

Dave Hunter's

ALONG HIGHWAY 401

from **Toronto** to the **Detroit River**
(Revised: May, 2012)

"Along the Highway 401?" a friend said, "you must be crazy. I know you've turned the Interstate-75 into an interesting journey with your best selling guidebook, but the 401 between Toronto and Windsor is the **most boring highway in the world!**"

"Not so," I replied, "but I will enjoy the challenge."

You may feel the same about this 350 kilometre ride to the US border – you may only see the shimmering tarmac ahead, the monotonous countryside flashing by or hear the tedious hum of the tires broken occasionally by a fast exit into a Service Centre.

But for me, I hear the crushing and cracking of the earth's crust as it folds into the ancient rolling hills beyond Milton; the cries and yells of Ontario's Beachville villagers as they watch a baseball game, one year *before* the famous Cooperstown "first," and I hear the rhythmic clanking of the oil donkey pumps as they continue to bring "black gold" to the surface near kilometre 127.

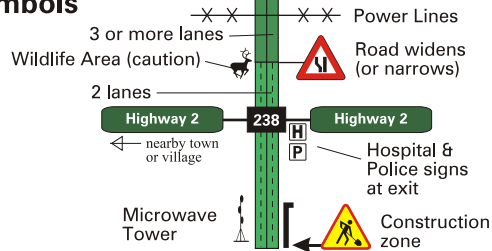
And I see a sad sight . . . the dispirited red coated remnants of a once proud British army as the survivors retreat towards 1813 York (Toronto). Soundly beaten by their American foe at Thamesville, the strident sounds of battle still rings in their ears. It has been a bad business, for their brave Shawnee ally, the great Indian Chief Tecumseh, has been left for dead on the field of battle on the banks of the Thames River. The ghosts of these stragglers cross the path of the 401 on their timeless journey east towards the relative safety of Fort York. On a quiet night, you might still hear the American victory cries in the distance – "Remember the Raisin! Remember the Raisin!" – or perhaps . . . it is just the wind in the hedgerows.

These then are some of the sounds and sights of the 401. I have tried to capture its essence on the map panels. Those of you who have used my maps before know that you read them from the bottom to the top if heading towards the West, and vice versa. That way, there is no need to twist the map upside down, and everything appears where it should be!

Dave

Author, "Along Interstate-75"
Mississauga, October, 2008

Key to the Map Symbols



- Service Centre Services**
- BaskR . . . Baskin-Robbins
 - KFC . . . Kentucky Fried Chicken
 - McDId . . . McDonalds
 - MrSub . . . Mr Submarine
 - TimH . . . Tim Hortons

