

# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES



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## Unfold the history behind this picturesque community of friends along the St. John River.

The Town of Grand Bay-Westfield is proud to showcase its historic places associated with the first settlers, early transportation, commercial activity and recreation.

Read about original family farms, private cemeteries and early churches by clicking on the markers in the legend to the left or where located on the map above. Enjoy the photographs of unique landmarks featuring black loyalist grants, an ancient portage trail and a riverboat wharf. Learn about a Stagecoach Inn, an early railway, summer communities, a golf club designed by a famous architect, and a fresh air camp for city children. Stories connected to these special places are collected and shared with residents and visitors.

Other Cultural Heritage sites you may wish to visit:



The Grand Bay-Westfield  
Municipal Heritage Trail



Brundage Point Interpretive Panels



Lower River Passage

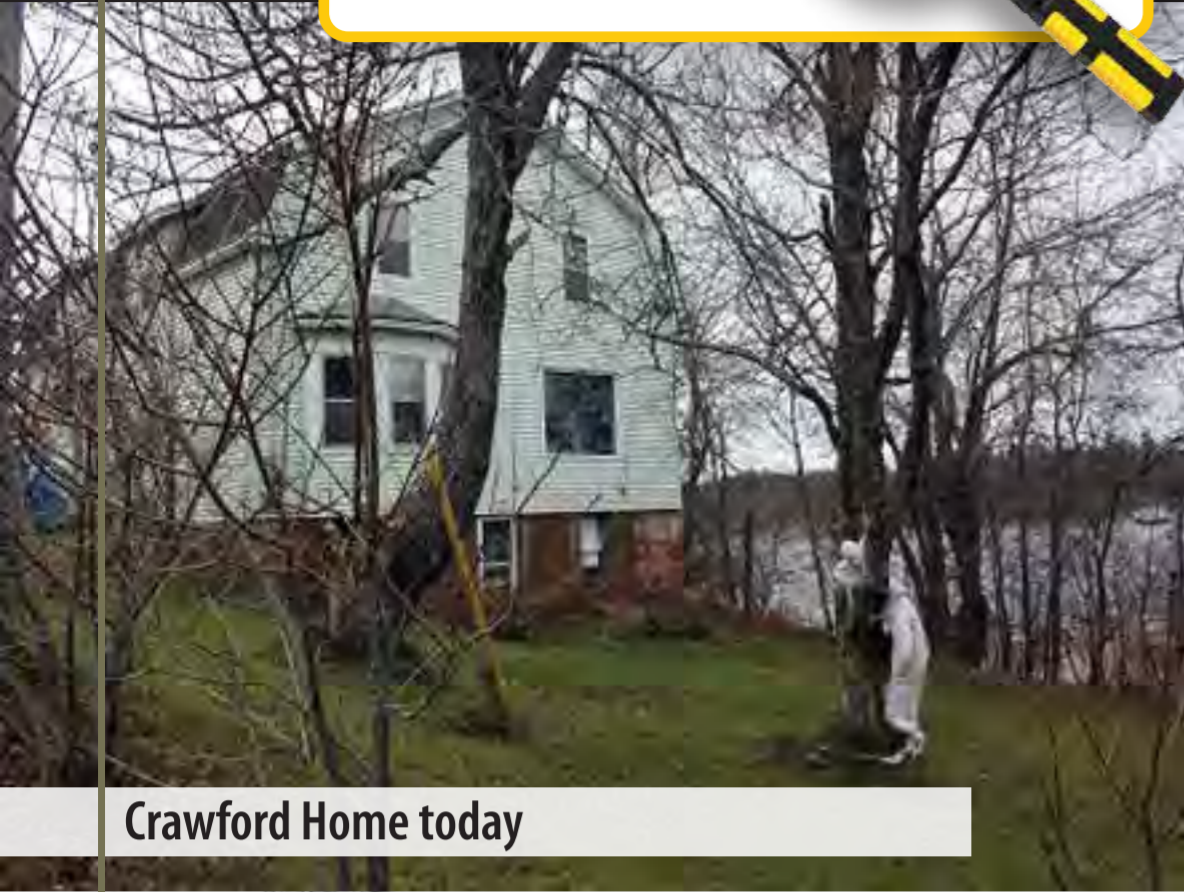
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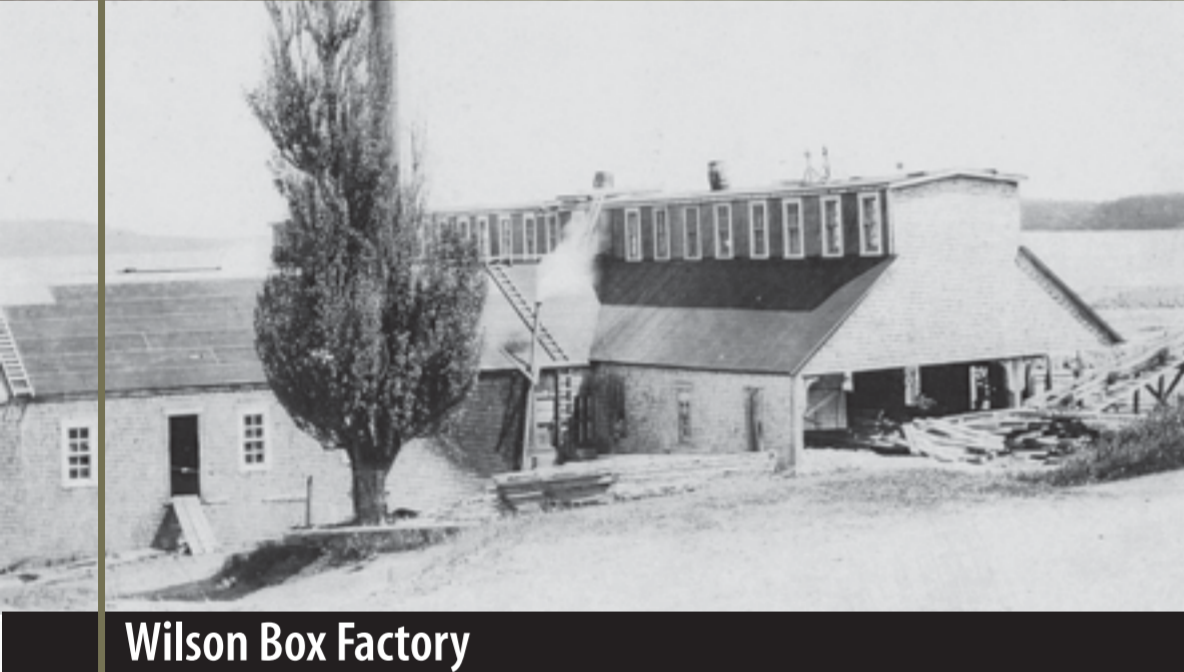
# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 20 55.0 N 66 13 30.5 W



Crawford Home today



Wilson Box Factory



Baxter/Crawford House

## George W. Crawford Home 2 Brundage Point Road

Situated atop a small hill, the distinct gambrel-roofed home overlooks the Grand Bay-Westfield ferry landing. Gambrel-roofed homes are uncommon in Grand Bay-Westfield. The roof of the **George W. Crawford** home is particularly distinctive due to the pronounced curve of the lower rafters, which are broken by flat-roofed dormers (two on each side). The home is associated with a thriving sawmill that once dominated the shoreline. The mill was integral to the town as an employer and as an influence on the rhythm of life for residents: a local historian recalls that many kept time by the mill's whistles.

George W. Crawford was a grandson of **William Crawford**, a cabinetmaker from **Londonderry, Ireland**, who acquired a farm of 200 acres in 1810. George owned the "**Crawford Mill**" for a period prior to 1920. It is not clear if he built the original mill, or if he inherited or acquired an already operational business. Crawford and his family settled at **2 Brundage Point Road** toward the end of the 1800s. It is likely his association with the mill began at about that time. A **Mr. Primes**, a lumber camp equipment salesman, kept a store in one end of Crawford's long rectangular home. This speaks to the importance of the Brundage Point area to local industry during those years. The mill was sold to the **Wilson Box Factory** of Saint John circa 1920, but went out of business a decade later. The land was then sold to **Rulof Baxter**. The mill and associated structures, other than the home, were left to deteriorate over time, marking the end of the sawmill industry at Brundage Point.

When the house Crawford lived in burned ca. 1913, the lot was sold to **James Baxter**, father of Rulof Baxter, who constructed the current structure on the original granite foundation. A section of the foundation, partially covered by red brick and other material, is a visible remnant of the building's history. Although members of the Baxter family have resided at 2 Brundage since ca. 1913, many still refer to the historic place as "**the Crawford Home**" atop "**Crawford Hill**."



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

45 21 47.9 N 66 15 37.4 W



Lingley Station, 1920



Portion of Land Grant Map



## Lingley Homestead 2 Mallard Drive



Situated on a steeply sloping hill just off Nerepis Road, this house sits on a beautifully landscaped property that has belonged to members of the **Lingley family** for almost 190 years.

The Lingleys were early settlers in Grand Bay-Westfield. **Peter**

**Lingley** (1769-1831) and his wife, **Mary** (1774-1831), **United Empire Loyalists** from **New York State**, settled here in 1783.

**Land grant map 156** records a grant to Lingley of 200 acres.

The Lingleys built their home on a parcel of land near the mouth of the Nerepis River in an area that came to be known as **Lingley Station**. Over time, the land was divided up among four sons and continued to be owned by members of the family for nearly two centuries. **Steen** and **Sadie Lingley** were the last Lingleys to live on the property. As they had no children, they sold much of the property in 1966.

The original Lingley home on the land burned in 1921 in the Westfield Fire. It was replaced with the existing structure, which was purchased after Sadie Lingley's death by the **Sutton family** in 1970. It is a well-preserved example of a 1920s farmhouse. The house remains primarily as it was constructed; a large kitchen and bedroom were added in 1974 and extensive landscaping has been done. The original exterior features of the building include shingles, wrap-around veranda, central gable of the façade, and 2/2 windows.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates  
45 20 52.1 N 66 13 26.0 W



6000 acres extending from Brundage Point to Nerepis

## Alwington Manor 4 Ferry Road



Alwington Manor was the home of **General John Coffin** (1756-1838), a significant figure in the history of Grand Bay-Westfield. A **Loyalist officer** and **descendent of an aristocratic British**

**family**, Coffin resided in Boston prior to his arrival in the province in 1783. Stories abound about this controversial character who served in the **Kings American Regiment** with **Henry Nase**, another figure prominent in the area's history who became Coffin's business partner. Coffin is credited with developing the area; he assisted in the construction of mills and farms, even importing farming stock and "implements of husbandry" from England and the United States.

Coffin originally lived in a home built for him by Henry Nase on land acquired on his behalf by **Edward Winslow**. In 1790 he acquired **Glasier's Manor** from **Beamsley Perkins Glasier** consisting of 6000 acres. He renamed the property Alwington Manor after his ancestral home in **Devon, England**.

