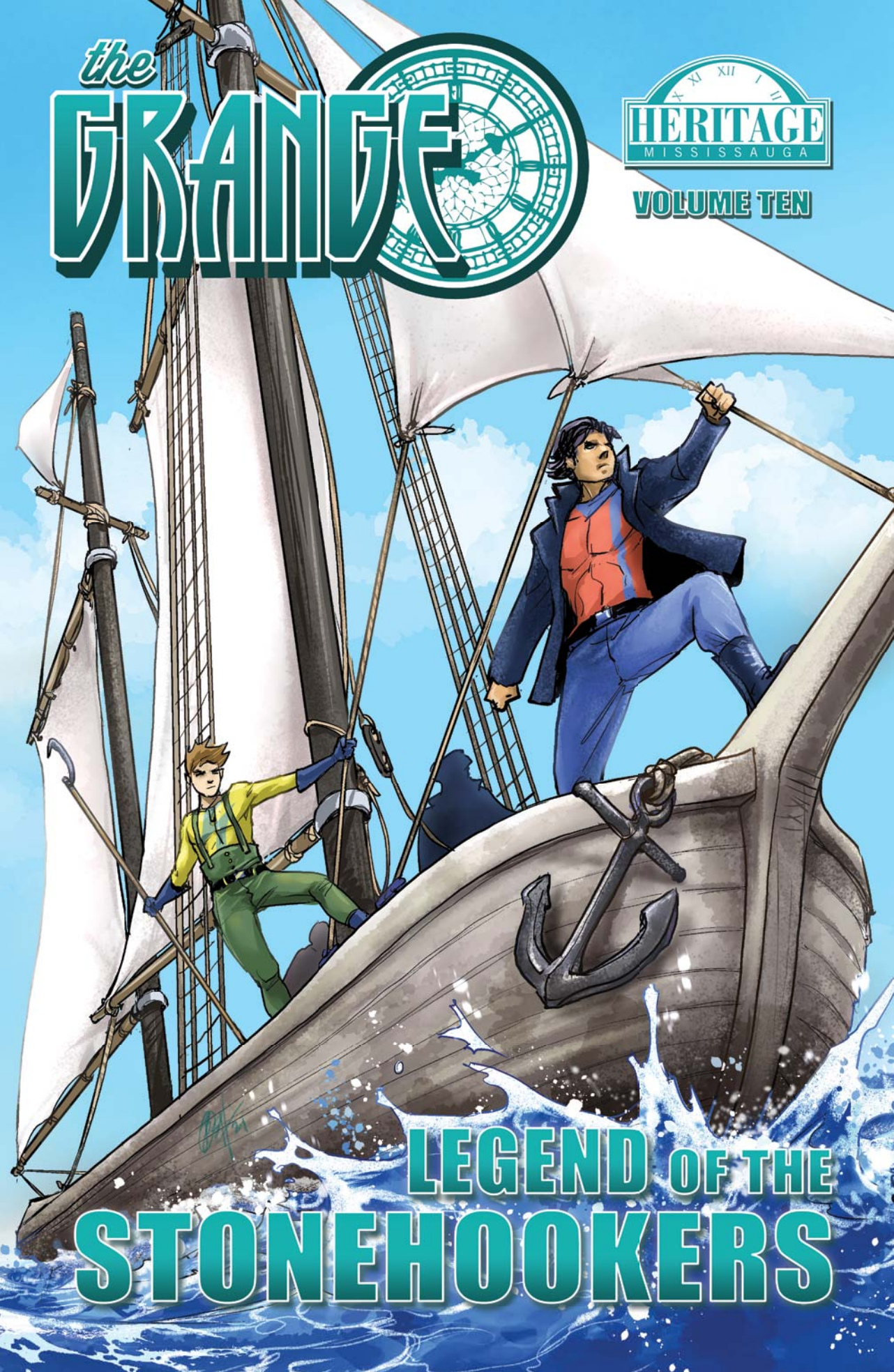


the GRANGE



VOLUME TEN



LEGEND OF THE
STONEHOOKERS



VOLUME TEN

LEGEND OF THE STONEHOOKERS

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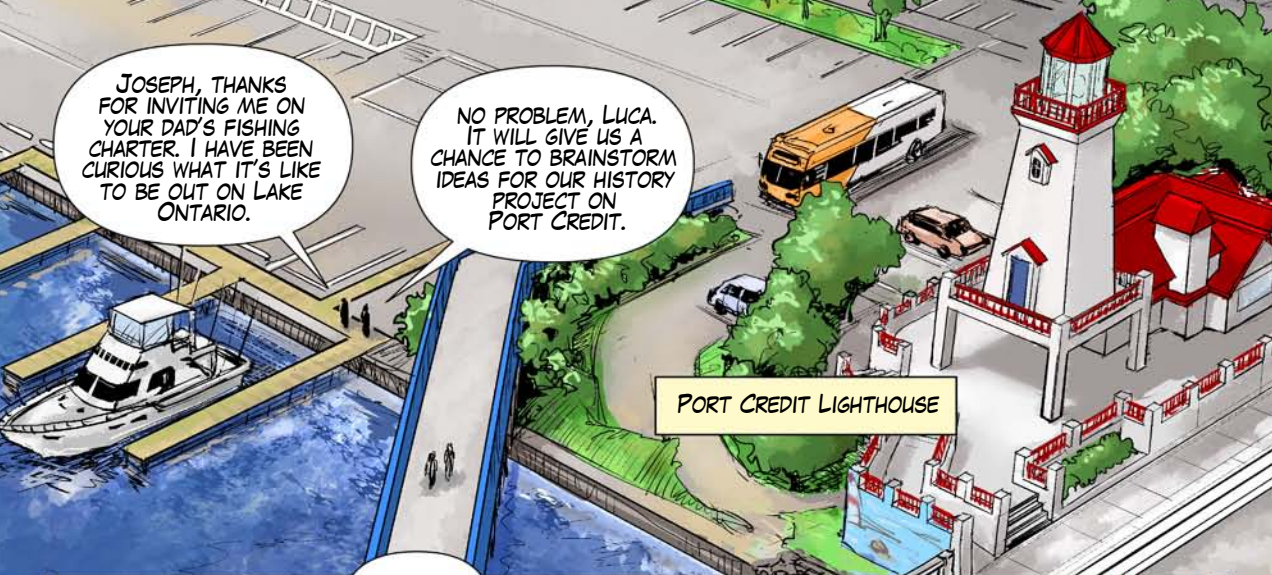


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JOSEPH, THANKS FOR INVITING ME ON YOUR DAD'S FISHING CHARTER. I HAVE BEEN CURIOUS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE OUT ON LAKE ONTARIO.

NO PROBLEM, LUCA. IT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR OUR HISTORY PROJECT ON PORT CREDIT.

PORT CREDIT LIGHTHOUSE

SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?



NO, NOT REALLY.

BUT BEING INDIGENOUS, I'D BE INTERESTED IN A TOPIC RELATING TO THE LAKE OR THE RIVER.

FOR GENERATIONS, MY ANCESTORS HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO THE WATER.



WAIT! I HAVE HEARD MY DAD TALK TO CUSTOMERS BEFORE ABOUT SOME HISTORIC SCHOONERS.



WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?...



...

STONEHOOKERS!

DO YOU THINK WE WOULD HAVE ENOUGH FOR A PROJECT? I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THEM BEFORE.



STONEHOOKERS, EH? I COULD TELL YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT THEM.



THEY WERE SMALL SCHOONERS USED IN THE LATE 1800'S IN THE STONEHOOKING INDUSTRY.

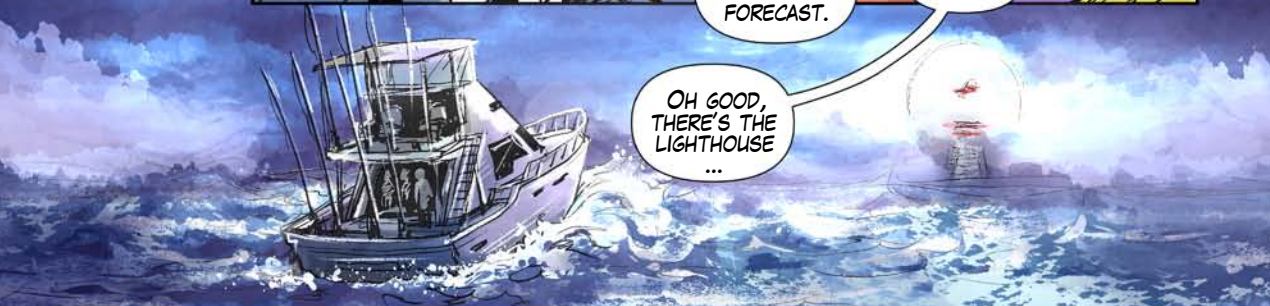
PORT CREDIT BECAME A CENTRE OF THE INDUSTRY AND WAS HOME TO MANY SUCH SHIPS.



LOOKS LIKE A STORM IS ROLLING IN. MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO 'SHOW' YOU THAN TO TELL YOU.

HUH?? THAT WASN'T IN THE FORECAST.

FREAK STORM?



OH GOOD, THERE'S THE LIGHTHOUSE ...



...WAIT! THAT'S NOT THE PORT CREDIT LIGHTHOUSE. DID WE GET BLOWN OFF COURSE?



THAT IS THE
PORT CREDIT
LIGHTHOUSE, JUST
NOT THE ONE
YOU KNOW.

