

B
12

Doors Open opens 19 county doors this year

SELF-GUIDED TOUR: Welcome mats out at 19 sites

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY MAY 7/15

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND — Doors Open Northumberland June 6 and 7 will offer a rare chance to get a close-up look at 19 significant properties throughout the county.

Sites will be open in all municipalities over that weekend, most of which will be open both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — and all of which are important civic and heritage locations.

• St. Peter's Anglican Church (240 College St., Cobourg) is a Gothic Revival style building designed by architect Kivas Tully in 1851 — almost a decade before he would complete Victoria Hall, just down the street. The church itself, however, was founded in 1819, making it one of the oldest churches in Upper Canada. The wooden building where the congregation originally met was replaced by this grand structure which, over the years, has seen many additions and alterations. These include removal of the spire in 1905 to accommodate the bells, plus a Millennium addition at the church's northwest corner. Don't forget to check out the beautifully restored pipe organ and stained-glass windows.

Please note: St. Peter's is open Saturday only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre (141 Orr St., Cobourg) dates from 1820, making it the oldest building on this year's list. The old limestone building is thought to have military origins, which is why it is commonly called The Barracks. It opened in 2012 in restored condition as a museum of the area's history, and each year has its own theme (industry and commerce for 2015). An operating model railway outside tells the story of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, including the ill-fated Rice Lake Bridge.

• The Cobourg Public Library (200 Ontario St.) is properly known as the C. Gordon King Centre. Built in 1995 by Mofatt Kinoshita Associates, it is a 17,750-sq.-ft. structure that houses the two-storey library, a large meeting room and the county archives.

Please note: the library is open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

• The Northumberland County Archives is located in the southwest corner of the Cobourg Public Library. It offers a behind-the-scenes look at the storage and conservation facilities to learn about the important role that the archives play in preserving the county's heritage. Historical

documents and artifacts from the 18th to 21st centuries will be on display.

Please note: the archives is open Saturday only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Port Hope Archives (17 Mill St. N.) is another Kivas Tully masterpiece, built in 1871 — about a decade after Victoria Hall. Before it was the municipal archives, it was one of a number of regional property-registry offices that were closed in 1992 in a provincial cost-saving move. Now its purpose is to house and preserve archival materials that illustrate the growth and development of the community — including photographs, ledgers, documents, journals and maps. Come and tour the stacks. Enjoy an inside look at how the archives works, and hear all about this lovely historical building.

