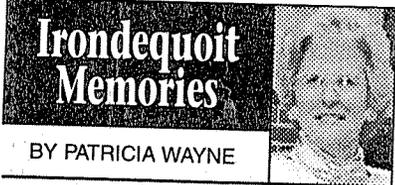


# The community's resort era: 1880s to 1920s

With temperatures plus windchill factors at minus 36 degrees, it's comforting to think of "the lazy, hazy days of summer" and Irondequoit's years as the premier resort spot of western New York.



From the 1880s until the late 1920s, hotels and resorts dotted the shores of Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay. They ranged in style and cuisine from the sumptuous Glen Haven Hotel on the bay to informal "saloons" and sports resorts like the Birds and Worms. The Glen Haven had wide verandas and a huge dining room.

On the lakeshore, the famous Windsor Hotel was the mecca of the college crowd in the 1920s. The swingers and sports of that era celebrated the jazz age with fraternity dances on the weekends. Dance bands played there every weekend up to the outbreak of World War II.

One of the features of Summerville, the neighborhood on the Irondequoit side of the mouth of the Genesee, was the Rochester Yacht Club, founded in 1886. This private club first constructed its clubhouse on the river front at Charlotte, then moved to the Summerville side, building the facility in the accompanying picture.

It was here, in 1899, that the members celebrated their first victory in the Canada Cup race at Toronto with their entry *The Genesee*.

In 1921, the yacht club built its



The Rochester Yacht Club's second clubhouse was located in Summerville, the club's first facility on the east side of the Genesee River. The clubhouse was later sold and became the Popp Inn.

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current home on the river front at Summerville and the lakeshore site was sold.

The old building had been designed in 1887 by architect A.J. Warner for the yacht club. It has an open-air deck with awnings and a great view of the races on the lake. No wonder Carl Popp felt that the building would be a great spot for a hotel and restaurant when he pur-

chased it from the club. But despite the real estate axiom "location is everything," the Popp Inn did not make a successful switch from the private to the public sector.

The building was closed in the late 1920s and eventually because of its dilapidated condition, was torn down.

Many of the other popular "watering spots" along the bay, such as the

Windsor Hotel, succumbed to fire. Prohibition, the Depression, the popularity of the automobile and then World War II ended the resort era in Irondequoit history. My 2 p.m. lecture Feb. 3, at the Helen McGraw library on East Ridge Road, will feature more on this period of Irondequoit history.

*Patricia Wayne is Irondequoit's town historian.*

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