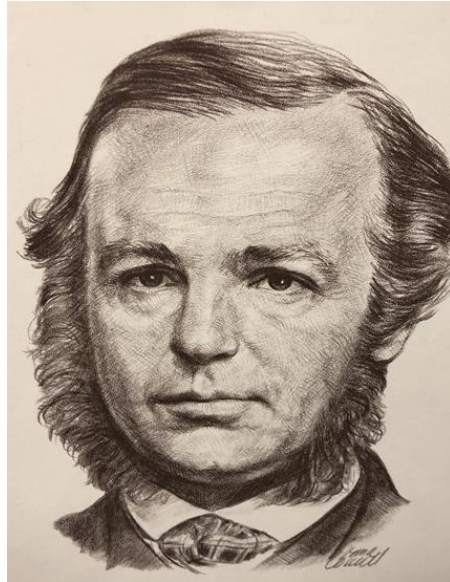


James Cockburn Day

An
educational
resource for
Cobourg
elementary
teachers and
students



Background

The Town of Cobourg and the Cobourg Public Library have partnered since 2013 to provide schools with educational activities about James Cockburn and 19th century life.

This annual celebration occurs at Victoria Hall every February with hundreds of students, historical demonstrations, games and refreshments.

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, this event cannot take place in 2021. This resource has been created in-lieu of the annual event.

Slides with Audio: the script is available in the notes.

Territorial Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that we are located in the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Acknowledgement

The Town of Cobourg respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations have been stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that today remain vigilant over their health and integrity for generations to come.

We are all Treaty people.

Who is James Cockburn? Quick Links:

[James Cockburn video](#) by the Cobourg Museum Foundation (8 mins)

[James Cockburn: Warts and All, an in depth discussion with focus of racism in Canada West](#) (25 mins)



More Quick Links

[James Cockburn play, written by Rob Washburn, performed by Rob Franklin 2018 \(15 mins\)](#)

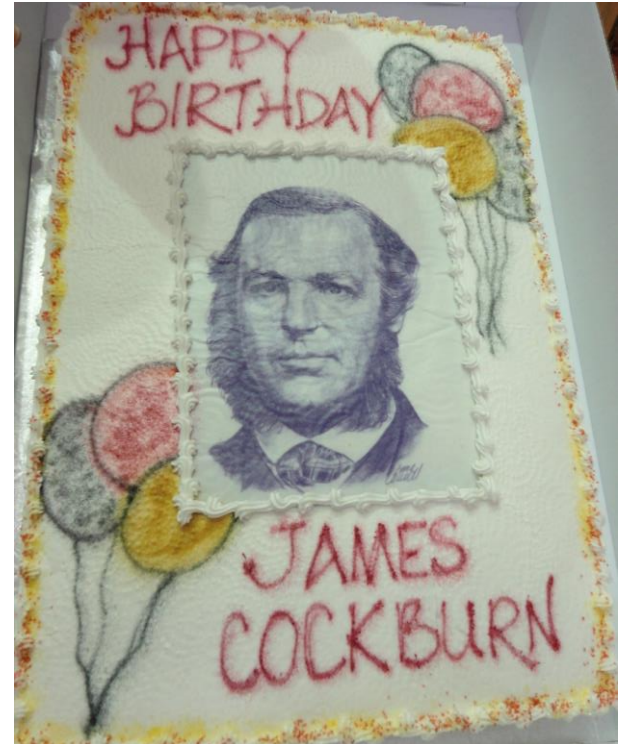
[Honourable James Cockburn website](#)

[Robert Washburn interviewing Hon. James Cockburn \(played by Rob Franklin\) Podcast from "Consider This" 89.7 FM Radio \(20 mins\)](#)



Happy Birthday, James Cockburn!

- James was born on February 13, 1819 in England.
- In 1819 the kick-scooter was invented.
- Kids wore suits and long dresses all the time in 1819.



James Cockburn Cupcakes!

At the annual February event at Victoria Hall, specialty James Cockburn treats are provided by the Dutch Oven Bakery for students to enjoy!



What was life like when James Cockburn lived here?

Lang Pioneer Village has great tools to see what kids wore and did in the Victorian Age!

[Lang Village Activity Documents for printing](#)

[Heritage Minute: George Etienne Cartier \(1 min\)](#)

[National Film Board: Sir John A MacDonald \(27 mins\)](#)



Photo courtesy of Northumberland County Archives & Museum (NCAM)

No cars,
just horses
and dirt roads.

Photo courtesy of NCAM



This was the Clench Family home.

It is now Jim's Pizza restaurant.