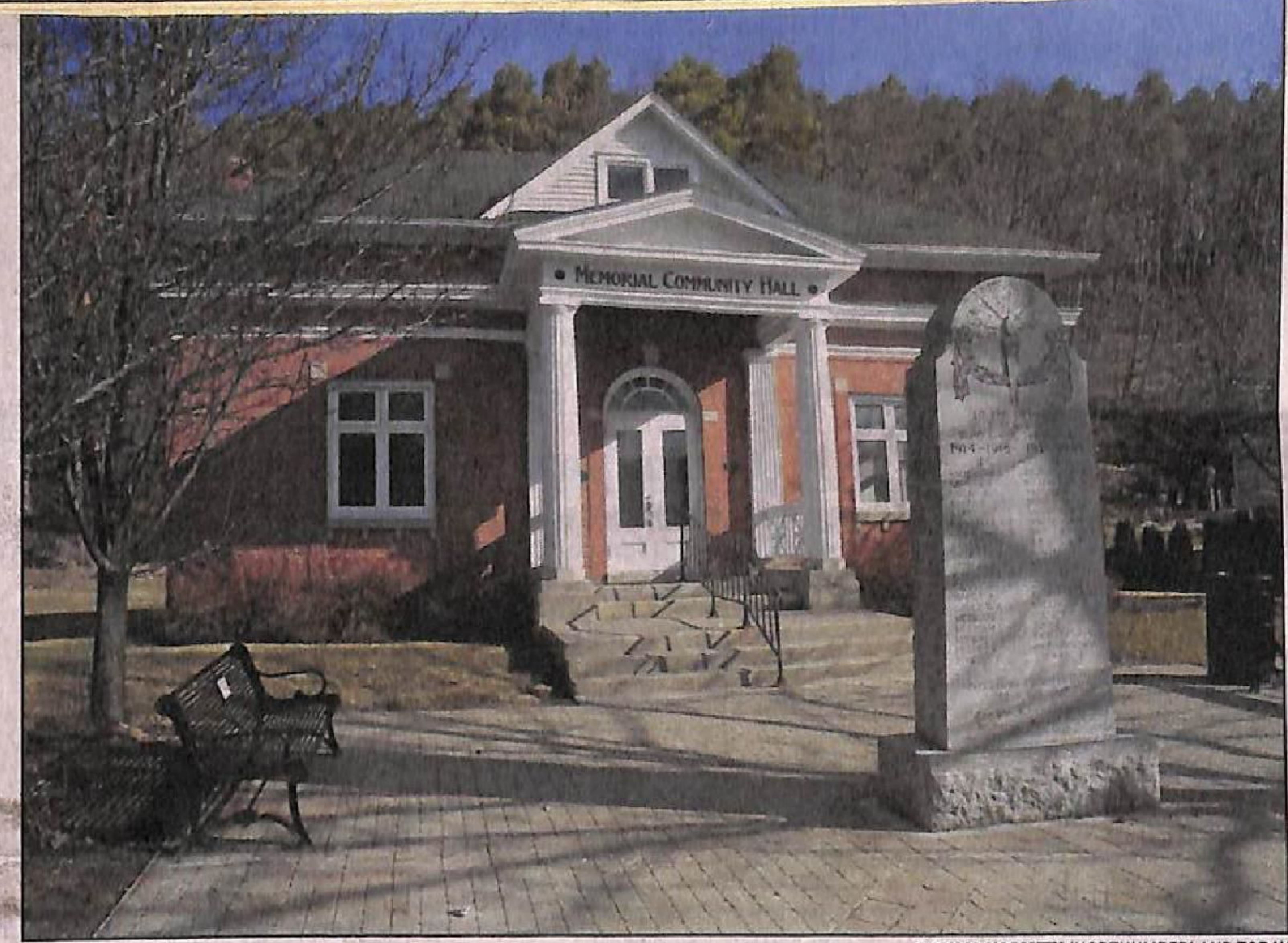
• The Canadian Fire Fighters Museum (95 Mill St. S., Port Hope) tells the story of fire fighting in Canada from about 1759 to the present. Established in 1984, the museum collects, preserves, researches and displays fire-fighting equipment, photographs and related archival materials to illustrate this important story.

• The Port Hope Water Treatment Plant (33 Marsh St.) was built in 2005 by KMK Consultants. Each day, it delivers clean, safe water to more than 12,500 residents and businesses. Stop by for a tour and learn about the state-of-the-art GE/Zenon membrane technology that produces safe drinking water for the community.

• St. John's Anglican Church (9595 Queen St., Harwood) is a Gothic Revival-style building designed by architect J.E. Belcer and erected in 1876. It had fallen into a state of disrepair by the time local supporters rescued and restored it in the early 1990s. Pleasing in its traditional design, the church features a heritage font, commemorative stained glass and a bell reputedly from the old Harwood train station.

Please note: Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (with everyone welcome for the 10:30 worship service).

• Victoria Inn - The Willows (5316 Rice Lake Scenic Dr., Gore's Landing) was built in 1902 by Fred Pratt (former Rice Lake Boat Works owner) as a gracious summer home for the famous artist Gerald Hayward. The house is now a country inn, accessible by both road and water. The two-storey bell-curved roof verandas were once open, and some of the original stained and leaded glass is still intact.



CECILIA NASMITH/NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars are remembered at this cenotaph on Church Street in Warkworth, which stands in front of the Memorial Community Hall.

• The Roseneath Carousel (9109 County Rd. 45) was built in 1906 by C.W. Parker in Abilene, Kansas. The Roseneath Agricultural Society purchased it for \$675 in 1932 but, by the time a half-century had passed, it was in such a state of disrepair that no insurance company would touch it.

An active and devoted restoration committee was formed, working from 1986 to 1993 to restore it to its original condition — a \$400,000 project. It now boasts 40 basswood horses and two boats, with a 1934 Wurlitzer Military Band Organ Model No. 125 to provide the music. Rides on the carousel will be free during Doors Open.