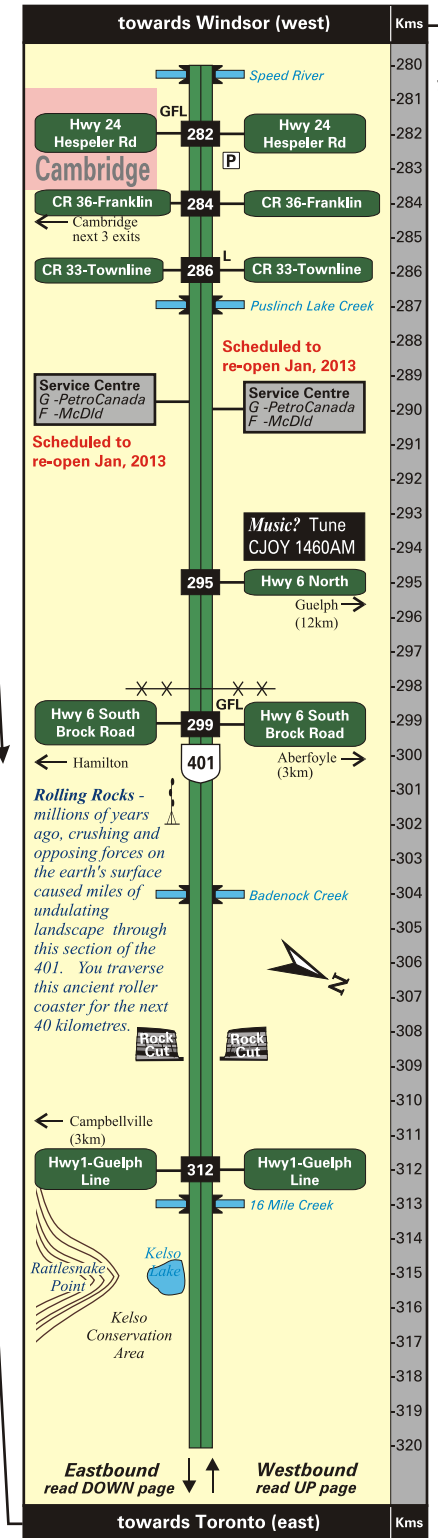
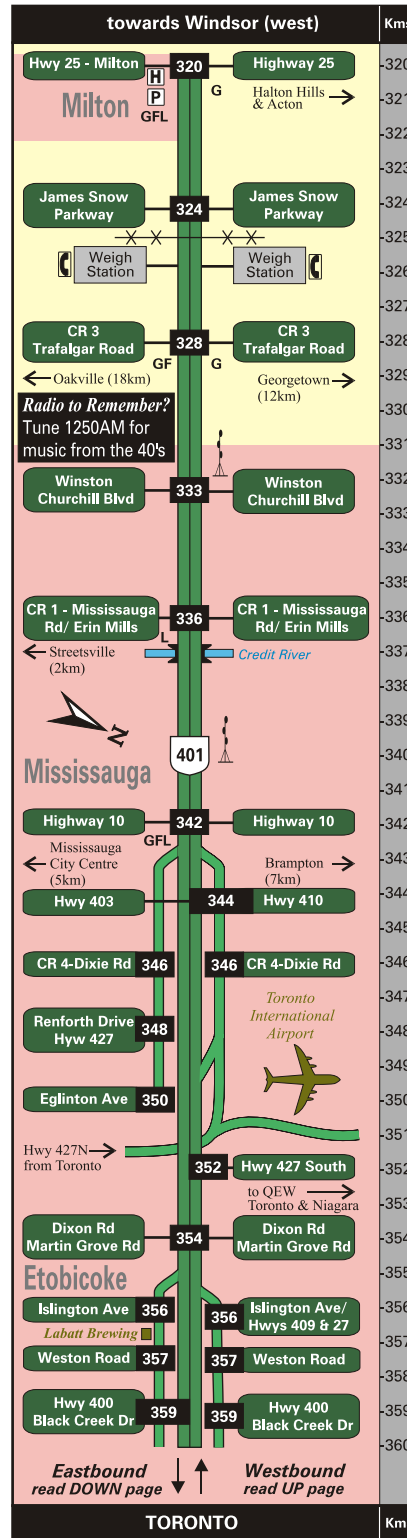
