

HOTELS

Travelling in the early days of Upper Canada could be quite an adventure. Not only were the roads rough, but the **night-time stopovers could be rough** too (see "Breweries, Distilleries and Taverns"). As life became somewhat more cultured and people with means expected more, taverns morphed into hotels, boasting a minimum number of rooms.



One of the area's earliest hotels was in the community of Amherst which had developed around what is now the intersection of Elgin Street and Burnham Streets. Lewis Stiles acquired this corner property in 1817 and operated the **STILES HOTEL** there for a number of years. The North Star Masonic Lodge met at Stiles, and

Robbie Burns Dinners and other social events were often held there.

Nearer to the lake, the **STEAMBOAT HOTEL**, on the north side of King, became the centre of attention for both visitors and businessmen. In 1835 **promoters of the Cobourg Rail Road Company** gathered there to consult on the best way to forward their plans.

Charlotte Grey, in "*Sisters in the Wilderness*", reports on the arrival from England of **Susanna and John Moody** In 1833.

John and Susanna settled into Cobourg's Steamboat Hotel. The talk in the saloon was all of lots and concessions (See Agricultural Map), acreage and mortgages. John was soon in the thick of it, buying drinks for all the promoters who hung around the smoky parlour, convinced he was going to get a good deal.

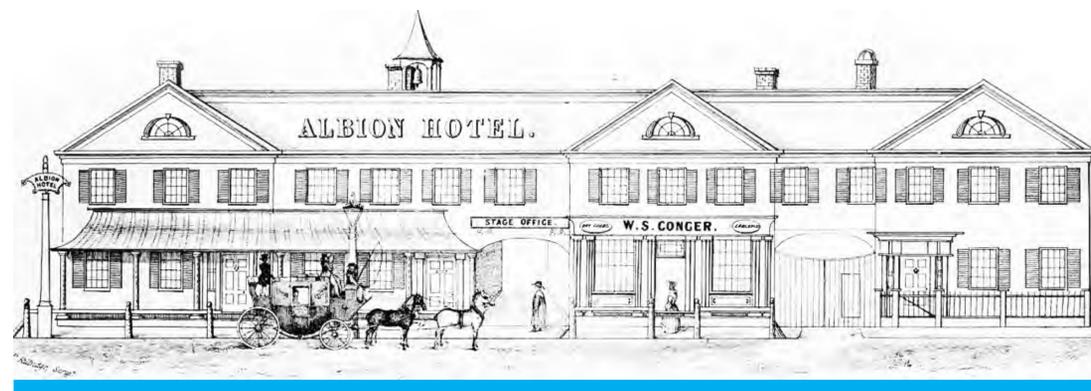


In his book *Six Years in the Bush, 1832-1838*, Thomas Need wrote an account of breakfast at the Steamboat Hotel:

*The breakfast bell was sounded at 7:30 and repeated at 8 o'clock, whereupon there was a general rush from all parts of the house and the neighbouring stores... **Instantly the work of destruction commenced** – plates rattled, cups and saucers flew about, and knives and forks found their way indifferently into their owners' mouths...*

ALBION HOTEL

In 1837 the Steamboat was renamed the Albion Hotel.



