

Trent Community
Research Centre

THE ORAL HISTORY OF PETERBOROUGH COUNTY WARDENS

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County
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BACKGROUND

Peterborough County is a collection of 8 townships, spanning 64,000 km². This municipal government body is responsible for local concerns, such as emergency services, roads, and waste management, although some of these services are undertaken in conjunction with the City of Peterborough. The government structure is comprised of a County Council, on which the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of each township (16 people) all sit. The elected leader of this Council is called the Warden.

The purpose of this project was to compile more information about each Warden's tenure as the head of County Council, as well as Peterborough County in general, to share with future residents on the *Warden's Wall* website.

METHODS

Research was a crucial starting point for this project. The focus of this background knowledge was varied, with specific concentrations on structures of government, oral history, and Peterborough County as a whole.

Once this initial research was completed, the project moved forward into the interview stage.

Each warden participated in recorded and transcribed interviews, where the same questions were asked to all. This information was then used to create summaries of their tenures for the *Warden's Wall* website.

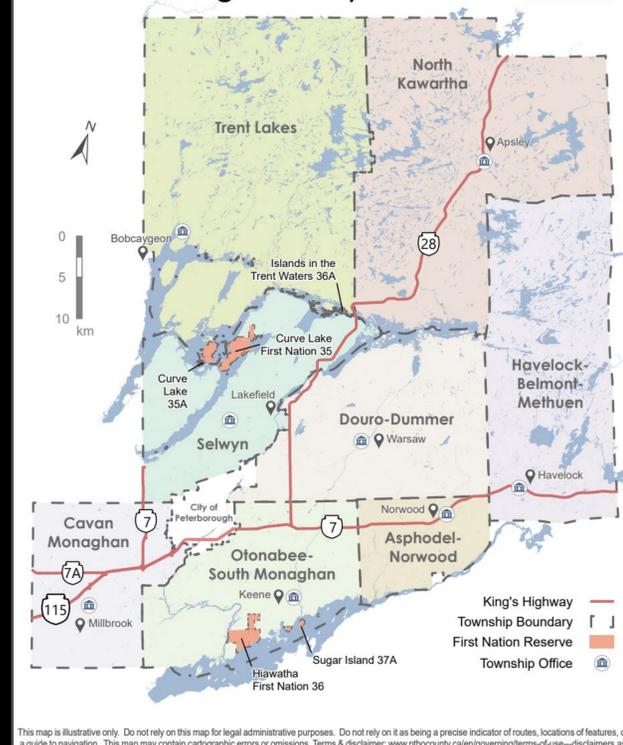
In addition to these brief biographies, a more comprehensive final report will be created, analyzing these findings in depth.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

There were three main questions about each Warden:

1. What was the most important decision, event, or impact?
2. What was their legacy?
3. What was life like in Peterborough County?

Local Municipalities & First Nations of Peterborough County



A map of Peterborough County and the 8 municipalities within.



Scan the QR Code to be taken to the online "Warden's Wall" website!

FINDINGS

- Although this project is still active, some key themes have emerged:
- There is an extreme level of care from the Wardens about their communities and Peterborough County
 - It is challenging to lead both a municipality and the County as a whole
 - Learn from the past, live for today and try to make a better future
 - Wardenship is a collaborative role (i.e. family, staff) and is not just about one person
 - Public awareness is an obstacle many Wardens face

CONCLUSION

- Next steps:
- Create an archive so project information is available to future researchers

- Recommendations:
- Honour deceased Wardens
 - Initiate the biography process soon after Wardens leave office to recognize all leaders within Peterborough County.

The researcher wishes to thank all those who participated and/or helped in this project!