

The Grand Despatch



A brief social history of Port Maitland Ontario, and the surrounding area
Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association (PMHA) - Free to PMHA members

"Sir John Coape Sherbrooke!"

Baby it's snowing outside!

As I work on this story (Jan. 28th) we are waiting for a dumping of snow. In order to get some chores done before the storm I headed out to Stoney Creek early but soon hit a dandy snow storm. No day to be out there!

I am also working another article after receiving an email from Japan. It is one of those stories that is personal to those involved but is a bit tough to put a more community face to. However, it does have some wider interest! I just have to find the key. Keep watching!

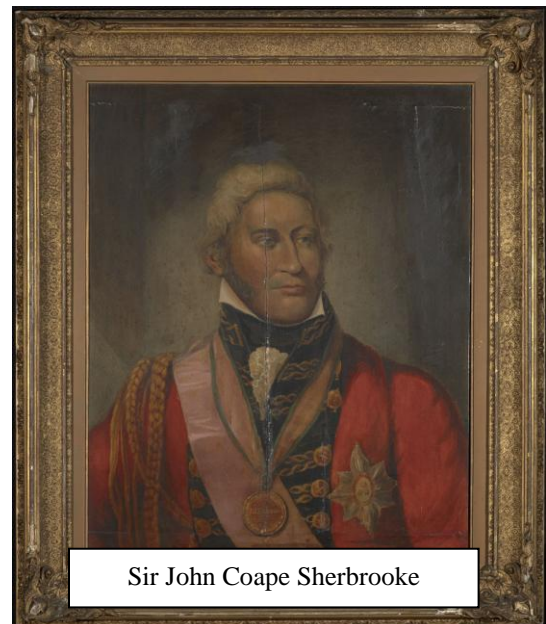
Sir John Coape Sherbrooke gives us a name for our former Township!

In Volume 6 No 2 Spring 2018 of *The Grand Despatch*, I wrote a rather lengthy and detailed article about Sir Frederick Haldimand. This research inspired me to find more information about those in our past for whom our local communities are named. For this issue I have researched and written this short biography about Sir John Coape Sherbrooke. I have begun some early research about the namesake for Port Maitland. He is Sir Peregrine Maitland and he presents a problem. In the era of taking down or moving statues, I am afraid that Sir Peregrine Maitland might be such a person had there been a statue of him. Yes, I still intend to write about him, but I need to assess how I wish to present him. That is enough about him at this time. Just a tease for now!

Sir John Coape Sherbrooke (April 29, 1764 – February 14, 1830) was born in Arnold, Nottinghamshire, England. He died in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, England. His father William

Coape married Sarah Sherbrooke and took her family name. Sarah was a co-heiress of Henry Sherbrooke of Oxton, Nottinghamshire. Obviously a much higher rank than William's grandfather whose name and occupation I am unable to discover with certainty. It appears that Sir John's father William may have been a Justice of the Peace.

There is some evidence that Sir John's grandfather might have been Henry Coope or Coape Esq. of Sherwood Lodge. This sounds like a story right out of Robin Hood!



Sir John Coape Sherbrooke

Sir John Coape Sherbrooke (I am going to leave the name Coape out from now on) is the person that the former township of Sherbrooke which was located at the mouth of the Grand River got its name. This is in part, the area we locals know fondly as Beckley Beach or East Port Maitland.

My research found Sir John Sherbrooke to be a very hard person to pin a precise personality. He has

been described as kind but cruel; impatient but tolerant; a perfectionist but sympathetic of imperfection; severe but compassionate; uncompromising but flexible. The list of antonyms goes on and on.

Though his father's status may not have been equal to that of his mother's it does appear that his parents lived a somewhat chosen life and brushed shoulders with the upper crusted 18th century folks! This said I found no clear mention that his status gave him special consideration for promotions; however his first early promotions did come especially fast! Over his life of service he earned himself at least sixteen promotions in military and political life. He started his army life as an Ensign in the 4th King's Own Regiment of Foot in 1780, as a sixteen year old. Within three months he was appointed as a lieutenant in that regiment. Fifteen months later he was made Captain in the 85th Regiment of Foot (Westminster Volunteers). Within one year the 85th foot was disbanded. In 1784, he was a soldier with no army when he joined the 33rd. or (1st Yorkshire West Riding) Regiment and was stationed at Sydney, Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.