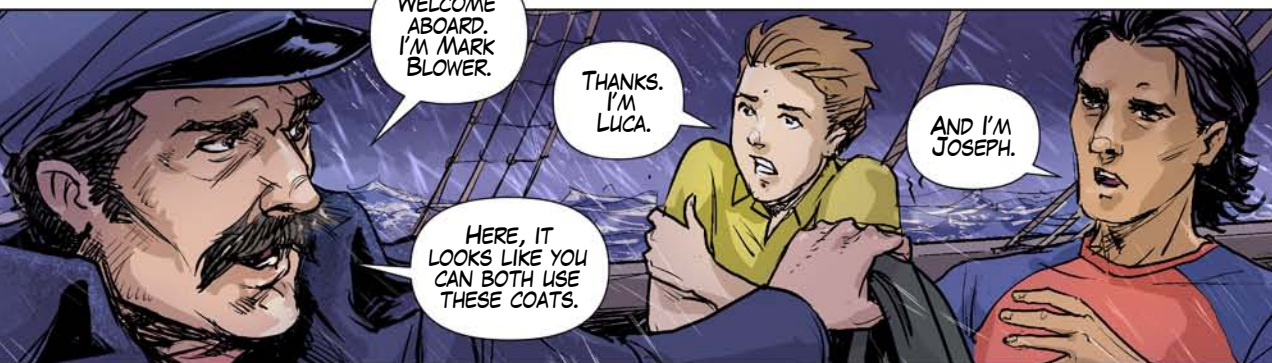


WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

DON'T BE
ALARMED. THIS
IS PORT CREDIT
IN 1900.

WE ARE
ABOARD THE LILLIAN,
ONE OF THE MANY
STONEHOOKER
SCHOONERS THAT CALL
THIS PORT HOME.

THIS
IS HER
CAPTAIN.



WELCOME
ABOARD.
I'M MARK
BLOWER.

THANKS.
I'M
LUCA.

AND I'M
JOSEPH.

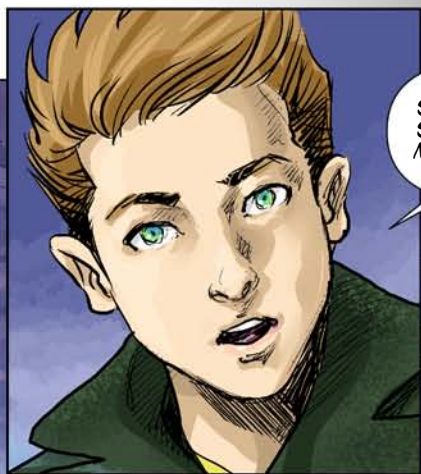
HERE, IT
LOOKS LIKE YOU
CAN BOTH USE
THESE COATS.



HEY, LOOK
AT ALL THESE
STONES ON
DECK.

WHOA.

THAT IS
DUNDAS SHALE.
WE HARVEST IT FROM
THE SHALLOWS OF
LAKE ONTARIO AND
SHIP THEM NEAR
AND AFAR FOR
CONSTRUCTION.



SO, WHAT DOES
STONEHOOKERS
MEAN, EXACTLY?

GOOD
QUESTION.



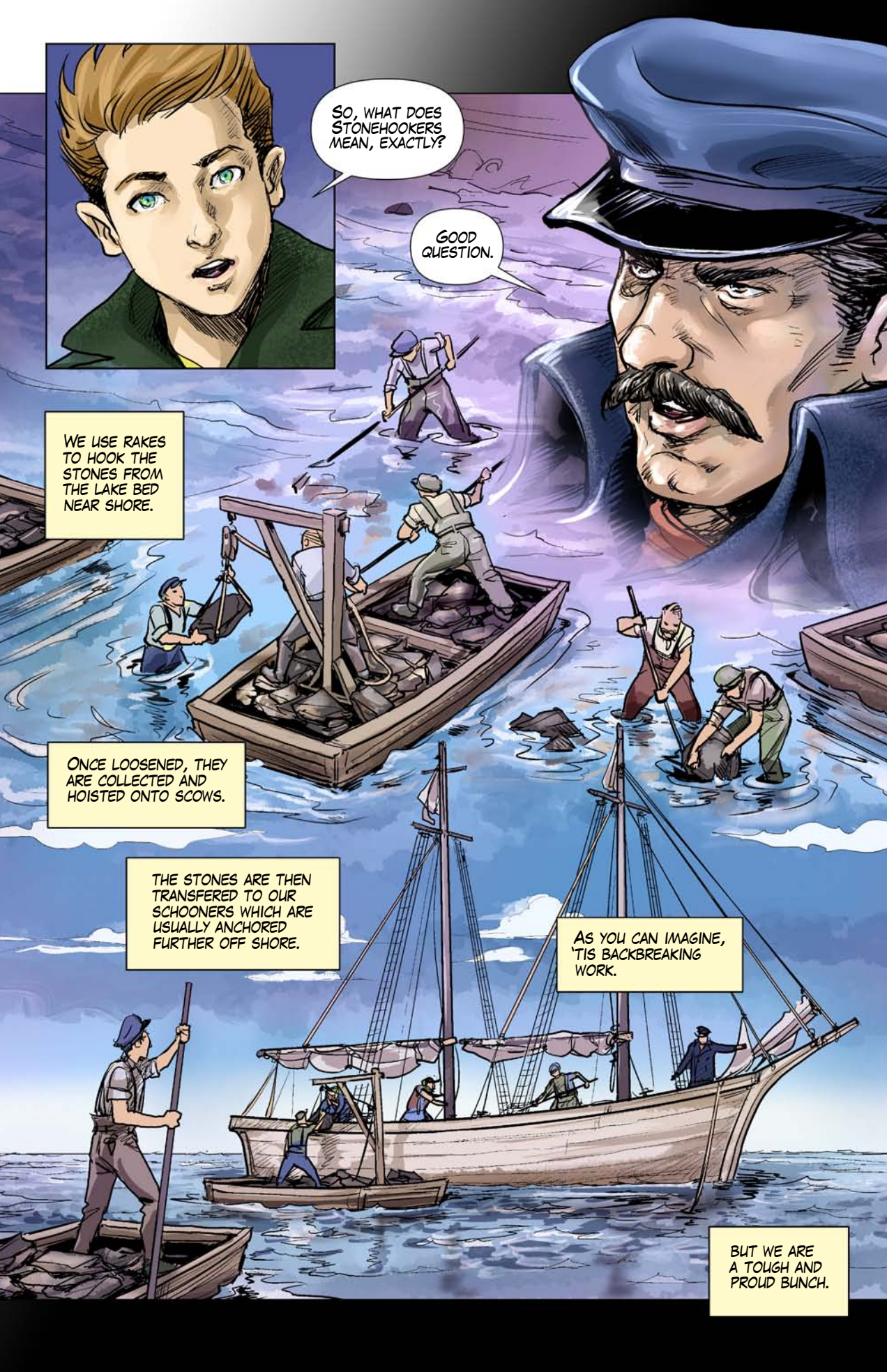
WE USE RAKES
TO HOOK THE
STONES FROM
THE LAKE BED
NEAR SHORE.