The property was described in **John McGregor's British America, Volume 1 (1832)** as a "beautiful and picturesque spot"

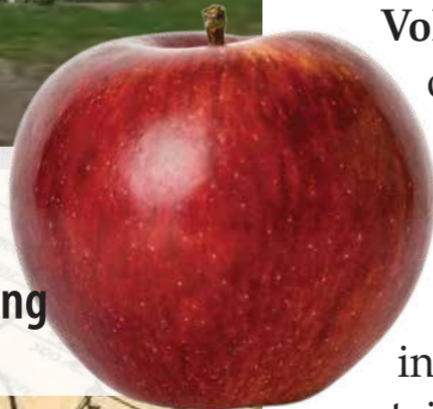
overlooking the confluence of the **St. John and Nerepis Rivers**. The Coffin home, well known in the town until it was destroyed by fire in 1980, occupied by his son, **Admiral John Coffin**. Remnants of the extensive apple orchard still stand as a reminder of the impressive estate that Coffin built. Its intrinsic value resides in its considerable landscape that has retained its sense of place despite the passage of time.

An impressive view of the property today

This was once the home of the farmer who was the property caretaker



Grant map illustrating the Boundary line of the 6000 acre Glasier's Land Grant extending from Brandy Point, encompassing both sides of the Nerepis River



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

45 20 15.21N 66 13 03.6 W



The original Westfield Golf Clubhouse



Clubhouse before the 1978 fire



Westfield Golf & Country Club present day

WELCOME TO  
WESTFIELD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
ESTABLISHED 1919



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## Westfield Golf & Country Club 8 Golf Club Road

The **Westfield Golf and Country Club** consists of an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse, located at the top of the “**Crawford Hillside**.” The clubhouse and course boast scenic views of the **St. John River, Nerepis Valley** and distant hills.

In 1904, local sports enthusiasts, primarily summer residents, organized local support for tennis courts, sailing races, dances, and water sporting events under the name “**The Westfield Outing Association**.” The outbreak of war in 1914 forced a temporary closure of some activities. In June 1919 the Association was revived. Plans for a five-hole course and clubhouse were quickly designed and the opening was marked with a masquerade ball on August 13, 1919. The Westfield Outing Association was incorporated as the **Westfield Country Club** in 1924, and continues to operate with a thriving membership today as the **Westfield Golf and Country Club**.

**Ted Thomas**, engineer, and **Harry Mealey**, golf professional, designed and built the first course, incorporating the natural beauty in the design. By 1930, the popularity of the course had grown and the club enlarged its property, leasing the “**old Crawford farm**” with a view to improving the course and facilities. Famed American golf course architect **Donald Ross** (1872-1948) was contracted to lay out the course, which was completed in 1931 under the supervision of **Frank J. Likely**. Ross designed nine holes, several of which have since been modified, although the basic Ross design remains intact. Three new holes were added to the course in 1950, and six more in 1959. The original clubhouse was sold at the time of the course redesign and replaced with an attractive shingled building. The succeeding clubhouse was completed in 1962; that building burned to the ground in 1978, along with the pro shop. The present clubhouse was completed in 1978.

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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

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Stagecoach Inn building today



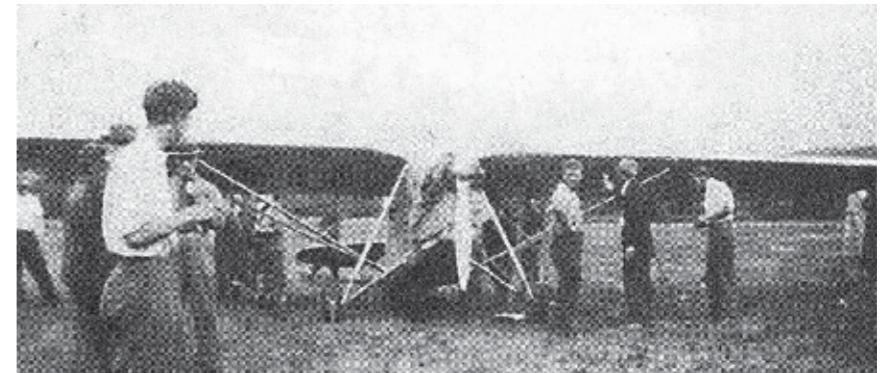
Old Post Road leading to original Stagecoach Inn property

## Stagecoach Inn

9 Brittain Road

This two-storey **Maritime Vernacular** residence is located at the end of a long, private driveway, set back far from the main road with open fields on all sides. Built in the mid-1800s by **James Reid**, who purchased 1000 acres of land from **John Coffin** in 1817, it served as a stopping place for travellers. The long driveway leading to the home is a section of the former **Post Road**, the main route through the village until 1869 when the railway was established. Over time, portions of the road were abandoned to accommodate the railway and newer road routes. The residence maintains some original elements in its form and massing.

**James Mollison**, the Scottish pilot who completed the first westward trans-Atlantic solo flight, made an emergency landing with his **Puss Moth** plane in the field beside this home in August 1932.



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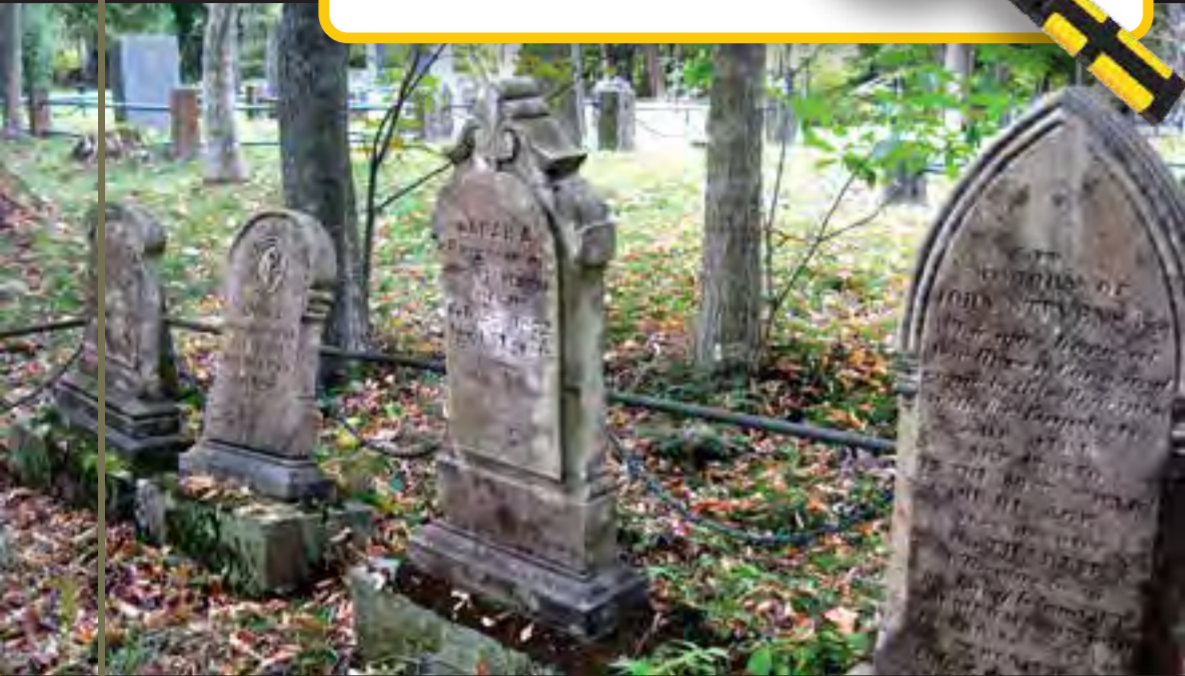
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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 19 43.7 N 66 12 11.3 W



Intricately carved grave marker in one of the first private cemeteries in the area.

## Stevens Family Cemetery 15 Brandy Crescent

The Stevens Cemetery is a private family burial ground located in a wooded area within the neighbourhood known to local residents as “Ingleside.” The grounds of the cemetery are enclosed by a wire fence and gate. The Stevens family and other early settlers of the Grand Bay-Westfield area are buried here. The cemetery, which holds approximately 150 graves, was established on a piece of the 200 acres of land granted to Loyalist **Shubel Stevens** (1747-1825) of New Haven, Connecticut in 1784. Shubel Stevens is buried here, along with his wife **Martha** (1761-1840), their children and grandchildren, and members of the extended family whose surnames represent some of the region’s earliest residents, including **Bunnell**, **Finley**, and **Roberts**. Shubel’s daughter **Melilia** (1795-1818) was the first to be buried in the cemetery, followed the next year by her cousin **Martha Ann** (1814-1819). One of the first private cemeteries in the area, the Stevens Cemetery remains open and has had a number of recent burials.

The Cemetery’s historic value also resides in the landscape of the grounds and in the arrangement of the plots. The Stevens’ family farm house and barn once stood next to the stream running along the property, and the land below the cemetery was used as a hay field. Over the past 200 years, trees have matured on the property, creating a natural isolation of several graves. The arrangement of the plots is unusual in that there does not appear to be a particular plan or pattern to the burials. Ten family plots are enclosed by metal or wooden borders, but certain burials are placed at unusual angles or are set apart from the others in the heavily treed area.

The grave markers in the cemetery are comprised mainly of marble and granite. Several of the older white marble markers are intricately carved, featuring religious symbols and floral motifs.



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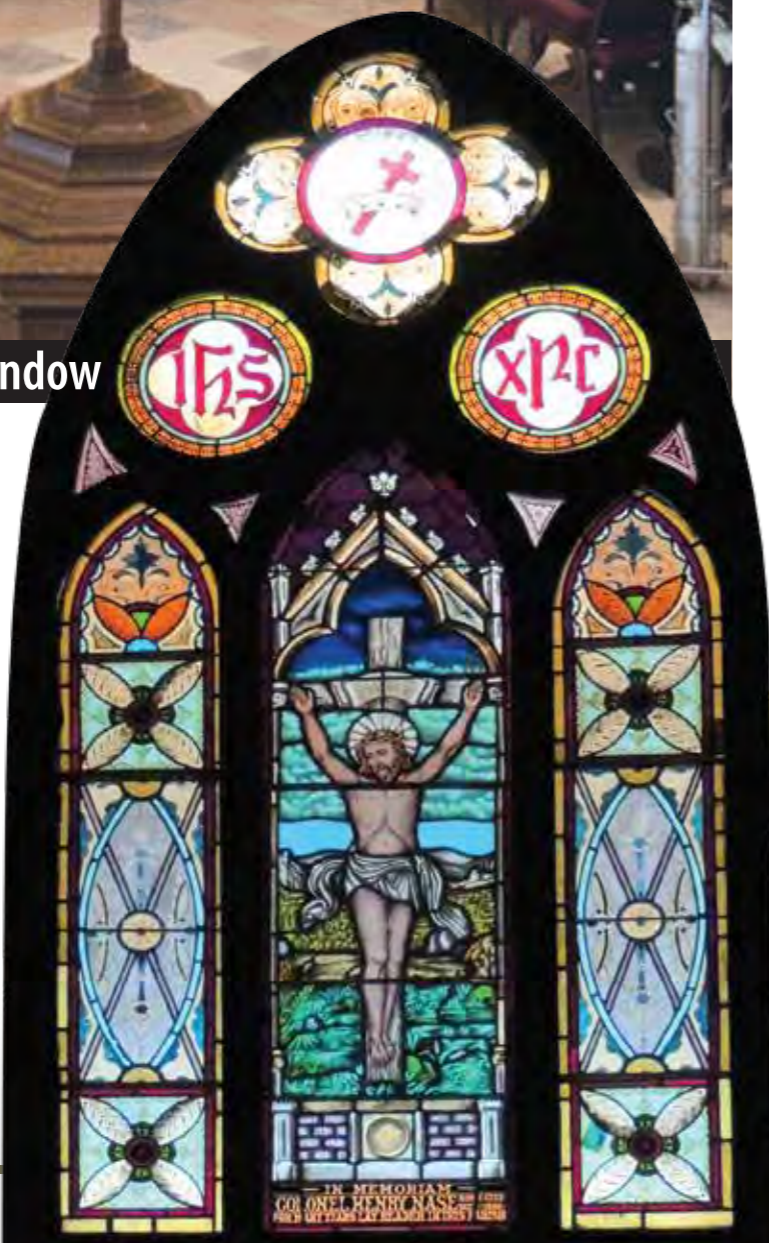
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The Church of the Resurrection



