



# 365 Historical Facts

 Celebrate Our Local Heritage

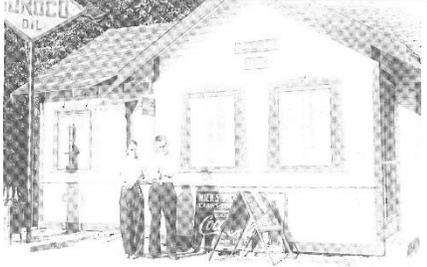


Township of  
**Leeds and the  
Thousand Islands**

June, 2017

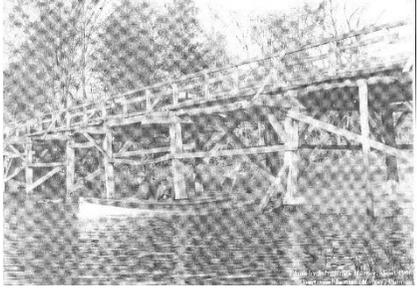
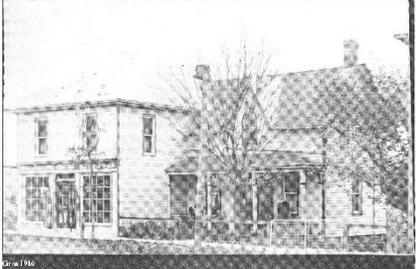
DATE	FACT	IMAGE
1	<p>Today in history in 1985, the Seeley's Bay Public Library was officially opened in its new location. The current property and library building was generously donated by Ralph and Helen Sweet and family. In January of 2001, the Seeley's Bay Branch became part of the Thousand Islands Public Library system.</p> <p>(Information collected from <a href="http://ltipl.net">ltipl.net</a>)</p>	
2	<p>Pictured is Halstead Bay before construction of the 1000 Islands Parkway. Today, the scenic parkway passes right over these islands with fill creating a roadway between them. Construction of the Parkway started in the late 1930s but the opening was delayed until after WW2. Originally designed to be a four-lane highway, today the north lanes left unfinished provide a great pathway for bicyclists.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Robert Burtch)</p>	
3	<p>Dedication of Union Cemetery. The Union Cemetery was established on 1834 on land donated by the Taylor family. It was originally called the Taylor Settlement Burial Grounds. The Memorial Gate was dedicated in 1934. Water was pumped through a pipeline from the caretaker's house at the corner of Union and Blue Mountain Road to fill the water tower in the background. This water was used on the grass. The cemetery is still active today.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	
4	<p>The Wilstead General Store was located at the northeast corner of Hwy. 2 and Cliffe Rd. The Groves Family operated the business in the 1950's. Hugh and Jill Dandy operated the store after that. It closed in the fall of 1974. The building caught fire and burned down in 1975. Pine needles had been used as insulation and this led to the swiftness of the fire.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Wilson House located on the south side of Hwy # 2 to the west of Cliffe Road. This house was built by Robert Wilson about 1849. Mr. Wilson came from Scotland and with his brother-in-law Hugh McCroan operated a blacksmith shop across the road on the north side of Hwy #2 at Cliffe Road. This intersection was known as McCroan's Corners.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Stephen Heaton)</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Angler's Inn, Grenadier Island. Joseph Senecal built this Inn in 1870, next to his farmhouse (to the left) on the north side of Grenadier Islands. Old Joe's place was a popular resort, which could accommodate 100 guests for a casual holiday. The Inn was also the Post Office for many years. Many steamers stopped at the wharf here. The Inn was a popular place in the days before the hustle bustle of the automobile. By the mid-1920s it was no longer popular and was soon torn down.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Parks Canada)</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Rideau Queen at Seeley's Bay Wharf. Built in Kingston in 1900 and operated by the Rideau Lakes Navigation Company, the Rideau Queen was one of a number of luxury passenger steamers that plied the Rideau Canal in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Norman Hartley)</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Mount Airy Hotel. The original building was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and destroyed by fire again in 1980. Today, the boat tours leave from Mount Airy in Ivy Lea just as they have for 70 years or more.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	

