

CITY TODAY

AQUEDUCT OF THE SECOND WELLAND CANAL

THE AQUEDUCT COMPLETED IN 1845 ALLOWED SHIPS TO BE TOWED OVER THE WELLAND RIVER IN WATER THAT WAS 9 FEET DEEP.

SUPPORTED BY 4 ARCHES THAT WERE 45 FEET WIDE AND 13 FEET HIGH, IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OF STONE FROM QUEENSTON, ONTARIO. IT WAS IN USE UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE FOURTH CANAL IN 1930. IN 1946, IT BECAME THE CROSS STREET SWIMMING POOL AND REMAINED SO UNTIL 1984.

THIS PLAQUE WAS ERECTED BY THE WELLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS.

L'AQUEDUC DU DEUXIÈME CANAL WELLAND

L'AQUEDUC, QUI A ÉTÉ TERMINÉ EN 1845, PERMETTAIT AUX BATEAUX DE PASSER PAR-DESSUS LA RIVIÈRE WELLAND EN ÉTANT REMORQUÉS DANS DES EAUX D'UNE PROFONDEUR DE 9 PIEDS.

SUPPORTÉ PAR QUATRE ARCHES DE 45 PIEDS DE LARGE SUR 13 PIEDS DE HAUT, L'AQUEDUC A ÉTÉ CONSTRUIT EN PIERRE PROVENANT DE QUEENSTON, ONTARIO. IL A ÉTÉ EN SERVICE JUSQU'À L'ACHÈVEMENT DU QUATRIÈME CANAL EN 1930. EN 1946, L'AQUEDUC EST DEvenu LA PISCINE DE LA RUE CROSS ET A ÉTÉ UTILISÉ À CETTE FIN JUSQU'EN 1984.

CETTE PLAQUETTE A ÉTÉ ELEVÉE PAR LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE WELLAND EN COLLABORATION AVEC LE MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE ET DES COMMUNICATIONS DE L'ONTARIO.

Preserving a part of the past

□ A plaque reminds us of the aqueduct's importance

WELLAND (Staff) — It took the Welland Historical Society two years.

But Society president George Foss says it was worth every second.

The local historical society yesterday unveiled a plaque which will guarantee future generations understand the value of the former aqueduct that was vital to the second Welland Canal through the city.

"Our thinking was that if any tourist walked through the area they wouldn't have any idea what this large structure was used for," Foss says of the intricately laid stones by the Cross Street parking lot.

And Foss believes the aque-

duct is something Wellanders should never forget either.

"This was a unique aqueduct in that it wasn't just for carrying water — as was the case in the times of the Romans or Egyptians. This one also carried ships and boats."

The aqueduct, made of stone from nearby Queenston, was completed in 1845, to replace an earlier wooden aqueduct.

It involved four arches 45-feet wide and 13 feet high, and allowed ships to be towed over the Welland River in nine feet of water.

The aqueduct was in use until 1930, when the fourth canal was built to straighten the shipping route from Port Robinson to

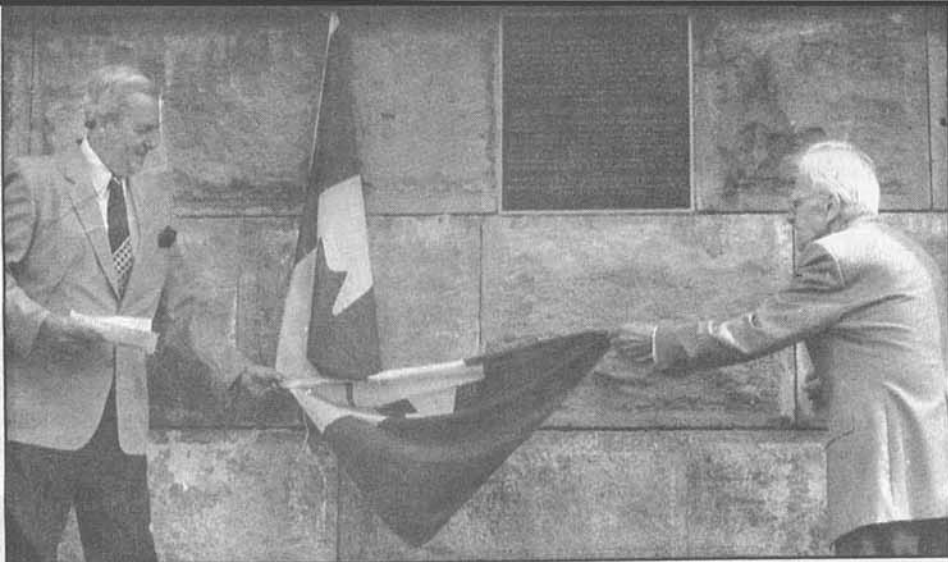
Dain City.

That's when the aqueduct was then converted into the Cross Street swimming pool where it served as a welcomed summer spot until 1984.

The approximately 40 members of the local historical society decided about two years ago to take on the task of recognizing the aqueduct.

With the guidance of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, the historical society went about raising the necessary \$1,600 to erect the plaque.

"We're very proud of the fact that as a volunteer group we were able to achieve something like this," Foss says.



Tribune photos/Dave Hanusch

A prominent landmark was given its rightful place in local history yesterday. A plaque unveiling marks the significance of the aqueduct. Shown

here during the unveiling are George Foss, left, president of the Welland Historical Society and Lemuel Hogue, local historian.