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Iroquois Golf Club reflects on their history

Shortly after the addition of nine new holes in 1996, the Iroquois Golf Club tipped its hat to local history and refashioned the links as the "Lost Village Course." The Clubhouse lounge and all 18 holes were renamed in memory of various things in Iroquois' history, each commemorated with individual plaques on the greens and in a Clubhouse mural.

Mary Jean Craig, Jean Mattice and Robert Martin acted as researchers and writers on the project.

Hole 1 - Galop Canal

Construction of the Galop Canal between Iroquois and Johnstown began in 1844. Its purpose was to bypass the Galop Rapids, and it accomodated all west bound shipping traffic. East bound vessels were able to travel eastward along the rapids. This canal was later enlarged to 14 foot depth and was completed in 1908.

Hole 2 - Sparrowhawk Point

Sparrowhawk Point is located west of Indian Island on the American side, approximately halfway between Iroquois and Cardinal. This point is where the swift waters that passed Point Iroquois began. Part of Sparrowhawk Point and Indian Island were cut back to make way for the new shipping channel.

Hole 3 - Pickerel Bay

Pickerel Bay was east of Saw Mill Point where there once was a milk factory owned and operated by Mr. Sharkey. It was probably the original site of many tall tales and fish stories.

Hole 4 - Indian Island

Indian Island, formally recognized as Toussaints, was a native reserve west of the village of Iroquois and Point Iroquois. The Peters family lived there until work began on the Seaway. Louis and Louise would come into town by boat, down the canal, and tie up at the Power House. They sold hickory nuts, which grew on their island, to the townsfolk. When the Seaway was constructed the south side of this island was cut back, to enable the ships to enter the new locks.

Hole 5 - Royal Oak

Thomas Higgens was proprietor of the Royal Oak Hotel. Carriages were sent to meet the many trains that arrived each day - sometimes as many as six.

Please turn to page 3



Ladies Club Champs

Here are this year's winners in the ladies division at the Iroquois Golf Club. Low net scores, back row (l-r, class A-D): Mary Jean Craig; Helen Roberts; Helen Robichaud; Evonne Delegarde. Low gross scores, front row (l-r, class A-D): Nancy Barkley; Margo Anderson; Cheryl Elliot; Karen Cooke.

Chieftain photo by N.H. Zandbergen

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Ladies Invitational Winners

Chieftain photo by N.H. Zandbergen

CONTINUED

Continued from page 2

Hole 6 - Chestnut Street

Chestnut Street was located near the centre of old Iroquois, running north from King Street. The fifth United Church, which was built in 1875, was located at the south-east corner of College and Chestnut Streets.

Hole 7 - Grand Trunk

The construction of the Grand Trunk Railway began in 1854 with stations at Morrisburg and Iroquois. The railway from Montreal to Brockville was completed in 1855 and by November 1856, it was completed to Toronto. The railway greatly added to prosperity of the village, which was incorporated in 1857. As a result of the abundant water supply, Iroquois was chosen as the site of the Grand Trunk Railway water tanks. For many years all trains stopped here to take on water. Mail came into the village by train.

Hole 8 - McIntosh Way

The original home of the McIntosh Red apple is Lot 9, Con. 5, Matilda Township. Here, while John McIntosh was making a clearing, a few apple trees were discovered, one of which was destined to be famous. John's son, Allan, established a nursery and promoted this new species extensively. The original tree lived until 1908 and died at a ripe old age of 112 years.

Many apple orchards surrounded the site of our golf course. Tindall's and Peterkins' were on Point Iroquois and Errington's and Brouse's were north of Iroquois. Some homes in Iroquois were re-situated on the previous sites of the two latter orchards.

