

person shall refuse to pay the sum or rate for which he or she stands 1  
rated, as aforesaid, for the space of ten days after demand duly made of  
the same by the Collector, to be appointed by the Corporation for that  
purpose, the said Collector shall, and he is hereby required to levy the same,  
by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person so neglecting 2  
or refusing to pay, after having obtained a warrant for that purpose from  
some one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who is hereby authorised  
to grant the same, upon information made on oath before him of the neglect  
or refusal to pay the said assessment, and to render the overplus, if any  
there shall be over and above the said rate, to the owner thereof, after  
deducting the legal charges of the distress and sale.

1. *If rates unpaid, Collector may levy same by distress; 2. Warrant*

XXIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said  
Corporation may from time to time appoint, and at their discretion remove 1  
and re-appoint, a Surveyor of streets for the said town, a Clerk and three  
Assessors, a Bailiff or Bailiffs, a Collector or Collectors, a Treasurer, and  
as many and such other officers as they may require, and assign the duty  
or services to be performed by each, with such salaries and allowances as 2  
to them may seem meet, and may take such reasonable security for the 3  
due performance of the duties assigned to any officer or servant, as they  
shall think proper.

1. *Corporation may appoint certain officers, 2. Salaries, 3. Security.*

XXIV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any  
person shall transgress the orders or regulations made by the said 1  
Corporation, under the authority of this Act, such person shall, for every  
such offence, forfeit the sum which in every such order, rule, or regula- 2  
tion shall be specified, with costs, to be recovered by information before  
the said Corporation, to be levied of the goods and chattels of such offender;  
and in default of such goods and chattels, the offender shall be liable to 3  
be committed to the common Gaol of the District, for a time not exceeding  
one month, in the discretion of the said Corporation, before whom such  
offender shall be convicted; and that no person shall be deemed an in- 4  
competent witness upon any information under this Act, by reason of his  
being an inhabitant of the said town of Cobourg: *Provided always* that 5  
the information and complaint for the breach of any orders or regulations  
of the said Corporation, shall be made within fifteen days of the time when  
the offence was committed.

1. *Penalty for transgressing rules and regulations, 2. How recovered, 3. Commitment, 4. Witnesses,*  
5. *Limitation of informations.*

XXV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all penal-  
ties recovered under the provisions of this Act shall be paid into the treasury 1  
of the said Corporation, and applied in the same manner as other moneys  
coming into the treasury may be applied for the public uses of the said town.

1. *Application of penalties.*

XXVI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said Corporation shall and may, in the said town of Cobourg, perform all the functions, and exercise the authority now by law given to the Board of Police in other Police towns within this Province, with respect to making or amending any street, or highway or road within the said town: *Provided always*, that it shall not be lawful for the said Board of Police to lay out, open or establish any new street which might interfere with the powers conferred upon the Cobourg Harbour Company, by the third clause of an Act passed in the tenth year of the reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, intituled, "An Act to improve the navigation of Lake Ontario, by authorising the construction of a harbour at Cobourg, by a Joint Stock Company."

1. *Authority of other Boards of Police, respecting roads, extended to this Corporation*, 2. *Not to interfere with Harbour Company*.

XXVII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation to fix upon a site for a market in the said town, and to enter into and make such arrangement or agreements in behalf of the said town for the purchase of such site, as to them, or a majority of them, appear just and reasonable; and the said Corporation shall give at least six weeks notice in the newspapers published in the said town of Cobourg, of the site intended for such market; and if any objection, in writing, to such site shall, within the period of six weeks, be presented or declared to the said Corporation, or any member thereof, signed by twelve persons entitled to vote within the said town, a public meeting of the inhabitants shall be called, and a time and place for such meeting shall be fixed by the said Corporation who shall give at least six days notice thereof; and a majority of the persons present at such meeting, entitled to vote under this Act, shall decide whether such proposed site shall be confirmed or not; and the President of such Corporation shall preside at such meeting, and conduct the proceedings thereof; and that when the site for the said market shall be confirmed, or in case of its being rejected, then when any other site which may be afterwards proposed shall be agreed to, or if objected to in like manner, shall be confirmed, such site shall be the market-place of the said town, any thing herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

1. *Market*, 2. *Purchase of site*, 3. *Notice*, 4. *In case of objection, public meeting to be held*, 5. *Majority to decide on site*, 6. *Site finally agreed to shall be the market place*.

XXVIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation to borrow the sum of one thousand pounds, of or from any person or persons, body politic or corporate, willing to lend the same, for the purpose of building a market house, and for purchasing one or more fire-engine or fire-engines, as may be deemed necessary, and to provide some fit and proper place where the same may be kept.

1. *Corporations authorized to borrow £1000*; 2. *For what purposes*.

XXIX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Corporation shall set apart so much of the assessments as are authorised by this Act to be raised for the use of the said town, as will be sufficient to pay the yearly interest of the said sum of one thousand pounds, and to liquidate the principal in a term not longer than ten years from and after the time such loan shall have been made. 1

*1. Portion of yearly assessments to be set aside for payment of interest, and principal, within ten years.*

XXX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That in case an equality of votes shall happen at any election for members of the said Corporation in any of the said wards, it shall and may be lawful for the person presiding at the said election to give a casting vote, and he shall not be required to be possessed of the qualifications necessary to enable him to vote at the said election for the said wards, respectively. 1

*1. In case of equality at an election of members of the Corporation, the Presiding Officer may give a casting vote.*

#### FORM OF OATH

I, A.B. do swear, that I will faithfully discharge the duties of a member of the Police of the Town of Cobourg, to the best of my skill and knowledge. So help me God.

### The First Town Election

The editor of the Cobourg Star was strangely silent about the incorporation of the town, and the upcoming election for members of the Board of Police. There had been a severe controversy for over four years. Further, provincial elections were severe and sometimes bloody affairs between the two political parties. The year 1837 was not a quiet time with the rebellion breaking out a few months later. The town election was a new venture, and rather than stir up animosity and party strife, the editor may have refrained from comment. A peaceful procedure was desired.

The following two notices appeared in the Cobourg Star on May 24th, 1837:

*"Notice - The Police Election for the Town of Cobourg, will be held on the first Monday in June next, as the Law directs.*

*That for the South Ward will be held at **Brown's Inn.**  
for the East Ward at **Wilder's Inn.***

*for the West Ward at **Battell's Inn.***

All commence at the hour of Ten O'Clock, A.M.

H. Ruttan, Sheriff, N.D.  
Sheriff's Office, Cobourg,  
May 22, 1837"

"To the Electors of the South Ward of the Town of Cobourg."

"Gentlemen: - Having been instrumental in procuring the Act of Incorpora-

tion, which I consider will be productive of advantage to our town, and having in consequence of the great interest I have in its prosperity, been solicited to become a candidate for one of the members of the corporation, I have consented to do so. If you therefore think I can be of service in framing rules and regulations for the government of the town, I solicit your votes at the election, which takes place on the 5th of June; and if elected, I shall endeavour to do all the good I can for the common interest of our town.

"In regard to the Market, gentlemen, I must inform you that no situation can be established for the erection, without the concurrence of the majority of the electors of the town, as the Corporation have no power by the Act to establish a Market contrary to their wishes.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your faithful servant,  
*G. S. Boulton*"

"May 22nd, 1837."

The above election card was the only one to appear in the Cobourg Star. In fact the newspaper gave no list of candidates in the various wards. The only comment is as follows:

"The first election of officers for the Cobourg Police will take place in this town on Monday next, simultaneously, at the respective inns of Messers Wilder, Brown, and Battell - commencing at ten o'clock precisely."

"From a perusal of the Act of Incorporation (which has been published by us during the week, and may be had at the Star Office - price three pence) it will be seen that the punctual attendance at the polls, in order to secure the return of an effective and useful Board, is of some importance."

- The Cobourg Star, May 31st, 1837

The results of the election, as reported by the local newspaper follows:

"The Election for the members of the Corporation, under the present law incorporating this town, took place on Monday last, pursuant to notice, when the following gentlemen were elected, viz:-

*E. Perry, Esq.*

*George Ham*

*Andrew Jeffrey*

*W.S. Conger*

*William Weller*

- The Cobourg Star, June 7th, 1837

The elected members at their first meeting, elected *Ebenezer Perry* as President.

The next item of news connected with the Town of Cobourg is as follows:

### The First Cobourg By-Laws

*Effective July 1st, 1837*

"The Cobourg Board of Police have just published a code of excellent By-Laws for the better regulation of the town. They are extremely well conceived, and

require only to be as well administered to produce the happiest effects in our community. As such we shall have much pleasure in extending their circulation by copying them into our next week's Star.

The Cobourg Star, July 5, 1837

*General Rules*

Regulations and By-Laws,

Of the Board of Police for the town of Cobourg, to become in full force on the first day of July next. (July 1st, 1837).

*Be it enacted*, by the President, and members of the Board of Police for the Town of Cobourg, that on and after the first of July next, any person who shall be guilty of any of the offences herein mentioned, shall be subjected to the penalties hereinafter prescribed. To Wit:

1st. Any persons who shall on Sundays do any servile work or Labour, (works of piety, charity, and necessity excepted), or buy, sell or show forth, or expose for sale any goods, wares or merchandise, or any other thing, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding thirty shillings for such offence at the discretion of the magistrates convicting.

2nd. That any person or persons firing any musket, pistol, squib, or fireballs within 200 yards of any house or other building in the Town shall be liable to a fine of not less than two shillings and six pence.

3d. That any person or persons bathing within one quarter of a mile of any house within the limits of the town, after sunrise in the morning or before twilight in the evening, shall be liable to be fined at the discretion of the Board; not to exceed ten shillings.

4th. That any person or persons seen shooting or making use of guns or either fire arms, fishing or skating on the Sabbath, within the limits of this Town, shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than two shillings and six pence.

5th. That any person racing, riding or driving at an immoderate rate through the streets of the Town, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding thirty shillings.

6th. That any person driving any description of sleigh within the limits of the Town, without having two or more bells affixed to the harness of the horse drawing same, and shall do injury to any person or property shall be fined in not less than two shillings and sixpence.

7th. That any oxen, horses, sheep, cows, or swine found trespassing on any garden or other property within the Town, the same being enclosed by a lawful fence, shall be held subject to any damage sustained, and if any dispute arise between the proprietor of the garden or other property and the owner of the animal or animals impounded, it shall and may be lawful for the pound-keeper to call upon the Assessor of the Town to assess the damage; and the amount so awarded shall be final and conclusive, and the said assessor shall be entitled to the sum of two shillings and six pence for his trouble, and in default of payment

the distress to be sold by public auction, on the pound keeper giving four days notice if the owner lives within the limits of the Town, and then if otherwise, and the overplus, if any, to be paid to the owner after deducting costs and charges.

8th. That any swine found running at large within the limits of the Town shall be liable to be impounded and held subject (when no damage has been sustained) to the payment of two shillings and six pence, besides poundage fees; one half of the fine to go to the person or persons driving them to the pound; and if not released by the owner or owners within twenty four hours, the animal or animals to be advertised giving three days notice (if owner within the limits of the Town) and if no claimant appears and there shall be reason to suppose the animal or animals belong to, or are owned, by persons living out and at a distance from the precincts of the Town, a notice of ten days shall be given and then, if not sooner released, they shall be sold, and the pound keeper is hereby empowered to sell them, at the expiration of ten days, at one o'clock in the afternoon, and after deducting therefrom fees and expenses for keeping the same, the balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner, or in case no claimant appears, into the hands of the treasurer subject to the order of the Board.

9th. That any person convicted of rescuing, or attempting to rescue any swine, cattle, horses or sheep, taken up in conformity with any regulation or order of the Board, shall forfeit and pay a sum, no exceeding twenty shillings for every such offence.

10th. That if any person after the first day of July next shall continue to keep an open house or grocery within the Town where provisions and liquors not distilled are sold to be eaten and drunk therein, or shall presume after the first of July next aforesaid to open a house for such purposes without having obtained a license to do so. He, she or they shall forfeit and pay a sum of one pound.

11th. That the Bar Room door of all public houses, and groceries be closed for the night at 10 o'clock in the evening and shall be kept closed during the whole of the Sabbath day, except for the admittance of travellers, not inhabitants of the town, under penalty not exceeding 30 shillings.

12th. That any person or persons who shall suffer drinking, gaming or fighting or any other disorderly conduct in the house occupied by him, her or them to the disturbance of his, her, or their neighbours shall for each and every such offence forfeit and pay a sum not less than 10 s.

13th. That if any person or persons shall injure or destroy any trees planted for shade or ornament in Town, or shall pull down or deface any sign board or shall inscribe or draw any indecent words, figures or pictures on any building or other public place in the Town, or shall raise or make disturbance in any place or places of public worship, or be found guilty of profane oaths, cursing, execrations, fighting, drunkenness, uncleanness or other scandalous behavior, or any disturbances by noise or otherwise to the annoyance of the inhabitants of the Town, shall for each and every of the said offences forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding one pound ten shillings, nor less than five shillings at the discretion of the Board.

14th. That if any persons shall after the first day of July next be found selling bread under the following standard, to wit, loaf 4 lb., 1/2 loaf 2 lb., 1/4 loaf 1 lb., they shall for each and every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of 2 s 6d. And further if any person or persons shall knowingly put into any wheaten bread made for sale, any mixture of mead or flour of any other sort of grain than the same shall import to be, or shall adulterate any wheaten bread which shall be made for sale with any mixture or ingredient not allowed to be used in the making of Bread, shall forfeit and pay for each and every of the said offences the sum of 15s.

15th. That any person having deposited or caused to be deposited, or shall hereafter deposit or cause to be deposited, in any street of the town, timber, boards, planks, stones, brick, lime mortar, or other materials for building and who shall refuse, or neglect to remove the same within twenty four hours after having been directed by the street surveyor so to do, shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than 5s, for every offence and the further sum of two shillings and six pence for every 24 hours thereafter that the same shall be suffered to remain. Provided that this regulation shall not extend to persons requiring such materials for immediate use and occupying therewith not more than half the width of the street opposite the site of the intended building.

16th. That any person depositing in any street of this Town any firewood, cart, wagon, or other carriage, cask, case, rubbish or filth of any description except with the intention of immediate removal, and who shall neglect forthwith to remove the same upon being directed by any member of the corporation or the Street Surveyor so to do, shall forfeit and pay the sum of 5s. for every such neglect or refusal.

17th. Every chimney or flue in which a fire is commonly made shall from the 1st. of November to the 1st. of April in every year be swept at least once in every 8 weeks and when the same is daily used for Kitchens, and Manufactories, once in every eight weeks throughout the year in the same manner by the Tennant or person authorized and every person neglecting to comply with this regulation shall forfeit and pay on conviction thereof a sum not less than five shillings.

18th. That all Poundkeepers appointed under this Board shall render an account on or before the first Monday in each month to this Board of all penalties forefeited by them and pay over the same to the Treasurer within twenty-four hours thereafter under the penalty of five shillings.

19th. Any person who shall refuse or neglect to signify to the clerk of the said Corporation, in writing, his dissent to enter upon the service of any office to which he may be appointed by the said Corporation, for the space of three days after receiving notice of such appointment, shall forfeit and pay the sum of not less than 5s. for every such neglect or refusal.

20th. That it shall be the duty of the Assessor to take down every Lot, occupied or not occupied, within the limits of the said town, and the persons residing within the said limits are required to define the Lot on which there is a building

The Ward in which it is situated, the Lot, and what part of it, so that no doubt can be entertained as to the identical Building, House and Lot. Any person neglecting or refusing to give any or all of these particulars on the information or complaint of the Assessor shall be subject and liable to pay a fine of not less than 10s., and in the event of their still refusing, for each subsequent refusal to be subject and liable to pay a further penalty of not less than 20s., and the Assessors are hereby strictly enjoined to carry this order into effect.

21st. That it shall be the duty of the Assessor at the time of the Assessment to take a census of the population within the limits of the town, and all persons are hereby enjoined to make correct returns to the Assessor of each and every resident within his, her or their house, under a penalty of not less than 10s.

22d. No person shall be allowed to exhibit any Wax Figures, Puppet Shows, Rope or Wire Dancing in the Town without first paying 30s. for a license for every such exhibition. And no person or persons shall be allowed to exhibit or expose to view any Caravans of Wild Beasts, or any animals, within said Town, or exhibit Pictures for the purpose of gain, or get any Circus or Theatrical Entertainment for public admission without first taking out a license for every such exhibition and paying for it as follows: Caravans of Wild Beasts, Circuses, and Theatrical Entertainments 50s. each. Exhibition of Pictures and views 20s. for each exhibition.

23d. That all occupiers of Houses within the limits of the Town shall on or before the first of October next provide and keep in repair one ladder to reach the eave of his, her or their dwelling House and one other to reach from the eave to the top of the roof there of to be placed as occasion may require; under a penalty of not less than 2s. 6d. nor more than 30s.

24th. All persons are forbidden fishing with torches or other fire lights within 600 feet of the bridge situated at Mr. Ham's Mill, every person so offending shall be liable in a penalty of not less than 5s.

25th. That all officers of the Board of Police who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform the several duties of their respective offices shall be liable, upon due complaint and proof of such refusal or neglect, to pay a fine of not less than five shillings.

26th. Any person who shall disobey the summons or subpoena, of the Board, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding 30s. and any person who shall be guilty of obstructing any bailiff, constable, or other officer of Police in the exercise of his or their duty shall forfeit and pay a fine of not exceeding 30s.

Any person or persons who shall be guilty of any disorderly conduct to the Board while sitting shall be subject to fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Board.

28th. That three Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and may



appoint a chairman and proceed with business in the absence of the President.

EBENEZER PERRY, President of Police.

Cobourg, 28th June, 1837.

### APPENDIX

Officers appointed by the Board of Police for the Town of Cobourg with a table of their respective fees.

CLERK AND ASSESSOR	James Lambert
COLLECTOR, STREET SURVEYOR and BAILIFF	William Grigg
CONSTABLES	James Tremble, George Birney, Richard Brown, George Edgewomb
POUNDKEEPERS	S.P. Hart, J.B.F. Cotter
TREASURER	Robert Henry, Esq. Commercial Bank

### CLERK'S FEES

Information	2s. 6d.
Warrant	2s. 6d.
Summons	0s. 6d.
Subpoena	0s. 6d.
Conviction	2s. 6d.
Execution	2s. 0d.

### CONSTABLES FEES

Service of Warrant	5. s 0d.
Service of Summons	1s. 4d.
Service of Subpoena	1s. 4d.
Service of Execution	2s. 0d.
Service of Advertising	1s. 6d.
Selling and making return	2s. 6d.
Removing property to be charged extra.	

### POUNDKEEPER'S FEES

Impounding Horses, Oxen & Cows	9d.
Feeding per diem	9d.
Impounding sheep or pigs	6d.
Feeding per Diem	6d.
Impounding young cattle under two years old	5d.
Feeding per diem Do. Do.	6d.

### Rates of Feeding

That every Horse, Ox, or Cow shall be allowed 16 lb. of Hay, young Cattle 10 lb. Sheep 2½ lb. and pigs one quart of Peas per diem.

