

# **The Canoe Voyage of Johnny Smith**

In 1934, on June 18, John Smith set out from the George Street wharf near this point in the *Pride of Peterborough*, a red, specially fitted five metre Peterborough canoe. The goal of this intrepid 24-year-old adventurer from Smith Township, a former merchant seaman and Peterborough Canoe Co. employee, was to be the first person to paddle across the Atlantic in a canoe – to Peterborough, England. After an unprecedented shooting of all the St. Lawrence rapids, he left Gaspé, Quebec July 20 on the 400 kilometre crossing of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the island of Newfoundland. He never completed the voyage. His body and red canoe were washed ashore on the west coast of that island, and he is buried there.