

Camp Niagara – A Brief Pictorial Overview



Courtesy: H R Oakman ; pub. by Peterborough Post Card Co., Peterborough, Ontario; and Niagara Falls Public Library

Canadian Army Training camp, known as “Camp Niagara”, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The GP huts on the left were constructed in the mid-1960s, and housed the main kitchen. The centre road runs east to west, called Queen's Parade.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 2000:007; International Boy Scout Jamboree in 1955, taken from SSW direction.

In 1871 soldiers from across Ontario started pouring into Niagara. Thousands of soldiers trained on the Commons for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. There was a move to abandon Camp Niagara due to its limited size after the Boer War. In 1908 the Federal government purchased more land along the lake shore and moved the rifle range outside of the town. Even when Sir Sam Hughes visited in June 1914 he described the training and conditions at the camp as: "They are first-class for little picnic affairs, but the troops get no real training whatever at Niagara." The large camp at Petawawa was seen as more advantageous for maneuvering and training. Despite the continued threats to close Niagara Camp, the camp remained open until the Korean War.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 990.060.02

Camp Niagara, 16 June 1899, Officers of 44th Lincoln & Welland Battalion

Names on front also on backing card. This is a copy from the National Archives.

Individuals identified in this photo are:

Standing (Left to Right) - Captain Thomas Hiscott (unseen), Lt. George Constable Cowper, Surg. Lt. Walter Wilson Thompson, Lt. Allan, Captain. H.A. Rose, Lt. Col. E.A. Cruikshank, Capt William Francis Gibson, Rev. Dr. Johnstone (Honorary Chaplin), Lt. John George Cline, Lt. James Edmund Laur, Capt. Joseph Arthur Vandersluys.

Kneeling (l to r) - Lt. Donald James Caldwell Munro, Capt. James Everly, Lt. Charles Mitchell, Major H. Bender.

Sitting (L to r) - Captain Frederick William Hill, Major Joseph Clark, Lt. Fred Young Harcourt, Major John Edw. Cohoe, Lt. McCallum.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 990.060.01

Camp Niagara Lincoln Welland Regiment Officers

At Camp Niagara, June 3, 1903 the 44th Lincoln and Welland Regiment Officers from left to right, are (sitting) unidentified, Captain Evely #4 Coy, Captain James E. Laur, Major J.A. Vandersluys, VD, Lieutenant Colonel E.A. Cruikshank, Major John Eda Cohoe, Captain Surgeon W.W. Thompson, Capt. Adjutant Fred W. Hill, Major Charles Herring and unidentified; (standing) Captain H.R. Rose, unidentified, Captain Gibson, W.F., Major D.J.C. Munro, five unidentified men, Captain Greenwood, and #3 Coy John A.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 2007.015.036

Some of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces at Camp Niagara, World War 1, 1914-1918.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 984.5.195

