



35 Alice Street, Brighton ON K0K 1H0

Meeting Date: June 22, 2026
Location: Council Chambers

Time: 1:00 PM

Heritage Advisory Committee Agenda

Page

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the Municipality of Brighton is located on the Mississauga Anishnabeg (A-nish-in-naw-bek) territory and is the traditional territory of Mississauga. The Municipality of Brighton also acknowledges the Mississauga Nations are the collective stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Approval of the Agenda for the June 22, 2026 meeting.

- That the Heritage Advisory Committee approve the Agenda for the June 22, 2026 meeting as presented or amended.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests and the General Nature Thereof

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1. Approval of the Minutes from the April 13, 2026 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting.

3 - 8

- That the Heritage Advisory Committee Approve the Minutes from the April 13, 2026 meeting as presented or amended.

[Heritage Advisory Committee - 13 Apr 2026 - Minutes - Pdf](#)

6. Delegations

7. Correspondence

8. Reports/Business

- 8.1. 101 Harbour Street - the "log house" 9 - 12
[Email Log House](#)
- 8.2. Hops Barn 13 - 18
[The Oldest House in Brighton in 1958 from Dan Buchanan](#)
- 8.3. Smithfield Plaque
- 8.4. Terms of Reference

9. Next meeting date

September 14, 2026

10. Adjournment

- 10.1. Adjournment of the June 22, 2026 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

- That the Heritage Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting at _____ p.m.

**Corporation of the Municipality of Brighton
Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes
Council Chambers
April 13, 2026
3:00 PM**

Members present: Nanci Anderson, Catherine Stutt, Dan Buchanan, Jennifer Letz, and Councillor Hannah MacAusland

Staff present: Jessica Polley, Deputy Clerk and Ron Warne, Manager of Approvals

Members Virtual:

1. Call to Order
By the Vice-Chair at 3:00 pm

2. Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the Municipality of Brighton is located on the Mississauga Anishnabeg (A-nish-in-naw-bek) territory and is the traditional territory of Mississauga. The Municipality of Brighton also acknowledges the Mississauga Nations are the collective stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Approval of the Agenda for the April 13, 2026 meeting.

HAC-Resolution No. 2026-4

Moved by Councillor Hannah MacAusland

Seconded by Jennifer Letz

That the Heritage Advisory Committee approve the Agenda for the April 13, 2026 meeting as amended to add item 8.3 - Heritage Conference.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests and the General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 9, 2026 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting.

HAC-Resolution No. 2026-5

Moved by Councillor Hannah MacAusland

Seconded by Dan Buchanan

That the Heritage Advisory Committee Approve the Minutes from the February 9, 2026 meeting as presented.

Carried

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Correspondence

7.1. Heritage Framework Transformation
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/026-0216>

HAC-Resolution No. 2026-6

Moved by Nanci Anderson

Seconded by Dan Buchanan

That the Heritage Advisory Committee receive the correspondence about Heritage Framework Transformation as information.

Carried

8. Reports/Business

8.1. Smith Field Plaque

The Committee discussed its possible location and agreed to arrange a meeting with staff for a site visit and further discussion.

8.2. Review of Terms of Reference

HAC-Resolution No. 2026-7

Moved by Councillor Hannah MacAusland

Seconded by Jennifer Letz

That the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council update the committee's Terms of Reference as attached.

Carried

8.3. Heritage Conference

Hamilton June 18-20, 2026

HAC-Resolution No. 2026-8

Moved by Jennifer Letz

Seconded by Councillor Hannah MacAusland

That the Heritage Advisory Committee approve up to \$500 to send Nanci to the Heritage Conference if she is available to attend.

Carried

9. Next meeting date

June 8

September 14

10. Adjournment

10.1. Adjournment of the April 13, 2026 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Adjourned by the Vice-Chair at 4:04 pm

Heritage Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Mandate

All Committees of Council are required to follow the Committees of Council Administration Policy.

