

= Ontario Highway 55 =

King 's Highway 55 , commonly referred to as Highway 55 and historically as the Niagara Stone Road and Black Swamp Road , was a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario , which connected the Queen Elizabeth Way ( QEW ) with Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake , following Niagara Stone Road . The route divided a swath of wineries at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment , passing at an oblique angle to the concession road grid .

A former Highway 55 designation connected Highway 6 with Highway 53 , passing through the Mountain district of Hamilton . The more recent designation was applied in 1970 , following the establishment of the Regional Municipality of Niagara . On April 1 , 1997 , Highway 55 was transferred to Niagara and designated as Niagara Regional Road 55 .

= = Route description = =

Highway 55 began at an intersection with the old Iroquois Trail , now known as Queenston Street to the west and York Road to the east . This road was part of Highway 8 until 1970 , when it was transferred to Niagara Region and redesignated Niagara Regional Road 81 . The roadway that carried Highway 55 continued south of this intersection as Taylor Road ( Niagara Regional Road 70 ) . Continuing north , the highway passed beneath the QEW , which ascends over the Welland Canal on the Garden City Skyway . The highway entered Homer , then curved northeast and entered farmland . From here to its northern terminus , the highway was completely straight . It passed south of the St. Catharines / Niagara District Airport and later intersected Niagara Regional Road 106 .

Highway 55 passed through the small town of Virgil , which is centred on the Four Mile Creek . It intersected Four Mile Creek Road ( Niagara Regional Road 100 ) in the centre of the town , then entered back into an agricultural area . Shortly thereafter , the highway entered the urban area of Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake , where it ended at Mary Street ( Niagara Regional Road 87 ) .

Several wineries are established along the former route of Highway 55 , most notably the Jackson @-@ Triggs Estate .

= = History = =

A former Highway 55 designation connected Highway 6 and the QEW with Highway 53 , passing through the Mountain district of Hamilton ; this route was decommissioned in 1961 . The more recent designation was applied in late 1970 , following the establishment of Niagara Region .

During the initial settlement period of the Niagara area , following the American Revolutionary War , new wagon routes were built over native footpaths . Grimsby and Newark ( now Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake ) quickly became established settlements , but travel was cumbersome between them . Pioneers were forced to travel south along the Niagara Road to Queenston , where they turned west and followed the Iroquois Road . To remedy the situation , locals gathered in 1798 and constructed the Black Swamp Road to connect Newark with the Iroquois Road near its crossing of Ten Mile Creek ( now the location of the Welland Canal ) . The route , often subject to flooding from the waterlogged soil which it travelled over , was gradually improved , especially during the 1830s . In the late 1840s the Niagara and Ten Mile Creek Plank Road Company planked the length of the road . During the latter half of the 1800s , the road was macadamized , and gradually came to be known as the Niagara Stone Road as the surrounding swampland was drained and farmed .

The original incarnation of Highway 55 travelled through Hamilton . It was established in 1937 , following Upper Gage Avenue north from Rymal Road ( itself designated Highway 53 that same year ) to Crockett Avenue and the Sherman Access . It turned west and followed the access down the Niagara Escarpment , ending at Highway 6 ( John Street ) . The route of this highway changed several times through the late 1950s as the Burlington Skyway was constructed . By 1959 , a route down the new Kenilworth Access , north along Kenilworth Avenue and along what is now Burlington

Street to the QEW was designated as Highway 55 ; both routes existed simultaneously between 1957 and 1958 . By 1961 , this route had been decommissioned .

The recent incarnation of Highway 55 was established following the release of the Niagara Peninsula Planning Study in 1964 , which recommended that the province take jurisdiction of the Niagara Stone Road ( then designated Lincoln County Road 3 ) . It was subsequently assumed on November 5 , 1970 , the same year the Regional Municipality of Niagara was formed . The route followed the entire length of the Niagara Stone Road from Homer to Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake and remained unchanged over its 27 years of existence . Highway 55 was transferred to the Regional Municipality of Niagara on April 1 , 1997 , as part of the first round of mass downloading . It is now designated as Niagara Regional Road 55 . The majority of the former route is named the Niagara Stone Road ; within Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake it is named Mississauga Street .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 55 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario . The entire route was located in the Regional Municipality of Niagara .