







365 Historical Facts


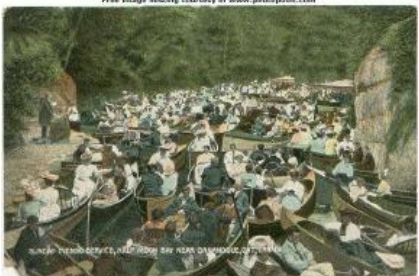

 Celebrate Our Local Heritage







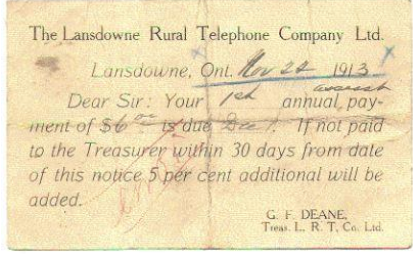
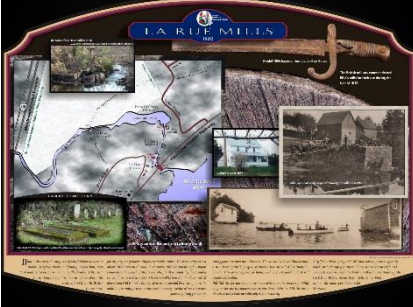
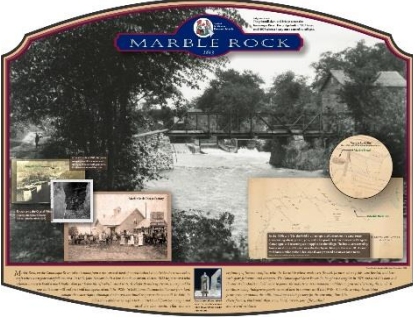
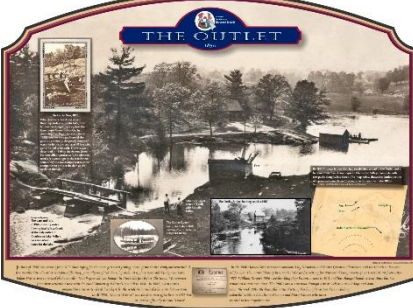
Township of
**Leeds and the
Thousand Islands**

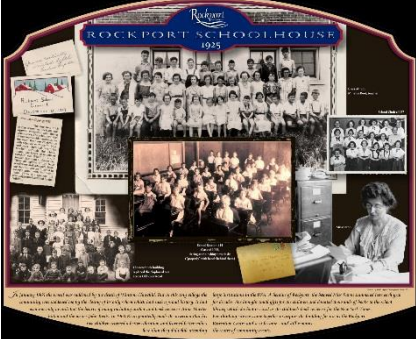
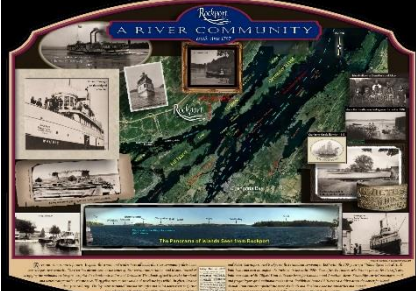