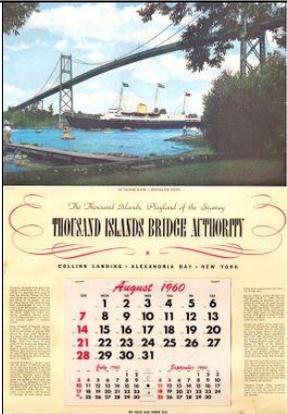
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>This is a picture of Earnest Poole (third from left) and his scow crew of Grenadier Island working in the Thousand Islands. Earnest Poole lived on Grenadier Islands and was involved with work on building the International Bridge and the St. Lawrence Seaway. A lot of sand and gravel was hauled from Grenadier Island for the construction.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of McAllister Collection)</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Wicks Pick Lodge, Singleton Lake was built in 1933 by Bill Shaw for Dr. Bert Wickware from Ottawa. It stood on the shore of Singleton Lake opposite the intersection of Ellisville Rd. and remains a summer residence. Besides the store and gas pump there were sleeping cabins along the road on either side of the lodge. It was a thriving fishing camp for American tourists run by Bill Shaw until 1937, when he purchased the Argyle Hotel, now Shawmere, on Red Horse Lake.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Betty Shaw)</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Ivy Lea Hotel. Originally built by Walter and Carrier Visger around 1911. Captain Visger ran the first boat tours of the Thousand Islands. This hotel was one of the last great Inn's on the Canadian side of the river.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Ivy Lea Hotel Tuy Lea, Ont.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>This stone chimney is all that remains of the lead mining and smelting establishment built in 1875 by the Canadian Lead Mining and Smelting Co.Ltd. The smelter and other buildings stood on the shore of the Gananoque River. It was an English company financed by shares sold on the London Market. They built a steam powered crusher and sluice, a smelting oven to which this chimney was attached, a saw mill, blacksmith shop, powder shed, stable, bunk house with bar, and a barge to carry ore to the smelter from a tunnel that came out on the river bank.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Joanne (Harvey) Putnam)</p>	

<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Today In History in 1878, the cornerstone for St. John’s Anglican Church in Lansdowne was laid by the Deputy Grand Master of the Free Masons. In 1877, the land was purchased from Alexander and Mary Cornett for \$25. The stone came from the Armstrong quarry and was cut in the “Bold Rock Front” style. St. John’s Anglican Church is the only building in the area to use this style. The cost of the building was \$3,000; however, additional land was purchased over the years to enlarge the church.</p> <p>(Information collected from <a href="http://tihinoricalsociety.org">tihinoricalsociety.org</a>. Image courtesy of the Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives)</p>	
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Glen House, Ivy Lea. The first building was built here in 1897 by the Shipman family. Wallace Shipman operated a boarding house. Fishermen used to row across from Clayton and Alexandria Bay as the fishing was better on this side of the river. They told Wallace if he would operate a fishing lodge they would fill it, and they did. The first registered guest was in 1927. Wallace’s son, Gerald and his wife Olive operated the resort for several years and then sold it in 1951. The Seal family acquired the resort in 1962. The original main lodge that you see here burned on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 1988.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Bill Boulton)</p>	
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Locust Grove Farm. This property was once a 200 acre clergy reserve which was purchased by Valentine Mitchell in 1822. Valentine unfortunately died on his way to claim the property. His son Robert and his wife Mary Alice settled on this land. They erected a rubble-stone house. After the completion of the Rideau Canal, highly trained Scottish stone masons came into the area. The front and side walls were covered in cut stone. The name Locust Grove was given because of the stand of ancient locust trees in front of this house.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	

<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>In 1896 John Randall and George Hawkins of Seeley's Bay bought the Maggie May and the barge Peruvian. The tug is typical of the type of vessel used to move barges carrying lumber and other materials on the Rideau Canal.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Norman Hartley)</p>	<p><small>Captain Randall's Steam Tug, Seeley's Bay, Ont. Courtesy of Mrs. Norman Hartley</small></p> 
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Dingman's Annex. This is the annex, which is part of the original resort complex west of Ivy Lea owned by the Shipman's and the Dingmans. This building dating from the 1890's burned in the early 2000s.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Parks Canada)</p>	
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Cutting Ice on the St. Lawrence near Grenadier Island. This was a major occupation in the wintertime before refrigeration. Up until the early 1960s every household and business depended on a good supply of ice. Every summer home on the river had its icehouse filled by the spring. Some of these structures can still be found on the islands. Local blacksmiths made most of the tools for ice cutting.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Bob Hunt)</p>	
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Dean's General Store and Post Office on Main Street in Seeley's Bay was operated by Henry Dean at the time of the photo and later by Ken Bolton. It was destroyed by fire in 1951 and is now the site of the Seeley's Bay Fire Hall. The large frame house to the east of the store was built by Wellington Willis in 1914; for many years Mr. Willis ran the Post Office which was located in Dean's store.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Eleanor Wyatt)</p>	<p><small>Courtesy of Elaine Wyatt</small></p> 
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>Picture is M.J King's Store in Ivy Lea. King's Landing at Swiftwater Point was built in 1897 by David Haig and Marcus J. King. They had been in partnership in a tinsmithing business in Lansdowne. Mr. King left the partnership and opened this cottage and confectionary store at Ivy Lea. Tour boats as you can see from the picture often stopped here over the years and Mr. Chas Landon was the customs officer.</p>	<p><small>M.J. King's Store, 1005 St. Lawrence St., Seeley's Bay, Ont.</small></p> 