-- From the Cobourg Star, July 12, 1837

## The New Town

In the raising of Cobourg from a Police Village to an incorporated town, administered by a five member Board of Police, a number of changes took place. Up to and including the 30th of June, 1837, Cobourg was still part of Hamilton Township. The Township officers performed for the village streets. The District Magistrates meeting in Quarter Sessions were still in authority, and the fire department and fire prevention regulations were under their oversight. The Act of Incorporation did NOT specify a date as to when the change - over was to become effective. This date naming was left to the President and Board of Police. This elected body drafted a set of rules and regulations, appointed their officers, set fees and applied the date of JULY 1st, 1837, for the changeover to take place. On July 1st, 1837, the Town of Cobourg was born.

What does this mean? The town now had defined boundaries, the area withing which became separated from the jurisdiction of Hamilton Township. The area included the Police Village of Amherst and the White's Mills - Hull's Corners hamlet, located on Division Street North. Cobourg became the District Town, with the Gaol and Court House inside its boundaries. The President and Board of Police had acquired both administrative and judicial powers, applied within the boundaries of the Corporation. The District Magistrates meeting in Quarter Sessions no longer ruled in Cobourg. Likewise the Hamilton Township Annual Town Meeting. The Fire Department came under the town administration. The President and Board of Police were empowered to hold court for infractions of their By-Laws, and levy fines. The Town was an entirely new and separate municipality, with a governing body legalized to promote and to carry out local improvements, apply taxes, borrow money, and in general look after the well being of the town.

## The Public Market

The subject of a market place had been a contentious local issue for nearly six years. Now that a President and Board of Police was in power, action towards obtaining land for a public market was taken. The following is recorded:

"NOTICE is hereby given, that proposals containing offers of land for a market site within the Town of Cobourg, with prices and terms of payment, will be received by the Board of Police until the 15th day of August, next.

(Signed)E. PERRY, President.  
JAMES LAMBERT, Clerk".

Board of Police,  
July 17, 1837.

"Standing Order - The Board of Police meet at their Clerk's office every Monday at 8 o'clock in the morning."

-- The Cobourg Star, July 19, 1837.

The above was followed up with a statement later by the President of the Board:  
"Notice is hereby given, that the President and Board of Police have chosen as the intended site for the Market Place in the Town of Cobourg, the lot of land on which Mr. Freeman S. Clench at present resides, containing nearly one acre and a quarter, having a front of about 147 feet on the south side of King Street.

EBENEZER PERRY, President of Police".

"Board of Police, Cobourg  
September 4, 1837."

-- The Cobourg Star, September 6, 1837.

About this time, Mr. Abraham Crouter purchased some sixty acres of Cobourg in the vicinity of University Avenue, west of Spring Street. He was promoting sub-divisions and selling town lots. It may have been in this area that he made an offer to the town of an acre of land for a market. His public statement is of interest:

**" TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE TOWN  
OF COBOURG "**

"Since my removal to this place, I have felt a deep interest for its improvement; and to save the people from taxation and enable myself to take a further stand in its improvement, I have offered one acre of land, without price, for a market; but the Board of Police have chosen another place, at 1,000 Pounds, and will wish me to help pay for it, and rather than do it, I will give with the acre security for the payment; and if the inhabitants of the Town of Cobourg refuse this offer, I shall keep the acre and fifty Pounds and do something else with(it).

"I remain, your sincere friend, and well-wisher,  
A. CROUTER."

"Cobourg September 12, 1837."

-- The Cobourg Star, September 13, 1837.

The site chosen for a Public Market, to the west of Second Street was not acceptable to some people. The President and Board of Police called a public meeting to finalize the issue. The meeting notice is given here:

"NOTICE - A protest signed by twelve voters in town, against the site chosen for a market by the Board of Police, having been laid before the said Board."

"Notice is hereby given that a general meeting of the inhabitants, voters in the town, will be held in the Common School House, on Tuesday the 3rd of October next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of confirming or rejecting said Market site within the Town.

E. PERRY, President.

JAMES LAMBERT, Clerk.

"Board of Police, Cobourg, September 27, 1837."

-- The Cobourg Star, September 27, 1837.

At the public meeting, the site chosen by the Board of Police was confirmed.

Purchase of properties proceeded and Mr. F.S. Clench acted as agent for the town. Between Second and Third Streets, there were at least three buildings facing on King Street. The westerly one remained in private ownership. The next was Mr. Clench's residence. The third one may have been a place of business, or a residence. The group of properties were deeded to the town and Registered on May 14, 1838, consisting of lots Numbers five and six, seven and the east half of Lot Number nine, all in Block B.

Three newspaper articles, given below, are of interest. An Editorial - We heartily congratulate the people of Cobourg that there really is at length some probability of their possessing the advantage of a market. At the meeting yesterday, called to ascertain the sense of the inhabitants generally upon the site chosen by the Board of Police, namely the property offered by Mr. F.S. Clench, situated on the south side of King Street, with the buildings thereon, owned and occupied by him--it was most unanimously resolved to confirm the same, and the purchase is to be effected accordingly. We may hope soon to see therefore provisions in Cobourg as reasonable in price as elsewhere.

-- The Cobourg Star, October 4, 1837.

#### An Editorial - **IMPROVEMENTS IN COBOURG**

We feel called upon to notice with hearty commendation the activity and zeal displayed by our new Board of Police; under whose efficient management the advantages of the Act of Incorporation for the Town of Cobourg are in course of steady development. In addition to the very judicious and valuable selection of a market site, before noticed, we have now to applaud the improvement, of scarcely inferior importance to our comfort, which is at present in progress, namely the construction of side-walks in the principle streets. They are to be of wood, similar to those so much approved of in Toronto, and will, in the first instance, we understand, extend east and west, from the English to the Scotch Church, a distance a little short of a mile; and north and south from the Methodist Chapel to the wharf.

-- The Cobourg Star, October 18, 1837.

"WANTED TO BORROW - By the President and Board of Police of the Town of Cobourg, for not less than one, or more than five years, the sum of 500 Pounds in sums of not less than 50 Pounds, on the security of the town. Interest six percent.

EBENEZER PERRY, President, Board of Police."

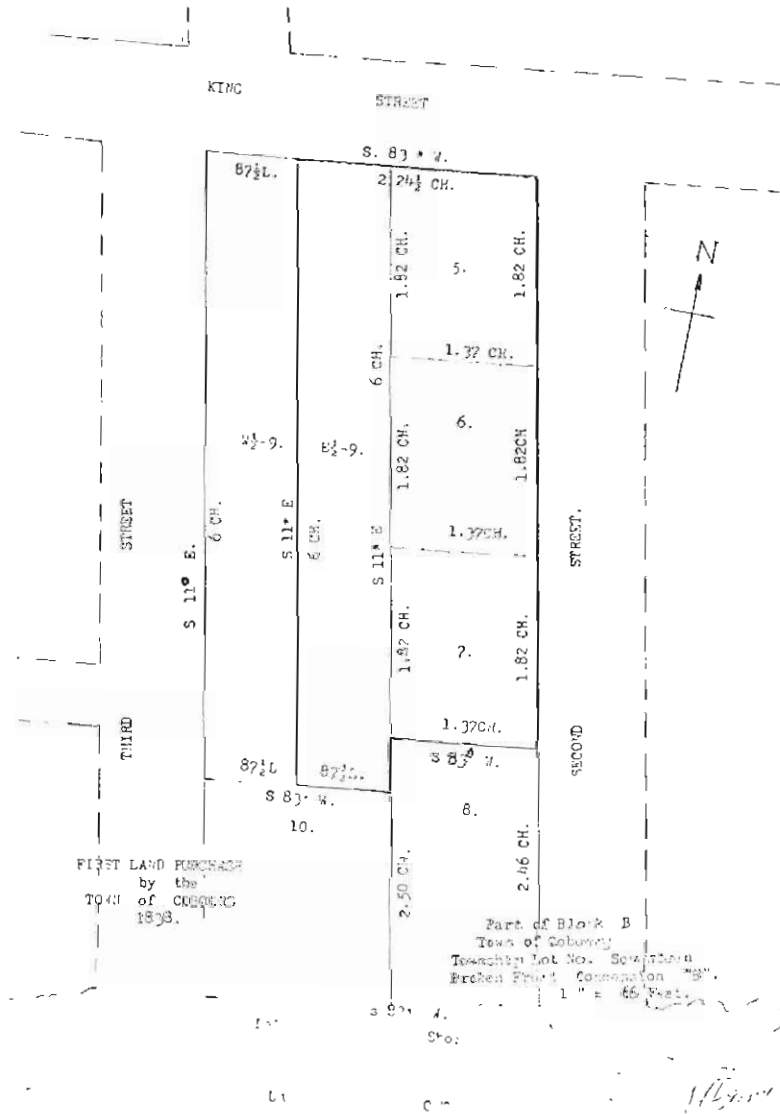
"Board of Police, Cobourg, November 27, 1837."

-- The Cobourg Star, November 29, 1837.

#### **Board of Trade in Cobourg**

A meeting of the merchants and others interested in the trade of Cobourg was

# First Land Purchase by the Town of Cobourg 1838



held at the Albion Hotel on Saturday, the 2nd instant, to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a Board of Trade.

The Hon. Walter Boswell was called to the chair, and Kenneth Mackenzie was appointed Secretary, when it was:

Moved by E. Perry, Esq., and seconded by B. Throop, Esq.,

1st. That in order to afford more facilities for regulating various matters connected with the local, as well as the general interests of trade, this meeting deems it highly expedient that the trading portion of the community of this Town should establish a Board of Trade, to be guided by such rules and regulations as may hereinafter be adopted.

Moved by W.W. Boswell, Esq., and seconded by W. Graveley, Esq.,

2nd. That this meeting do now form itself into a Board of Trade; and be called "THE COBOURG BOARD OF TRADE."

Moved by J.V. Boswell, Esq., and seconded by Mr. John McCarty,

3rd. That the following gentlemen, viz - E. PERRY, G. HAM, W.S. CONGER, B. THROOP, J.C. BOSWELL, and C. MORGAN, Esqs., be appointed to draw up rules and regulations for the guidance of the Board of Trade.

Moved by George Ham, Esq., and seconded by W.E. Conger, esq.

4th. That a meeting of the Board take place at the Albion Hotel, on Monday evening, the 11th instant, at half past seven o'clock to adopt the rules and regulations for the guidance of the Board, and to elect a Committee of Management for the current year.

W. BOSWELL, Chairman.

K. MACKENZIE, secretary.

-- The Cobourg Star, September 6, 1837.

### Queen Victoria

In relating the story of the birth of the Town of Cobourg, we have passed by other interesting events. On June 20th, 1837, His Majesty, King William the Fourth had passed away. On June 21st, Queen Victoria became the Monarch of the Realm, only ten days before Cobourg became a town. The news of these two events did not reach Cobourg until the 2nd of August.

### The Rebellion

Late in November of 1837, rebellion broke out in Lower Canada. The regular soldiers were sent to that province, leaving only militia units in Upper Canada. Events took a serious turn, and men were needed for any emergency that may arise. The following notice appeared in the Cobourg Star of November 29th, 1837:

“To the Young Men of Cobourg.”

“It is proposed, with permission of the executive, to form a Volunteer Rifle Company in Cobourg, to be attached to the First Regiment of Northumberland Militia, with the usual privileges and conditions. All persons in the town and neighbourhood, whose loyalty at the present moment of threatened revolution in the sister province, may prompt them to join such company, with a desire for immediate active service, can please leave their names at this office.” (The editor, Mr. R.D. CHATTERTON was active in the Militia.)

The Cobourg Rifles were organized under Captain Edward Warren, a Cobourg resident and a veteran of the 66th Regiment. The following is the list of names, mostly young men of Cobourg, that composed this unit.

The Cobourg Rifles.

Captain Warren, late of the 66th Regiment.

Lieutenants - Chatterton, McDonald, late of the 59th, and H. Covert .

Qr. Master Ser'gt - H.E. Nichols

Sergents - G.M. Goodeve and H.H. Meredith.

Corporals - Saunders and R. Armour.

Privates:

Charles Perry	C.G. Buller	C.S. Finlayson	George Pierce
Rowe Buck	Wm. Graveley	W.W. Hammond	Marsh
J. McGarvey	R.H. Throop	R.D. Rogers	Jonathan E.
F.H. Burton	Wm. Butler	C.J. Owston	Tremain
H.W. Jones	Charles Butler	John Laurie	Henry Falkner
W.F. Harper	Wm. Boswell	Henry Blackstone	A.G. Allan
Wm. Bancks	James Mewburn Jr.	Angus Crawford	F.P. Covert
			- Brady
			Henry J. Ruttan

“Of the officers, Warren and McDonald had served in the line. Owing to their exertions, the Cobourg Rifles were better organized than any other volunteer corps on the Frontier.”

- The Adventures of the Cobourg Rifles

Suddenly, without warning, the Yonge Street uprising under William Lyon MacKenzie broke out. The Lieutenant Governor called out the Militia. The order was received in Cobourg on Tuesday night, December 5th. The various Colonels were ordered to mobilize their regiments. The flank companies were to advance on Toronto, the others were to hold themselves in readiness to march on an hour's notice.

Early Thursday morning, December 7th, the several volunteer companies began to assemble. The time had come to march. It was only a few days earlier that the Cobourg Rifles were recruited. This company formed the advance for the march to Toronto. They were followed by Captain Clark and Captain Calcutt's

companies. Captain Conger, with his men, brought up the rear. The volunteer cavalry, under the command of Captain Rogers, left Cobourg for Toronto on the Friday. In all, some 2,000 men from the Newcastle District answered the call to duty.

It was a difficult march to Toronto and occupied three days. The Cobourg Rifles had no route march experience, and they had to contend with muddy, clay roads under winter conditions. When they reached Toronto, the Yonge Street affair had been overcome, the rebels had fled to the Niagara River and took possession of Navy Island, above the falls.

Volunteers were called for at Toronto to defend the Niagara Frontier, and the Cobourg Rifles responded. They were despatched to Chippawa.

The steamer "Caroline" was employed by the Rebels to communicate between Navy Island and the American shore. A Canadian raiding party crossed the river after dark, located the steamer on the American side, boarded the boat, subdued the crew on board, then cut the boat loose from its moorings, set it on fire, and left the boat to let it drift downstream. It disappeared over Niagara Falls as a flaming torch. The raiding party returned safely to the Canadian shore in their small boats. Captain Warren and perhaps others in the Cobourg Rifles took part in the raid on the "Caroline". The incident became an international affair. By late January of 1838, the rebels were dispersed. Navy Island was abandoned after heavy shelling, and the Niagara Frontier became quiet. The men from Cobourg returned home.

The Rebellion left much uncertainty in its wake. Political affairs were in a disordered state, and the fears of rebel raiding parties from the United States added to the insecurity. The economy of the province went into a decline. In general, conditions were not encouraging and local developments were held back pending better times.

The first Monday in June was election time again for Cobourg. This time William Weller, George Ham, E. Perry, Asa Burnham and W.S. Conger were the Board of Police for the ensuing year. The general account of the town for its first year of operation is given here. A few of the items listed were difficult to decipher.

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT of the TOWN OF COBOURG, May 26, 1838

DR.

1837

		£.	s.	d.
July 4,	To A. Rubidge, Printing and Adverstising account, Per Receipt . . . . .	2	10	0
Aug. 19,	To J. Davis, fixing and clearing well . . . . .	0	15	0
Aug. 20,	J. McCarty and Co., 114 feet of lumber . . . . .	0	4	0
Aug. 21,	To A. Jeffrey, Hinges, nails Etc for well cover . . . . .	0	5	3
Sept. 4,	To Foster Sprague, for repairs on Fire Engine . . . . .	0	13	0
Sept. 4,	To H. Dumble, Stone to Bridge . . . . .	0	5	6
Sept. 4,	To J. Trimble, Repairing "do" . . . . .	0	16	0



*Again, Incorporation of Cobourg/95*

Sept. 4,	To Norton & Musser, Office Furniture . . . . .	2	0	0
Sept. 4,	To Blacksmith work to well . . . . .	0	2	6
Sept. 27,	To William Grigg, 2 cedar logs and 4 planks . . . . .	0	4	0
Oct. 13,	To J. Whitaker, drawing gravel to streets . . . . .	0	6	8
Oct. 28,	To Note in Commercial Bank . . . . . (25 Pounds)	25	0	0
Nov. 3,	M. Purser, fixing fire hooks . . . . .	0	7	6
Nov. 27,	To Note in Commercial Bank . . . . .	20	0	0
1838				
Jan. 20,	To Starling and Keeler, for making drains . . . . .	9	13	6
Jan. 20,	To J. Fisher, for logs to "do" . . . . .	0	5	0
Mar. 2,	To W.S. Conger, per Z. Sisson, towards side walks . . . . .	4	0	10
Mar. 3,	To A. Rubidge, Printing and advertising account	4	15	11
March 14,	To J. Bain, Painting Constable's Batons, etc . . . . .	1	2	6
Mar. 14,	To T.L. ? For Minute Book . . . . .	1	10	0
Mar. 14,	To Richard Solomon Black Smith Work . . . . .	0	8	3
Mar. 28,	To F.S. Clench, Taxes returned on account . . . . .	2	6	0
April 3,	To F.S. Clench, First instalment on Market Site . . . . .	250	0	0
May 1st,	To F.S. Clench, Rent of R. West, assumed . . . . .	12	16	8
May 1st,	To F.S. Clench, Rent of Dyer, assumed . . . . .	0	15	0
May 7,	To Paid to Police Ledger . . . . .	2	16	0
May 7,	To William Grigg Account, for services as Street Surveyor . . . . .	9	18	0
May 7,	To Wm. Grigg, Collectors fees off £211 5s 2d . . . . .	10	11	3
May 7,	To Edward Hales, Services as Fire Inspector . . . . .	2	9	6
May 7,	To Wm. Grigg, Registering Deed of Market Site . . . . .	1	0	0
May 7,	To W.S. Conger, per Account of sidewalks . . . . .	59	0	0
May 7,	To ? ?, per Account of sidewalks . . . . .	4	2	0
May 7,	To Police for Salary . . . . .	17	10	0
May 12,	To ? ? For repairing Bridge . . . . .	2	9	0
May	To Postage . . . . .	0	3	8
May ?,	To ? (poor copy) ? Returning . . . . .	5	4	6
May	To ? ? ? Collectors fees off ? . . . . .	2	13	0
May	To ? ? ? Overseeing improvements to Market Site . . . . .	3	11	0
May ?,	To James Lambert, Account of Clerk's Fees in ? no connection . . . . .	1	18	9
May	To F. Sprague Account, repairs to fire engine . . . . .	1	18	9
May	To account work done on streets . . . . .	38	6	0
May	To For work done on Market site for taxes . . . . .	7	7	10½
May ?,	Amount of Money in Mr. Grigg's Hands . . . . .	2	14	2½
May	To Amount of discounts paid to Commercial Bank on a note of 102 Pounds, 10s and of 60			

	pound note given to renew said note by W.S.			
May	Conger . . . . .	2	9	10
	Amount in Treasurer's hands . . . . .	1	1	7½
		<hr/>		
		518	2	3½
May 26,	To Balance due W.S. Conger on Notes . . . . .	160	0	0
May 26,	To "do" "do" "do" On Account . . . . .	33	1	10½
May 26,	To Balance due F.S. Clench on Account . . . . .	14	12	4½
May 26,	To Balance due John McCarty on account . . . . .	2	2	10½
May 26,	To Balance due R.D. Chatterton on Account . . . . .	2	7	1
May 26,	To Balance due Donald Bethune on account . . . . .	5	0	0
		<hr/>		
		217	4	2
May 26,	To Balance due by the Town of Cobourg . . . . .	213	8	4½
Cr.				
1837				
July 1st,	By License to Circus and Menagerie . . . . .	5	0	0
October 28,	By Proceeds of Note, 25 Pounds in Com. Bank . . . . .	24	12	4
Novemb. 27,	By Proceeds of Note, 20 Pounds in Com. Bank . . . . .	19	14	0
March 12,	By Amount of taxes, Etc collected by W. Grigg, including subscriptions to sidewalks . . . . .	211	5	2
March 12,	By Amount of fines collected by the Board . . . . .	3	7	3
March 12,	By Amount of Pound-Keeper's returns . . . . .	3	17	7
March 12,	By Amount of Statute Labour money for 1837 . . . . .	6	2	2
March 12,	By Amount of J. McCarty's taxes remitted on account . . . . .	4	2	0
May 1st,	By Amount of house-rent of R. West, assumed by F.S.Clench . . . . .	12	16	8
May 1st	By Amount of House-rent of Dyer, assumed by F.S. Clench . . . . .	0	15	0
May 22,	By Amount of taxes collected by J. Trimbles . . . . .	53	12	6
May 26,	By Amount of taxes collected by J. Trimbles . . . . .	5	9	9
May 26,	By Amount of work done on the Market-Site for taxes . . . . .	7	7	10½
May 26,	By Balance — W.S. Conger's Note given to G.S. Boulton for Corporation . . . . . 100 Pounds.			
May 26,	And W.S. Conger's Note given to the COMMERCIAL BANK for Corporation . . . . . 60 Pounds.			
		<hr/>		
		160	0	0
		<hr/>		
		518	2	3½

1837

May 26,	By Amount in Mr. Grigg's hands . . . . .	2	14	2½
May 26,	By Amount in Treasurer's hands . . . . .	1	1	7½
May 26,	Balance Due by the Corporation . . . . .	213	8	4½
			<hr/>	
			217	4 2½
			<hr/>	

EBENEZER PERRY,

President Board of Police

Cobourg May 26, 1838

— — The Cobourg Star, May 30, 1838

No report in the Cobourg Star re the 1838 Municipal elections.

