

# Profile This Week

## RosSPORT - "The History of Our Harbour Guardian"

by Anne Todesco

When I look out over our sheltered harbour, facing me is our old faithful guardian, that huge hump of rock known as the Quarry Island, with its inlets group about its base, as if in silent homage to the father island.

The Quarry has kept watch over the harbour for millions of years, protected us from the heavy seas of the great body of water known as Lake Superior. There are two entrances to the harbour, one east and the other on the west. The eastern entrance is protected by islands and their situation on the west, it has vast space of open water and when a storm blows in from that direction, we have white caps and rolling waves that toss the anchored boats at their mórriings and slaps the water against or over the docks. Ocassionaly a bit of rough weather ruffles the water over the sand bar on the east.

Few people living along the shores of the mighty Lake Superior can boast of a sentinel standing guard at their door like we do at RosSPORT. The channels into the harbour can accommodate large vessels and yachts while offering safe anchorage.

This humped island acquired its name, THE QUARRY from the stone quarries that were in operation on the island in the late 1700's; and throughout the 18th century and well into the 1900's, stone was cut from this island for building bridges, foundations and some buildings at the Lakehead. The information on these stones, given to me by early residents of this area, stated that stone from our quarry were used in the building of the railway bridge over the Nipigon River; also the Custom building that used to stand at the corner of Water and

Arthur Streets. Stones taken from here were used in the making of tombstones or headstones.

### THE QUARRY

Other quarries in the area were at Vert Island and Simpson Island. The latter quarry, I was told, was owned and operated by a late Captain Thompson. He had two ships-the Van Allen and the Niagara. They were used to transport supplies for the railroad building, food supplies to settlements, carried passengers, furs, etc. His family had built a large summer cabin near his stone quarry. All that is left of the building, I understand, is the stone fireplace and chimney, overgrown by bush and trees and rather difficult to find now unless one is familiar with its location. This Captain Thompson was a relative of the Crook family who are famous for their drugstores in Thunder Bay.

Red stone quarried from those locations

were used in the building of the old red stone post office that used to stand at the corner of Court and Arthur Streets (now Red River Road) and where Kresges Store now stands. I believe that St. Pat's Square in Thunder Bay has amythest stone brought from one of the quarry locations.

I must return to our Quarry Island. Besides the quarry operated on the island, lumbering was carried out as well and some prospecting. Narry a dock had to be built here as it had its own rock dock on the southwest side. A long flat area stretched along this side, high enough and deep enough, a straight cliff that goes deep down into Lake Superior.

Rings were sunk into this flat surface to tie up the vessels, a natural dock provided by the humped quarry island. I understand that these rings are still imbedded in the rock. A narrow

gauge railroad of greased timbers and iron rails were built to push the small carts onto carry the stone to be loaded in the ships or scows. Bits of this little track can be found in the undergrowth.

Our guardian rock has a huge crevice located on it that no one has really explored. The early Indians feared it because of its great dark depth. Prospectors have explored the island for many years looking for precious ores. Quite recently a helicopter circled over the island and part of the harbour several times. Maybe there is "gold in that great humped rock."

Now the Quarry stands in all its glory of changing colours of yellow,



Here lies RosSPORT Harbour in all its beauty and serenity.

low, gold and red intermingled with green of the fir trees like soldiers preparing for a march to winter's headquarters for the long sleep. But

the wary old stone still keeps its eye on us through the blustery winter storms and shelters us from the heavy seas rolling in from the

open stretches of the lake...our quarry and guardian has a mighty and majestic stance to it, in winter or summer. It's always there.

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**NOTICE**

Please note that the Royal Canadian Legion Br. No. 223 Ladies Auxiliary General Meeting has been **changed to** the last **SUNDAY** of every month.

**RETRACTION**

Page 16 Bay Day Flyer No. 7SFB. Cannon Camera case NOT included in price of camera.

SCHREIBER - TERRACE BAY ASSOCIATION  
for the MENTALLY RETARDED

**General Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 19, 1983  
7:00 p.m.

Home of Art LeBlanc, President,  
602 Scotia St.,  
Schreiber, Ont.

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Terrace Bay Catholic Women's League

**"Harvest Festival Bazaar"**

Saturday, October 22, 1983  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
St. Martin's Church Hall  
Admission Free

Raffles & Door Prizes    Plant Table  
Bake Table                Kid's Corner  
Craft & Knitting Table    Religious Article Table

Tea  
Admission \$2.00 adult  
\$1.00 children under 12  
**SEE YOU THERE!**