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June | July 2018

**Pirates Invading the Port
of Gananoque in Time for Summer Fun**

**Making Memories: Sixty years of toys
and childhood treasures – 1930 to 1990**

10 Fun Things To Do This Summer

15 years and going strong – Johnstown ATV Club

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Cover Photo by
Lorraine Payette

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Uncle Buck's BBQ London Broil

Prep Time - 5 minutes ~ Cook Time - 18 minutes
Total Time - 4 hours 23 minutes

What you'll need for the Marinade:

- ¾ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 tsp. minced fresh ginger
- 2 tsp. brown sugar
- 1 2-2 ½ lb. London Broil (or some call it flank steak)

To Create:

- ➔ In a large bowl, whisk together all of the marinade ingredients until completely combined. Pour marinade into a large zip-top plastic bag. Add London Broil to the bag, squeeze out all of the air, and seal the bag. Toss gently to coat the London Broil with the marinade.
- ➔ Place in refrigerator to marinate for about 4 hours (or up to 2 days), tossing occasionally to redistribute marinade.
- ➔ Remove meat from the marinade, discard the marinade, and pat the meat dry.

To Grill:

Allow the meat to sit on the counter for about 15-20 minutes, to come to room temperature. Grill the meat for about 10 minutes per side, or until the internal temperature registers 125 to 130 degrees for medium-rare. Transfer meat to a cutting board and let stand 10 minutes. Cut meat diagonally across the grain into thin slices.

Oh, Canada Day Nanaimo Bar Cheesecake

Cook time – 40 minutes total time - 4 hours 10 minutes

What you'll need...

- 2 1/2 cups crushed chocolate cream-filled sandwich cookies (such as OREO® Cookies)
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 4 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup custard powder (such as Bird's® Custard Powder)
- 4 eggs
- 6 (1 ounce) squares semisweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

To Create....

- ➔ Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- ➔ Stir together the cookie crumbs, melted butter, pecans, and coconut in a bowl until the mixture is well combined. Press into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish and refrigerate while making filling.
- ➔ Beat cream cheese, sugar, and custard powder in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy, beat in eggs 1 at a time, beating each until fully blended before adding the next. Layer the filling over the crust.
- ➔ Bake in the preheated oven until the center is almost set, about 40 minutes. Refrigerate the cheesecake until fully cooled, at least 3 hours.
- ➔ Melt the semisweet chocolate in a saucepan over very low heat with the cream, stirring constantly, until the mixture is smooth and well blended. Pour the chocolate mixture over the cheesecake, spread with a spatula to cover the middle layer, and refrigerate until the topping is firm, about 15 to 20 minutes. Serve cold. Store leftovers in refrigerator.

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L-R Miss Periwinkle Swabbin', Capt'n Tor & Rusty Feathersword.
Submitted by the 1000 Islands Pirate Society



PIRATES INVADING THE PORT OF GANANOQUE IN TIME FOR SUMMER FUN

By Lorraine Payette

It's time to sharpen up the cutlasses, put on the tri-corns, and get ready to head to sea. Buccaneers are returning to Gananoque for the annual Pirate Invasion on July 7th and 8th.

"We are pleased to report that last year's success led us to be internationally recognized and voted the number one pirate festival in Canada (according to the magazine, L'Echo des Mers)," said Terri-Lynn Bayford, member of the 1000 Islands Pirate Society. "Our very own society has also been invited to represent Canada in France at the International Pirate Rendezvous."

From its humble beginnings in 2010 as Pirate Days, the event has gone through a variety of forms and changes. What had begun with a few balloons, a band, and a Jack Sparrow impressionist, had grown to a very large event involving a parade, several bands and entertainers, and a Jack Sparrow double brought in from California.

Unfortunately, it could not sustain its momentum, and was on the verge of financial collapse. In 2015 the decision was made to give the event a rest and see if it could be revived in 2017.

But Gananoque wasn't ready to give up its

pirates. Several people came together to form the original TI Pirate Society, reaching out to ask the community to help them revise and refine the event, trimming it back and compacting it to reduce costs but still keep all the fun of piracy.

They decided to band with a pirate theatrical troupe, Capt'n Tor and The Naer Do Well Cads Pirate Invasion, making Tor the chairman of their committee. Working together, they created a new version of pirates, calling it the Gananoque Pirate Invasion.

"This year's festival has been moved to Joel Stone Park due to the renovations to the Town Hall," said Bayford. "We have hired a horse-drawn trolley to transport visitors from the waterfront park to various stops in the downtown business area. Admission is \$2.00 for a Passport which gives attendees the opportunity to visit businesses, shop, get stamped & enter for a chance to win prizes.

The festival now includes a pirate encampment with vendors, concessionaires, and a variety of live entertainment such as music, games, and the chance to learn and hone assorted pirate skills. Event goers can enjoy storytelling and face painting, tug-o-

war and costume competitions, all aimed at giving them a swashbuckling good time.

Various fundraising events in the community are being hosted to help finance the event. They include a "Rock the Night" Fundraiser at the Royal Theatre on June 6th (4 local musicians, cocktails, silent auction, 50-50 draw); \$5 matinee of "Muppet Treasure Island" at 2:00 pm, Silver Cinema Theatre on June 16th (face-painting, music, and more – 345 Herbert Street, Gananoque); Divide and Plunder Donation Jars throughout town; a Local Business Treasure Hunt (passports are free with \$2 admission to the festival - great prizes for those that follow the map); a Sponsor/Donor Draw for prizes and a 50/50 Draw During the festival.