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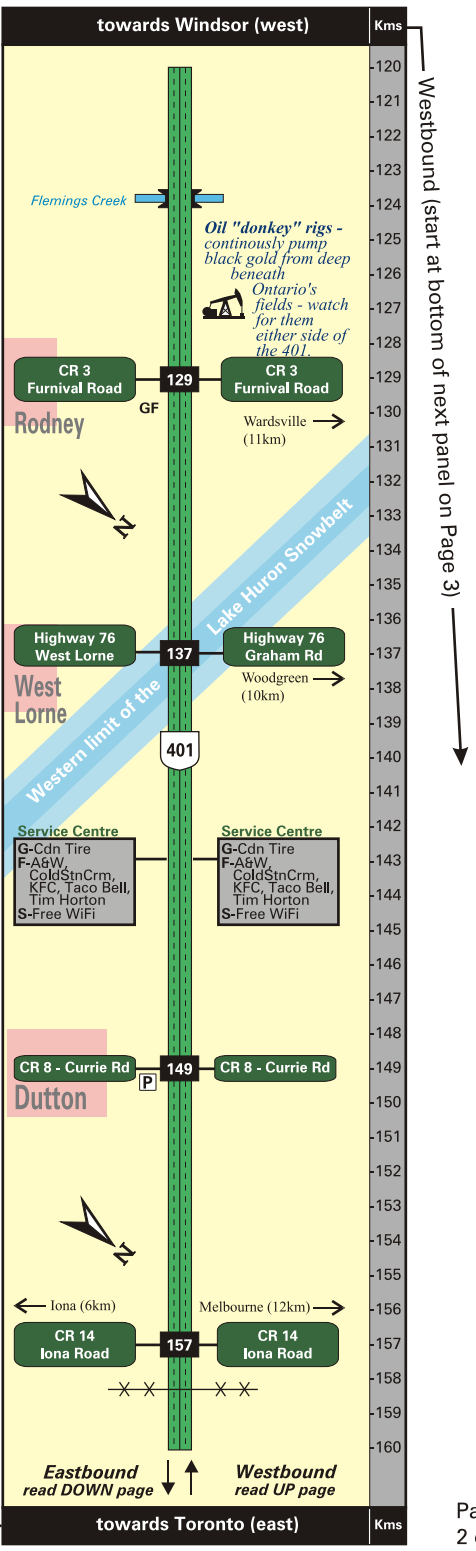
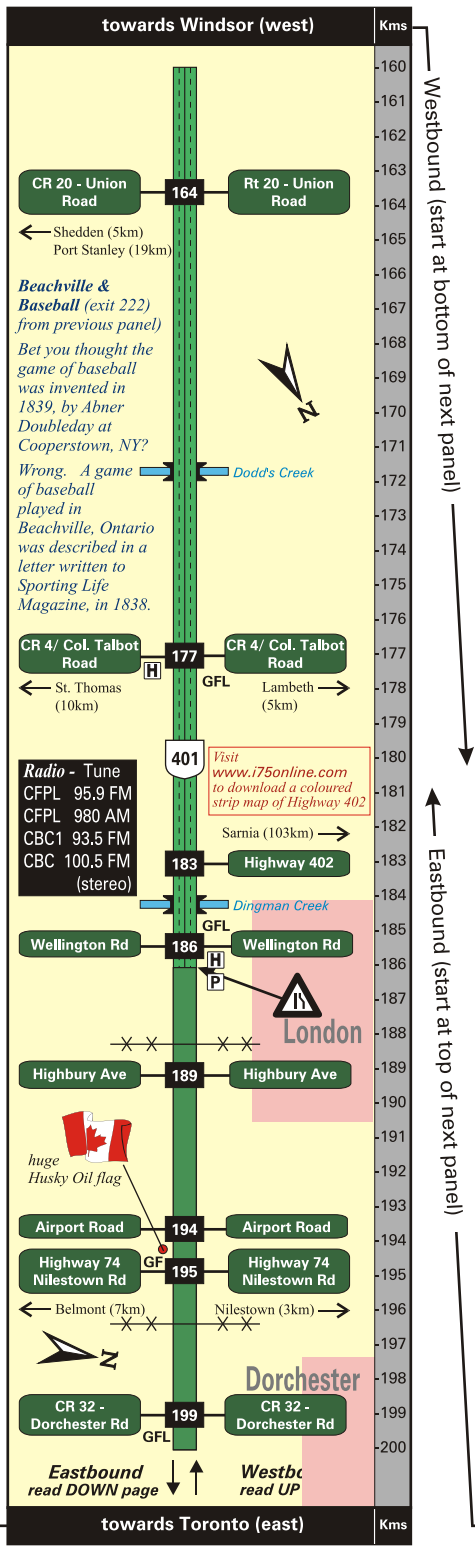
