Nestled within the Region of Waterloo is the growing town of New Hamburg.

One can physically live in a community, but still not feel like one is a part of the community. The commonality amongst a group of people and a sense of belonging is what really makes a community.

This book documents the journey I took walking and driving around my hometown of New Hamburg and is a reflection of my community these past few days. The photos are paths in town I walked on as a child and places that had great meaning to me, as well as others. They are the common places that create bonds between people. Institutions where recreational and leisure activities take place such as sports, restaurants and hangout spots, education and learning such as schools, businesses and places of work, and faith and religious practices such as churches.

The journey starts on my front porch....

This is the New Hamburg sign covered in snow, seen by people who pass by our community on the highway.

Nith River that runs through every part of this town, which made it a great starting point for a community.

New Hamburg historical Grand Stand burnt down in 2007. Many activities have been watched from these stands including horse raising, baseball, Mennonite relief sale and fall fairs. Every child in this town has a memory here.

The old New Hamburg Arena recently replaced. Old Brittany Restaurant and former family home Downtown core. Local businesses. This is a popular restaurant to the locals. Peel street. Old Factory still in existence. It has a rich heritage and is full of interesting history. This is what makes it so unique and ties people to this town. It is growing into a contemporary rural town with new developments and constant changes. New Hamburg is creating its newly formed identity which history will record.

Local Newspaper, other businesses and apartments keep the town prospering. Formerly Queens Hotel in 1800s. Local bar or commercial Hotel, Eddly's. Huron street down town NH. Hotels were the main businesses for the first century of the community's life, starting in the 1850's. Local transportation consisted of horses.

Known for its massive spring floods.

NH Feed mill, one of the oldest businesses, Police station and where Christmas tree light-up celebration is held. NH Feed mill, one of the oldest businesses, Police station and where Christmas tree light-up celebration is held.

The Waterlot, known restaurant by outsiders.

Nith River dam, higher then usual.

The Nith River’s waterwheel and Mill dam provided power for the first industries that opened in town.

Spring Flooding

Summer

Fire station - Local art

NH has many different religious groups. This is the first and only Catholic church built in the 1860s and local funeral home.

Across the train tracks, the old Grand Trunk Railways, which opened in 1845, lies now one of the three elementary school’s in NH.

... back home in my own backyard.

Overlooking the valley and Nith, where New Hamburg’s core is located. Also Peterson’s hill.

This book represents my childhood in this community. Like many others in this town, every place in this community is attached to a personal memory or story. It is a place for meeting up with others and to share things I have in common with them. It, in turn, has formed my own identity. Who I am is a reflection of where I grew up. I am a “small town girl”, who grew up in the small town world. This rural town is a community where everyone is linked and tied together in some way. As one grows in the community, the community grows within them.

... the end of my journey!
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My Town......

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Old Brittany Restaurant and former family home... back home in my own backyard.

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1860s and local funeral home.

Downtown core. Local businesses. This is a popular restaurant to the locals. Peel street.

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