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NEWSLETTER 4

JULY 2025

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Sylvia and Paschal McCloskey

#### FANTASTIC SUPPORTERS

The McCloskeys were enthusiastic in support of this special bicentennial year. With their help the Nine Ships 1825 crew was able to undertake numerous projects that would otherwise not have been possible. We were also able to support our grass roots bicentennial community partners who continue to work tirelessly to ensure this is a successful and exciting bicentennial year. We will never forget the McCloskey's generosity and good wishes.

## BICENTENNIAL SOUVENIR LAUNCH MAY 30

The special Bicentennial Souvenir produced by Nine Ships 1825 is attractive, informative and welcome addition to our understanding of the Peter Robinson Experiment of 1825. It is also a guide to the remaining events of the current year, one which has featured many moments to remember.

The Peter Robinson political experiment recruited 2,025 people in 307 families to prove that it was worthwhile for the British Government of the day to fully finance an 18-month emigration from a volatile area of Ireland to a fertile area of Upper Canada, which proved to be the Peterborough area. The new immigrants largely did well and their descendants are still significant both in this area and worldwide. However, the experiment was never repeated mainly because the British Government was persuaded that families, landlords and communities could afford to pay these expenses.

The central piece of this Souvenir is an alphabetical listing of all the passengers who crossed on the Nine Ships commissioned by the British Government: the Fortitude, Resolution, Albion, Brunswick, Star, Amity, Regulus, Elizabeth and John Barry. This is supplemented with historical notes and suggestions intended to place the 1825 emigration in a context of the Ireland, ocean travel, difficulties of travel in a migration that lasted about three months, of which the ocean saga was one month.

The Souvenir contains a guide to the events of August 1 to 10 as well as information about events being arranged by other groups. We are grateful to our generous sponsors, notably Gary and Joanne Reamey and Paschal and Sylvia McCloskey, and the active support of so many volunteers and organizers, and key funding from the federal government.



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The Souvenir was designed by Aaron Robitaille working closely with the Nine Ships 1825 board of directors, and a team of able contractors. The board is chaired by Brendan Moher, and its members are Mary J. Smith, Maureen Crowley, Elwood H. Jones and Dennis Carter-Edwards.



The Bicentennial Souvenir is available from Trent Valley Archives, the community partners and at [www.nineships1825.com](http://www.nineships1825.com)



Dennis, Elwood and Mary travelled to many places to tell some of the amazing resilience in the face of trying times. We had a receptive audience in Minden on this occasion. Elwood was in Janetville, and the crew was in Lakefield, Millbrook, Westwood for memorable engagements.



Dennis, shown below with Brendan, and the pull-up sign taken to Kingston for a summer display at Fort Henry, a destination for a bicentennial bus tour on August 4.



On some occasions we shared a booth and signs.



*New Canadian Centre Block Party*



The Nine Ships Board and key workers shared a pot luck with hosts Al and Mary Smith.



At Westwood there was cake in the library and many events outside. Some of us were able to visit their neat Norwood and Asphodel museum. Thanks to Zoom we were able to meet our Irish friends in Cork. And we raised the Irish flag in Peterborough, with the assistance of the city and the county.

