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Darko Zeljkovic photo

Flowing south toward the Bay of Quinte, the Trent River passes the town of Frankford and the eastern end of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The thin line of trees on the east side of the river marks the Trent-Severn Waterway which stretches 386 kilometres from the Bay of Quinte to Georgian Bay. A power station is visible in the middle foreground. In the distance lies Trenton, the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario. The Trent, the longest river in Southern Ontario, is 302 kilometres long and drains 12,400 square kilometres.

18. Eagle's Nest. This high rock outcropping just north of Bancroft provides a panoramic view of the York River as it meanders through its valley on the way to joining the Madawaska.

19. York River. Now a recreational river for kayaking and canoeing, the York was once a water highway for lumbermen moving their logs to the Madawaska and then the Ottawa rivers.

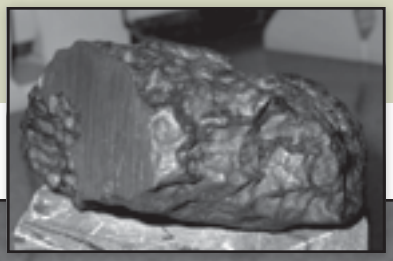
20. Baptiste Lake. This large recreational lake northwest of Bancroft was formed when lumber companies drowned a chain of lakes by constructing a dam at High Falls.
21. High Falls. The dam at High Falls regulates the water level on Baptiste Lake and helps prevent flooding downstream.

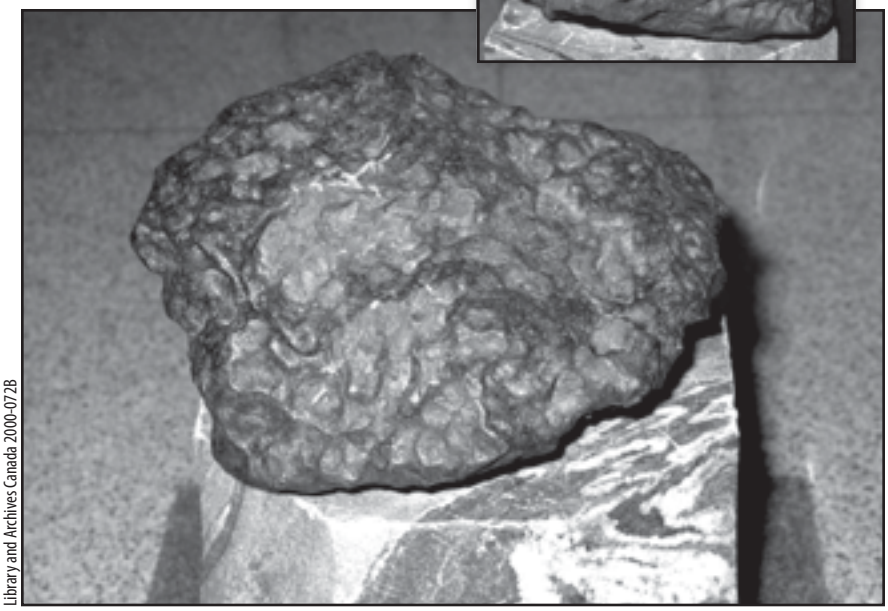
22. Egan Chute. The Egan Chute area on Highway 28 east of Bancroft has recently been designated as a provincial park although it remains undeveloped in a completely natural state. The York River crashes through its steep rock sides with a thundering roar. Corundum can be found in occurrences along both sides of the trail leading north to the chute.

23. Elzevir peatlands. At 2,468 hectares, this is one of the largest mostly continuous peatlands in southern Ontario. This area has a collection of low ridges that poke through a flat wetland system. There are bog-rimmed ponds and lakeshores, open grassy bog mats, kettle bogs and shrubby heathlands. (*Source: www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com*)

24. Conroy Marsh. Located at the confluence of the York and Madawaska Rivers near the Combermere-Palmer Rapids area, this large provincially significant wetland is the largest marsh complex in the area. The wetland, swamp thickets, flooded swamps, black-spruce and cedar bog forests lie within a wide valley. The aquatic habitats, known for their duck production, include wild rice stands, cat-tail marsh and grassy meadow marshes. (*Source: www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com*)

The Madoc Meteorite





Library and Archives Canada 2000-072B

One of the largest and heaviest meteorites ever found in Canada was discovered in 1854 near Madoc. The exact location of its find is unknown, as is its finder, but it is known to have landed in the southwest corner of Madoc Township, just west of the town. When discovered, the Madoc Meteorite weighed 167.8 kilograms. As the result of fragments being sliced off for research purposes, the meteorite today weighs 156 kilograms. The only larger meteorites found in Canada were at Bruderheim, Alberta, (303 kilograms) and Iron Creek, Alberta. (175 kilograms).