Hole 9 - Dam Hole

The Iroquois Control Dam controls and regulates the outflow from the watershed of the five Great Lakes into Lake St. Lawrence. Thirty-two gates in the dam are manipulated with two 350 ton travelling gantry cranes to permit the necessary

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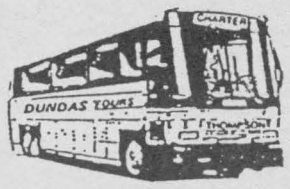

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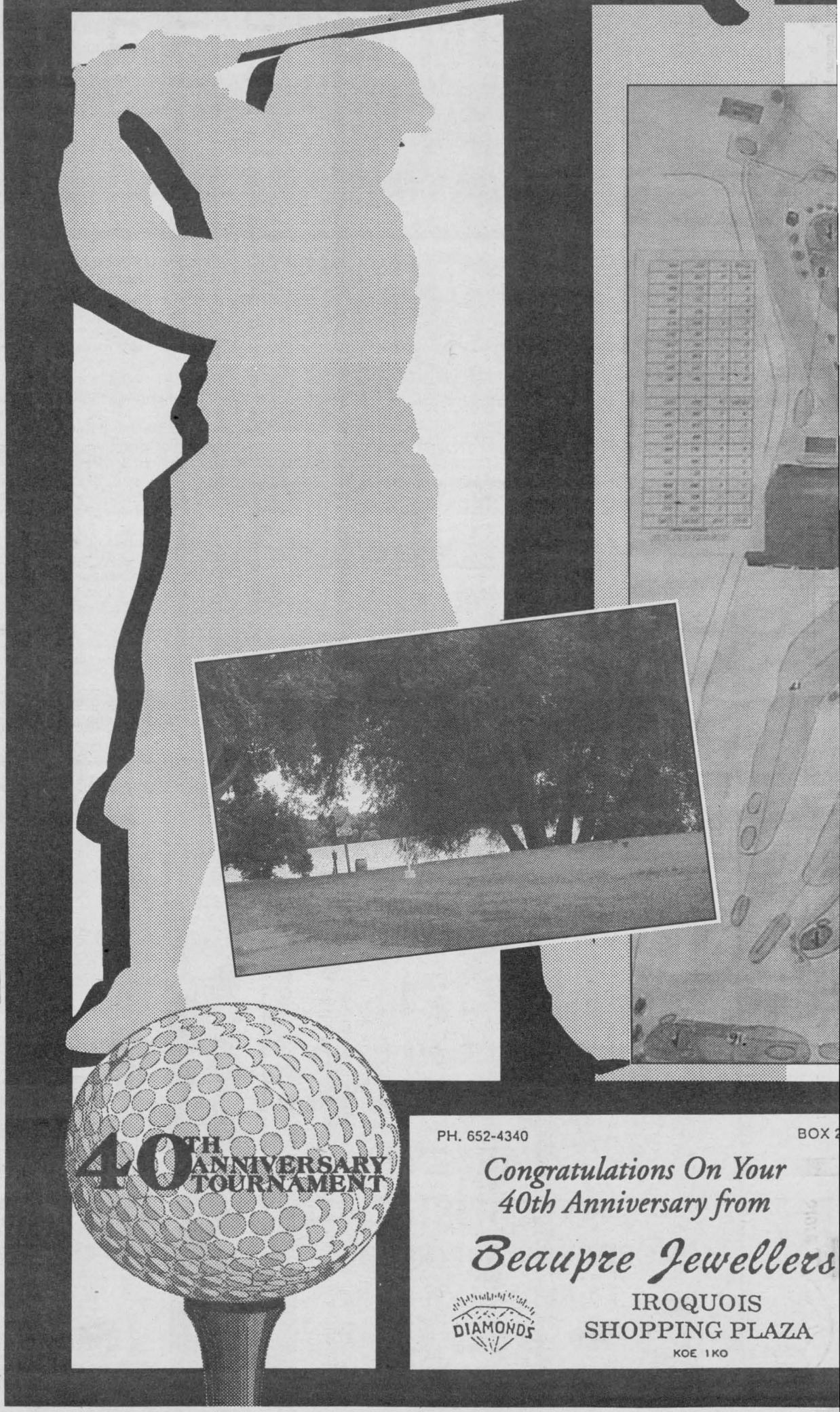