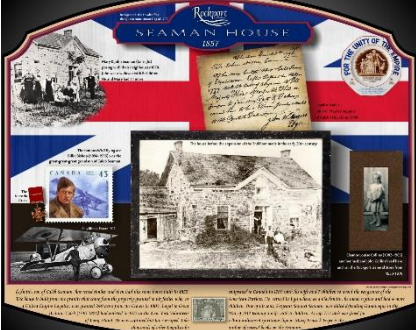
July, 2017


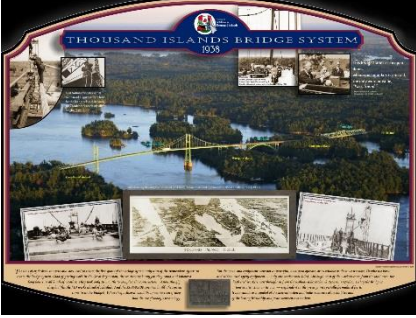
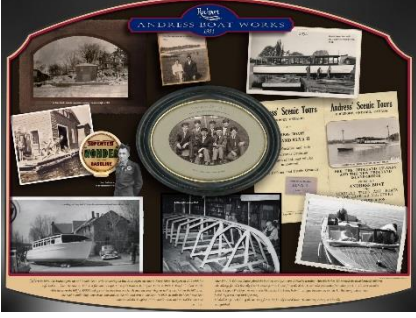
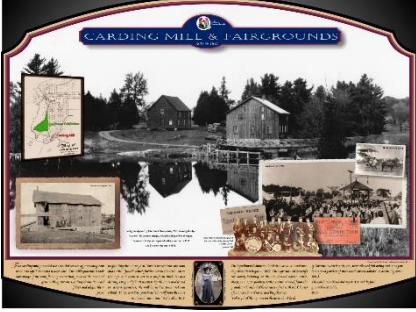
DATE	FACT	IMAGE
1	<p>On this day since 1868, Canadian's everywhere have shown their pride in their history, culture and achievements. Canada Day Celebrations in Seeley's Bay have taken place for over 50 years!</p>	
2	<p>In its day Marble Rock was a thriving community with prosperous mining and logging industries. In the 1960's the CATERAQUI Region Conservation Authority purchased approximately 710 acres of land at Marble Rock to restore the forest. Landscape once stripped for logging and grazing is now dominated by second growth trees and features difficult recreation trails. Along the Marble Rock Trail you'll encounter remnants of the old Matthew's farm and traverse pioneer trails that date to the 1800's.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places) www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/marble-rock-trail/</p>	
3	<p>The Gordon Rock Shelter is located in Charleston Lake Provincial Park along the Sandstone Island Trail. The shelter was formed through time by the elements. Excavations at the site uncovered artifacts hinting to the overhang being utilized as a shelter.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places) www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/gordon-rock-shelter/</p>	
4	<p>1000 Islands Tower was built in 1965 and features stunning views of the 1000 Islands. During the early years of operation the tower might see 100,000 visitors each year at a charge of \$0.25. Visitors used to climb the stairs that wrap around the exterior of the tower but today an elevator whisks guests up to the observation levels.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places)</p>	