The Madoc Meteorite was acquired by the Geological Survey of Canada in 1855 and immediately went on tour to an exposition in Paris, France. It was the first meteorite acquired for the national meteorite collection. The Geological Survey of Canada office in Ottawa is the main home of the Madoc Meteorite. However, it periodically goes travelling and has been on display at the Planétarium de Montréal, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Canadian Museum of Nature.

The iron meteorite is thought to have spent a long time on the ground before discovery because it is covered with a film of oxidation and the first few centimetres below its surface have been altered by the earth's atmosphere.

The largest meteorite ever found weighs about 60 metric tonnes and fell at Hoba West, a farm near Grootfontein, Namibia.

Earthquakes Rare in Hastings

Hastings County, like much of Eastern Canada, is located in a stable earthquake zone. Most of the world's earthquakes occur along the edges of the continental tectonic plates, thousands of kilometres away. Eastern Canada is located within the North American Plate and, as a consequence, has a relatively low rate of earthquake activity. Earthquakes in Eastern Canada seem to be related to regional stress fields. Yet large and damaging earthquakes have occurred here in the past and will inevitably occur in the future.

One of these earthquakes struck the Cornwall area on September 5, 1944, measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale. Building walls cracked, brickwork tumbled and about 2,000 chimneys were damaged in Cornwall. The tremors were felt several hundred kilometres away, as far west as Lake Erie and as far south as Boston. Minor earthquakes are common in the Ottawa Valley, the St. Lawrence River Valley and Western Quebec. A fault line under Lake Ontario running from the Niagara area to Pickering, site of a nuclear power plant, also produces minor earthquakes.

The stability of a region does not rule out the possibility of a large earthquake. Each year, approximately 300 earthquakes occur in eastern Canada. Of this number, perhaps four will exceed magnitude 4, 30 will exceed magnitude 3, and about 15 will be reported felt by humans. In any given decade, three earthquakes of greater than magnitude 5 will occur. A magnitude 3 event is sufficiently strong to be felt in the immediate area, and a magnitude 5 event is generally the threshold of damage. Few humans will hear or feel earthquakes under magnitude 3.

Earthquakes along fault lines are caused when one level of rock suddenly slips past another as pressure builds up. This is an ongoing process at the edges of tectonic plates but within the plates the slippage may not occur for thousands of years. Hence there is no record of earthquakes for reference. The recurrence rate of big earthquakes on intracontinental faults may be as much as 2,000 years but the historical record goes back only 400 years.

Sources: Natural Resources Canada, www.space.com, www.cbc.ca.

The Sea on the Hilltop

Centre Hastings has the driest beach in Hastings County. There's no water and the lake that created it receded thousands of years ago.

The top of Pancake Hill near West Huntingdon is a piece of shoreline of old Lake Iroquois, the larger forerunner of Lake Ontario, which formed as the glaciers receded. The hills in the area are drumlins, shaped by glacial movement, and are generally composed of clay and rocks. Pancake Hill, however, is covered with a layer of sand, gravel and boulders which have been rounded by wave action. These are indicators that this area was a beach of Lake Iroquois.