ONCE LOOSENED, THEY
ARE COLLECTED AND
HOISTED ONTO SCOWS.

THE STONES ARE THEN
TRANSFERRED TO OUR
SCHOONERS WHICH ARE
USUALLY ANCHORED
FURTHER OFF SHORE.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE,
'TIS BACKBREAKING
WORK.

BUT WE ARE
A TOUGH AND
PROUD BUNCH.



UPON REACHING PORT...

WHAT'S UP
WITH THE
COMMOTION?

AY! AY!
A SCHOONER'S HARD
AGROUND! IT'S A BIG
THREE-MASTER! SHE'S
STUCK HARD AND FAST
OFF THE BRICKYARDS.

THAT'S ALEX
LURE'S BOAT, THE
AUGUSTA. SHE'S A
HARD-MOULDED BRUTE,
BUT THIS STORM
MAY BREAK HER.

HERE COMES
CAPTAIN AL HARE,
PROBABLY THE MOST
EXPERIENCED OF US
IN RESCUES.

HURRY, MEN!
TO THE ROW
BOAT. THERE IS
NO TIME TO
LOSE.

GET THE
POLES AND
ROPES LADS!

BOYS, GET A
SECOND CREW
TOGETHER.

IF AL
GETS STOVE
IN, WE'LL
NEED YA.

HOW CAN
WE HELP?

TAKE THESE
ROPES AND
LANTERNS AND
FOLLOW ME.

WE WILL
HEAD TO THE
SHORE AND POST
LIGHTS FOR THE
CREW TO SEE.

THEN WE
WILL SEE ABOUT
RIGGING A LIFE
LINE FOR AL TO
ROW OUT TO
THE AUGUSTA.

NOW OFF,
FAST.

COME ON
LADS, TIME TO
PULL FOR ALL
YOU'RE WORTH.



THIS WAY,
THROUGH THE
BRICKYARD.



LOOK!

THERE'S
THE
AUGUSTA!

AND
THERE'S
AL HARE'S
ROW BOAT.

THE WATER'S
RISING FAST
AND BEYOND
THE CRIBS.

NOTHING FOR
IT NOW, BUT
ALL FOR 'ER!



QUICKLY!
THEY NEED
OUR HELP.

THEY ARE
ABOUT TO
CAPSIZE.



AL!
GRAB THE
ROPE!



THE WITCH
IS IN THE WIND
TONIGHT, I
TELL YA!



BUT
I'M NOT
GIVING UP
YET!

HARRY, FRED,
GET THE HECLA
READY TO ROW.
STOW HER SAILS.
AND FIND ME A
SECOND CREW.

LET ME
GO TOO!
I CAN ROW!



WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?

HELP ME
COLLECT THIS
ROPE. THEN WE
REJOIN THE
SHORE RESCUE.



THANK GOODNESS MRS. SHAW IS ALREADY HERE AND TAKING CHARGE.

QUICKLY NOW, SECURE THE LANTERNS THERE AND THERE.