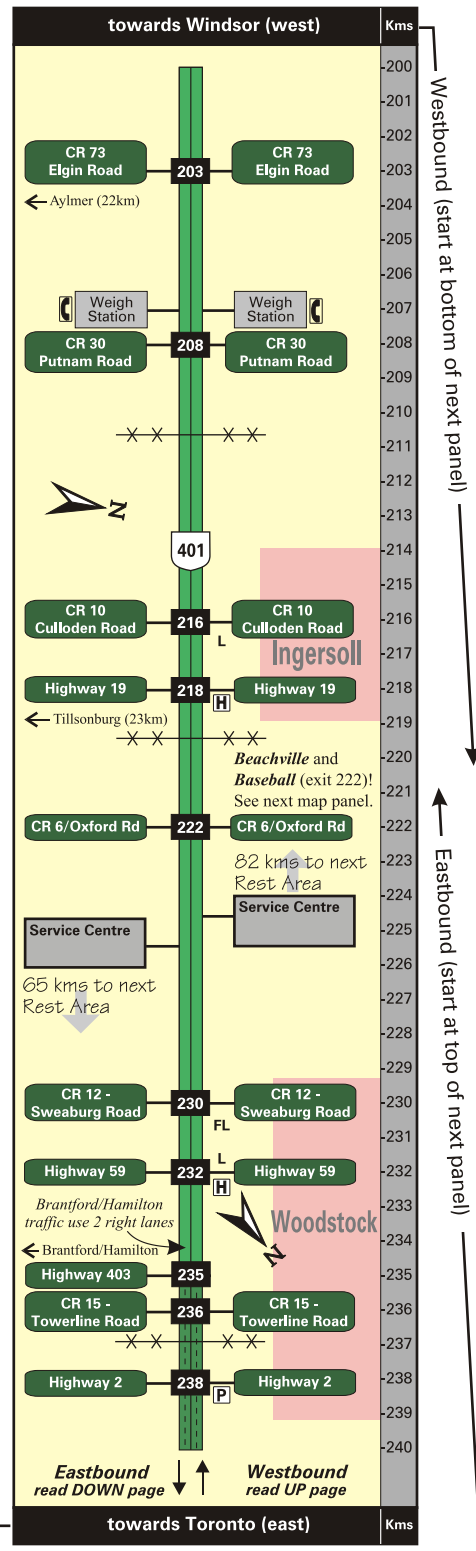
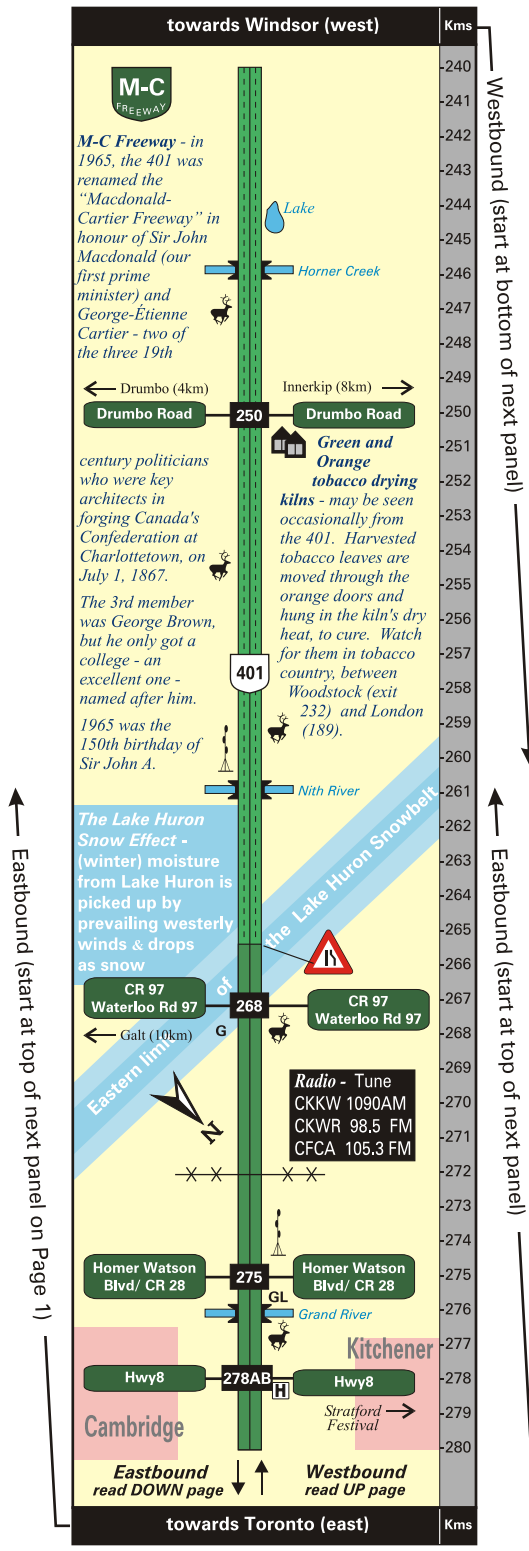