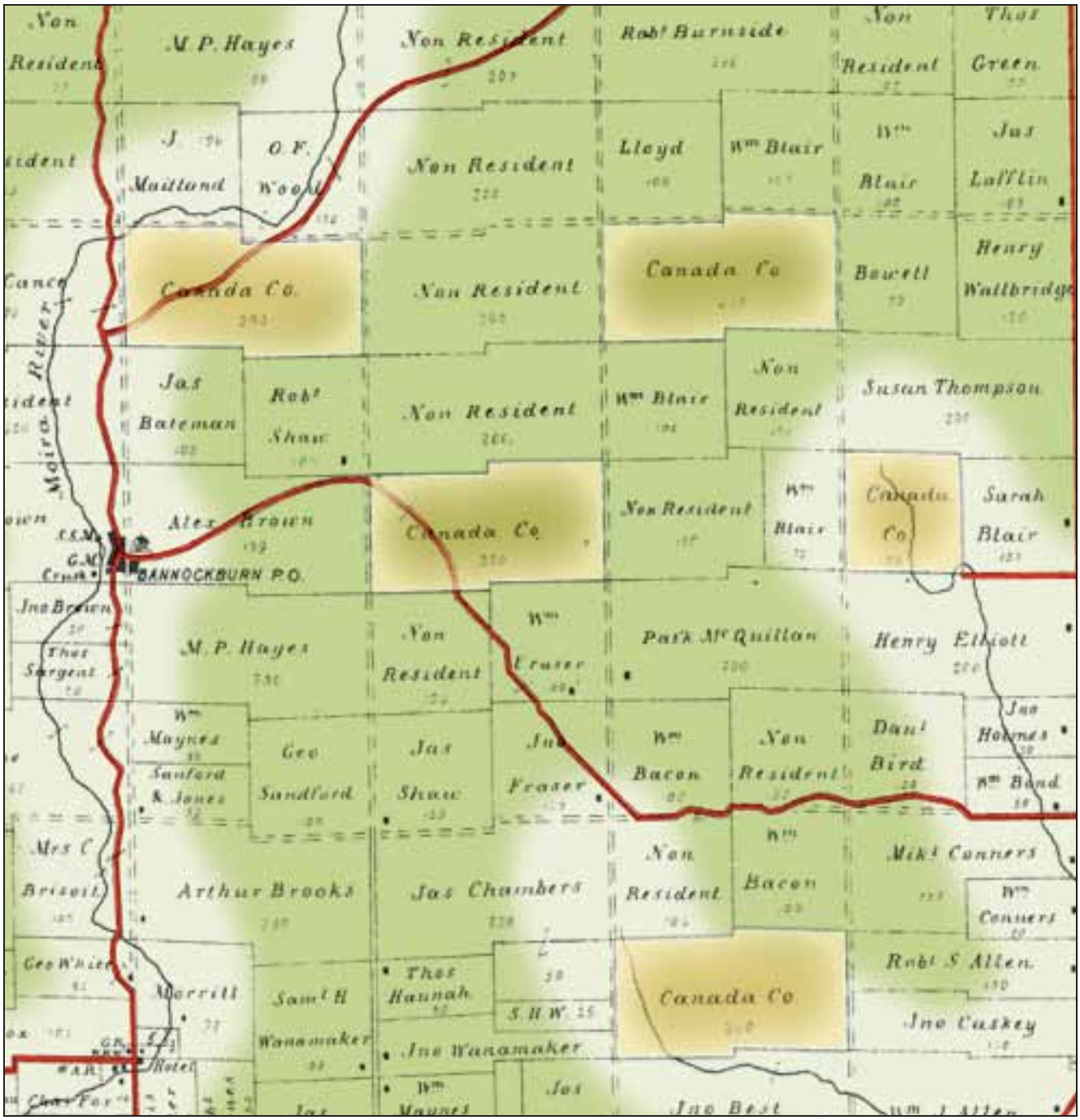
Pancake Hill rises high over the surrounding countryside – you can see geographic features up to 50 kilometres away, including the tailings pile at the Marmora iron mine. The height of the site is evidence that most of southern Hastings lay under Lake Iroquois at one time.

Orland French photos

On its west side, the hill rises in a series of steps, indicators of beach levels at different eras in the life of the lake. Hence the name, Pancake Hill. Since much of the top of the hill has been excavated for its sand and gravel, evidence of the shoreline is clearly visible from the roadway.

Pancake Hill is easily found by following the Sills Road for about four kilometres east from Highway 62 at West Huntingdon. The hill can be seen from the highway.

The Canada Company



One of the major landholders in Upper Canada and Canada West of the 19th century was the Canada Company, incorporated in 1825 by the British Parliament. It had strong Tory connections and was formed to obtain land in Canada and to promote its sale to prospective settlers. The Company purchased nearly 2.5 million acres (1 million hectares) for $295,000. Almost half of this comprised the Huron Tract which became the Huron District in Western Ontario in 1834.

The rest of the land came from Crown reserves scattered throughout the province of Canada West. One seventh of all lots had been reserved for the use of the Crown when townships were surveyed in the 19th century.

This map shows five lots east of Bannockburn, Madoc Township, owned by the Canada Company. The map is excerpted from the *H. Belden Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward, 1878.*

A Large Hole in the Earth

The Marmoraton iron mine open pit measures 850 metres long, 460 metres deep and 220 metres wide. The mine operated from 1952 to 1978. To reach the ore body 33 metres below the surface, 73 million tonnes of limestone cap had to be removed first. Actual mining of the iron ore did not begin until 1955.

Bethlehem Steel Corp. discovered the deposit in 1950 by diamond-drilling a prominent magnetic anomaly which appeared on a 1949 airborne magnetometer survey map produced by the Ontario Department of Mines and the Geological Survey of Canada. The deposit consisted of a large lens of magnetite at the contact point between syenite and marble.