AT A MEETING — of the Board of Police for the Town of Cobourg, on the 18th Day of June, 1838, the following appointments were made, viz:—

- CLERK and ASSESSOR — — — Kenneth Mackenzie,  
Collector, Street Surveyor and Bailiff — — James Tremble.
- Constables — J.B.F. Cotter, Thomas Salisbury.
- Pound Keepers, — J.B.F. Cotter; George Hart.
- TREASURER, Robert Henry, Esq. Commercial Bank.

RESOLVED: — That the Board meet in the Town Hall, at eight o'clock on Monday morning, in each week, for the transaction of business.

GEORGE HAM, President of Police.

Cobourg, 18th June, 1838

— — — The Cobourg Star, June 20, 1838.

It appears that one of the buildings purchased by the town, was converted in total or in part for use as a town hall. The remainder of the buildings were rented to private individuals, and occupied the site of to-day's Victoria Hall in part.

### Coronation of Queen Victoria

Thursday June 28th, 1838, was set aside for the Coronation of Queen Victoria. Cobourg joined in with many other places in celebrating this event. The Cobourg Star tells us:

"Thursday last being the day named for the Coronation of our most gracious Queen, the loyal inhabitants of Cobourg, resolved not to be behind-hand with their brethren of Toronto, Kingston and elsewhere, did all honor to the happy event by a very general and brilliant illumination, accompanied by a display of fireworks, firing of guns, bonfires, etc., altogether making up a very respectable celebration."

### Militia Activated

For most of the year of 1838, and on into 1839, the militia of the Province was

maintained to full strength, with training days and at other times acting on guard duty. There was the ever present fear of raiding parties making sorties into upper Canada from the United States.

The muster of Militia in Cobourg for general training on Monday the 4th of June, 1838, was the largest yet experienced. One month later, three local companies under Captains Conger, Calcutt and Chatterton, some 130 men, fully armed and equipped, were dispatched to Whitby in anticipation of an outbreak of trouble. After four days, they were returned to Cobourg by boat.

By November, the government sponsored extensive military preparation. There was a tense feeling of invasion throughout the province. The Cobourg Colonels of Militia were directed to call out two companies of 100 men each from their respective regiments, for six months of active guard duty in other places. Another group, under Lieut-Col. Bethune was stationed in Cobourg for six months. They were disbanded at the end of the following April.

The steamboat "COBOURG" was armed and placed on patrol duty in November, as a precaution against a shore landing of rebels. This boat was assigned to cover the shoreline of the Newcastle District from Presqu'île to Windsor Bay.

In the brief form presented here, these notes may give the reader an insight to the steps taken by the authorities to protect the province through the years following the outbreak of rebellion.

### Cobourg Churches

Earlier in this history, reference was made to the Methodists, the Presbyterians, and the Church of England. Many of the newcomers to Upper Canada sought to establish in their new community the kind of church to which they had been accustomed in their homeland. The immigrants came from a variety of religious backgrounds, and Cobourg newcomers were of no exception. "Where two or three are gathered to-gether" a church service of worship was held in a home or some available space.

By the year 1835, a few families of Congregational Church background were living in Cobourg. The reverend William Hayden, and his large family arrived in Cobourg from Frodingham, Yorkshire in 1835. He was the missionary type of minister, and came to Canada under the authority of the Colonial Missionary Society of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. He organized a small group of worshippers into a church. A Chapel was erected and opened in 1836 on King Street, on a piece of property now occupied by C.D.C.I. West. The Chapel, of frame construction, provided accomodation for 200 people. Mr. Hayden did not limit his activities to Cobourg, but made the whole Newcastle District his parish. He made many arduous journeys on horseback to remote settlers, ministering to their religious needs. Ten years after his arrival, Hayden and his family moved to Cold Springs, where he established a second church and lived out the rest of his life. Mrs. Hayden was a strong helpmate to her hus-

band. In addition to the caring of the family, she organized and supervised the first Sunday School to be held in Cobourg in the year of their arrival in 1835.

The Bible Christian movement, an offshoot of the Methodist denomination, had its beginnings in the Duchy of Cornwall, England. By 1835 a number of families of Cornish origin had come to Cobourg and to the Newcastle District. It was about this time a group of this denomination met for worship in a building on Orange Street. As their numbers increased, a church was organized. In later years a fine brick church was erected and occupied by the Bible Christians at the north-west corner of James and Bond Streets.

It is reported the Roman Catholic folk, though few in number, became active about the year 1837, and started a fund for the erection of a church building. By 1839, under the leadership of Father Kernan, their plans were realized by the erection of a frame building located on the east side of William Street at a spot presently occupied by the General Foods Research building. This church was dedicated with the name of St. Polycarp, and the parish extended into the countryside. Sheriff Henry Ruttan donated the land and Mr. William Solomon donated the timber for the building. The congregation prospered and in a few short years outgrew the accomodation of the frame building.

In those early years of growth for the young village, the physical expansion was paralleled with growth and development of religious denominations. The worship of God was by no means neglected.

### **A Strange Twist**

The Town of Cobourg was incorporated in the year 1837. For the first two years after its formation, Mr. George Ham, the owner of the a large property and industries in the west end of the town, had been elected twice and held a seat on the Board of Police. He even served as President of Police in 1838. The severe controversy over organizing a town that went on since 1832, just would not go away. The Cobourg Star of March 27, 1839, reported the following about petitions to the central government:

“Legislative Council, Monday March 18, 1839”

“Of Mr. George Ham and two hundred and six others, of the Town of Cobourg, praying that the Act incorporating the said Town be repealed.”

Some events take on a strange twist at times.

### **Town Affairs**

We report here several transcripts taken from the Cobourg Star newspaper issues of 1839, dealing with town affairs which are of interest.

“ELECTION” — “The election of the Board of Police took place on the 3rd instant, when Messers. CONGER, WELLER, D'ARCY E. BOULTON, LAWDER and CROUTER were chosen for the Board for the ensuing year;

the three first without opposition, the other two by a majority of five, on a poll with George Ham, Esquire. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, Wilson S. Conger was appointed President, and Mr. Hargraft, Clerk."

— — The Cobourg Star, June 11, 1839.

"TO CONTRACTORS" — "Notice is hereby given that sealed tenders will be received at this office until Monday the 24th, instant, at 9 o'clock A.M. from persons willing to contract for the erection of a "Market House" in the Town of Cobourg.

"Plans and Specifications may be seen at the office of W.S. Conger, Esq. W.S. CONGER, President, Board of Police.

"Police Office, Cobourg, June 11, 1839."

— — The Cobourg Star, June 19, 1839.

"WANTED" — — "Persons willing to contract for the furnishing materials and laying down a planked "Side-walk' from the corner of Spring and King Streets to the Scotch Church.

"By Order"

W.S. Conger, President, Board of Police."

"Police Office, Cobourg, June 11, 1839."

— — The Cobourg Star, June 19, 1839.

"THE COBOURG MARKET BUILDING" —

"The new market building for this town, built under direction of the Board of Police, was opened to the public on Monday last, and has since been an object of considerable attraction. The advantages are manifest, and we sincerely congratulate the inhabitants of Cobourg upon the establishment of an institution so requisite for their comfort, and which will so certainly advance the prosperity of their town. The building is exceedingly neat and commodious without being expensive, and reflects great credit on the taste and judgment of the Board. Mr. Donald McDonald has been appointed Market Clerk."

— — The Cobourg Star, October 30, 1839.

"RULES and REGULATIONS for the PUBLIC MARKET of the TOWN OF COBOURG."

Passed 22nd of October, 1839.

"Be it enacted by the President and Board of Police of the Town of Cobourg."

"That the Public Market House now erected, and the Market Place adjoining, and established in the Town of Cobourg, shall be the Market House and Market Place thereof; and all butchers and other persons using and frequenting the same, shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations following, from and after the 28th of October, 1839."

(Twenty rules follow.)

"By Order"

"W.S. Conger, President."

— — The Cobourg Star, October 30, 1839.

**Market House Costs.**

We give here the price paid by the Town of Cobourg for its new Market Building, as reported in the General Accounts of May 1839 to May 20th, 1840.

Sept. 10, 1839	Cash paid F. Burnet, work for Market Building .	56	5	0
Feb. 13, 1840	Paid to F. Burnet, per account . . . . .	14	15	4
April 27,				
1840	Paid F. Burnet, pd. in full for Market House . . .	56	5	0

TOTAL 127 5 4

May 19, 1840	Pd. Insuring Market House . . . . .	0	9	10
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D. E. Boulton, Member, Board of Police.  
 David Brodie, Clerk, Board of Police.  
 — — The Cobourg Star, May 26, 1840.

**Shin-Plasters**

By late 1839, the economy in general was improving. The following is a bit of good news in the direction of better times, as reported in the Cobourg Star:

“A meeting of Merchants was held in Cobourg last evening, pursuant to notice at which was adopted the following wholesome resolution:

“IT WAS RESOLVED, that in consequence of the Banks of Upper Canada having resumed specie payments, this meeting deem it advisable to decline taking shin-plasters after the 1st of december next.”

“DONALD McDONALD, Secretary. CHARLES H. MORGAN,  
 Chairman.”

— — The Cobourg Star, November 20, 1839.

**The Marriage of Queen Victoria**

The formal announcement of Queen Victoria's marriage, made by the Privy Council, was reported in the Cobourg Star of March 11th, 1840. The actual marriage to His Royal Highness, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gothe took place on the 10th of February, at noon, at the Chapel Royal St. Jame's.

The Cobourg Star newspaper featured this event with a long, detailed story in the March 18th issue. The Town of Cobourg laid on plans to have a celebration in honor of the marriage, and the Board of Police issued the following instructions:

“ILLUMINATION” — “The President and Board of Police for the Town of Cobourg, having fixed upon Thursday evening, the 2nd Instant, for a general illumination in honour of the Queen's Marriage, request all class-

es of Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects to join them in the celebration of this joyful event."

"W.S. Conger, President, Board of Police."

"Town Hall, Cobourg,

1st. April, 1840."

"P.S. — To commence at 8 o'clock in the evening and continue until 11 o'clock."

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN".

— — The Cobourg Star, April 1st, 1840.

### The Stage Coach King Advertises

TELEGRAPH LINE — Toronto and Hamilton, by the Lake Road three times a week each way. SIX HORSE COACHES, will leave the general stage office, Toronto, at 8 o'clock every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday morning for Hamilton; and Burley's Hotel, Hamilton for Toronto every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at the same hour.

The proprietor having gone to great expense in fitting out this line with new coaches of a superior description, flatters himself, that for comfort, speed and regularity, it will be surpassed by none on the continent of North America.

A Mail stage by Dundas Street, will leave Toronto for Hamilton as usual every day at 12 o'clock, noon (Sunday's excepted) and Hamilton for Toronto, every evening at 10 o'clock (Sundays excepted).

WILLIAM WELLER, Proprietor

THE TORONTO & KINGSTON MAIL STAGE will leave Toronto for Kingston, every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5 o'clock p.m. — and Kingston, every morning (Sundays excepted) at 9 o'clock — passing through Scarborough, Pickering, Whitby, Darlington, Clarke, Port Hope, Cobourg, Grafton, Colborne, Brighton, Port Trent, Belleville, Shannonville, Napanee, and Bath — going through in forty-six hours.

The above lines of stages are in connection with those westward, to Queenston and to London, Sandwich and Detroit; Also the stages at Kingston for Montreal and Quebec, and Watertown, Utica, Albany, and New York.

EXTRAS and EXPRESSES furnished at all times, at Toronto, Cobourg, Belleville and Kingston on reasonable terms.

Seats taken at the General Stage Office, Toronto and Kingston. Thirty pounds of baggage allowed to each passenger. All extra 200 pounds equal to a passenger's fare. All baggage at risk of owner.

PROPRIETORS — W. Weller, Toronto and River Trent.  
R. Munroe, River Trent and Kingston

Cobourg, 14th December, 1839

— The Cobourg Star, January 1st, 1840.



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## X/THE LARGER SPHERE OF COMMUNITY

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With reference to the country and the larger sphere of things, and as a result of the 1837 Rebellion, the British Government sent JOHN GEORGE LAMBTON, the First Earl of Durham, known as Lord Durham, as Governor General of the five provinces in 1838. He had orders to investigate, report, and make recommendations on the conditions in the Canadas. The famous Durham Report and the political changes that followed are well recorded in histories. The Act of Union was passed in the year of 1840, creating the Province of Canada, which became effective in early 1841.

On the local scene, a writer addressed an interesting letter to the Cobourg Star. It is a thoughtful epistle, reflecting on the times, and we wish to place it before our readers.

To the Editor of the Cobourg Star.  
My Dear Sir:

A new leaf in the history of Canada has been turned, and although the previous pages are stained with many faults, yet do they contain many bright and glorious passages. Cultivation is extending over the place of the trackless forest, a hardy, loyal population are converting the lands into gardens of abundance, our rivers and lakes are crowded with boats and their shores studded with rising villages, while the spires of the country churches are beginning to lift their heads in every township. The inhabitants of Upper Canada can look back with pride on their past history; amid trials and difficulties they have adhered steadily to the glorious cause of Monarchy, and when in 1812 the whole available force of the United States was brought against them, they deserted not a single spot, and while their opposers equalled the numbers ten times told, their arms in a righteous cause were ever victorious; and should circumstances again call them forth, the same issue would attend the contest. Henceforth it will be a name of the past, but one, around which many fond recollections will linger, till the present generation shall have passed away, and the silence of the tomb envelop

those who fought her battles on the field and in the senate.

In her towns how many wanderers have found a peaceful home. How many from poverty have achieved independence, and how many have learned to esteem and bless that glorious constitution under which we live. It is useless now to question the policy of the union. It were worse than idle to bode evil constantly, and I for one, an humble individual, should deem myself culpable, if through the columns of your journal, I continued to agitate questions over which I can have no control, and with this letter I retire from politics.

During a long connection with the public press, I have ever maintained (what in my opinion were) conservative principles, and I must confess I cannot understand the conduct, the glaring inconsistency of some who call themselves conservatives; by whom politics and principles seem to be regarded as pivots, on which they can most conveniently turn to worship the rising sun; and, only retire, when I find that my humble but honest endeavours can no longer be of avail to stem the torrent of disunion. Those who come forward as political writers must be prepared to make great sacrifices, and I assure you my career has not been an exception; when I look at this noble District, its natural advantages, with fertile soil not surpassed in the Province, with the means of water communication quite unequalled, with the population rapidly increasing, brave, independent, and attached to the Mother Country, I think that we should be best employed in advocating the cause of public improvement. For this sole noble object, the late event gives an opportunity not to be neglected, and we would act wisely in leaving the troubled waters of political strife and enter into the quiet stream of domestic utility.

. . . We got the seat of government within the limits of Upper Canada (Kingston). We have obtained the English language, but above and before all this, a cloud is gathering around us. . . We should do all in our power to cement the public mind in one bond, and while we differ with the Government on certain questions, loudly to proclaim that we are prepared to uphold its dignity and assert its rights. If we wish for a continuance of our connections with the Mother Country, this is necessary. If we wish to bring peace and happiness among us, this is necessary. I have finished. I retire from politics, my best talents, humble though they are, shall be dedicated to the benefits of this District, and to the bringing forward of its resources.

Yours truly,  
ERINENSIS.

— — The Cobourg Star, February 17, 1841.

### **The New District Council**

In June of 1841, the Union Parliament of Canada assembled for the first time in Kingston. On August 27th, an Act was passed to provide for better internal government in Canada West, by establishing provisions for the formation of local or municipal authorities, especially in the Districts.

This Act introduces a new form of District Council, consisting of one or two Councillors elected at the Annual Meeting of each township. The Warden to be appointed by the Governor. The Act gives all the details for the setting up and operation of the new District Council. Self-government and self-taxation are introduced. The Act provides for the transfer of certain powers from the District Magistrates to the District Council.

In late December, it was announced that Captain Walter Boswell had received the appointment of Warden for the new Newcastle District Council.

The Cobourg Star gives us the story about the first District Council meeting:

"The first meeting of the District Council, for the District of Newcastle was held at the Court Room of the Court House, on the 8th. inst. The assemblage of Councillors did not embrace all the Councillors, the present lamentable state of the roads no doubt obstructed the absentees.

"The proceedings opened with the ceremony of reading the Act of the Legislature, which constituted the Council, and the Patent appointing the Warden.

"A short address from the Warden, the Hon. Walter Boswell, declared the Council was duly authorized to proceed in its deliberations, and recommending a careful consideration of all questions of taxation, and to avoid as much as possible, making the taxation burdensome on the people, as is consistent with the improvements essential to the convenience of the public.