Sir John had a bit of a reputation for being a person who believed in the supernatural! The first of a number of supernatural or otherworldly contacts Sherbrooke is attributed to would take place in 1785 while stationed in Nova Scotia. He and fellow officer witnessed what would become known as the "[Wynyard ghost](#)". Sherbrooke and Lieutenant George Wynyard claimed to have seen a figure walk through the room where they were sitting. Wynyard recognized the person as his brother. It would be learned later that his brother had died in England at that very time.

He did not serve long in Cape Breton, as the American War for Independence concluded soon after his arrival. He was soon returned home to Britain. Sherbrooke would make his mark as a military mastermind over the next many years. These accomplishments are too many to fully record here. I encourage you to look for more history of Sir John on the web. This article will not come close to doing Sir John Sherbrooke justice. He had a lengthy military and diplomatic history at a time in Britain's history when they seemed to go from one conflict to another. There are many sites on the web for you to do your own research. Here are just three! [Wikipedia](#), [Dictionary of Canadian Biography](#), [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#),

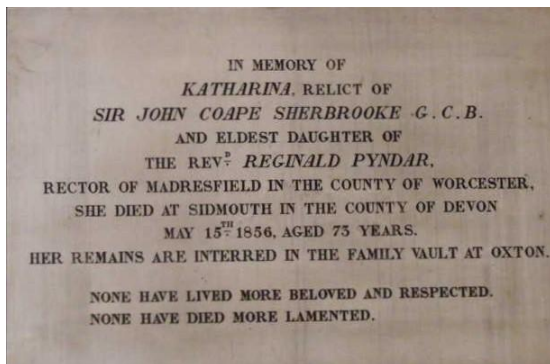


Sir John Coape Sherbrooke

Thirty years after Sir Frederick Haldimand was knighted, fifty-one year old John Sherbrooke would be knighted on January 2, 1815, into the Order of Bath; the same order as Sir Frederick Haldimand. On January 29, 1816, he was promoted to Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of Canada being sworn in on July 12, 1816, at Quebec City. While Governor-in-Chief he dealt with numerous issues arising from the earlier War of 1812 and the Catholic population in Quebec. His superiors were impressed with his diplomacy and resolutions

worked out during this tenure in Canada. This was a stressful assignment and it took its toll on Sherbrooke. On February 6, 1818 he suffered a paralytic stroke and resigned immediately as Governor-in-Chief returning to Britain in August 1818.

Sherbrooke suffered ill health through most of his life, at times having to return home to Britain from his foreign posts. Even with these health concerns his superior thought so highly of him that promotions and difficult assignments continued throughout his life. He lost his wife who died on May 15, 1856 the daughter of Rev. Reginald Pyndar, rector of Madresfield, Worcestershire. The Sherbrooke's had no children.



From the Dictionary of Canadian Biography *"it might seem surprising that a military man of violent temper and indifferent health should have achieved such remarkable success in making the constitution of Lower Canada work harmoniously and in winning the confidence and respect of colonists of all parties. Appointed to a colonial governorship at the age of 46 as a reward for military services, Sherbrooke proceeded to display in that civilian capacity unexpected gifts as an astute diplomat and conciliator. Though instinctively conservative, he was no reactionary and his thoroughly pragmatic approach to colonial politics enabled him to preserve a sense of proportion and detachment. He was encumbered neither by strong prejudices nor by undue sensitivity about official prerogatives or personal honour, which so vitiated the conduct of governors like Dalhousie. The secret of Sherbrooke's success lay in a declared determination to combat factionalism and adopt a*

neutral stance, allied with the necessary independence of mind to pursue these objectives unswervingly and the engaging frankness of manner to convince all kinds of men of his probity and even-handedness. It would be impossible, [Herman Witsius Ryland](#) avowed in January 1817," "to see a more amicable, upright and honorable Man, and I feel persuaded that his manly Candour, firmness and good sense will ensure Respect, & Compliance with his Views from the major part of the Assembly."

