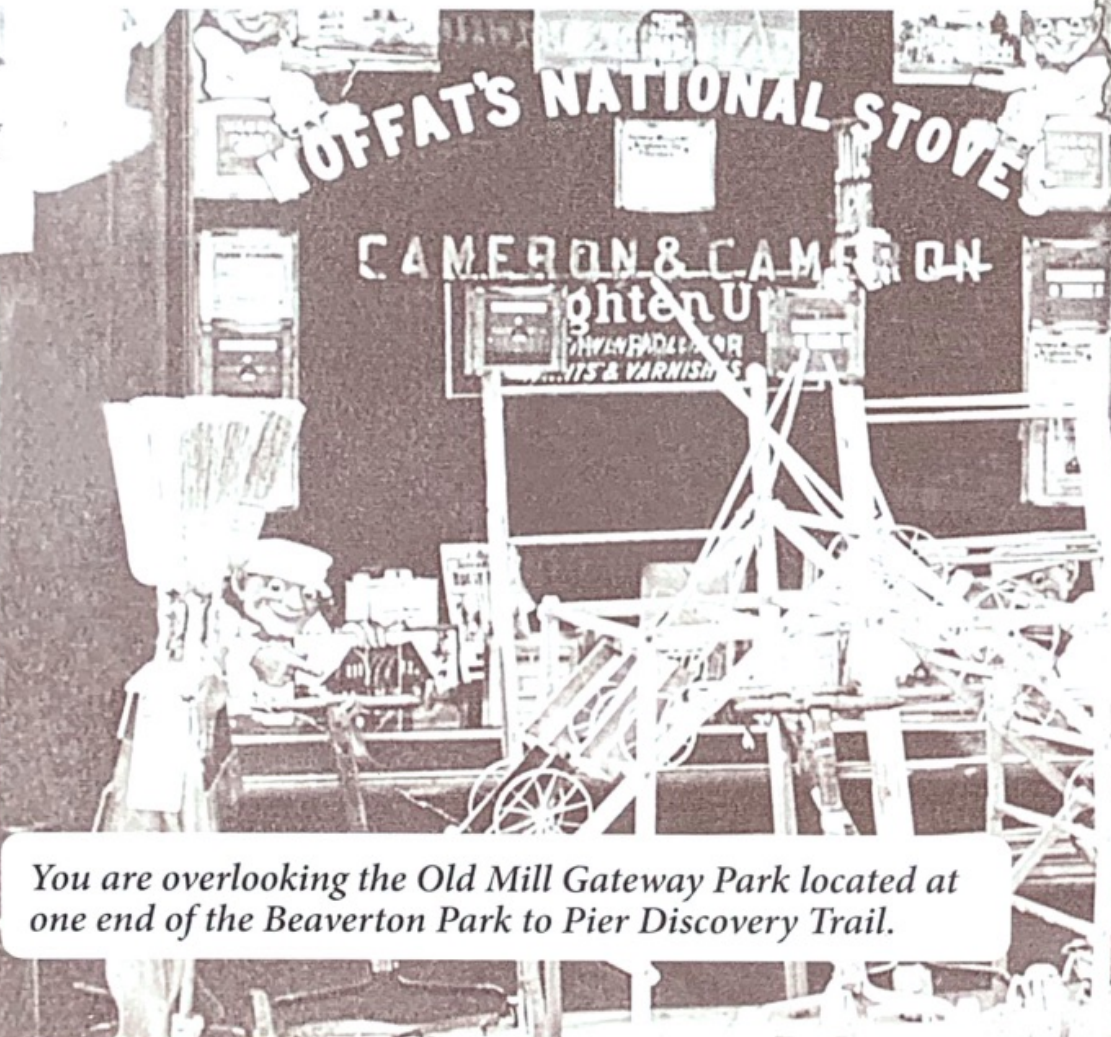
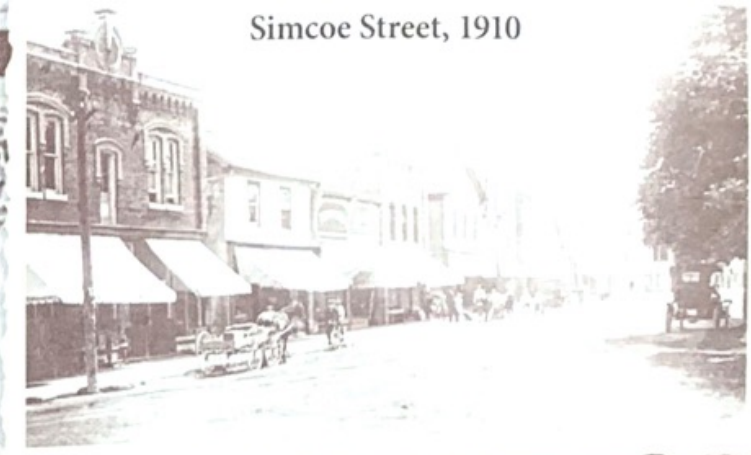
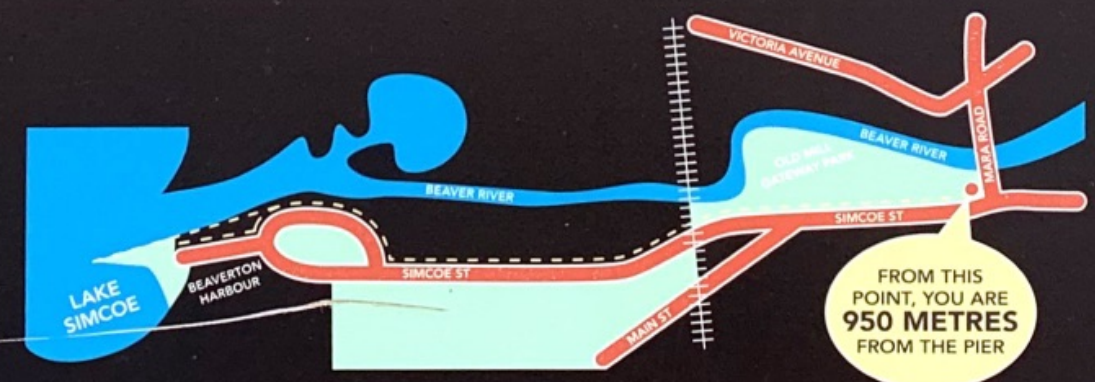


