

BAY OF QUINTE YACHT CLUB

The original Bay of Quinte Yacht Club was formed at the Dafoe House, Belleville (later known as the palatial Hotel Quinte and now known as the Clarion Inn).

In it's early days, the second oldest Club on the Lake took back wind from no crew or boats on fresh water. A large claim, but remember they had amongst their members Alexander Cuthbert, who was considered to be the best Yacht designer of his day whose designs beat the best turned out by the American designers, and who challenged for the America's up not once but twice.

In those days Belleville and the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club harboured many fine craft, and in regattas held around lake Ontario and in the Bay of Quinte by the Lake Yacht Racing Association the Belleville boats showed a clean pair of heels to the best the other clubs could produce. Fast "flyers" built by the famous Burgess of Boston for Oswego and Rochester yachtsmen came for the express purpose of beating the Belleville yacht *Iolanthe*, but she won every time. These were the days when many fine craft were owned in Belleville and the colours of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club could be seen on *Iolanthe*, *Sylvia*, *White Wings*, *Norah*, *Atalanta*. The latter boat won the great lake championship for the club in 1883 which was held by the club for many years. Many other fine craft owned by club members included *Rivet*, *Manitoba*, *Spray*, *Norah*, *Katie Gray*, *Dauntless*, and *Gracie*.

By the early years of the twentieth century the Club's enthusiasm for racing diminished, at one point there were only two sailboats in the club, as against 25 power driven vessels.