	<p>It was a popular place for tour boats to stop during the American Prohibition. It is said that the supplies were kept hidden in 10 pound honey pails hung on nails in the beams.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Michael Ronan)</p>	
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>Ernest and Oscar Harvey from Lyndhurst, in their motorboat "Keoka", pass downstream under the old wooden bridge above Latimer's Rapids. The bridge, which spanned the Gananoque River between Lyndhurst Lake and Singleton Lake, was framed like a barn from hewn timbers held together with pegged tenon joints. In its last years is needed frequent repair, and a man was drowned while working to repair it. It was replaced with a steel bridge in 1913.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Joanne (Harvey) Putnam)</p>	
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>This picture depicts the annual Blessing of the Boats at Rockport in the 1970's. The blessing of the boats is an annual event in June established by St. Brendan's Catholic Church to commemorate St. Brendan, the patron saint of sailors. In the while hulled runabout to the right is an Andress boat built in Rockport with Elmer Andres in the centre of the boat.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Parks Canada)</p>	
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Sheppard's Sleeping Cabins. The store and cabins were located at County Road #2 and Reynolds Road. Note the sign on the store and the early gas pumps. Highway 2 then King's Highway does not appear to be paved.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	
<p><b>24</b></p>	<p>Pictured is a residence and store on Charles Street. This house, which appears to date from the 1860s or 70s, has had a commercial wing added about 1900. For many years it was a harness shop run by T.J. McConnell. It is now apartments.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	

<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>Ellisville Hockey Team – 1912. Left to right: Ernest Warren, Ford Thomas, Philly Leadbeater (referee), Del MacMillan, Orange Warren, Tom Slack, Wes Warren, Gordon Leadbeater.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Orange Warren)</p>	 <p><small>Ellisville Hockey Team, 1912 Courtesy of Orange Warren</small></p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Lansdowne Presbyterian Church. Located on King Street at the corner of Prince and King. Church of the Covenant was built in 1930 and was heavily subsidized by the prominent Darling family. It was built by the Presbyterians from Chalmers and Fairfax churches who didn't want to join the United Church of Canada.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	 <p><small>Courtesy of the Leeds and Thousand Islands Historical Society</small></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Pictured is the Stafford House. This Georgian stone house stood on the south side of Highway 42 near the junction of Black Church Road. IT was built in the 1820s by Cleveland Stafford who came to Soperton from Connecticut about 1813. As a wayside inn, it is believed to be the site of the capture of a band of robbers in 1832, which resulted in the shooting death of two of the culprits. This photo was taken in 1967 by an appraiser from the Department of Highways. The house was demolished that year to allow for the widening of Hwy. 42.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee courtesy of Ministry of Transport for Ontario, Eastern Regional Office, Kingston)</p>	 <p><small>The Stafford House Photo by the Ontario Department of Highways</small></p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>On this day in 1959, The Britannia with Queen Elizabeth on board, travelled up the St. Lawrence Seaway to Kingston. Local historian Bill Boulton, who worked on the Canadian toll, had the morning off and took pictures of the ship from a dock at the foot of the bridge. Bill later discovered that the photograph on the 1960 Bridge calendar, captured him (in a white shirt) on the end of the dock, taking pictures.</p> <p>(Information collected from <a href="http://www.ltihistoricalsociety.org/39SpringSummer2013.pdf">http://www.ltihistoricalsociety.org/39SpringSummer2013.pdf</a> and image courtesy of Bill Boulton/Brian Phillips)</p>	 <p><small>The Britannia June 28th, 1959 - Photo by Bill Boulton</small></p>

<p><b>28</b></p>		
<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Pictured is Neal's tile and brick yard circa 1900. Brick's had been manufactured in Seeley's Bay since 1864; in the early 1800s Thomas Moore opened a brickyard which operated until 1896 when it was sold to the Neal brothers of Athens who began to manufacture clay drainage tile and bricks.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee and image courtesy of Eleanor Wyatt)</p>	
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>This view, taken about 1890, shows the Niblock family in front of the old Niblock house on Sweets Corners Road. John Niblock bought the lot and moved here from his original location of Grippen Lake. His son David took over the farm and built the fine brick house in 1860.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee image courtesy of Helen Niblock)</p>	