Beaverton: Open for business since 1833. Before Donald Calder arrived from Scotland and built the first mill here around 1830, local farmers were required to carry their grain over 50 kms south to Newmarket. The traffic to and from the mills located in this Gateway area made Beaverton a centre of commerce almost from its inception. Kenneth Cameron opened Beaverton's first store at these crossroads in 1833. Schools and a Post Office were established by 1835, quickly followed by the first churches. The 1840 Old Stone Church National Historic Site of Canada is on Simcoe Street less than 3.1 kms east of this point.



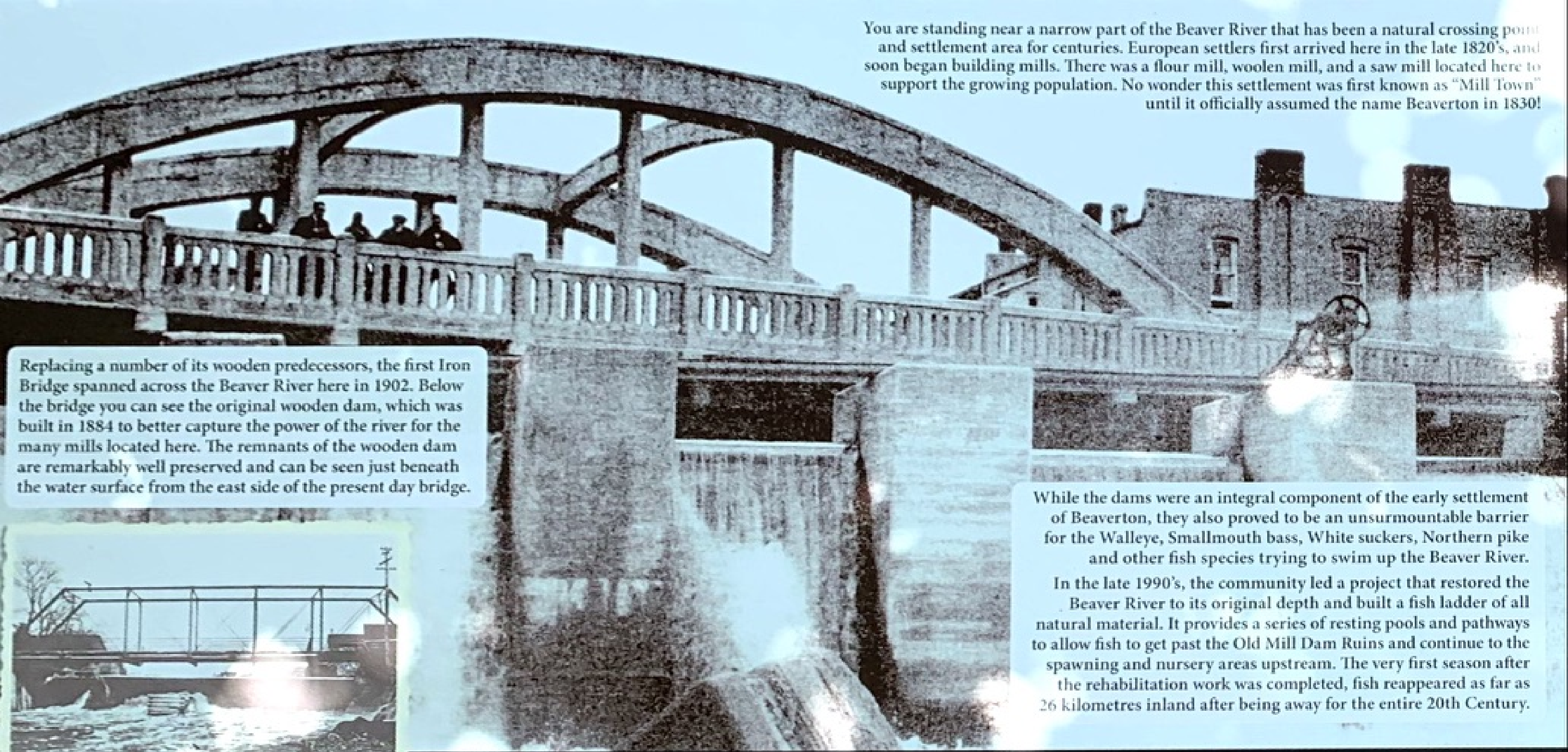
You are overlooking the Old Mill Gateway Park located at one end of the Beaverton Park to Pier Discovery Trail.