LINCOLN THE ROPES AND GET THE LIFELINE READY.

LADIES, WARM, DRY JACKETS. GET HEAVY PEA COATS IF YOU CAN.

OKAY, BLANKETS, TWO PEOPLE PER BLANKET, HELP THOSE SOULS ASHORE WHEN THEY COME. A DRAUGHT OF WHISKEY TO EACH MAN TO BITE THE COLD AND GET THE BLOOD ROLLING.



HARD TO IT LADS! WE'LL NEED TO JOIN OVER 400 YARDS OF ROPE TO REACH THE AUGUSTA, I RECKON.

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?!

FOCUS ON WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOU.

WE WILL NOT BE SENDING CAPTAIN LIRE HOME TO HIS WIFE IN A CASKET TONIGHT.

HER BACK'S BROKEN NOW, HER SPARS ARE FALLING.

SHE'S GOT LOTS OF OAK AND IRON, BUT THIS MAY BE HER FUNERAL.

CAPTAIN BLOWER! THERE IS NO QUIT IN THIS FIGHT. THOSE LADS ARE STILL ABOVE WATER, AND WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO KEEP 'EM THAT WAY.

YES MA'AM.



RUN QUICK TO THE WILBUR HOUSE. GIVE THEM WORD WE WILL NEED A FIRE GOING, GOOD AND HOT, WARM DRINKS, DRY CLOTHES, AND THEN HURRY BACK!

WE WILL NEED YOU HERE TO HELP GET THE LADS ASHORE.

YOU DO WHAT SHE SAYS. IDA LIND SHAW HAS COMMAND ON SHORE.

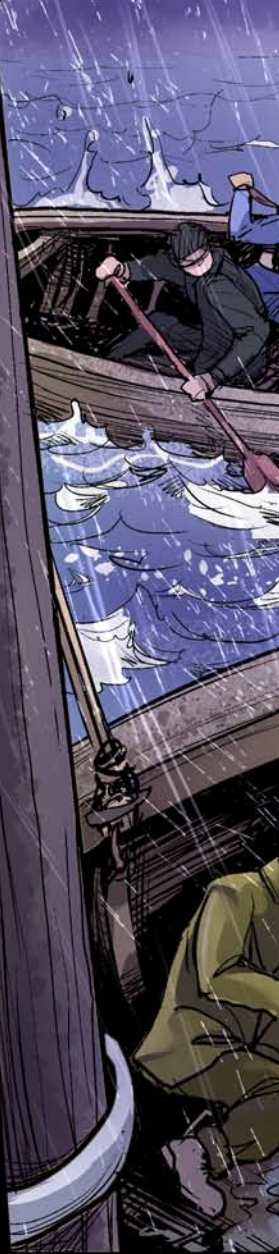
ON MY WAY.



HEAD FOR THE LIGHTS! WE NEED TO FETCH THE LIFELINE.



AL, HERE COMES THE MONKEY FIST.



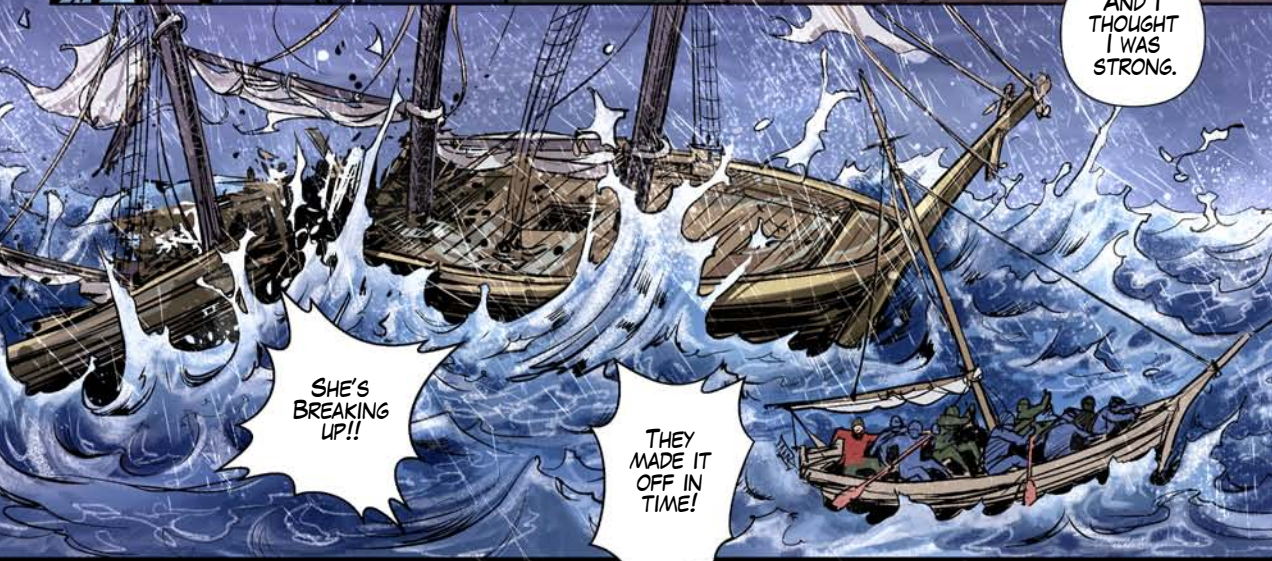




THEY
ARE OFF
AGAIN?