To provide assistance and recommendations to Council associated with identification, conservation and celebration of Brighton's cultural heritage resources as outlined in section 3.7 of the Municipal Official Plan and as governed by the Ontario Heritage Act.

It is understood that the Committee takes direction from Council in conducting this work.

It is further understood that recommendations of the Committee are devoid of political considerations and may be rejected or modified by Council.

Definitions

- Heritage Properties include buildings of all types; structures such as monuments, roads and bridges; natural features; landscapes; archaeological sites; spiritual sites and cemeteries.
- Cultural Heritage Properties are those properties situated within the Municipality of Brighton that have cultural heritage value or interest for the community.
- Listing means the placing of a property on the Municipal Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value per section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Designation means designation, by Municipal Bylaw, of a property per section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Goals and Objectives

The Committee shall undertake work and provide advice to Council in the following matters:

- In partnership with community organizations, individuals and museums work to raise awareness of the importance of heritage properties and Brighton's history to the cultural, social and economic well-being of the community. **Partnerships may include the Brighton Digital Archives, Proctor House, and Dan Buchanan, The History Guy.**
- Maintain a list of heritage properties situated within the Municipality, including research into individual properties to identify attributes of architectural and historical significance.

- Provide information to owners of heritage properties regarding Listing and/or Designation of their properties, and provide clarification, advice and assistance as requested.
- Identify properties of significant cultural heritage value to the community and determine the owner's willingness to have their property formally recognized through Listing. Make recommendation to Council regarding Listing of individual properties.
- When requested by the owner or Council undertake research and prepare documentation for the Designation of individual properties by municipal bylaw.
- When requested by Council or the Municipal Planning Department, review planning issues that affect specific heritage property and provide comment and recommendations. The Ontario Heritage Act requires that some specific matters be referred to the HAC for their advice.
- Identify opportunities for education of interested heritage property owners as to recommended methods for conservation and preservation.
- Identify potential incentives for owners to have their properties designated.
- ~~Participate in the meetings and activities of the Northumberland Heritage Alliance and host meetings and events as appropriate. (Remove – Northumberland Heritage Alliance no longer exists)~~

Hilton Hall Heritage Centre

- ~~1. Council and Staff are to be informed in advance of planned activities, with opportunity to intervene, either through the budget planning process or through Committee minutes. Uses would include but not necessarily be restricted to workshops, discussion groups, presentations and displays focused on heritage research, identification, conservation, education and celebration.~~
- ~~2. As a heritage centre one of the aims will be to retain and preserve, for research purposes, information and records pertaining to Brighton's heritage. Storage of this data will utilize electronic means and there will no long term accumulation and retention of bulky documents, artefacts or other physical items in the building.~~
- ~~3. The Heritage Advisory Committee may add furniture including items such as cupboards or filing cabinets, and the walls may be utilized to hang professional quality display boards and/or framed photographs subject to the approval of Staff.~~
- ~~4. Activities must comply with Municipal policies as advised by Staff.~~
- ~~5. The Facility programming and bookings will be the determination and responsibility of the Heritage Advisory Committee with the sanction from Council.~~
- ~~6. Utility and building maintenance costs will continue to be borne by the Municipality. The cost of programs, equipment and material improvement to the facility will be covered in the Committee budget (subject to Council approval on an annual basis), and/or by Committee fundraising activities.~~

7. The Committee will be responsible for initial 'sprucing up' of the facility subject to staff approval of any physical changes such as painting and decorating. The Municipality will be responsible for any improvement needed to bring the building up to public occupancy standards. The Committee will be responsible for ongoing housekeeping associated with its use of the building.
8. The Committee will create a Sub-Committee with one or more Committee members plus additional volunteers to organize and supervise activities in the centre. The additional volunteers would not be considered Committee members but the entire Sub-Committee would be considered 'under the auspices' of the Committee and be eligible for protection by Municipal insurance coverage. Committee minutes will record the names of such individuals. The Sub-Committee will be known as "The Friends of Hilton Hall" (or another name adopted by them and approved by the Committee).
(Remove – the Municipality now handles operations and bookings of this building with use by the Girl Guides/Scout clubs)

Member Requirements

The Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 voting members and a maximum of 8 voting members from as many of the following categories as practicable:

- A member of Council.
- Citizens from the urban area that have demonstrated interest in heritage preservation and/or local history.
- Citizens from the rural area that have a demonstrated interest in heritage preservation and/or local history.
- Citizens with a background or interest in the construction or renovation trade.
- A citizen currently attending ENSS as a student.