"We have more exciting news," said Bayford. "We are pleased to say we are expanding the French Quarter section, adding The Thirsty Kraken Pirate Pub & Collective Eatery & increasing vendor demonstrations. For a chance to see everything we have to offer, please check out our website at www.pirateinvasion.ca or visit our facebook page @GananoquePirateInvasion." To sign up as a vendor or volunteer contact Myrla Grant @ mirada_red@hotmail.com or call 613-382-2100. **LH**



*Out on the breakwater this lighthouse marks the way for passing boats big and small.
Photo Credit: Rob Chaffart*



*Donated by an early 20th century mayor this clock tower chimes out the hours at the corner of King and Centre Streets.
Photo Credit: Robert Erickson*

PRESCOTT ROAD TRIP

A Comfortable Blend of Culture and Casual for Visitors

By Lisa Crandall

Prescott, Ontario is much more than just The Fort Town, which is in reference to historic Fort Wellington, located right in the town. With a population of just under 4,000 people, it offers a comfortable blend of culture and casual, epitomized by the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival presenting unique adaptations of the bard in a cozy outdoor amphitheatre located beside the local marina.

When visitors come, there are many sights to be seen. Many of them found along County Road 2, which runs parallel to the St. Lawrence River, while running directly through Prescott west to east.

On the western edge of town is the Blue Church. Located at the corner of County Road 2 and Blue Church Road, it is a historic church known for its vibrant blue color, but perhaps better appreciated for its historical

graveyard. The church was built in 1826, burned down in 1840 and then rebuilt in 1845. It has one of the oldest functioning cemeteries in Ontario, serving the Anglican community. Because of its age, there are many interesting grave stones to be discovered for curious explorers.

Moving eastward along County Road 2, visitors will pass many iconic stone houses, large and small, indicative of the long history of the town.

Near the center of town, at the corner of King (County Road 2) and Centre Streets, stands The Clock Tower, presented to the town in 1927 by businessman and two-time mayor Louis Daniels and his wife Harriet. It was rebuilt in the 1980's, and most recently refurbished and rededicated in 2016. During the summer and fall the local farmers market takes place in the adjacent parking lot.

Just steps away, is the Forwards Museum, a tiny free museum housed in an historical building. There are many items that reflect life of the late 18th and 19th century. It also functions as a tourist information center.

From there it is just a brief walk downhill to Riverwalk Park, which features a unique play structure shaped like a pirate ship. There are also picnic tables and benches overlooking the water. From here visitors can embark upon a leisurely stroll along the waterfront. Waterfront Trail, crossing the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour and Marina (with 148 slips), along the breakwater and across the green space that ends near the local golf course. This stroll takes you past two different lighthouses. One is located along the pathway, which offers refreshments and souvenirs, a fundraiser run by the local Rotary Club. Further along you'll discover another lighthouse situated out on the breakwater.

As you continue your journey, you'll discover the Shakespeare Garden where the shade of the mature evergreens and spray of the fountain can offer respite from the heat of a summer day. There might even be some live entertainment taking place at the Rotary Pavilion, site of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival. This year's plays will be "As You Like It" and "The Taming of the Shrew", presented between July 13 - August 18.

A little further outside the village, just a quick drive to the east, visitors will discover the Windmill Lighthouse, which stands at the site of the historical battle known as the Battle of the Windmill, commemorating its 180th anniversary this year. Keep in mind they are only open Thursday through Monday.

The Kings Lock Craft Distillery, Windmill Brewery and Newport BBQ & Bakery are also located nearby. An easy place to stop for a bite to eat and a taste of hand crafted small batch beers and liquors.

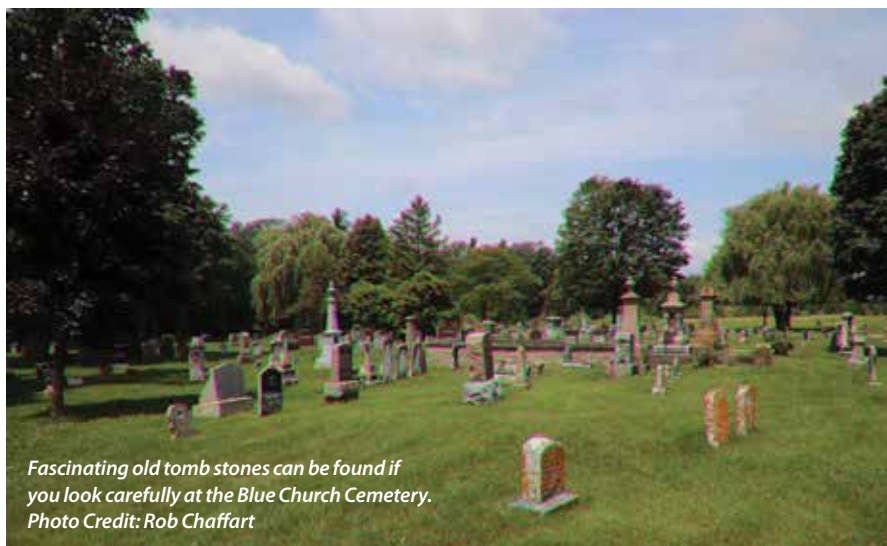
This is only a sampling of the things to explore while you visit Prescott. There are also a variety of events and festivals throughout the summer months. **LH**