Beaverton
*At Beaverton River, on Simcoe Lake shore
Post office, two churches, and also six stores,
One teacher, one doctor, one lawyer for all
One wharf at the harbour, town pound, and town hall,
Steam boat and propeller, three schooners that sail,
And stages bring passengers, light freight and mail,
Shoemakers and bakers, and carpenters build,
Bricklayers and painters, enamel and guild,
Do turning, and planing, and carding of wool,
Do grinding and sawing, they tan and they full,
Waggon Makers, and blacksmiths and tailors abound,
Coopers and butchers, and farmers all round.
In summer it's lovely to view the road lake,
The groves and the islands, and the fishes they take.*
-A.G. Churchill,
Poetical Dictionary, 1860



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You are standing near a narrow part of the Beaver River that has been a natural crossing point and settlement area for centuries. European settlers first arrived here in the late 1820's, and soon began building mills. There was a flour mill, woolen mill, and a saw mill located here to support the growing population. No wonder this settlement was first known as "Mill Town" until it officially assumed the name Beaverton in 1830!

Replacing a number of its wooden predecessors, the first Iron Bridge spanned across the Beaver River here in 1902. Below the bridge you can see the original wooden dam, which was built in 1884 to better capture the power of the river for the many mills located here. The remnants of the wooden dam are remarkably well preserved and can be seen just beneath the water surface from the east side of the present day bridge.

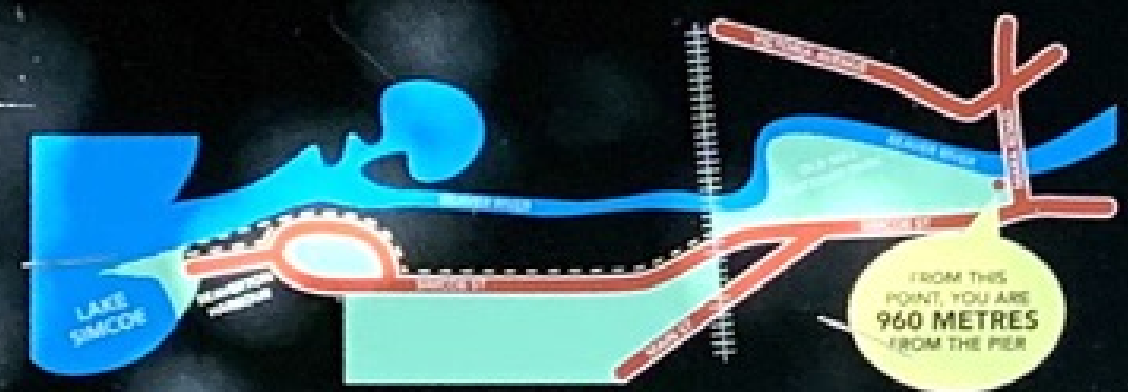


While the dams were an integral component of the early settlement of Beaverton, they also proved to be an unsurmountable barrier for the Walleye, Smallmouth bass, White suckers, Northern pike and other fish species trying to swim up the Beaver River.