Staff support:

- A technical representative from the Municipal Planning Department (non-voting)
- Clerk Department staff for agendas and minute taking (non-voting)

The Committee or its members do not have the authority to make direct representations of the Municipality to Federal or Provincial Governments.

Term

The term of office for the Heritage Advisory Committee will be the term of Council. However, the Committee members shall remain in their position until such time as new Committee members are appointed by a new Council following an election.

Frequency of meetings

The Heritage Advisory Committee shall meet four (4) times per year, and more

frequently at the discretion of the Chair and in consultation with staff. Meetings shall be governed by The Municipality's Procedural By-law as may be amended from time to time.

Re: Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

From : [REDACTED] Sat., May 30, 2026 03:09 p.m.
Subject : Re: Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton
To : Dan Buchanan <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>

Dan,
This information is appreciated.
Many thanks for your prompt reply!
Best regards,
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----
From: danbuchanan@cogeco.ca
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 30th 2026, 02:08 PM
Subject: Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

[REDACTED]:
Thanks for the question. I think it is fair to say that any structure in that area was built in or after the 1960s when the Pearsall Marina was established there.

[REDACTED], another historian in the area, responded to my request and confirmed my thoughts.

There may have been more than one of these log structures which were built to serve the marina as a snack bar, restaurant and office.

Therefore, even though it might look old, it is really not, so not of much heritage value.

Hope that helps.

Thanks

Dan Buchanan
www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com
danbuchanan@cogeco.ca

From: [REDACTED]
To: danbuchanan@cogeco.ca
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 10:37:53 AM

Subject: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

Good Morning Dan,

By way of introduction, I moved to Brighton two years ago. I met you briefly last year at an event at the Brighton Legion.

Could you please shed light on the following. There is a proposed Marina / Condo development at 101 Harbour Street in Brighton.

<https://www.presquilebaymarina.com/> It's located beside the Whistling Duck.

There is an old log structure on that property. Is this log structure of any significant historical interest? If so, what is the history / background on the log structure?

I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From : Dan Buchanan <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>

Sat., May 30, 2026 02:08 p.m.

Subject : Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

To :

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the question. I think it is fair to say that any structure in that area was built in or after the 1960s when the Pearsall Marina was established there.

[REDACTED], another historian in the area, responded to my request and confirmed my thoughts.

There may have been more than one of these log structures which were built to serve the marina as a snack bar, restaurant and office.

Therefore, even though it might look old, it is really not, so not of much heritage value.

Hope that helps.

Thanks

Dan Buchanan

www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com

danbuchanan@cogeco.ca

Page 10 of 17

From: [REDACTED]
To: danbuchanan@cogeco.ca
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 10:37:53 AM
Subject: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

Good Morning Dan,
By way of introduction, I moved to Brighton two years ago. I met you briefly last year at an event at the Brighton Legion.
Could you please shed light on the following. There is a proposed Marina / Condo development at 101 Harbour Street in Brighton.
<https://www.presquilebaymarina.com/> It's located beside the Whistling Duck.
There is an old log structure on that property. Is this log structure of any significant historical interest? If so, what is the history / background on the log structure?
I look forward to your reply.
Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From : Dan Buchanan <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>
Subject : Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton
To : [REDACTED]

Sat., May 30, 2026 01:58 p.m.

Dan Buchanan
www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com
danbuchanan@cogeco.ca

From: "Dan Buchanan" <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 1:58:01 PM
Subject: Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

Thanks. That's sounds right.