YEAH, THEY
ARE TOUGH
AS NAILS! I'M
EXHAUSTED.

AND I
THOUGHT
I WAS
STRONG.



SHE'S
BREAKING
UP!!

THEY
MADE IT
OFF IN
TIME!



SOON AFTER...

MR. MILLER
IS HERE TO
FERRY THE
RESCUED AND
INJURED BACK
TO THE
WILBUR HOUSE
HOTEL.

IT HAS
BEEN PREPARED
TO TREAT THE
INJURED.



NOTHING
FOR THE
GETTING BACK,
ONLY THE
SHANK'S
MARE!

PARDON?

YOU HAVE
TO WALK ON
YOUR OWN
TWO LEGS.



DOUBLE QUICK,
SHE'S COLD AND
BLOW'N HARD TO
YER BONES
TONIGHT.



QUICK, GET
AL, ALEX AND
THEIR CREWS IN
FRONT OF THE
FIRE...

AND SOMEONE
BRING US SOME
DRY CLOTHES
PLEASE!



AFTER WARMING UP

YOU
DESERVE A
MEDAL FOR
TONIGHT,
AL!

IT'S THANKS
TO EVERYONE'S
EFFORTS THAT
NO LIVES WERE
LOST.

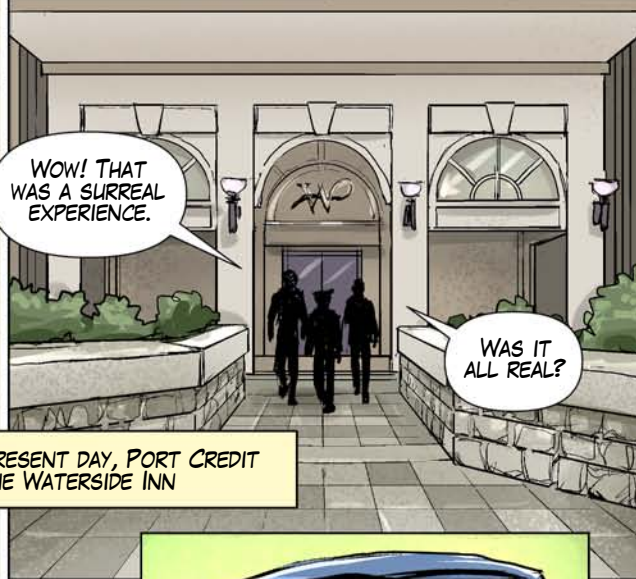
HEAR,
HEAR!



They steered to port as if in a gale,
with fifty more tons of old Dundas Shale!

♪♪♪♪♪

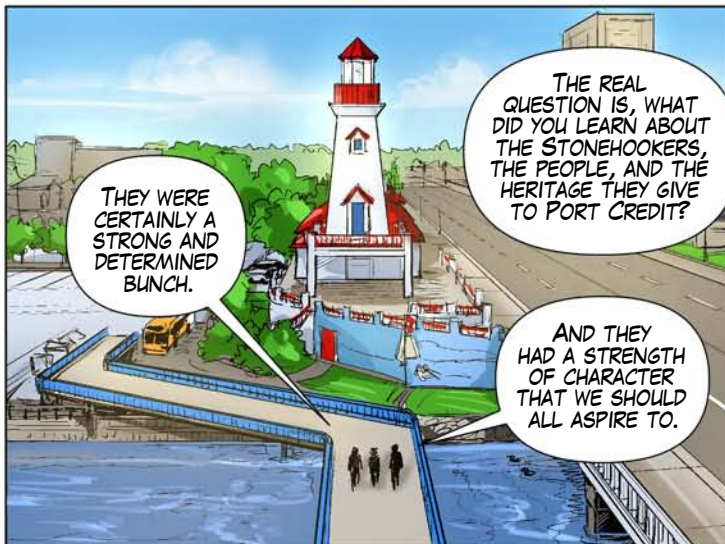
IT IS
TIME TO
GO.



WOW! THAT WAS A SURREAL EXPERIENCE.

WAS IT ALL REAL?

