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# Lions Hear Address on Upper Canada Village and St. Lawrence Waterway Developments

One of the world's greatest engineering projects of this century—the mammoth St. Lawrence Power and Seaway Developments—that had been a dream for over fifty years and now is a reality offers numerous pleasant surprises and interesting features today in the finished state.

Visitors to the Iroquois-Cornwall sector of the St. Lawrence River Valley now are amazed to see the remarkable transformation that has taken place on the new shoreline.

Most of the new shore of this 40-mile stretch of the former international rapids section of the St. Lawrence on the Canadian side, has been transformed into an interesting and historic park area. This is the result of the work and planning of the new Ontario-St. Lawrence Development Commission which acted to make attractive park lands following river flooding and the creation of a new lake in the St. Lawrence to provide a headpond for the mammoth international electric power development built by Ontario, Hydro and the New York State Power Authority. All the "scars" of construction now have disappeared and a beautiful new shoreline has been created along the Lake St. Lawrence banks.

new parkland with its recreational facilities and the Upper Canada Village was given by C. MacIntosh, Public Relations Officer for Ontario Hydro's Central Region, in an illustrated address at the dinner meeting of the Stouffville Lions Club in the Masonic Hall last week. The president Lion Jim Ogilvy presided.

The construction of the St. Lawrence power development demonstrated the effectiveness of international team work. This giant project that was built at a cost of some \$600 million showed how well the engineers and construction men of two friendly countries could plan and work together as one big team to construct a great international power development to serve the people of two countries in New York state and in Ontario. It was a lesson to the rest of the world demonstrating international co-operation for peaceful purposes, the speaker said.

By means of colour slides, he gave a bird's-eye view of this 40-mile long project. He discussed the construction of the 2250 foot long Iroquois control dam and its function, also the 2540 foot long curved axis Long Sault control dam, as well as the diversion of the Long Sault rapids and eventual flooding of these rapids. The great powerhouses built into a single huge 3300 foot long reinforced concrete power dam also was described and the huge turbo-generators and other equipment associated with the power houses were mentioned.

The speaker gave a brief description of the \$400 million international project which permits passage of almost 80 per cent of the world's freighter vessels up the St. Lawrence to gain access to the upper great lakes system and the heart of the North American continent.

Historic Village Created  
One of the highlights of the talk was the description of Crayler Farm Battlefield Park and the historic Upper Canada Village created by the Ontario St. Lawrence Development Commission on the new Lake St. Lawrence shoreline about five miles east of Morrisburg.

The Crayler Farm Battlefield Park consisting of 2,000 acres of beautifully landscaped parkland is a tribute to the soldiers and settlers of early Canada. It was here that one of the decisive battles of the War of 1812-14 was fought. Overlooking the park is the battle monument situated on Memorial Mound. This mound, constructed from earth taken from the battlefield before the St. Lawrence power project flooding, is at the end of an impressive mall flanked by rows of oaks and maples. At the foot of the mound stands the Battle Memorial Building with its murals, tablets and various historic mementos of the actual battle.

At Upper Canada Village, a visitor gets the impression of the calendar being turned back more than a hundred years and having the opportunity of stepping into the midst of some of Canada's early history. All the nostalgic charm of the past is captured and held in Upper Canada Village. It is the re-creation of a typical St. Lawrence Valley community of the 19th Century and all the more than 40 buildings have been relocated in the Village from their original sites along the river bank, and each has been restored or refurbished with painstaking accuracy.

Paradoxically, Upper Canada Village exists today because of the strides of modern progress. When the gigantic St. Lawrence Power Project and the Seaway were undertaken in 1954-58, it meant the end of existence of several small towns along the Ontario shoreline of the international rapids section because their sites were completely inundated by the river's deepening and widening. The decision to proceed with the planning and building of this realistic and typical village of the past, also the historical Crayler Farm Battlefield Park is a tribute to the imaginative forward-thinking and planning by the Parks Commission and its Chairman, the Hon. George Chalmers, also former Premier Frost and the Ontario Government, to create an authentic permanent link with Canada's early history and provide a valuable attraction.

Old Buildings Preserved  
Upper Canada Village nestles peacefully on the shore of the new Lake St. Lawrence and because of its historically accurate development, mirrors faithfully an important era in this nation's early history. Some of the outstanding buildings in this village include Cook's Tavern, the original building here, been used as headquarters by the US General Wilkinson during the Battle of Crayler's Farm in November, 1813. This tavern was a famous inn on the old Coach Road along the river shore. Travellers journeying by coach between Kingston and Montreal used to stop at this well-known hostelry as well as those travelling by bateau coming up the river. The tavern was extensively damaged by the battle of 1813 but was later rebuilt after the owner Michael Cook claimed war damages. It is now furnished and restored to its appearance in 1835 when it was a busy inn.

Crysler Hall, the most imposing building in the village, was built by John Pliny Crayler and has been restored externally to its exact original condition. It is a classical structure with its white doric columns and brick wings of majestic appearance. The interior now is being used as a Museum of Settlement containing paintings, pictures, costumes, jewellery, etc. telling the way of life in the various small villages of the area in the past. There are a number of historical homes as well as two fine, old churches. One of these is Christ Church moved from Moulinette and is typical of an

Anglican Church of 1837. The other church is Providence Church from Easton's Corners, built about 1850 and used by all denominations wherever the appropriate clergyman or circuit rider arrived.

Mr. MacIntosh pointed out that one of the significant things about this historical village is the fact that so many of the buildings contain equipment that is being operated today just as it was a century ago. For instance, the wooden mill produces wool and the saw mill cuts the wood in the old fashioned ways, powered by the force of water streams. In several of the buildings various handicrafts are carried out by people in old time costumes in the manner that this work was done in the 19th century. It is educational because these are not static displays but offer so much working equipment and activity that there are innumerable things of interest for visitors to see. Mr. MacIntosh pointed out in conclusion that this historical village has helped to preserve the illustrious heritage of the Canadian people and to keep for posterity a faithful reproduction of conditions in the early, formative years in this country's development, and urged his audience to go and see this whole area for themselves.

### Winter Fishing

Conservation Officers in the Lake Simcoe District have been reporting good catches of whitefish taken during the past few weeks. Lake trout fishing appears to have dropped off, but trout are still being taken along the crack north of Georgina Island in Lake Simcoe.

Some pike are being taken in Sturgeon Bay close to Waubesa and Conservation Officer Fred Bowes reports examining one good specimen which weighed 11 lbs., taken on a frozen smelt. Other pike checked averaged 7 lbs.

Good catches of perch are being taken in the Victoria Harbour and Penetang areas according to Conservation Officer Bruce Collins of Midland.

### Crows Sighted

Several flocks of crows have been sighted by Conservation Officer George Love, Maple, during the past few days. Although we are still experiencing below zero temperatures this may be a little indication that spring is not too far away.

### Park Attendance Up

Preliminary statistics indicate that some 1,266,582 visitors entered the 7 provincial parks in the Lake Simcoe District last summer. This compares with 856,566 recorded during 1961. Much of the increase results from visitor attendance at Wasaga Beach Provincial Park where vehicle entry permits commenced mid-way through the season.

Vehicle numbering 380,947 entered the Lake Simcoe District parks in 1962 and camping was again popular with slightly over 101,000 campers enjoying the facilities offered.

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