

Appendix to Chapter 4: 1919 to 1930: Difficult Times

A

Of the 119 men from the St. Catharines Rowing and Canoe Club who served in the armed forces during World War I, 23 (19.3%) were killed and another 23 were wounded or gassed.

Several received commendations.

The Military Cross was awarded to five men.

The Military Medal was awarded to three men.

The Distinguished Service Order was awarded to two men.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to one man.

One was awarded the Belgian *Croix de Guerre*.

One man received the Italian *Medaglia d'argento al valor militare* [Silver Medal of Military Valor].

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B

Toronto Mayor, Thomas Church, took exception to the press casting him as a villain trying to wrest the Canadian Henley Regatta away from St. Catharines. He put his position in writing in a letter to J.M. Elson, Mayor of St. Catharines, who replied to Mayor Church:

REGATTA NOT
TO BE MOVED
FROM ST. KITTS

Citizens generally appear to be under the impression that the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta was to be taken away from the local course this year. These impressions are due no doubt to erroneous reports which have been published from time to time in various daily papers. We hasten to assure the public that such a course is farthest from the minds of the executive of the C.A.A.O., who, after all, are bound by the fact the the Royal St. Catharines Henley Regatta Course is the finest landlocked and weather-proof course n the world.

We take pleasure in publishing two letters from the respective mayors of Toronto and St. Catharines, which are self-explanatory:

Mayor's Office, Toronto,
July 14th, 1919

His Worship the Mayor,
City Hall,
St. Catharines, Ont.
Dear Mr. Mayor:—

My attention has been called to a statement in your papers said to have been made by me that I was anxious to have the C.A.A.O. brought to Toronto and that I was trying to secure the Regatta this year for Toronto. This is incorrect, as I am in favor of having the Regatta at St. Catharines, as you have a splendid course there, and I would not like to see the Association break faith with you or your people. You have a splendid city for the Regatta, situated in the beautiful Niagara district.

It is true that Toronto is rebuilding its harbor at a cost of twenty-six millions, and that we are providing regatta courses here, as there is room for more than one regatta, and we have a large regatta of our own every Dominion Day and there are enough Regattas to go around without interfering with yours.

I hope you will have a very successful Canadian Henley, as you already have. You are assured a large entry list from all the Toronto Clubs.

With kindest regards,

(sgd.) T. CHURCH
Mayor

The Reply.

In answer to the above letter, Mayor Elson replied as follows.

July 16th, 1919

His Worship the Mayor, T. Church, Esq.,

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Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Mayor:—

Your letter of July 14th is before me with respect to the Henley Regatta and I am pleased to note that you are personally in favor of holding this annual aquatic event at St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie. We have been lead [sic] to believe, apparently without justification, that you sought to have the fixture transferred to Toronto. The statements in the Toronto press from time to time have also conveyed the notion that agencies were at work in your city to hold the Regatta there instead of here.

I have learned that this impression which has become widespread amongst our citizens is mitigating against the best interests of the Henley Regatta.

If it could be made absolutely clear by the Officers of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen by yourself and others that there is no disposition to pull the Regatta from this city to Toronto in violation of the existing agreement, I believe that much more interest, enthusiasm and financial support could be obtained here. I am going to take the privilege of requesting the local newspapers to publish your letter in order that your own position with relation to the matter may be clearly understood.

We feel that the Henley Regatta Course is without question one of the finest in North America and while extending every good wish to Toronto for its annual Regattas we desire to develop a local pride in the Henley fixture and the city council is this year assisting to carry out necessary repairs for the event.

One half [sic, it should be "On behalf"] of the city council may I extend a cordial invitation to you, members of your council and Board of Control to come over and join with us in the sport.

I am endeavoring to arrange some form of entertainment to be extended to prominent guests and competing oarsmen.

I hope we will be favored with a large representation from your city.

Thanking you for your kind remarks, I am,

Yours sincerely,

J.M. ELSON,
Mayor

Mayor Church accepted the invitation of Mayor Elson and was a spectator at the 1919 Regatta.