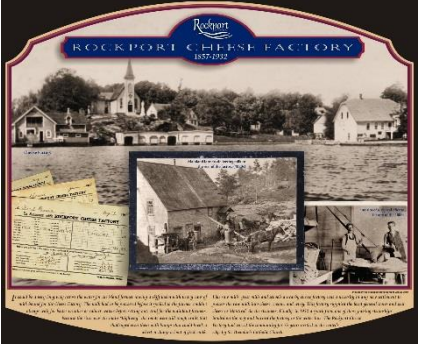
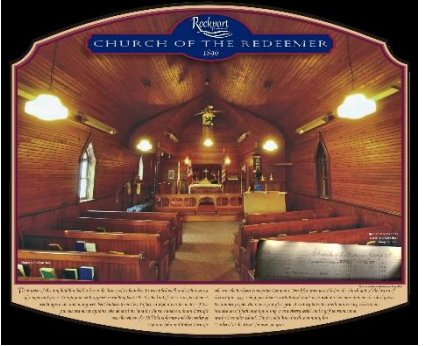
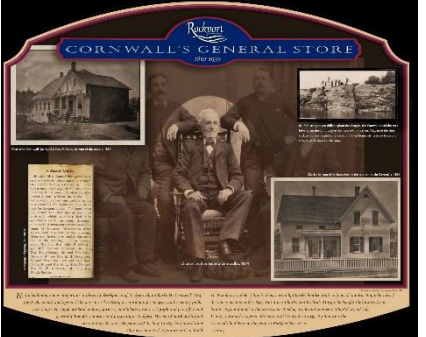
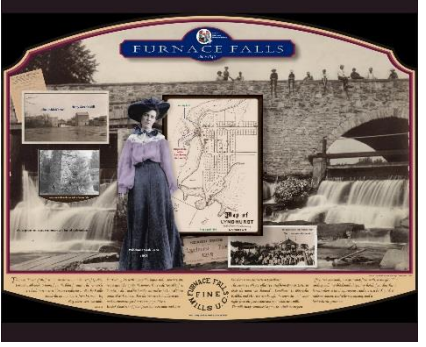
	www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/1000-islands-tower/	
5	<p>The Landon Bay Centre was established in 1960 to create a camping, hiking and learning centre so that everyone could enjoy the beauty of the property. From the top of the lookout you can see the steep rolling Hills of the Adirondack Mountains and the St. Lawrence River. Historically, the centre has been managed by the Barbara Heck Foundation (now the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Foundations) and maintained by devoted volunteers. Today, Parks Canada manages the centre.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places)</p> <p>www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/landon-bay/</p>	
6	<p>Today in history in 1852, the Lansdowne Post Office officially opened. The first postmaster was George McKelvey. Attached is a newspaper clipping from May 28, 1969 showing the then newly opened and current Lansdowne post office.</p> <p>(Information collected from tithistoricalsociety.org. Image courtesy of the Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives)</p>	
7	<p>Half Moon Bay boasts the tallest cathedral ceiling in the world! Since 1887 boaters have worshipped in the bay of Bostwick Island. The story goes that one summer day a boating party was caught out on the river in a fierce squall. The thankful boaters took refuge in the bay and were inspired with the idea of open-air church services. Services at Half Moon Bay run on Sundays in July and August.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places)</p> <p>www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/half-moon-bay/</p>	
8	<p>Gordon Island was a summer campsite for First Nations for thousands of years and has been a popular overnight campsite for explorers, traders and tourists. The island played an important role in the creation of Thousand Islands National Park. By building campsites and access for public enjoyment of Gordon, the island was saved from private purchase in the late 1800's and inspired the federal government to create Canada's first national park east of the Rockies. One of the first picnic shelter, from 1905 still stands on the island.</p>	

	<p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places) www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/gordon-island/</p>	
9	<p>Today in history in 1941, a young pilot from the Empire training base in Collins Bay buzzed the home of a girl he knew in Seeley's Bay. His Fairey battle plane caught a power line, then hit a pole and a house and rocketed down Bay Street toward the boat landing. It demolished 5 boathouses along Bay Street before it sank in the bay. Fishing guide James Free and his grandson were killed when the plane hit this boathouse. The pilot also died.</p> <p>(Information collected by Leeds and the Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee)</p>	
10	<p>Haskin's Point was created when the Rideau Canal was built. Areas along the Rideau River were flooded to create a channel wide enough and deep enough for ships to pass through. In 1832 with the completion of Upper Brewers Lock and the formation of a dam in Morton, the body of water we know today as Seeley's Bay was Formed. In 1840 the land was purchased by Samuel Haskins and Haskins point was born.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places) www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/haskins-point/</p>	
11	<p>Blue Mountain is the highest point in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and can be accessed by kayak or canoe though Charleston Lake.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of Amazing Places) www.visitamazingplaces.ca/amazing/listings/blue-mountain/</p>	
12	<p>Today in history in 1943, the Bethel Church of Wilstead burnt down. It was rebuilt through the efforts of the congregation with materials from the closed Eden Grove and Fairfax churches.</p> <p>(Information collected from tithistoricalsociety.org. Image courtesy of the Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives)</p>	