In the late 1990's, the community led a project that restored the Beaver River to its original depth and built a fish ladder of all natural material. It provides a series of resting pools and pathways to allow fish to get past the Old Mill Dam Ruins and continue to the spawning and nursery areas upstream. The very first season after the rehabilitation work was completed, fish reappeared as far as 26 kilometres inland after being away for the entire 20th Century.



Park to Pier Discovery Trail



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SPECIAL THANKS TO: Beaverton & District Conservation Club, Beaverton Lions Club, Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation

Before the Railway Age, travel and the movement of goods to and from Beaverton was largely dependent on Lake Simcoe boat traffic. The *Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway Company* received its charter on December 18, 1854 to forge a link between Lakes Ontario and Simcoe. It took seventeen years to construct the line between Port Hope and Beaverton, with the first train arriving here on Christmas Eve of 1870. With Beaverton as its northern terminus, this proved to be one of the most prosperous of all Canadian short lines.

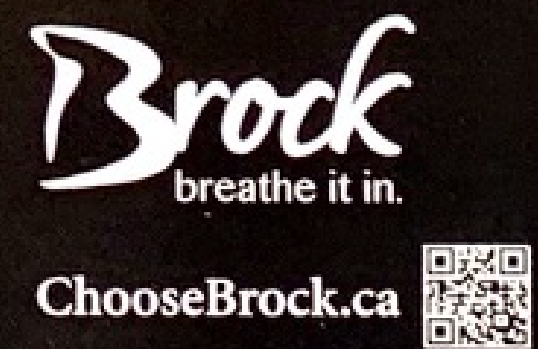
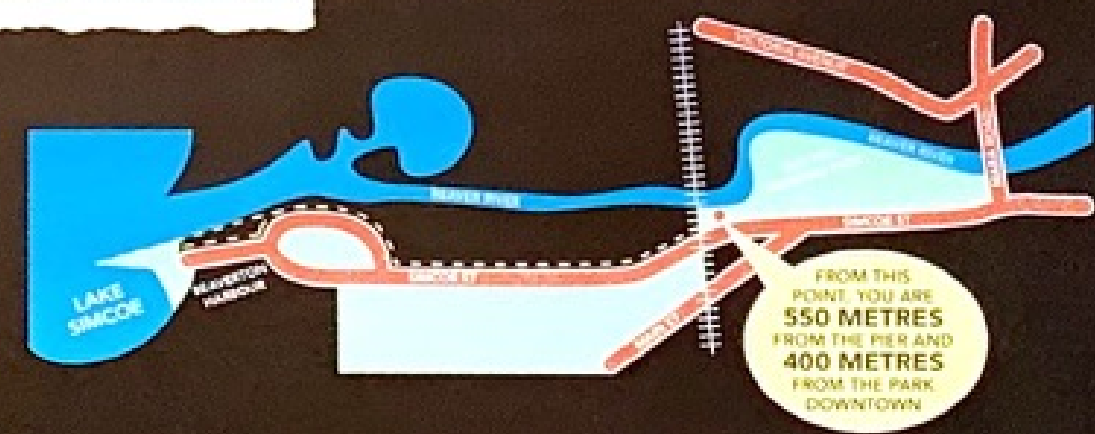
Beaverton once required two railway stations. The Beaverton West depot serviced the village until it was decommissioned in 1958.



The present-day train trestle you can see from this point spanning the Beaver River is a small descendant of the original engineering marvel of the first bridge in the 1880's.



A special trunk line extended out into Lake Simcoe at the end of Victoria Avenue where the steam engines could take on water. Beaverton also had a turntable pit for engines to turn around for the return run south. The Beaverton line expanded north to Orillia in 1873 and Midland in 1879, eventually becoming part of the great Canadian National Railway transcontinental route that continues to travel through Beaverton to this day.



SPECIAL THANKS TO: Beaverton & District Conservation Club, Beaverton Lions Club, Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation

Harbour of the Future

Come to Beaverton Harbour for community events in the People Gardens or to watch the boats and the stars pass by at the Razzle Dazzle by the marina.