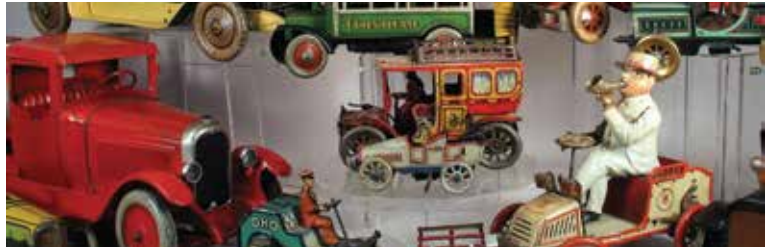
A tourist information center as well as a tiny museum about the shipping along the St. Lawrence.
Photo Credit: Robert Erickson



This pirate ship play structure at Riverwalk Park promises fun for all aboard.
Photo Credit: Robert Erickson



Fascinating old tomb stones can be found if you look carefully at the Blue Church Cemetery.
Photo Credit: Rob Chaffart



MAKING MEMORIES

Sixty years of toys and childhood treasures - 1930 to 1990

Special Contributor: Sandra Ketchum

A fascinating public exhibition in this area promises to bring back childhood memories for all of us who loved toys when we were children.

The Spencerville Mill Foundation is asking local residents and other interested people to open up their attics and long-forgotten toy boxes, hoping they are willing to share their vintage toys in a special display show that will take place at the historic Spencerville Mill from July 3rd to July 15th.

In part, this exhibit is a heartfelt tribute to the past. Before batteries, microchips and plastic creations of all kinds, toys were painstakingly handcrafted, simple and durable. They were also often individually made from materials at hand with colours and embellishments that suited a particular child

Visitors are invited to share the personal owner memories of much loved toys, trikes, board games, dolls and other amusements as you browse through these treasures from your childhood. Many will be homemade but some may capture the best of more commercial times when manufacturers produced intricate toys such as transformers that had their own captivating magic. And who could forget the global appeal of the world's most famous fashion doll "Barbie" when she first appeared in 1959? A bit later in

1970, one of the biggest blockbuster movies of all time exerted an even stronger force when characters from Star Wars flooded the market place much as toy soldiers, porcelain-faced dolls, spinning tops and teddy bears had appealed to previous generations.

A less glamorous doll appeared in 1983. By the end of the year almost 3 million of the Cabbage Patch toys had been "adopted" but the insatiable demand had not been met. The Cabbage Patch Kids are on record as the most successful new doll introduction in the history of the toy industry.

From the perspective of today, we can truly say that "toys were us" as companions and comforters. Most of us have never forgotten our favourites and, as this exhibit will show, many of us never let them go.

This "yesteryear" display will delight families and individuals of all age groups and bring back long-forgotten memories of the pleasure of play that now vintage toys and games contributed to our childhood.

The only sad note is that some of the treasures that we discarded or sold at garage sales now have considerable value. That hockey card or baseball signed by a famous player, that intricate hand-crafted train set, that now sought-after teddy bear or doll often appear on the Antiques Road Show TV series worth thousands of dollars – astonishing owners and viewers alike. Nevertheless, the memories are still worth treasuring.

Organizers of this event would be pleased to include your childhood gems in our exhibit and promise to treat them with care. Loaned items will be displayed for viewing only for the duration of the exhibit. **LH**

Editor's Note: Contributors' registration and drop off at the Spencerville Mill & Museum, 11 Water Street, will take place on Friday, June 22 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm and again on Saturday, June 23 from 10:00 am to noon. Toys can be picked up on July 16 and 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. See the Registration Form on the Mill website at: www.spencervillemill.ca/toys-of-yesteryear-exhibit. For more information call Sheila at 613 658-5290 Email: sfawcett@jcis.ca In keeping with retrospective entertainment, admission to the exhibit is only \$2. Children under 16 are free.



Dock photo by Stephen Wild



Top: 2 Pianos 4 Hands: Bryce Kulak and Max Roll.
(photo supplied by 1000 Island Playhouse)



Above: Prairie Nurse: The cast of Prairie Nurse (2018).
Photo by Joseph Michael.
(photo supplied by 1000 Island Playhouse)

THOUSAND ISLANDS PLAYHOUSE *Serving Up* Another Season of Great Theatre

By Lorraine Payette

Summer just wouldn't be summer without the Thousand Islands Playhouse, and Brett Christopher, general manager and artistic director, is ready to serve up another fantastic season for everyone to enjoy.

"The Thousand Islands Playhouse is the largest creator of theatre productions from Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto," he said. "In 2016, after a challenging financial year, I was approached to work with the company. My role was to investigate the processes that had been in place for 35 years and to ensure that we were actively pursuing the stated vision of the charitable organization. The idea of playing an active role in helping this integral company take flight was too good to pass up. It has been challenging at times but also incredibly rewarding."

Established in 1982, the Playhouse originally produced 4-5 shows a year in the former Canoe Club building. Over time it expanded and was renamed the Springer Theatre. Then in 2003, they also acquired the armories building next door and turned it into the Firehall Theatre.

"The Playhouse is responsible for touting live theatre across a large swath of Eastern Ontario," said Christopher. "It does this not just through its productions but also through the touring

Young Company that works with 50+ schools each year. Our educational and engagement programming allows people of all ages to see what is involved in making plays, and our production facility helps countless groups increase the capacity and quality of the plays that they are creating. The fact that we spend the time and resources to make the plays in Gananoque (sets, costumes, rehearsals, and so much more) cannot be undersold. These plays are specifically chosen and purposely built for the people of this region by people of this region. This is a professional yet homegrown theatre."

This year's line-up was carefully handpicked by Ashlie Corcoran as her farewell selections before she returned to Vancouver. The Playhouse is aiming at your funny bone by bringing six comedies and a musical to their line-up.