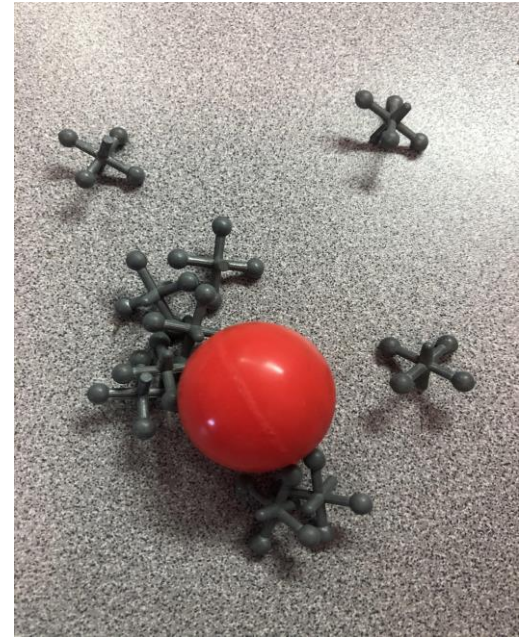
Do you recognize it? Can you see Mr. Clench?



Photo courtesy of NCAM

Children's activities during Confederation

- Skates would fasten on to your boot with leather straps.
- Wooden tops were popular and jumping jacks.
- Checkers was a popular game.



More Activities

- Hoop and Stick was usually played on a wooden sidewalk (called a boardwalk). You would move the hoop with your hand and then continue to make it move on the ground with the stick.
- Other activities included: reading, going to Church, knitting and picnics, skipping with a rope, pick-up sticks and marbles.



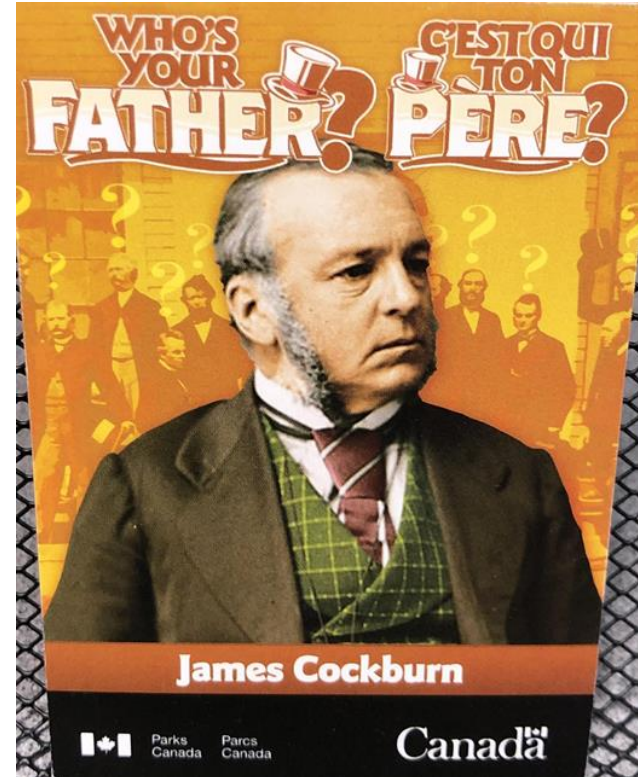
Victoria Hall & the Cobourg-Peterborough Railway

- This railway was the first one built in Central Ontario.
- It crossed over Rice Lake on a bridge.
- The bridge wasn't strong enough though, and the whole project collapsed.
- The people of Cobourg were innovative and ambitious and they built this railway at the same time they built Victoria Hall.

Watch this short film: [The Grand Gamble by John Taylor \(14 mins\)](#)

One of the Fathers of Confederation

“Who's Your Father”
Quiz Here!



The Fathers of Confederation

Representatives met at the Charlottetown and Quebec Conferences in 1864 to discuss uniting the provinces together to form Canada.



Dominion of Canada

These representatives formed the Dominion of Canada after it was approved by Queen Victoria and announced on July 1, 1867.