"In consequence of the absence of several members of the Council, it was moved by H.S. Reid, Esq., that the nomination of the District Council Officers should be postponed till Wednesday the 9th instant.

"A committee was named by Mr. Weller and adopted, for considering the rules and by-Laws which were submitted to the Council by the Warden.

"On motion of Mr. Weller, all books and papers, referring to measures now falling within the jurisdiction of the District Council were handed over to the acting Clerk of the Council, by Thomas Ward, Esq., Clerk of the Peace.

The Council adjourned its sitting, to 10 o'clock Wednesday morning."

— — The Cobourg Star, February 9th, 1842.

### **District Divided**

Another important change took place in November of 1841. The Newcastle District was divided and the Northern part became the new District of Colborne, centred at Peterborough.

A Cobourg merchant, Mr. Wilson S. Conger received the appointment of Sheriff for the newly formed Colborne District. Mr. Conger had been a very active citizen over the years and he took a leading part in the various Cobourg developments. His resignation from the Board of Police is of interest:

"To the Electors of the East Ward of the Town of Cobourg: —

Gentlemen: — — Having been appointed to an official situation in the new Dis-

trict of Colborne, which must necessarily cause my immediate removal from among you, I deem it my duty to resign this trust I have so long held of representing you in your Municipal Councils, and return you my sincere thanks for this oft repeated mark of your confidence and respect. Believe me, gentlemen, that it is with no ordinary satisfaction that I look back upon the steady growth and prosperity of the flourishing and happy town, rendered doubly dear to me by all the ties of interest and social happiness. It was here I commenced the world, and I assure you that promising and delightful place of my destination, yet I can never forget the many kindnesses I have received at the hands of the inhabitants of Cobourg, in whose future prosperity I shall always feel the most lively interest."

"I am, gentlemen,  
Your most obedient and humble servant.  
W.S. CONGER."

Cobourg, January 4, 1842.

— — The Cobourg Star, January 5, 1842.

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## XI/A COLLECTION OF ITEMS 1837-1848

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As reflected in the Cobourg Star newspaper of given date.

For this section, the author has assembled a series of short newspaper items with the hope they will make for added interest, and at the same time, inform and record some small events that helped to make up the day by day occurrences in Cobourg, at the time as dated.

### Queen's College

NOTICE - A Public Meeting of Presbyterians and other inhabitants of Cobourg and its vicinity, favourable to the erection of the University of Queen's College at Kingston, will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Cobourg, on Tuesday, the 4th day of February next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of adopting such measures as will best promote this great object.

The meeting will be addressed by several ministers and laymen. Cobourg, 21st January, 1840.

— — January 22, 1840.

### Queen's College — An Editorial

Having been unavoidably prevented by public duties from attending the meeting held yesterday, in St. Andrew's Church, in promotion of this projected institution, we are unable to present our readers with the particulars this week, but are promised an account for our next number. We are happy to understand that the meeting was very numerously attended, and its object supported with unprecedented spirit and success, as the subscription entered into on the occasion will abundantly testify — — for it amounted to the munificent sum of three hundred and twenty pounds.

— — February 5, 1840

THE CHURCH — We are happy to announce, that a weekly religious paper under this title, in connection with the Church of England, will shortly be issued from this office.

— — April 19, 1837

We are truly gratified to hear that the Reverend Egerton Ryerson has arrived in Toronto from England, having succeeded, it is said, at length in obtaining a grant of 4,100 pounds in aid of the Upper Canada Academy in this town. This institution under its present and excellent and judicious management, is fast and justly gaining ground in the estimation of the public.

— — June 21, 1837

GLOBE NEWSPAPER — The undermentioned having determined to close his business immediately with the view of returning to England early in the ensuing Spring, hereby calls on all persons indebted to the GLOBE NEWSPAPER, lately published in Cobourg, to make payments to him of their respective debts, on or before the first of February.

ALFRED RUBIDGE

— — January 3, 1838

NOTICE — The undersigned, Blacksmiths of Cobourg and vicinity, give notice that, in consequence of hard times, they have come to the resolution of closing all credit business; and that from and after the first day of February next, all work done by any of them must be settled for in cash or otherwise, on delivery.

MATTHEW PURSER      GEORGE EDGECOMBE      THOMAS RATCLIFF  
ALEX BROWN            RICHARD SOLOMON  
GEORGE HAMILTON      JOHN CONNELL

— — January 31, 1838

SOAP and CANDLE MANUFACTORY — — The subscriber begs to inform his friends and the public generally, that he has removed his establishment to Orange Street, near Mr. Weller's Coach factory.

William Hitchens

— — July 4, 1838

Re: PLANTING of TREES in towns.

"For your streets, I recommend the alternate planting out of Rock Maples, Elms, White Ash, White Maple, Basswood, Beech and Red, White and other Oaks. The Rock Maple is certainly one of our most superb trees.

An article.

— — August 22, 1838

MR. BENJAMIN THROOP, who has conducted a retail business since about 1820 at the S.W. Corner of King and Division Streets announces he has sold out his stock in trade, and rented his store to Mr. J.E. Tremain.

— — November 22, 1838

COBOURG IRON and BRASS FOUNDRY — advertises a variety of Iron, Brass and Machine Work. Machinery for Grist, Saw Mill and Machinery castings.

J. McLenhan & Co.

— — March 20, 1839

WOOL CARDING — The subscriber has taken for a term of years, the well known stand at Mr. George Ham's Mill, where he is ready to do any work in his line of business at short notice.

C. PERRY, Clothier

— — May 15, 1839

SETTLERS ARRIVE — We had yesterday morning the gratification of welcoming back to Cobourg Lieutenant Rubidge, R.N. after an absence in England of nearly two years. Mr. Rubidge brings with him near two hundred stout, healthy and loyal emigrants (Irish) to our population.

— — July 10, 1839

THE DIFFERENCE — with reference to the plan to raid Cobourg late in July of 1839.

In the month of December, 1837 the news of Toronto being invested with a rebel force reached the Town of Cobourg, late on the night of Tuesday the 5th.

On the morning of Thursday the 7th, every loyal man in the neighbourhood was under arms and on the march.

On Sunday morning the 10th, near two thousand men from the Newcastle District, ready to shed their last drop of blood in defence of the British Crown, entered the City of Toronto.

On the following day, the 11th, several of those noble fellows went over as volunteers to the Niagara Frontier, and remained there till Navy Island was evacuated, a period of six weeks.

When the Newcastle Volunteers thus marched 72 miles in three days, the roads were almost impassable; and on their arrival in the city most of them were nearly exhausted, the blood gushing from their feet, and the physical suffering of all was intense.

On the 29th of July, 1839, the Cobourg plot was discovered.

On the 30th, the government received intelligence of it.

On the 1st of August, the Magistrates of the town addressed a letter to His Excellency that there was a real apprehension of open and secret violence, and a renewal of American sympathy on a large scale, and requesting immediate and effective protection.

On the 5th, finding this request unattended to, the Magistrates again, in still stronger language, addressed His Excellency.

On the 11th of August, nearly a fortnight after the discovery of the plot, one

company of Militia, consisting of 80 men, rank and file, reached Cobourg.

In December, 1837, it took two thousand men three days to march 72 miles over winter roads, through rebel settlements, and in constant expectation of attack.

In August, 1839, it takes the Government at least one week to despatch a single Company of Militia by steam boat, after two pressing representations from the Magistrates. We leave these facts to speak for themselves.

— — August 14, 1839

The Newcastle Turf Club was active in Cobourg from 1841 to 1844.

**JAMES GRAY BETHUNE ESTATE** — — We have learned with much pleasure, and from good authority, that the long pending and vexatious chancery suit between the late James Gray Bethune, Esq., and the Bank of Upper Canada, has been adjusted, and finally settled by arbitration. The arrangement it appears, will give the Bank Directors some valuable property at Peterborough with good title, while it awards and secures to Col. Covert, one of the plaintiffs in the suit, all those valuable and well situated lots of land, in the centre of the Town of Cobourg, this fine property, hitherto tied up, and unserviceable, will now be brought to market, and means afforded to the enterprising community, to fill up that great vacuum, opposite the Town Hall and Market Place, with handsome houses, in most elevated and best part of Cobourg.

— — August 17, 1842

A special census of Upper Canada was ordered by the government in 1842. Newspaper comment is of interest.

We now proceed to give a summary of the Census, taking both the Assessment and the special census return. We fear that the latter is very imperfect and cannot be relied upon as to particulars. It may, however give some statistics of the District, and we are sure in most cases the return is under rather than over the truth.

— — February 22, 1843

**NOTICE** — All persons indebted to the estate of the late George Ham, are requested to make immediate payment of their respective accounts, and those having claims against the said estate, will please present them, duly attested, to the undersigned for liquidation.

N.G. HAM, Administrator

— — April 19, 1843

**TO RENT — FOR ONE YEAR** — — The Ontario Mills, Cobourg, so well known, situated near the town, and to the harbour here, having three run of stones in good order, with a small dwelling house for the miller. Also the distillery, capable of running 30 to 40 bushels of grain each day. The distillery is in excellent



order, and in every way complete, and attached to it are extensive and convenient hog pens, with a small dwelling house for the distiller.

Apply to — James McCutcheon, Esq., Toronto; D'Arcy E. Boulton, esq.; Shaw Armour, Land Agent, Cobourg.

— — May 29, 1844

MAP OF COBOURG — Few things are of more importance in a large and growing commercial town, where every foot of land is daily increasing in value, than a good map, defining clearly the boundary of every separate lot and street, and the correctness of which may be relied upon. Such a desideratum we are glad to say, is now forthcoming for the Town of Cobourg. Mr. W.G. Crofton, Esq., (Former teacher) and late editor of this paper having in addition to his already announced map of the Colborne and Newcastle Districts, which is nearly ready for issue, just completed for publication in Lithograph a very useful and much wanted plan of the Corporation limits, taking in the Court House, Hamilton Mills, etc. It is now in course of subscription. (Added Note — This in all probability was the first composite plan of the Town of Cobourg. No copy has been available in recent years. Sir Sanford Fleming's Map of Cobourg, issued in November of 1847, is available at the Dominion Archives, Ottawa — P.L.C.)

— — The Cobourg Star, June 4, 1845

STEAM-BOAT COBOURG, For Sale. — Public notice is hereby given, that the Steam-Boat COBOURG, with engines, furniture, etc. as she now lies, will be sold by auction (if not previously disposed of by private sale) on Monday the 1st day of February, next, at 12 o'clock, at Brown's Wharf. The above boat is propelled by two low pressure engines, of 50 horse power each, which are in good order.

By Order of the Committee,  
David M. Patterson, Secretary

Toronto, 9th of November, 1840.

— — November 18, 1840

HARBOUR COMPANY'S OFFICE, Cobourg, April 5, 1841. — Notice is hereby given, that tenders will be received by this office, until the 15th day of the current month, from persons willing to undertake to construct and put out not less than six cribs (And more if required) at the southern extremity of the western pier. For particulars, apply to the undersigned.

W.H. KITTSOON, Secretary  
— — April 7, 1841

EDITORIAL — We perceive that the Harbour Company are actively engaged in getting in timber to complete the wharf. They have removed the store house from its former position (on Division Street) and placed it at the west side of the pier.

Mr. Kittson has laid down the keel of a large boat, to be propelled on Ericson's Principle, and which is to proceed direct to Montreal and return by way of the Rideau. She is expected to be ready about the first of June.

We also hear it is intended to commence two other schooners. Give us but some good communication with the back townships and our trade must flourish.

— — February 23, 1842

**EDITORIAL** — Cobourg is beginning to assume an air of business that is highly gratifying. Several new houses are being put up, some of them of a very superior class. The keel of a schooner of large dimensions has been laid down, our hotels are crowded with immigrants, very many of them being persons of capital.

— — June 1st, 1842

**IMPROVEMENTS** — We are delighted to perceive the rapid improvements which are being made in this good town of Cobourg. Several excellent houses are being built, the Corporation is busy laying down side-walks, the Harbour Company have in their employment several men perfecting the laying out of cribs to complete the harbour, everything looks like business. Well do the people of Cobourg merit success, and sincerely do we congratulate them on the present appearance of the town. The subject is so tempting as almost to entice us to say more but for this week we must conclude.

— — July 20, 1842

**LAUNCH** — Yesterday afternoon, a fine schooner built for Mr. Foley, was launched. She is a good specimen of naval architecture, and does credit to her builder, Mr. Collins. We were not present at the launch but we have heard that "she glided gracefully into her native element."

— — September 14, 1842

**PORT OF COBOURG** — — We have been furnished with the following table of the imports and exports at the Port of Cobourg during the year 1841.

87 barrels of apples; 54 barrels of ashes; 112 barrels of beef; 417 firkins of butter; 30 tons of bran; 134 barrels of beer; 4 carriages; 1793 bushels of corn; 2 barrels of fish; 18,000 barrels of flour; 140,000 feet of lumber; 51 barrels of lard; 560 tons of mdse.; 278 barrels of meal; 1823 barrels of pork; 593 bushels of peas; 389 dozen pails; 635 barrels of plaster; 3018 barrels of salt; 1002 barrels of whiskey; 7,914 bushels of wheat; 3,664 cords of wood; 50,000 staves;

There were 597 vessels over 50 tons burthen; 73 vessels under 50 tons burthen touched this port during the season.

— — April 27, 1842

NOTICE — A dividend of six pounds on each share in the Steamer COBOURG has been this day declared, and will be paid after this date, at the office of Messers Gamble & Boulton, Toronto.

CLARKE GAMBLE, Chairman

April 9, 1842

— — May 11, 1842

THE DUTIES COLLECTED at the Port of Cobourg, during the year 1842, amounted to 1,076 Pounds, 14s. 3½d.; and the value of goods imported and not subject to duty is 4,323 pounds 17s.

— — February 8, 1843

COBOURG IMPROVEMENTS — Part of an Editorial. — — . . . Within four years its appearance has been totally changed, and few who visited it earlier than 1838, could not now know it as the same place. During the last year some 50 substantial buildings have been put up and preparations are being made for much more extensive operations during the coming summer, and what, but a few years ago appeared as chimneys, have now every likelihood of being perfected, that the whole incorporated space of Cobourg will, in a comparatively short time, be covered with buildings.

We read some time since in a Bath journal, of a plan adopted in that city, which was a selection of a committee to supervise public improvement, and which plan had been attended to with great success. Now there are two or three things which in this town are very desirable, and which judging from the unanimity that has hitherto existed on all questions of local interest, we make no doubt might easily be accomplished, we shall merely name them, leaving it to others to take up the matter and discuss it fully.

First — The erection of a Town Hall.

Second — Opening the Market Place to the lake.

Third — Procuring some ground for a public square.

Fourth—Making some improvement in the neighbourhood of the Wharf.

— — January 17, 1844

COMMON SCHOOL TEACHERS — The Board of Police of this Town, will on Monday next, the 8th instant, at 10 o'clock, A.M. in the Town Hall receive applications from such teachers as may be desirous of being appointed to any of the Common Schools within the Corporation.

A board of Examiners will be in attendance to examine as to the qualifications

and characters of the applicants.

DAVID BRODIE, Police Clerk  
Town Hall, Cobourg, 1st May, 1843  
— — May 3, 1843

#### EDITORIAL

Ater a winter almost unprecedented in length and severity, indications of Spring begin to make their appearance, and never were they hailed with more delight by all classes; we have now had constant sleighing since the 28th of November (very nearly five months), and the consequence of this severity has been great suffering on the part of our farmers, whose supply of winter fodder is quite exhausted, and whose cattle suffer grievously; hay is scarce and brings most exorbitant prices, we have heard of 18 and 20 dollars per ton being asked.

— — April 5, 1843

We mentioned a short time ago, that J. Calcutt, Esq., was erecting a steam mill. It is now in full operation, producing flour equal, if not superior to any mill in the country.

— — February 21, 1844

COBOURG and TORONTO — It is generally allowed that few men have shown a greater degree of public spirit, or more anxious readiness to meet the general wish than Mr. Weller. We have now to notice an additional proof of the truth of these remarks; Mr. Weller has started a daily line of stages between this town and Toronto, by which an opportunity will be given to travellers to see some of the finest townships in the Province; these coaches start from both places every morning at 7 o'clock, and arrive at their destination early in the evening. Fare through, \$2.00.

— — May 8, 1844

We would call attention to the Board of Police to the state of the bridge on the road to the Court House. By timely repairs, great inconvenience and expense may be avoided.

— — May 22, 1844

NOTICE — Tenders will be received till the 22nd of March at the office of Mr. Wallace, Ontario Mills, Cobourg, for the construction of a dam across the stream opposite the Roman Catholic Church. (Note: William Street location.)

Plans and specifications to be seen at the office of Mr. Wallace. Tenders will be opened on Saturday, 29th instant, at 2 o'clock. Security will be required for the performance of the contract.

— — March 11, 1845

(Added note: This dam was of timber construction, with heavy plank facing and anchored behind two timber, rock-filled cribs in mid stream. The dam remained in position for over 100 years, and in the 20th Century was known as

the 'Dye Works Dam'. The pond created backed up water beyond the junction of the two main streams. The writer often fished in the pond, swam in the water and skated on the pond's ice. P.L.C.)

**COMMERCIAL** — The imports to Cobourg this year are very extensive, all kinds of goods are in profusion, and some of the selections evince a growing taste for the luxuries of life, springing from increasing prosperity. Our merchants' shops offer displays not inferior to those of Toronto or Montreal.

Messers Wallace and MacKechnie's Woolen Factory is in a forward state, and the liberal terms on which they deal with the farmers for their wool, and the encouragement they held out to the cultivation of superior breeds will soon work their sure effects.

— — June 18, 1845

**Editorial** — In directing the attention of the travelling community to the advertisement in a subsequent column, of Mr. R. SINCLAIR, of the GLOBE HOTEL in this town, announcing the opening of that truly splendid new establishment, it is no more than a matter of strict duty to declare, in justice to the individual and with due regard for the public interest, that it is in every respect a house of very superior standing, for elegance and appointment, comfort and accomodation, not to be surpassed we would say certainly, if equalled, in Canada West, and we very much doubt if we may also include Montreal.

— — September 10, 1845

**EARLY CLOSING** — We, the undersigned Merchants of Cobourg, willing at all times to comply with the request of our Clerks, and desirous to extend to them the same privilege as that enjoyed by others in similar capacities in Montreal, Kingston and Toronto, do hereby agree to close our respective places of business at 7 o'clock in the evening, from Monday the 22nd of December, until the end of April.

Macbean & Strong	A. Jeffrey	William Boyer
J.F. Hurst	Easton and Wright	Thomas Eyre
John Field	J. Calcutt, Jr.	G.A. Nixon
L.F. Brook	Peter Morgan	J.S. Beamish
Goodeve & Corrigan	J. Vance Boswell & Co.	F. Logan per W. Beatie
John Kennedy	Graveley and Jackson	Henry Terry
James Hey	George Boyer	James Tremaine

Benjamin Clark, Esq., and W. Tremain, Esq., two of our leading merchants, being absent from home, their names do not appear in the above, but they are understood to be entirely in favor of the arrangement, and will doubtless sign it on their return.

