

From this interview with Miss Rooney we learned a great deal about the early operations of the Cobourg Harbour. Her father was a schooner captain for over 40 years.

Capt. Rooney's ~~uncle's~~ ^{uncle's} were all captains of vessels that worked out of Cobourg Harbour. As a young boy, Dan Rooney used to skip school and go to the harbour with his uncles. When he was fifteen he became a sailor. At 21 he became captain of his first schooner.

Captain Rooney sailed three masted schooners. They could carry 500 tons of coal. (There was a crew of five; captain, three crew members and a cook). The cook did what the crew members had to do plus the cooking. Captain Rooney only carried coal, (in early times schooners carried lumber too). Once he accepted a contract from an American who was living in Cobourg for the summer to go to Kingston to pick up so many tons of chipped rock from the Kingston Prison. The Americans used this for their driveways and walks.

The anthracite coal was brought from Oswego New York. Captain Rooney would moor his vessel alongside the east pier. It took three days to unload the coal. It was lifted out of the hull and loaded on to a waiting horse drawn cart to be taken to the south-west corner of Division and King where a man operated a coal store. The coal was then distributed throughout the town by horse and wagon.

Industries didn't use this particular type of coal much. They used soft coal which was brought in by train.

After retiring Captain Rooney worked in the harbour in charge of a tug used for dredging. This process is much the same as today.

Miss Rooney also told us about other forms of transportation in Cobourg at the turn of the century.

Bicycles were common then, almost everyone had one. They were much the same as today's bicycles except that the tires were solid rubber. The horse and buggy however was the vehicle most widely used.

The roads were packed gravel and hand labour was used to maintain them. The town controlled building and repair of the roads. The sidewalks were old two-boarded sidewalks. The first automobile Miss Rooney remembered was owned by Dr. Field whose office was on the south-west corner of King and McGill Streets. The car was a red runabout that he used to make house calls with.

King St. was paved in 1922. It was the first street in Cobourg to be

Cobourg Transportation

paved. Many streets have only been paved recently that is within the last ten years.

Miss Rooney remembers as a young girl taking the trains to Bellville and Peterborough to compete with other schools in various sports activities. After school they would take the 4:15 to Bellville, have dinner at someones house, have their comprtitions, then a dance then take the train home. This would cost them each about \$2.50 return.

Lastly Miss RÖnney mentioned the steamers that began coming into the harbour in the 1920's. They would~~x~~ unload their cargos on the pier and they would be picked up.