

Morrisburg Waterfront Historical Path – Official Opening & Ribbon Cutting Saturday 14 September, 2019 at 1pm



This event will be held on the Morrisburg Waterfront Path at the intersection with the path from Cruickshank Way. It will be an important opportunity to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the official opening of the St Lawrence Seaway in 1959. The Waterfront Historical Path will be a great addition to attract visitors, new residents and businesses to South Dundas. It fits in well with and compliments current major area attractions such as Upper Canada Village, Upper Canada Playhouse, Lost Villages Museum, OPG Cornwall Visitor Centre, Lock 23 Divers, etc...

It will be a permanent demonstration to older long-term residents that “We Do Remember”. It will be a great South Dundas & Seaway (history & present day) educational opportunity for residents and visitors alike. By including the signs explaining the operation and benefits of the current day St Lawrence Seaway, we believe that we can put the community history of lost villages, businesses and productive farmland, etc. in some context with the overall benefits of the Seaway.

The St Lawrence Seaway History

In the 1950s, the St Lawrence Seaway project was initiated between Canada and the US and the Province of Ontario and New York State. The St Lawrence Seaway was created to accomplish two major objectives:

1. To increase the size of cargo ships able to navigate all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes;
2. To add substantially to the hydro electric generation capability of the St Lawrence River for Canada and the US.

The major impact was to significantly raise the river water levels between the Cornwall Power Dam and the Iroquois Control Dam. This in turn flooded major areas of farmland and nine villages and hamlets that were lost altogether. Over 500 homes and 6,500 people were displaced. All the downtown area of Morrisburg, the buildings, businesses, streets and their history were lost under the St. Lawrence River. The following links provide much more information, including many pictures and maps:

[Morrisburg Model Village](#), [St Lawrence Piks Seaway History](#), [Lost Villages Museum](#).

More fortunate than other “Lost Villages” that were completely flooded and rebuilt at locations removed from the new waterfront, much of Morrisburg’s residential area was not lost and many of the old historical residences and churches were preserved. Most importantly, the close relationship with the river was retained.

Morrisburg Waterfront Historical Path Project

The Morrisburg Waterfront Committee (MWFC) installed the “Morrisburg Then & Now” sign in time to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the St Lawrence Seaway Inundation Day (1 July, 1958). It is located on the waterfront path, just east of where it intersects the path from Cruickshank Way. It presents a merged map of Morrisburg as it was in 1954 before the flooding and the Google Earth satellite image from today.

The public reaction has been excellent. The major comments have been about the need for pictures of what the old town of Morrisburg looked like. We have included a good selection of pictures and other information on the website www.morrisburgmodelvillage.ca. However, we believe that there still is an important need to present historical signs placed on the Morrisburg Waterfront Path to include pictures and information directly for both residents and visitors walking the beautiful path between the Morrisburg Dock and the Beach.

To achieve this objective, the MWFC proposed to add historical & information signs all along the waterfront path with pictures and information about Morrisburg and the Seaway – to create the “Morrisburg Waterfront Historical Path”.

Who Is Invited to Attend?

We feel it important to have a good representative attendance from

1. The people who represent our community (Municipal, Provincial and Federal).
2. St Lawrence Seaway - related organizations (St Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, St Lawrence Parks Commission and Seaway Shipping companies).
3. Other national companies serving our community (Bell Canada, Telus, Eastlink, Bank of Montreal, Scotiabank, Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, etc.) who benefit from our ongoing local support.
4. Community groups who have supported and contributed to this project (Morrisburg Lions, Morrisburg Legion, etc.)
5. Organizations with local history connections (St Lawrence Parks Commission, Lost Villages Museum, etc.)
6. Local Citizens who have provided valuable support, help and advice.
7. Municipal staff who have installed the signs and made our historical path a reality.

We are also confident of a good level of support from the general population in the community. There are major potential benefits in demonstrating a high level of community support that can be important in seeking support for future campaigns to benefit an ongoing vibrant community.

Good Reasons to Attend

To say thank you to sponsors and other supporters and contributors.

To commemorate a major historical event that significantly affected our community.

To encourage support for future efforts to ensure an ongoing vibrant and growing community.

We hope you will be able to join us!

For more information, please see <http://morrisburgmodelvillage.ca/path.html>.