On tap for the season are "2 Pianos 4 Hands", a comedic classical music duel (May 24 – June 16, Springer); "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story", a rock and roll musical (June 22 – July 21, Springer); "Harvest", hilarity that hits close to home (July 6-29, Firehall); "The Canadian", a world premiere farce (July 27 – August 18); "Midsummer (A Play With Songs)", a dysfunctional rom-com (August 10 – September 2); "Prairie Nurse", a culture-

clashing comedy (August 24 – September 15, Springer); and "Shirley Valentine", a comedy about finding yourself (September 21 – October 14, Springer).

"Over the course of the preceding year, the Artistic Director will spend days reading plays, visiting other theatres, reading blogs and reviews, and talking to other theatre directors to find out what's out there," said Christopher. "All of the plays are chosen with a thought of who traditionally attends our theatre and what they like, ideas that are being discussed in society, and our organizational capacity to realistically produce a specific work. It's a wonderful and complicated web that eventually gets unveiled at our season launch in late September for the following year.

"Tickets are selling very quickly for some of the productions and there were quite a few sellouts last season. I would suggest buying early to make sure people get the dates and seats that they want for a specific show." **LH**

To learn more about this season's shows, ticket packages and prices, or to buy tickets please go to <http://www.1000islandsplayhouse.com/>.

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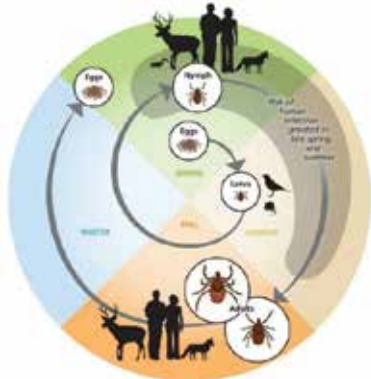
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L-R: The life cycle of the deer tick; Mosquito.Buzz Brockville keeping your yard clean can help reduce tick populations; Different life stages of deer ticks

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES FROM TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

By Lorraine Payette

Everyone knows it is always better to be safe than sorry, and you can make your summer fun and safer by avoiding Lyme disease.

“Reported increases in Blacklegged Tick populations, commonly referred to as ‘deer ticks’, which are responsible for carrying and transmitting the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, have been identified in our region,” said Chief Operating Officer Jordan Lavin, C.F.E. “This is a serious health risk for adults,

children and pets. We should all be aware and protect ourselves against the dangers.”

Ticks become active at temperatures above 4°C, and the deer tick is no exception. Known for carrying the spirochete bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* which causes Lyme disease, they are about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. The disease was first recognized in Lyme and Old Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975, and had originally been thought to be juvenile arthritis. Willy Burgdorfer, a researcher at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, confirmed it as a tick borne disease when he discovered the bacteria in deer ticks.

Lyme disease can have serious effects on people and pets. Symptoms can be varied, and may differ widely from person to person. A person may suffer from one or a combination of these symptoms: skin rash, dizziness, headache, abnormal heartbeat, fever or chills, muscle and joint pain, fatigue (constant extreme tiredness), paralysis, spasms

or weakness, mental confusion, numbness or tingling, nervous system disorders, or swollen lymph nodes.¹

Prevention of the disease is best accomplished by becoming aware of the ticks and knowing how to avoid being bitten by them. Recommended steps to help minimize their presence in and around your yard include mowing the grass frequently; removing leaf litter, brush and weeds at the edge of the lawn; restricting the use of groundcover in areas frequented by family and roaming pets; removing brush and leaves around stonewalls and wood piles; discouraging rodent activity; and cleaning up and sealing stonewalls and small openings around the home.²

Start a “buddy check” system for yourself and your family members for ticks when you come in from outside, and make sure to look everywhere on your body. Wearing light coloured clothing can make them easier to see, and a quick shower can help remove ticks that may not yet be attached to you. A hot dryer can quickly kill any ticks that may be on clothing that has been worn outside.

“It is important to know that not all ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease,” says the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit. “Lyme disease transmission depends on the length of time the infected tick is attached. Ticks that are removed quickly and have been attached for less than 24 hours are not likely to transfer the bacteria. However, if the tick has been attached for longer than 24 hours you may be at an increased risk and it is recommended that you consult your health care provider. If you find a tick on your body, check to see if it is flat or fat. A fat tick is an indication that it has been feeding for a longer period of time and you should provide this information to your health care provider.

“Tick specimens are not used for diagnosis of disease and are not accepted at our Health Unit.” **LH**

Editor’s Note: *This is a particular disease that for families and people that live in areas where ticks could fester it is the utmost importance to protect yourself. There are local companies that you can contact like Mosquito.Buzz Brockville (613-499-9476 www.mosquito.buzz/brockville) that can provide a quote and come and protect your backyard or cottage property from mosquitos to ticks. St. Lawrence Pest Control (613-246-3447 www.slpestcontrol.com) they can help with other insects or outdoor animals that invade your property.*

¹ From <https://www.mosquito.buzz/lyme-disease> ² From <https://www.mosquito.buzz/tick-management>



L-R: The interior of Hanson Chapel holds many articles that have been donated in memory of various local family members. Charleston's Hanson Chapel continues to be the site for worship on Sunday evenings each summer. (Pictures courtesy of Athens Historical Society)

CHARLESTON'S HANSON CHURCH: Preserved by Community Spirit and Vision

by Sally Smid

Summertime at Charleston Lake has always meant the opening of the iconic Hanson Memorial Chapel, also affectionately known by many as "The Little White Church on the Hill". The church was constructed in the late 1920s by Mrs. Walter Hansen in honour of her late husband. The wealthy Hansen family of New York first came to the Lake in 1889 during what was referred to by many as the beginning of "The Golden Age" for the area. They had a cottage constructed on the south end of Long Island and were among the first Americans to build on the Lake. It was a time when the Charleston Lake was being discovered as a beautiful tourist destination. Mr. Hanson was very active in local affairs and was involved in getting the lake stocked and also helped in building the village dock. Historian Edna Chant tells about him owning a fine horse and carriage and a "powerful motor car". She also recalled his expertise in handling one of the best sailboats on the lake named the St. Lawrence. He organized the early regattas,

donating the silver cups and prizes. He built a large cottage on Derbyshire Point in 1911.