Please note: the Roseneath Carousel will be open Saturday only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Mill Valley School (170 Centreton Rd., Baltimore) was opened in 1922, welcoming children in those days of yore when one had to walk miles to line up at separate boys' and girls' entrances. The Mill Valley School was part of that educational heritage through the 1960s. It has now been thoughtfully restored as a private residence.

Please note: the Mill Valley School is open Sunday only, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Canning Factory (130 Canning Factory Rd., Grafton) is a commercial building erected in 1904 because, with the railroad so close by, it seemed an ideal location for a cannery. Opera-

tions ceased in about 1955, and the factory became derelict over the next half-century. In recent years, however, a remarkable renovation has blended the original with the modern to create a showroom for Vincent Sheppard's line of indoor and outdoor furniture.

• Colborne United Church (1 Church St., Colborne) is a Gothic Revival-style building erected in 1862 by Rev. I.B. Aylesworth. The church will be offering an in-depth multi-media look at its history and the families that made up its early Methodist congregation. You might also want to take a walking tour around Colborne for a look at some of the buildings for which those families were responsible, as the village evolved in the mid-19th century.

• Trinity-St. Andrew's Church (58 Prince Edward St., Brighton) is a Gothic Revival-style building that dates from 1848, serving generations of worshippers. A landmark since its construction, it has had additions that include a transept and wings in 1871 and a church hall in 1902 (replaced by a brick building in 2011). Points of interest include the classical return eaves, magnificent stained-glass windows and 1902 pipe organ.

Please note: Trinity-St. Andrew's is open Saturday only from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• The Brighton Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club (10 Veterans

Way) was built in 1925, when the lawn-bowling club was established (the croquet club followed in 2004). Volunteers built the cottage-style clubhouse, which has undergone many renovations over the years. Club memorabilia will be on display, as well as information on how lawn bowling and croquet are played.

Please note: this building will be open Sunday only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Hilton Hall Heritage Centre (50 Chatten Rd. in Hilton, north of Brighton) is a Vernacular-style building that dates from 1861. It functioned as Brighton Township municipal offices until 2000, when the township amalgamated with the Town of Brighton. The stone exterior has been restored and, in 2014, Brighton council designated the building as a heritage centre and the Friends of Hilton Hall Heritage Centre was established.

Please note: Hilton Hall will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

• The Arts and Heritage Centre of Warkworth (35 Church St.) is an arts-and-crafts-style building designed by architect W.H. Barry of Peterborough and built in 1922. The centre aims to promote heritage awareness and excellence in the arts, with a show called Art History — Stories of Art in These Parts.

The centre also functions as the Community Memorial Hall,

heritage-designated building that was originally constructed to commemorate local lives lost in the First World War. The cenotaph-style stele in front of the building now commemorates those who made the ultimate sacrifice in both world wars.

• Campbellford-Seymour Heritage Centre (113 Front St. N., Campbellford) is an 1875 Vernacular-style building designed by architect John Langman. The limestone structure was the first public building in the area. It has functioned as a township hall, council chamber, courtroom, church, school, jail, community centre, market and public-utilities office. It now houses the Campbellford-Seymour Heritage Society, who have arranged for displays of local artifacts, information about genealogical research, family records and mementos to enjoy for Doors Open weekend.

• St. John's United Church (50 Bridge St. W., Campbellford) was designed by architect William Dunk and built in 1865 as a Methodist Church (this is a 150th-anniversary year for St. John's). The interior of this brick structure has intricate wood detailing and beautiful stained-glass windows created by renowned Canadian stained-glass artist Christopher Wallis. Their significance was recognized in 2014, when they were granted heritage designation.

Please note: St. John's will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Doors Open initiative began in France in 1984, and soon spread to nearby countries. The first North American Doors Open was in Toronto in 2000. Ontario launched the first province-wide event of its kind in Canada when the Ontario Heritage Trust launched Doors Open Ontario in 2002. The concept has spread across North America, with similar events in many provinces and states.

Every year, Doors Open Ontario attracts large crowds at events between April and October that invite residents and visitors for a first-hand look at the province's hidden treasures, some of which have never before been open to the public.

More than five-million such visits have been made since 2002, and the number should rise significantly with hundreds of Ontario communities participating this year.

For more information, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/northumberland.

cecilia.nasmith@sunmedia.ca
twitter.com/NT_cnasmith