

The Hamlet of Eddystone

The picturesque hamlet of Eddystone in Alnwick/Haldimand Township, was originally known as Bradley Hollow in memory of its first settler, William Bradley. In the 1800's, Eddystone was given its permanent name by Thomas Garbutt. It was named after a small, wooden lighthouse in England, designed by architect Henry Winstanley. Eddystone lighthouse was built on the infamous Eddystone Reef, also known as "The Widow Maker". It was located 14 miles off Plymouth, England, and saved thousands of lives.

"As many as fifty ships per year were wrecked on the East Reef, and hundreds of sailors perished. Legends of the deadly reef spread all along the coast. Finally, on November 14, 1698, Henry Winstanley was able to do what no person had ever done before him. He...lit the first candle that was to shine on the East Reef. The world's first rock lighthouse was lit." For five years after that, not one ship was lost.

Back in the 1870's, the hamlet of Eddystone was home to a post office, school, blacksmith shop, no less than three saw mills, and a stagecoach travelling between Castleton, Centreton and Grafton! The original Church began in 1826 as the Haldimand Christian Church. The parents of the late actor Burgess Meredith are buried in the Churchyard.

The Eddystone schoolhouse (S.S.#13) opened in 1880 and closed in 1966, the bell was purchased in 1907. The building is now a private home.

Today, the hamlet of Eddystone is home to a Baptist Church, constructed between 1852 and 1857. In recent years, it has been the site of many happy Strawberry suppers, Christmas concerts, weddings, and anniversary celebrations. Eddystone is particularly lovely in autumn. Take a drive and see for yourself.

Read more about Eddystone on our Cobourg and District Images site:

<https://images.ourontario.ca/Cobourg/results?q=eddystone&st=kw>

If you have any history or photos of Eddystone to share, please email:

info@cobourg.library.on.ca

Resources:

971.357 Tow "Township Tales: The Intangible Heritage of Alnwick/Haldimand Township".
Compiled by Racquel Devison

JF Woo "Fearless", by Elvira Woodruff



Eddystone Church (present day)



Eddystone Church 1938 – with drive shed



Eddystone Church (north side) - unknown



Eddystone Church – 1922



Eddystone Church - 1976



Eddystone Schoolhouse - 1950 (right)

Eddystone School S.S.#13 - 1921 (below)

Front Row: Cecil Joice, Horace Larry, Doug Joice, Teddy Bradley, Burtrum Taylor, Bernie Larry, Helen Johnston, Bernice Turk
 Back Row: Reg Turk, Bruce Howard, Lila Howard, Eva Bradley, Mable Rose (Teacher), Effey Larry, Lula Peebles.