Dictionary of Canadian Biography Peter Burrouhs, Professor of History, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. "He was encumbered neither by strong prejudices nor by undue sensitivity about official prerogatives or personal honour, which so vitiated the conduct of governors like Dalhousie. The secret of Sherbrooke's success lay in a declared determination to combat factionalism and adopt a neutral stance, allied with the necessary independence of mind to pursue these objectives unswervingly and the engaging frankness of manner to convince all kinds of men of his probity and even-handedness."

Let's review a bit of Sherbrooke Township History

Found in the Dunnville and District Heritage Societies book – *Grand Heritage* is the following. *"In 1850 the township of Moulton and Sherbrooke were combined. On the surface, the move seemed to make sense, since Sherbrooke was one of the smallest townships in the province. The union lasted a little over two decades, until Sherbrooke was separated from Moulton by a by-law passed 26 January 1875. There were one hundred resident freeholders and householders on the assessment role, and half had petitioned for separation. Lachlan McCallum, it was said had convinced the residents of Sherbrooke that their taxes were too high under a united township. The by-law went into effect January 1, 1876. James Dougher was the first reeve of the township followed by Daniel Dickhout in 1877. For many years William Chalmers was township clerk."*

I am unable to discover the reason that Sherbrooke took the name it did. It was said in the 1960s with the coming of the fertilizer factories at Port Maitland,

Haldimand County Community Culture Award October 11, 2018

Don and Sylvia Weaver's tireless commitment to, and enthusiasm for, the history and culture landscape of Haldimand County are hard to resist. Both Sylvia and Don have been determined in their efforts to preserve the County's historical assets, celebrate its heritage and raise awareness about the importance of protecting local cemeteries and family histories.

From 2006 to 2007, Don worked with a team of three individuals to restore the Indiana Cemetery at Ruthven National Historic Site. Following the rededication of the cemetery, Don continued to maintain the property until health issues no longer allowed him to. Twice a week from May until October, Don would tend to the cemetery and meticulously trim around the headstones. For his work on the project, Don received the Cemetery Preservation Award from the Ontario Historical Society.



Sylvia is a member of Heritage Haldimand and was instrumental in developing the Underground Railroad and Black Settlement Marker in Canfield.

She is passionate about preserving the importance of Black History in Haldimand. Sylvia was asked to speak at the Dunnville Historical Association on this topic to a standing-room-only crowd. She was also asked to speak

on the topic of Black History in Haldimand by Edinburgh Square Museum, North Erie Shore Historical Society and Thompson Creek School.

Sylvia is also a member of the Haldimand Museum Board and Friends of the Education Archives serving Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant, where she represents Haldimand by collecting old school pictures, registers, and school memorabilia for the archives. She was also the co-chair of the Haldimand Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society for 10 years. Sylvia has done genealogical research for individuals and organizations and has also published several books.

In 2015, she collaborated with Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association and Haldimand County to install a memorial cairn at Port Maitland East Park, recognizing the Grand River Naval Depot, Naval Depot Cemetery, the Feeder Canal and Lock and the Local Fishing Industry.


Parents Have Changed, Children Have Not!

By Jessica Cotter, Grade 11 St. Mary's R.C. H.S. Hamilton

"Boy, kids have changed!" Adults are often heard commenting about children, their change in behaviour, attitude, and lifestyle. All the negative blame for these changes is put on to children because they are different than in past generations. This accusation, however, can be proven to be false. Parents, over time, are the people who have changed. The world would be a better place if adults could recognize that children have not changed; parents have changed.

Children are often criticized by adults for being different from the way they were years ago. When adults talk about the differences in children, they are often referring to their behaviour. For example, I work in a restaurant as a hostess. This means I regularly speak to people and follow their requests. On one occasion when I was working, a family with their young daughter, who was about five, entered the restaurant. As a hostess in the summer, I am obligated to ask customers whether they would like indoors or patio seating. After posing this question to the family, both parents answered that they would love to sit outside, as it was a very nice day.

