



Rideau Lakes

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

For immediate release

Heritage storyboards to be unveiled in Newboro

Chantry, ON – The Township of Rideau Lakes welcomes members of the public to Newboro on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. to witness the unveiling of two new storyboards that celebrate the culture and heritage of Newboro as a historic village.

Through the leadership of the Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC), the Township of Rideau Lakes is pleased to embark on the development of a new series of heritage storyboards to honour the cultural heritage of historic villages within the Township. MHAC members will be on site for the official unveiling ceremony, and to celebrate the completion of this first phase of the project.

Two heritage storyboards will be unveiled: “**Historic Newboro**” and “**Newboro: An Historic Centre for Sportfishing**.” The storyboards are intended to be a primarily visual representation of the heritage of the local community for both residents and visitors to the Township.

‘Historic Newboro’ is the first of a series of storyboards that will animate public spaces in Rideau Lakes communities. In addition to fostering community pride, the stories highlight the treasures of Newboro beyond the main street, inspiring guests to learn and explore what is unique about the village.

“Newboro: An Historic Centre for Sportfishing” is an additional storyboard made possible in partnership with private donors. This second storyboard touches on the incredible tourism history of the village, the very reason many current visitors and seasonal residents first learned of the area. Creating a connection with visitors helps the village to attract new residents and business to the area.

“I’m pleased the Township of Rideau Lakes is telling the story of our heritage by placing storyboards in our villages,” said Sue Warren, Chair of MHAC for the Township of Rideau Lakes. “These new storyboards will ensure people of all ages can continue to enjoy the story of our beautiful villages for generations to come.”

The two new storyboards will be placed side-by-side, within the greenspace at the cenotaph site on Drummond Street in the Village of Newboro. At the same park, the Pioneers plaque and the Ontario Heritage Plaque can be found. The beauty of the setting can be attributed to the

Newboro Beautification Committee and the Newboro and Area Community Enhancement Committee.

“The preservation of our history is important, not only to foster community pride, but to guide the development of our communities as we welcome new residents,” said Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor for the Township of Rideau Lakes. “It is these stories about the early establishment of our villages that keep our sense of community alive. I would like to thank the volunteers and the members of MHAC for their leadership and Diane Haskins for championing this project.”

The Township of Rideau Lakes is actively supporting activities that align with its Cultural Heritage Strategic Plan (2020), including this project which directly supports feedback from Newboro. A visioning exercise conducted earlier this year found that it was important to residents that we share the history of the village. MHAC member Diane Haskins states, “Newboro is a village with a very rich history this is one way to draw attention to that heritage.”

Community led, the project quickly gained the support of MHAC as well as private donors. Glen Russell, who had previously designed the storyboard at St. Mary’s Anglican Church in Newboro, generously donated his talent to the design of these two new storyboards. Other residents were of special assistance with the tourism storyboard, particularly through the acquisition of historical imagery. “As a community we are most fortunate to have the dedication of past and present residents in preserving the history of the village, allowing us to commence the project with a treasure-trove of Newboro photos,” further remarked Diane Haskins.

In 2022, additional storyboards are planned for the village of Elgin, with funding from the Elgin and Area Heritage Society. Donations towards the storyboard project are being accepted.

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The [Township of Rideau Lakes](#) was incorporated on January 1st, 1998, by amalgamating the former townships of North Crosby, South Crosby, Bastard, South Burgess and South Elmsley with the village of Newboro.

The [Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee \(MHAC\)](#) is a standing committee of the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes. Made up of volunteers from the community and representatives from Council, MHAC is mandated to provide research and advice to Council on the recognition, designation, and conservation of the heritage of our Township.


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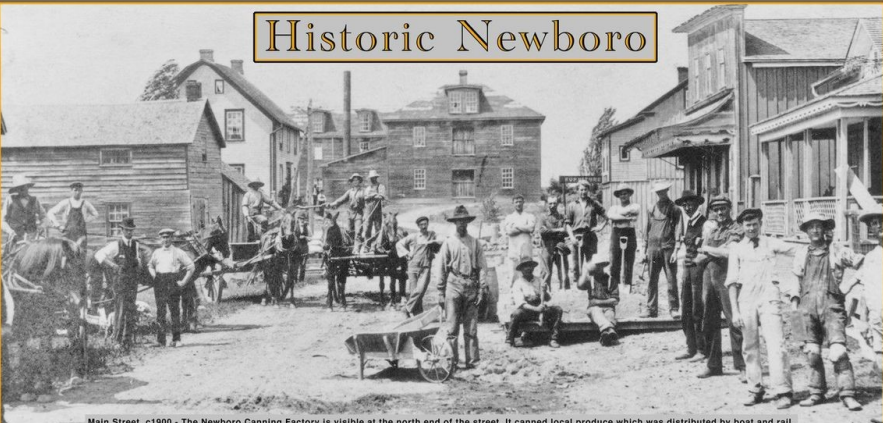
Historic Newboro




THE ISTHMUS LOCK
Colonel By and the Royal Engineers and Menes completed the difficult construction of this lock by 1822. During this time workers were employed as the west bank of the Canal.