Nase Memorial window



## Anglican Church of the Resurrection 20 Macdonald Avenue

This large modern church built on a hill overlooking Grand Bay-Westfield features a number of historic stained glass windows that were removed from the seven small churches that amalgamated in 2003. These works of art serve as a tangible reminder of the history of the Anglican Church in the area, which dates back to 1796 when the Parish of Westfield was formed.

The parishes of **Greenwich, Grand Bay, Westfield, and Ketepec** amalgamated to form the **Parish of the Nerepis and St. John** on 7 July 2003, following three years of discussion and prayer. **St. John's** (Grand Bay), **St. Peter's** (Public Landing), **St. James** (Westfield), **St. Anne's** (Ketepec), **St. Luke's** (Welsford), **St. James** (Brown's Flat), and **St. Alban's** (Crystal Beach) were deconsecrated in November 2004; services were held at St. Paul's in Oak Point and the Westfield United Church until the first phase of construction on the Church of the Resurrection was completed. A service of Thanksgiving and Amalgamation was held on 24 November 2003.

The decision to close seven historic church properties was a difficult one. The name of the new building was chosen to reflect the idea that the congregations were put together to begin a new, meaningful life. Parishioners of the various churches were eager to preserve elements of the buildings they loved. Accordingly, the new structure was designed to feature many stained glass windows which were removed from the deconsecrated churches, including the **Colonel Henry Nase** memorial window (from **St. James**). Colonel Nase was a major leader in the early years of the church and a long-time lay reader. The windows provide a lasting link to the communities who erected the former church buildings, particularly the donors of the windows and those to whom they were dedicated.

Another prominent feature of the sanctuary is the pipe organ, built in the late 1800s. The organ was removed from the **Garrison Church** in Saint John and reassembled with great care. While not from a local church, the organ is a historic piece and shows the dedication of the church to preserve elements of its spiritual past.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

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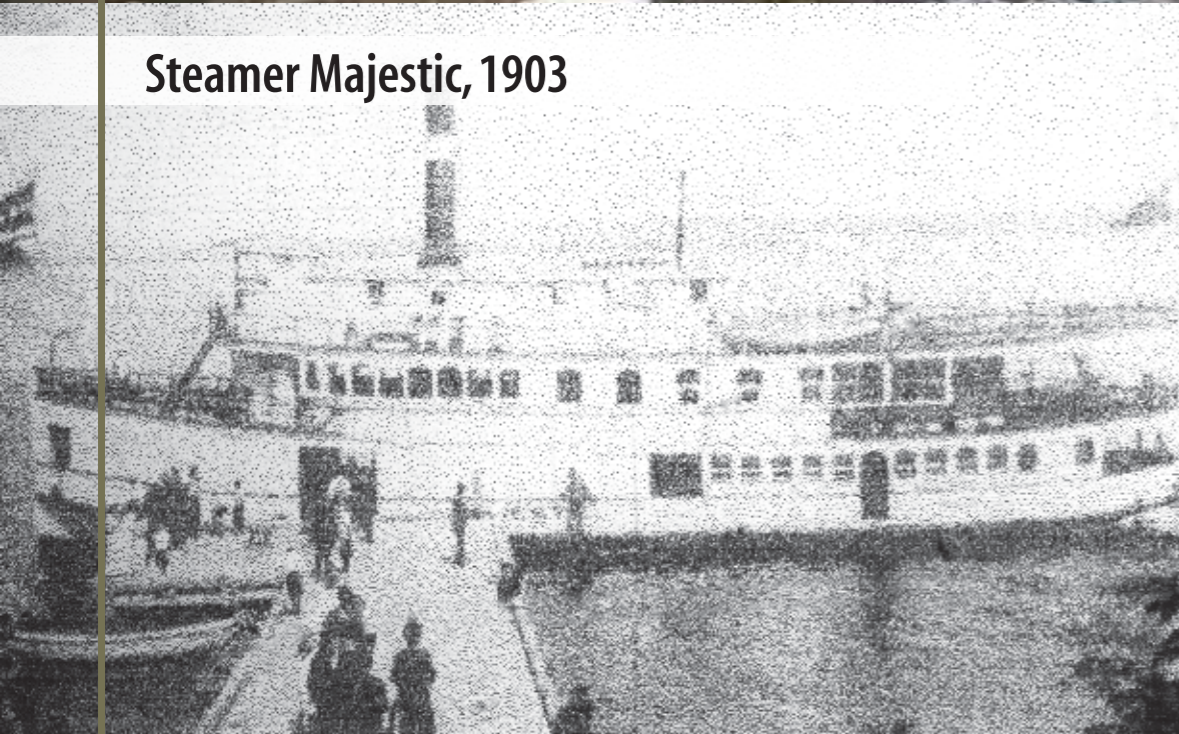


## Brundage Point Westfield Wharf 21 Ferry Road

The **Westfield Wharf** site is designated a local historic place primarily for its association with the riverboat system. For nearly a century, riverboats such as the **Forest Queen** (1848-1867), the **SS Star** (1873-1902), the **SS Majestic** (1903-1942), **SS Hampton** (1906-1930) and the **MV D.J. Purdy** (1924-1946) followed a criss-cross pattern along the river, stopping for passengers on demand. Prior to 1869 and the advent of the **Canadian Pacific Railway**, riverboats were the chief method of transportation for local residents and were used for routine travel, pleasure, and commerce. Local histories recount stories of youngsters jumping off the wharf into the swirls left by riverboats as they pulled away, and of residents loading their canoes onto the riverboats for the trip to Saint John and then paddling home for enjoyment. Today, the area reflects upon past leisure activities and continues the tradition of water recreation through the **Brundage Point River Centre**, built in 2003.



Present day ferry system; the Woolastook II



Steamer Majestic, 1903



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

45 20 05.2 N 66 12 56.6 W



## Queen Ann Revival Summer Home

33 Nerepis Road

A striking example of the many summer homes owned by Saint John residents, this home was built in 1912 on a gently sloping landscaped lot with a view of the Saint John River. A pleasant sunroom with curved glass windows is the defining feature of the house. Its asymmetrical shape with steeply-pitched irregular roof, front facing gabled dormer, shingle design, original windows and wrap-around veranda with “gingerbread” embellishments, is an excellent and rare example of the **Queen Anne Revival** style in Grand Bay-Westfield. With the exception of a patio addition at the rear of the building, the exterior of the home has not been significantly modified since its construction.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

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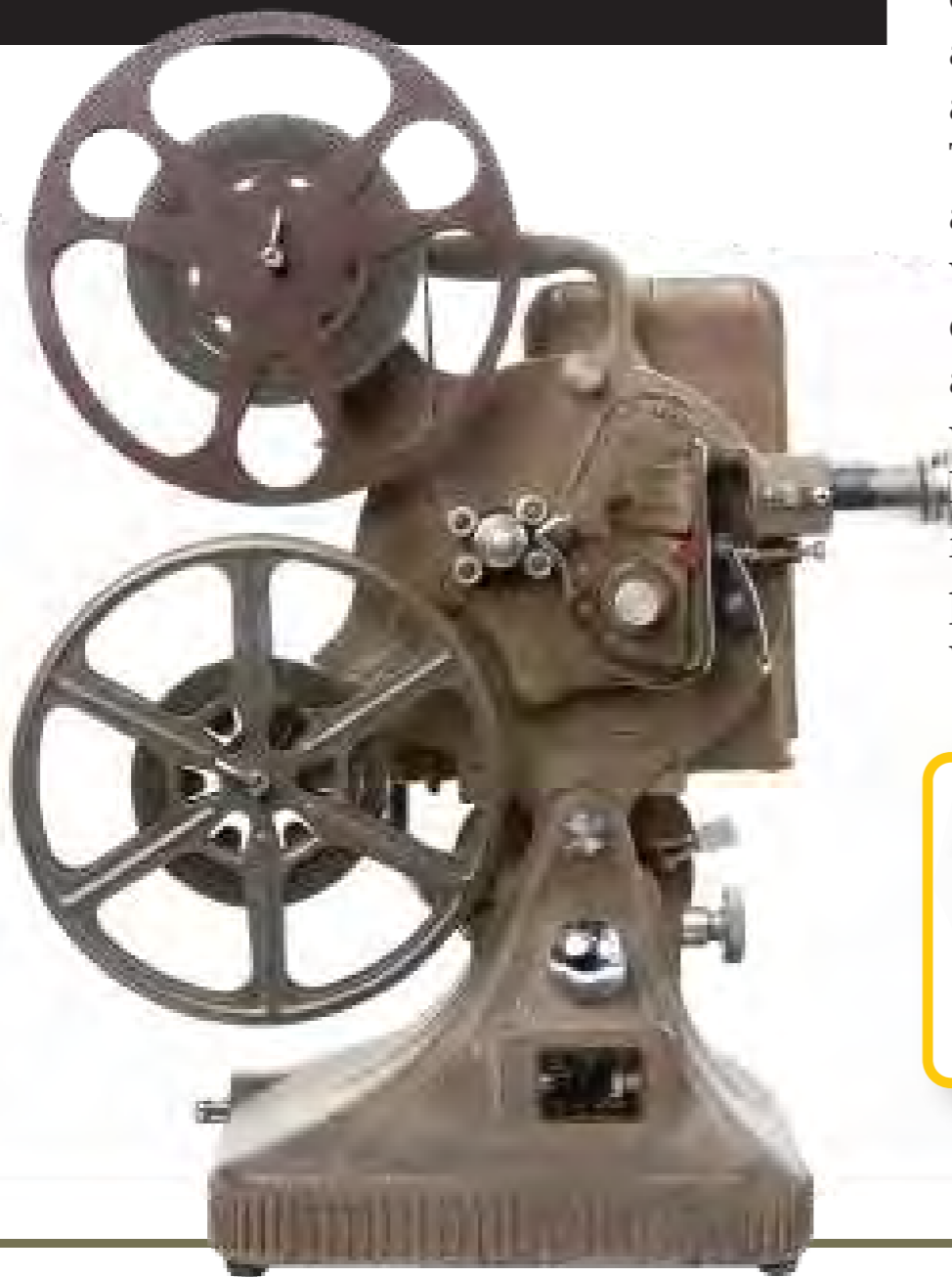


## Fred Spencer Summer Home

34 Nerepis Road

In 1912, **Fred. G. Spencer**, a proprietor of numerous movie theatres throughout the Maritime Provinces, erected a summer home on this site. The first house on the property was destroyed in the **Westfield Fire of 1921**, a disastrous blaze that consumed much of the neighbourhood and surrounding area. Spencer had the home re-built on the original foundation, with slight modifications to the bays, roofline and interior layout. It is believed that the stone columns and chimneys were reconstructed using stones salvaged from the rubble. Photos taken immediately after the fire show the columns and chimney still standing.