Dan Buchanan
www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com
danbuchanan@cogeco.ca

From: [REDACTED]
To: "Dan Buchanan" <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 11:41:34 AM
Subject: Re: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

If it is the building I think it is it was built around when they put the big log restaurant at the end where all the new houses are today, around the 1980's. I think it was called the Gallery. I believe they built that building around the same time. It has been used for offices and was a restaurant for a time.

[REDACTED]

From: Dan Buchanan <danbuchanan@cogeco.ca>
Sent: May 30, 2026 11:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

[REDACTED]:

I wonder if you might recall something about this. See the email below.

It looks like the reference is to the building at the marina that is just north of the modern houses.

It looks like a log building, but my understanding is that it was part of the Pearsall Marina development in the 1960s.

In effect, it was made to look old and served as a snack bar and office for the marina.

Is this what you understand?

In any case, I think the answer to the question is no, it is of no historical significance.

Thanks

Dan Buchanan
www.danbuchananhistoryguy.com
danbuchanan@cogeco.ca

From: [REDACTED]
To: danbuchanan@cogeco.ca
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2026 10:37:53 AM
Subject: Log Structure - 101 Harbour Street Brighton

Good Morning Dan,

By way of introduction, I moved to Brighton two years ago. I met you briefly last year at an event at the Brighton Legion.

Could you please shed light on the following. There is a proposed Marina / Condo development at 101 Harbour Street in Brighton.

<https://www.presquilebaymarina.com/> It's located beside the Whistling Duck of 17

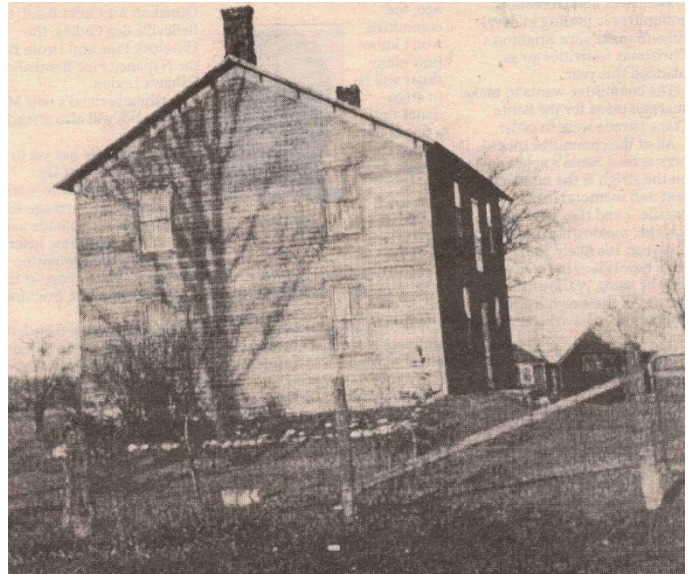
The Oldest House in Brighton in 1958

The house shown here is said to be “the old Freeman house” in many Brighton history documents. It was said to be located in the area of “Dusty Bend” on Harbour Street, somewhere near the marina.

The building was razed in 1958, before the Brighton Marina was built by Frank Pearsall. Later, much of the original marina area was developed for modern housing.

As a historian, I have many questions. First, exactly where was this building located? Second, who built it? Third, who lived in it over 150 years?

Susan Brose provided me with this image and it piqued my curiosity, which can be dangerous for my current projects. I have often thought about looking into this, but now is the time, since it is top of mind and will help Susan develop her project of documenting all of Gosport.



The Builder

Here is a fascinating paragraph from page 25 of the book called “Brighton Centennial 1859 to 1959”.