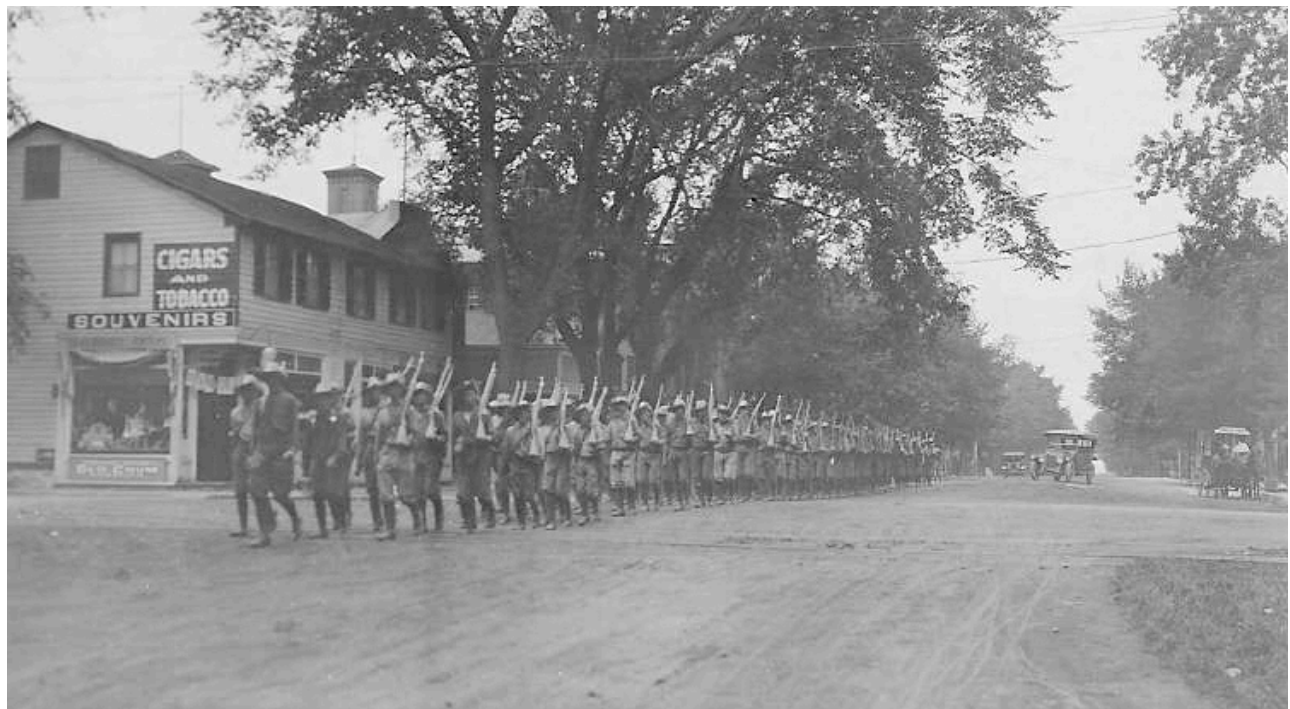
Major Spoule & Cadets. The photo was probably taken on the Commons. The drying tower for the fire department can be seen in the background.

Individuals identified, but not necessarily in the correct order – unknown:

Standing (left to right) - Dalgleish, Armstrong, Keith, E. Bradley, E. Smith, E. Coleman, Major Spoule (Sproule?), Logan, Black, G. Ryan, Quinn, Armstrong, Houghton.

Kneeling & Sitting- Harvey, Meadows, Schmidt, Miller, Howse, Boyden, Best, Redhead, Haines, Lee, Curtis, Wall, Elliott, Sherlock.

Notation on the back indicates that 12 of these boys enlisted (assuming World War I), 1 won D.C.M. and 1 won a M.M and 3 died in action.



Courtesy: Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

Camp Niagara - Route March by Overseas Battalion on Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1915.



Courtesy: Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

Butler's Barracks at Camp Niagara



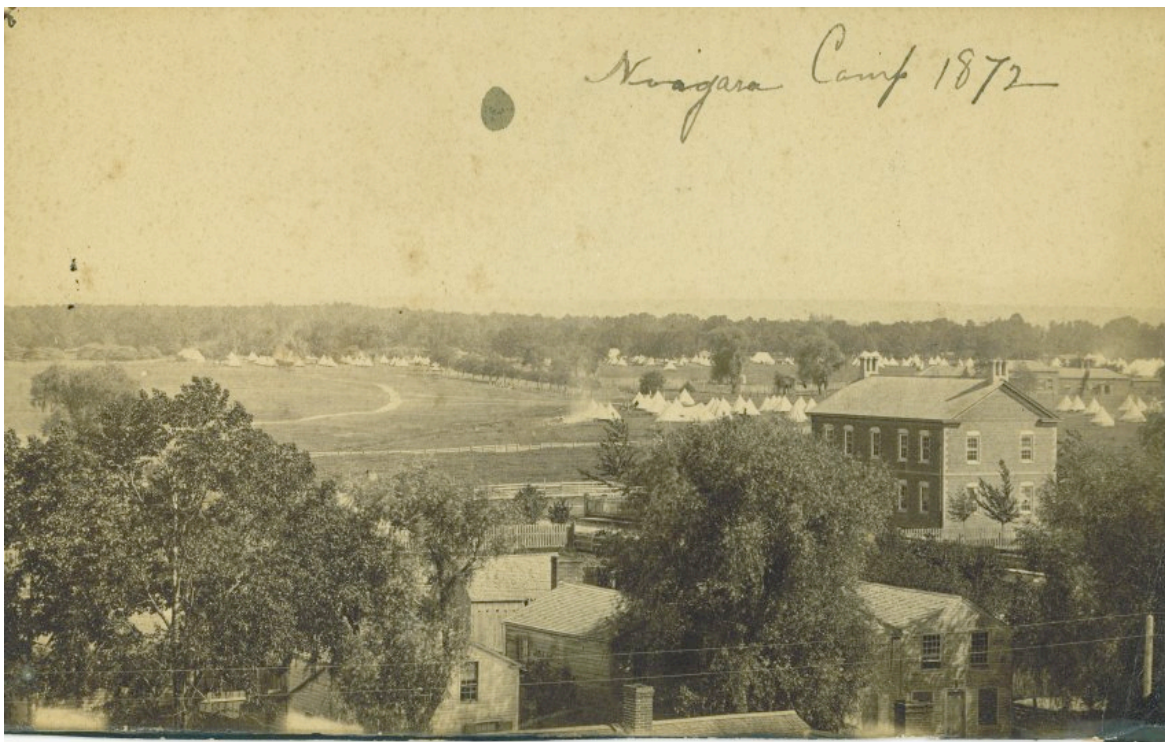
Courtesy: Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

