



TOWN OF STRATFORD RESOLUTION

No. PH016-2013 Kelly's Pond Interpretive Sign

Motion Carried _____ ✓
Motion Lost _____
Motion Withdrawn _____

Council Chambers
Town Council

September 11, 2013

Committee
Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

Planning & Heritage
Gary Clow
Randy Cooper

WHEREAS the Heritage Sub-Committee has been proposing to create an interpretive sign on the existing pond located in the Pondsides Park; and

WHEREAS Council agreed the Heritage Committee's proposal, in general, and allocated a budget in the Town's 2013 budget; and

WHEREAS the Heritage Sub-Committee reviewed the background and history of the proposed pond and discovered that in 1886, the mill pond was purchased by Edward Kelly from Lake Verde. Kelly acquired the entire 187 acre estate known as *Mill Brook Farm* and under Kelly's ownership the mill pond became known as Kelly's Pond; and

WHEREAS the Heritage sub-committee developed and recommended the attached text to be created and installed as the Kelly's Pond Interpretive Sign

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is granted to the Heritage Sub-Committee's proposal to print and place the attached text on the Kelly's Pond Interpretive Sign.

This resolution bears the recommendation of the Planning & Heritage Committee as discussed at a meeting held on September 9, 2013.

Kelly's Pond

In 1780, Chief Justice Peter Stewart acquired nearly one third of Lot 48 - land which included most of present-day Stratford. This particular parcel which includes Pondside Park remained within the Stewart family for almost a century. At some time during their ownership the Stewarts dammed the small brook known as Stewart Creek to form this pond. Below the dam they built a mill and leased its operation to a tenant miller.

In 1879, Chief Justice Stewart's great-grandson sold the mill pond and adjacent five acres of land to Edward Beete, son of Major John Picton Beete whose family owned the farm bordering to the west. In 1886, the mill pond was purchased by Edward Kelly of Lake Verde. Kelly acquired the entire 187-acre estate known as *Mill Brook Farm*. Under Kelly's ownership the mill pond became known as Kelly's Pond.

In time, Kelly's Pond passed from Edward Kelly to his son Joseph. Although the Kelly name has since disappeared from the area, Joseph Kelly did leave many descendants. Joe had seven daughters, each assuming her husband's name upon marriage. Most of them resided in the vicinity of the pond, and included the following family names: Smallwood, Rogerson, Rowe, Peters, and McCarron.

The pond remained in the Kelly family until 1965 when it was acquired by the province, and designated as parkland.

Fish Hatchery

In the late 19th century, concerns over declining salmon stocks prompted the federal government to develop widespread hatchery programs throughout eastern Canada. In 1904, the Federal Department of Marine and Fisheries established a new hatchery on this site. In February of 1905, Joseph Hayley from King's County was appointed "assistant officer-in-charge", responsible for the hatchery's day-to-day operations. With a new hatchery building and house constructed on the property, Haley assumed his position, and the first salmon eggs arrived from the Restigouche Hatchery in New Brunswick that spring. In 1906, the hatchery released its first batch of 720,000 salmon fry into the Island's waterways. Kelly's Pond Fish Hatchery raised and stocked both Atlantic salmon and brook trout from 1905 until its closure around 1960.

Ice Cutting

In the days before refrigeration, keeping food cool through the hot summer months required an ice box. Ice was harvested in winter, and stored in an ice house packed with sawdust until needed. The business of cutting ice on Kelly's Pond was started by Edward Kelly not long after he purchased the property. During the 1920s and '30s, Edward's son Joe Kelly had contracts with the railroad and Central Creameries in Charlottetown for approximately 3,000 tons of ice per year. Ice was cut into 200 pound blocks and hauled by horse and sled to Charlottetown.

Recreation

Generations of residents have used Kelly's Pond for year-round recreation. In the winter, many children and adults have skated and played hockey on the ice. In the spring, anglers would fish; in summer, it was a favorite swimming-hole for local boys and girls. Beginning in 1970, the Red Cross began instructing small craft safety, and has continued to use the pond for boating instruction.

In 2005, Stratford Town Council resolved that the pond at Pondside Park be officially named Kelly's Pond in formal recognition of the name it has held since 1886.