

BOAT TOUR OF BIG RIDEAU LAKE A Captain Tom Adventure

Books Used to Research the Tour

Leeds and Grenville: The First Two Hundred Years; Ruth McKenzie 1967

The Rideau Canal and Its Corridor; Pat McManus 2011

When The Fish are Rising, Tales of the Rideau Lake: Clint Fleming 1947

Second Edition 1981

Rideau Passages: Jane Moore; 1955

Second Edition 1982

Rideau Waterways: Robert Legget Ferguson; 1972

My Own Four Walls: Diane Haskins; 1985

AGENDA

Portland's History 1801 - Present

Islands of the Big Rideau History – Present

Lunch at Colonel By Island

Geography and History of Big Rideau Lake

Islands of the Big Rideau Continues

Return to Portland Harbour

Portland Backgrounder

Portland important for the main route to Perth and the military encampment.

Settlers route through Portland about 1784. (Scottish) heading to Perth.

Protection from Americans after War of Independence. United Empire Loyalists (New England and New York State area) coming to Upper Canada. 1796

Some dispute about exact location of Portland. Water was 6 feet lower than today.

1801 is first building in town at the end of Water Street.

Lieutenant Colonel John By, and his Royal Sappers and Miners for alternative route from St. Lawrence and American aggression. Irish and Fench Canadians.

Many killed by malaria which was brought here by English soldiers stationed in India.

Canal is built in 1826 to 1832 and Portland starts to boom.

47 locks in the Canal from Kingston to Ottawa.

Portland named after the Duke of Portland in England.

Portland grew rapidly. Portland very prosperous in the late 1800' to 1930 period. Boat building, cheese factories, wood mills, logging, mining.

Steam ships bring passengers to Portland. Locking thousands of vessels each year.

Our building about 1834 Peter Cole is important merchant and his buildings and wharf are strategic location in harbour.

5 hotels and several taverns.

First Temperance Society Driving force to get Upper Canada dry.

Big Rideau Lake Overview

Big Rideau has about 300 islands. 20 miles from Narrows Locks to Poonamalie. It was the first rapids on the Rideau River. At one time the lake went to Westport.

Places of Interest

Sheep Island (part of main land prior to 1832) and Murder Mansion.

McBride Family had potato farm in McDonald Bay, hence Potato Island, now called Summerland Island (1900).

Little Lake

Twin Islands. Deeded in 1890, 4 generations of Kirkland's (just off Jerry Island) with bridge.

Bowers Island

Briton Bay once called German Bay Garrett's Rest German Swatzega.

Angler's Inn Long Island. Later WAGS Lodge stands for **Wives and Girlfriends** Lodge

Wedding Cake in 1890. Built by James Gould from Smiths Falls. Testas later in 1953.

Larry Robinson / Fancy Free

Houghton Bay and Castledaines

Tar Island and the Bird Sanctuary.

Murphy's Point Provincial Park Gov purchased in 1958

Danny Arnstein and the story of Long Island. Now Colonel By Island

Bungalow Island

Owl Island and the cormorants.

Northover 1914

Little Boy camp

Red Rock Indian Settlement

Narrows Locks and the Upper Rideau Lake

Sherwood's and the Haskin connection.

Dig a canal from Murphy's Bay to Newboro Lake.

Grindstone Island, Quarried in the 1860s. Graphite Mines. Admiral and Lady Kingsmill purchased in 1916.

Sheldons Bay

Thomas (Owner of Revlon) purchased from Southam who had acquired the property the 20s. Destroyed by Fire.

Dr. Effler at Tower Island. Open Heart Surgery.

Edwards 1914 started a club of fishermen from Ottawa.. Estate became Ironwoods.

Geography of Big Rideau

Watershed which flows to Ottawa.

Big Rideau Lake appears 10,000 years ago, after the Wisconsin Ice Period 40,000 to 8,000 B.C.

North Shore Precambrian Shield Oldest rock on Earth. High as the Rockies

Fault Line which runs along the north shore. Water is 300 to 400 feet deep.

Palaeolithic Man first evidence in 5845 BC.

Small settlement at Rideau Ferry 1300 – 1400 AD

Rideau Ferry called Olivers Landing.

800 A.D. there is evidence of agriculture.. Maize (corn) being grown.

Samuel Champlain names Rideau after a Curtain of Water (Rideau Falls)

Indians were Hurons. Iroquois take over by 1648.

Champlain's expedition up the Ottawa River in 1610. Etienne Brule and Indians explore the Rideau River. He is believed to be the first White Man to see Big Rideau.

Steam Ships

1841 Canal open for 210 days locked 1650 vessels , some with barges)

Five steamers per day, 45 barges per day carrying livestock, grain, apples, cheese

Rideau Queen carried 300 passenger, 108 feet long and 195 tons. Large Vessels

Conclusion Passage from Jane Moore's Book