Fort Mississauga at Camp Niagara, Niagara-on-the-Lake



Courtesy: Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

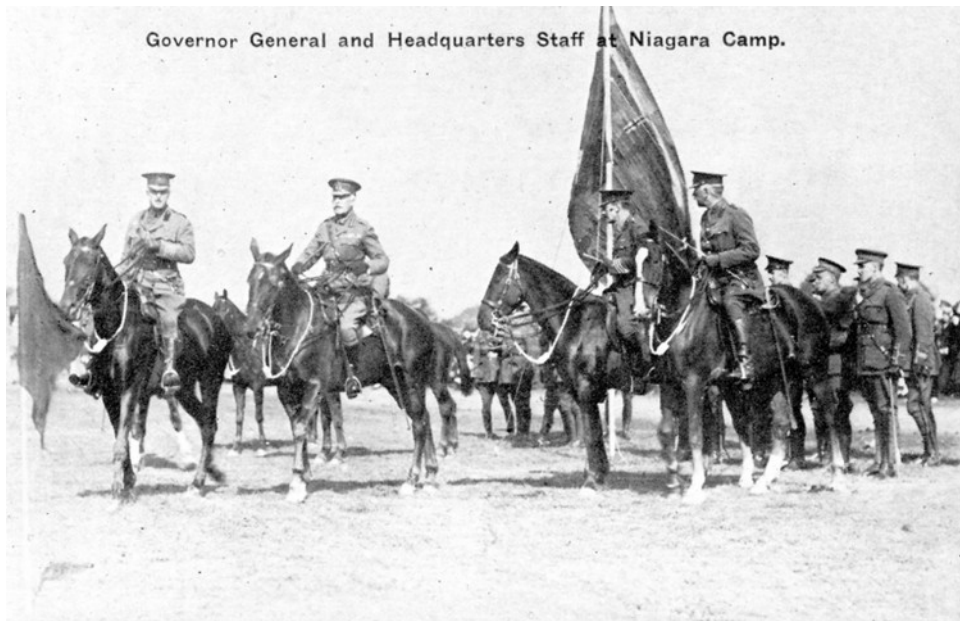
Inoculation at Old Navy Hall at Camp Niagara



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society

This photograph shows Camp Niagara behind the Public School (right) and a racecourse in the middle of the field. It was on this course that some of the officers raced their horses.

Photographer was W.E. Wright, Niagara Camp 1872. Taken from the roof of the Court House. The old public school, built circa 1859 probably by John Thornton at the corner of Platoff and Davy Streets, now converted to apartments is shown at the right of the photo.



Governor General and Headquarters Staff at Niagara Camp.

Courtesy: Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

Governor General and Headquarters staff at Niagara Camp.



Courtesy: Niagara Historical Society, 2006.013.010

Troops arriving by S.S. Cayuga for Camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Sources:

OurOntario.ca , and Niagara Historical Society
Niagara Falls Public Library, Francis J. Petrie Collection

Compiled by David F. Hemmings for the Niagara Historical Society, 2012.

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