— — December 17, 1845

FLEMING's Map of Cobourg — By advertisement in to-day's paper it will be seen that Fleming's Map is now ready for delivery. It is decidedly the best work of art of its kind that has ever been executed in Canada, and reflects the highest possible credit on the artists who did it. We are sure that no inhabitant of Cobourg will be so heedless of the progress of his town, as to refuse to buy a work which so faithfully sets her advantages, natural and acquired, before the public.

— — November 17, 1847

#### FLEMING'S MAP OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG (Advertisement)

The above plan from a late survey made by order of the Board of Police, on a scale five chains to an inch, is now lithographed and ready for delivery at the Town Hall.

Price, from 7s 6d to Four Dollars.

Cobourg November 16, 1847.

— — November 17, 1847

GRAVEL ROADS — We have been literally besieged in our office by complaints against the heavy tolls on our roads. We would earnestly recommend the Directors of the Port Hope and Cobourg line to take off their gates for a couple of months till the road be somewhat packed. The Grafton Road is infinitely before the other, but the toll is too high at present, as is also the case on the Rice Lake road.

— — November 8, 1848

### WILLIAM WELLER

William Weller, the stage coach king and a long time resident of Cobourg, was an active person in various endeavors. He served nine times on the elective Cobourg Board of Police, two of those terms as President. When municipal councils were formed in 1850, Weller again served eight times, three of those terms as Mayor. He died as Mayor of Cobourg in 1863. He also served on the District Council when it was first set up in 1842. In the latter part of the year 1847, William Weller contested the election for the Union Legislature of the United Canadas in the riding of South Northumberland. In this contest Weller was not elected due to party politics carrying the day. His appeal to the Electors of South Northumberland is very interesting and informative. The appeal follows:

#### "TO THE ELECTORS OF SOUTH NORTHUMBERLAND

"Gentlemen:

"At the solicitation of several individuals from different parts of this District, I am induced to come forward and offer myself, at the ensuing General Election, as a candidate for your representation in the Legislature of this Province.

"This step, gentlemen, is not prompted by any mercenary motives, I am known personally to the most of you, and it is for you to decide whether, from charac-

ter of circumstances, I have interests to gratify that are at variance with yours, or prejudicial to those of the Colony at large.

"I have resided among you for many a long year — for the greater part of my life; and I trust that during that period, I have not been found wanting in those duties and observances which constitute a good citizen, and a faithful subject. True, it may be urged that I have not had the honour of being born under the British Flag, but then, gentlemen, my sons and daughters were born under it. It has become mine by adoption and choice; and, let it be remembered, that in the hour of danger I was found at my post in its defence.

"Here, and in this very District too, are all that are near and dear to me — my property, which is of some value, lies here intermingled with your own; proving our interests to be inseparable. Whatever affects your welfare affects mine. You cannot prosper without my participating in your prosperity, or suffer without my sharing your adversity; and as I am no needy office seeker, who is ready to sell you at a moment's notice, you have at least presumptive evidence of the honesty of my intentions.

"In politics I am "Wheat at a dollar a bushel and good roads to your doors". Who, I wish to enquire, can do justice and follow the humbugging system of the day? Who can call himself an independent man and pledge himself to support every measure, whether good or bad, that may be introduced to the House by the leader of this Administration or of that Administration? No individual in existence, gentlemen; and sooner than purchase the suffrage of any constituency on such terms as these, I would deliberately and cheerfully forgo the honour of representing it, were it even accorded to me by acclamation.

"Gentlemen, I care not a farthing for party politics, my text is, and ever shall be, sustain the Constitution throughout all its bearings — — strengthen the link that binds us to the Mother Country — — improve the conditions of the farmer, who is the bone and sinew of the Province — — proscribe no body of men through the enactment of repressive laws and irrespective of party, encourage education through the length and breadth of the land.

"And now, gentlemen, having laid this brief statement before you, I shall conclude my remarking, that, did time permit, it would give me sincere pleasure to visit you all individually; but as the election will take place in a very few days, I am of course deprived of that gratification. However, if you consider an individual who is of necessity deeply interested in the welfare of this District — — one who has handled the scythe and plough for many a day himself — — worthy of the highest trust which is your gift, most heartily do place my humble abilities at your service.

I am, gentlemen, Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM WELLER

COBOURG, December 7th, 1847





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## XII/THE FLOURISHING FORTIES

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### The Cobourg Board of Trade

A Board of Trade was first organized in Cobourg in September of 1837, as reported earlier in this history. How long that organization functioned, and what it accomplished we do not know. Apparently it became defunct. Now, a second Board of Trade is under organization as reported in the Cobourg Star:

For the Cobourg Star,

At a meeting of the Merchants held this day pursuant to notice published by a committee appointed at a preliminary meeting, held in Mr. Tremain's office, on Monday the 1st, instant, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of forming a Board of Trade in and for the Town of Cobourg; E. Perry, Esq., having been called to the chair and T. Evans, Esq., appointed Secretary, it was —

RESOLVED, 1st. — That this meeting being aware of the advantages likely to arise from having the general business of the Town under the supervision of a body of men, whose education, habits, and experience fit them for such duties, deem it expedient to form a Board of Trade in and for the Town of Cobourg and vicinity.

RESOLVED, 2nd. — That the Constitution now read, being a modification of that which governs a similar body in Toronto, be adopted as the constitution of the Cobourg Board of Trade.

RESOLVED, 3d — That such gentlemen as are present this evening, (being merchants, and feeling disposed to subscribe to the Constitution) do form themselves into a Board of Trade, the same to go into immediate effect provided fifteen names be subscribed.

RESOLVED, 4th — That as soon as the above number of fifteen subscribers be complete, they proceed to elect a President, Vice President, and Secretary, together with a Committee of Management for the coming year.

RESOLVED, 5th — That as many gentlemen who were expected to have been present at this meeting, have not attended; and in order to allow them the op-

portunity of becoming members without the test of the ballot, that all such qualified persons as shall subscribe to the Constitution within one week shall be admitted members.

The requisite number being present, and having duly subscribed to the Constitution, proceeded to the election of officers and organization of the Board, when the following gentlemen were duly elected, viz:

**BOARD of TRADE**

Charles H. Morgan, Esq., President

W. Tremain, Esq., Vice President

**COMMITTEE:**

Peter Morgan

S.E. MacKechnie

G.M. Goodeve

E. Perry

Thomas Evans

G. Boyer

A. Jeffrey

John Wallace

J. McCarty

B. Clarke

H. Terry

W. VanIngen.

W. Strong

The Committee being formed, appointed Mr. T. Evans to act as Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Charles H. Morgan, Esq., having taken the the chair, the thanks of the meeting was voted to E. Perry, Esq., for his impartial and efficient conduct therein.

signed Charles H. Morgan, President

Thomas Evans, Secretary and Treasurer

Cobourg September 8th, 1845

— — The Cobourg Star, September 17, 1845

At a meeting of the Board of Trade in this town, it was resolved that a Reading Room should be established, to be called "THE COBOURG COMMERCIAL READING ROOM.", and that as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers could be obtained, steps should be taken to carry the above object into effect; a committee was forthwith appointed, who having obtained the requisite number of names, called a general meeting of subscribers for Friday the 12th Instant, when the following gentlemen were elected as Committee of Management. (Ten names follow, A. Jeffrey was elected President.)

Cobourg, 15th September, 1845.

— — The Cobourg Star, September 17, 1845

### **The Cobourg Curling Club**

The Cobourg Curling Club has been active for a long time. In fact, the start was made away back in 1845, and the Cobourg Star newspaper of December 3, confirms this.

**CURLING CLUB** — We are requested to give notice that a meeting will be held at the Globe Hotel, on Friday Evening next, at 8 o'clock, another indication of the growing spirit of the Town of Cobourg, and harmony as colonists

and foster a feeling of loyal attachment to the institutions of the Mother Country than the introduction of these national games."

The Club was activated, and for a start they had no covered rink, artificial ice was something of which members had no knowledge, and the wide outdoor was their place to play the game. What sportsmen they were! Notice the following:

"CURLING CLUB — We are requested to give notice that a match between the Bachelors and the Married members of this Club, for beef and greens, is appointed to take place on WALLACE'S POND, to-morrow at half past one o'clock, P.M."

— The Cobourg Star, January 14, 1846.

(Note: Wallace's Pond was part of the Factory Creek and to the north of King Street.)

The Cobourg Star failed to report on who paid for the beef and greens, but become further informed by reading this note by the editor in his February 11th issue:

"CURLING — Our Curling Club proceeds rapidly, having had several days of excellent play; and we hope that when next winter comes they will be prepared to extend their operations by showing their skill to some other of their Curling friends. This game appears to us to be one requiring great judgment, long practise, and more than ordinary bodily strength. It is in fact the cricket of winter, and we are rejoiced to see it becoming so general. We have been handed the following by a member, there is no need to say he is one of the Benedicts. It is invidious in those "more fortunate" to twit their antagonists with their misfortunes."

CURLING — On Friday evening last one of the most keenly contested matches which has yet been played by the Cobourg Curlers, came off between four of the Married and an equal number of the Single members.

The game was played by moonlight, and as the result will show, was carried on in a manner which would do credit to older and more practised club. The Benedicts were, in this instance, as indeed generally the case, victorious, still, considering the smallness of the odds and the length of the struggle, we almost feel inclined to recommend the Bachelors again to take the field against perhaps in every respect their more fortunate opponents.

The following is the score of the game:

SINGLE	MARRIED
Paton . . . . . 5	Bertram . . . . . 12
Wilson . . . . . 6	Cameron . . . . . 13
Murray . . . . . 12	Kittson . . . . . 4
Buck, Skip . . . . . <u>13</u>	Weller, Skip . . . . . <u>12</u>
36	41

Time — Two Hours and a Half.

— The Cobourg Star, February 11, 1846

### James Gray Bethune

In a property deed, dated the 20th of September, 1817, James (Gray) Bethune is named as a merchant of Kingston, and Robert Henry as a Merchant of Montreal. The two had purchased some 203 acres of land in the western part of Cobourg, namely Lot Number 20, of Hamilton Township, which included a water-power site and industry. The price paid was 1,500 pounds.

By the 26th of April, 1818, Bethune sold out his holdings, his share, in the above industrial property to his partner, Mr. Henry for 500 Pounds. This deed records him as a resident of the Township of Hamilton, a merchant of the firm, Robert Henry and Bethune. These records tell us that both of these gentlemen had moved to Cobourg by early 1818, and established a local retail business. Bethune was twenty-four years of age at the time of his arrival.

Cobourg was but a hamlet in the year 1818. John Monjeau was already retailing merchandise on King Street. Elijah Buck, Dr. Timothy Kittridge, James Williams, Ebenezer Perry and others were entrepreneurs. Bethune was young, venturesome, opportunistic, ambitious and possessed drive. As the small village grew, so did Bethune in his business ventures. He is reported as Cobourg's first Postmaster. By 1825, he was involved in town property deals as agent of Cobourg's first plan of Subdivision. He was a big promoter in the initial development of the Cobourg Harbour, His business transactions including the importing of goods, and the exporting of farm products. He held rank in the Militia and married into a wealthy, well placed family, the Coverts. He became an Agent for the Bank of Upper Canada and Cobourg land agent for the Canada Company.

Bethune was a planner with an imaginative insight. He saw the need of the Cobourg Harbour as a utility for exporting the products of the hinterland to the north, and coupled with this need, transportation facilities to bring the wealth of the north through Cobourg. Adept at promotion, he became involved with boat activities on Rice Lake, in addition to the promoting the building of the Steam-boat, "Cobourg". He had other inland business ventures. In the larger sphere, he had connections with powerful people in Montreal and Toronto. He became the 'kingpin' at the centre of Cobourg's developing commercial system.

Unfortunately for himself and for Cobourg, he was weak in looking after the day to day details and in areas of management. He overextended his activities, and made some false moves in money management, extended too much credit, and started to flounder in the financial waters, which finally engulfed him and took him under. He became a bankrupt.

James Gray Bethune was interested in the Cobourg Railway Company idea, but by the time that Company was organized in 1835, he was unable to assist with its promotion. Had it been otherwise, as in the case of the Cobourg Harbour Company, the project may have gone ahead in 1835, and capitalized on the early development to the north. The delays and the hesitations of the Directors of the railroad in 1835 and 1836 interfered with actual construction, which did not materialize until 1852. By that time there was strong competition in other places, particularly in Port Hope, for the trade of the northern townships.

## **The Cobourg Harbour Company**

Bethune owned a large block of stock in both the Cobourg Harbour Company and the Cobourg Steam-boat Company. At the time of his financial collapse, these shares were acquired by outside interests, especially wealthy people living in Toronto. The balance of voting stock in both Companies, moved from Cobourg to Toronto. The Cobourg merchants thus lost control of the operation of the Steam-boat "Cobourg".

The Cobourg Harbour Company prospered, and the revenue brought in a nice financial return to the stockholders each year after 1832. The controlling interests, outside of Cobourg, were only concerned with the profits, and cared less for the necessary repairs to piers and the general maintenance of the harbour. From the year 1836 on, the piers were deteriorating and wave-washed sand reduced the depth of the harbour basin. The Rebellion of 1837, and its aftermath left a tight money market. By the early 1840's the harbour was in a run-down condition, yet it produced profits for the stockholders.

In 1841, there was a revival of interest in the making of improvements to the harbour, and in finishing the necessary extension to the then western pier, in order to retard the movement of sand into the basin by westerly storms. The Harbour Company advertised for contractors to supply material, build timber cribs, and set in place six or more of these cribs. Preparations for this work were moving along in the Spring of 1842.

The new Union Government of Canada, in 1841, established a department bearing the title "Board of Works." In the summer of 1842, the Cobourg Harbour Company, for reasons unknown, entered into an assignment agreement with this government body to complete the harbour. The work involved pier construction and the dredging of the basin, at an estimated cost of 4,240 Pounds. The Board of Works took possession of the harbour, and the Company had no say in directing the work. The writer made a search for a copy of this Indenture agreement in both the Cobourg Registry Office and the Archives of Ontario without any success in locating the document or learning the details of its contents. The terms of takeover remain vague.

The work of improving and finishing the Cobourg Harbour was contracted out to a Mr. Russell in the amount of 5,413 Pounds 3s 7d. The accumulation of timber and material collected by the Harbour Company was turned over for the use of Mr. Russell.

Cribs were built and installed at the end of the then western pier in 1842 and 1843. According to a report, some older cribs were found to be falling apart and these were repaired. There was some extra work done by the contractor.

Communications between the Board of Works and the Harbour Company left much to be desired. Company Directors and officials were often ignored as to costs and other business matters. The dredging of the harbour basin was not performed. The accumulation of sand was creating a danger for shipping. There were also outside adverse interferences with the Cobourg harbour, particularly

from Port Hope. In spite of protests, the Company made very little progress in their dealings with the Board of Works.

It was found out much later that Mr. Russell had been paid some 10,000 pounds for his work with no explanation forthcoming to the Company, yet they were saddled with this debt and interest charges. Some Cobourg people were of the opinion that Mr. Russell had received double pay. The Government refused to make an investigation, and according to the Cobourg Star newspaper, the whole affair was hushed up.

The citizens of Cobourg held an indignation meeting as late as March 10th, 1848, and reviewed the whole affair. Even by that time, the harbour basin had not been dredged, in spite of some 500 pounds being set aside by the government for that specific purpose some two or three years earlier. It all appears like a piece of messy business with some dirty politics playing a part. The Harbour Company ended up with the 10,000 Pounds of debt and the basin was left undredged. One bright fact remains, the annual revenue had increased beyond the 1,200 Pounds figure.

The petition that was prepared in 1848, by the townspeople for the Legislature was too late as the sessions came to an end. The stockholders were the losers in this affair. The agreement signed in 1842, apparently, prevented the Company from doing the dredge work on their own initiative.

### West End Industry

Jones' Creek, Cobourg Brook, or the Factory Creek, located in the western part of Cobourg, has been the site for water-powered industry from early in the 19th century and later for steam-powered industry down to these later days. In earlier years, its water power motivated a great variety of saw-mills, grist-mills, distilleries, and manufactories located throughout its main stream and branches, from the high waters of Lake Ontario into the high hills of Hamilton Township. We review here the story of industry located in the western part of Cobourg, namely Township Lot Number twenty, in Concession "A".

Elias Jones, the first settler to own lots nineteen and twenty, retained the first for twenty years, but sold the second in December of 1803 to John Nugen, except for two and a half acres at the lakefront. Early stories report that a saw-mill was placed in operation on this stream, and it is believed Nugen erected the dam some 200 feet above King Street for this mill. Nugen sold out to his father-in-law, William Carson, in 1805, the 215 acres, and the following year Carson sold the property to Donald MacDonald of Kingston for 547 Pounds.

The MacDonald family retained the property for over eleven years. It is believed that during this time a grist mill was added at the dam site.

In June of 1817 MacDonald's son, Alexander, sold off six acres, located at the corner of Burnham and Elgin Street to Lewis Stiles, who erected a hotel and became part of the Village of Amherst. Another sale of six acres adjacent to

the Stiles purchase went to Mark Burnham, thus reducing the property by twelve acres, at the north end.

In September of 1817. Alexander MacDonald sold the remaining 203 acres to Robert Henry and James Gray Bethune for 1,500 Pounds. In a few months Bethune sold his share to Henry, who retained the property for fourteen years. It is believed that during this time, Robert Henry built the large, lovely, rectangular dwelling to the west of and overlooking the dam and millpond, known as "TORBECH", and used this house as his dwelling. This building remained for over one hundred years. In addition, Robert Henry maintained a farming operation. The higher ground to the west of the creek was of a fertile, black loam soil, excellent for growing a variety of crops and garden vegetables.

On the 14th of July, 1831, Robert Henry sold his west end property to Mr. George Ham, of the Village of Bath. The sale included 203 acres of land, the dam and mill-pond with its attached industries, plus goods, chattels, farming utensils, etc., at a price of 6,000 pounds. George Ham took up residence in "TORBECH". He was active in the militia, served two years on the Board of Police, and took an interest in local developmets. He died suddenly on the 7th of February, 1843, at the age of 48 years.

Mr. George Ham was indebted to the Hon. Peter McGill with a mortgage on the property. McGill took possession in January of 1844. In September of that same year he sold the property to Mr. Stuart E. MacKechnie, who appointed Mr. Patrick Wallace to be his administrative attorney. Wallace took up residence in TORBECH.

Changes were in progress soon after MacKechnie and Wallace came into possession of their west end property. Much of the land on the higher ground was sub-divided into town lots and streets. MacKechnie was an active industrialist and he proceeded at once to build a large woolen mill in the valley to the south of King Street. The large brick structure was for a number of years powered by water, conducted in a five foot wooden enclosed flume leading from the dam site, under King Street to the basement of the new building, some 400 feet long. Here an ultra modern water wheel was installed that powered the machinery of the mill. In later years, water power was replaced by steam power.

This woolen mill, at the time of its first operation, was the best of its kind in Upper Canada. The products were of excellent quality, and often took top prizes at competitive fairs. The writer recalls this mill in operation as a woolen industry in the year of 1913. In fact I once had a suit of clothes made from cloth manufactured in this mill. The industry was a great asset to Cobourg, and provided a good market for many farmers selling wool.