A second Albion Hotel was built in 1873 at 20 King Street East

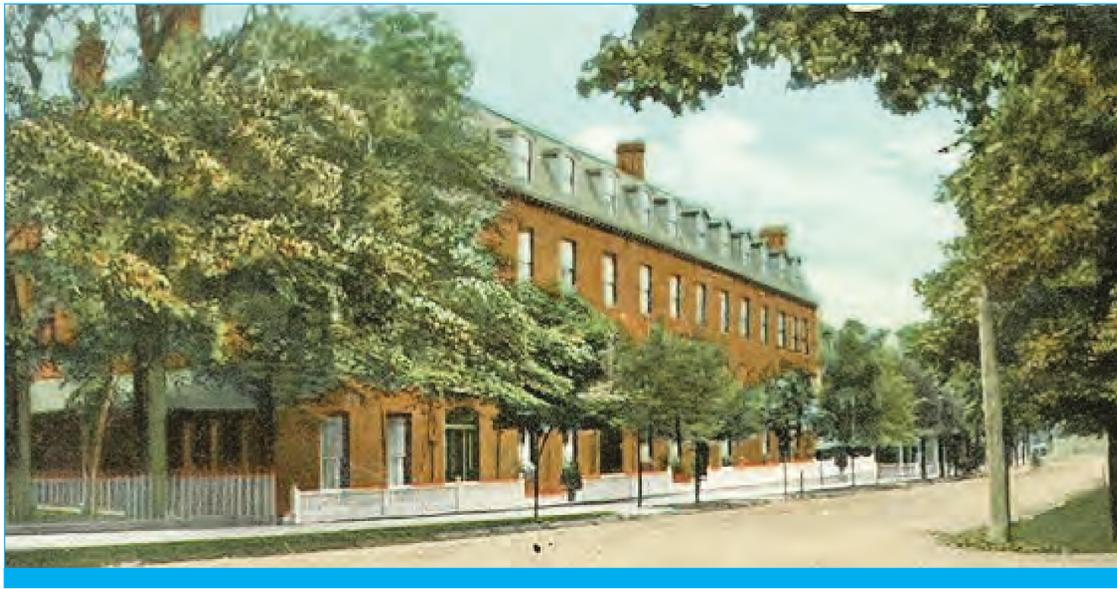


ALBION 2 - THEN



ALBION 2 - NOW

GRAND ARLINGTON

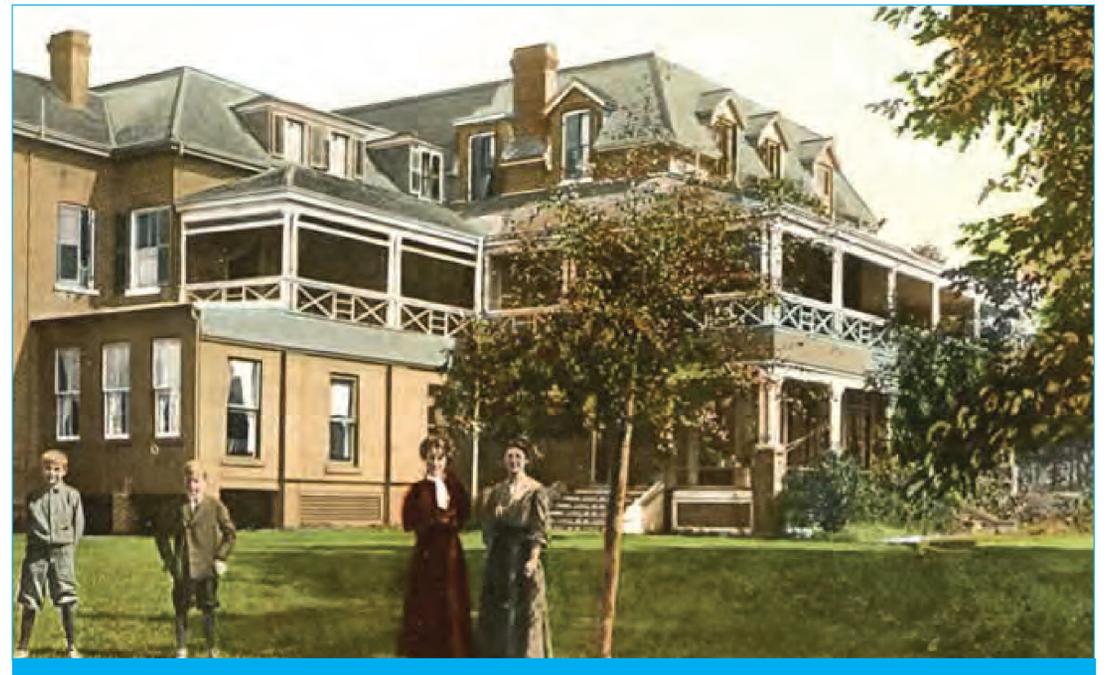
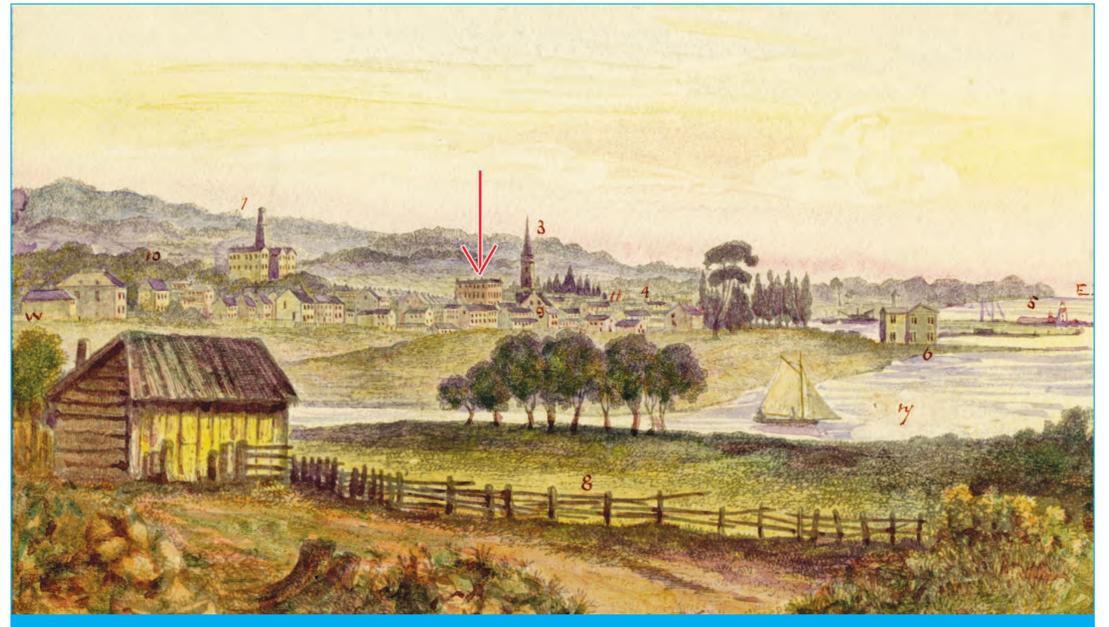


