

## **Photographic memory won't let him forget**

**By Roxanne Ouellette,  
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Tom Tulloch has lived in the Ingleside area all his life. He has seen a lot of changes in the last 50 years.

He remembers standing on the shore by the Long Sault rapids watching brave boat captains maneuvering the unforgiving waters. And he can't forget the day the massive bulldozers came in to excavate the site, silencing the familiar sound of the mighty rapids. Forever.

"There were only two captains who were able to ride the rapids. They brought tourists on special boats riding through the rapids every day," says Tulloch, who was born in Morrisburg. "I never rode the rapids. But it was fun watching the people go down. And the sound of the rapids was always present. The old river never froze in the winter."

Although Tulloch can't forget the government and Ontario Hydro's great undertaking to build the St. Lawrence Seaway, he doesn't view that time in the late '50's with bitterness. "Oh, it was tremendously difficult for the older people of the area to see their homes bulldozed and flooded. No amount of money could replace heritage and memories for many. But some people got paid good money for their land," says Tulloch, whose family owned a 150-acre farm.

The government bought most of the Tulloch land. They were left with five acres. Tulloch's present home sits on the property on the north side of Highway 2. "Many farmers in the area did well financially with this project."

However, Tulloch admits that sometimes he walks by the watery site where his farmhouse used to be. He stands on the cracked cement road - the old Highway 2 - leading directly into the St. Lawrence to reminisce about his childhood home. "My father never thought the government would go through with the project. They had been talking about it for years. He didn't think it would happen. When it did, he was amazed," says Tulloch, holding an old photograph of the farmhouse which sat in Santa Cruz.

"The height of the water is now at least six feet over our old house. That area is part of Woodlands park now," he says, and pauses for a moment. "But in the end I think the project benefitted the area tremendously. It created a lot of jobs."

Asked about his fondest memories before the Seaway, Tulloch says, "I used to ride my bike with my sister as a youngster by the river in the summer. In the winter we would go through the bush cutting firewood and on the river to cut blocks of ice to sell to people who didn't have refrigerators," he says from the comforts of his living room overlooking the St. Lawrence.

"And I remember inundation day and checking the rising water over course of a few days watching the little animals running away - muskrats, groundhogs, animals like that. The water came in black and dirty. It was hard to believe it was supposed to turn into a river," he says.

Since Tulloch gave up farming, he worked for the ships on the Seaway, and for the St. Lawrence Parks commission. Ironically, he worked in Woodlands Park. "The landscaping was much prettier before the Seaway," says Tulloch, who retired in '90. "Although I do enjoy watching from my window the hundreds of campers who flock to the area every summer."