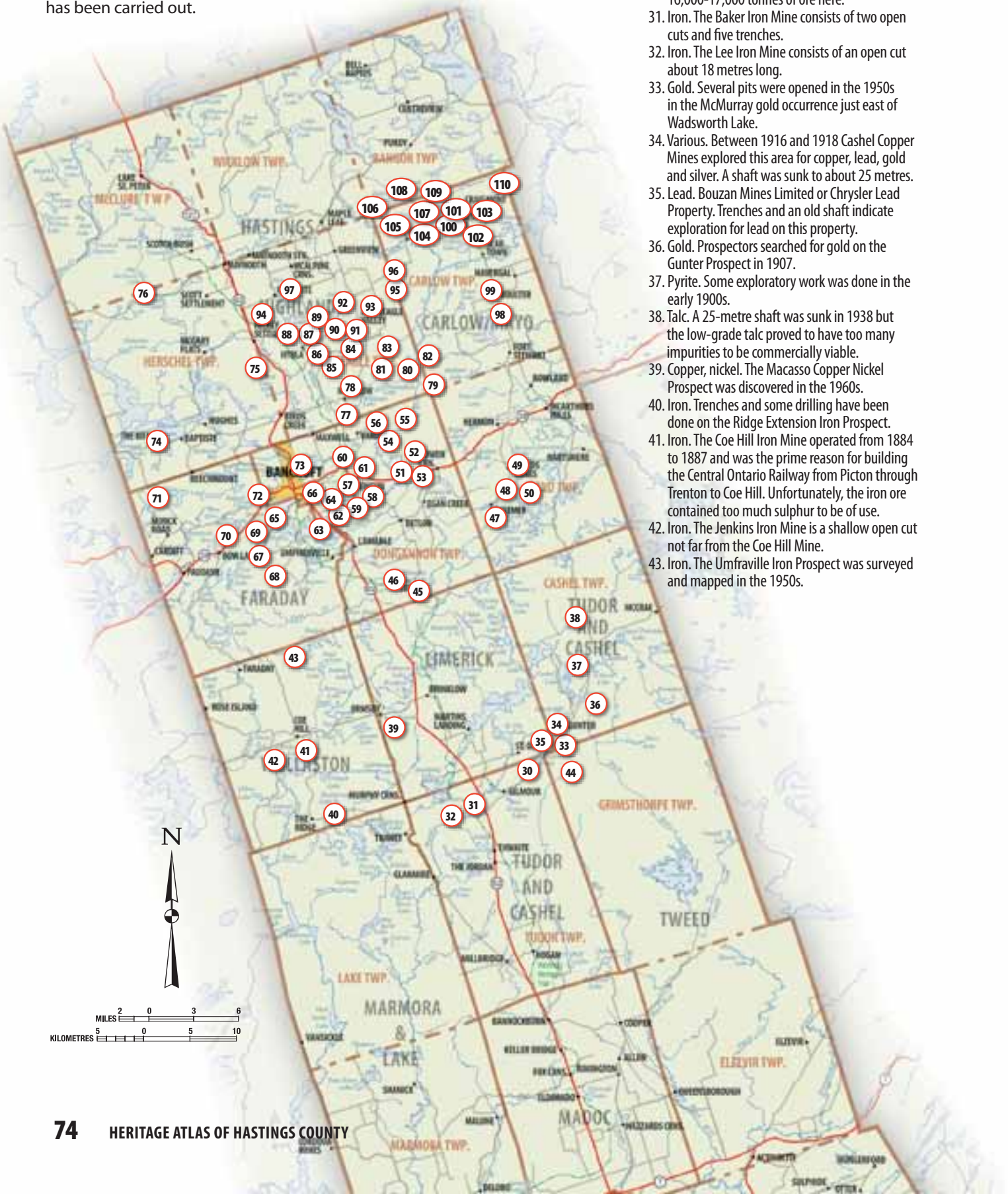
Over its lifetime, the mine provided employment for an average of 300 workers per year. Waste rock continues to be sold as construction aggregate and the mill was purchased by Canada Talc Limited to process ore from the talc mine at Madoc. Over the years the ore pit has been slowly filling with water.

Darko Zeljkovic photo

Marmoraton iron mine.

Significant Mines and Mineral Locations, North Hastings

The sites identified here are abandoned or existing mines, or sites where exploratory work has been carried out.