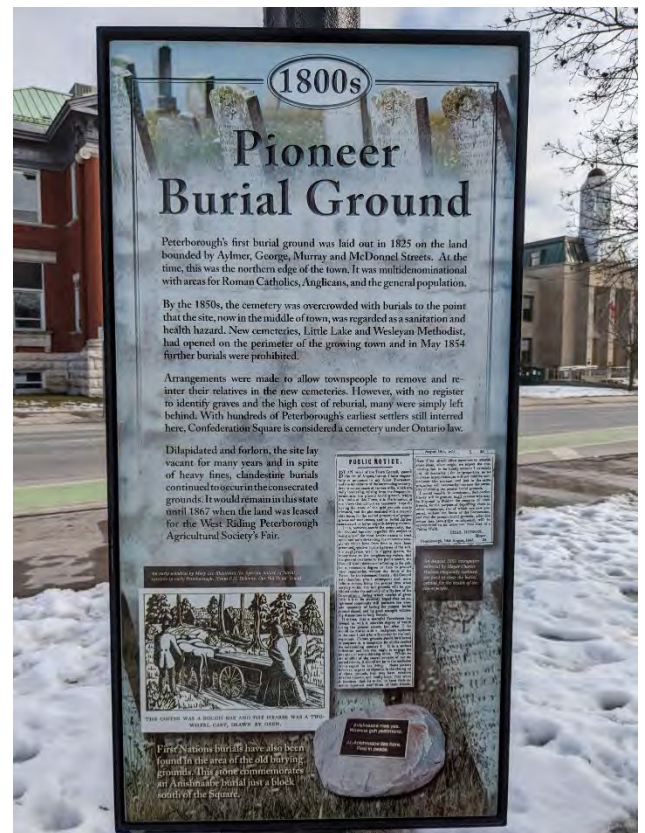




the monument marking Robinson Place, the home of the MNR in Peterborough.



Brendan Moher and Paul Hickey were in Cobh for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first of the nine ships that began their voyages there in May 1825. They took this splendid plaque to share on that important waterfront.



Here at home Elwood led a walking tour in the path of the Irish who arrived here in September 2025. Here they are at





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**Young's Point: 200 Years on the Water**  
 What is it all about?

As a part of the Peter Robinson emigration to Canada in 1825, Francis Young (widowed) with his nine children left Ireland on the last of the nine ships, the John Barry. Theirs was the only family from Newport, Co Tipperary and the only family to settle in Young's Point.

After the long journey and arrival in Scott's Plains (Peterborough), Francis and his children rowed four punts to their new land, to be named Young's Point. With the help of the First Nations, the Young's learned to fish, trap and hunt in this rugged but beautiful place. Within two years they built the first dam, sawmill and grist mill.

Logging flourished and with that came many hotels and businesses which thrived. In later years Francis's grandson, P.P. Young began a steamboat dynasty which delivered mail, supplies and cottagers up and down these lakes.

The small community grew to be a vibrant gem of the Kawartha's, still visited and cherished to this day.

**August 3, 2025 we celebrate our history. Hope to see you there.**

*At Lakefield Historical Society.*

## Douro 200th Anniversary

Event Schedule  
July 4-6, 2025

"Together We Commemorate"

**Friday July 4th**

**Douro Arena**  
 7pm Trivia Night \$10 per person. Live music, free food, prizes

**Saturday, July 5th**

**Douro Village**

9am - 7pm Parking at arena with shuttle to the village

9:30am Opening Ceremonies & Monument Unveiling

10am - 4pm Self Guided Walking Tour of Village, local hosts at sites

11am - 12pm Guided Cemetery Tour

1pm - 1:30pm Rali Splitting Demonstration

2pm - 2:30pm Fencing Demonstration

2pm - 3pm Quilting Demonstration

4pm - 5pm Guided Cemetery Tour

**Food Availability**

9am - 3pm Red Wagon Foods, Rectory Grounds

5pm - 7pm Knights of Columbus BBQ

**St Joseph's School**

10:30am - 1pm Children's Games, Schoolyard

10:30am - 11:15am Talk on Geographic Settlement of Area, Library

11am - 1pm Petting Zoo

1:30pm - 3pm Square Dancing & Step dancing, School Gym

**Ongoing Activities**

9am - 3pm Quilt Display, St. Joseph's Church

10am - 4pm Displays & Activities, Douro Library

10am - 4pm Family History Displays, St. Joseph's Parish Hall

10am - 4pm Farm and Equipment Displays, South of Cemetery

**Douro Arena**  
 7:30pm Concert and Dance \$15 at the door  
 Featuring  
**Members of The Leahy Family and Friends**

**Sunday, July 6th**

**Douro Village**  
 9am Rosary Service, St. Joseph's Cemetery  
 10am - 11am Commemorative Mass, St. Joseph's Church  
 11:30am Blessing of Monument by Bishop Daniel Mehin  
 12pm - 1pm Lunch Served by CWL, St. Joseph's Parish Hall  
 1pm - 3pm Historian's Speakers Series, St. Joseph's School  
 3pm Closing Remarks

For more information visit us on Facebook at 'Douro 200th Anniversary'  
 Call 705-927-3126 or email [douro200th@gmail.com](mailto:douro200th@gmail.com)