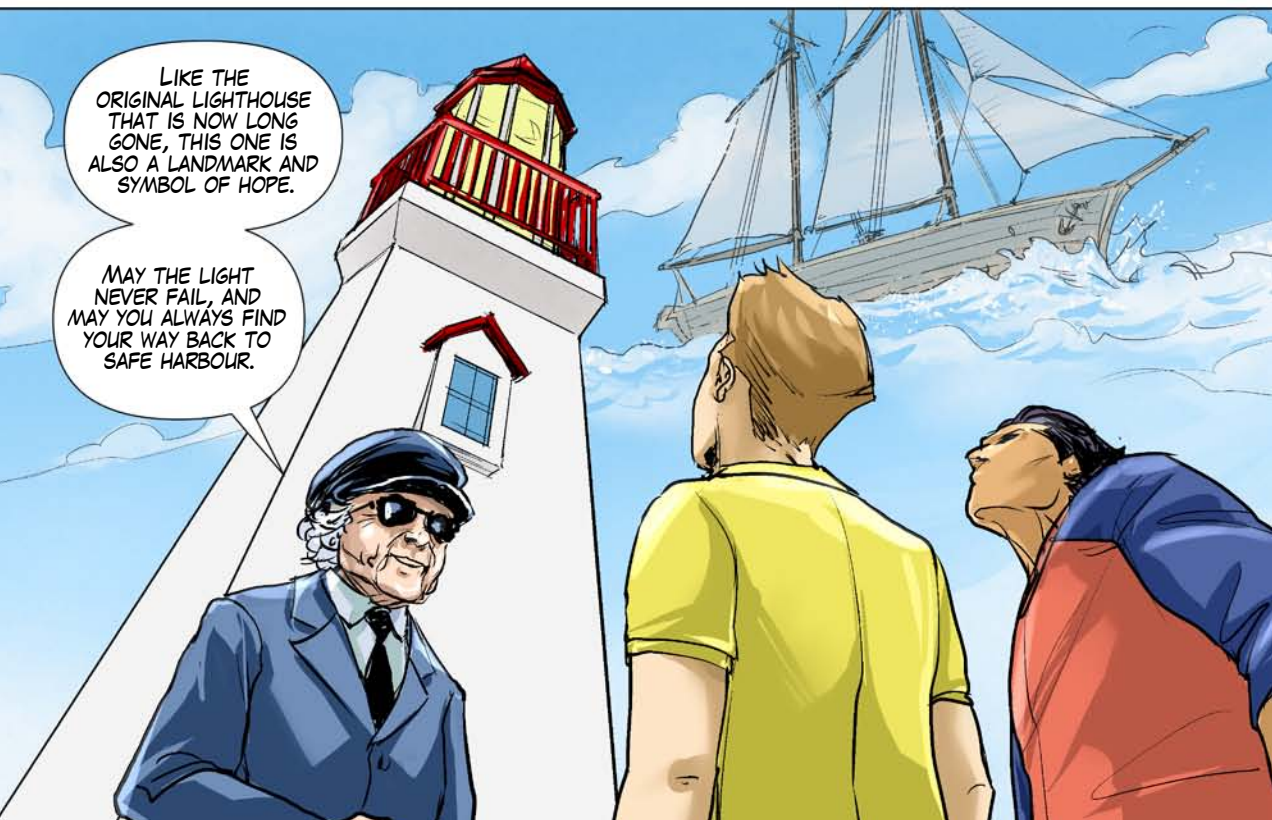
PRESENT DAY, PORT CREDIT
THE WATERSIDE INN



THEY WERE CERTAINLY A STRONG AND DETERMINED BUNCH.

THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE STONEHOOKERS, THE PEOPLE, AND THE HERITAGE THEY GIVE TO PORT CREDIT?

AND THEY HAD A STRENGTH OF CHARACTER THAT WE SHOULD ALL ASPIRE TO.



LIKE THE ORIGINAL LIGHTHOUSE THAT IS NOW LONG GONE, THIS ONE IS ALSO A LANDMARK AND SYMBOL OF HOPE.

MAY THE LIGHT NEVER FAIL, AND MAY YOU ALWAYS FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO SAFE HARBOUR.

Stonehookers of Port Credit

BY JOSEPH AND LUCA

Indigenous peoples have long been drawn to the waters in what is now Mississauga for seasonal activities such as fishing and harvesting wild rice. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Iroquoian villages dotted the shores of Lake Ontario. In the early 1700s the Anishinaabe (Mississaugas) migrated from the north shores of Lake Huron and settled along the shores of Lake Ontario and the Credit River. The waters provided bountiful harvests of fish and other foods, as well as a means of transportation.

In time, European immigrants brought new industries to the area including stonehooking. From the 1840s to the First World War, the shores of Lake Ontario were bustling with sailors who mined shale from the lake bottom using long rakes known as "hooks". Stonehooker vessels



Unknown stonehooker sailors, Port Credit Harbour c1910, image courtesy of the Mississauga South Historical Society

such as the *Lillian* could carry 30-ton of shale that were used in Toronto buildings. Many stonehooker vessels called Port Credit home, as did many sailors who plied the waters of Lake Ontario. Besides being backbreaking work, stonehooking was dangerous with many vessels being lost on the lake, including the schooner *Augusta* on November 24, 1900.