“Around its shores the Simpsons and Richardsons, first settlers in the area, took up residence and the old Freeman house at Dusty Bend, recently razed, was considered to be the oldest in the district. Erected by the Richardson family in 1807 it was several years older than the historic Barnum House at Grafton, now occupied by the Northumberland Historical Society as a museum. It was used by the Canadian troops during the War of 1812-14 and American prisoners were lodged in the basement cell overnight during their journey from York to Kingston. Remains of the cell were in evidence, but the structure itself was considerably renovated since its erection 152 years ago. From its type of construction, it was probably erected by ship’s carpenters, possibly Royal Navy men stationed at nearby Presqu’ile Point, then known as Newcastle and the original capital of the district. It was used as a barracks by officers of the First Irish Regiment in 1812, and here they formed the first Orange Lodge in Upper Canada.”

The “Richardson family” referred to here means Captain James Richardson (1758-1932) who was born in England and by his mid-twenties was working as a captain of schooners plying the waters of Lake Ontario. It was said that he piloted the **Lady Dorchester** on the lake as early as 1785. He married Sarah Ashmore in Kingston in 1787. She had been the wife of Lieut. Patrick Bryant who died in the Niagara District earlier that year.

James Richardson became a very active trader and merchant, working with the large merchants at Kingston to supply the government and early settlers along the lakeshore and at the established centers of Newark and later York. He also developed the idea that Presqu’ile Bay was an excellent harbour to support trade and decided to move to the north shore of the bay.

In 1807 he built a substantial two-story frame house near the shore on the north side of Presqu’ile Bay. The location was just west of a small inlet and a farther distance to the marshes where the peninsula of Presqu’ile Point joins the mainland. In February of 1809, Captain Richardson obtained the Patent from the Crown for the land at the shore where he had built his house, called Broken Front, Lot 1, Cramahe Township. In addition, he obtained the Patent for Lot 1, Concession 1, north to the Danforth Road which had been built here in 1800.

We might speculate, as this article does, about how the house was built and with what kind of workmen. Captain Richardson was very well connected with the merchant community and the members of the Provincial Marine at Kingston. He was at least acquainted with Lieutenant Thomas Paxton who lived at Kingston and had been the captain of the schooner *H.M.S. Speedy* since 1798. The two men were witnesses together at a baptism at St. George's Cathedral in Kingston in the early 1790s, so they may have been friends.

As a successful merchant himself, Captain Richardson would have the financial resources to pay for the construction of a building like this. However, it is not unlikely that he might have obtained complementary help in transporting materials or even hands-on labour from the Gibson or Selleck family at Newcastle or his associates in Kingston. The result was a solid, straight-forward building with few frills that would last a century and a half.

The location of the house was very tactical. He was a sailor, so his home was very near the north shore of the bay, on one of the few stretches of solid ground along the shore, contrasting with the swampy land both east and west from there. Most of his travel would be by boat, so it made sense to have his home at the shore. There were few roads at this time and most were just rutted and overgrown trails. This was a convenient location for the Richardson family.

The town of Newcastle was already established across on the south side of Presqu'île Bay, with George Gibson and Charles Selleck the main residents there. Growing numbers of settlers were coming into the bay with plans to take up land in the lower concessions, some travelling up to the northern concessions, even into Percy Township. Captain Richardson envisioned a town growing up on the shoreline here, and up the road to the north.

Others gravitated farther north along the Danforth Road which had been built in 1799 and 1800. These two potential settlements would compete in the minds of people for several decades. In the end, the arrival of enterprising folks like Thomas Sanford and Josiah Proctor who focussed their homesteads around the road, would leave the area around Captain Richardson's home as open farm land well into the later 1900s.

Captain Richardson's first wife passed away early in 1809 and, a few months later, he married Mary Louisa McDonnell. The captain's youngest son, Robert, married Margaret Deacon in Kingston that same year and would further his father's business interests there. The next child was Sarah Ann, who married James Lyons (1789-1836), another merchant in Kingston.

The youngest of the family was James, Jr., who followed his father everywhere and accompanied him on sailing trips from an early age. He learned the intricacies of sailing commercial ships on the rough Lake Ontario waters and would become known as an expert in this field.