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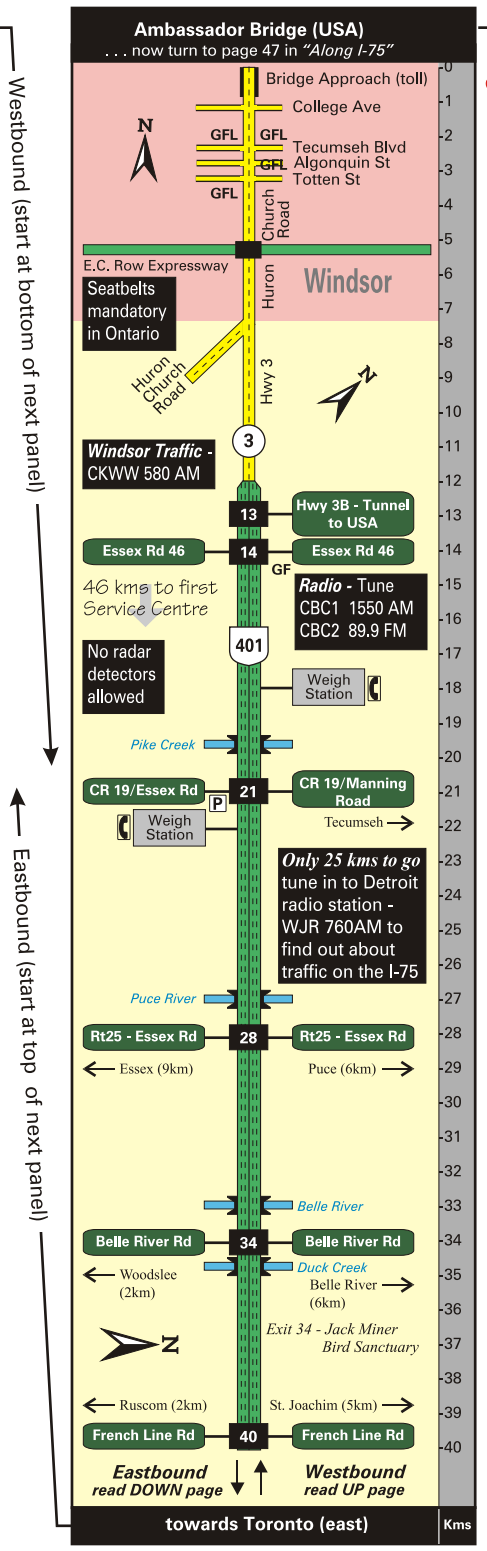
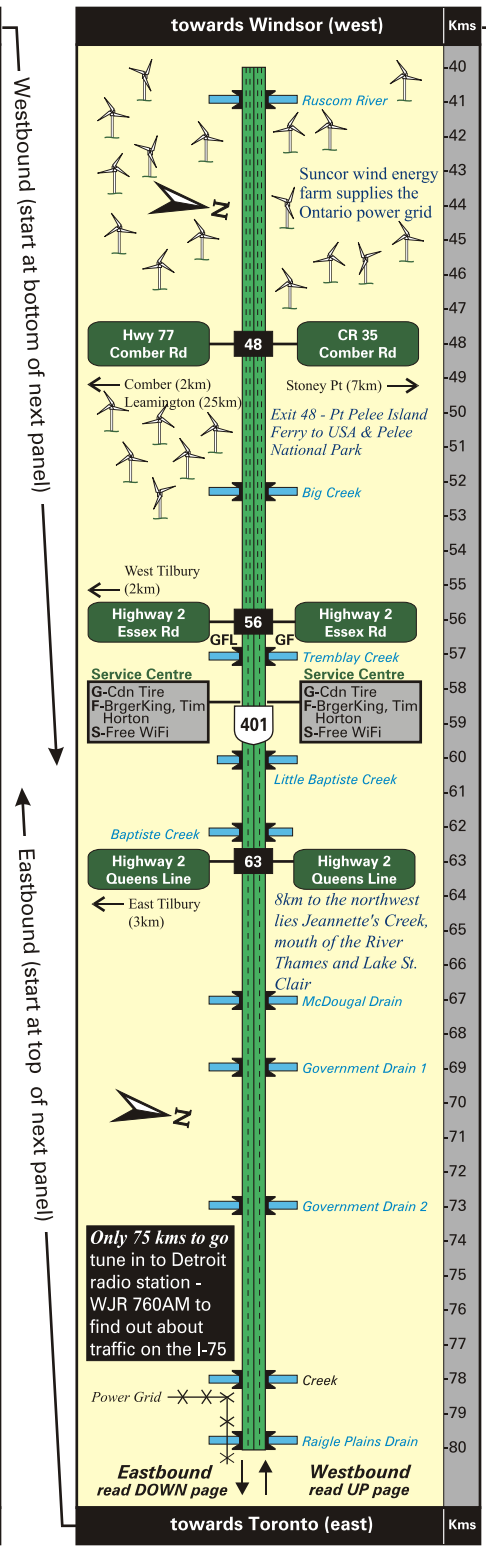
