

COBOURG 1837

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS SINCE INCORPORATION



THE LOSS OF SPEEDY

The loss of HMS Speedy in 1804 with all 29 aboard led to the decision to build the District Court House in Amherst. The Speedy was carrying a prisoner, lawyers and a judge from York to Presqu'isle for a murder trial when tragedy struck. The wreck is still being researched.

Photo courtesy of TBD

STEPS ON THE ROAD TO COBOURG'S INCORPORATION

- 1795** **Surveying of Hamilton Township** is begun in preparation for the settlement working its way westward along the shores of Lake Ontario
- 1798** **First official list of settlers** in what became Cobourg. Among them are:
- Eliud Nickerson:** Cleared land and settled near present day King & Division
- Elias Jones:** Built a cabin, later a store, at mouth of today's Cobourg Creek
- (An earlier list of settlers was said to indicate "fraud, duplicity and unprincipled selfishness" on the part of those responsible for assigning the surveyed lots!)
- 1808** **Courthouse for Newcastle District** located at Amherst (Burnham & Elgin Sts.)
- 1819** **The area is renamed "Cobourg"**
- 1820-30** **Rapid growth takes place** including such newcomers as F.S.Clench, Henry Ruttan, George Strange Bolton
- 1830** **Cobourg Harbour** is begun and east pier built
- 1832** **Cobourg becomes a "Police Village"**

IN 1832 COBOURG BECAME A "POLICE VILLAGE". WHAT DID THAT INVOLVE?

It was simply a matter of declaring to the government that a group of settlers had met and voted to:

- agree on a set of by-laws, restricted to a certain section of a township,
- and enforce its own regulations for civic behaviour.