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One intriguing name appears in the Junior Singles event in 1919: H. Price. He sculled for the Don R.C., which meant that he lived in the east end of Toronto because the Club was then located on Ashbridge's Bay. The 1919 Toronto City Directory lists a Henry Price, who lived at 217 Greenwood Ave., in the east end. Across the street, Isaac Price lived at 216 Greenwood Ave.. Isaac Price was the first winner of the first race at the First Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen in 1880.

It would make a great story if the H. Price who won his heat, but placed third in the final of the 1919 Junior Singles was Henry Price, and he was the son of Isaac.

I approached the Leslieville Historical Society with this information, and Joanne Doucette, the resident maven of the Society was able to confirm that Henry Price was the son of Isaac Price and was an athlete.

Further research found that not only was he a member of the Don R.C., but served as President from 1930 to 1932, before successfully running for Provincial Parliament. [The Toronto *Globe*, January 15, 1932, p.8]

The history of Canadian rowing has many examples of children of rowers continuing in their parents' sport, but Henry and Isaac Price must be the first such pair.

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In 1920, with no active rowing club in St. Catharines, the Chamber of Commerce stepped in to run the Canadian Henley Regatta. They did a passable job and introduced some new initiatives, especially in the area of promotion. However, their one big failure was something which directly affected the oarsmen: poor accommodation for the 51 shells belonging to the competitors. It was not entirely their fault; the gate-yard crew, who usually took care of the shells, were busy building gates for two locks of the canal which had been damaged. Nevertheless, it was that shortcoming which the CAAO focussed on when it threatened to move the Regatta if improvements were not made.

“‘The Garden City’ Official Bulletin of St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce,” a one-page feature in the St. Catharines *Standard*, contains an article which discusses the Regatta, provides some insight into what was involved, and gives some well-deserved praise to the men who volunteered at the Regatta, praise which they did not receive from the CAAO:

CANADIAN HENLEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Some Things of Interest to Membership and General Public

The Royal Canadian Henley this year met with unusual circumstances and bitter criticism. It should be remembered, however, that of the old Rowing Club few remain and the only standbys possessing the energy and willingness to direct, were Capt. A.H. Malcolmson, Mr. Richard Schram and Capt. G.W. Stevens. Viewing quite dispassionately the whole affair they deserve the greatest credit. No strong rowing body was behind the event and one is needed.

In the main it was a group of business men who willingly co-operated in an endeavor to put it over this year until things could be arranged back on the old pre-war basis.

What did they do?

1. Took time off to erect by their own labor, marquees [tents] to meet excessive demand for boat space.
2. As far as possible eliminated old risk of business failure by developing sources of income from event itself.
3. Gave up their time and enjoyment of event to tasks on stand in ticket booth or on gates.
4. Spent half days on the course, grand stand and in city caring for arrangements regarding safety, convenience and billeting of guests and oarsmen.
5. Worked against a sense of failure due to abnormal canal conditions in repair sheds [gate-yard building] but kept at it in an endeavor, despite possible criticism, to do their best, and did it without hope of thanks or praise.
6. Information as to number of crews and boats coming not forwarded until the day before races.

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7. Have no “kick” [complaint] to make, are still good sportsmen and quite prepared to “carry on.”

Active on this committee were:

Capt. A.H. Malcolmson

Richard Schram

Capt. G.W. Stevens

Major H.V. Gould

Major E.H. Lancaster

Major T.F. Jackson

B.B. Manning

Lt. Col. C.E. Morgan

Reeve G. Sutton

Wilfrid Murphy

T.J. Johnston, Port Dalhousie

A.R. MacDonald

The Office Staff of Chamber of Com.