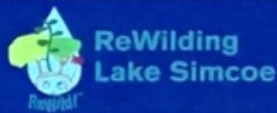
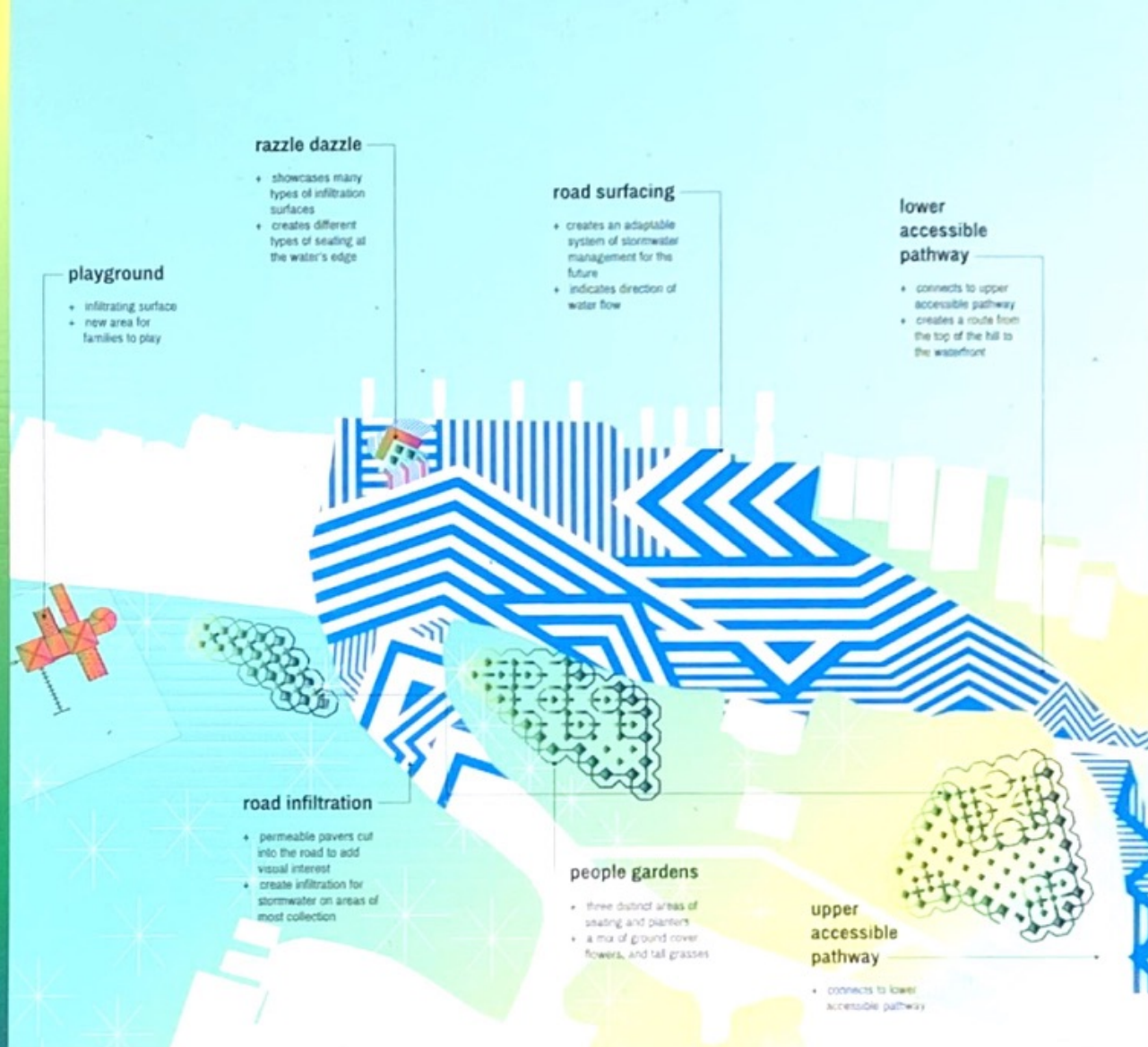
This revitalization takes place at the heart of Brock Township where water, people and nature meet. Through the various formations of plantings, seating, and permeable roads and pathways the health of the lake is revitalized while also creating many new experiences for the community.

The vibrancy and systematic design demonstrates the flow of water in the space, and symbolizes the contributions of diverse voices working toward bright future possibilities.