The exterior of the building has changed very little since its construction in 1922. The house features many **Arts and Crafts architectural elements**, including a unique shingling pattern, a large veranda with stone columns and stone chimneys. The stonework is predominantly featured as a decorative element and is used in the chimneys, columns and foundation of the veranda, and in two wing walls of stone attached to the stone driveway columns. The foundation is also of stone. Other Arts and Crafts characteristics include the use of multiple windows with divided upper portions, a hipped gable roof, bays and a large hipped gable dormer. The shingling pattern is distinctive, featuring a 2" reveal alternating with a 6" reveal. An enclosed porch was added circa 1930 and four of the six original entrances were sealed in the 1990s to improve energy efficiency.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 20 12.0 N 66 13 01.2 W



## Gilliland Country Store 52 Nerepis Road

Built as a residence in 1897 by **Armstrong Elliot**, the building was sold at the turn of the 20th century to **J. A. Gilliland**. A growing need for an “all purpose” shop catering to the needs of the Saint John families who spent their summers in the area led Gilliland to open such a business in a small building in the back yard of 52 Nerepis. He enlarged the home shortly thereafter, creating room on the main level for the shop as well as a number of rooms for boarders. Gilliland’s daughter **Annie** and her husband **Foster Kirkpatrick** operated the store for a number of years; during this time it became known as “**Gilliland’s**” or “**Annie’s**.” Upon Annie’s retirement in the 1930s the business was rented to **Bert Cosman**, who found the space inconvenient and built a new structure next door to house the shop in 1937. This landmark has since been owned by a number of families as a private residence. Certain architectural features remain, such as the projected entrance facing the road, that speaks to the building’s historical use as a community store.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 20 29.9 N 66 13 20.3 W



## Westfield United Church

133 Nerepis Road

Built to house the **Methodist** congregation of the area, the present-day **Westfield United Church** was erected in 1922 to replace the circa 1860 structure that was destroyed by the Westfield fire of 1921. The building sits on the site of the original church, on land that was donated by a local citizen by the name of **Lowrey**. The rectangular wood-frame building is in the **Gothic Revival style**, connoted in the many remaining original architectural



elements, including the tower with square open belfry, use of lancet and equilateral arched stained glass windows. The church is a symbol of the worship that has been faithfully conducted here since the 1860s. The Methodist church became the United Church on June 10, 1925, when the United Church of Canada was created. In 1998 the

congregations of **Bayswater-Summerville**, **Long Reach**, and **Westfield** combined to form **Two Rivers Pastoral Charge**, with services alternating between **Long Reach** and **Summerville**.



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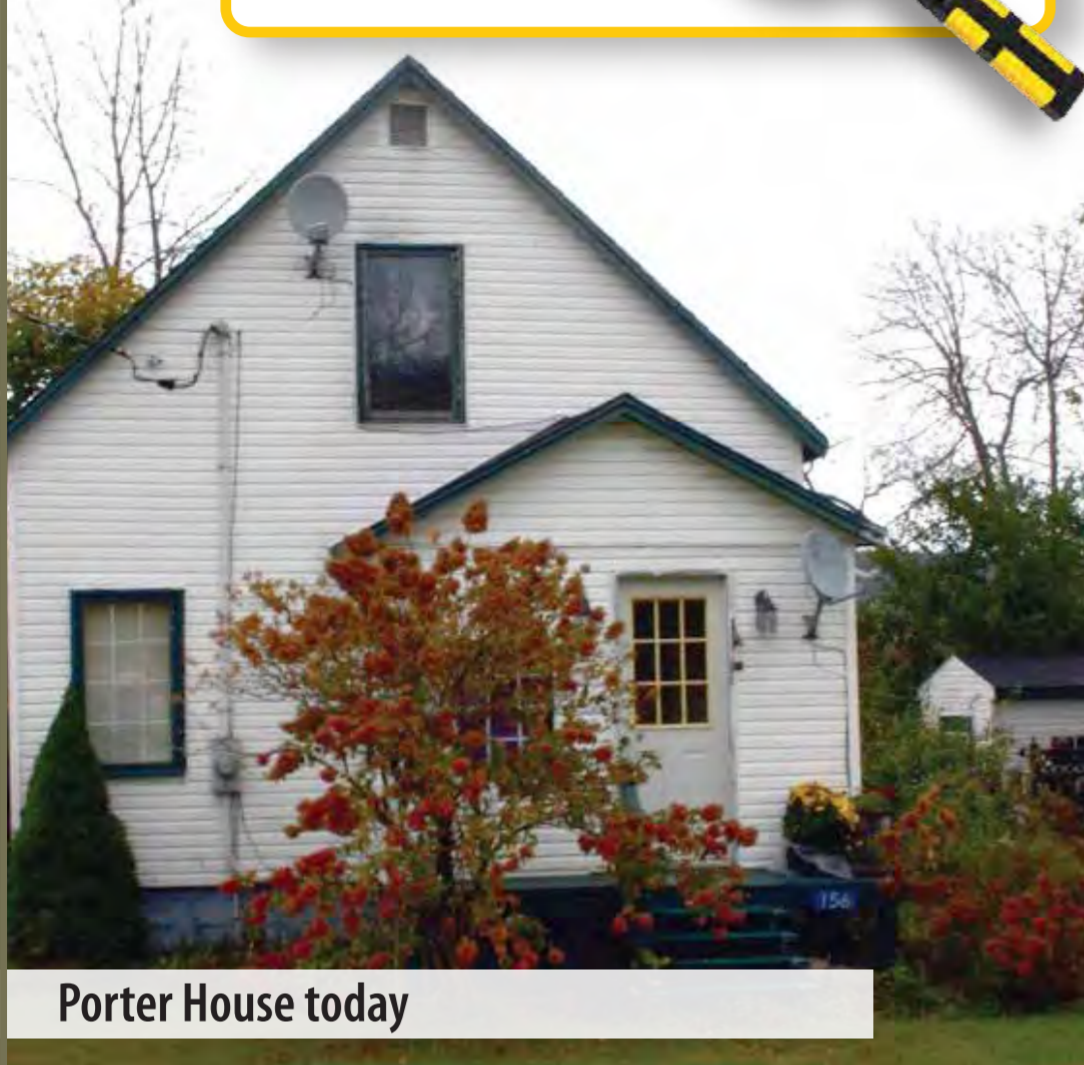
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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 20 40.8 N 66 13 28.3 W



Porter House today

## Porter Family Home 156 Nerepis Road



1923 spring freshet

“The Porter House,” is a front-gabled home on a narrow lot bordered by the road to the west and railroad tracks to the east. The lot features mature hydrangea and quince trees. Originally inhabited by

members of the Porter family in **Gagetown**, a community about 70 kilometers “up river”, the home was floated down the St. John River by the family to its current site some time prior to 1911. Members of the Porter family continued to reside there for several decades. Since that time, the home has been modified; the wrap-around veranda has been removed, the small front porch has been enclosed, an extension was built to the rear, and a side entrance was blocked off due to renovations of the interior.

The structure is also associated with the history of telecommunications in the province. The main level of the home housed the **New Brunswick Telephone Exchange** for the area beginning in 1919, under the management of **Myrtle (Porter) Rathburn**. The home is regarded fondly by many local residents for its association with Mrs. Rathburn, who was well known in the community. With the introduction of rotary dial telephones in the 1950s, the telephone exchange was no longer needed and the main level of the house was converted back to living space.



NB Telephone Exchange Sign still on site



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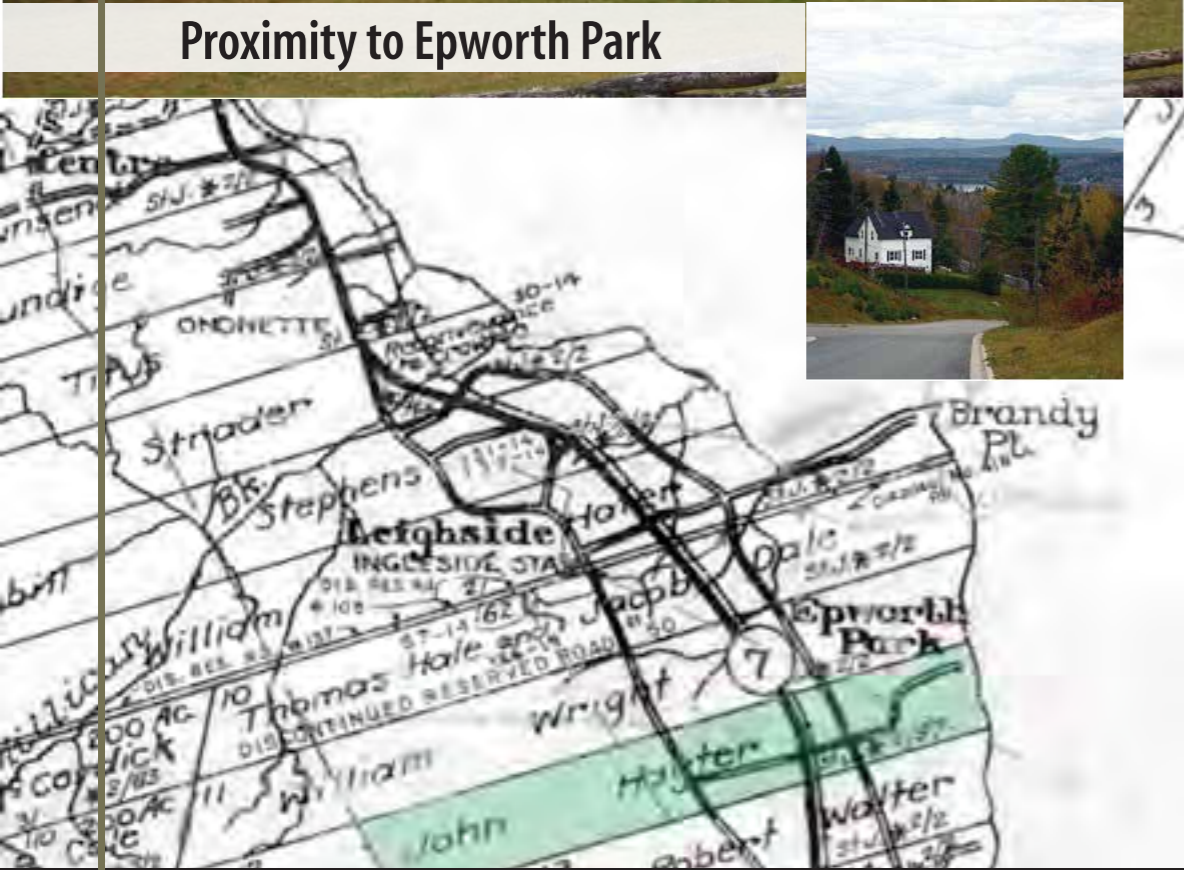
# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 19 06.5 N 66 11 57.0 W



## Proximity to Epworth Park



## Portion of Land Grant Map showing Hayter property

## Kirtley-Hayter Family Home

171 Woolastook Drive

This private home has a high tri-gabled saltbox shaped roof which is broken by a pedimented dormer on the extension. The large front gable and side gables feature projected eaves and returns, typical of early farmhouses in the residential Greek revival style.