The Isthmus Lock & Blockhouse - 1821



Main Street, c1900 - The Newboro Canning Factory is visible at the north end of the street. It canned local produce which was distributed by boat and rail.

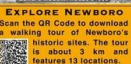


George Lyon House 1810




Edward McCain House 1820


EXPLORE NEWBORO
Scan the QR Code to download a walking tour of Newboro's historic area. The tour is about 3 km and features 13 locations.




John Dyer House 1800s




The Union Bank 1860



The Fall Wall & Warehouse




Benjamin Tall



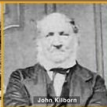
Benjamin Tall House as it appeared 1840

SETTLEMENT


Later, Newboro began on the east side of the canal with Benjamin Tall's wife home built in 1820, she also built a warehouse and started to drive boat traffic and founded the construction of St. Mary's Anglican Church. John Kilbuck, another settler, was involved with the building of another home with the entrance front of the Newboro Methodist Church and the stone school, the home is now part of Sterling Lodge.




The Newboro Schoolhouse 1840




John Dyer




The Ridgway Hotel 1810



Looking down on Main St - 1820




Drummond St W. Buildings Burned in 1922




Digmond St in 1922 Fire

FIRE & RAIL


Newboro has suffered from many fires over the decades. The worst fire was in 1822, the west end of Main Street and in 1822, the west end of Drummond Street (Highway 42) disappeared. The arrival of the Westport & Newboro Railway in 1880 brought increased prosperity to the village as well as a number of enthusiastic and vacationers. The railway closed in 1922.




Brookville & Westport Train of Newboro 1910s to 1912




Newboro Train Station 1900



Newboro Station Workers




Newboro Lake Hockey Game 1920 with Cliff Shores (right, top left)




Newboro Musical Brass Band - 1913

COMMUNITY LIFE


The first settlers had a sense of community in the region, with an excellent survival. Later this trait helped the village to prosper. Newboro has built a lasting reputation as a centre for sport, fishing, and the beauty of the surrounding lakes. The Rideau Canal (now a world heritage site), and the charm of Newboro's buildings.



Fishing at Newboro 1900



Ontario House 1810




Bank of the Old



NEWBORO: AN HISTORIC CENTRE FOR SPORT FISHING

Abundance of Fish, plus Location:

Newboro, situated on the isthmus separating the watersheds of the Rideau Canal, was accessible, without lockage, to Newboro, Lion, Mosquito, Clear, Benson and Indian Lakes. Fish were plentiful, especially bass and pike, and for the American traveller, a pleasant contrast to the dwindling fish stocks and affordability of the Thousand Islands area.




George Taylor & Mrs Kerr


Richard Taylor - Boat Builder

Rise of Sport Fishing:


The growth of angling in the US, the increasing degradation of lakes and rivers by American industry, and the promotion of responsible sport fishing by American naturalist societies (such as the Izaak Walton League) made Newboro a popular place to visit.



Fishing Accommodations c1890's




The Ridgway Hotel 1910 - Now Sterling Lodge



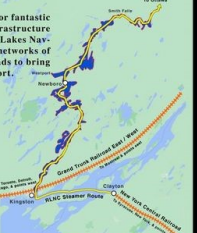
The Izaak Walton League at the Ridgway Hotel (1930's)
(Three of the four row are Newboro residents)


Efficient Transportation Links:

Prior to 1900, Americans arrived by boat or train for fantastic fishing, staying initially in tents. A tourism infrastructure soon followed. From 1900 to the 1930's, the Rideau Lakes Navigation Company (RLNC) leveraged the extensive networks of the Grand Trunk and the New York Central railroads to bring anglers and vacationers to Newboro for Rest & Sport.




The Rideau Queen at Newboro

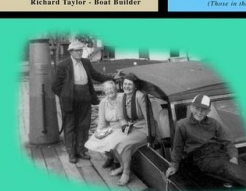





Kerr's Boat Livery



Mary Mavey and Art Pritchard



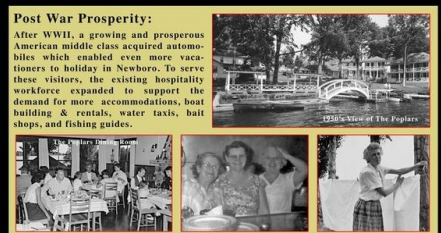
Taxi Service: Sherman Mavey, unknown, Mary Mavey, unknown




Ice Cutting on Newboro Lake

Post War Prosperity:


After WWII, a growing and prosperous American middle class acquired automobiles which enabled even more vacationers to holiday in Newboro. To serve these visitors, the existing hospitality workforce expanded to support the demand for more accommodations, boat building & rentals, water taxis, bait shops, and fishing guides.



Women were an important part of the tourism economy: Bessie Burtch, Helene Whitley, Nell Horan, Keturah Lippman (The Poplars)



The Minkow Man, George Taylor



Guide: Louis Burtch