The Cobourg Star, of January 21st, 1846, gives a fine description of this new industry in the following story.

### The Ontario Mills Woolen Factory

We have at length the pleasure of announcing that this establishment, the most extensive in British North America, is now in full operation. Of the benefits which it is destined to confer on the Newcastle District, setting aside its future important influence on the commerce of the Colony at large, there can be but one opinion, and we most heartily trust, that through the energetic support of all classes, it will realize to its patriotic proprietor, S.E. MACKECHNIE, Esq., that profitable return he is so well entitled to expect for his munificent expenditure of capital. We have had the pleasure afforded us of inspecting the whole establishment, and should be doing injustice to our feelings, were we to refrain from expressing our admiration of all details connected with it. The building substantially built of brick, is four stories and one half high, one hundred feet long and forty feet wide. In the ground story is located the magnificent water wheel, pronounced by all scientific men who have seen it, to be the finest ever constructed in this Province; also the fulling machinery, finishing room, and dye house. The second story is appropriated to the weaving department, a noble room running the whole length of the building, and supported by columns, where we had the pleasure of seeing that great invention of modern times, the Power Loom, in full operation. The third story is the Carding room, of the same dimension as the weaving room; and here curiosity is amply gratified in examining the delicate and complicated machinery by which the wool is prepared from its rough state, and fitted for being spun into yarn. The fourth story is the spinning room, also the whole length of the building, where Sir Richard Arkwright's wonderful invention, the Spinning Jenny, excites the admiration of the beholder. The upper or attic story, is appropriated for drying the wool after it having been washed and dyed. The building throughout is heated by steam, thus greatly diminishing the risk from fire, and the dyeing operations are performed by the same agent, in the most efficient manner: Altogether the Ontario Mills Woolen Factory is a most pleasant spectacle to look upon for all who feel an interest in the progressing advancement of Canada as a dependency of the British Crown, and from the activity and scientific skill of its operative Superintendent, as well as the enterprise of its worthy proprietor, we entertain no doubt of its future and rapid prosperity.

— The Cobourg Star, January 21, 1846

#### WOOL

The highest market price will be paid in Cash for WOOL, at the Ontario Mills Woolen Factory, Cobourg, by the Subscriber.

S.E. MACKECHNIE

Cobourg June 12, 1845

N.B. — Growers of Wool who may prefer it, will have an opportunity of exchanging any portion of their Wool for Cloth.

— — The Cobourg Star, February 4, 1846



**List of Merchants, Mechanics, Etc., In The Town of Cobourg.  
(As of January 1st, 1848)**

**Bakers and Confectioners**

J. Hooey, T. Pratt, T. Elliott, J.C. Marshall

**Butchers**

J. Mann, O. Powell, — Plews, — Gerrans, — McKeown

**Blacksmiths**

M. Purser, W. Crosson, G. Edgecumbe, G. Hamilton, J. Robinson  
P. Newton, W. Newton, W. Milne, J. Hawkins, J. Newton, J. Plunkett

**Brewer**

J. Calcutt

**Bricklayers**

W. Carveth, J. Clark

**Cabinet Makers**

F.S. Clench, George Russell, George Stephens, M.T. Hobart, Charltain & Huff

**Coopers**

L. Broughall, J. Young, S. Irwin, J. Tigh, J. Hutchinson

**Carpenters and Builders**

Messers Burnett, Messers Grieve, J. Canavan, W. Bradbeer, W. Pomeroy,  
C. Pomeroy

**Carriage Makers**

A. Munson, J. McConnell, — Brewer, H. Stickles, W. Paine, — Simmons

**Chandlers**

W. Hitchins, , — Nixon

**Distillers**

J. Calcutt, P. Wallace, W.G. Scott

**Engraver**

J.D. Greenleaf

**Founders**

J. Helm & Son, — McLenhan

**Gun Smith**

W. Tobin

**Hatters**

A. Secor, P. Nihil

**Millers**

E. Perry & Co, J. Calcutt, J. White, P. Wallace

**Marble Factory**

S. Lewis

**Painters & Glaziers**

W.G. Hancock, J. Bain, S. Munro

**Pump Maker**

A. McAllister

**Saddlers**

— Averell, A. Halliday, Wm. Pearson, H. Hales, A. Hawkey

**Smut Machine Makers**

A. Duncan & Co.

**Shoemakers**

J. Hossack, J. Russell, J. Howard, J. Swain, J. Cuthbert, J. Pearce,  
G. Thompson, H. Rundle, P. Beagan, — Noble, — McKinley, T. Judge,  
— Noble, J. Armstrong, — McManus, — Kennedy

**Tailors**

P. McCallum, A. Milne, J. Holman, A. Frazer, H. Crosson, J. Croft, A. Paton,  
D. Ross, R. Budge, W. Dumble

**Tanners**

N. Horton, , H. Boulter

**Watchmakers**

A. Pringle, , J. Nixon

**Woolen Factory**

S.E. McKechnie

**Banks**

Com. Bank of the Midland District, Bank of Montreal

**Book Stores**

F. House, , W. Boyder, Goodeve & Corrigan

**Daguerrean Artist**

G. Callender

**Dentists**

C. Poor, G. Callender

**Drug Stores**

H.H. Jackson, G. Boyer

**Dry Goods Stores**

E. Perry & Co., J. Field, J. McCarty, H. Terry, McBean & Strong  
Goodeve & Corrigan, T. Harvey, J. Calcutt, J. Kennedy, J. Beamish  
Gray & McLeod, Brooke & Beatty, W. Graveley, B. Clark

**Grocery and Liquor Stores**

J. Lockhead, J. Sutherland, J. McDonald

**Hardware Stores**

A. Jeffrey, J.F. Hurst, W. Van Ingen

**Liquor Stores**

P. Wallace, Campbell & Standley

**Leather Store**

N. Horton

**Groceries**

J. Guillet, J. Mitchell, J. Beatty, — Doney, W. Gilbard, P. Dobson, M.  
McKenny

**Recesses**

Mrs. Armstrong, J. Butler, W. Alexander, — Derry

**Hotel and Tavern Keepers**

T. Duignan, J. Tennery, Hall & Saisbury, J. Thompson, W.H. Kells,  
J. Connelly, J. McGran, J.L. Wilson, T. McMurtry, J. Lynn  
E.C. Hull, W. Lawder

**Lawyers**

G.S. Boulton, Boulton & Cockburn, R.H. Throop, S. Smith, W.A. Garratt,  
A. McDonald, R. Ruttan, J.M. Brodie

**Doctors**

J. Gilchrist, G. Goldstone, T. Holywell, J. Beatty, — Auston

**The Queen's Birthday**

"The 24th of May is the Queen's Birthday."

**PROCLAMATION**

THE BOARD of POLICE hereby recommend to the Loyal Inhabitants of the Town of Cobourg, that as Wednesday next, the 24th inst., is the Birth-Day of our beloved Queen, the same be observed as a Holyday — — and that an ILLUMINATION take place in the Evening, commencing at 8 o'clock, in honour of Her Majesty — — recommendations with which, they doubt not, the inhabitants will cheefully comply.

The Board of Police also recommend that the Bells of the Churches, College, Fire and other Public Bells be rung at 6 o'clock in the morning and at 8 o'clock in the evening, for at least half an hour each time.

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!!!**

By order,

**ASA A. BURNHAM,**  
President Board of Police

**DAVID BRODIE,**

Clerk of Police

Town Hall, Cobourg, 22 May, 1848

— — The Cobourg Star, May 24, 1848

The leadership given to this event by the President and Board of Police of Cobourg, as stated in their Proclamation of the 22nd of May, 1848, produced an occasion of rejoicing that is best described by the editor of the Cobourg Star one week later in his May 31st issue. We are pleased to record his story.

## HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY

Wednesday last, the Queen's Birth-day, was celebrated in this Town with great enthusiasm.

At an early hour a feu-de-joi was fired by everyone who could beg or borrow a fire-arm; the shop-roofs, hotels, and houses were decorated with British flags; the Fire Companies turned out in full trim; and all the bells of the Town rang out a merry peal.

During the day, extensive preparation was made for an illumination; fire-ball, serpents, wheels, torches, and innumerable other combustables, were got ready, including material for a huge bonfire.

At 8 in the evening the houses were lighted up, and a most brilliant and effective lighting up it was. The Factory, Victoria College, and the Court House, were the most conspicuous objects; the Odd Fellows' and Orangemen's Halls were also magnificently illuminated, but owing to the end windows only fronting the Town, they did not make so good a show. Of the Shops we admired Goodeve & Corrigal's which exhibited a very large transparency of a Crown and V.R. — The lights in Capt. Wallace's mansion were arranged with great taste, and so managed as to form numerous pleasing devices. Although many shops as well as private houses deserve particular mention, we have not space to indulge ourselves or our readers with a particular description. We must be content with saying that if the inhabitants had had a week's, instead of two day's notice, they could not have done the thing more effectively.

A little after 8, the Fire Companies formed a long Procession, each member having two torches fastened to four foot poles. They proceeded to the West end, and about nine lighted up, and commenced a serpentine walk through the town. This had a most pleasing and beautiful effect, and the Gallant Companies were cheered repeatedly by the hundreds of town and country folk who lined the sidewalk. On arriving opposite Division Street, Mr. W. Calcutt's battery of 13 guns fired a royal salute. About half-past 10 the procession ended, when rockets, fireworks, and bonfires were the order of the night.

By the bye, we must not forget to mention an excellent Band stationed on the roof of the Albion Hotel, which discoursed most eloquently. About 10 o'clock we left the scene of rejoicing, which, however, was not abandoned by many till a very late, or we should say, a very early, hour.

It is extremely gratifying for us to be able to say, that of the vast croud assembled in the streets on Wednesday night, we heard not one member of it who had acted improperly. All religions, all politics, all orders, had met together for one great and noble object, that of paying honour to a beloved sovereign, and they were determined that no less holy, less patriotic feeling, should have a place in their hearts.

To this we can add  
"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN"

We have been favoured with the following Abstract of the Census of the Town, by our esteemed Clerk of the Police, DAVID BRODIE, Esq.

Bakers . . . . .	4	Emigrant Agents . . . . .	1	Ministers . . . . .	7
Butchers . . . . .	4	Editors . . . . .	3	Pump Makers . . . . .	2
Brewers . . . . .	2	Fishermen . . . . .	4	Painters & Glaziers . . . . .	5
Blacksmiths . . . . .	18	Female House		Post Masters . . . . .	1
Book-Binders . . . . .	1	Keepers . . . . .	41	Professors . . . . .	4
Barristers . . . . .	6	Farmers . . . . .	7	Printers . . . . .	4
Butlers . . . . .	1	Fullers . . . . .	2	Plasterers . . . . .	6
Barbers . . . . .	4	Grocers . . . . .	15	Revenue Inspector . . . . .	1
Brick makers . . . . .	2	Gentlemen . . . . .	24	Surgeons & Physicians . . . . .	5
Brick layers &		Gardeners . . . . .	2	Shoemakers . . . . .	31
Masons . . . . .	12	Gunsmiths . . . . .	1	Sailors . . . . .	5
Booksellers . . . . .	1	Gaolers . . . . .	1	Schoolmasters . . . . .	8
Bank Agents . . . . .	2	Huntsman . . . . .	1	Schoolmistresses . . . . .	3
Bath keepers . . . . .	1	Hatters . . . . .	2	Sadlers . . . . .	5
Cabinet Makers . . . . .	8	Harbour Masters . . . . .	1	Students . . . . .	4
Carriage Makers . . . . .	5	Judge . . . . .	1	Sheriff . . . . .	1
Carpenters . . . . .	42	Indian Supt . . . . .	1	Surveyors . . . . .	1
Clerks . . . . .	9	Iron Finishers . . . . .	1	Spinners . . . . .	3
Collector of		Inn Keepers . . . . .	14	Stage Proprietors . . . . .	1
Customs . . . . .	1	Lath Splitters . . . . .	1	Sculptors . . . . .	1
Chandlers . . . . .	2	Lime Burners . . . . .	1	Tailors . . . . .	10
Coopers . . . . .	10	Land Agents . . . . .	2	Tinmiths . . . . .	4
Chair Makers . . . . .	2	Labourers . . . . .	134	Tool Makers . . . . .	1
Carters . . . . .	2	Merchants . . . . .	20	Teamster . . . . .	3
Clothiers . . . . .	1	Millers . . . . .	3	Turners . . . . .	1
Dyers . . . . .	1	Merchant Tailors . . . . .	3	Tanners . . . . .	2
Dancing Masters . . . . .	1	Mill Wrights . . . . .	4	Waiters . . . . .	3
Druggists . . . . .	2	Moulders . . . . .	2	Weavers . . . . .	3
Dress makers . . . . .	3	Machine Makers . . . . .	2	Watchmakers . . . . .	2
Distillers . . . . .	3	Machinists . . . . .	2		
Cloth Finisher . . . . .	1	Manufacturers . . . . .	1		

CREEDS

Inhabitants at home . . . . .	3,444	Church of England . . . . .	1,342
On a journey, etc. . . . .	68	Church of Rome . . . . .	567
	<u>3,512</u>	Free Church, Presbyterian . . . . .	627
Nation of England . . . . .	627	Others . . . . .	5
Nation of Scotland . . . . .	282	Wesleyan Methodists . . . . .	415
Nation of Ireland . . . . .	950	Episcopal . . . . .	79
Of Canada French Origin . . . . .	4	Others . . . . .	22
of British . . . . .	1,374	Baptists . . . . .	15
Germany Holland . . . . .	3	Independents (Congregational) . . . . .	51
United States . . . . .	182	Quakers . . . . .	5
Other Countries . . . . .	22	Denomination not named . . . . .	162
	<u>3,444</u>	No Creed . . . . .	91
		Not Accounted for . . . . .	35
			<u>3,444</u>

### Agricultural Societies

The Northumberland County Agricultural Society was first organized at Colborne in the year of 1828. This Society held four fairs, one at Colborne in 1829, one in 1830, and two in 1831. The Spring Fair and Cattle Show, of 1831, was held in Cobourg. The Society also gave prizes for two years for the best operated farms in the county. No fair was held in 1832, and the following year, it folded and became defunct.

Nearly four years later, the Society was revived under outstanding leadership. It slowly gained in strength and in the fall of 1839 again sponsored a fair and cattle show, this time at Grafton, and in conjunction with a newly formed Grafton Fair. The Society prospered, and followed through with fairs in each succeeding year.

In the year of 1843, the idea of organizing a Provincial Agricultural Association blossomed and finally materialized in 1846. The conception of staging a Provincial Fair took hold, and under hurried preparations, such an event was held in Toronto in October of that year. Under hurried circumstances, it may have been considered a success up to a point, but there were flaws in organization and in preparation. The initial start had been made, however, and plans went ahead for a fall Provincial Exhibition, to be held in Hamilton in 1847. The site chosen turned out to be a poorly drained piece of ground. The day of the Fair, Jupiter Pluvius also attended, making the show grounds into a quagmire. In spite of the heavy rain, the Association's Annual Dinner was a big success, with the Governor General attending and delivering a most interesting and informative address. Financially, the organization lost money and acquired a debt, which had to be overcome later.

The active Northumberland Agricultural Society pressured the Executive of the Association to have the 1848 show held in their territory. The final decision as to location was in their favor, and the Town of Cobourg was selected as the site.

There were some very excellent and capable leaders in the Northumberland Society. They had staged very successful fairs in recent years, they had expertise and determination to make the 1848 event a success. With flaws and failings of the first two Provincial Exhibitions in their minds, and a debt to overcome, they set about early to prepare for the big event in the coming October. They laid through plans.

Some seven acres of ground, loaned by Mr. Patrick Wallace, was chosen for the fair in the west end of Cobourg. This field was to the north of King Street and between Burnham and Sinclair Streets. Here a slight ridge of ground, sloping away in every direction, provided for natural drainage in the event of rain.

A canvas was made of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province for prize money. Municipalities and others were asked for donations toward the cost of erecting fair buildings, etc. The Town of Cobourg gave 100 Pounds. The Newcastle District Council, serving an agricultural community, refused the request for a donation. The Agricultural Societies of Durham and Peterborough were

very supportive with both money and manpower.

The seven acres were enclosed by a high board fence. Three main buildings were erected and subsidiary structures arranged within the grounds. Cattle pens and judging parks were set up in a functional pattern. A large banquet hall was erected on the town market square. The Town even had a new bridge erected over the Factory Creek. Visitor accomodation was arranged for in hotels and in private homes. Cobourg went all out towards making this event a success.

By the last week of September, cattle men and display people commenced to arrive in Cobourg with their animals and their wares. Every lake boat, docking at the Cobourg Harbour, was loaded down to overcrowding. The exhibition was set for four days during the first week in October. The first two days of the fair were given over to assembling and judging, the last two for the visitors.

The Sunday and Monday previous to opening day produced a most violent type of storm with heavy rains and high winds throughout the Province. Lake Ontario generated such heavy seas that boats were unable to travel, let alone dock at the Cobourg Harbour. By Tuesday the storm abated, and exhibitors, though late, were able to get their displays set up. Judging too was delayed.

Fortunately, the visiting days were bright, sunny and pleasant. The rain water had drained off the field, leaving firm ground. The crowds came early and in large numbers. They arrived by lake boat, by stage, by wagons, by buggies, on horse back and those nearby walked to the grounds. There was a good show and a fine variety of displays. There was a keen competition in the cattle and animal section.

The crowds enjoyed the outing. It is estimated some 7,000 visitors attended the show. The Annual Dinner of the Association, held in the dining hall of the Market Square was a feature. On the Friday afternoon, a ploughing match, a steeple chase and a rifle shoot provided added attractions. The prize winning displays were of a high quality, and a large number of Cobourg people were winners in various categories. The Indians of Alderville and of Rice Lake gained special mention for their craft work displays.

Newspapers gave the Exhibition good coverage with feature writeups in the American Buffalo papers. The fair was a big success. It set the Annual Provincial Exhibition on a sound basis for many years of successful, progressive shows. The Association returned to Cobourg for the second time in the year 1855. That fair, too, was held at the same site as the 1848 show. Ultimately the Provincial phased out and the Canadian National Exhibition served in its place.

### **Local Improvements in Cobourg**

The President and Board of Police form of local government looked after the affairs and the business of the Corporation from 1837 through the year 1849. During this period, a number of interested and capable men sat on the Board. They served the town without any personal financial remuneration. In fact, at

times, they furnished their own money as a loan to the town in times of need and short supply of specie.

Cobourg grew and prospered. On two or three occasions the Cobourg Act of Incorporation was amended to provide some special or added powers for the Board of Police. One alteration was made in 1846. Special power was given for the installation of common sewers or storm drains in the town streets, and assess the cost of the same against the properties abutting such work. In the fall of 1847, a brick, arched-shaped, storm-water sewer was installed under King Street from the small creek, westward to Ontario Street. This was Cobourg's first permanent sewer and it continues to give service to this day.

