

STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO (continued)

On the top of the escarpment overlooking Stoney Creek (actually the site is in Saltfleet Township) a huge lighted cross stands. It was erected by the men of the Stoney Creek Hydro Commission. The lights of the Cross can be seen for many miles. On the site of the Cross, is a lovely park, where visitors to the area may pause for a few moments - or all afternoon - to view the landscape. It can be reached by driving along Ridge Road from #20 Highway. Nearby is the "Devil's Punch Bowl", a natural phenomena to both Stoney Creek and Saltfleet. The waterfall from the top of the escarpment drops into a large bowl-like area, and is a breath-taking sight to behold.

The Battlefield Monument in Battlefield Park, and the Museum are all steeped in history, and a lovely young lady is usually on hand to explain the story of the House to visitors. She will be dressed in a period costume, and is very well-versed on the history of the famous old house, and its surroundings.

The Centennial Bandshell is also located in Battlefield Park to the west of the Museum. Every Sunday throughout the summer months, there is a concert. People come from miles around to hear their particular type of music, and many times visitors to the Museum and Park, stay on to hear the music, before travelling on to their destinations.

Stoney Creek has evolved from a Village of only 500 to a Town of over 8,000 in the last twenty years. It is a modern, exciting, busy place in which to live, but still retains that feeling of "Community". Some of the many organizations are the Lion's Club, the Optimist Club, the Kinsmen Club, the Men's Club, the Women's Institutes, the Legion, The Businessmen's Association and the Lodges. For ladies, there is the I.O.D.E., the Church groups, the Eastern Star, the Cancer Society. There is a Horticultural Society, the Welcome Wagon, the Little League Ball Clubs, and the Chamber of Commerce. For the older members there is the Club-60 (with its own headquarters). No one need be lonely in the Town of Stoney Creek, for there is much to do.

Although Stoney Creek is only one mile square in size, it has its own share of Canadian History, and the townspeople are very proud of their parts in keeping the Town as beautiful as possible. We welcome visitors to our Town, and we endeavour to make them as welcome as possible.

THE LION MONUMENT - BURIAL PLACE OF SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF 1812-14

Stoney Creek is one of the few Canadian sites to actually be a Battleground. The area is noted for its participation in the War of 1812-14, which proved to be a very decisive victory for Canada against invading forces. Many other historic sites have either been moved, or covered over with new towns or cities. The Battleground of Stoney Creek remains a Park, preserved for all time.

The actual battle took place in Battlefield Park, but the soldiers who fell in that historic Battle are buried here, in "Soldiers' Plot".

In 1899, eighty-seven years after the battle, a farmer's son, Allen Smith, was ploughing his father's farm, when he uncovered a strange button. Later that day, he uncovered human bones and bits of cloth with the insignia of both British and American regiments. This discovery led to more intensive digging and soon, the bodies of twenty-three unknown soldiers were found.

Stoney Creek, at that time, was only a small village with about four hundred inhabitants, so one can imagine the excitement this discovery caused. Nothing had been written about the burial place of those men who had fallen in battle, so the news brought about a chain reaction.

In 1908, a cairn was erected, comprised of stones and boulders from a nearby field, to mark this last resting place of soldiers who had engaged in such a short but violent battle. Red clay from the district was used to mark the crosses in the Union Jack Flag incorporated into the cairn. The Lion, on guard atop the cairn, was made of stone. Finally, those unknown soldiers were honoured, with a marker for their last resting place.

The next year, on June 6th, a pilgrimage to the monument was started by the children of the district. They brought wild flowers, and placed them at the foot of the monument. Every June 6th, since that date, there has been a memorial service dedicated to the fallen heroes of the Battle of 1813.