



### **Author takes a walk through local history**

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CORNWALL -- The flooding of the Seaway was an historical event, especially for the people who had to live in the area and through the process; it was for this reason that architect Peter John Stokes became involved in the construction and conservation of the early buildings from the flooded area and wrote a book about it.

A Village Arising takes readers through the story of the architect who became involved with drawing, siting and the overall construction of Upper Canada Village in the late summer of 1958.

"Anybody in their right mind, knowing as little as I did, would have said 'oh, I don't know,'" said Stokes.

He took on the challenge with a team of experts (who he became close friends with) and e work.

"These were a special caliber (of buildings) that had a design that had kind of been lost."

It was up to Stokes to make Upper Canada Village as realistic to the era of these buildings as possible.

In the short three years that Stokes lived and worked on Upper Canada Village, one (of the many) interesting assignments he had was to scout for some buildings that had historical features and would make a good addition to the buildings in the village.

"(The commission) always sent me to old, crumbling, decaying buildings," said Stokes.

"I'd get asked how it was and I'd say 'It was a little too late to see the detail,'" he laughed.

Stokes found himself on the back roads of North Lancaster one day while he took a tour of his own, where he stumbled across a white washed, wooden building kept in well enough condition that it could be moved.

Later on, this building would be known as th Smithy and Wheelright's Shop and also the first French-Canadian connection in Upper Canada Village.

"Something prodded me to look at this log building," Stokes said.

In his book, he explains in detail the story of the village, the people who helped to create it and the final project, which looked very different from what it looks like today. From the Loyalist Farm past all the other historical buildings which demonstrated the different trades, hobbies and crafts which people in that period would experience, A Village Arising is a walk through the history of Upper Canada Village. To purchase a copy of A Village Arising, contact the Lost Villages at 613-534-2197.

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