In the year 1922, the writer was employed as the field engineer's assistant on the initial paving work in King Street. Underground services of various kinds were installed or restored, preliminary to the laying down of the pavement. Catch basin connections for storm water outlets were made to this old brick sewer, which was found to be in a sound condition at that time. During the course of that summer, the writer had a good view of the underside of King Street, observing its soils and appurtenances.

At one time in 1848, when circulating specie was in short supply, the Board of Police issued "shin-plasters", for local circulation between town employees, contractors, merchants and tax paying persons. An editorial of March, 1848 boosts this idea.

In 1847, the President and Board of Police purchased a house and lot situated at the corner of Third and King Streets, adjacent to the town owned property. Later in 1853, the Town Council purchased an additional strip on Third Street, behind the 1847 purchase, thus making the Market Square continuous between Second and Third Streets. Sometimes the best of plans can be flawed. In the year of 1863, it came to light and to be known that a widow had a claim to the land then occupied by the new Victoria Hall and the Market Square. Someone had failed to provide for her dower rights in a very early land transaction. As a result she collected a handsome sum from the town, and since that time the Town-Hall Market-Square property has enjoyed a clear title.

### **Responsible Government**

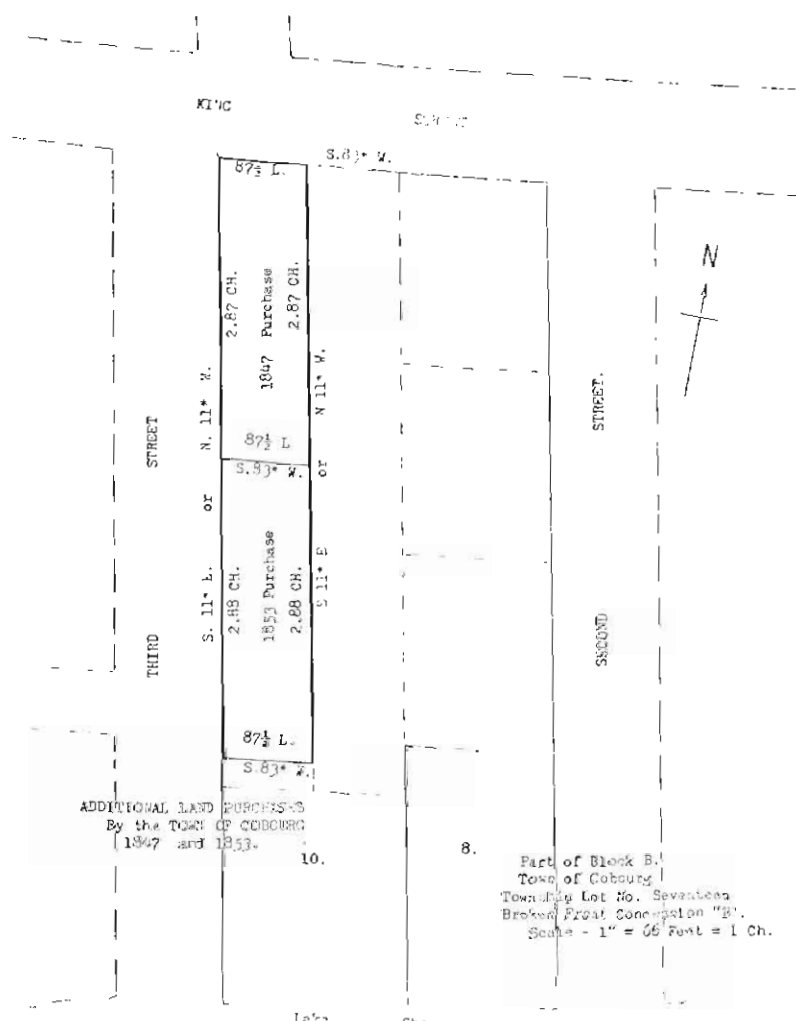
One of the prime purposes of this history is to give in detail the various developments in Local Government up to and including the arrival of Responsible Government in the year 1850.

From the time of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, the power in local government came from the top down through the appointed Executive Council, the District Magistrates, also appointees, meeting in their Quarter Sessions, who in turn took over where Town Meetings failed to function. The Town officials appointed at Town Meetings were responsible to the Magistrates.

The Ministry of Robert Baldwin and Louis Lafontaine reformed the system of



Municipal Government. This change replaced the Board of Police in towns like Cobourg, and established the Town Council and Mayor group. Cobourg had gained, in a sense, responsible government at the time of its incorporation in

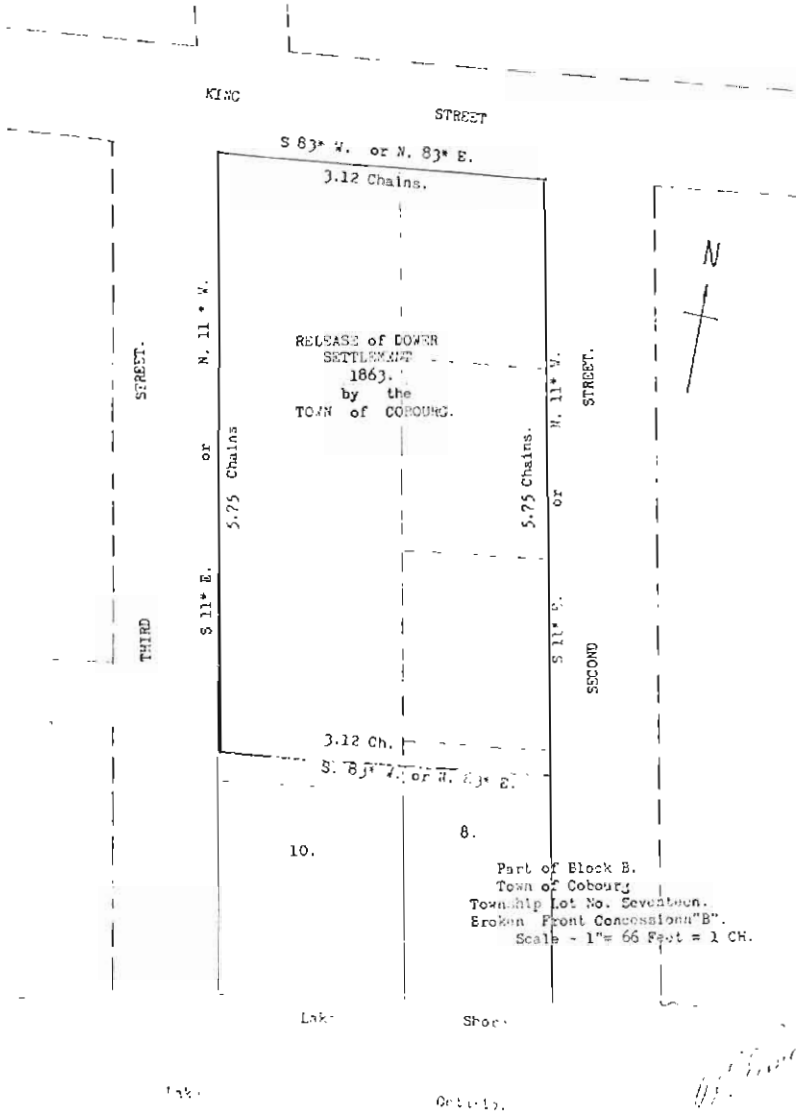


ADDITIONAL LAND PURCHASES  
By the TOWN OF COBOURG  
1847 and 1853.

8. Part of Block B.  
Town of Cobourg  
Township Lot No. Seventeen  
Broken Front Conception "B".  
Scale - 1" = 66 Feet = 1 Ch.

**Additional Land Purchases  
By the Town of Cobourg  
1847 and 1853**

# Release of Dower Settlement 1863 by the Town of Cobourg



1837. The new Act eliminated the Annual Town Meeting and gave the Townships an elected Council. It changed the make-up of the District Councils to the new arrangement of County Councils. It brought in provisions for an incorporated Village with an elective Council. With the new Act, Power came from below, from the "grass Roots", through the voter, upwards. The elective groups were made responsible to the voters who placed them in office.

The following is a partial outline of the new Act and the local government changes that came into effect on January 1st, 1850. Responsible Government in local affairs had finally arrived.

## **New Municipal Bill**

### **Townships**

It provides that each township shall be an incorporated municipality having five Councillors, to be elected annually, one of which is to be chosen Town-reeve, who presides at meetings, and is a County Councillor. Township municipalities are authorized to make By-Laws for the following purposes: — — The purchase of real property, erection of Town Hall, School Houses, Pounds, appoint Pound keepers, construct and repair drains and water courses, open and improve roads, Etc., regulating driving over bridges, regulation of inns, taverns, etc., grant money for improving roads, restrain animals from running at large, impose tax on dogs, etc., destruction of weeds, sale of animals impounded, settling height of fences, establish boundary lines, compounding of statute labour, enforcing statute labour, impose fines, borrow money, levying moneys, make local regulations, repeal, Etc., by-laws.

### **Counties**

Counties of Upper Canada incorporated: town-reeves of townships, etc., in each county, to constitute Municipal Council of such County. Roads Etc., to be under the jurisdiction of counties through which they run. Councils may make by-laws for the purchase of real property, meeting the expenses of pupils attending the University of Toronto, Etc., whose parents are unable to incur such expenses; endowment of fellowships; Etc., in University; appoint inspectors of House of Industry; remunerate County Officers, prevent immoderate driving on highways, grant licenses to Road and Bridge Companies, Etc.

### **Police Villages**

Police regulations to be enforced with respect to ladders on roofs, buckets; baker's, brewer's and ashery chimneys, (to be three feet higher than buildings within one chain); stove-pipes, entering certain places with candles, Etc., lighting fires in wooden houses etc.,: vessels for conveying fire; hay, straw, Etc., (not to be kept in any dwelling); keeping and sale of gun powder; (in metal in all cases, and not to be sold by candlelight) deposit of ashes— must not be in wooden vessels; Quick lime not to be left near wood; lighting fires in streets —

five shillings fine; charcoal furnaces for making charcoal forbidden within limits; filth, rubbish Etc., fineable if thrown into streets, or left there.

#### Incorporated Villages

Village municipalities may make by-laws for opening new roads and streets, or selling old roads or streets; remove steps; regulate markets; regulate harbours; assize of bread; enforce observation of the Sabbath; lock-up houses; public cemeteries; immoderate driving; injuring trees.

#### Towns

Inhabitants of towns mentioned in schedule B and C incorporated. (Cobourg included.)

Three Councillors to be chosen for every ward. Election — first Monday in January. Qualifications for Councillor — 500 Pounds real property assessed. Electors — male freeholders, and proprietors or tenants assessed at 25 Pounds. A Police office in each town; Police Magistrate, to be a barrister of three years' standing; salary not less than 100 Pounds; not to be appointed until petitioned for by the Corporation; three assessors and one collector for each ward. — Town Council to consist of Councillors from each ward. Powers granted to Town Councils to make by-laws for — establishing Police almshouses etc., Purchases of land for industrial farm; lighting with gas, oil etc.; Livery stable licenses, (regulate their charges.); assess real property for improvements in the neighbourhood, sweep and water streets; borrow monies.

— — — The Cobourg Star, February 21, 1849

### COUNTY DIVISION SUBSTITUTION BILL. UPPER CANADA. SYNOPSIS

A. Title — Preamble and commencement of Act 1st Jan. 1850.

B. Enactments.

1. Abolition of District Divisions.

Section 2. — District Divisions abolished.

3. District Courts and other District Institutions to be henceforth County Institutions, and all laws applicable to the one to be applied to the other.

4. Courts of Assize and Nisi Prius, Etc. to be held for Counties as now held for Districts.

11. Union of Counties for municipal, judicial and other purposes.

5. Counties in Schedule A. united for judicial, municipal and all other purposes, except Representation and Registration of Titles, and to have Courts and other Institutions in common while Union continues.

6. Property of United Counties to be held in common. Etc. Etc.

111. Disolution of Unions of Counties. Etc. Etc.

1. Miscellaneous and Temporary Provisions.

26. Public Property of Districts transferred to Counties and Unions of Counties as in Schedule b.

28. Justices of the Peace, Etc. now in office for District, to exercise their functions in Counties and Unions of Counties, as in Schedule B. Etc. Etc.

Schedule A.

8. Northumberland and Durham.

Schedule B.

11. To Northumberland and Durham — — those of the Newcastle District.  
— — — The Cobourg Star, March 14, 1849.

### **The First Cobourg Council**

It is unfortunate the issues of the Cobourg newspapers of 1850 are now missing, and we cannot record the editorial comments made at that time of change in the municipal systems.

A new nine-man Council was elected in place of the former five-man Board. The following was the elected personnel of Cobourg's first Town Council:

ASA A. BURNHAM; FRANCIS BURNET; JAMES CANAVAN; JOHN HELM, Sr.; A. MILNE; GEORGE PERRY; THOMAS SCOTT; R.H. THROOP; and WILLIAM WELLER who was appointed Mayor by his Council, the first Mayor of Cobourg.

One Act of the 1850 Town Council of Cobourg, was to take over and to come into possession of the Cobourg Harbour — but at a price!

The details of this important purchase, the demise of the former Cobourg Harbour Company, and the dealings with the Company Stock holders are all spelled out in "AN ACT to VEST the HARBOUR AT COBOURG in the MUNICIPALITY of THAT TOWN", passed by the Government on the 10th day of August, 1850. For the readers interest, we give the Act here in its complete form:

#### **An Act to Vest the Harbour at Cobourg in the Municipality of that Town — 10 August, 1850**

WHEREAS the Harbour at Cobourg has never been completed, notwithstanding that the time allowed to the President Directors and Company of the Cobourg Harbour, for that purpose, has long since expired; And whereas by a certain Indenture, bearing date the eighteenth day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-two, and executed by and between the President, Directors and Company, of the Cobourg Harbour, of the one part, and the Board of Works, of the other part, the said Harbour and its appurtenances were conveyed and assigned to the Board of Works, in security for all such moneys as the Provincial Government in this Province has expended or should expend upon the said Harbour; And WHEREAS the sum of Ten Thousand, Five Hundred Pounds or there

about has been expended by the Provincial Government upon and in improving the said Harbour, and for the money so expended, Her Majesty holds the said Harbour, its tolls and appurtenances in security, under and by virtue of the said conveyance of the Board of Works; And WHEREAS the Town Council of the Town of Cobourg have contracted with the Government for the purchase by the Town, of the interest of the Government in the said Harbour and its appurtenances. And it hath been agreed by the Government to assign such interest and the right and title of Her Majesty to the said Harbour and its appurtenances to the Municipal Corporation of the said Town for a consideration agreed upon; And WHEREAS in consequence of the non-completion of the said Harbour, and its present imperfect state, the stock of the said Company has become very much depreciated in value; And WHEREAS the Town Council of the Town of Cobourg have agreed with divers of the Stock Holders of the said Company for the purchase of the Stock held by them and are desirous of becoming possessed of the said Harbour, and of having the management and control thereof; And WHEREAS it is most desirable that the said Harbour should be rendered and made safe commodious and convenient as possible, and the said Town Council are interested on behalf of the said Town of Cobourg in improving and keeping improved the said Harbour for the purpose of trade of the said Town, and attracting hither vessels navigating the Lake; And Whereas the said Company have, by non-completion of the said Harbour within the time prescribed by their Act of Incorporation, and the Acts amending the same, rendered themselves liable to the forfeiture of the rights, privileges, and powers conferred upon them as such a Company, and to have their Act of Incorporation declared void; BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and entitled, An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, that the Corporation of the President, Directors and Company of the Cobourg Harbour, created by the Act of the Parliament of Upper Canada, passed in the tenth year of the Reign of King George the Fourth, and entitled An Act to Improve the Navigation of Lake Ontario by Authorizing the Construction of a Harbour at Cobourg, by a Joint Stock Company, shall be, and the said Corporation is hereby dissolved; And the said Act, and Acts amending it shall cease from and after the passing of this Act, so far as regards anything to be done by the said Corporation or the Stockholders thereof, subject nevertheless to the provisions hereinafter contained in favour of those now holding stock in the said Company; And the Assignment made by the Provincial Government to the Municipal Corporation of the said Town is hereby confirmed and made valid, and the sum thereby agreed to be paid by the said Corporation shall be a debt due to Her Majesty by it.

II.

And be it enacted, that the said Harbour and all land attached thereto, and the moles, piers, wharves, buildings, erections and appurtenances, and all other things now erected, or being or belonging to or used with or in the said Harbour and heretofore vested in the said Company, and all other moles, piers, wharves, buildings and erections to be hereafter erected, set up or established in the said Harbour, and all materials which shall be from time to time, got or provided for constructing, building, repairing or maintaining the said Harbour or the erections therein made, or the appurtenances thereto, and all claims for sums of money due to the said Company for tolls, and all tolls which the said Town Council are by this Act authorized to levy, and all rents, issues, profits, fees, emoluments derivable or to be derived from the said Harbour, and appurtenances and everything thereto belonging shall be and the same are hereby vested in the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Cobourg for ever, and shall be under the control and management, and within the jurisdiction of the Council of the said Town; and the said Harbour in its present or future state; and with any additions that may be made thereto, shall and the same is hereby declared to be within the limits and be part of the said Town of Cobourg; and all sums of money due to the said Company for tolls may be sued for and recovered by the said Municipal Corporation by virtue of this Act. PROVIDED always that when recovered, all such sums shall be the property of the Company for the benefit of such Stock Holders as in the sixth section mentioned; and whenever such sums shall amount to a sum sufficient to pay a dividen of three percent to such stockholders, such dividend shall be declared at such rate percent as shall cover the balance remaining unpaid.

III

And be it enacted, that the said Town Council shall and may have power and they are hereby authorized by By-Laws, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, to fix and determine and to alter from time to time as they may see fit, the rate of tolls to be chargeable and paid on all vessels and boats entering the said Harbour, and on all goods, chattels, wares and merchandise shipped or landed on board, or out of any vessel or boat in the said Harbour, or between the eastern boundary of Lot Number Thirteen, and the western boundary of Lot Number Twenty-one, in the Township of Hamilton, in the County of Northumberland, and to ask, demand and recover and receive the same to and for the use of the said Town Council; and in case of neglect or refusal by any person or persons owning or in charge of any vessel, boat, goods, chattels, wares, merchandise, to pay the tolls legally collectable thereon under the Act, or in case of any vessel, boat, goods, chattels, wares or merchandise, on which such tolls may be chargeable, lying or remaining in or adjacent, adjunct to such Harbour, unclaimed and without the tolls thereon being paid for ten days after such toll shall have been legally chargeable thereon, to seize and detain the vessels, boats, goods, chattels, wares and merchandise on which such tolls may be

due, payable or chargeable, and if such tolls shall remain unpaid thereon for the space of twenty days after such seizure, then to sell and dispose of such goods, chattels, wares, merchandise, vessels or boats, by and at public auction, for the best price than can be obtained for the same, first giving ten days notice thereof by inserting the same in the newspaper (if any) published in the Town of Cobourg, and by putting up a notice on some conspicuous place in the said Harbour, and out of the proceeds of such sale, to deduct and pay the tolls in arrears and unpaid upon the things sold; and the expenses of and incident to such sale, and the residue, if any, to pay over when demanded to the owner or owners of the things so sold.