<p>13</p>	<p>This year, Lansdowne Telephone Company is celebrating 110 years of business! Today, Lansdowne remains unique in that it is home to one of the few remaining independent telephone companies in the province. Pictured is an overdue notice from 1913.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of http://www.1000island.net/docs/100-Years.pdf)</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Billa Larue settled in the Township in 1790 to harvest the valuable timber. He owned about 1000 acres on the mainland and built a log home, a sawmill and a lock. Later he added a gristmill farther up the creek in a steep ravine. Billa hid the fortune he amassed somewhere on his property. While digging for the legendary treasure one dark night in 1881 the men's shovels struck a hard metallic object and immediately they "felt a blast of icy cold air"...</p> <p>Visit the La Rue Mills interpretive sign to learn what happened to the treasure! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>Marble Rock, on the Gananoque River, takes its name from a tree-covered shoal of marble bedrock that divides the stream below a rift where a ten foot waterfall occurred. In 1813, John Howard built a low dam downstream, then in 1822 he partnered with Thomas Emery to build a much higher dam. Emery and his sons built a saw mill and a grist mill that operated until the 1920s.</p> <p>Visit the Marble Rock interpretive sign to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>In June of 1860 two cousins from NY State vying for the same girl went fishing north of the Outlet. Only one returned. A few months later the other was found floating, partially weighted down by rocks, at a place now called Judgment Cove. The cousin who returned was convicted of the murder and was hanged in Brockville.</p> <p>Visit the Outlet interpretive sign to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	

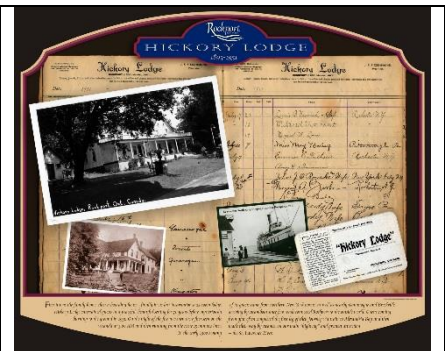
<p>17</p>	<p>In January 1965 the village of Rockport was saddened by the closing of its only school which had such a proud history. It had won not only awards but the hearts of many including author and book reviewer Anne Thaxter Eaton and writer John Keats. Far-thinking citizens came together to acquire the building for uses as the Rockport Recreation Centre.</p> <p>Visit the Rockport Schoolhouse interpretive sign at the Rockport Recreation Centre to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>18</p>	<p>River rats, rum runners, famer, Iroquois, fishermen, and settlers have all made Rockport their home over the past two centuries.</p> <p>Visit the A River Community interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>In Lansdowne and in the nearby county there was once over 21 one-room schools. Children often walked to school as far as 3 miles. Parents wanted their children to be schooled in the 3 R's – Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Discipline might have been in the form of a leather strap across the palm of your hands.</p> <p>Visit the Lansdowne Schools of the Past interpretive sign in Lansdowne in Front of TIES to learn more! #TLICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>Smith, Son of Caleb Seaman, harvested timber and then had this stone house built in 1857. The house is built from granite that came from the property granted to his father who, as a United Empire Loyalist, was granted 249 acres from the Crown in 1803.</p> <p>Visit the Seaman House interpretive sign in Rockport on Old River Road to learn more about the Seaman family and their house! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	

<p>21</p>	<p>The Lansdowne Fair is celebrating 153 years! The first fair was held in 1864. At this time the fair had no property of its own. The fair was held at the end of Grand Trunk Avenue, on the triangle between the railway and King Street. In 1875 the society start to look for land to establish permanent fairgrounds and the fair moved to the north end of the village. Pictured is the Horse Show c1920.</p> <p>(Information collected from and image courtesy of http://www.ltihistoricalsociety.org/41springsummer2014.pdf)</p>	
<p>22</p>	<p>The tons of explosives, concrete and steel used to create the five spans of the bridge system only hint at the tremendous efforts to create the bridge system. Glad of getting work in the Great Depression, the workers took any job they could and laboured long hours in all kinds of weather. They took only 16 months to complete the construction. Astonishingly they had finished 10 weeks ahead of schedule. And the \$3,050,000 spent to build the system came in under budget!</p> <p>Visit the Thousand Islands Bridge System interpretive sign along the 1000 Islands Parkway just west of Rockport to learn more!</p>	
<p>23</p>	<p>Born in 1886, Ed Andress grew up at his dad's boat works at nearby La Rue Mills before moving to Kerry Point, Rockport in 1912 with his wife and son Elmer. Later, in 1921, he bought his boss' stately white home on the hill for \$5000 and opened his own boat works. He used the lower shop as well as the shed on the hills across the board to build skiffs, tour boats, inboards, outboards, and even an air boat. In 1928, he built the "Elva" tour boat named with his daughter Ethel's middle name and started his own tour boat line.</p> <p>Visit the Andress Boat Works interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more!</p>	
<p>24</p>	<p>The carding mill provided the essential service of processing raw wool into soft but strong usable cloth. The mill's placement took advantage of the same flowing water that powered the saw and grist mills upstream. Originally built c1837 by the Jones and leased to various operators, the milled burned in 1868 and was rebuilt. The Greens later purchased the mills from the Jones estate and ran it until it closed in 1917.</p>	

