

HISTORIC SITE

The Dickson Raceway

Although the powerful waters of the Otonabee were too strong for pre-1880s technology, they could be controlled by systems of dams, and by raceways that powered various industries along the way. In the early years these industries were usually grist, flour and textile mills. The Dickson raceway, on the west side from north of London Street to Simcoe Street, was home to several industries, including Brooks woollen factory; a flour mill run for many years by Meldrum & Davidson and then Consolidated Milling Company; Dickson's saw mill; A. W. Brodie woollen mill; Usborne and Son's pulp mill; a furniture factory originally owned by McKee Brothers; and Peterborough Light & Power Company. A major fire destroyed a number of buildings along the raceway in 1896. The London Street dam associated with the raceway was rebuilt in 1911.

Donated by Charles Michael Townsend

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