The *Augusta's* rudder was damaged by the raging waves, making the schooner difficult for Captain Alexander Ure to steer. The *Augusta* struggled towards the old Port Credit Lighthouse, but ran aground 400 yards off what is now Ben Machree Park. Port Credit residents Albert Block, Cy Peer, Steve Peer, and George Wilson, guided by veteran lake captain Al Hare,

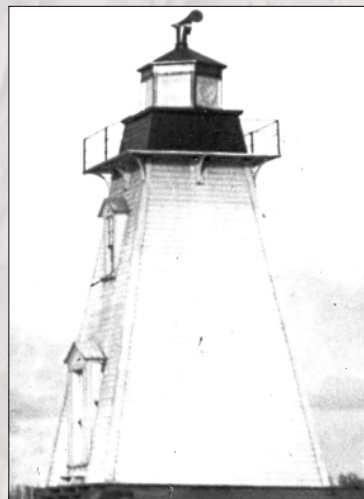


Port Credit Harbour Scene, Stonehookers George Dow and Lillian in harbour, 1908, Harold Hare Collection, Heritage Mississauga

attempted to reach the *Augusta* and rescue its stranded crew. First using a small sail boat, the first attempt was unsuccessful as the boat was swamped in the pounding waves. Undeterred, Al Hare gathered a new crew, consisting of Harry Fowler, Fred Block, Walter Ware, and Charlie Peer. Using the *Hecla*, a sturdy mackinaw boat, they were able to reach the *Augusta* and rescue the crew in two courageous trips through the crashing waves. As they reached the shore, the *Augusta* started breaking up. For their heroism, the rescuers were each awarded a medal from the Humane Society.

By the 1920s, the shallow waters along the Lake became depleted of accessible stone and the demand for Dundas Shale as a building material declined, marking the end of Port Credit's stonehooking industry.

Today the importance of the Port Credit Lighthouse to the stonehookers is easily forgotten. In the early 19th century, a simple lantern hung from a warehouse would have been their only beacon of hope. The first lighthouse was built at the end of a long, wooden



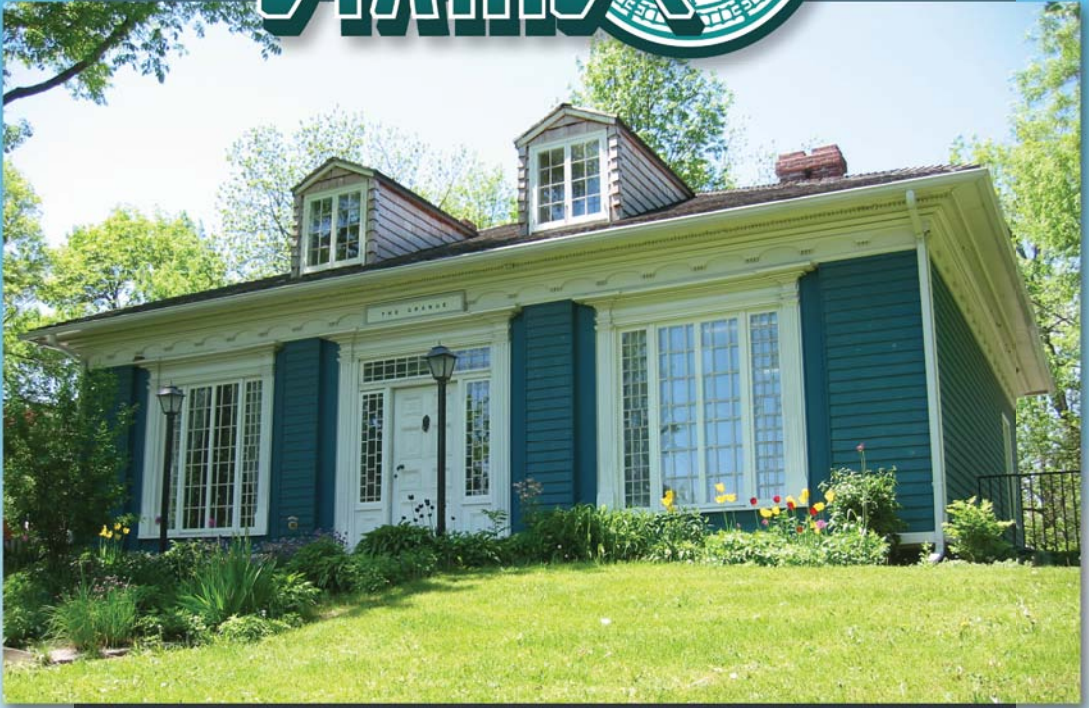
Original Port Credit Lighthouse, c1920, Heritage Mississauga

pier by Roderick Cameron in 1882, and opened the following season. Though it was destroyed by fire in 1936, the lighthouse was an important navigational beacon. The current lighthouse constructed in 1991 is a lasting reminder of Port Credit's historic harbour.



Schooner *Augusta* in the Welland Canal, 1883, Ivan S. Brookes Collection, Maritime History of the Great Lakes

the GRANGE



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