

CUMBERLAND

by Capt. Gerry Ouderkirk

The "St. Catharines Evening Journal" of July 8th, 1871, stated, "The sum of \$100 was voted by the Welland County Council to pull down the Montrose Bridge in order that the new steamers building at Port Robinson may get down the Chippawa Creek to the Niagara River. (Ed. Note: The press report continually spelled the place as 'Chippewa', but we have taken the liberty to use the correct spelling throughout this feature.) The funds will just about pay for taking the bridge down, and that as the Council had no right to build such a bridge over a navigable stream, they will be forced to pay for rebuilding the bridge. If this should turn out correct, Welland Council will have a nice baby to nurse. The steamboats MANITOBA and CUMBERLAND, built at Port Robinson, will leave that elysium of Canadian songsters (!!! - Ed.) on or about the 24th inst. They will be taken to Chippawa where the work on the first will be completed, and that on the second put in shape to enable her to carry freight. She will be fitted up at Collingwood during the ensuing winter."

The sidewheeler CUMBERLAND, built for the Toronto and Lake Superior Navigation Company, of Toronto, was successfully launched on Wednesday, August 9th, 1871. Having sent a special reporter along for the ride, the Toronto "Globe" of August 10th carried the details of her launch.

"Yesterday morning, a large party of ladies and gentlemen embarked on board the steamer CITY OF TORONTO, en route for Port Robinson, via Niagara, to witness the launch of a large vessel, which is intended to take the place of the ALGOMA upon Lake Superior. The morning was beautifully fine and cool, and everything seemed to promise a pleasant trip. Among those on board were Mr. Wm. Copeland, Mr. F. O. Capreol, Capt. Fortier (Provincial Insurance Co.), Mr. T. McGaw, Mr. F. B. Cumberland, the Misses Ridout, Mr. J. T. Small, Mr. J. Robarts, Mr. and Mrs. David Walker and Miss Walker, Dr. Thorburn, Judge Duggan and lady, Mr. J. Duggan, Q.C., Mr. Angus Morrison, M.P. (Member of Parliament) and daughter, Capt. and Mrs. C. Perry, Miss Kennedy, Miss Dudley (Buffalo), Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Oliver, Mr. Stephen Oliver, Mr. J. P. Riley, Mrs. Urquhart (Memphis, Tenn.), Miss Hamilton (Collingwood), Dr. and Mrs. Stephens (Collingwood), Mr. D. S. Keith, Mr. and Mrs. John Marvis, Mr. Alexander M. Monroe, Major Arthur S. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Higinbotham, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Grigith, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Caste and son, Major Grey, &c.

"After enjoying a most delightful voyage across the lake, Niagara was reached, and the members of the party beguiled the hour intervening between the arrival of the steamer and the departure of the train for Chippawa by wandering about the pleasant groves of the Queen's Royal Hotel, and visiting the various portions of the ancient capital. A special car was devoted to the use of the party, and it was well stored with creature comforts, which were dispensed by Captain Perry to his numerous guests (the list of which had been increased by the addition of Captain Dick and several ladies and gentlemen staying at the hotel) with no niggard hand.

"The country between Niagara and Chippawa looked really beautiful; from the edge of that portion of the Queenston Heights traversed by the railway, so far as the eye could reach, a most lovely landscape presented itself: fields of grain ripe for reaping, or already reaped, standing in shocks waiting for the sturdy farmer to drive his team afield and convey the fruits of his labor to his homestead - all mapped before the gaze like some vast panorama, in some isolated instances (though early in the season) the sombre green of the woods was relieved by the glance of bright red maple leaf, which, amid the verdancy all around seemed to impart to some of the party that King Winter was on his way here again. After catching several glances at the