

46 OUR MOUNTAIN AND TALL SHIPS! WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

By Robert Williamson

The unusual sight of eleven tall ships will grace our bay waterfront at Pier 8 this summer. This rendezvous of sailing ships from a bygone era, will be part of the Canada Day weekend celebrations honouring the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. Our Mountain Memories stories this year have followed a confederation theme and while, it may appear to be a stretch, I have found a connection between our mountain heritage with tall ships on the bay.

Surprisingly, when the City Planning Department, decided to simplify the city's geography by identifying neighbourhood areas by names, they **randomly chose the name Yeoville** for a central mountain locale bounded on the east by Upper James Street. This small nondescript residential survey is squeezed in between West 5th, Mohawk Road and the Lincoln Alexander Parkway. It is named in honour of **Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, Royal Navy**, one of our country's unsung naval heroes of the pre-confederation period.



Commodore Sir James Yeo
NAC C22895

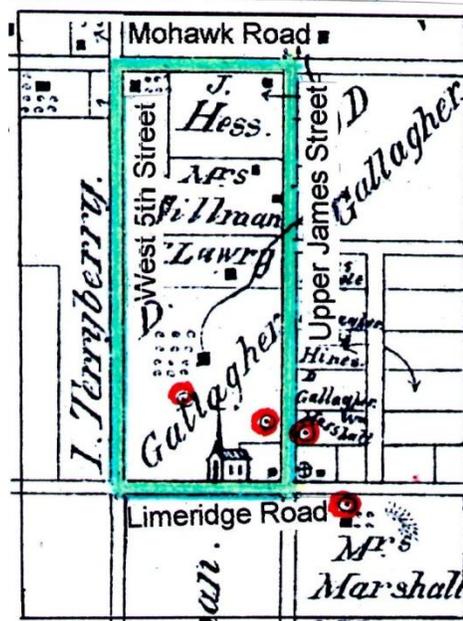
While the British army's Major General Sir Isaac Brock is considered to be the Saviour of Canada for his military campaigns during the War of 1812, Commodore Yeo, who commanded the Royal Naval squadron on Lake Ontario, would qualify as Brock's naval equivalent .

Although nothing as grand as Brock's monument at Queenston Heights serves Yeo's role in preserving Canada, he is recognized with a small monument at Royal Military College in Kingston. Other plaques at Grimsby, Confederation Park and

Niagara-on-the-Lake remind us of how Yeo's naval control of the western end of Lake Ontario contributed to crucial victories at Stoney Creek and Lundy's Lane as well as a naval engagement off Burlington.

Therefore on Canada Day we can proudly boast that the Yeoville Neighbourhood represents the city's recognition of a man who preserved our nation in the days leading up to confederation, justifying our Tall Ships Rendezvous connection.

However, a closer examination of the history of Yeoville provides clues showing it played a more germane role in our local heritage and could have been named differently. The neighbourhood was formerly the site of the Gallagher farm. Its street map shows Quarry Court and Limeridge Road reminding us that during the decade around 1867, the Gallagher family established a large limestone quarrying business in the southern quadrant of the farm to take advantage of the building boom and consequent demand for limestone products after confederation. For almost sixty years their quarries and kilns produced the stone and lime for the city's building contractors and companies such as Sackville Hill Building Supplies. Given the significance of the area's historical productivity, perhaps "**Gallagher**" would have been another choice for the neighbourhood's place name.



Yeoville outlined on an 1875 Wentworth County Historical Atlas. Note the cluster of lime kilns marked in red along Limeridge Road operated by Gallagher and Marshall.

Mountain Memories, by Robert Williamson for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society appears monthly.