A. Smylie [sic], Port Dalhousie

J. Vance, Port Dalhousie

The officers and staff - Government Yards

Some Financial Facts and Figures

Shells here 1919 25

Shells here 1920 51

Crews [sic. They probably meant oarsmen.] 1919 . 107

Crews 1920 260

Receipts 1919 \$1,200

Receipts 1920 \$1,600

Grand Stand Figures

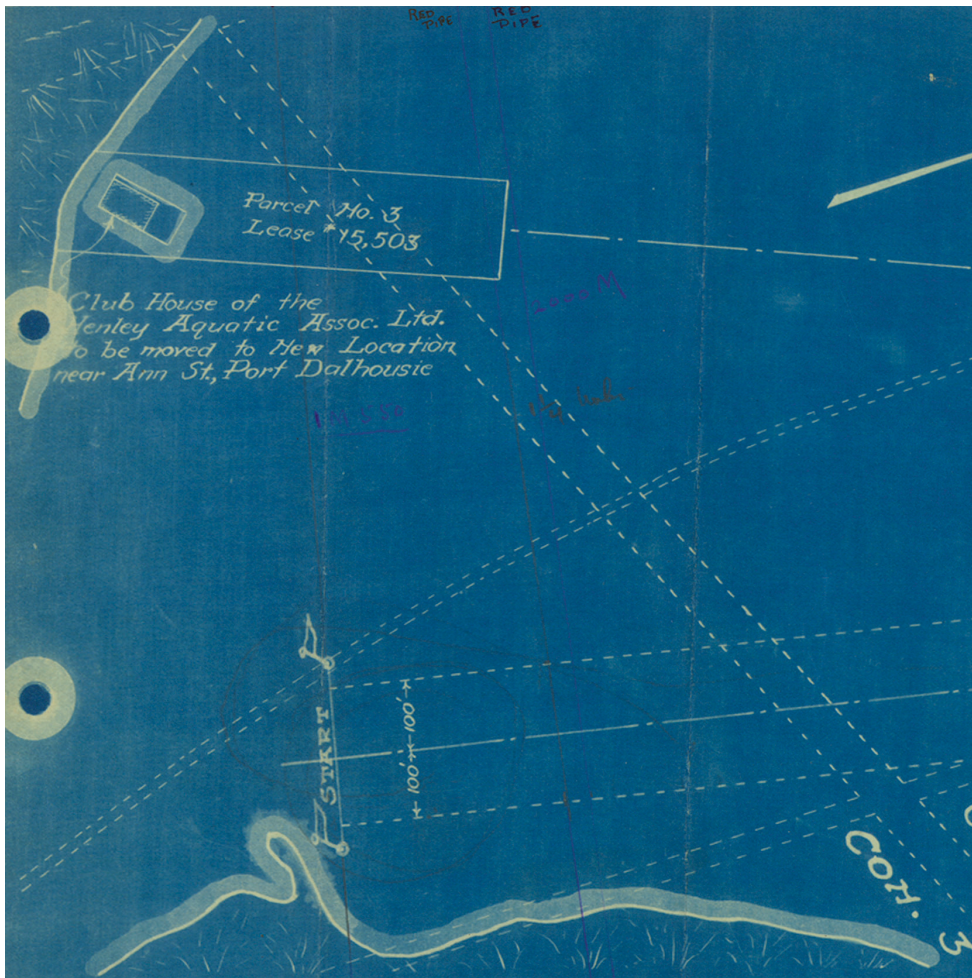
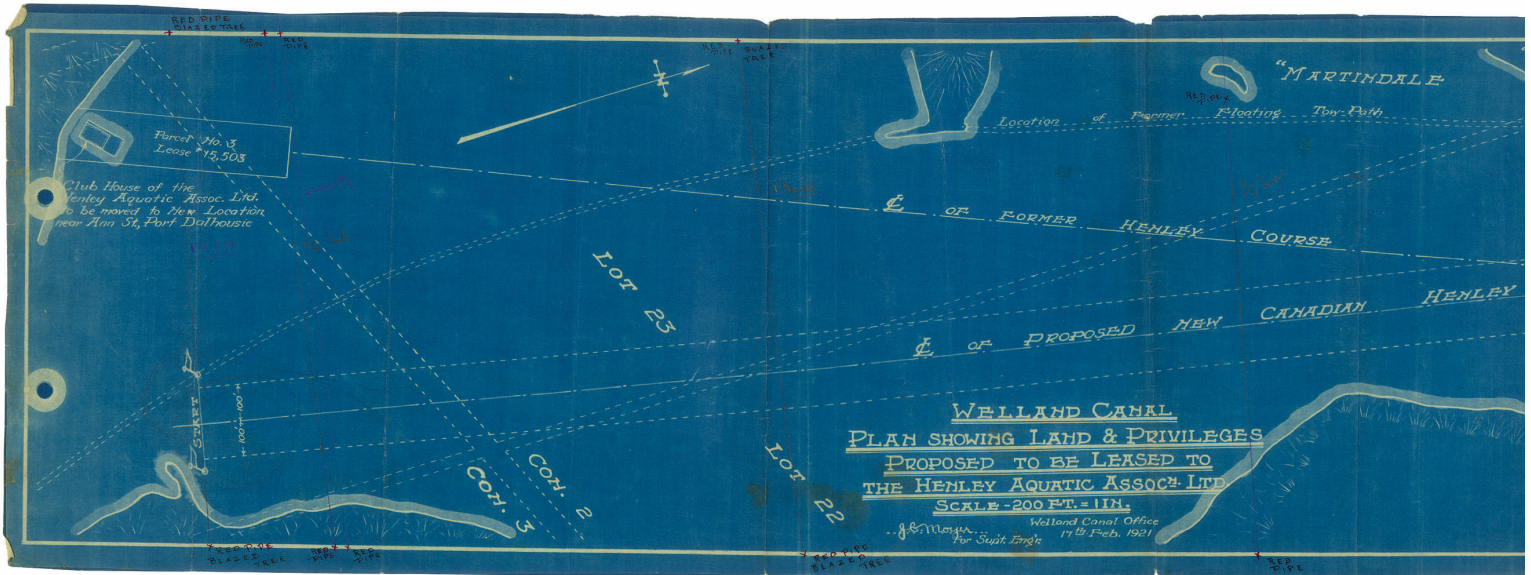
Number attending 1919 835