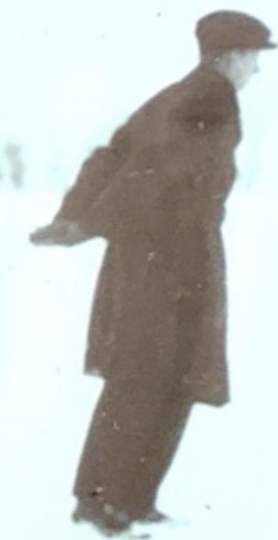
Watch the construction as it evolves through a phased approach to implementation.

The new space was developed by ReWilding Lake Simcoe, a flagship initiative of the Ontario Water Centre, in partnership with the Township of Brock and numerous community organizations, and brought to life with the help of our funders and sponsors.

Please visit townshipofbrock.ca/harbourofthefuture for more information!



Lake Simcoe is home to over 50 species of fish, making it an excellent destination for fishing all-year-round. One of the earliest known methods of fishing on the lake was ice fishing with spears, as it was a common practice among First Nations peoples who lived in the area centuries ago. European settlers later learned to spear fish and, although it is not clear when the first ice hut appeared on the lake, its popularity grew from the 1850s on until spear fishing was banned in 1940. It is believed that there may even be a few spears stuck at the bottom of the lake as remnants of that time.



Until the mid-1950s, many fishermen on Lake Simcoe earned a living by selling their catch. Prices ranged from 5¢ a pound in the 1920s and 1930s and 20¢ a pound in the 1950s and 1960s.

You are overlooking the Pier located at one end of the Beaverton Park to Pier Discovery Trail and the final portion of "Kirk's Walk", named in honour of Robert A. Kirk.

The earliest known name for the lake was Ouentironk (oo-ent'-er-onk) the Huron word meaning "beautiful water". European settlers later called it Lake Toronto, until 1793, when John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, renamed it in memory of his father, Captain John Simcoe of the Royal Navy.

BEAVERTON

Park to Pier Discovery Trail



Brock
breathe it in.

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BEAVERTON - THORAH HISTORIC SITE

ON THIS SITE, THORAH TOWNSHIP'S FIRST MUNICIPAL HALL, A FRAME STRUCTURE APPROXIMATELY 25 BY 30 FEET, WAS BUILT DURING 1849. THE FIRST TOWNSHIP MEETING WAS HELD ON JANUARY 21, 1850, WHEN KENNETH CAMERON WAS REEVE. COUNCILLORS WERE ALEXANDER BRAIK, CHARLIE ROBINSON, GEORGE PROCTOR AND DONALD CAMERON. AFTER BEAVERTON BECAME AN INCORPORATED VILLAGE IN 1884, THE HALL SERVED BOTH MUNICIPALITIES UNTIL 1911 WHEN THE NEW BEAVERTON THORAH TOWN HALL WAS OPENED.

IN 1853, THE FIRST LIBRARY WAS ESTABLISHED IN THIS EARLY TOWNSHIP HALL AND REMAINED THERE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. JOHN MCKAY, TOWNSHIP CLERK, SERVED AS THE FIRST LIBRARIAN.

TO THE REAR OF THE ORIGINAL HALL AND BUILT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, STOOD THE OLD STONE JAIL WHICH MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 1847 THAT EACH UNINCORPORATED VILLAGE OF CANADA WEST SHOULD HAVE A LOCK-UP. ITS USE AS SUCH A FACILITY CEASED IN 1911 AS JAIL CELLS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE NEW TOWN HALL. IN 1995, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE TORONTO DOMINION BANK AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE FINANCIAL HELP OF MANY GENEROUS PEOPLE, THE BEAVERTON THORAH ELDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAD THE STONE JAIL RELOCATED TO BECOME PART OF THE BEAVER RIVER MUSEUM.

1996

BEAVERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Realizing the value of the written word, this community has had a library situated in various locations since 1853. Through the efforts of the Library Board, a grant of seven thousand dollars was obtained from the American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. The building contract was awarded to James Snelgrove. In December, 1913, this library was officially opened.

THE BEAVERTON-THORAH TOWN HALL

This second Town Hall for the Village of Beaverton and the Township of Thorah, built on land known as the Iron block, was officially opened August 22, 1911.

The upper level was a fine auditorium extensively renovated in the 1990's. In 1996 the lower floor's administrative use ceased upon the opening of a new Brock Township municipal centre in Cannington.