James Richardson Junior joined the Provincial Marine in 1809 at age 18 and obtained his Lieutenant's commission in 1812. He was stationed on the schooner *Earl of Moira* just in time for the start of the War of 1812. At the same time, his father was captain of the schooner *Governor Simcoe*, engaged in delivering gunpowder to Niagara. He returned to York after the Battle of Queenston Heights with a load of prisoners bound for Montreal. Part way, their two ships crossed paths. When they addressed each other across the two decks, the father had happy news of the battle being won, but horrible news of the death of General Isaac Brock. A month later, Richardson Sr. took the *Simcoe* through an American blockade in front of Kingston. The job was skillfully done, but the ship took so much fire that it was scuttled in the harbor.

The younger James Richardson served with distinction until May 1814 when he was Ship Master on the **Montreal**, supporting General Yeo's attack on Oswego. During the hot battle, a cannonball severed his left arm and he managed to survive the amputation of the arm up to the shoulder. In fact, the surgeon saved his life.

But his service was not over. In October 1814, he was appointed as Acting Pilot on the new hundred-gun St. Lawrence as it made several trips around Lake Ontario. After the war, this ship was decommissioned and James Richardson Jr. returned to the family home in Cramahe Township with his father. He would become a minister and would move to York, later becoming the Anglican Bishop of York.

The quote from "Brighton Centennial 1859 to 1959" suggests that this house was used by the military during the war of 1812. That makes sense, since this was one of the few commodious buildings close to the main road in this area and there was a serious need for accommodation for soldiers passing through between Kingston and York. Enlisted men slept in tents on the ground and officers were billeted in whatever houses might be available along the way.

Thousands of prisoners of war were marched along the Danforth Highway on the way to Montreal after the battles in the Niagara area. Others were taken in schooners, as we have seen by Captain Richardson's work. Still more were transported by flotilla of batteaux, making the portage at the Carrying Place a short distance east of Presqu'île Bay. The 1st Regiment of Northumberland Militia were directly engaged in this work during the war. But most of the prisoners were forced to walk the road day after day, with welcome shelter in places like the basement of the Richardson house.

We don't know if Captain James Richardson was at home on the night of July 1, 1814 when the British gunboat George Gibson was building at Newcastle went up in smoke. He would have been concerned about the security of his family and neighbours at the hands of the American raider who ventured into Presqu'île Bay and set the almost-completed ship afire. It was a textbook marine raid that met its objective. Gladly, there was no further violence against the folks around Presqu'île Bay and war was over later that year.

After the war, the Richardson men would engage in much real estate speculation. They sold small pieces of Lot 1 in both Concession 1 and the Broken Front, responding to the needs of people who wanted to start businesses or develop new homes on the main east-west road and down to the bay.

Captain James Richardson died in 1832 and his second wife, Mary Louisa, would distribute the land according to his will and also engage in some of the common land wheeling-and-dealing that generated revenue. A much smaller house had been built for Mary Louisa on Division Street, in Brighton, just north of Richardson Street. She would become a legendary figure in Brighton, doing things like donating money to the building of a new Methodist Church on Prince Edward Street. Mary Louisa Richardson died on February 8, 1862, at age 90.

The Richardson Home – 11 Acres

The Ontario Land Registry Records say that in 1817 Captain James Richardson sold part of the Broken Front, Lot 1 to James and Sarah Lyons, his son-in-law and daughter. This couple raised a large family here over the next two decades, eventually amounting to 12 children.

