The Community of Port Hoover

Many people still know of this community, although, to a visitor and perhaps even to a resident of Kawartha Lakes, the only indication of this community's existence relies on memory and the 'Port Hoover Road' sign.

In the 1830s Port Hoover was the leading 'port' for lake traffic along the north shore of Lake Scugog. Steamboats called on here for the Lindsay-Port Perry run and Mariposa grain was cadged down the then Main Street and shipped to markets down south.

Like many early communities, Port Hoover was named after one of the first settling families in that area, The Hoover family.

The first lot surveyed for the new hamlet (which at the time was within the surveyed land for Cartwright Township) was obtained by Mr. John Rose in 1817. A year later Mr. Rose sold the land to John Chrysler and David Hoover purchased the lot- Concession A, Lot 12, in 1848.

David Hoover of Pennsylvania and Rachel Boulton of New York, married on August 2, 1819 in Elizabethtown, Ontario. The couple had 6 children, Thomas (1820), Abraham (1823), Catherine (1826), Mary Ann (1828), George (1830), Susan (1833) and Daniel (1837). 5 of which accompanied their parents to settle in the new hamlet in 1842.

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The community of Port Hoover, with many thanks to the Hoover, Yerex, Shaver and Tiers families, had everything it needed for the promise of a permanent settlement.

Plan of Port Hoover from Plan 28, 1869

Port Hoover
James A. Patterson, County of Victoria Map, 1877
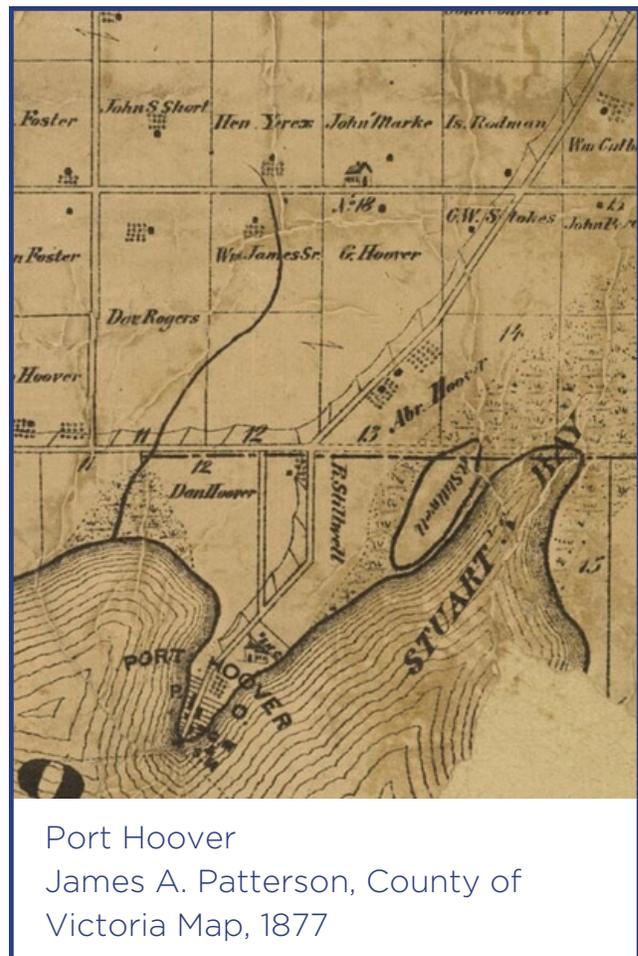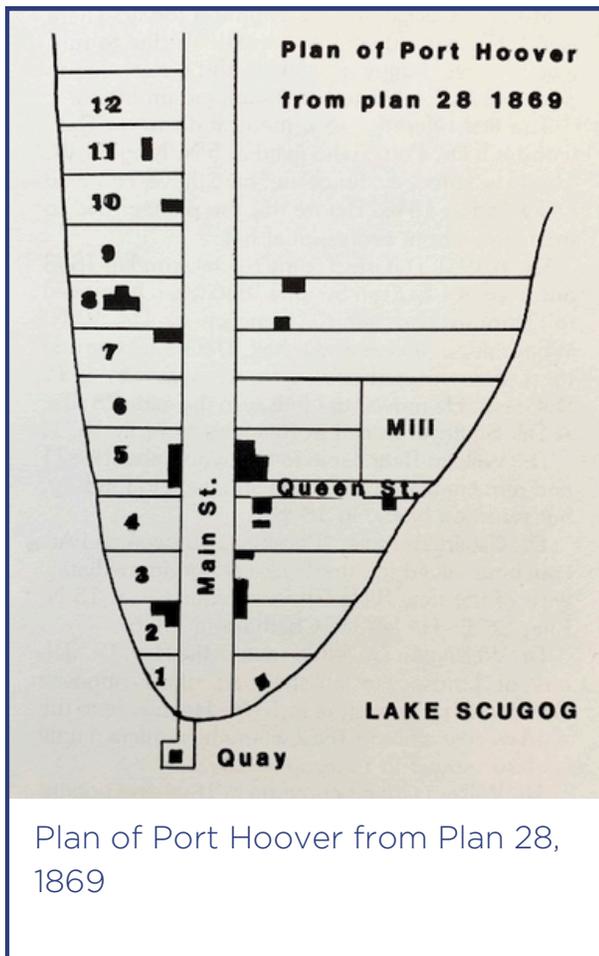
Between 1850 and 1880 the residents of Port Hoover built a post office, two taverns/hotels (one would eventually become a Temperance House), a pump factory, multiple stores, two wharves, a grain warehouse, two sawmills, a flour mill, a lumber mill, a steam ship building yard with daily boat services to Lindsay and Port Perry, a church and burial ground, two shoemakers and a weaver.

In 1878 the population of Port Hoover was 100 people, making it the largest hamlet in Mariposa Township.

However, one of its loudest 'claims to fame' was that 100, 000 bushels of wheat were purchased every year!

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This made Port Hoover one of the most successful wheat distributors in the County!

Again, Port Hoover was no different than many other seemingly growing and central communities, it was the railway that was its undoing. In 1877, the rail line was built through Mariposa Township and Port Hoover as a shipping port became redundant.

Regardless of this significant setback, members of the community continued to invest: constructing a school in 1887, a steam launch in 1889 and building its own Port Hoover Telephone Line in 1910. However, where there was optimism there were also many families closing and selling their shops and moving away.
Today you will only see glimmer of what Port Hoover was, or what it gave to the Township in its early days.

Cottage developments and new houses are what line the streets along that tip of Lake Scugog today and the legacy of Mariposa's only port is left to memory and a road sign.

View from George Hoover's homestead, now the Hollinger Farm

Resources

Irwin, Ross W., Mariposa, the Banner Township: A History of the Township of Mariposa, Victoria County, Ontario, Ross Irwin Enterprises, Guelph, Ontario, 1984

Thank You

Hollinger, David. Interview. Conducted by Laura Love, June 10, 2023