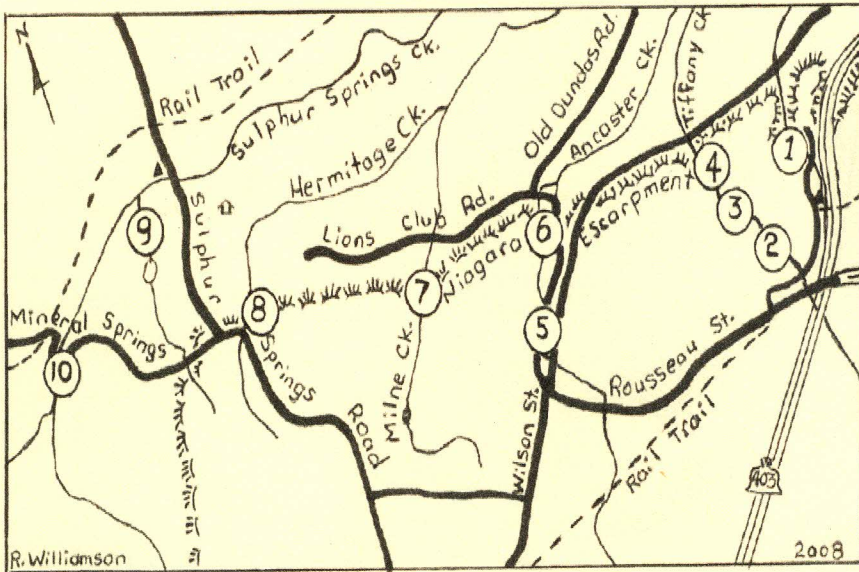
This waterfall is located on a small seasonal stream flowing behind the Griffin House, which dates back to circa 1827. The stream is fed by springs on the south side of Mineral Springs Road. On the north side of the road it empties into a bog, which was once excavated for bog iron at \$4.50 a wagonload. Before emptying into Sulphur Spring Creek, the stream tumbles over a ledge forming **Griffin Falls (9)**.

### **Mineral Spring Falls (pictured below right)**

Located in the hamlet of Mineral Springs at the intersection of Mineral Springs Road and Martin Road is a pretty waterfall called **(10) Mineral Spring Falls**. The source of this stream, called Sulphur Creek is high up in the Spring Valley Park near Wilson Street. It flows behind the Lions Outdoor Pool and follows a popular walking trail through the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. It passes under Martin Road, which forms a large causeway dam and on to the Gartshore property, joining the Cold Spring Creek at Mineral Springs.

Housing construction at the waterfall unearthed evidence of a mill on that site as well as across the road, known as the Cold Springs grist mill built in 1820. A quarter mile downstream on the Birmingham property is the ruin of the Aikman grist mill. It was converted to a woolen mill in 1850 and operated by the Grafton Company until it burned down in 1876. Continuing downstream is the site

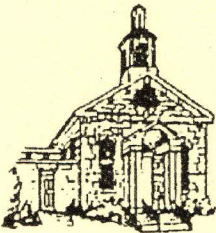




Researched and written by  
Robert Williamson & Jim Green

**NOTE: Properties listed in this brochure are primarily privately owned and we request that the owners' rights be respected.**

Sponsored by the  
**Ancaster Township Historical Society**  
2007  
Est. 1950



**Hamilton  
Civic  
Museums**

Owned and operated by the  
City of Hamilton

[www.hamilton.ca/museums](http://www.hamilton.ca/museums)