

Canoe" of Rebellion noteriety was brought up Yonge St. in that way and portaged down the Severn as late as 1832.

The application of steam to navigation, the amalgamation of the two fur Companies, the opening of the Welland Canal in 1829, and the development of other routes, have conspired to divert traffic into new channels causing the decline of the fur trade at the Penetanguishene post, the desertion of the depots, and the gradual reduction to merely local trade. Official returns of furs exported from Quebec during the year 1801-2 valued at £371,140 sterling were the product of 117 posts of which 104 were west of the Ottawa River. (Canadian Archives, 1892, pp. 143-4.) Thus it will be noted these schemes were concerned with no small portion of Canada's commerce, where large interests were at stake at that time.

Originally the post had been erected as a Naval station and shipyard and fulfilled these functions up till 1828. Sir J. Carmichael Smyth, a Royal Engineer, as one of the Commissioners in 1825, in a Report to Lord Wellington, recommended the establishment of a Military Post at Penetanguishene, Lord Dalhousie the Governor agreeing with the Commissioners that such advanced posts as Drummond Island, St. Joseph and Ste. Marie are in a military point of view, at a risk in case of war. Sir James Kempt, the succeeding Governor, concurred in the measure, and in his report of the withdrawal on Nov. 4th, 1828, stated "that the troops with presents, commissariat stores, etc., had been removed to Penetanguishene where Commodore Barrie afforded them temporary accommodation, and further stated that Commodore Barrie and Capt. Bayfield think it the best naval situation on the lake and in a good military position to defend the rear of Upper Canada. He also urged the erection of a small fortified barrack; at all events buildings of some kind became necessary, as the Indians who received their presents at Drummond Island had been directed to come to Penetanguishene. (Canadian Archives, 1898, pp. 472-477-554). The Toronto Globe, June 1st, 1862, has the following: "Last night Col. Coffin delivered a lecture in St. Lawrence Hall on the defence of Canada. The audience was in the main composed of city volunteers and of the officers of the Sedentary Militia. The attendance was very good. One of the most important points for the defence of Canada, Col. Coffin considered, was Penetanguishene. The command of the lakes, he also considered necessary."

In the light of these facts and records especially those referring to the "Nancy" episode at the Nottawasaga, the