30. Iron. Workings at the Emily Iron Mine consist of an open cut. There is a shallow deposit of 16,000-17,000 tonnes of ore here.
31. Iron. The Baker Iron Mine consists of two open cuts and five trenches.
32. Iron. The Lee Iron Mine consists of an open cut about 18 metres long.
33. Gold. Several pits were opened in the 1950s in the McMurray gold occurrence just east of Wadsworth Lake.
34. Various. Between 1916 and 1918 Cashel Copper Mines explored this area for copper, lead, gold and silver. A shaft was sunk to about 25 metres.
35. Lead. Bouzan Mines Limited or Chrysler Lead Property. Trenches and an old shaft indicate exploration for lead on this property.
36. Gold. Prospectors searched for gold on the Gunter Prospect in 1907.
37. Pyrite. Some exploratory work was done in the early 1900s.
38. Talc. A 25-metre shaft was sunk in 1938 but the low-grade talc proved to have too many impurities to be commercially viable.
39. Copper, nickel. The Macasso Copper Nickel Prospect was discovered in the 1960s.
40. Iron. Trenches and some drilling have been done on the Ridge Extension Iron Prospect.
41. Iron. The Coe Hill Iron Mine operated from 1884 to 1887 and was the prime reason for building the Central Ontario Railway from Picton through Trenton to Coe Hill. Unfortunately, the iron ore contained too much sulphur to be of use.
42. Iron. The Jenkins Iron Mine is a shallow open cut not far from the Coe Hill Mine.
43. Iron. The Umfraville Iron Prospect was surveyed and mapped in the 1950s.

Education in Hastings

From One-Room Schools to Two-County Boards

Education in Hastings County began in one-room schools, sometimes as instruction in private homes, with each school and its tiny budget governed by a small group of local residents known as trustees. Today's school boards with their massive budgets oversee education in schools distributed across huge land areas encompassing more than one county.

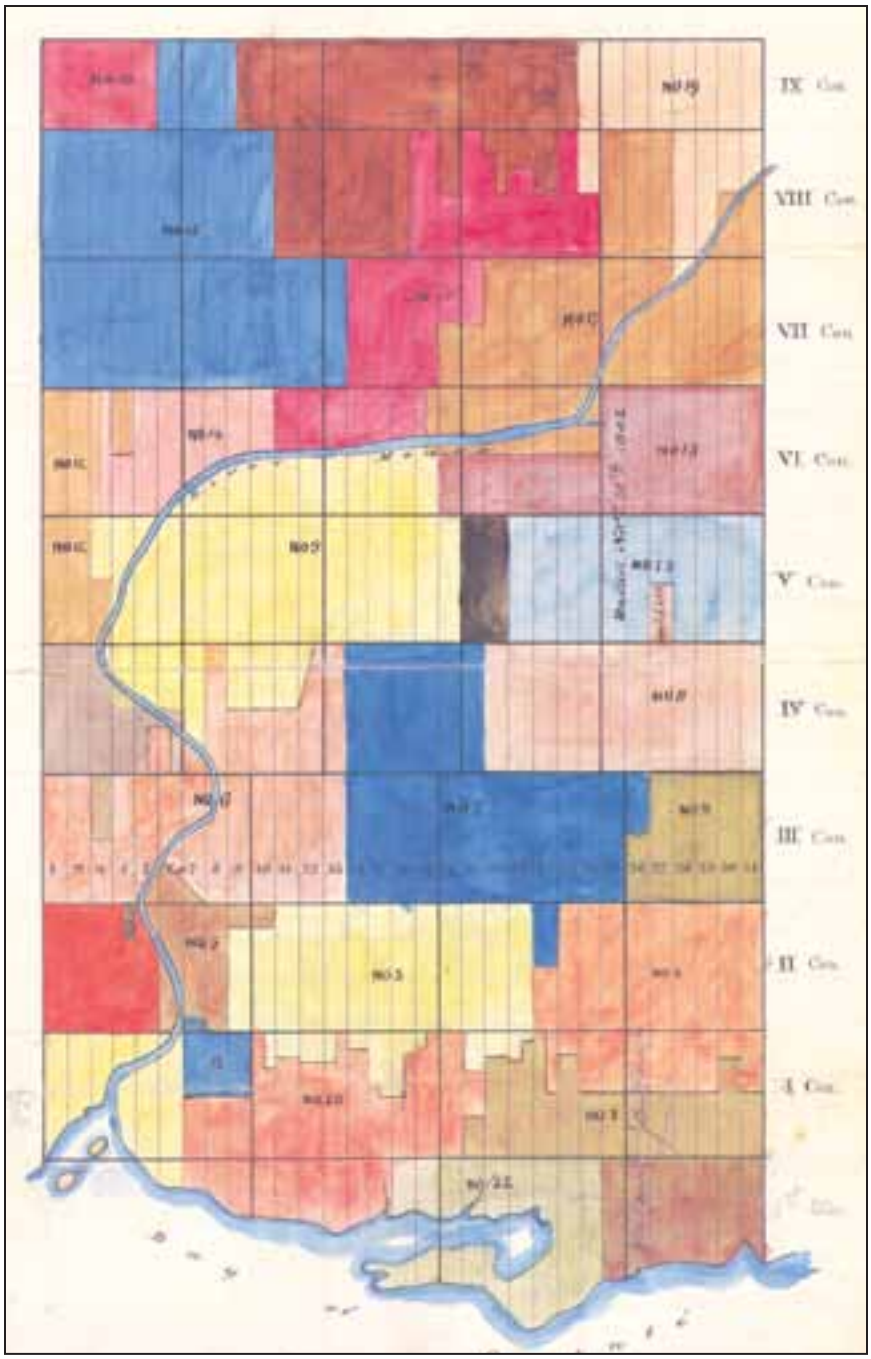
In pioneer days children walked to school or rode horses through the forests and along muddy trails. Today dozens of bright-yellow school buses criss-cross the county on paved highways, covering each day the equivalent mileage of several trips across Canada.