Continued on pg 8



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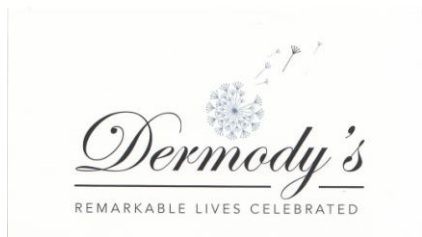
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Continued from pg 5

However, after hearing her parents' response, the young girl began to throw a temper tantrum. She was yelling and screaming that she had to eat her food inside and that she could eat only inside. As a result of their child's embarrassing display, the parents obeyed their child and decided to sit inside for lunch. This true story is a perfect example of the direct contribution parents have on their child's behaviour nowadays. The girl was old enough to understand that a restaurant was not an appropriate setting to make a scene. However, because of the way she is being raised, she knows how to gain power over her guardians using her behaviour.

Considering that the forms of parenting have changed, adults need to start condemning parents instead of children. For example, the life skills that are inherited from parents are dependent on how exposed a child is to the world. This includes a child's ability to problem solve. In this era, there have been many instances when parents have called teachers requesting that their child re-take a failed test. In this situation, the parent is ineffectively teaching the child by giving him or her the easy way out. As an alternate solution to this, parents could be encouraging their child to work harder and become more productive at studying. This could result in a child carrying this attitude throughout their lifetime.

This leaves me with a question: How could children have changed if they are born as a blank slate to be raised by their parents? The changes in children stem from their parents, so instead of saying, "Boy, kids have changed," put the blame where it belongs and say, "Boy, parents have changed!"

Greyhounds visit PMHA at Annual General Meeting!



Rachel gave the presentation, with her dog, Chase.

Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton-Wentworth (GLOHW) works closely with greyhound adoption groups in the U.S. to find the right "forever home" for every greyhound that we bring into our organization.

In order to do this, they do not "warehouse" dogs. Your greyhound will be selected specifically for you based on a profile that is created uniquely for you and your family by members of GLOHW's Adoption Committee. The profile is based on information provided to us in your adoption application and from a home visit. This process ensures that the best match possible is made between the adopter and the greyhound.

Occasionally, GLOHW is contacted regarding re-homing or rescuing a greyhound in-need. As with adoptions of newly retired track dogs, re-home or rescue dogs are evaluated by an experienced greyhound foster family in order to determine what type of home would best suit the dog's needs.

A number of GLOHW members and their dogs made the trek to Dunnville on the evening of November 14th to tell us of their passion for Greyhounds and how they assist in finding former racing dogs a new safe home.

If you are interested in knowing about adopting a greyhound or supporting GLOHW contact Victoria Ingram.

GLOHW c/o Victoria Ingram, President
Stonechurch Postal Outlet
PO. Box 32192
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 3L3
905-387-0318 president@glohw.com



Winter at Beckley Beach from Don Blunt

Frustration and then Some! CCSG Griffon almost Makes it in the Harbour!

I started this issue by telling you the date and the weather

conditions. It is now February the 10th nearly two week later. On Thursday Feb 7th I contacted Joe Farwell the CEO of the Grand River Conservation Authority asking him if he could advise me when the *Coast Guard ship Griffon* was to enter Grand River to break up the ice. I had seen an article on CHCH TV the night before indicating it was going to break up the ice to assist in the prevention of flooding in the Grand. Joe passed my request onto Cameron Linwood who sends me a website where I could track the *Griffon*. Thanks Joe and Cam.

But before I go any further with this story: I had all but put this issue of the Grand Despatch to bed and was about to send it to the printer. Eight pages long and not too expensive to print! Then came my adventure or should I say misadventure with the *Griffon* and four more pages of print and photos!

Bill being Bill, I wanted to share my newfound information with all of you, so I forwarded the website to you and invited you to a party at the Cairn in Port Maitland east. Cam's info though with caution suggested the ship may make Port Maitland by 4:30 Friday afternoon. However Cam included some concerns about headwinds and heavy ice which could slow the ships arrival.