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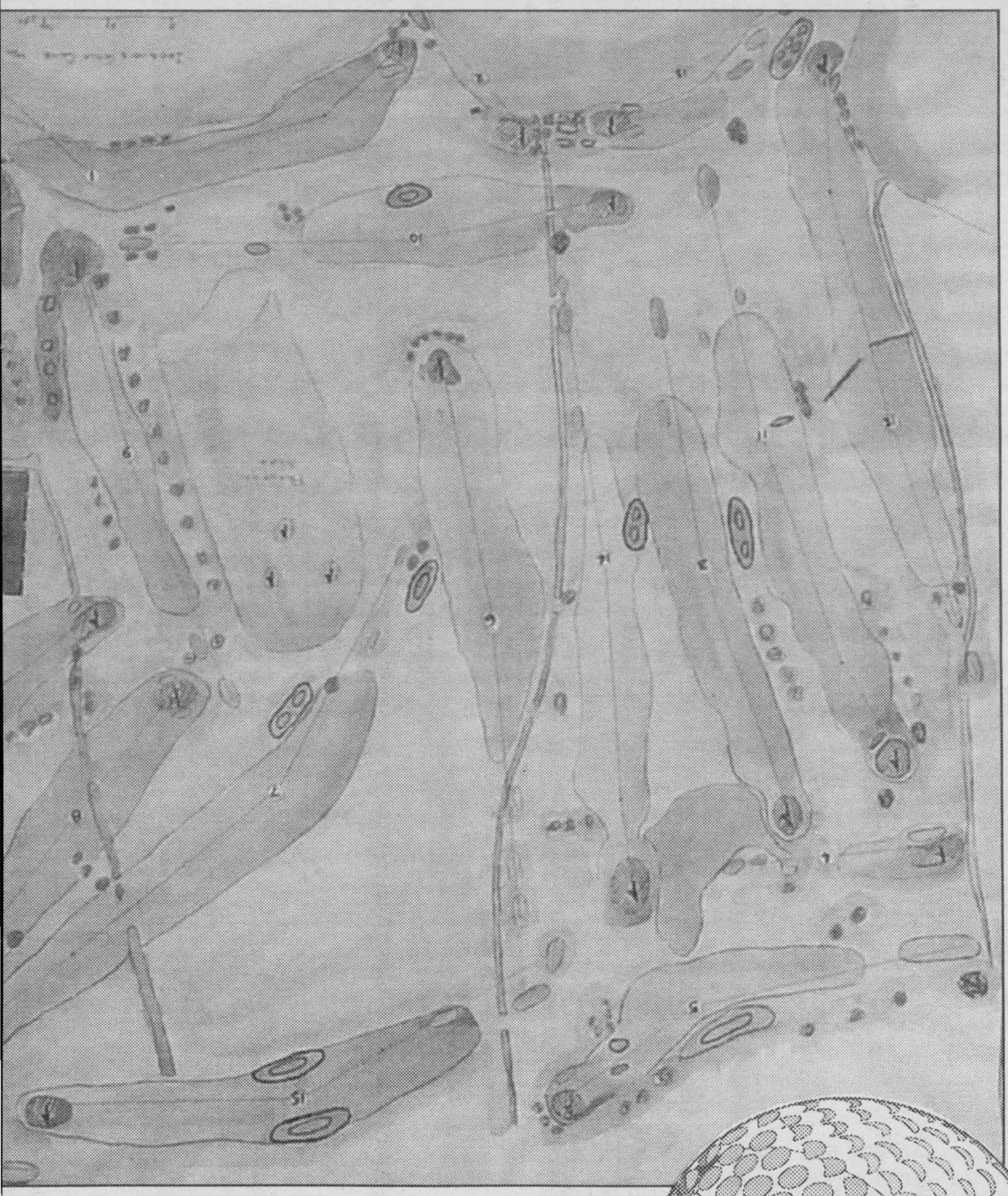

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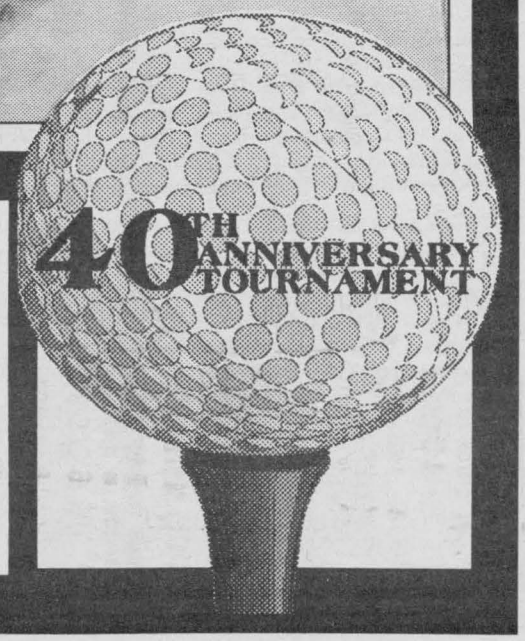

