



Ready for the catch

This circa-1903 photograph shows people assembled in a fish shanty at Wiarton, Ontario. Captain John Angus Macaulay (fourth from the left) was my grandfather. He and his crew lived in Southampton, Ontario, a scenic fishing-industry hub and tourist destination on Lake Huron, where they fished in the warmer seasons.

In winter, when this photograph was made, they found it more practical to fish for lake trout in Georgian Bay — which is why this net shed was located in Wiarton, on the other side of the Bruce Peninsula. (The peninsula divides the bay from the open waters of Lake Huron.)

On the reverse of the photograph, Macaulay's son Ian has identified the nets as "lake trout nets," and he has listed the names of some of the people who were present, including Margaret (Macaulay) Lane, far left; Donald Macaulay, second from left; Edgar MacDonald, sixth from left; John MacIver, seventh from left; George Neil Macaulay (Captain Macaulay's younger brother), third from right; and (possibly) Dean MacDonald, far right.

It struck me that this image conveys a nice blend of Canada's industrial, geographical, and cultural history. There are also some interesting social aspects, and there's even an element of mystery — notably, the visit to this workshop and drying shed for fishing nets by two well-dressed women. 🐟

Submitted by John Court of Toronto, grandson of John A. Macaulay and nephew of Ian M. Macaulay.

Do you have a black-and-white or colour photograph that captures a moment, important or ordinary, in Canada's history? If so, have it copied (please don't send priceless originals) and mail it to Album, c/o Canada's History, Bryce Hall, Main Floor, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9. Or email your photo to album@CanadasHistory.ca. Please provide a brief description of the photo, including its date and location, details about people appearing in the photograph, and further information about the event or situation illustrated. Photos may be adjusted for presentation in the magazine.