Number attending 1920 1,800

A financial statement will be issued at an early date when expenses incurred by the C.A.A.O., Toronto, are secured. Meanwhile this year has paved the way for “a better, bigger Royal Henley than ever next year.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1920, p.6]

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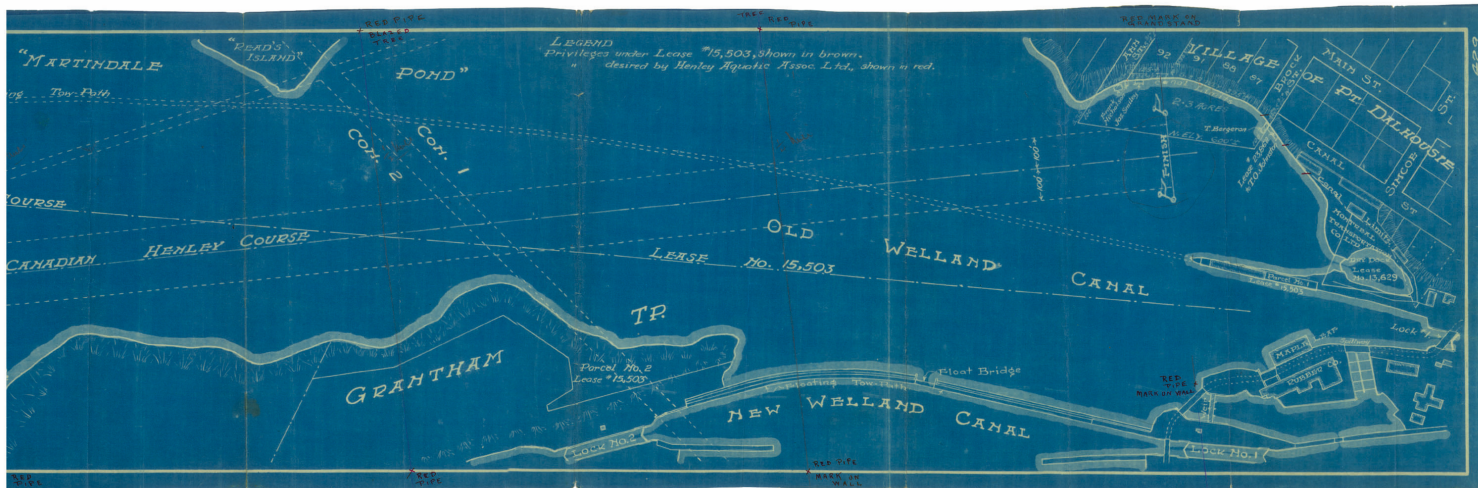
E



