

Since I was just a small child I have been interested in history. Growing up in the 1960s many of the original Petrolians from the 1800s were still around and stories of the early oil days could be heard constantly. I became more and more focused on Petrolia's history. During the 1970s I found many local garage sales where I bought Petrolia pictures and postcards. As time went on there was much more to be found.

The mid 1990s found the Internet come to Sarnia Lambton and I jumped in.

The Internet opened a whole new world for history buffs around the globe. I was almost a celebrity amongst friends and family as no one was into computers and this new wonder 'the Internet' was an enigma that no one really understood until much later. It was around 1999 and 2000 that I toyed with the idea of a website to highlight my collection of Petrolia stuff and text. This idea became a reality in early 2001 and slowly this website became the largest of its kind in the world. Today this website gets well over 1,000,000 hits per year. There are thousands of pictures and items of interest here for you look at and use. Right from the start I posted Petrolia Heritage Committee items here and have continued to do so.

I have constant comments sent to me and more and more pictures and text. I hope that you continue to send me these great items. Thank you so much to all of you that have allowed me to scan your items and send me pics. It is critical that these items be shared! Please continue to visit my website as it is presented for your enjoyment and to discover our History!

In 1999 my wife and I purchased a magnificent home in Petrolia's Crescent Park. It has been an adventure restoring and improving this heritage home. One is

never finished restoring one of these homes and requires significant patience. We are only the current custodians of Lancey Hall and have a great responsibility to history and the future of this Gothic Revival structure. As a person returning to their home town it was a thrill to actually live in historic Crescent Park an area similar to the park square design found in Savannah Georgia and other Southern cities. For more on Lancey Hall see my Crescent Park page.

We are constantly adding period antiques to the home and finding interesting pieces of it's history. Among our favorite antiques are the 18th century teapots on display in the dinning room. There is period lighting throughout along with furniture of the period. Among my favorites is the 18th century Bourdaloue featured on the 'My teapots' page.

Recently we have added a terrace and deck complex that is among the biggest family and friends have ever seen. My wife has said if you are going to build you might as well build big.