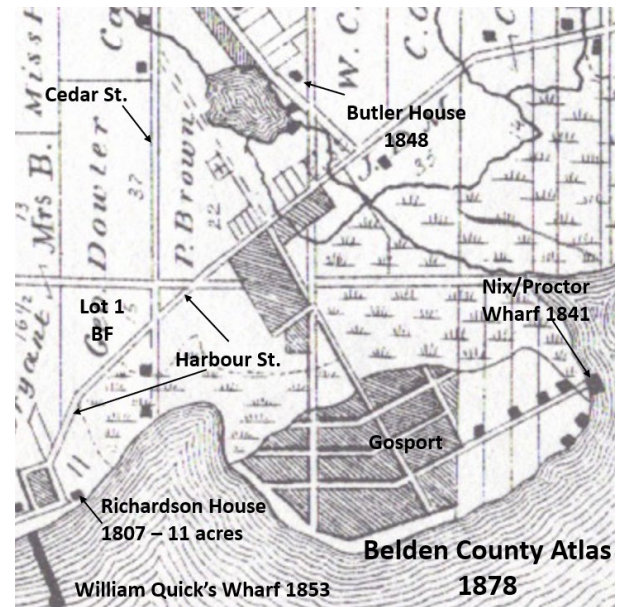
The first time we see a reference to "11 acres" in the land records is in 1844 when James Lyons sold the old Richardson-Lyons property in lot 1, Broken Front, to William Butler. This was part of a concerted effort by Mr. Butler to acquire land south of Brighton. He was operating mills on Butler Creek to the south-east of Brighton and had become prosperous over two decades. In 1848, he would build his big house as a demonstration of wealth and position in the community.

Things changed dramatically in this community when Brighton Township was created effective January 1, 1852. Legislation had been passed in Toronto in August the previous year to modify the counties and townships of the province and the creation of Brighton Township was a unique step in that context. The original border between Murray and Cramahe Townships ran through the village of Brighton on Young and Prince Edward Streets, then to the bay on Cedar Street.

In order to form the new Brighton Township, they combined the western lots of Murray Township and the eastern lots of Cramahe Township, along with Presqu'ile Point. The old Richardson home was in Lot 1 of the Broken Front of the old Cramahe Township. This change was notable because the road on the east side of Lot 1 was no longer a township border, but just a run-of-the-mill lot line. For the folks living here, life went on, but their address changed.

Like many others, William Butler was engaged in selling small pieces of land out of the larger sections he had purchased. However, the 11 acres in Lot 1, Broken Front, would be marked "W. Butler" in the Brighton Plan of 1866. He would own this property until 1874 when he granted it to his son, William Charles Butler. Six years later, the 11-acre parcel was sold to James Collier, a retired Master Mariner in Picton who was making an investment.

There are two clearly documented mortgages with proper discharges in the early 1880s under the name of James Collier. Then we see that the 11-acre parcel was sold by the estate of William Henry Stapleton, who was another active real estate speculator in Brighton. There is no transaction in the land records to show how the property moved from Mr. Collier to Mr. Stapleton, but the reference to 11 acres makes it clear we are dealing with the same land.



At some point along the way, this area became known as "Dusty Bend", a term we see routinely in Brighton history documents from the middle of the 1900s. Different references describe Dusty Bend in different ways. Some say the Freeman house was at Dusty Bend, which refers to that 90-degree turn in Harbour Street at the shore. Others say William Quicks wharf and store houses down the shore a bit were at Dusty Bend. That would mean the area of the parkette on Harbour Street. This historian is going with the first description.

The Freeman Family on the 11 acres

The records pick up again with the sale of the 11 acres in 1908 to Edward Claud Freeman (1837-1920). He was a son of John Bennett Freeman (1847-1920) who had farmed south of Little Lake in Cramahe Township which explains why the members of this family, down to more recent generations, were buried in Salem Cemetery. But then, in the early 1880s, they moved to Brighton Township.

Edward Freeman married Stella Simpson in 1891. She was the daughter of Arundel Simpson and Minnie Post. This Simpson family was part of the extensive family tree descending from the early settler Obediah Simpson and his wife Mary Taylor Lord. They were here as early as 1796, having lived in Adolphustown for a time after fleeing from New York State with the end of the War of Independence.

The original Simpson homestead was west of Brighton, Concession 2, Lot 4, beside the Percy Road, but subsequent generations would own land all around the community. Arundel Ramsay Simpson (1844-1921) had

grown up on the family farm west of Brighton, but, by 1871, was a tenant on Village Lot 6, part of Lot 1 in the Broken Front. This was located on the west side of Harbour Street, across from the 11 acres that contained the old Richardson home. Lot 6 was finally purchased by this family in 1902 when Eliza Simpson, Arundel's second wife, appears as the buyer. All of this explains why Edward Claud Freeman married his neighbour, Stella Simpson.