The plans for the revised layout of the Henley Course: south end.

Note that the clubhouse is identified as the "Club House of the Henley Aquatic Assoc. Ltd." That organization did not receive its charter until April 4, 1921, but this drawing is dated "17th Feb. 1921." Before April, the organization was called the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Association or the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Association in print. It seems that it adopted its official name before it received its charter.

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Plans for the revised layout of the Henley Course: north end.



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Below is the Prospectus of The Henley Aquatic Association, Limited as it was filed in the Office of the Provincial Secretary, May 7, 1921.

PROSPECTUS

OF

The Henley Aquatic Association, Limited

Head Office—St. Catharines, Ont.

PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS

E. H. Lancaster, Barrister.
H. V. Gould, Advertising Manager.
H. M. Bell, Industrial Commissioner.
G. R. Bradley, Merchant.
H. L. Cummings, Law Clerk.

All of whom reside at the City of St. Catharines, Ontario.

BANKERS

Dominion Bank of Canada

AUDITOR

C. A. L. Watts

The Henley Aquatic Association Limited is incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act, with a capital of Forty Thousand Dollars, divided into 4,000 shares of \$10.00 each.

The objects of the Company are to promote generally all aquatic sports and games, but primarily to develop the Royal Henley Course on the Old Welland Canal for the Royal Henley Regatta and the re-organization of rowing clubs for St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie. For this purpose a new lease has been obtained from the Department of Railways and Canals of the Royal Henley Course with suitable site for a new Club House at the foot of Ann Street, Port Dalhousie. It is proposed to erect a substantial modern club house on this site fully equipped for rowing and canoe clubs, with adequate accommodation for Regattas and other aquatic events. Ample provision is also being made for dancing and other amusements. The Company has also, as its objective, the promotion of other athletic sports, games and events, and it is the intention that this company shall be the recognized leading amateur athletic and sports organization for the Niagara District, featuring aquatic events, and with some of the aspects of a summer country club.

The formation of this company comes at a very opportune time, as St. Catharines, Port Dalhousie and district stand in urgent need of a first class organization, such as this is intended to be, for the development of its recreational facilities, particularly during the summer months, and no better opportunity will present itself to the community generally to achieve this purpose than by acquiring shares in the Company which are now

offered for subscription. The shares will be sold at par, fifty per cent. whereof is payable on application, the balance being subject to call by the Directors.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

The qualification for Directors requires that they be shareholders, each holding at least one share.

The original incorporators of the Company were the provisional directors as above named, each of whom subscribed for one share of the capital stock of the Company.

The Directors may proceed to allot stock on subscription of one share.

Subscriptions for shares will be payable as to one-half of the amount subscribed with application, and the balance will be subject to call at any time by the Directors.

The Company is under no obligation or contract in respect to the promotion of the Company, and no shares are to be issued or other consideration paid to any vendor or promoter. The preliminary expenses estimated at \$500 will be paid by the Company.

No commissions or brokerages will be paid on sales of stock.

The temporary auditor of the Company is C. A. L. Watts.

The Directors of the Company receive no interest from their promotion of the Company or from the property acquired by it.

DATED at St. Catharines this 7th day of May, 1921.

E. H. Lancaster, Barrister H. V. Gould, Advertising Manager.
H. M. Bell, Industrial Commissioner. G. R. Bradley, Merchant.
H. L. Cummings, Law Clerk.

THE HENLEY AQUATIC ASSOCIATION LIMITED

To the Directors of the Company:

I hereby subscribe for and agree to take shares of the capital stock of the above named Company, and request you to allot me that number of shares upon the terms of the Company's prospectus attached hereto, and agree to accept the same when allotted to me.

I enclose herewith the sum of dollars the amount payable on subscription.

Signature in full

Address.....

Occupation.....

Date....., 1921.

Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation archives.

This is what prospective share holders would have received. The objective was to sell 4,000 shares at \$10.00 per share. This ambitious goal probably explains the broad spectrum of stated aims of the company. If a person wasn't interested in rowing, perhaps he would buy a share to support "other athletic sports, games and events," or "dancing and other amusements."

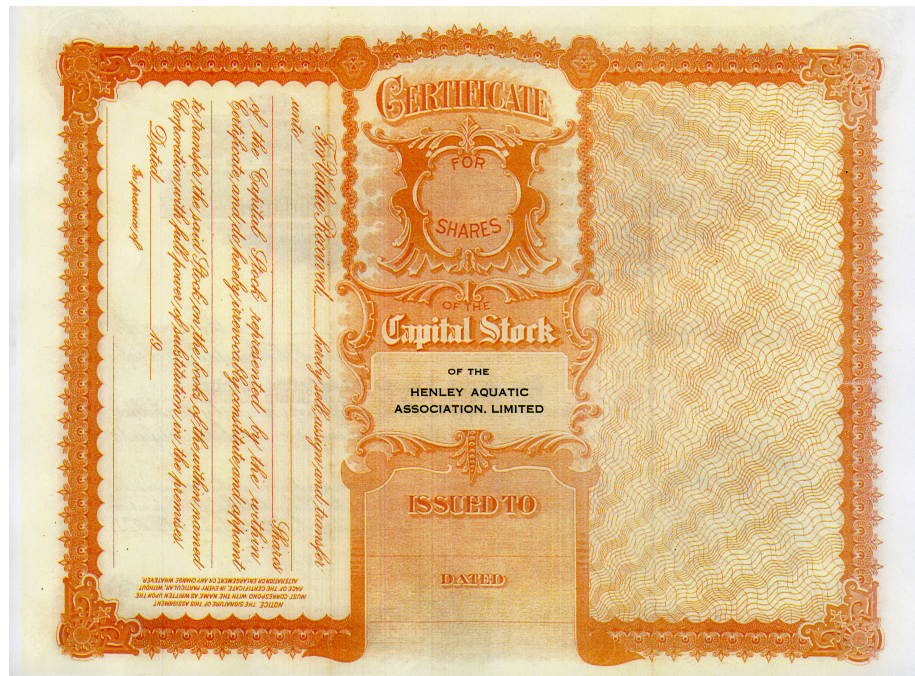
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G

Pictured below are the front and back of The Henley Aquatic Association, Limited share purchased on October 15, 1921, by Ralph Webb. The cost was \$10.00. In the lower right is the signature of the President, R.F. Foote. To its left is the signature of the Secretary, E.H. Lancaster. Although the prospectus lists a variety of goals, in reality, the shares were sold to raise funds for the HAA to run the Canadian Henley Regatta and to maintain and make improvements to the facilities on and around the Henley course.



Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation archives.



