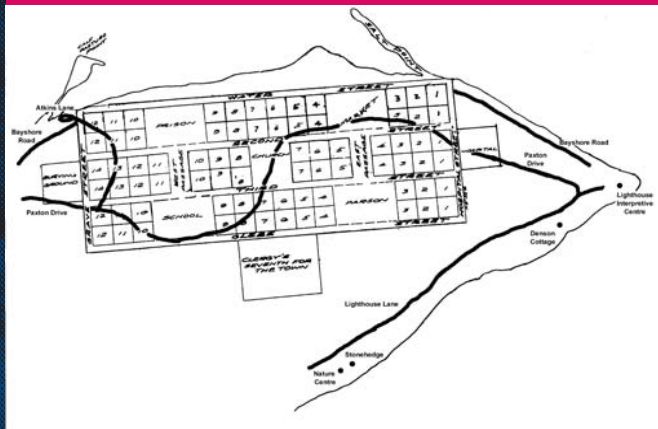


If You Build it, They Will Come

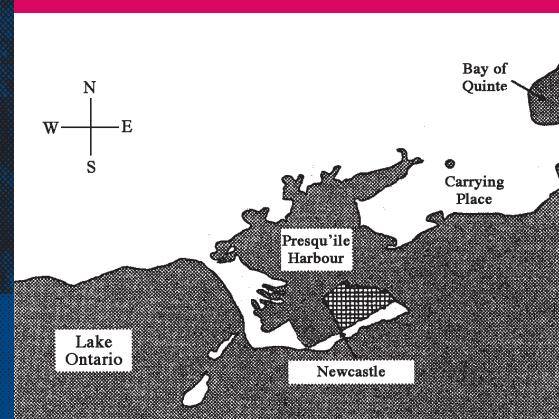
If not for the sinking of the H.M.S. Speedy in 1804, the proposed district town of Newcastle would have been built in this area. This location was selected because of the exceptional natural harbour the Presqu'île peninsula provided and because of its central location between Kingston and Toronto. The proposed town would have been the administrative centre for a region that extended from Wesleyville to Belleville and would rival Kingston and Toronto in importance. Plans for the town included a courthouse and prison, a church, a school, a market and a cemetery.

The H.M.S. Speedy was carrying an accused murderer, court officials and witnesses to a trial in Newcastle. It was hoped that the inaugural trial in the newly built courthouse would help promote settlement in the region. When the Speedy sank, all plans were abandoned and the location was deemed "inconvenient". The district town was moved to Amherst, now Cobourg.

The proposed district town of Newcastle included plans for a school, market, prison and cemetery.



Presqu'île's sheltered harbour and convenient location between Toronto and Kingston made it a suitable site for development.



Sir John Graves Simcoe ordered the development of the Newcastle town site.

