

Lakefield Cement Factory

The landmark 91.5 metre stack and 16 storage silos that dominate Lakefield's skyline are the relics of a former cement factory. The Portland Cement Company employed the wet process from December 1901 to August 1910, and the Canada Cement Company the dry process after the plant reopened in 1928. Blue clay was taken from Lily Lake, marl from Buckley's Lake just east of here, and limestone from various local pits. When, for only the second time ever in North America, cement was used in canal locks, including the Peterborough and Kirkfield Lift Locks, some of it was made here in Lakefield, as was the cement for the old Quaker Oats factory. The stack was erected in 1932 to disperse troublesome dust away from the village, but soon afterwards the factory ceased operations permanently.