The **Kirtley** and **Hayter** families number among the early settlers of Grand Bay-Westfield. **Captain John Hayter**, Loyalist, (1749-1811) born in Devonshire, England and previous resident of Philadelphia, settled on a land grant of 400 acres in the area known as **Epworth Park**. He gradually acquired more land, including the property that now comprises 171 Woolastook, which was originally granted to **Robert Walter**. Captain Hayter married **Mary Monk** (1763-1826) of Woolrich, England, a descendant of **Sir George Monk, Duke of Albemarle** who had made the journey on the same boat. They had nine children, including **Thomas** (1796- 1865) who married **Mary Ann Gallagher** (1803-1878). Together they had ten children. Their son **Charles Thomas** (1844-1925) continued to live on the original Hayter grant. Charles Thomas's daughter, **Helen Eliza** (1883-1964), married **John G. Kirtley** (1880-1959) in 1923. Kirtley arrived with his father in New Brunswick from England in 1902; the family lived "next door" to the Hayters. The couple inherited 171 Woolastook Drive upon the death of Helen's parents.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 18 08.2 N 66 11 41.9 W



## Doctors Office and Nursing Home 192 River Valley Drive

Built ca. 1940 as a doctor's office and 14-bed nursing home, this commercial property was converted to a private residence for a brief period before being renovated as a commercial enterprise. The building has retained many of its original features, including its rectangular massing, medium-pitched roof, side gables and an open balcony on the second storey (formerly enclosed). The small office attached to the main building was originally a garage. The refurbished structure presents an attractive component of the River Valley Drive streetscape.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 21 02.7 n 66 13 53.9 W



## St. James Anglican Cemetery

235 Nerepis Road

The **St. James Anglican Cemetery** rests on private property behind the area where the St. James Anglican Church (deconsecrated in 2004 and later demolished) once stood. The earliest marked burial is that of **Mary Eliza Lingley** who died in 1869. The Lingleys were among the earliest settlers and a few dozen were buried here. Other surnames on the gravestones include **Ballentine, Waters,** and **Finley**.

Prior to amalgamation in 2003, there were seven early Anglican churches in the vicinity; a testimony to the long-standing dedication and devotion of the congregations. The St. James Anglican Cemetery serves as a lasting reminder of one such congregation. The gravesites are arranged in both family plots and as single burials. Family plots are typically bounded by wrought iron or wooden rails; however, many of these have fallen into disrepair. The grave markers and tombstones are comprised of a variety of materials, including granite and white marble, and vary in ornamentation and design. Many of the marble stones have become illegible due to age and deterioration. One unusual wrought iron marker is propped against and partly embedded in a tree.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 18 14.9 N 66 11 43.5 W



## Second Empire Home 241 River Valley Drive

Located in the business core of Grand Bay-Westfield, the two-storey building stands out on the predominantly modern streetscape as a visible reminder of the town's history. Common in the nearby City of Saint John after the Saint John Fire of 1877, the Second Empire style was not favoured in Grand Bay-Westfield even though many residences were built as summer homes by people from the City.

The home was likely erected in the 1870s, the height of Second Empire architecture, on a lot granted to **Stephen Smith** in 1816. Many Second Empire features are evident in the details of the structure, including the wood detailing of the façade, 3 dormers with original 2/2 windows, mansard roof (façade), bracketed eaves, and front double-door entrance with cut glass. The ell and attached sheds were destroyed by fire in the late 1980s, necessitating their removal as well as the truncation of the cedar-shingled mansard roof. A new entrance at the side of the building was created at that time. The building is also important as an example of a repurposed historic building in the business core of the town.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 19 28.0 N 66 12 13.1 W



## Stevens Family Home

268 Woolastook Drive

**Shubel Stevens** (1752-1825), a Loyalist and native of New Haven, Connecticut, came to “**Parrtown**,” now Saint John, in 1783. He was granted a small town lot but did not settle there; a 200 acre grant in the area of Grand Bay-Westfield historically known as “**Ingleside**” followed and there he built his homestead. The massing of the house has retained its integrity, with renovations and modernizations completed in a manner sensitive to its age and original design. The wraparound veranda is a later addition.

Stevens, a carpenter-turned-farmer, prospered and acquired at least 600 more acres of land in short order. Upon his death his large property was divided amongst his children, with the house and farm bequeathed to his son **Benjamin** (1799-1867). Benjamin further subdivided the property in his will, giving the house and farm to his youngest son **William Bartlett**. William emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand in 1868 and did not return. The property passed to other members of the Stevens family and has continued to be owned and inhabited by descendants of Shubel Stevens up to the present day.



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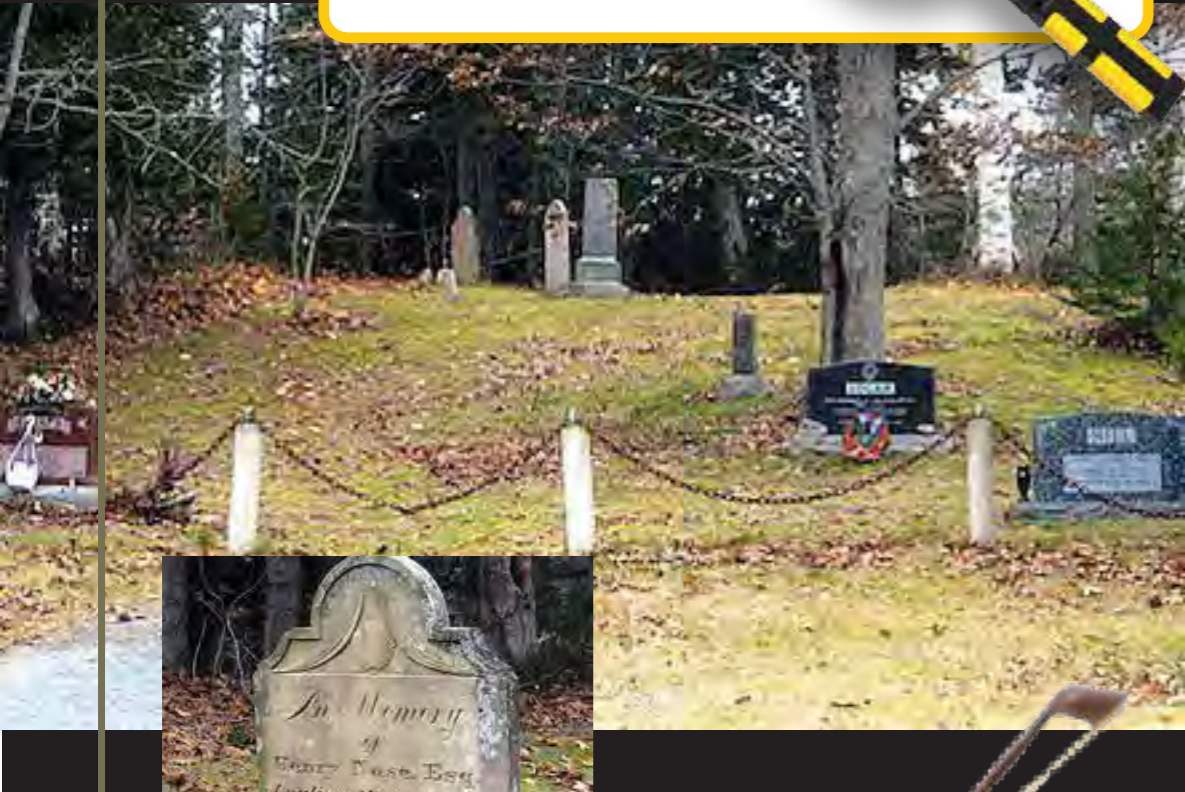
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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 21 26.4 N 66 14 14.5 W



## Nase Cemetery

273 Nerepis Road (adjacent)

An example of a rural New Brunswick family burial ground, it overlooks the St. John River in a picturesque location.



**Colonel Henry Nase** (1753-1836) was the first **United Empire Loyalist** to settle in the area in 1783 and seventh generation descendants still reside in the community. Colonel Nase and his wife, **Jane Quinton** (1767-1852), are buried in the small cemetery along with 18 other members of the family.

**Bishop Richardson** consecrated the cemetery in 1925. **Herbert Nase**, a great-grandson of Colonel Nase, played the violin at the consecration service. **Emily Agnes A. Hoben (nee Nase)** sold the property neighbouring the cemetery in 1902 to **Robert** and **Audrey Patterson**. The Nase family retained possession of the burial ground until recently when ownership and management was transferred to **St. James Anglican Church**. Since this time, burials outside the Nase family have been permitted.