Edward and Stella Freeman farmed on the 11 acres north of the old house and raised a family of three. Lew James was the oldest, then Edith Maud and Bruce Clark. We must again be reminded that this area was open farm land until the 1970s. There was a growing number of homes along Harbour Street, especially at the shore, but this was farm country when the Freeman's lived here.

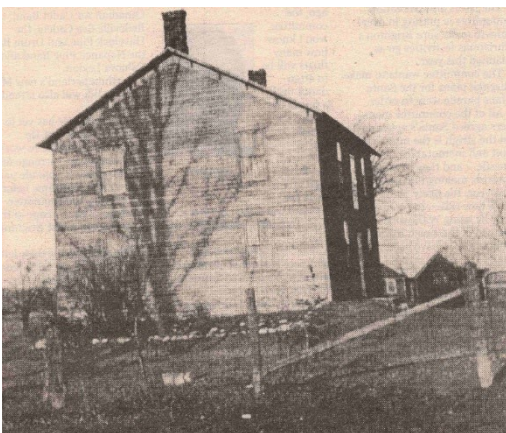
The property moved on to the next generation in 1932. Edward had died in 1931 and Stella would pass in 1934. The 11 acres, along with what was now called the old Freeman house, would go to Lew James Freeman (1893-1962) who would be described in documents at different times as a laborer, a lodge keeper and a fisherman. He had married Annie Elizabeth Lavander in Mexico in 1935, and we can speculate about the story behind that. Lew and Annie came back to Brighton and the couple appear to have had no children.

Finally, in 1948, Lew Freeman sold the 11 acres to Andrew and Emma McDowell, who passed it on quickly to Thomas and Edna Ashberry. Then, in 1959, Edna Ashberry sold the 11 acres to Frank Pearsall who was intent on building a marina at this location.

Records differ as to the exact time of demolition of the old house, but we might refer back to the article written in the book "Brighton Centennial 1859 to 1959". It suggests that the house was "recently razed" as of 1959. It had been almost a decade since Lew Freeman sold the property, so we can expect it was not his responsibility to demolish the building. In any case, the 11 acres were cleared of structures in preparation for building the marina.



The image to the right is a snip of an aerial photo taken of the Brighton area in the early 1960s. We can see that the marina has been built and that the land between Harbour Street and the marina has been cleared except for one house at the south end.



We do not see the old Richardson/Freeman house which was located near the shore just east of the 90-degree turn in Harbour Street. It was demolished before the marina was built.

However, if we look closely at the picture of the house, we can speculate that it faced south, onto the bay. The sun is shining on the west side of the house and a good fence lines the side of Harbour Street.

The picture of the house also supports the comment in the 1959 article saying that it had been covered with siding at some point and

had probably undergone significant renovations at different times of its life. It would be wonderful to have an earlier picture of the house, but, without it, we'll have to use our imagination.

Brighton Marina was a popular spot in Brighton and a smaller version survives to this day. Here is a picture from early days in the 1960s.



Eventually, the property was in demand for modern housing and we can see the results today.

This image below is a snip of the map from the OnLand.ca system which contains land registry records. We can see how the old 11 acres has been sub-divided into multiple lots where houses have been built. The road into the complex is called Edgewater Drive.



Oddly, the place where the old Richardson/Freeman house was located is a blank space east of the 90-degree turn in Harbour Street. When we look at Google Maps we see that there is a paved driveway off Harbour Street at the corner and the number 115 is on a sign.

Searching in the OnLand.ca system for 115 Harbour Street, we can see the details of Plan 38R1454 which covers this area. In that way, we can determine the recent owners.

The lovely modern home that occupies No. 115 Harbour Street is resting on the same spot where Captain James Richardson built his home in 1807.

Nice to know.