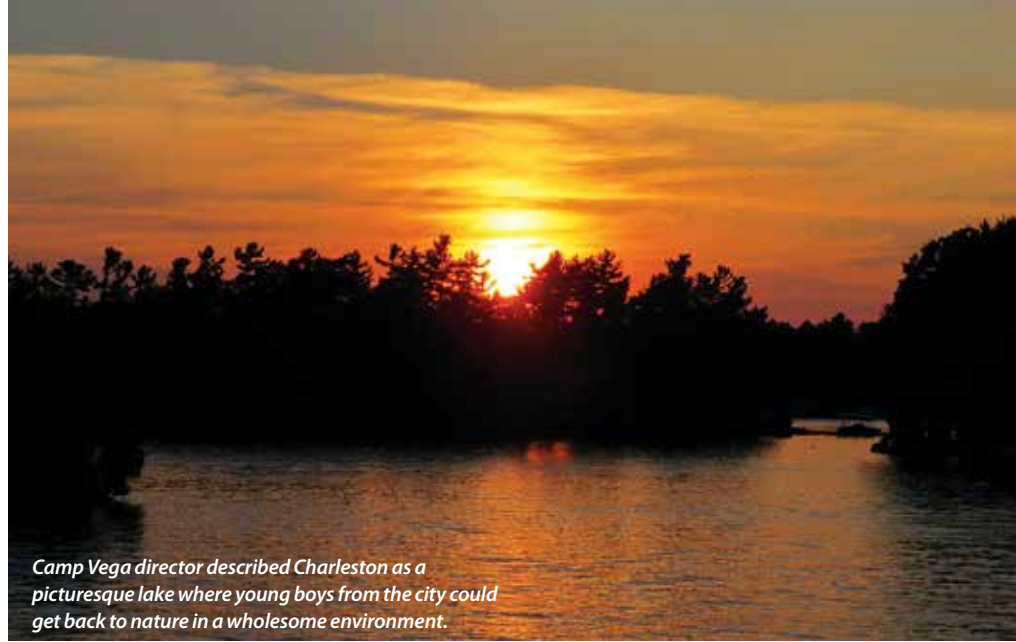
Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to really enjoy it, as he died in a tragic accident in New York the following year. His widow and her son, Walter L. Hanson, continued to visit Charleston for many years and their large cottage was often filled with guests each season. There are reports of the lavish parties that she hosted. In the late 20's, Mrs. Hanson decided to give her beloved community the gift of a fully furnished church in memory of her late husband. In 1930, she donated the bell for the tower, which is still operable and can be heard for miles around. In 1933, she had the church redecorated and on July 23rd of that year at 3 pm the church was dedicated with a full congregation. This turned out to be Mrs. Hanson's last trip to Charleston. Services took place for many years and there was even a Sunday School.

It continues to be a nondenominational place of worship each Sunday evening in the summer months. A variety of ministers help in conducting the services. The chapel has been the site of a variety of funerals, weddings and baptisms over the years. While it was not used for a period and did fall into some disrepair, a group of dedicated volunteers rallied together and took on the administration and maintenance of the building. There have been a variety of in-memorial donations made, including various stained-glass windows. Trustees of the historic chapel have concerns about sufficient funds being available to maintain this very special piece of Charleston's heritage. "Many monetary contributions and donated labour over the years have allowed the church to continue in operation," declared committee member Flo Fraser. There are a lot of operating costs including insurance, lawn and building maintenance, painting, minister fees and more, which are not always realized. Despite offerings, bake sales, donations, and other fund raisers, the group struggles to meet expenses. The trustees are considering other ways for funds to be raised. They welcome rentals of the church for use as a venue for weddings, baptisms, renewal of marriage vows or more. It has a seating capacity of about 70, but without heating can only be used seasonally. The quaint chapel has a wonderful rural setting and overlooks Charleston Lake. **LH**

The historic chapel holds many valuable memories and the trustees hope that it can continue to be a place of community worship for many more years to come. The group welcomes inquiries by emailing charlestonslittlewhitechurch@gmail.com Donations may be sent to Box 22 Athens, Ontario. KOE 1B0



A Camp Vega counsellor, in shirt and tie, heads across Charleston Lake with a crew of campers, before the age of life jacket or boating rules. Other campers follow behind. (Picture courtesy of Athens Historical Society)



Camp Vega director described Charleston as a picturesque lake where young boys from the city could get back to nature in a wholesome environment.

CHARLESTON'S CAMP VEGA, A Haven for Wealthy American Kids

By Sally Smid

The aim of Camp Vega on Charleston Lake was to not only give campers a happy vacation, but a place where counsellors could be "sterling examples and instill into lads, the highest standards of manliness, fair play and sportsmanship". The Camp was built in 1918 by American W. J. Hazel on Green Island at Webster's Bay. He employed local help, giving Charleston men some welcome work. Hazel's venture was based on his belief in the necessity of "getting in touch with the soil" and he sought to attract boys from urban areas, mostly New York. "If our boys are not exposed to nature, they will lose their vigour and moral stamina and fall a readier victim to the throttling cares and devitalizing tendencies that are the result of our crowded city life," he warned.

