

HISTORIC SITE

Inverlea Park

This park was named for Inverlea, former residence of Robert Dennistoun (1815-1895), a Scots immigrant, and Peterborough County Judge, 1868 to 1886. The park property was acquired and opened in 1894 by the Nicholls Park Trust, a bequest of Charlotte Jane Nicholls, a noted philanthropist who had died in 1890. Inverlea house, a splendid Victorian Gothic building, was the home of this city's first museum, the Victoria Museum, run by the Peterborough historical society and named to honour Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. Thomas A. S. Hay (1849-1917), Engineer for nearby Inverlea bridge, was the mainstay of this society, and pioneer settler Catharine Parr Traill (1802-1899) was its first honorary president. In 1904, the Ontario Historical Society met at Inverlea. This building was demolished after 1911 when the museum moved into the new Public Library building. Inverlea Park had a bandstand for concerts from 1895, and had an early tourist campground as well as a summer activities centre for children. It has long been a favourite playground, and for many years had a very popular swimming beach.



Erected by the
**PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

