

= Ontario Highway 12 =

King 's Highway 12 , commonly referred to as Highway 12 and historically known as the Whitby and Sturgeon Bay Road , is a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario . The highway connects the eastern end of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) with Kawartha Lakes (via Highway 7) , Orillia and Midland before ending at Highway 93 . It forms a part of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway system from north of Sunderland to Coldwater . Highway 12 connects several small towns along its 146 km (91 mi) route , and bypasses a short distance from many others . It is signed as a north ? south route between Whitby and Orillia , and as an east ? west route from there to Midland . The rural portions of the highway feature a posted speed limit of 80 km / h (50 mph) , often dropping to 50 km / h (31 mph) through built @-@ up areas . The entire route is patrolled by the Ontario Provincial Police .

Highway 12 was first established in early 1922 between Highway 2 in Whitby and Lindsay . The section running east from Sunderland became part of Highway 7 before route numbering was introduced in 1925 . Highway 12 was then routed through Beaverton and around the eastern and northern shores of Lake Simcoe to Orillia and later to Midland ; Beaverton was bypassed during the 1960s . The section south of Highway 7 in Brooklin was transferred to the Regional Municipality of Durham in mid @-@ 1997 and redesignated as Durham Regional Highway 12 . A majority of Highway 12 follows the historic Whitby and Sturgeon Bay Road , constructed in the mid @-@ 1800s to connect Whitby and Penetanguishene , both important naval ports of the time .

= = Route description = =

The highway begins at the hydro easement (the future location of Highway 407) just south of the community of Brooklin in the town of Whitby . It travels north and joins with Highway 7 on the southern edge of Brooklin . Highway 7 travels west to Markham , and is signed concurrently with Highway 12 for 39 @. @ 1 km (24 @. @ 3 mi) north of this point to Sunderland . North of Sunderland , Highway 7 separates and travels east to Lindsay ; Highway 12 thereafter is designated as the Central Ontario Route of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway .

The highway continues north , following the eastern and northern shores of Lake Simcoe and bypassing Beaverton while curving to the northwest towards Orillia . It bypasses south of Orillia , and shares a routing with Highway 11 northwards for approximately two kilometres between interchanges 131 and 133 . At the latter interchange , Highway 12 branches northwest towards Coldwater , where it joins Highway 400 between interchanges 141 and 147 ; this concurrency is not signed .

At Waubauskene , the Trans @-@ Canada Highway designation continues north along Highway 400 towards Parry Sound and Sudbury , while Highway 12 continues west towards Victoria Harbour , Port McNicoll , and the Martyrs ' Shrine . The highway ends at a junction with Highway 93 at the western town limits of Midland .

= = History = =

The oldest portion of Highway 12 was originally known as the Coldwater Portage and later the Coldwater Road , connecting the modern sites of Orillia and Coldwater by a 14 mi (23 km) trail . Upper Canada Governor John Colborne surveyed the portage in 1830 and ordered it to be widened for wagon use . As the area was settled and an increasing need for land connection with the south arose , a new road was proposed from Whitby to Sturgeon Bay (near Waubauskene) . In February 1843 , the residents formally petitioned the government to construct the route . The Sturgeon Bay Road , from Coldwater to Sturgeon Bay , was opened as a rough wagon road in 1844 . The Atherley Narrows , separating Lake Simcoe from Lake Couchiching , were surveyed in the early 1840s and the first causeway and bridge constructed in the years that followed . The portion of the route between Whitby and Orillia , however , was still under construction during the second half of the decade .

Highway 12 was first introduced into the provincial highway system on January 22 , 1922 , The highway , initially known as the Whitby ? Lindsay Road , was not numbered until the summer of 1925 . The route followed the present ? day Highway ? 12 from Whitby to Sunderland , then travelled east to Lindsay .

Highway assumptions carried out on June 22 and July 2 , 1927 , extended Highway 7 east from Brampton to Peterborough . In doing so , it became concurrent with Highway 12 between Whitby and Sunderland . The route of Highway 12 between Sunderland and Lindsay was renumbered as part of Highway 7 at this time . Highway 12 was later extended north to Orillia , via Beaverton . This was accomplished through two assumptions. on August 17 , the majority of the route through Brock , Thorah and Mara Townships was assumed . Several more miles were assumed on December 28 , 1927 , extending Highway 12 as far as Orillia . On August 5 , 1931 , Highway 12 was extended from Orillia to Midland . The majority of the route paralleled an existing railway that was constructed over a native portage .

Highway 12 remained unaltered for several decades , until the mid @-@ 1960s , when the Beaverton Bypass was constructed . On November 4 , 1966 , the 10 @.@ 3 km (6 @.@ 4 mi) bypass opened , routing Highway 12 to the east . Portions of the former route of Highway 12 were renumbered as Highway 48B . The highway again remained unchanged for several decades , until a short portion of the southern end of the highway was decommissioned in the late 1990s . On April 1 , 1997 , the portions of Highway 12 south of Brooklin were transferred to the Regional Municipality of Durham , which subsequently redesignated the road as Durham Regional Highway 12 .

Prior to the highway downloadings of 1997 and 1998 , Highway 12 was also not routed along Highway 400 between Coldwater and Waubauskene , but instead followed a separate route , parallel to the 400 , along what is now Simcoe County Road 16 .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 12 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario .