

5. THE CITYPLACE SCHOONER

150 YEARS AGO



Along with the Queen's Wharf, partial remains of an 1830s schooner was discovered. The schooner measured 50' (15.24 m) at the keel, and was built almost entirely from white oak.

A schooner is defined as a fore-and-aft rigged sailing vessel with at least two masts.

We believe the schooner was used for shipping cargo and would have looked similar to the one in this image. It was likely built in the United States, according to a US coin found inside the mast step of the boat. But due to the presence of a number of tools of British origin on the ship, it may have had a previous life as a British navy vessel.

Along with sail boats like this, steamships were also used at this time for longer-distance travel.

6. THE CITYPLACE SCHOONER

DISCOVERED, 2015

After a portion of the vessel's stern and starboard side was exposed during mechanical excavations and it was identified as a ship, excavations continued by hand in order to avoid damaging the hull and to recover associated artifacts.

Concord Adex arranged for the schooner to be transported to Fort York — otherwise, the ship most likely would have been destroyed.

The schooner contained many artifacts that help archeologists understand how the ship was used, and by whom. It is believed that during the building of the Queen's Wharf the ship may have been intentionally sunk to provide scaffolding to workers.

Now, inside the pavillion located by the Concord Presentation Centre, you can see a scale model replica of the schooner as it was discovered.



CONCORD CANADA HOUSE



Today, the Concord CityPlace community is built on an extended shoreline of Toronto's waterfront. Prior to this extension into Lake Ontario, the very ground we stand on was once underwater, and an important shipping route for supplies used to build the Canada of today.

Concord Canada House pays tribute to the history of our site and to this great country through art and design features incorporated into the development. The CityPlace schooner will be referenced in an artwork by renowned Canadian artist Douglas Coupland. A key water feature/skating rink will take its shape from Ottawa's Rideau Canal. And the exterior of the building will feature a shimmering Canadian maple leaf pattern, which will be illuminated at night.

As the final building on our Concord CityPlace site, Concord Canada House will be the crowning jewel of the community, and a proud statement of Concord's commitment towards building the Canada of the future.



CONCORD CITYPLACE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

1. CONTEXT

Long before Concord CityPlace broke ground on their first project, this neighbourhood consisted of shipping lanes and railway routes.

The shoreline originally ran along Front Street, now some 800 meters from the water.

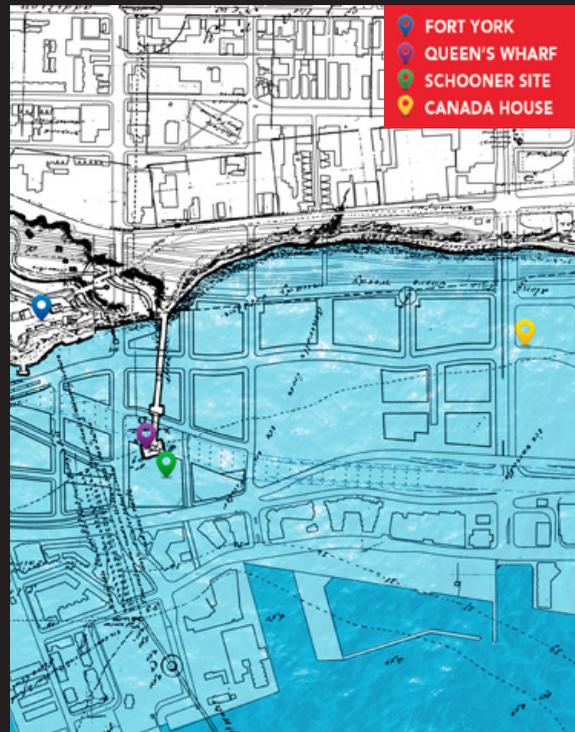
This drawing depicts Toronto in 1876. The Dominion of Canada was just 10 years old, and Toronto was beginning to grow rapidly.



2. TORONTO THEN & NOW

If you were standing here 150 years ago, you would be underwater!

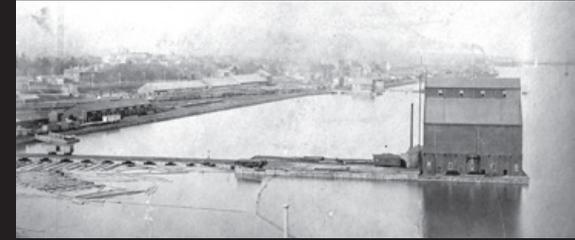
Huge changes have occurred to Toronto's waterfront since the city began a program of infilling the lake in the mid-1800s, to make more land for our growing city.



The infilling consisted of dirt dredged from the lake, as well as city garbage to create the new shoreline.

Note the location of the Queen's Wharf extending into the lake just west of Bathurst St. and Fort York is to the left of that.

3. THE QUEEN'S WHARF 1870 & 2015



In 2015, Archeological Services Inc. (ASI) and Concord Adex discovered sections of the Queen's Wharf and a 19th century schooner at the site of what is now 70 Queens Wharf Rd.

The Queen's Wharf was built in the 1830's - the eighth to be built in that spot on the original shoreline. Its names in history varied from "The New Wharf" to "The King's Wharf" and finally "The Queen's Wharf."



This wharf was the largest of military-built wharves in the city. It was a symbol of the naval importance of Fort York and controlled access to Toronto Harbour. Major exports shipped from this wharf included mining materials, fish, lumber, agriculture and farm animals. Imports included cottons, woollens, tea, sugar, iron, silks and linen from our trading partners France, Germany, Great Britain, the West Indies and the United States.

4. FORT YORK OUR PRIMARY HARBOUR DEFENCE

Fort York was established in 1793 by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe to defend the harbour at York (Toronto). During the War of 1812 it was attacked and briefly occupied by American military and naval forces.

After the war, British troops remained in Toronto until 1870. The fort was re-armed in the 1860s in response to the threat of potential American aggression during the US Civil War. After confederation in 1867, Fort York provided housing, training grounds, and administration for the military until the 1930s.