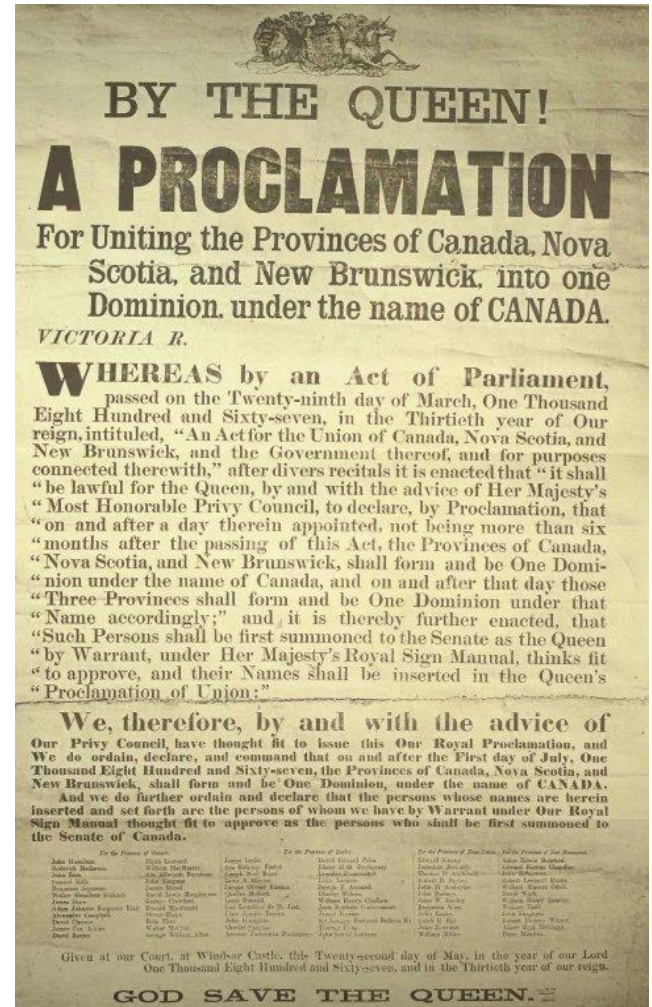
Canada A Country by Consent:
Confederation
canadahistoryproject.ca



Proclamation

"We do ordain, declare, and command that on and after the First day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-seven, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, shall form and be One Dominion, under the name of Canada." Queen Victoria, 1867

This is why we celebrate Canada Day on July 1st every year!



James Cockburn is so important to Cobourg's history that the Town of Cobourg declared it's own proclamation that every August Civic holiday, James Cockburn Day shall be celebrated!

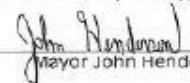
THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG

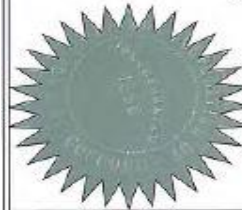
Proclamation



- Whereas:** Council supported a presentation from Rob Franklin, as James Cockburn, to proclaim Monday, August 5, 2019, as James Cockburn Day in the Town of Cobourg; and
- Whereas:** This year marks the 200th anniversary of James Cockburn, former Father of Confederation, Cobourg Council Member and Cobourg Solicitor; and
- Whereas:** Monday, August 5, 2019 (Civic Holiday) is a significant day for residents of Cobourg, as we remember the incredible contributions of James Cockburn and reflect on the great history of the Town of Cobourg; and
- Be it known:** That Council proclaim Monday, August 5, 2019 as 'James Cockburn Day' in the Town of Cobourg and encourage all residents and tourists to take part in the celebrations of James Cockburn Day, which include the James Cockburn Room in Victoria Hall, the James Cockburn Play on Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in front of Victoria Hall and on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre, Cobourg.

Signed this 22nd day of July, 2019


Mayor John Henderson



Parks Canada put up a plaque in front of Victoria Hall honouring James Cockburn.

Can you find it next time you walk by?



James Cockburn's Original Speaker's Chair

James set up his law office in Cobourg in 1845. When Victoria Hall opened in 1860, he moved his office into the Hall.

This was his Speaker Chair, on loan from the House of Commons in Ottawa, from 2016 - 2017.

Ask staff to see his office next time you visit Victoria Hall!



Resources at Cobourg Public Library



Peacock, Shane. Unusual heroes: Canada's Prime Ministers and Fathers of Confederation. J971.0099 Pea

Climo, Percy. The Honourable James Cockburn. Ref 971 Cli LH

Conflicts, Changes and Confederation, 1770-1867. J971.03 Nel

The History of Canada (DVD). J971 His DVD

Remembering Rick Harnden

Rick was a volunteer every year with the James Cockburn annual birthday event.

He and his daughter, Noelle, brought hands-on equipment to demonstrate to area students, including a printing press, which children loved!

Rick passed away December 18th, 2019 and is greatly missed. Thank you, Rick!



Feedback

Please email your feedback to:
rperry@cobourg.library.on.ca

We thank you for your participation in our first-ever virtual James Cockburn Day event.

Your comments are important to us and will be taken into consideration when planning future James Cockburn Day events. We hope to see you back in Victoria Hall soon!



Thank you

Please contact the Town of Cobourg, the Cobourg Public Library, and Northumberland County Archives & Museum if you would like to learn more!