Belleville's first school was said to have been a log cabin located near the Moira River where John Watkins taught about 1810. Six years later, the first school board was formed. It was only in the late 1840s that primary education became compulsory with the passage of the Common School Act.

By 1860, under the management of eight trustees, five common schools operated in Belleville. A County Grammar School was erected in the

Hastings County Historical Society HC 2527

Shannonville School was built in 1874 and burned in 1934. This photo was taken circa 1920.



Hastings County Historical Society

Plan of the Township of Thurlow, 1859, showing various school sections. In 1854 Thurlow had 20 public schools and one Roman Catholic school. Generally, each coloured block represents one school section, although some sections were combined.

Rum-running During Prohibition

Hastings County was a major source of alcoholic exports during Prohibition in the 1920s. While production of beer and liquor was not illegal, sales of alcoholic products in Canada and the United States were against the law. Corby's Distilleries Ltd. in Corbyville was a prime exporter.

Hastings County Historical Society HC 1529

Corbys Distilleries Ltd. in Corbyville was the origin of many bottles of booze shipped by rum-runners across Lake Ontario.

Small boats would load up with alcohol in Belleville harbour and sail for foreign ports, ostensibly Mexico or Bermuda. Many of these shipments wound up in the United States, hustled across Lake Ontario by rum-runners in fast motorboats. There were various transfer points in Prince Edward County and on Main Duck Island. Liquor shipments made their way through the Welland Canal to Cleveland and Buffalo on Lake Erie, while some bold smugglers entered the United States through the Oswego and Erie canals to reach their customers. Other boatloads were "short-circuited" back into Ontario after dark. Some shipments actually came back into Belleville harbour and supplied members of the Belleville Club.

Legal exportation by rail was ended by the courts in 1922 but many shipments continued, disguised as "scantling lumber" or other products. These loads were destined for Toronto and Hamilton where the alcohol was sold to local bootleggers.

When the Royal Commission on Customs and Excise found in 1926 that there was extensive illegal exporting, thanks to the connivance of border guards and customs officials, distillers began exporting their products to the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Since these islands were owned by France, which was not a party to Prohibition, the exports were legal. From there, liquor made its way to American ports such as Boston and New York. Beer, which was not so profitable, continued to be smuggled to ports around Lake Ontario.

The actual amount of alcohol produced in Hastings during Prohibition is unknown. Distilleries and breweries sometimes destroyed their records to avoid prosecutions and heavy fines. Prohibition ended in Ontario in 1927 and in the United States in 1933.

Source: C.W. Hunt, a recognized authority on rum-running and author of Booze, Boats and Billions, *and* Whisky and Ice.

Photo courtesy C.W. Hunt

The *Martimas*, Ben Kerr's first boat, is seen here in Trenton port. The boat was captured by the Coast Guard in May, 1925, after a shoot-out in Rochester, N.Y.