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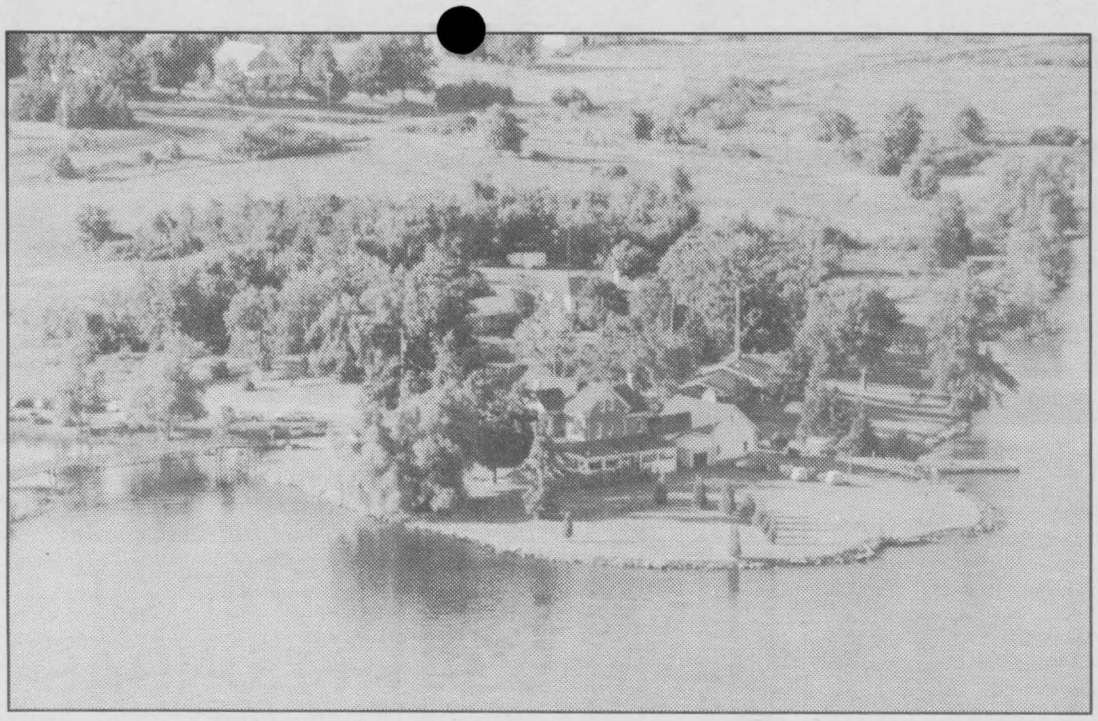

Iroquois Club House looks good from the air nestled along the River.

Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey

CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

river flow to pass downstream to the powerhouses. The first concrete was placed in the dam Nov. 11, 1955, and the dam was entirely completed Mar. 30, 1958. The dam runs from Point Rockway on the U.S. mainland to Iroquois Point on the Canadian shore.

Hole 10 - King's Highway

The King's Highway - Highway #2 - was known as King Street in "old Iroquois". Featuring the business section of town, it was the hub of activity for all ages. Some businesses included: grocery stores; restaurants; clothing stores; a hardware and shoe store; jewellery store; banks; printing office; telephone and hydro offices; drug store; hotel; shoe repair shop; barber shops; hairdresser; book store; pool hall and post office.

Hole 11 - Linen Mill

Early in the 20th century, a building that was to become a shoe factory became the property of Messrs. Gass & Caldwell, manufacturers of and dealers in linen. This building later burned and Mr. Robert Caldwell, one of the partners, built a linen factory in the Township of Matilda, just west of old Iroquois. The company, Caldwell Linen Mills Limited, was incorporated in June 1923 and commenced manufacturing in October 1923. After Robert Caldwell died, his son Herbert Caldwell became president and expanded the business to become a valuable asset to the village. When construction of the Seaway began, Caldwell Linen Mills was rebuilt at its present site.