Indicative of the **grand times in Cobourg during the days of the "American Summer Colony"**, this hotel was the brainchild of Colonel William Chambliss, son-in-law of George Shoenberger, one of the wealthiest men in Pennsylvania. With John Douglas (later Chief Justice) Armour of Cobourg, he conceived of a splendid hotel which would attract American Civil War veterans, thus the name "Arlington".

Describing what was to come, the *Cobourg World* of July 4, 1873 reported, "This fine hotel will be built of red brick, will be three stories high, with a Mansard roof, and two towers and cupolas. It will present a very imposing appearance and will be a credit to the town." When completed it contained **120 bedrooms, many with private parlours**. On the ground floor were the dining room and kitchens, a bar, games room, parlour and barber shop. It had a prime location on the south side of King Street overlooking Victoria Park.

For decades Cobourg's social life centered around the Arlington and neighbouring hotels. But as the homes of the summer colonists became more grand, **attention shifted from the hotels to the private estates**. Not surprisingly, after the Great War things were not the same, and in the early 1920s the Arlington closed its doors, and after a small fire it was demolished.

THE GLOBE - with stage house and livery stable at the north east corner of King and McGill Streets, "this house is second to none in British North America, in comfort and convenience" - 1851. But it burned down in 1864, "a most exciting fire. Several guests were burned but not fatally." (Edwin Guillet)



THE CEDARMERE - at the bottom of Love Lane (Ontario Street) originally a home, owned at one time by the Castle family. Mrs. Castle was a **sister of the Hon. James Cockburn**, Cobourg's Father of Confederation. As a hotel it was popular with both the wealthy American summer colony and the regular Cobourg society. It was demolished in 1933.

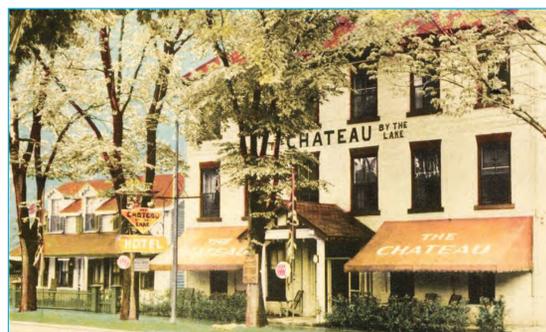


COBOURG'S BALTIMORE HOTEL

THE COLUMBIAN - established in 1893 "popularly known as COBOURG'S COSY SUMMER RESORT". It had two annexes, Lake View Lawn and the Baltimore. On Lake View Lawn there were two first-class cottages, each containing about thirty rooms. The Baltimore was near the lake and had about