The camp was also intended to provide "clean companionship, a wholesome environment, and inspiring leadership to mould the ideals and character of a growing boy" which would not be so possible for their parents to provide. The costly experience was promoted as "a wise investment in a lad's future".

Camp Vega's staff included a doctor, nurse, and counsellors, many of whom were

graduates of Yale, Princeton and Harvard. There were 60 -75 boys in attendance for each session. The camp included 22 permanent buildings including the Main Lodge with a large fireplace and an extensive library. This is where "stunt nights" and theatre events took place. It connected to a spacious dining hall where "Ralph", one of the "finest camp chefs in America", and his staff provided abundant and appetizing cuisine. There were also a variety of screened bungalows to house the campers as well as docks, boats, shops, a baseball field and tennis and volley ball courts. Swimming took place off the point of the island. Horseback riding was also offered and the horses were stabled at the Harbourview Hotel. It was noted that in one-week campers had caught 98 pounds of fish. There was quite a strict daily schedule that was followed, beginning before 7 am. The program also included overnight camping trips. There were a variety of trophies that were awarded to worthy recipients each session.

Locals recall seeing campers wearing grey uniforms and caps labelled with Camp Vega. The Camp put on a regatta each year and also provided entertainment at the Athens Town Hall. Many locals noted that campers were courteous and respectful and that

they appeared to be quite well off as they always seemed to have lots of spending money which contributed to the local economy. Furthermore, parents who came to visit stayed at the local hotels. Fathers were invited to stay in September after the camp season ended. "Haven't you men folks ever longed for a real Man's Vacation?" the director promoted. "Where you could get away from the women-folks (GodBless'Em) and go around in your old clothes without being told to go and dress for dinner...or have a cigarette in bed when you wanted to?" It seemed to be an attempt to increase income for Vega.

The Camp was sold in 1930 to a Miss Witherell of Rochester, New York. She arrived with 40 girls that summer. The girls were mostly confined to the island but did go on hikes and took canoe and motor boat trips. Later her brother, Dr. Fred Witherell, took over the island and lived there for several years. It is now owned by cottagers.

A lot has changed over a hundred years, but it is clear that cottagers and tourists still come to the Charleston Lake to enjoy the beautiful surroundings away from the rigours of daily life for perhaps many of the same motives that founded Camp Vega. **LH**



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10 FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

By Jonathan Vickers

Here are some things you and your family can do in and around the area for FREE or a small admission charge this summer.

- 10 RCMP Musical Ride Fort Wellington**
Prescott, ON. - Wednesday July 4th Parks Canada is proud to offer Free Admission with a full day of activities for the whole family. A Canadian tradition since 1876. A troop of 32 scarlet coated "Mounties" on majestic black horses presents a show of intricate figures and cavalry drills of 30 minutes choreographed to music. For more information, contact the site between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 613-925-2896.
- 9 Straw-Bear-y Festival** - Canada Day Celebration, all weekend long at Hardy Park Brockville, ON. No admission fees. Saturday offers a huge vendor village/ face painting/ silent auction and BBQ. Sunday (Canada Day) you will find the usual fun for the kiddies, with the teddy bear hospital and adoption centre, games and much more. So come out and enjoy our city park along the beautiful St. Lawrence River just west of Tall Ships Landing. This is the event that brings strawberries and teddy bears together each year.
- 8 Summer Concert Series Prescott** - Starting Sunday June 24th @7pm-9pm each Sunday, until Late August. Check out the various FREE musical acts for the whole family, at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre in Prescott, ON.

- 7 The Garden Trail** - This is a mix of fourteen private and public gardens with garden centre displays that connect to make up the Garden Trail throughout Leeds Grenville. The trail features many unique gardens that feature perennials, shrubs, trees and food production. Specialty beds include shade, sun, bog, woodland, scree and pollinator gardens. Added experiences include native butterflies, honeybees and birds, monarch butterfly way stations, fountains, ponds, contemporary art exhibits and statuary.
Hours and contacts vary per garden see <https://discover.leedsgrenville.com/en/see-do/garden-trail.aspx> for details.
- 6 Visit or have a Yard Sale this Summer** - There's nothing like having a yard sale to clear out the clutter, or visit one in one of our various communities, to find that special bargain. Imagine what you can do with just \$20 to spend for the day! Some communities have just one day or weekend that the whole town holds sales. There are also other areas that have a lot going on in June and part of July weekends for sales as well.
- 5 Have a picnic with your family or date** - There are a lot of "Hidden Gems" in our area to hold a picnic with your family or with that special someone, from Hardy Park or Blockhouse Island in Brockville to

The Shakespeare Gardens in Prescott on the harbor front. Check out the Galop Canal in Iroquois and watch the ships on the Seaway come through.

Seeleys Bay offers a new paddling station where visitors can easily enter and exit the water. There is a community park with a playground and picnic tables. Secure your belongings in the paddling lockers and take a walk into the village. Visit Lyndhurst which is the home to the oldest bridge in existence in Ontario. The stone masonry constructed three span bridge, built in 1856-57, is still in regular use today. A park is nearby where you can enjoy a picnic and stroll the town.

Joel Stone Park in Gananoque provides an excellent view of the St. Lawrence and some of its famous islands. Bring your bathing suit and a picnic lunch, an umbrella to shade from the sun and enjoy a dip in the river at the Joel Stone Beach. A great way to spend a warm summer afternoon.