Photo courtesy C.W. Hunt

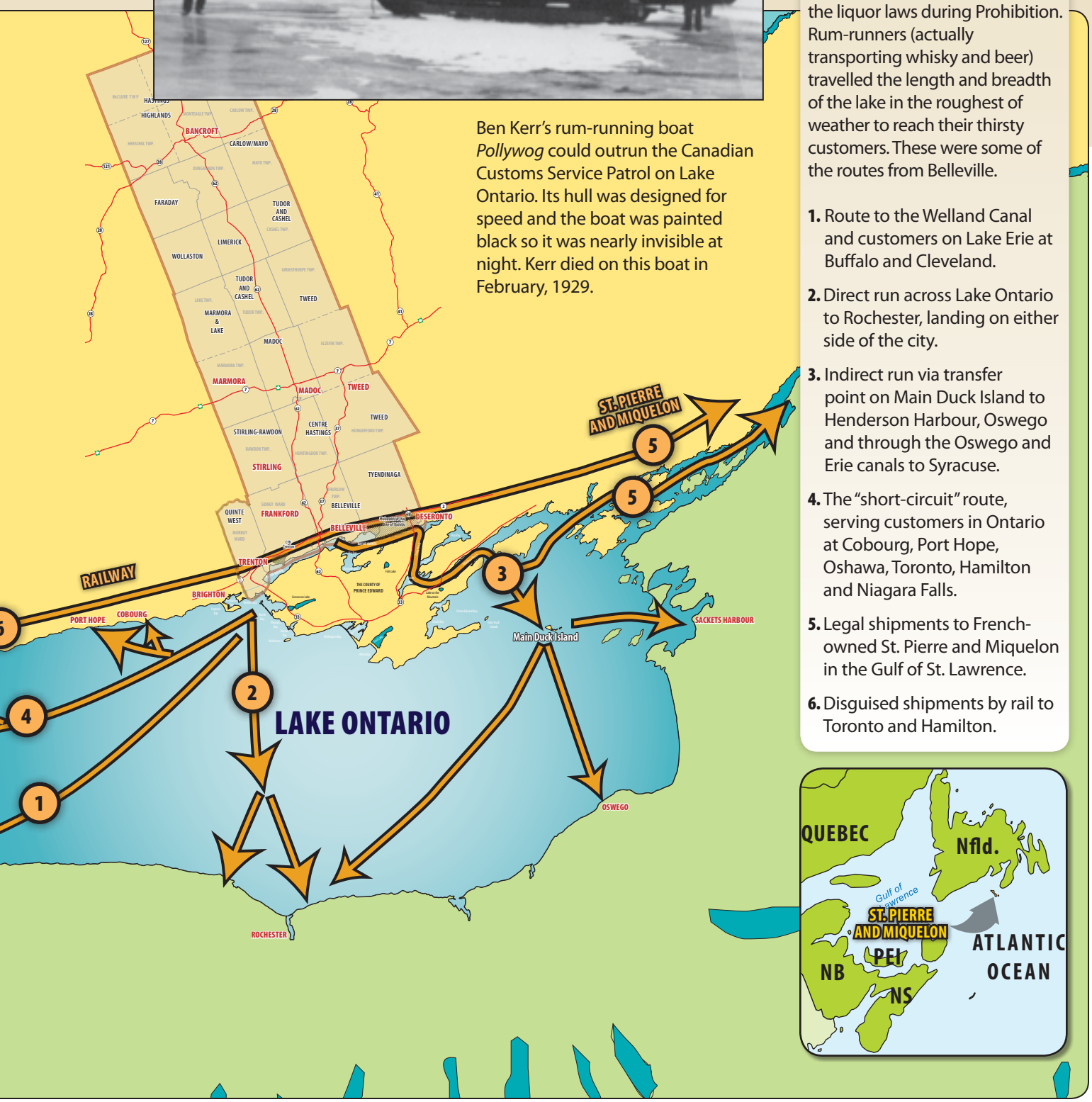
Ben Kerr's rum-running boat *Pollywog* could outrun the Canadian Customs Service Patrol on Lake Ontario. Its hull was designed for speed and the boat was painted black so it was nearly invisible at night. Kerr died on this boat in February, 1929.

PROHIBITION

Booze by boat and by train

Fast motorboats on Lake Ontario evaded the Coast Guard and beat the liquor laws during Prohibition. Rum-runners (actually transporting whisky and beer) travelled the length and breadth of the lake in the roughest of weather to reach their thirsty customers. These were some of the routes from Belleville.

1. Route to the Welland Canal and customers on Lake Erie at Buffalo and Cleveland.
2. Direct run across Lake Ontario to Rochester, landing on either side of the city.
3. Indirect run via transfer point on Main Duck Island to Henderson Harbour, Oswego and through the Oswego and Erie canals to Syracuse.
4. The "short-circuit" route, serving customers in Ontario at Cobourg, Port Hope, Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls.
5. Legal shipments to French-owned St. Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
6. Disguised shipments by rail to Toronto and Hamilton.



National Defence photo TN2003-0271-12d

Aerial view of Canadian Forces Base Trenton, home of 8 Wing, on the north side of the Bay of Quinte.