	<p>Visit the Carding Mill & Fairgrounds interpretive sign in Lyndhurst to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>It could be a very long way across the water for an island farmer rowing a skiff laden with heavy cans of mild bound for the Cheese Factory. This factory supplied the local general stores and sent cheese to Montreal via the steamers. The Rockport Cheese Factory served the community for 75 years before it caught fire and burned to the water line in 1932.</p> <p>Visit the Rockport Cheese Factory interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>The interior of the Church of the Redeemer holds a key to the history of its founders. Its varnished walls and ceiling consist of tongue and groove Georgia pine with supports resembling boat ribs. It's the kind of interior its parishioners would appreciate since many were boat builders themselves. In fact, in 1896 it was the mother of two famous steamboat captains who donated the land the church stands on.</p> <p>Visit the Church of the Redeemer interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>27</p>	<p>No individual was more important in the early development of Rockport than Charles W. Cornwall (1824-1907) who owned and operated the store as well as being a councilman for 20 years and a notary public even longer. He owned much of the land surrounding, the point and the bay.</p> <p>Visit the Cornwall's General Store interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	
<p>28</p>	<p>Furnace Falls was the site of the first iron smelter in Canada west of Quebec. The ironworks were built in remote wilderness condition in 1801 by Wallis Sunderlin and ironmaster from Vermont. By 1803, there will two mills and a hotel – complete with a 10-gallon liquor still. However, 1811 was a year of tragedy: the ironworks were destroyed by fire, Sunderlin died, and his family returned to the United States smeared with rumors.</p> <p>Visit the Furnace Falls interpretive sign in Lyndhurst to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150</p>	

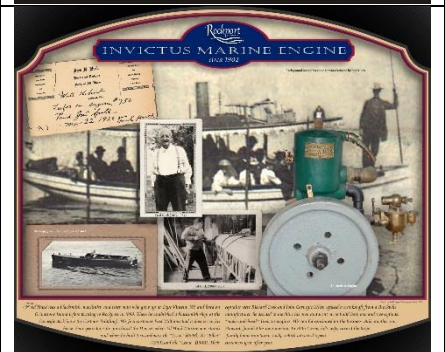
29 First it was the family home, then a boarding house – finally a 22-room lodge. Hickory Lode entertained guests in a peaceful, beautiful setting for 70 years before mysteriously burning to the ground in 1951.

Visit the Hickory Lodge interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Can150



30 Fred Huck was a blacksmith, machinist, and river man who grew up at Cape Vincent, NY and lived on Grindstone Islands before locating to Rockport in 1889. There he established a blacksmith shop at the Carnegie dock. Four years later he purchased the 11 acres where Ed Huck Marine now stands and where he built 3 steamboats.

Visit the Invictus Marine Engine interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150



31 In 1880 the Island View Hotel was erected and operated by Theodore Lear. Besides catering to the public as a hotel, it acted as a community centre. They had dances, amateur shows, road shows, traveling vaudevilles, and community suppers. This old landmark was torn down in 1936.

Visit the Island View Hotel interpretive sign in Rockport to learn more! #TLTICan150 #Canada150