#### IV.

AND be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the said Town Council, and they are hereby empowered to make such additions and improvements in and to the said Harbour, as they from time to time may think fit; and to make and adopt from time to time such By-Laws and Regulations and enter into such contracts as they shall approve, for managing and controlling the said Harbour, and leasing any portion or portions thereof, and improving or adding to the said Harbour, and to employ such servants and agents in and about the business of the said Harbour as they shall require, and generally to do and perform all such Acts and exercise all such powers as shall be necessary for the efficient management of the said Harbour, and the contract for purchase and take conveyances of and to and for the purpose of the said Harbour, in extending or improving the same as they may think fit, such additional land as they may acquire, and the same when so acquired, shall vest in the Municipal Corporation of the said Town for ever; and the said Town Council shall and may from time to time, as they shall see fit, sell, depart with and convey any portion of the land now forming part of or attached to, or hereafter to be acquired for or attached to the said Harbour, which they may find unnecessary for the purposes of such Harbour; and in case the said Town Council shall not be able to agree with the owner or owners for any property which they may desire either to purchase absolutely for the use of and purposes of the said Harbour, or in or about which they may desire to make any road, street, cut, drain, or other improvement may be made, shall be reasonably entitled to, such land may be taken and such road, street, cut, drain or other improvements made by the said Council in the manner and subject to the provisions made in and by the one hundred and ninety-fifth; one hundred and ninety-sixth; one hundred and ninety-seventh Sections of the Act passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, An Act to provide by one general law, for the erection of Municipal Corporation, and the establishment of Regulations of Police in and for the several Counties, Cities, Towns, Township and Villages in Upper Canada which shall apply as if the said Council had been authorized by the said Act to take such land, or to do such thing as aforesaid without the consent of the owner of the property taken or affected.



V.

And be it enacted, that for the purpose of completing and improving the said Harbour, and of erecting additional wharves, moles and piers therein; and of making such other additions and improvements therein as the said Town Council shall resolve on and approve, it shall and may be lawful for the said Town Council, and they are here-by authorized to borrow such sum or sums of money from time to time as they may deem requisite, and if they shall see fit, to secure and provide for payment of the same, by issuing from time to time in the name of the Municipal Corporation of the said Town, debentures for sums not less than one hundred pounds and redeemable within twenty years after the issue thereof with interest at the rate not exceeding eight per cent, per annum, and such debentures shall be transferrable, and the holder or holders of such of them as are not paid withing or at the time at which they shall be made redeemable shall and may sue for and recover against the said Municipal Corporation of the said Town of Cobourg the amount thereof, with the interest thereby agreed to be paid; Provided nevertheless that all such debentures shall, on the face thereof, in some sufficient form of words, show and express that they are issued for or on account of the said Harbour.

VI.

And be it enacted, That all parties who at the time of the passing of this Act, hold any Stock of the Company herein before mentioned, and shall not have sold or transferred the same to the Municipal Corporation of the said Town, shall be entitled to be, and shall be interested in and considered to hold Stock in the said Harbour to the amount paid up on the stock held by them afforesaid, but without any right nevertheless to interfere in the management or control of the said Harbour; PROVIDED that within six months after the passing of this Act, they notify the said Town Council by writing under their hands respectively the amount of Stock of the said Company held by them at the time of the passing of this Act, and the amount paid up by them on such stock; and the value and the extent of the interest of such persons in the said Harbour shall be regulated in manner following, that is to say: They shall be entitled annually hereafter to a dividend upon the said Stock of the rents, issues, profits, annual fees, and tolls derived from the said Harbour, (After paying all the current expenses and managing the said Harbour, and the interest on any money which may be borrowed from time to time to improve the same, and the interest of the sum expended by the Government upon the said Harbour and now assigned to the Municipal Corporation of the said Town Council) in the proportion which the amount of stock held by them in the said Harbour, shall bear to the aggregate amount assigned by the Government to the Municipal Corporation of the said Town, the sum paid by the said Council to individual stock holders or otherwise in acquiring the said harbour and the sum expended by the said Town in improving and completing the said Harbour; AND so long as any stockholder shall remain, the said Town Council shall Annually, that is to say, on the second Mon-

day in January in each and every year hereafter, publish by insertion thereof in one newspaper, if any published in the Town of Cobourg, and by filing a copy thereof under the Seal of the Corporation, and the hand of the Mayor or Chief Municipal Officer of the Town of Cobourg, in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace for the County in which the said Town is situate, such a statement of the said Harbour and the affairs thereof, as will enable a calculation to be made of the dividend payable according to the Act, to any person or persons holding Stock in the said Harbour, and any person shall be entitled to examine such statement, or make a copy thereof, on paying to the Clerk of the Peace a fee of one shilling and three pence; and the said Town Council shall, on and after the second Monday in January in each and every year, pay the person or persons entitled thereto the dividend or dividends to which he or they may so be entitled, and in default of such payment, such dividends may be sued for and recovered in like manner as other debts due by the said Corporation.

VII.

AND be it enacted, That the Stock held by individuals in the said Harbour under this Act, may be transferred to the said Town Council, or, from time to time, to any person or persons desirous of obtaining the same; Provided that such transfer, unless made to the said Town Council, shall not be binding, or effectual until a memorandum of the same shall have been signed by the transferer and transferee, or their duly authorized attorneys, in such Book of the said Town Council as by the said Town Council may be provided or assigned for that purpose; Provided always, that it shall be lawful during one year from the passing of this Act, for any holder of Stock in the said Harbour to tender the same to the said Municipal Corporation, without prejudice to the right of such Stockholder to receive his dividends as in the proviso to the second section mentioned, and to require the said Corporation to purchase the same at the rate of Sixty-Six Pounds, Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence for every One Hundred pounds of nominal amount of such shares, payable in debentures to be issued by the said Corporation in favor of such shareholder, one third of the principal of such debentures being payable in five years, one third in ten years, and one third in fifteen years from the date of such tender, with interest from the said date payable half yearly; and if the said Corporation shall refuse or neglect to purchase such stock or to issue such debentures, such stock holder shall have the like remedy against them in law or in equity as if they had contracted to purchase such stock from him on the terms aforesaid.

VIII.

And be it enacted, That this Act shall not in any way abridge or be construed to abridge the powers, which, independently of the special provisions therein contained, the said Town Council might or could, may or can, exercise over property within their control or jurisdiction, except when such powers may be inconsistent with this Act.

IX.

AND be it enacted, that this Act shall be a Public Act.

## 1850 Cobourg Who's Who

### Cobourg Seventy-Five Years Ago

(From the Cobourg World, Thursday, March 18, 1926.)

Seventy-five years ago, what had formerly been the village of Cobourg, had been incorporated a short time before as a town, and was presided over by the first Mayor, Wm. Weller, and a council composed of A.A. Burnham, D.E. Boulton, John Beatty, Thomas Eyre, J.A. Gilchrest, A. Jeffrey, Geo. Perry, R.H. Throop. (Note added— The town was incorporated in 1837).

An old resident has presented the World with a list of business men of the town at that time. They were as follows; according to the copy given to us: HENRY ALLEN, Dry goods; WILLIAM ALEXANDER, Saloon; JAMES H. ARMSTRONG, shoemaker; JAMES AUSTIN, M.D.; J. BAIN, printer; MISS BATE, milliner; JOSEPH BATES, grocer; DR. BEATTY, M.D.; Rev. JOHN BEATTY, Wesleyan minister; JOHN BEATTY, grocer; BURTON BENNETT, barrister at law; Rev. Dr. BETHUNE, Church of England minister; J.N. BOSWELL, chemist and druggist; D.E. BOULTON, Barrister at Law; ROBERT BUDGE, tailor; W. and D. BURNET, carpenters, etc.; JOHN BUTLER, grocer; LEWIS BRANGEL, cooper; Rev. JOHN BREDIN, Wesleyan minister; JAMES CALCUTT, Jr., dry goods; JAMES CALCUTT, brewer; F.G. CALLENDER, dentist; JAMES CANAVAN, carpenter; JAMES CHITTICK, smith and farrier; BENJAMIN CLARK, general store; THOMAS B. CLENCH, cabinet maker; JAMES COCKBURN, Barrister at Law; SAMUEL COLLINS, blacksmith; JAMES CUTHBERT, shoe store; JAMES DROPE, grocer; JOS. DUBEAN, tailor and clothier; W. DUMBLE, clothier; H. DUNCAN, farrier; Rev. H. Elliott, Bible Christian Minister; J. FLETCHER, shoemaker; ARCHIBALD FRASER, tailor; FIELD & BRO., general store; JOHN GEE, innkeeper; THOMAS GILLBARD, tailor; WM. GILLBARD, grocer; JAMES GILCHRIST, medical doctor; JAMES GORDON, grocer; WM. GRIEVES, joiner and builder; JOHN GUILLET, grocer; ANDREW HALLIDAY, saddler; THOMAS HOLLOWELL, M.D.; P. HANCOCK, boatmaker; THOMAS HARVEY, general store; ANTHONY HAWKEY, saddler; M.F. HOBART, cabinet maker; JOHN HOOEY, baker; JAMES HOSSACK, bookstore; —?— HORTON, leather store; STUART HOOEY, grocer; FRNKLIN HOUSE, bookseller; J.F. HURST, hardware; SAMUEL IRWIN, cooper; ANDREW JEFFREY, hardware; Rev. H.B. JESSUP, Church of England Minister; THOMAS JEWELL, grocer; THOMAS JUDGE, boot maker; THOMAS KERSHAW, general smith; PATRICK KEWIN, baker; A.S. KENNEDY, boots and shoes; WM. KNOWLES, stone cutter; REV. S.W. LADU, Episcopal Methodist Minister; WM. LAURIE, innkeeper, SYLVESTER LEWIS, marble factory; JNO. LOCKHEAD, grocer,

PETER McCALLUM, tailor and merchant; ARCHIBALD McDONALD, barrister-at-law; JAMES McGRAN, innkeeper; MICHAEL McKENNEY, grocer; Rev. Donald McLEOD, Free Church Minister; ARTHUR MacBEAN, general store; RICHARD MEANS, cabinet maker; JOHN MITCHELL, grocer; J.W. THOMPSON, operator Montreal Telegraph Company; THOMAS MORROW, saddler; MATTHEW MORROW, baker; ANDREW MOSCREPT, foundry; A.C. MUNSON, carriage maker; NEWS ROOM, King Street; Rev. S. NELLES, Wesleyan Minister, GEORGE NIXON, Chandler; JOHN NOBLE, bootmaker; WM. PAYNE, grocer; CHARLES POMEROY, carpenter; POMEROY BROS., general store; C. POOL, surgeon dentist; Mrs. W.F. POWELL, milliner; THOMAS PRATT, baker; ALEXANDER PRINGLE, watchmaker; PATRICK REGAN, livery stables; SAMUEL RICHARDSON, cooper; Rev. PAUL ROBINS, Bible Christian Minister; JOHN ROBERTS, shoes; JOHN RUSSELL, bootmaker; RICHARD RUTTAN, Barrister-at-law; THOMAS SALISBURY, innkeeper; A. SECORD, hatter and furrier; WM. SMITH, innkeeper; SIDNEY SMITH, barrister; JOHN SMITH, innkeeper; Rev. I. SNELL, Congregational Minister; P. SNOW, tailor; GEORGE STEPHENS, cabinet maker; ALEXANDER STEWART, carpenter; JOHN SUTHERLAND, grocer; Rev. L. TAYLOR, Wesleyan Minister; HENRY TERRY, general store; GEORGE THOMPSON, shoemaker; ROBERT THROOPE, barrister-at-law; Rev. MICHAEL TIMLIN, Roman Catholic Priest; Rev. C. VANDUSEN, Wesleyan Minister; GEORGE VOSPER, Carpenter and builder; JAMES WILSON, innkeeper.

All the prominent men of the town and of those taking part in its municipal life, are not mentioned in this record, for other records show that Mr. Thomas Scott was then Post Master. William Weller had charge of the Royal Mail Line of stage coaches running between Toronto and Montreal. Thomas Eyre and George M. Goodeve were auditors of the town; Robert Craig was Chief Constable and surveyor of streets; David Brodie was clerk and treasurer, and there were probably a number of others.

### Tidal Wave at Cobourg

The tidal wave which extended along Lake Ontario for about twenty-four or twenty-five miles early Saturday morning, including Cobourg within its range, affected the water in the harbour here to a very noticeable extent. Ontario No. One was in the harbour, and the water is stated to have raised about four feet, elevating boat and deck and then receded to such an extreme that it was reported the big steamer was almost left stranded. However it is probable that it was only the sudden inflow of water into the harbour passing out again. The cause of the strange occurrence, which was a very unusual one for this port, is apparently a mystery. At Rochester and other ports along the south shore the tidal wave swept quite a distance inland and considerable damage was done.

— The Cobourg World, May 28, 1925.

Note; It is on record, and reported in the Cobourg Star, September 24, 1845, that a similar tidal wave was noted at the Cobourg Harbour and at other places along the lake. The explanation is given in a later edition of the Star, November 26, 1845. The tidal wave was produced by an extreme differential in barometric pressure over an area of the lake.

With the presentation of this history of Cobourg into the year 1850, the writer hopes some former false impressions, incorrect statements and other errors that have made for some misunderstandings will be better understood and made more clear. We all can err, but prime sources have been used throughout this work. The above published list of first Councillors for Cobourg is a sample of errors. August 16, 1984.

## **A Closing Story**

### **The Queen and The Old Swimming Hole**

My wife, Betty, and I had received an invitation to visit Cobourg to see the Queen. We drove from St. Catharines arriving in good time to park our car on Burnham Street. We walked the full length of Heath Street to the footpath entrance into the Honorable James Cockburn Park. The day was beautiful with warm summer breezes, and lazy clouds allowing the sun to shine through. It was a perfect day for the Queen to visit Cobourg.

On crossing William Street, a very fine sight met our eyes. Spread before us was the panorama of acres of fresh, green-grass park, sloping gently down to the Factory Creek. A new steel footbridge spanned the stream. Beyond, more areas of greenery, plus a grove of cedars, caught our vision. The southerly hillside beyond the creek was almost hid behind tall willows. Here two branches of the Factory Creek joined immediately downstream from the footbridge. Above the bridge a small dam held back a pond. It was a beautiful sight.

Crowds had already gathered. We walked down the roped-off pathway, across the footbridge, and took our seats reserved for special guests. The recently erected cairn had a Royal Purple cover over its plaque. A canopy-covered platform had been placed some fifty feet in front of the cairn. Two young maple trees, one on each side of the cairn, were in readiness for the Royal planting.

Soon many more people arrived. Colour parties took their places. Dignitaries came and were seated. . . . School children carrying hand flags, scout troupes, girl guides and brownies, militia personnel, bands in uniform, police, veterans decorated with medals, photographers, senior citizens, and many others came. All contributed colour and movement to the scene.

As we sat waiting the arrival of the Queen and her party, our thoughts reviewed the various historical events and places in this corner of old Cobourg, freshly brought to memory by the souvenir edition of the Cobourg Star newspaper. Here we were, deep in the Honorable James Cockburn Park, officially named in

Centennial Year of Canada's Confederation. To the north-west, the Golden Plough Lodge marks the site of the ancient Newcastle District capital and the former village of Amherst. In the same Direction, the modern United Counties building borders the park. Old names like Asa and Zaccheus Burnham, Sheriff Ruttan, William Weller, Sidney Smith, James Cockburn and others come to mind. Cobourg has had a very interesting historical past.

The new fresh, green park, with neatly trimmed lawns; the new steel bridge; the small new dam; the placid pond; and the gathering crowds fade out of one's physical vision. The mind's eye takes over, and the memory bank of some fifty-five years previous brings to the fore old scenes of my boyhood.

There comes to view an ancient pasture field filled with rank and high grass and tall weeds. An old wire fence borders William Street. Clumps of cedar and willow grow in the area between the street and the creek. A dense cedar grove was to the north-east. Tall willows screened the hillside across the creek. Downstream, one quarter of a mile distant, an old mill-dam held back the creek water. An ancient, A-frame truss, single-span, wooden bridge spanned the mill-pond on William Street. The quiet water backed up the two streams, giving depth at their junction. Here was the "old swimming hole". My father bathed here in his boyhood, back in the 1860's. Here, generation after generation of Cobourg boys learned how to swim. It was traditional to take the first dip of the season at this spot on the 24th of May, when Canada celebrated the old Queen's birthday. This was a very favourite place for Cobourg boys to enjoy the freshness of clean stream water. This is an historic spot, very dear to many old Cobourg boys, many that have long since passed on.

The old dam disappeared. The old wooden bridge is but a faint memory. The old pond is now a running brook. The deeper pool has been replaced with shallow water. A new steel foot-bridge spans the site of the old swimming hole.

On Wednesday, June 27, 1973, Her Royal Majesty, the radiant Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Mr. Edwin R. Haynes of Cobourg, followed by her husband, Prince Philip and Mrs. Haynes and other dignitaries, walked down the new path from William Street and crossed over the new steel bridge. In doing so, the Royal Couple passed over the "old swimming hole", a place of fond memory to many an old Cobourg boy.



*Victor W. Climo enjoying a "skinny dip" in the "old swimming hole"  
— June 30th, 1913.*



*Her Britannic Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, walks over the site of  
the "old swimming hole" accompanied by Mr. E. R. Haynes of Cobourg on Wednesday  
June 27th, 1973.*

### A Song of a Young Lad

When Pa was a little boy like me  
He used to go in swimmin', in swimmin', in swimmin'.  
He used to go 'way up the creek  
Where there was no fear of wimmin, of wimmin, of wimmin.  
One day  
Some people happened to pass that way  
And stole dear Pa's apparel, apparel, apparel.  
My Pa swam around in the water all day  
And at night went home in a barrel, in a barrel, in a barrel.  
POOR PA!



## **A History of Cobourg into the year 1850**

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# EARLY COBOURG

## Cover Story

Our cover design emblem has been chosen to represent the town's citizens of the first half of the Nineteenth Century. The early settlers, many of whom were United Empire Loyalists, preferred to live under the Union Jack. The influx of later immigrants, a fine mixture of English, Irish and Scottish folk, are represented in the Banner of St. George, the Banner of St. Patrick and the Banner of St. Andrew, all combined in the Union Jack.

## Arms of the Town of Cobourg Armorial Bearings

**The Arms:** The basic colour and principal charge on the Cobourg family of Saxony was blue with a white rose both of which are prominently featured here with two gold lions as are those to be found in the royal Arms of England. The chief is embattled to recall the town's military associations. Likewise the two black rings (annulets sable) gun barrels symbolise the town's close connection with the military. The Maple Leaf in the Centre Chief is of course symbolic of Canada.

**The Crest:** In consideration of Cobourg's early history, the rare and distinctive Crown palisado was granted in the Crest. The mound of green above the wavy white and blue lines signifying water alludes to the town's position on the edge of Lake Ontario. The stag is taken from that which is featured in the Arms thus again signifying Canada when the Crest is used separately from the Arms.

**The Badge:** It features the Canadian Maple Leaf, the Cobourg Rose and the Crown palisado from the Crest thus forming a most dignified device.

*Granted by the Kings of Arms,  
London, England, August 25, 1970*