*At Haliburton Highlands Genealogical Society, Minden.*

## Trent Lakes Historical Society

# Open House

**Sunday June 8**  
1:00 to 3:00

**Galway Hall**  
388 Galway Rd.  
Trent lakes ON

Contact us:  
705-488-9952  
[ghhs738@gmail.com](mailto:ghhs738@gmail.com)  
msg through FB  
[trentlakesheritage.ca](http://trentlakesheritage.ca)

**We're Still Looking for Peter Robinson DESCENDANTS**





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## Creating Thriving Communities: Government and Community Support for Immigration in 1825 and 2025



MELISSA KELLY  
SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY



ANDY CRAIG  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW CANADIANS CENTRE



ADRIENNE STODDART  
STUDENT, TRENT UNIVERSITY



DENNIS CARTER-EDWARDS  
RETIRED HISTORIAN

**What have we learned from the Peter Robinson  
emigration of 1825 and immigration programs  
today?**

**What is needed for immigrants and communities  
to thrive?**

As part of the Nine Ships 1825  
Bicentennial celebrations, join this panel  
discussion to explore the role of  
government and community support in  
shaping successful immigration policies  
and outcomes in smaller centres like  
Peterborough-Nogojwanong, past and  
present.

**Registration is required:**  
[bit.ly/1825-2025panel](http://bit.ly/1825-2025panel)

For more info, please contact  
Michelle Nguyen:  
[michelle@nccpeterborough.ca](mailto:michelle@nccpeterborough.ca)

**Thursday, May 1 2025  
2:00 - 3:30pm**

New Canadians Centre  
221 Romaine Street  
Peterborough, Ontario

This is a free event open to the  
community.



Organised in  
partnership with **Nine Ships**



221 Romaine Street  
Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3  
Tel (705) 743-0882  
[welcometbo@nccpeterborough.ca](mailto:welcometbo@nccpeterborough.ca)

[nccpeterborough.ca/peterborough-immigration-partnership](http://nccpeterborough.ca/peterborough-immigration-partnership)

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and Citizenship Canada

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et Citoyenneté Canada

McQuarrie as well as significant essays by Patrick Leahy,  
Don Willcock, David Ellis and Elwood Jones. It will be  
available at Trent Valley Archives, the publisher, and at  
various places.

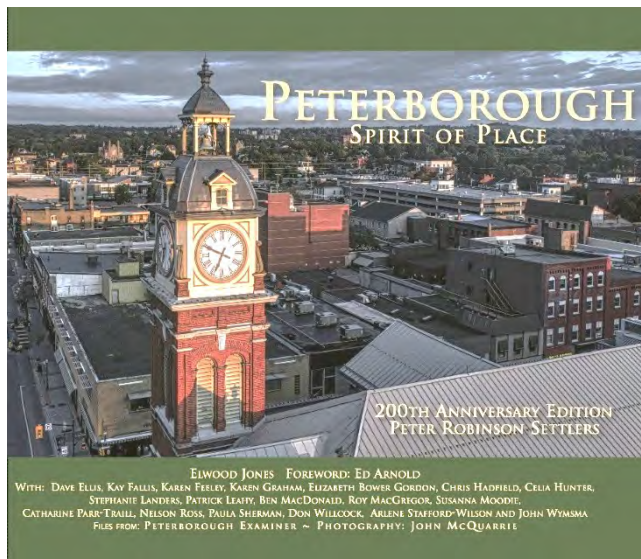
Elisabeth Bacque art work honouring pioneer women and  
the experience of the sea voyage is featured at Bridgenorth  
Library during July.



Be sure to get the Nine Ships program for the month  
of July and August and attend the events that appeal to  
you. The Bicentennial Souvenir and the program can be  
picked up at Trent Valley Archives, 567 Carnegie Avenue,  
Peterborough. While there take a look at the story boards  
created for your enjoyment. Drop in anytime.

All of our community partners have the Bicentennial  
Souvenir and the program.

Comments and observations can be sent to  
[ejones55@cogeco.ca](mailto:ejones55@cogeco.ca)



This new book, Peterborough Spirit of Place, will be  
launched during the first week of August celebrations. It is  
a beautiful book featuring superb photography by John