Hole 12 - Point Iroquois

A jutting headland about 100' high and nearly a mile in width was left by the receding ice during the "Glacial Period". It became a favourite campground for the Indians travelling up and down the river. They built their campfires and held their powwows among the groves of pine and maple. Early French voyageurs from Montreal named this land Point Iroquois after the most warlike of the Indian tribes.

Gordon Brouse recognized the possibilities of the grove at Point Iroquois as a great recreational centre for the village and area. He acquired the property and proceeded to construct a first class race track.

Many years later, the Iroquois summer school was held in the grove at the Point. Church groups held summer revival meetings and many cottages were built on Point Iroquois.

It was considered one of the most beautiful spots along the St. Lawrence.

Hole 13 - The Pavilion

The Pavilion on Point Iroquois was built by William Lannin from Winchester just after WW1. Bands from Toronto and other areas came to play for dances, which were held every Wednesday and Saturday evenings during the summer months. This was a very popular spot for people near and far. One lady golfer tells how she used to stand on her tiptoes when she was a little girl to look through the windows and wondered if she ever would be old enough to go to the dances.

Hole 14 - The Tannery

Philip Carman and Josiah Baldwin owned a tannery where Peterkins had their cold storage.

It was also used as living quarters for orchestra members who played for dances at the Pavilion every summer.

Hole 15 - Dairy Drive

Brouse's Dairy was a thriving business in old Iroquois and was situated along Highway #2 or The King's Highway. They delivered milk from their own herd to Iroquois residents by horse and wagon. Milk was also shipped out of Iroquois on the "Moccasin". The dairy was located on a south eastern portion of what is now the Iroquois Golf Club.

Hole 16 - Cathcart

Iroquois became an incorporated village in 1857. A special Act of Incorporation had to be passed, as the village did not have requisite population of 750. Before that time, the village was called Cathcart in honour of Earl Cathcart, who at one time commanded the British forces in Canada.

Some of the earliest business men in Cathcart were Daniel Carman - general store, Robert Lowery - boat & shoe shop, Lawrence Burns - bakery & liquor store, George Brouse - postmaster & merchant, Carman & Bailey - general merchants, W.I. Shaver - a saddler, Alex Wharton - carder & fuller, John S. Ross - general merchant, and Addison Worthington - the first physician in what is now Iroquois.

Please turn to page 7

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Continued from page 6

Hole 17 - Col. Morrison of the 89th

In 1813, Colonel Morrison, who was in command of the 89th regiment, pursued General Wilkinson, the commander of the Army of the United States. With 850 men and some gunboats, he left Prescott and landed in Matilda. The next morning he marched to Point Iroquois, from where the American Army was plainly visible. He approached to within half a mile, but decided that the place was not suitable for an engagement and returned to Point Iroquois.

The next day Morrison followed the Americans and hoped that more favourable ground for an attack would be found. That evening the Americans landed at Cook's Point and Morrison came ashore a couple of miles above them. A council of war was held at Crysler's house - Morrison's headquarters - and it was decided to give the enemy battle. The next morning a battle began on Crysler's farm. The Americans were driven from the field and fled to their boats.

Hole 18 - Doran Creek

Doran Creek was located east of the Doran family farm in old Iroquois. It was a favourite spot for mudpout fishing.

Sycamore Lounge

In July 1883, T.S. Edwards bought a large lot in Matilda Township on a high point of land overlooking the St. Lawrence River. It became known as Point Edwards. Six years later, he and his wife, Maria, spent approximately $4,000 on building what was said to be one of the finest houses in Iroquois. It was solid red brick, with wood, stone and ceramic trim, a front porch with turned pillars and a larger back verandah and balcony that faced the river and wrapped around the corner to face the village. There were front and back stairs and five bedrooms on the second floor. It had a large summer kitchen and carriage shed attached and was the first house in Iroquois to have electric lights. A large unfinished attic provided a place where the children could play in bad weather. There was also a good sand beach from which they could swim in the St. Lawrence. The house was finished at the end of 1889 and the family moved into it in January 1890.

In the 1950s, the house was used as a tourist home - "Sycamore Lodge" and when the whole village was moved northward to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway, this house remained on its original high site. Ontario Hydro presented it to the Village of Iroquois, and it became a golf clubhouse.

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