- 4 Check out the Murals in Athens On.** and visit the Athens and Area Museum and Heritage Society. Preserving and promoting the heritage of Athens Township is the mandate of the Athens and Area Heritage Society. AAHS is a committee of the municipality that maintains a one room museum in the Athens Lions Hall at the corner of Henry and Wellington St.
- 3 BBQ for the whole family** - Celebrate Canada Day or just any weekend in the summer with a good ole' fashioned family BBQ. At the end of the day its "Family that Matters!"
- 2 Pirate Invasion Gananoque** - Joel Stone Park July 7th & 8th. (passports are free with \$2 admission to the festival - great prizes for those that follow the map); a Sponsor/Donor Draw for prizes and a 50/50 Draw. During the festival, visit Downtown Businesses for a treasure hunt. Visit the website www.pirateinvasion.ca or visit our facebook page for details and events.
- 1 Brockville Railway Tunnel** - Canada's First Railway Tunnel is a must-see for families visiting Brockville. The tunnel was completed in 1860 and was recently re-opened in August of 2017. The walk through the accessible tunnel is 1.5km each way and is a great free activity for the family to discover. www.brockvillerrailwaytunnel.com for details.



Clockwise: Photo by: Mitch Roy JATV Fall Fun Run 2016; Photo by: Robert Brown "volunteers from the JATV re-decking a trail bridge over the Nation River just north of Weir Road; Photo by Blake Gamble "JATV Fall Fun Run 2016"

ATV RIDING

Four wheels, fresh air and local trails

By Lisa Crandall

The growing membership of the Johnstown ATV (JATV) Club is proof positive that Canadians are very fond of ATV riding. Incorporated in 2003 current membership in the club stands at 150 members, appropriate since they are celebrating their 15th year in 2018.

In the mid-1960's rugged, noisy three wheeled vehicles, designed for a single rider, recognizably synonymous with the modern ATV, started to become very popular. They eventually evolved into the four wheeled version that is so common today, the go-anywhere vehicle of choice for adventurous wilderness explorers, both young and old.

The JATVC meets on the second Saturday of every month at Angelo's Restaurant inside the Husky Truck Stop, on County Road #44,

where the 401 meets the 416. The truck stop is accessible from the 401 at exit 721. After the regular business of club administration is concluded, the group often heads out for a ride, even in the winter.

The local trail system extends from the Husky Truck Stop near Johnstown to Merrickville and consists of approximately 300 kilometers of trails. The trails include something for everyone, from hardwood forests, to cedar swamps and sand dunes, including especially muddy sections if that's the challenge you are after. There are two bridges that cross the Nation River and a purpose built tunnel under Highway 416. The trails are open all year, with the exception of the local deer hunting rifle season and the obligatory "spring thaw" period.

The JATV club is one of 18 associated chapters of the Ontario Federation of ATV Clubs (OFATV) and is one of the 6 clubs in the OFATV's District #1. The function of the JATVC is essentially as an educator for riders and as a public relations ambassador for the sport at large. The local and provincial ATV organizations work with municipalities to adjust local bylaws to accommodate riders, as well, they work with local land

owners to open up new trails. Part of the incentive to landowners is that the OFATV, through the local clubs, provides liability insurance for the landowner. This only allows riders who are official members of an affiliate ATV club access to these trails.

According to club President Pat Marceau, equally important advantages of being a member of the JATVC are the camaraderie of getting to know other riders through various club hosted events, the availability of advice to beginners about safety, equipment maintenance and the buying and selling of machines, and discounts with local businesses. Becoming a member of JATVC also allows you to ride on any other OFATV club trails throughout Ontario, as well as taking advantage of reciprocal agreements with the ATV clubs under the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance. In addition, you can now use your yearly OFATV pass to ride any of the New Brunswick ATV Club trails.

The JATVC organizes three big group rides each year. Two of the rides function as fundraisers for the local club and the third, scheduled for June 24th this year, is designated as a special fundraiser for local charities. One of these charities being "Connect Youth" (www.connectyouth.ca), a local charity program that connects youth with appropriate services and programs to help them adjust during difficult periods in their lives. The money raised during the two seasonal fundraisers goes to help pay for trail maintenance. These fundraising rides are family outings and can include as many as 100 riders. There is a group BBQ at the end of the day, complete with prizes, supplied by local sponsors. **LH**

Editor's Note: Information about the upcoming ride for charity, as well as club news and trail maps can be found at the JATV website <http://johnstownatvclub.org/>. Annual memberships cost \$150 (individual), with family group discounts available. Day passes are also available at a cost of \$20 per vehicle.



Artist rendering of the plans for Riverside Park, created by Mary Moore of Cedar Lane Studio. Supplied by Riverside Park Committee

FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR SPENCERVILLE'S RIVERSIDE PARK IN 2018

By Lisa Crandall

Around this time last year, plans for the redevelopment of Riverside Park, situated next to the Nation River near the Spencerville Mill, were at a very early planning stage. Spencerville Business and Community Connections initially proposed it to the Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Council, envisioning it as a welcoming information area for visitors. Town council indicated their support and an anticipated three year fund raising effort was in the planning stages. When the concept turned into a proposal submitted to the National Trust for Canada, "This Place Matters" crowdfunding competition in the Small Projects Category, the Mill Foundation came on board as an active partner. From that point on it was an enthusiastic all hands on deck push to raise money and votes, and in the end the Spencerville project came out on top.

