

# Victoria Park

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Location: Victoria St off Gouinlock St, Seaforth, Ontario

Year begun: 1875

DR. W.C. GOUINLOCK donated the land for the park to the town of Seaforth in May of 1875. In exchange, Gouinlock asked that the town deepen part of Silver Creek so as to allow water off his property to drain into that stream. The first bandstands built here were located more toward the centre of the park where the War Memorial now stands. They were circular, open on all sides, the idea being that the audience would sit around it and the music would flow out.



The War Memorial was erected at the west end of the park after World War I. The names of 40 Seaforth area men who had fought and died in that war are inscribed along with those of the 20 men who died in WWII.

Band concerts were played every week throughout the summer, often on a Sunday evening. The bandstand was also used for political rallies and speeches, amateur programs, and 12th of July celebrations. For several years the Band & Legion Garden Party was held here; it was the forerunner of the Lions Carnival.



In 1924, Ernie Box and other band members were sent to Toronto to see the Canadian National Exhibition bandshell. The existing bandshell here in Seaforth was built with the same proportions and coved ceiling. The bandshell is made of tongue-and-groove clapboarding set horizontally on the sides and back. The front wall is a series of folding doors that open to reveal the stage. Painted on the gable end is a harp. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Band and the Seaforth Citizens Band played here.

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