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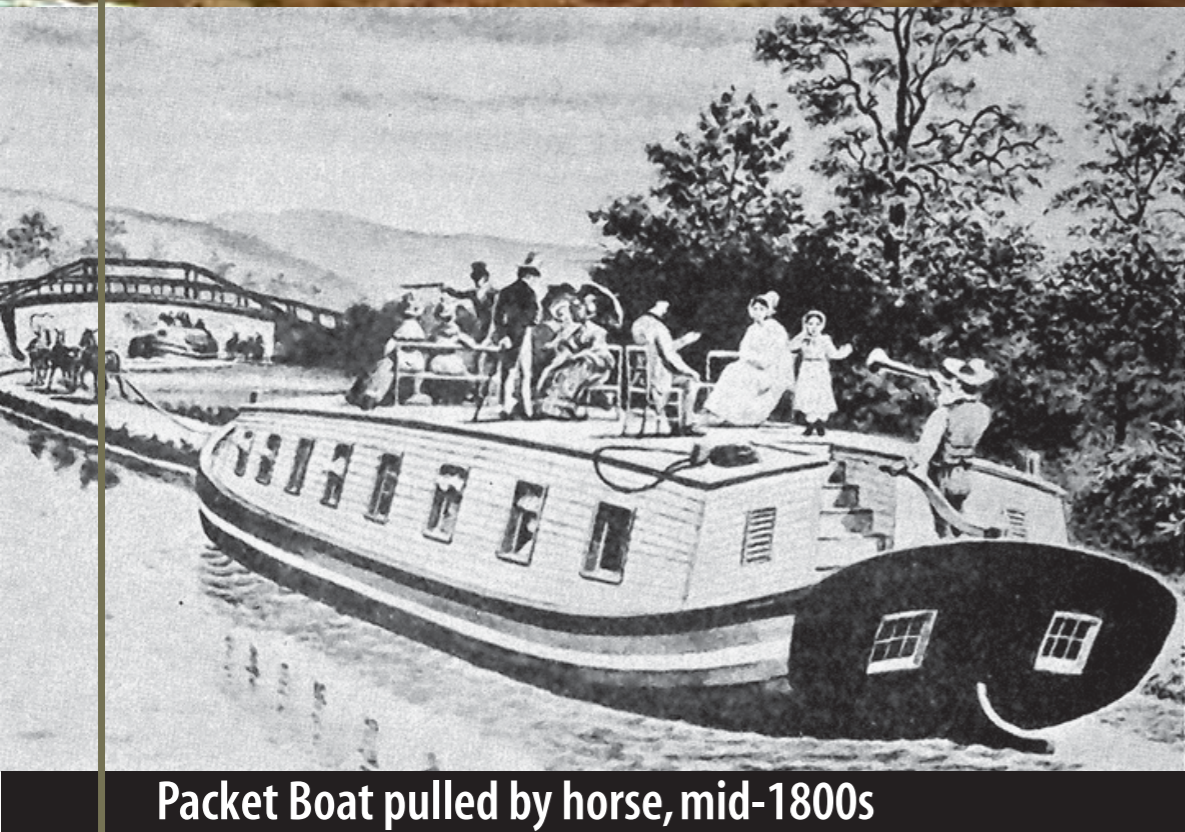
# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 22 45.8 N 66 16 18.8 W



Blagdon Home today



Packet Boat pulled by horse, mid-1800s

## Blagdon Family Homestead 525 Nerepis Road

This rural property from the mid-1800s includes a two-storey traditional **Maritime Vernacular** residence with a front-facing gable roof. The property is part of the original settlement of **Nerepis** and is associated with the **Blagdon** family who were among the area's earliest residents.

The property has been home to members of the Blagdon family since 1847. **William Blagdon** (1803-1890) served under **General John Coffin** (c. 1731-1838) and later ran the first packet boat in the community. Local histories note that the nearby "**Blagdon**" **railroad station** was named after him.

The original home on the property, built in 1847, was located on the site of the current detached garage. Due to its deteriorating condition, the house was demolished several years ago. The existing home, built in 1914, is an attractive, two-storey, wood frame farmhouse with a covered front veranda and boasts a beautiful view of the St. John River. The house has undergone a number of modifications, however, the massing and overall form of the home are as they were when it was built.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 23 26.4 N 66 17 10.4 W



Robin Hood Lake



Nerepis River near Portage Trail



Birch Bark Canoe

## Old Portage Trail Head

621 Nerepis Road

The old **Portage Trail** is a former portage route used by **First Nations** people travelling from the **Musquash watershed** to the **Nerepis River**. Although the trail is overgrown in sections, it is still possible to walk it. **W. F. Ganong's** 1836 survey plan shows an "**Indian Portage**" running from **Ogden Lake** to the northern end of **Loch Alva**. Although the plan does not mark a portage trail from the northern end of **Robin Hood Lake**, it is evident, based on the memories of local residents whose parents recall the route being used, that this section did in fact exist. It is probable that cultural and archeological remnants may be found along the route. The **St. John** and **Nerepis Rivers** were a vital means of transportation for the **Wolastoqiyk**, or **Maliseet people** who resided in the area.



Brook beside Trail



Native flora



Caribou Moss

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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 23 45.8 N 66 17 29.7 W



## Nerepis Road near Nerepis Kiosk

### Nerepis School

670 Nerepis Road

Located in a gully overlooking **Nerepis Creek** near the former **Post Road**, the property has reverted to forest since the demolition of the school in the 1960s.

Serving the farming communities of **Nerepis**, **Sagwa**, and **Brittain Road** from the mid 1800s, this one room schoolhouse offered classes in grades one to eight. Typical of rural schoolhouses, the simple rectangular wood-frame building was heated by a large stove in the middle of the room.

The building featured a steeply pitched gable roof and 6/6 windows.



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Along a creek called the Nerepis River

# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 23 46.1 N 66 17 55.8 W



## Mount Hope Farm

690 Nerepis Road

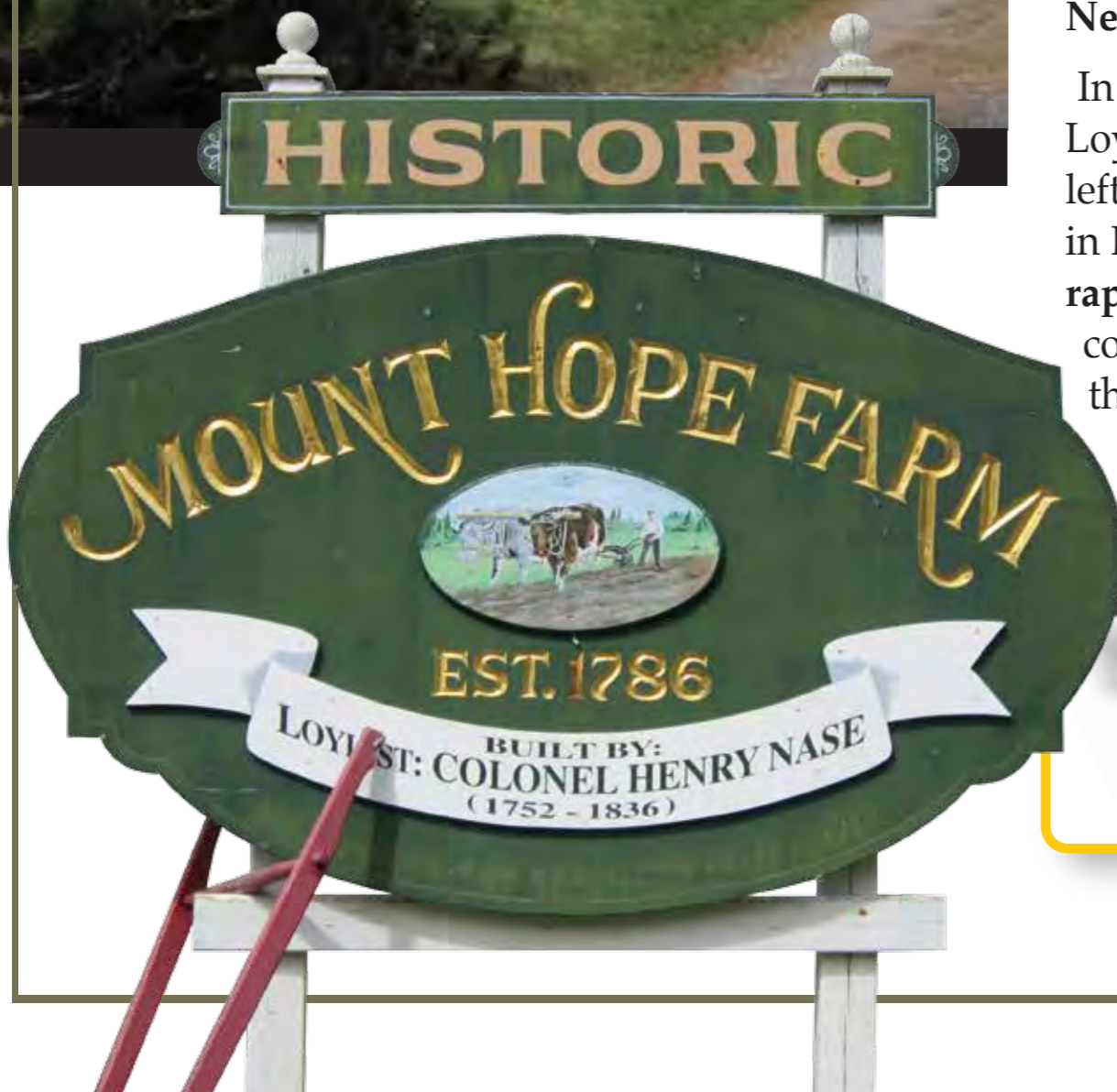


Mount Hope Farm 1955

This **Loyalist** farmhouse built in 1786 by **Colonel Henry Nase** has been continuously occupied by his descendants for over 225 years. Colonel Henry Nase, the **first United Empire Loyalist** to settle in the area, served with the

Royal Army's King's American Regiment at **King's Bridge**, New York during the **American Revolution**.

In the late eighteenth century, thousands of United Empire Loyalists, commonly known in Canadian history as the **Loyalists**, left the newly created **United States** to settle under the British flag in **Nova Scotia** and in the unsettled lands above the **St. Lawrence rapids** and **north of Lake Ontario**. One of the immediate consequences of this huge influx in 1784 was the establishment of the separate British colony of New Brunswick that had up until that point been part of Nova Scotia.



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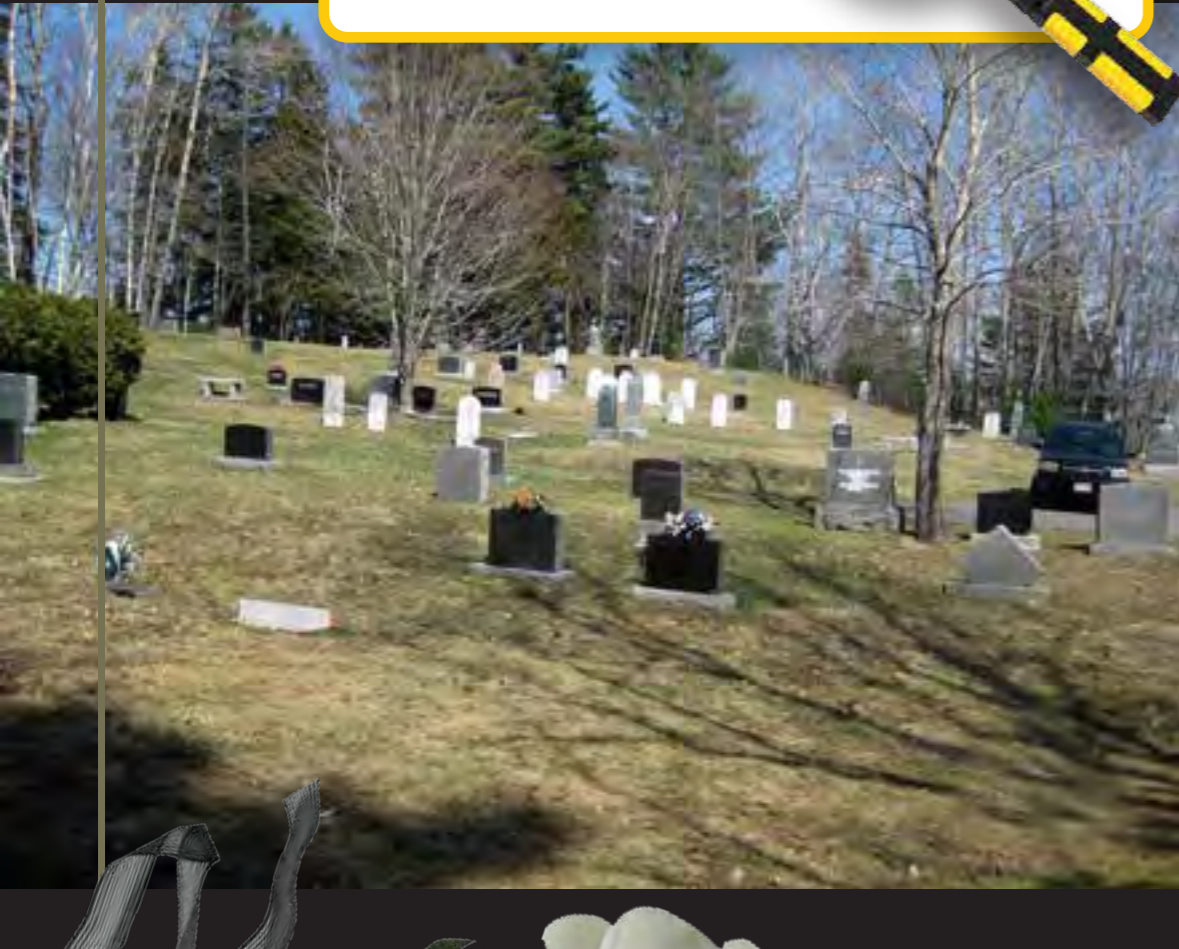
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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

45 23 47.8 N 66 18 02.6 W



## Mount Hope Cemetery

700 Nerepis Road



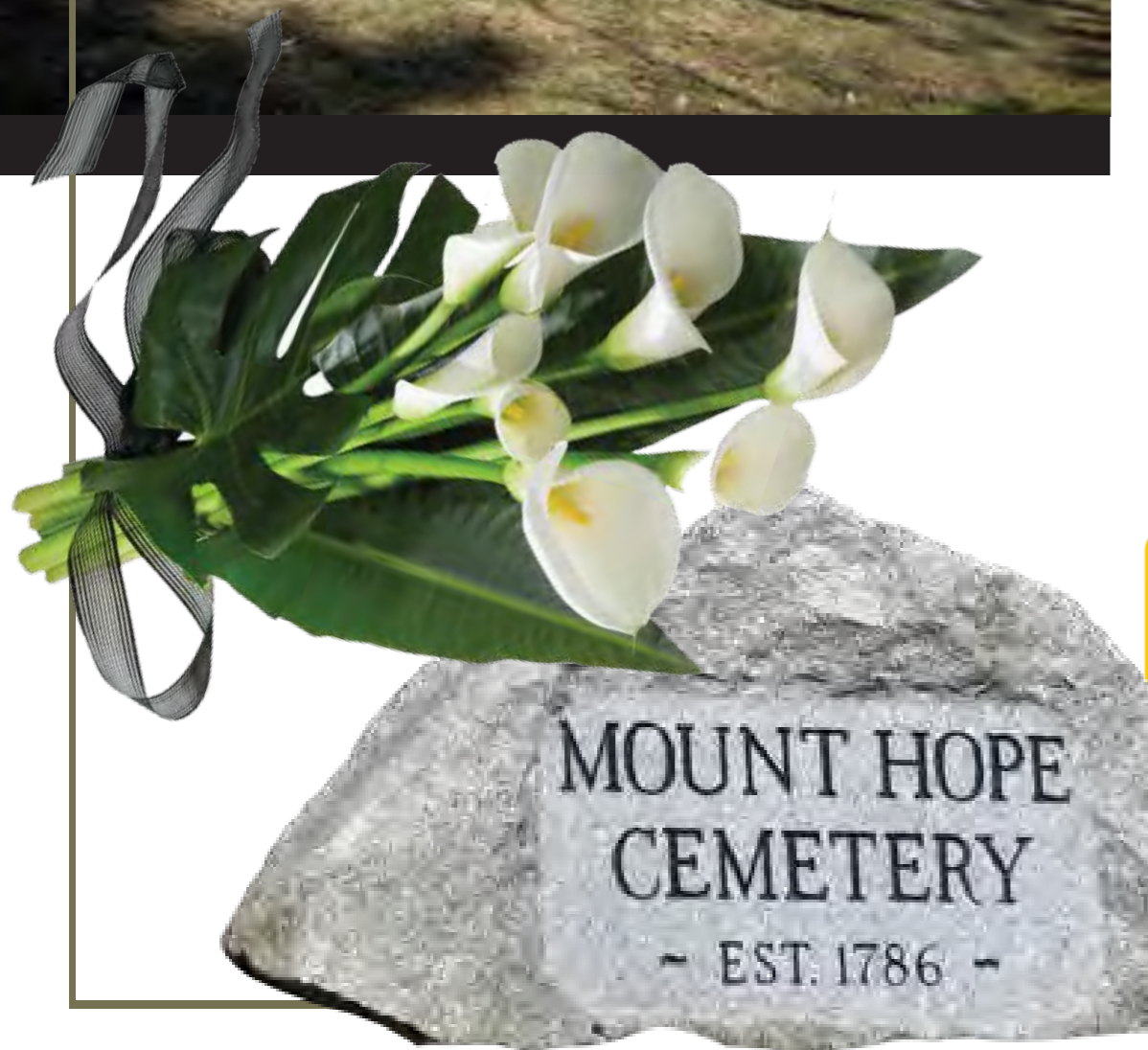
Cemetery entrance

This non-denominational burial ground, situated at the top of a hill overlooking the historic **Mount Hope Farm** property, was developed by **Loyalists** for early residents in the area. **Elizabeth Nase**, daughter of **Colonel Henry**

**Nase**, was the first to be buried in the cemetery, in 1791.

Her headstone, the oldest in **Kings County**, is positioned to look directly over the Nase family homestead, known as Mount Hope Farm. Later Nase burials are positioned in the same manner.

These early stones are mainly of white marble in tablet form, which is typical for cemeteries of the period. This burial place is a fine example of a rural cemetery of pastoral landscape design. Sheltered by mature trees and bounded by granite markers and benches, the grave markers range from simple white marble stones dating from the late 1700's to modern black granite stones.



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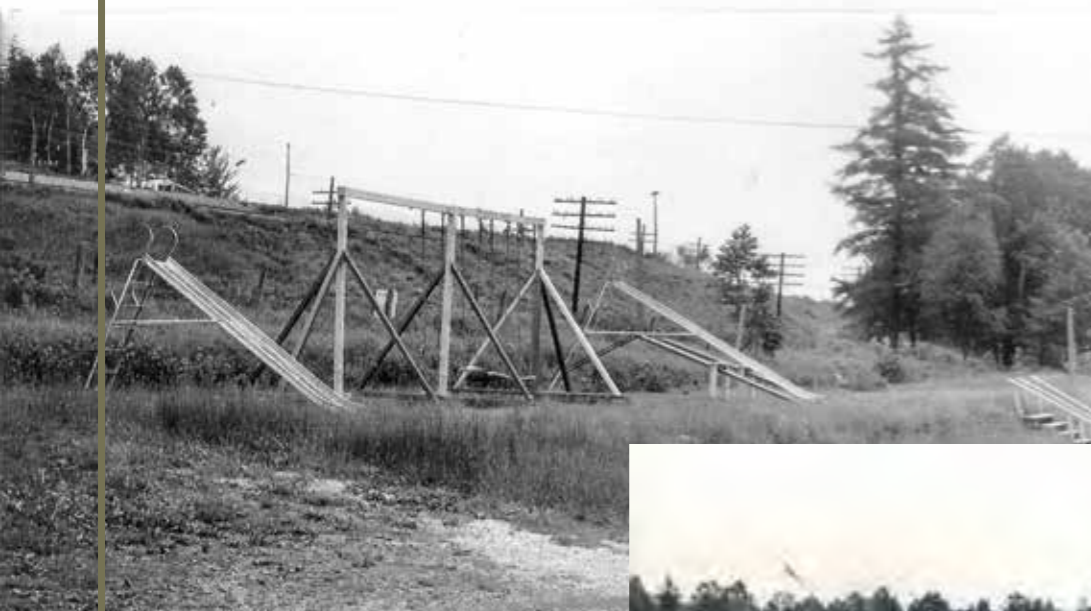
# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 18 35.78 N 66 11 33.19 W



Dining Hall



Grounds



## Gyro Fresh Air Summer Camp Ash Glen Lane

The **Gyro Club Fresh Air Camp** (1927-1964) played an important role in the town as a venue for children of underprivileged families from nearby Saint John to rest, play, and learn.

**Gyro** is an international organization founded in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1912. The group's aim is to teach "power, poise and purpose" in relationships, as well as to promote healthy living and good citizenship. Camps based on these principles sprang up across Canada soon after the Club's formation, with one such camp for children established in Grand Bay-Westfield.

The Camp opened on July 1, 1927, as part of the town's Confederation Diamond Jubilee celebrations as a result of five years of fundraising by the Saint John Gyro Club and the Saint John Health Centre. The land was purchased in 1922 for \$10,000. The property was deemed ideal for a summer camp due to its proximity to the St. John River, allowing campers to take advantage of the water for swimming and other leisure activities. In 1927 **Mr. Dow Bishop** was contracted to build two cabins as well as a larger building designed to serve as both a recreation and dining hall. The first camp opened that year through the month of July with 24 boys in attendance. Girls attended during the month of August.

For over three decades, the Gyro Fresh Air Camp was a vibrant part of the community, hosting on average 100 children a year. Like its counterparts across the country, the Camp is credited with making a difference in the lives of both the children who attended and the counselors who worked with them. During World War II it also housed soldiers on leave for rest and relaxation.

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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

GPS Coordinates

45 21 10.28 N 66 14 29.93 W



Hwy 7 (exit 80) at Kingdom Road

## Black Loyalist Land Grants of 1787

1550 acres near the junction of Highway 177 and 102 and extending to Richards lake.

These land grants issued in Grand Bay-Westfield by the Crown to Black Loyalists in 1787 encompass 1550 acres that were originally granted to 31 free black petitioners. It represents a little-documented chapter of the history of Grand Bay-Westfield and the history of black settlers in the Province.

The first free black settlers arrived in New Brunswick after the American War of Independence in 1783. Several hundred men, women, and children arrived in Saint John between April and November, with the expectation that they would receive grants of land as well as provisions for three years, as promised by the British. Few experienced the fulfillment of this promise. Many were forced into slavery, which was still prevalent in New Brunswick, and others became indentured servants, or found menial jobs in order to survive.