National Trust for Canada is a national charity that inspires, and leads to action, to save places that matter. Launched in 2015, the This Place Matters campaign supports a wide range of projects in Canadian communities by offering a cash prize to local organizations that "win" by meeting a combination of a fundraising target and garnering online votes. The competition

serves to energize local community groups by raising the profile of efforts to save, restore, beautify or preserve hidden gems across Canada. The entrants are required to submit a video outlining their hopes and plans. Then, during the month-long contest period, their video becomes the backbone of their fundraising efforts and a feverish social media campaign to achieve enough votes to win the popularity contest is launched.

The Riverside Park project beat out twenty-five competitors from various parts of Canada. Now, in the coming months we will see a strong push to get the project underway and finished by the end of the year (a requirement of the competition). The local committee raised \$25,000. That will be combined with the \$30,000 prize to completely re-create a neglected and under-utilized area of green space known as Riverside Park, situated near The Spencerville Mill. In addition, the town council has committed to \$20,000 worth of infrastructure work, covering parking spaces and curbs.

The re-imagined park will include a pergola big enough to shelter several picnic tables from rain and sun, a fishing dock designed to stay in place

year-round, a groomed walkway along the river, featuring a rock garden, as well as native trees and shrubs. There will also be a rustic play area made with natural materials. Park benches will be in place for some relaxation, recycling bins for refuse, and an Information Kiosk highlighting Spencerville businesses and other attractions. Interpretative Panels outlining the significance of the South Nation River will be featured. It is intended to function as a welcoming rest stop for community members and visitors alike.

According to Sheila Fawcett, spokesperson for the project, a considerable amount of work took place behind the scenes over the course of the winter. The original design was revised to include a cantilevered dock that will be fully accessible and remain in place year-round. A test hole was dug on site to determine depth of topsoil. Formal architectural drawings for the pavilion and cantilevered dock were created and are currently awaiting final approval from an engineering firm. When that approval has been secured it will be time to apply to Edwardsburgh/Cardinal township and South Nation Conservation Authority for building permits. The group anticipates shovels in the ground before the end of June. **LH**



Entrance View on Jessie Street

FACELIFT BRINGS TLTI COMMUNITY BUILDING INTO THE FUTURE

By Lorraine Payette

In the 1970s, Lansdowne was a flurry of activity as they put up their brand new, all inclusive Community Building on Jessie Street in what would later become the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands. This building would be the centre of the village and house the library, meeting rooms, and even a large open space downstairs, where all kinds of events could be held when it wasn't being used as a gym. Bring on the charity events, the club dinners, special events and occasions – everyone would have a great central location to go to, a place that could serve every need.

As time moved on, however, the facility started showing its age. The changes were subtle, but they were there, and people started looking for ways to improve this great community focal point.

“Our community needs have grown and changed,” said Kim Goodman, Manager of Recreation and Community Partnerships. “There is more demand for space whether for meetings or leisure programming. In addition, the Township wants to ensure that it is providing a safe and accessible space for its residents, and the proposed renovations will ensure current code is being met. The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands is proposing a major update to the Lansdowne Community Hall; this will include renovations to increase the library footprint, offer a range of community rooms and meeting spaces, house our archives and new gym space for fitness and recreational-based programming.”

Shoalts and Zaback Architects Ltd. of Kingston have been trusted with the final redesign and renovation plans. The project has been very

Carefully studied with every aspect taken into consideration – cost, location, materials, use. Rather than replace the building, it will be enhanced, and great things are on the horizon. The firm was consulted in 2017, and different community members and facilitators worked with staff to help develop the ideal concept for the building.

“The community can expect to have a new, welcoming facility,” said Goodman. “It allows the library to double in size, which will support new resources and opportunities, such as business supports, a lounge area, enhanced programming and more. By moving Archives to a more central location, they will be accessible to more residents and visitors. Increased meeting space is necessary as we are often dealing with scheduling challenges to accommodate our current users. And a new recreation space will allow the Township to accommodate a range of new and existing programs.”

This project has been in the works since studies started in 2016. Expected to cost \$10.5 million, funding is coming in from a variety of sources.

“Council has allocated some capital funds toward this project, the majority of funds will come from upper levels of government (in the form of grants) and through community fundraising,” said Goodman.

In the end, the building will be new and accommodating while remaining comfortable and familiar. Updates will give it a more polished look and feel, while keeping everything in its original setting and location.

It is expected that with the renovations and improvements, as well its close proximity to features such as the water park, community garden, and the Lansdowne Fair Grounds, the community building will once again become the vibrant centre of the village, filled with activities and attractions for all residents of the Township. **LH**

Editor's Note: In small rural communities a community center now, more than ever, remains a hub and need for the residents. As more and more services are cut to residents and even banks are closing in small communities forcing some residents to travel to other towns or cities for the services they truly need. By having an updated community center in Lansdowne with the potential to provide “one stop” services to residents such as Library, Archives, Meeting space for business or non-profit groups and an ever-growing need for recreation programs and much more will help retain residents to live in the community and attract newcomers as well.

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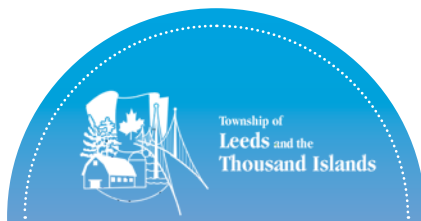
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A WORLD PREMIERE FARCE

BY JASON HALL

A small-town waterfront resort is threatened by overdue bank loans and a condo developer looking to build on the site. Just then, an eccentric Hollywood writer storms into town with a list of demands and the cash that might just save the business.

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