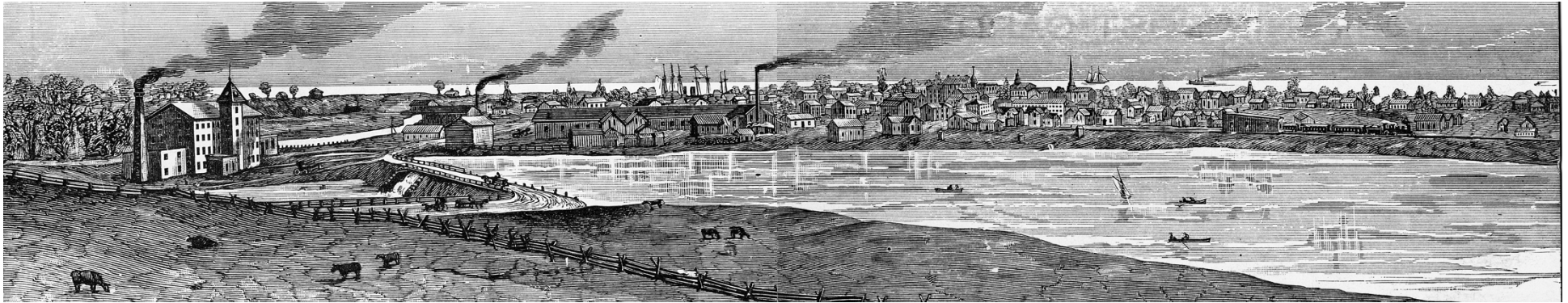


LETTERS & NOTES. Send your letters or notes to news@PortDoverMapleLeaf.com or mail to 351 Main St., Port Dover N0A 1N0



First created in 1875 as an engraving of Port Dover and then a century ago turned into two post cards, this artists' rendering looking across Silver Lake from Prospect Hill shows, from left, the woollen mill that used the water power; the original dam that created Silver Lake; the harbour; industry and houses in the town and the railway station and train along the bank of Silver Lake. A later railway station now owned by Norfolk County still exists at the location and the tracks now form part of the Lynn Valley Trail. What appears to be boats on the lake suggests Silver Lake was used for recreation when the engraving was made 145 years ago.

Silver Lake Revitalization Project getting underway

AS the repairs to Misner Dam have begun, it will now be possible to revitalize Silver Lake for the benefit of all Norfolk County residents and beyond.

When Norfolk County made the decision to repair Misner Dam, the Port Dover Lions Club

and Port Dover Waterfront Preservation Association committed to initiate the organization of a broad-based community effort that would obtain the necessary approvals and funds to revitalize Silver Lake.

We made this commitment

confident that there is the interest and expertise, both within and outside our community, to rally behind a project and vision that has significant environmental and social benefits.

Once repaired, Misner Dam will protect the lower Lynn Riv-

er and the Port Dover harbour from the accumulation of silt. The Silver Lake Revitalization Project will include silt traps located so that silt can be removed in an ongoing, cost-effective manner. These silt traps will provide increased protection to our navigable waterway and harbour – both of which provide significant economic and social benefits to Norfolk County.

Equally important though, the Silver Lake Revitalization Project will improve the quality of water flowing into Lake Erie, restore a wetland and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, a natural setting will be created for year-round recreational activities that can be enjoyed by persons of all ages and abilities.

We are now beginning our search for those local, provincial, national, and international organizations who share our goals and are willing to join representatives of our organizations on a Steering Committee that will provide advice, sup-

port, guidance and oversight to the Silver Lake Revitalization Project.

The Silver Lake Revitalization Project will take many years to complete. Once an organization is established, environmental studies will be conducted and community input will be sought to finalize a vision and create a plan. Work to implement this plan can then begin in phases as approvals and resources permit.

Upon reflection of past achievements in Norfolk County where volunteers came together with the assistance of supportive organizations, we are confident that Silver Lake can be revitalized for the benefit of both present and future generations.

Robert McKinnon
President
Port Dover Lions Club

Paul Creighton
President
Port Dover Waterfront
Preservation Association



When the water level of Silver Lake was lowered a decade ago over concerns about the dam's safety, the upper section of the lake was lost to a century of silt accumulation. This summer, the water level in the lower section of the lake is low. Misner Dam, now under repair, is seen at the lower right of the photo.