

Acknowledgement

The Rotary Club of Simcoe acknowledge the generous participation of the homeowners and the assistance of the Port Rowan / South Walsingham Heritage Association.

Port Rowan History

The first settlers arrived in the Port Rowan area in the 1780s. Many early residents of the area were United Empire Loyalists escaping the aftermath of the American Revolution. Named Port Rowan in 1825 after Colonel William Rowan, the town was a thriving fishing and lumber community. When the South Central Railway (part of the Grand Trunk system) came to town in 1886 Port Rowan was a bustling place boasting shipbuilding, furniture making, sash and door manufacturing, harness and carriage makers, a brewery, and several hotels. The last train left town in 1965. More recently, the town's beautiful location brings people to the area to study nature and enjoy the natural environment of Long Point Bay. The Long Point Region has now earned recognition as a United Nations World Biosphere Reserve, the headquarters of Birds Canada, and the Long Point Basin Land Trust.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS



Tickets: Home Tours \$25 • Rum Running \$20

Turn in your ticket at the door for a chance to **WIN AN EXCITING DOOR PRIZE!**
Courtesy of **The Dover Cheese Shop, Long Point Eco-Adventures, & Burning Kiln Winery**



INFORMATION email: rotaryholidayhousetour@gmail.com
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**processing fees apply*

TICKETS (CASH ONLY) AVAILABLE IN:

- WATERFORD:** • Rexall Pharmacy **PORT ROWAN:** • Pharmasave
SIMCOE: • Roulston's • Pharmasave • Dolmor Salon • King's Flowers
PORT DOVER: • Roulston's • The Blade Salon • The Dover Cheese Shop • Hauser's Dover Apothecary
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18TH ANNUAL
ROTARY CLUB OF SIMCOE
HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 & 8
2024

[SimcoeRotaryClub.com](https://www.SimcoeRotaryClub.com)
rotaryholidayhousetour@gmail.com

The
Rotary
Club of Simcoe



1565 3rd Concession, South Walsingham

WALSINGHAM

Built in the 1830s by John Henry Killmaster, this Georgian style house features knee-high moldings, wide pine floors, walls made from three courses of brick and a grand central staircase. Killmaster and his sons were prominent business people. The 1851 census records only three brick houses in Walsingham. Gradually, the house became derelict. Racoons lived on the third floor when the present owner's parents purchased it in the 1990s and lovingly restored it. The present owner, Heather Smith, is a former curator, artist, & art appraiser with a vast collection of antiques.

1



Bayview Garden - 81 Wolven Street, Port Rowan

PORT ROWAN

This home was built to meticulous standards and attention to detail for the original owners, Tom and Trudy Cline. Completed in 1996, the home was designed by architect Carlos Ventin and is situated on a former Cline family apple orchard. Current owners, Carol Holmes and Wally Kozak named the property Bayview Garden to honour the beautiful lake view and mature perennial gardens. This casual, elegant farmhouse style family home has large rooms filled with natural light. It features a wrap-around front porch and a screened garden room with views of Long Point Bay.

2



The Boatworks - Price Street, Port Rowan

PORT ROWAN

The classical brick building was constructed in 1856 by James Peach who was the great-great-great-grandfather of the present owner. Originally built as the Port Rowan Methodist Church, the bell from this building now rings in the United Church tower. The building has been a town hall, jail, courthouse, boat-building shop, and live theatre venue. Paul and Marlene Smith bought the property ten years ago and renovated it into an apartment, a workshop and gallery space. It houses MGA cars, wooden boats and the wool collection that make the hooked rugs found throughout the house.

3



Cronk House - 11 Church Street, Port Rowan

PORT ROWAN

This charming 18th century Victorian home was built in the core of Port Rowan one block from the north shore of Long Point Bay, which can be seen from the second storey quarter wrap-around porch that is held up by six beautiful cut field-stone posts. The house is built with a double layer of clay bricks meticulously laid with beautiful architectural detail inside and out. This house is now owned by the third generation of the Cronk family, and now zealously referred to by grandchildren as the "Cronk Resort." They love helping their grandmother with her picturesque gardens.

4



29 Poplar Road, Long Point

LONG POINT

This house was built in 2021 and designed by Paul Smith, an architect who grew up fishing, sailing and ice boating on the Bay. The house looks out past the marsh which surrounds Long Point Bay. The house is modern classic and draws inspiration from Long Point's original cottages and the boathouses in Port Rowan. The land this house is built on was part of a larger subdivision called Beach to Bay and developed in the 1950s by the present owner's grandfather.

5



Neal Memorial Church - 1054 Bay St.

REST STOP & LIGHT LUNCH

On Sept. 1, 1912, Port Rowan Methodist Church congregation moved into this new home and became Neal Memorial Methodist Church. Built as a tribute to Rev. George Neal, the first circuit riding Methodist preacher in Upper Canada. Rev. Neal was born in 1750 and fought for the British during the American Revolutionary War. He arrived at the Niagara District of Canada West in 1786 with his fervent preaching of Methodism. He served the Long Point Circuit from 1813 to 1826 and died in 1840 at the age of 90. The remains of Rev. Neal and his wife, Mary, are interred in the church's foundation.

6

RUM RUNNING ON LAKE ERIE

*Blind Pigs
& Midnight Herring*



**GUEST SPEAKER
IAN BELL**

NEW AFTERNOON EVENT – FUN HISTORY TALK

Blind Pigs & Midnight Herring - Talk at Neal Memorial United Church Port Rowan & Lake Erie Rum Running with speaker Ian Bell

During the prohibition era in the 1920s and '30s, fish tugs, speedboats, yachts and excursion steamers regularly crossed the lake from Canada to the US with an extra (undeclared) cargo aboard – bootleg booze – sometimes called "Midnight Herring." Some of the best stories of these times come from right here in Norfolk County – Port Rowan, Long Point, and Port Dover.

Many of these tales were collected by Ian Bell, former curator of the Port Dover Harbour Museum for an exhibit at museums in Norfolk and in Erie, Pennsylvania. This illustrated talk is an entertaining summary of that exhibit and includes an amazing collection of authentic vintage images along with a lively retelling of the best of our local rum-running folktales. There might even be a bit of a song!

This event has a separate \$20 ticket available at the door of the church or through Eventbrite. Held at Neal Memorial Church at 2:30 p.m. on both Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8.