CFB Trenton

Our humanitarian link to the world

CFB Trenton represents the sharp end of Canada's foreign policy stick. It is the place where foreign policy determined by the Canadian government is translated into direct action, and it is from there that humanitarian missions are launched to the furthest reaches of the globe.

Now the home of 8 Wing Trenton, the air base was born as RCAF Station Trenton in 1929. The fledgling Royal Canadian Air Force had been looking for a replacement field for Camp Borden, a large training base established by the Royal Air Force during the First World War. Camp Borden was too big for the tiny RCAF, its temporary buildings were deteriorating and the station was becoming costly to maintain.

What was needed, it was decided, was a smaller base on flat land, with a beach for seaplane facilities, somewhere between the industrial centres of Toronto and Montreal and not too far from the air force headquarters in the national capital of Ottawa. About 25 locations, many along the north shore of Lake Ontario, were considered. Finally officials chose a 948-acre (384-hectare) site just east of Trenton, on the sheltered Bay of Quinte. The flat land sloped gently to the

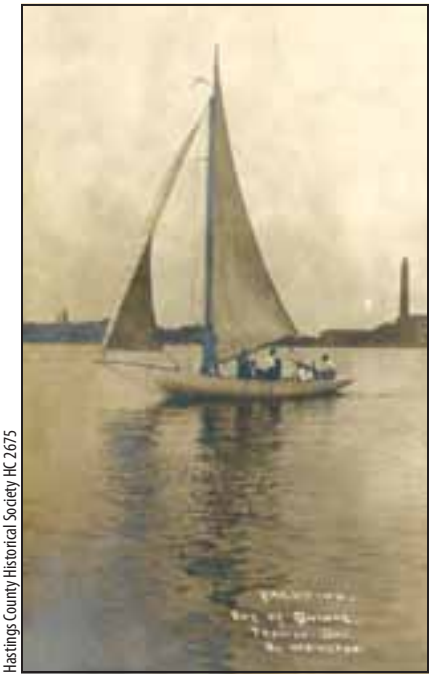
Orland French photos

Racing on the Bay of Quinte on a warm September evening, 2006. Members of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club compete in a regular Wednesday evening race.

AMERICA'S CUP RULE CHANGE

Hastings County Historical Society HC 6382

A yacht from the Bay of Quinte actually forced a change in the rules of the famed America's Cup sailing race. The Bay of Quinte Yacht Club in Belleville challenged for the America's Cup in 1881, entering a hastily built rough-hewn boat called *Atalanta*. Without adequate time to sail to New York via the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic Ocean, the 78-foot yacht was towed through the Erie Canal. With its cobbled-together crew and poor outfitting, *Atalanta* was improperly equipped for the test. She lost both races to the polished *Mischief* by a considerable margin. The Americans termed the race a "fiasco challenge" and changed the rules so that all challengers had to arrive under sail, effectively eliminating inland yacht clubs from competing. But because the BQYC participated, to this day it is invited to all America's Cup events.



Hastings County Historical Society HC 2675

Yachting on the Bay of Quinte near Trenton 100 years ago. From a postcard, 1907.

The Fire Maps of Belleville

Hastings County Historical Society

Fire map of a residential area consisting primarily of brick houses on Albert Street, East Hill, Belleville.

What fire insurance maps can tell us

Fire insurance maps were created in the late 19th century and early 20th century to help fire insurance agents judge the risk involved in insuring properties of all kinds. They show outlines of individual buildings and were water-coloured to indicate different kinds of building material such as brick, frame or stone. Other information included the number of storeys, location of doors, windows, chimneys and elevators, use of structure (dwelling, hotel, church, etc.), the name of the company of a commercial property and street address. Other features included lot lines, street widths, water pipes, hydrants and cisterns, the presence of fire-fighting facilities, or notes about the lack of them.

Because these maps were expensive and time-consuming to produce, they were updated by drawing changes on pieces of paper and pasting the paper onto existing maps.

While the production of fire insurance plans ceased in Canada in 1975, today these old maps are invaluable sources of information for scholars and researchers.

The maps on these pages are taken from the Goad maps of Belleville in the late 1800s. The Charles E. Goad map-making company was established in Montreal, Quebec, in 1875 and became the most comprehensive company of its kind in its coverage of Canada. By 1910, Goad and his surveyors had created fire insurance plans for more than 1,300 Canadian communities.

Permission to reprint Goad's fire insurance maps has been granted by CGI Insurance Business Services. Use of the maps for commercial purposes is prohibited.

City Hall district, including the Market Square.