My email of the website sent, I headed for Port Maitland making sure I did not go to the west side as there was some concern that the Port Maitland Rd may be closed due to flooding. Port Maitland East floods but it is slightly higher than the west side.

After checking the website regularly I was becoming frustrated with seeing no indication of the ship moving. The wind was wild at the cairn! I would get out of the car long enough to test out my new camera I received for Christmas while I wondered if the website was not

properly updating and within second found myself freezing.



By about 3:30 after receiving a number of emails sent by those of you who decided to do some tracking on the website I realized that the ship was at anchor and not about to move. It was time to visit my sister Margo in Dunnville where she put me up for the night.

In the meantime, I received numerous emails telling me of their interest in what was "not" happening and wishing they were there. Brenda Wing nee Boyle wrote "Sounds like fun but we're too far away. Love this link to track the ships! I take it the lake is frozen...Brenda" Eva Salter wrote "I would love to see this Bill. Will it still be there tomorrow? Eva" Carol Bittman "Hi Bill. I hope you got to see the *Griffon* and had a good party while waiting for it to come in . . ." and so on!



If only the ship had arrived, it would have been a party as I was later to learn that a number of people did turn up!

Then an email from Sylvia Weaver "Bill, I heard it is too

windy; the *Griffon* may not come to Port Maitland until Saturday. Check it out.” Sylvia



Saturday morning I was up at six watching the website but the darn ship was still anchored east of Long Point! I waited until about eight a.m. and headed for west Port Maitland to see what flooding if any had occurred. It was obvious that the water had come up some, but nothing damaging had occurred. It is a small world! While taking some photo of the river ice and park I met a young lady who turned out to be the daughter of an old girlfriend – Kathy Hoard. Patty Powel was a short lived girlfriend from 1964. That’s another story of my great and fun encounters with her family, especially her father Steve who loved to tease me and did everything to embarrass me. He met his match with me as I simply pushed back!

By 9:30 I had given up, my website was impossible to read on my Iphone but what I could understand is that the *Griffon* remained at anchor so I called it a day and headed home to Hamilton.

I never reached Caistor Centre when Janet deVos called to tell me that she could see the *Griffon* in front of her house as it was heading for Port Maitland. The *Griffon* had lifted anchor and was making good speed toward Port Maitland, but I was done. Maybe Don Blunt whom I had been talking back and forth with would get my photos for me.

More calls came in throughout the day and finally some photos from Don and Ann Marie Flatt arrived. As for the delayed party, I am told that a good number of people turned up at Port on both sides and all were miserably disappointed. By late morning the *Griffon* appeared from the south-west staying some distance offshore

slightly to the east of the harbour in *Connor Bay*, while circling around and around and around and yes around!

