



Seacliff Park; A Component of Leamington's Heritage

Seacliff Park is a seventeen acre lakefront haven situated on Lake Erie at the southern limits of the Municipality. Seacliff Park is a municipal community park which derives its name from its location overlooking the lake from the top of a small land bank, indicating an association of the property with memories of seaside adventures.

The park was acquired by the municipality from Peter Conover—long time Leamington resident in 1907 for the purchase price of \$4,000.

In 1914 the municipality debentured \$3,000 to undertake the first development of the park. Long time residents of Leamington fondly remember the construction of a dance pavilion, band shell, baseball diamonds and to some extent the picnic and beach areas.

During Canada's centennial year the park received its second face lift - \$170,000 construction project consisting of washrooms, change areas, concession stand and spray pad.

The highlight of any visit to Seacliff Park is the delightful treed areas of the park. These sections provide a sharp contrast to the activities of the beach; attractive deciduous species, primarily Oak reflect a soothing and restful opportunity for visitors.

As the facility nears its 100th Anniversary as a municipal park there is much community enthusiasm being generated towards the re-development of a segment of Leamington's Heritage—Seacliff Park.

We all have fond memories of the park—family reunions, community baseball games, dancing in the park pavilion, or listening to music from the band shell.

Over the years many of our community memories of the park have been tarnished...loss of the pavilion, band shell and to some extent the picnic and beach areas. In the early 1990's Leamington municipal council approved "in principle" a new vision for the park...a vision that would re-ignite our past memories coupled with a need to build for the future.

The cost to redevelop the park is guesstimated at \$3.4 million dollars and only through the co-operation and partnership of many citizens will a project of this magnitude be achieved for the use and enjoyment of the whole community.

If you are interested in supporting the vision of maintaining the heritage of Seacliff Park we ask that you consider contacting the municipal office of the Director of Community Services - 249 Sherk Street; (519) 322-2337 for ways that you may contribute to this community effort.