In 1785 several groups of black Loyalists residing in the area around Saint John submitted group petitions to receive land as they had been promised. **Richard (Corankapoon) Wheeler** led one such petition representing 56 other blacks, including several he had met aboard the **Clinton** en route from New Jersey. Corankapoon and 30 additional petitioners were issued grants of 50 acres each in Westfield surrounding **Corankapoon Lake**. These black settlers faced many of the same difficulties as their white counterparts, including difficulty clearing and farming the wilderness land. The poor quality of the land they received intensified their struggles, and by 1790 most of the black settlers relocated to Saint John to eek out a living as menial labourers. The land grants were sold or reverted to the crown and were redistributed to white settlers.

The value of the historic place also resides in its association with the migration of black settlers from New Brunswick to Halifax and onwards to the new **British Colony of Freetown, Sierra Leone**. Discouraged and in search of a better life, Richard (Corankapoon) Wheeler and four companions walked from Westfield to Halifax in December 1791 to board a transport ship bound for Sierra Leone in 1792. Other black settlers who made that journey from New Brunswick to Halifax perished along the way. Many more died at sea before reaching Africa, and those who arrived safely struggled to acquire land to support themselves and their families. Still others were recaptured and sold back to the slave trade. Richard (Corankapoon) Wheeler, having spent eight years in New Brunswick, became a constable in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and an important community leader.



Black Loyalist Land Grant Map:  
Richard (Corankapoon) Wheeler land shaded above



Old mill wheel found at Negro Lake



Corankapoon Lake



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 18 56.6 N 66 11 36.6 W



Pamdenec Road between railroad tracks and St. John River

## Jewish Summer Community Pamdenec Road and River Valley Drive

The site spans Pamdenec Road from the **Canadian Pacific Railway** tracks to **Indian Beach**, including **George Street, River Street, Station Street, Points Road, Ella Lane, Frederick Street, and Hamilton Road**. The area exhibits some lasting examples of summer home architecture from the 1920s to the 1950s. It represents summer residences that were once occupied primarily by members of the Jewish community from nearby Saint John. Well established by the 1920s, the **Webber, Davis, Bassen, and Boyaner** families were among the first to build summer cottages on the streets leading to the beach. Many fathers took the train to Saint John daily, returning home in the evenings to join in the summer pastimes, which included community bonfires and social calls, and later, when Jewish families were invited to join the **Pamdenec Outing Association**, bingo, card tournaments, and dances in the local clubhouse. In its heyday during the 1940s and 1950s, more than fifty Jewish families spent their summers in Pamdenec; by that time the Saint John families were joined by extended family then living in Montreal, New York, and other areas. Many of the modest summer camps were remodeled into more comfortable homes during this time.

The area is also valued for its association with the **First Nations** people of the area, who gave the area the name "**Pamdenec**" and spent summers camping on the beach.

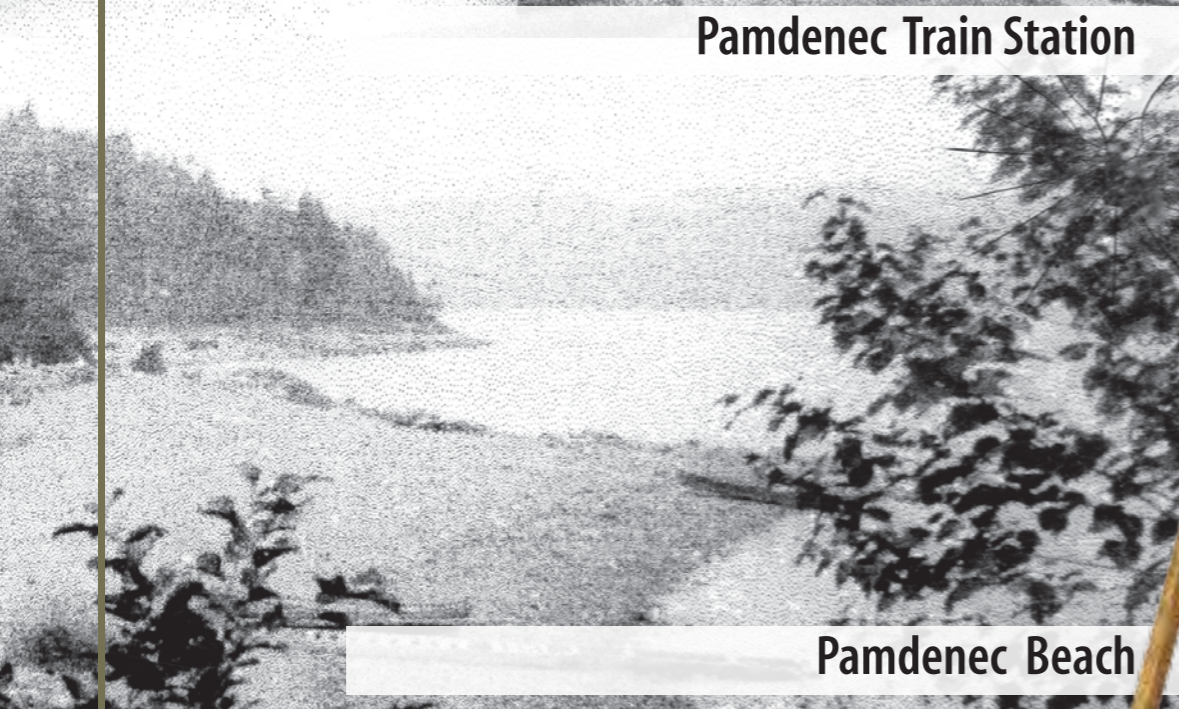
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Pamdenec Road and River Valley Drive



Pamdenec Train Station



Pamdenec Beach

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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 21 34.1 N 66 14 21.5 W



Situated between Westfield Beach and Lingley

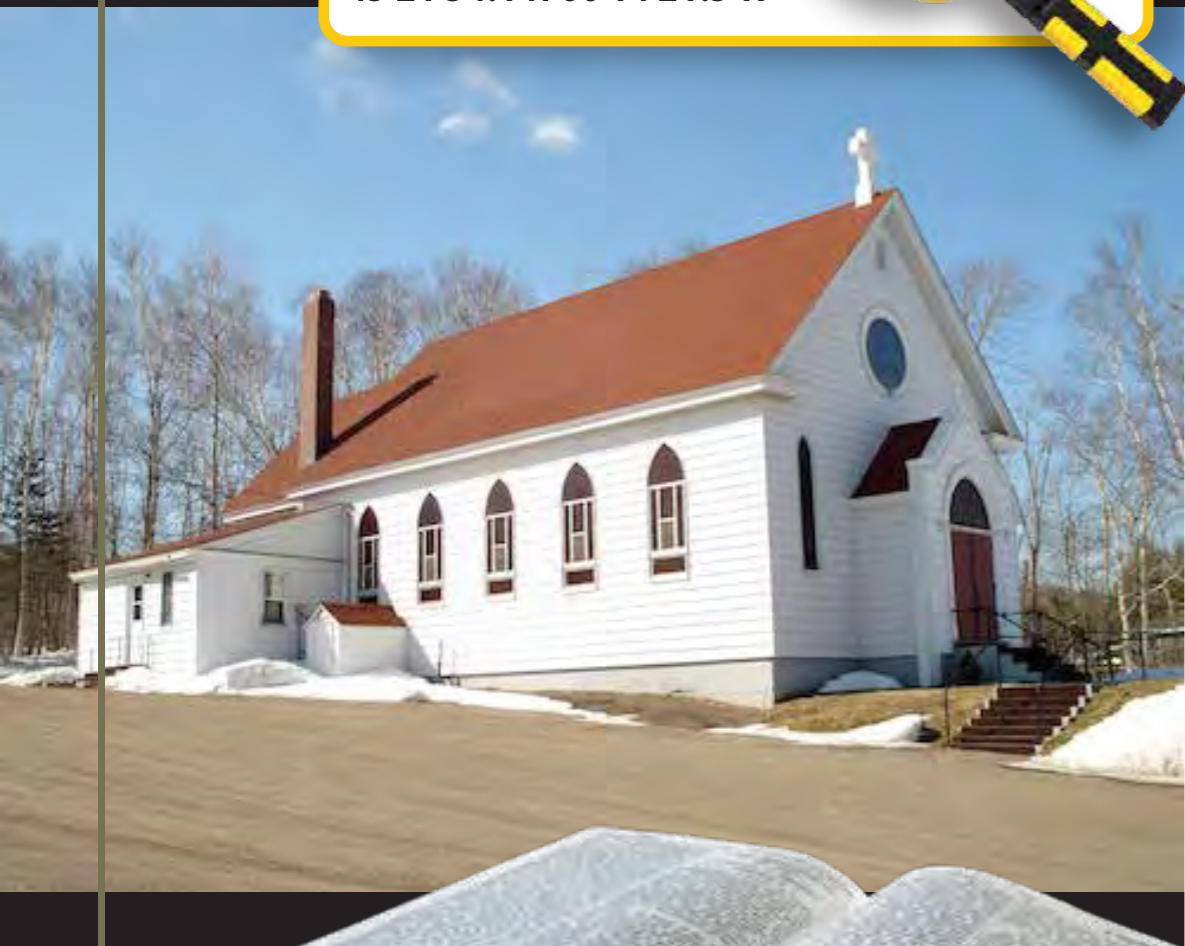
## St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church 279 Nerepis Road

This modest church with gothic style revival windows was built in 1926 as a mission of the **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** in nearby Saint John. Seating 200 people, it was open only in the summer to serve cottage residents from the city. In 1949 it became a separate parish, open year round: the congregation continues to be an active presence in the community, a testament to the spiritual meaning that the church has embodied for over 70 years. It has remained largely unaltered since its construction.



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# GRAND BAY-WESTFIELD HISTORIC PLACES

## GPS Coordinates

45 21 18.5 N 66 14 10.4 W



Nerepis Rd, Hwy 177, between Brundage Point and Lingley



Early Westfield Beach



## Westfield Beach

The value of this unique landscape resides primarily in its rich history. It was first an important summer encampment for the **Maliseet** people where they trapped muskrat, gathered fiddleheads and selected wood and reeds for their furniture and famous baskets. It is believed that as their camps were damaged or swept away by the freshet every year, their summer camp gradually moved to higher ground.

In the 1800's, this sandy stretch along the banks of the **St. John River** was a summer community for residents of **Saint John**; elegant summer homes are still prominent in the neighborhood. Recreational facilities were built to accommodate the pastimes of these summer residents, including tennis courts and a dance pavilion, the setting for various sporting events organized by the local **Outing Associations**. The first railway engine was off-loaded from Britain in this area in 1868. The **Westfield Beach station** became a hub for two railways, where one from **Maine** and the other from **Fredericton** joined here en route to Saint John. Accordingly, the Westfield Beach station was larger than others in the area, housing a telegraph office and featuring a manicured park. The station closed in 1961. A beautiful view of the "long reach," an expanse of the St. John River heading northeast, is a source of pride for local residents.



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