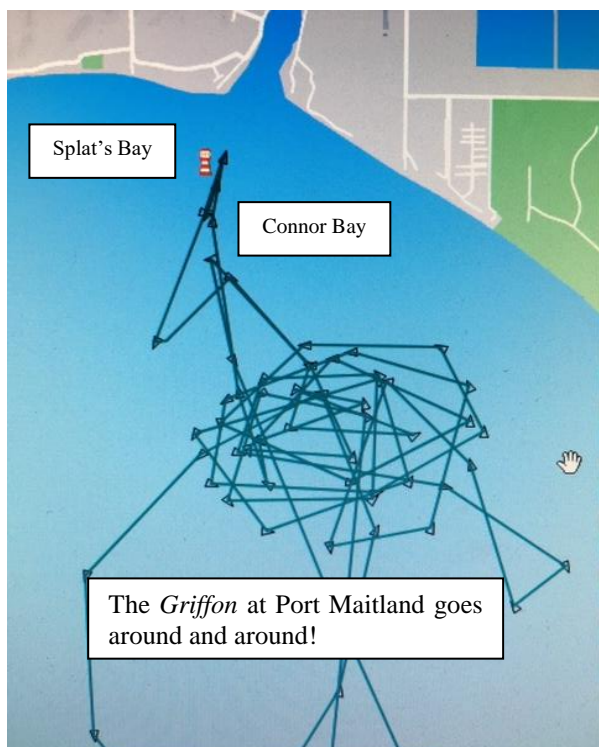


It is not showing up on the photo below, but on the original photo *Connor Bay* is shown of the east side of Port Maitland. Just to add a bit of confusion to the story *Connor Bay* was named after the O’Connor family who owned the farm roughly where the western limit of Rock Point Provincial Park is today! When I was growing up in the sixties it was known as Kinsey Beach. The late Maitland McKeown told me his great grandfather Thomas O’Connor, not Connor owned that farm! If this is correct, it should be O’Connor Bay! Even the 1877 Haldimand and Norfolk Atlas got it wrong according to Maitland McKeown!)

Stephen McKeown		b: 1871 in Ontario
Thomas Patrick McKeown		m: d:
b: Abt. 1831 in Ireland		
m: 29 Apr 1866 in Caledonia, Haldimand, Ontario, Canada		
d:		
James Stephen McKeown		
b: 19 Feb 1872 in Port Maitland Sherbrooke Twp ON		
m: 07 Nov 1903 in Port Maitland ON		
d: 01 Apr 1932 in Dunnville ON		
Margaret O’Connors		
b: Abt. 1848 in Port Maitland, On, Haldimand, Co, ON, Canada		
d: 28 Jan 1888 in Dunnville Haldimand County ON Canada; Age: 40		
J Ernest Maitland McKeown		
b: 10 May 1904 in Port Maitland Sherbrooke Twp ON		
m:		
d: 23 Jun 2001 in Dunnville Haldimand Co ON		
C Wellington (Bill) Thompson		
b: 1871 in Ontario		
m: d:		
Sarah O’Nielle		
b: d:		
Neil (Thomas) O’Connors		
b: 1806 in Ireland		
m: 24 Jan 1875 in Port Maitland		
Ellen Unk		
b: Abt. 1813		
d: 01 Apr 1885 in Port Maitland		
Robert Thompson		
b: m:		

Now back to the *Griffon*. Finally by approximately 1:30 p.m. it headed straight into the Grand River reaching to the pier approximately beside the bend in the piers and

stopping. At this point it backed out of the river and disappeared into the sunset heading in the direction of Port Colborne.



Griffon enters Port Maitland by Don Blunt



Griffon enters Port Maitland by Ann Marie Flatt

Some more winter scenes Feb 9, 2019

As I write this I am reviewing the website which I am now receiving correctly on my home computer. It seems it did head for the Port Colborne area where at 11:26 p.m. it turned around and headed back to the shelter of Long Point. Right now at 10:58 a.m. Sunday February 10, 2019, it is heading west at 10.2 knots to destination ICE OPS. (I assume this means it is continue ice duties where needed). Bon Voyage to the *CCSG Griffon* for another season!



Griffon off Port Maitland by Don Blunt




This photo was taken in 2018, by a crew member of the *Griffon* as it entered Port Maitland Harbour. Photo courtesy Canadian Coast Guard



This is more like Summer!

Drone photo by Shawn Beringer Oct. 2018





FLOOD PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Stay informed. Have your 72-hour Emergency Kit ready!

Because of its low elevation and proximity to Lake Erie & the Grand River, Port Maitland is prone to flooding. If you live or have property in the area, be sure to:

- follow Haldimand County on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date flood messages
- subscribe to the Grand River Conservation Authority's flood message e-mails via GrandRiver.ca
- read up on the hazards of flooding via GetPrepared.gc.ca and access emergency planning resources from HaldimandCounty.ca

ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE?

We still have a number of members who have not renewed their membership. We need your support if we are going to continue mailing out the Despatch. You may not be aware but our sponsors are interested in how many Despatches we mail. Membership fees are \$15.00 individual \$25.00 family (lives in same household) annually! Please consider catching up and please join if you are not presently a member.

Please make payment to Port Maitland, "On the Grand" Historical Association and mail to Bill at address below. OR why not send your payment from your online banking to payment@port-maitland.ca !

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Thank you to Bob Campbell who served on our board for four years as Recording Secretary and Vice-President. Thank you to Barry Fraser and Wendy Strong for taking executive positions for the next two years.

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