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H

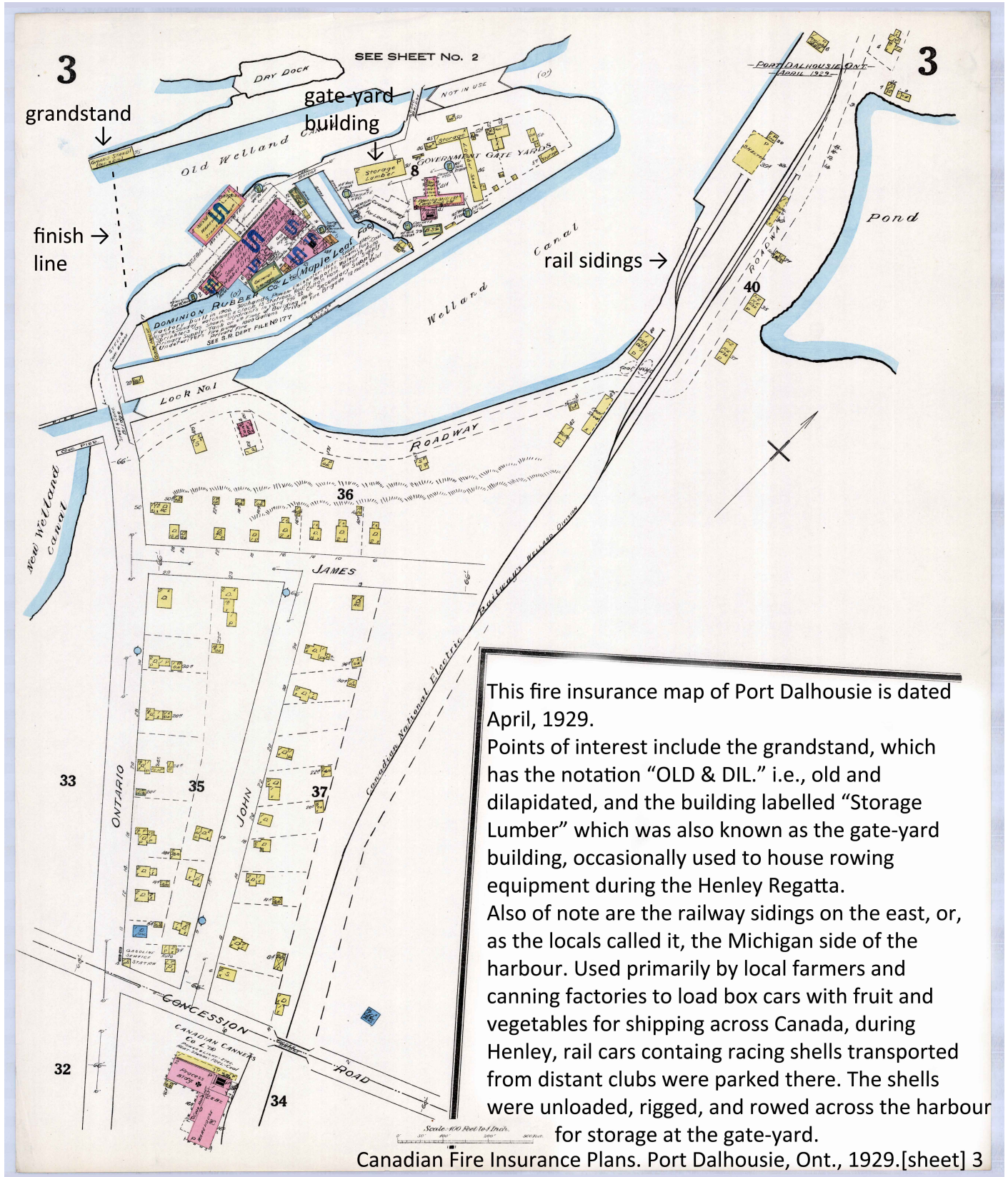


The photo at left shows several points of interest in the history of the Canadian Henley Regatta. In the centre of the photo there is great activity as eights leave the dock in front of the new boathouse, a small part of which is visible on the right. At the top, the back of the grandstand is visible. The photo is not dated, but we can narrow the date down. The pedestrian bridge at the left was not built when the clubhouse was, in 1921. In its December, 1921 appeal for funds, the Henley Aquatic Association lists a bridge as one of the projects it needs money for. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 24, 1921, p.15] Since the grandstand lost its roof in the spring of

1929, we can speculate that the photo was taken between 1922 and 1928.

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PLEASE NOTE: This History is a work in progress. I will post chapters as I finish them and I will make changes to chapters which are already posted as I become aware of new information, or have errors pointed out to me. This version was completed on August 26, 2023. If you find errors or omissions, use the Contact link at <http://goldmedalphotos.com/> to point them out to me. Stan Lapinski.