

First Historic Queensborough Day on September 7, 2014

(August 20, 2014 – Tweed, Ontario) The historic hamlet of Queensborough, located in the municipality of Tweed, Hastings County, is hosting Historic Queensborough Day on Sunday, September 7, 2014.

Queensborough is located north of Highway 7, about 20 kilometres north-west from Tweed, ON and boasts numerous century homes.

There are multiple activities for visitors to the small hamlet during the day. Including:

- The unveiling of new historical and street signs at River Park,
- Historical horse and wagon tours will begin at 1:00 pm and run until 4:00 pm,
- Displays inside the One Room Schoolhouse, which is currently Queensborough Community Centre, and
- Garden tours at the MacNeil Home (1861 Queensborough Rd.) and the Stanbra Home (2225 Queensborough Rd.) beginning at 1:00 pm and running all day.

Visitors are encouraged to take walking or driving tours of Queensborough and enjoy a BBQ lunch at the Queensborough Community Centre. All proceeds raised from the BBQ will go towards the preservation and sharing of the hamlet's unique history.

The Historic Queensborough guide will also be available for sale. Now in its second printing, the book is a record of the many historical homes and farms of the hamlet. The book costs \$3.

For more information, please contact Katherine Sedgwick at 613-473-2110.

A Brief History of Queensborough

The region that is now Queensborough began as a small Ojibwa village. In the 1830's Miles Riggs, seeking new opportunities, thought the Native site would be perfect to supply waterpower for his sawmill, and shortly after a flour mill. In about 1850, Daniel Thompson bought the flour mill and renamed the settlement Queensborough. Settlers rapidly increased and by 1954 the village boasted 14 streets and 231 lots. Sir John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, actually owned 11 of these lots.

About a century ago, Queensborough had become a vibrant community. It had a population of over 300 with a bustling business center: four general stores, bakery, cheese factory, two tailors, shoemaker, five blacksmiths, two doctors, two hotels, a carriage maker and a sawmill, grist mill and a flour mill. The village was centered around an astonishing four churches.

In 1903, when the Bay of Quinte Railway extended its line through Queensborough, it opened the possibilities of mining. From 1903 to 1935, the small town prospered with several mines that extracted gold, silver, iron and copper. In 1935 the decision to close the railway line led to the closure of the mines.

Queensborough Today

Queensborough is known as a white water paddling destination and participates in the Annual Marmora and Area Canoe and Kayak Festival (MAKfest). The hamlet was recently awarded a plaque by Whitewater Ontario for their ongoing and outstanding support and hospitality for those who kayak through the area. Locals offer their own land along the Black River to allow kayakers access to land, as well as serve baked goods to paddlers who are passing through.

The Old Schoolhouse of Queensborough has been restored as a Community Centre that hosts dances, dinners, summer drop in programs for youth, and much more. For more information about Queensborough and current events please visit queensborough.ca.