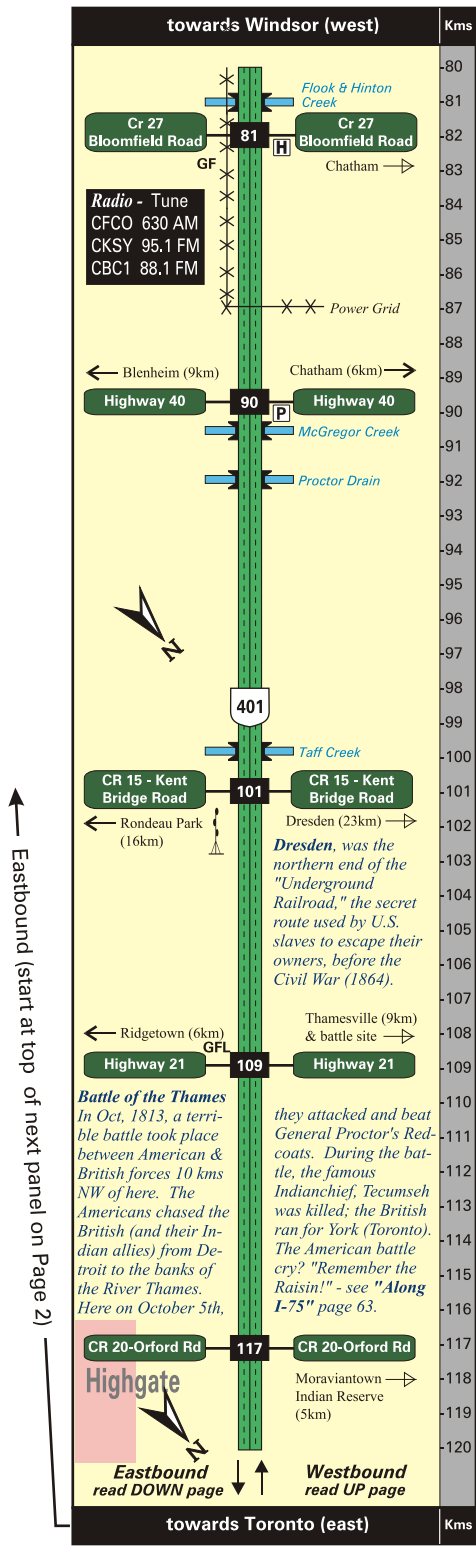
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