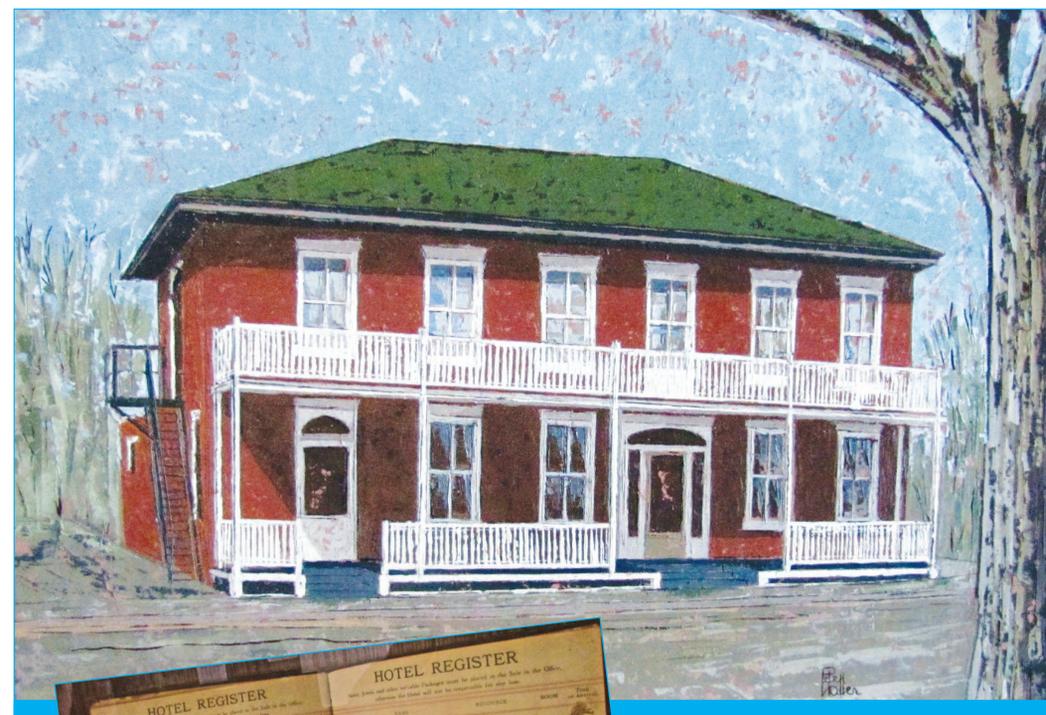
twenty-five "excellent sleeping rooms". Some older residents remember it as **the first local establishment to have strippers.**

CHATEAU BY THE LAKE - once the Columbian, on the south east corner of King and McGill Streets It was one of the last of the old hotels, demolished in 1994 to **complete the current outline of Victoria Park.**



KELLY'S HOMELIKE INN - is **still with us today.** Going inside is like stepping into history, for behind the bar you may find Gord Kelly IV, great grandson of Gord who became the owner in 1932. That Gord was **a chef on the ferry which ran between Cobourg and Rochester** in those days. Once, when returning from a trip across the Lake, he found that his wife had bought a boarding house and inn, first built in 1845, stables and ice house included. While many other establishment have come and gone, Kelly's remains on Third Street next to Victoria Hall.

As the oldest pub in town it makes no pretensions to be the most modern. One recent visitor delighted in "the old pine floors, the embossed tin ceiling in the foyer as well as the comfortable look of another age". (Marian Boys) On display in one corner is an old Guest Register showing the names of the guests who were there in 1929, even before it was Kelly's. But Kelly's does keep up with the times. **In 1976 women were allowed in the previously all-male bar!**



And then there was the **ST LAWRENCE TEMPERANCE HOTEL**

As Susanna Moodie commented in the 1830s,

the frightful vice of drinking prevails throughout the colony to a large extent.

The prevalence of alcoholic beverages, and the attendant evil of intoxication amongst the inhabitants, led to **the creation of the Upper Canada Temperance Society in 1834.** Two pledges were available to members: one permitting wine and beer but excluding spirits, and one abstaining from all alcohol except for medicinal reasons.

Women were barred from membership in the Society until the 1860s. Women were, naturally, fearful of staying at hotels, particularly if unaccompanied. They undoubtedly **welcomed the opening of Cobourg's Temperance Hotel in 1859,** at the corner of James and Division Streets. The absence of a bar in the hotel ensured their peace and safety. A number of these Temperance Houses in the province offered the traveller very good accommodation.