

Broadacres

Location: 133 Broadacres Drive



Many local folks remember Broadacres Roller Rink with great fondness. The rink was built in December of 1974 by Harold Kalf of Colchester. He got the idea for a roller rink after attending a relative's birthday party at a rink in South Carolina. By visiting approximately 40 roller rinks around the country, Harold pulled together the best aspects of those rinks for the design and operation of Broadacres.

The metal building is 24,000 square feet, with the floor of the rink measuring 120 x 70 feet. The facility featured a professional skating instructor, snack bar, and game room and was open seven days and nights every week. Family night was held once per week. The strict dress code prohibited muscle shirts, halter tops, and jeans with rivets that could damage the epoxy rink floor. The site also featured a miniature golf course and go-carts.

Mr. Kalf sold Broadacres to Dr. Charles Anderson and Daniel Mendl, who operated it from March through December of 1985. However, due to the prohibitive cost of liability insurance, Broadacres Roller Rink closed that year. The business was repurposed as a teen center and then reopened for roller skating without insurance. Skating continued for a few more years, but eventually the rink became Broadacres Bingo.

Visit <https://forgottenrollerrinksofthepast.com/broadacres.html> for newspaper articles about Broadacres, ads, and to view videos of some of the best roller skaters of the time.

Today, Broadacres is a non-profit, family bingo facility. Proceeds go to these local charities: Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Colchester Hockey Boosters Association, and Colchester Athletic Boosters Association. The creemee stand is still in active operation during the summer months.

Sources:

- <https://forgottenrollerrinksofthepast.com/broadacres.html>
- <http://www.broadacresbingo.com>

Brown Ledge Camp

Location: 71 Brown Ledge Road



Brown Ledge Camp for girls, ages 10-17, was originally Champlain Camp, a boys' camp established in 1897. In 1927, Harry and Marjorie Brown took over, renaming it Brown Ledge Camp and operated it for the first 30 years. Their daughter, Barbara Winslow, took on the role as camp director in the 1960s. When Barbara stepped down as the director in 1983, she appointed Bill and Kathy Neilsen to take her position as co-directors of the camp. For more than 35 years, the Neilsens upheld the traditions established by the Brown family while steering the camp successfully into the 21st century. When Bill and Kathy retired in 2018, the board of directors of the Brown Ledge Foundation conducted a search for its fourth director and welcomed Abby Lovshin-Smith to the role she holds today.

Former camp director Bill Neilsen, in speaking about what separates Brown Ledge Camp from others, said it “stems from the two approaches used by the camp. As far as the activities program goes, the female campers attend what they want, when they want, with whom they wish, for as long as they wish. For instance, if they only want to sail for the four or eight weeks, they can do that. However, usually they try a bit of everything before they decide on what to concentrate. The other difference is in their living quarters. Four to five girls stay in a cabin together. They can decorate it the way they want, etc. Their counselor lives close by but separate, and is readily available should they need her. We enable the girls to make their own decisions, to live independently – they have the opportunity for self-discovery and self-realization.”

Brown Ledge Camp is located on Malletts Bay and offers activities that include horseback riding, tennis, archery, riflery, watersports, arts and crafts, and theater arts. For more history and information about Brown Ledge Camp, please visit <http://www.brownledge.org>.

Sources:

- Photo courtesy of the David Coates family and Greg Dirmaier
- *Chronicles of Colchester* by Inge Schaefer (The History Press, 2009)
- <http://www.brownledge.org>

Camp Kiniya

Location: 1317 Camp Kiniya Road



Camp Kiniya for girls, located on Lake Champlain in the Clay Point area of Colchester, was founded in 1919 by Helen Van Buren, a retired music teacher. There were six campers that first year.

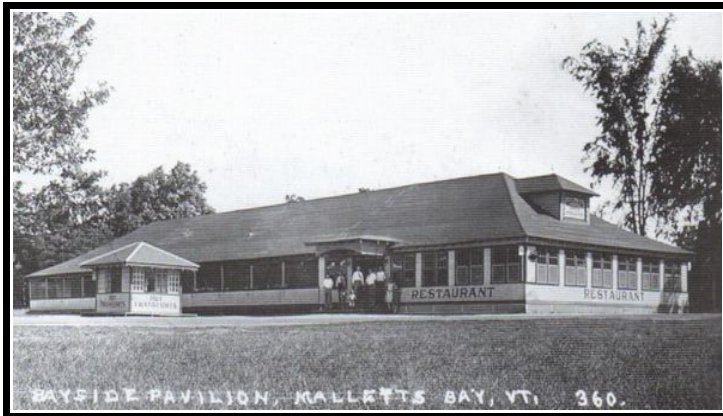
These days, there are 170 campers per session, ages 10-15. There are 18 cabins and other buildings on 145 acres of land. Camp Kiniya offers a wide range of programs in the arts, fitness, crafts, sports, hiking, and camping. Visit www.campdudley.org for more information about Camp Kiniya and Camp Dudley for boys, which is located in the Adirondacks in New York State.

Sources:

- Photo courtesy of Marilyn and Jack Williams in *Chronicles of Colchester* by Inge Schaefer (The History Press, 2009)

- <https://www.campdudley.org/kiniya-for-girls>

Clarey's Bayside Pavilion
Location: Bayside Park



In 1925, George Clarey bought 25 lakefront acres of land, the site of the current Bayside Park.

On Saturday nights, Clarey's Bayside Pavilion was the place to be. Mr. Clarey also built a number of very popular lakeside cottages where Bayside Park is today. He wanted to offer young people a place to dance, so he built the spacious one-story Bayside Pavilion, which opened in 1925. The Big Band Era had begun and stars like Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, and (in 1955) Ozzie Nelson's Band, featuring vocalist Harriet Hilliard, arrived in Colchester to the delight of huge crowds. On the nights that Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey played, as many as 5,000 people crowded the expanded dance hall! (Note: the population of Colchester in 1930 was 2,638.) The final show at the pavilion occurred in 1963 with musical entertainer Ray Charles.

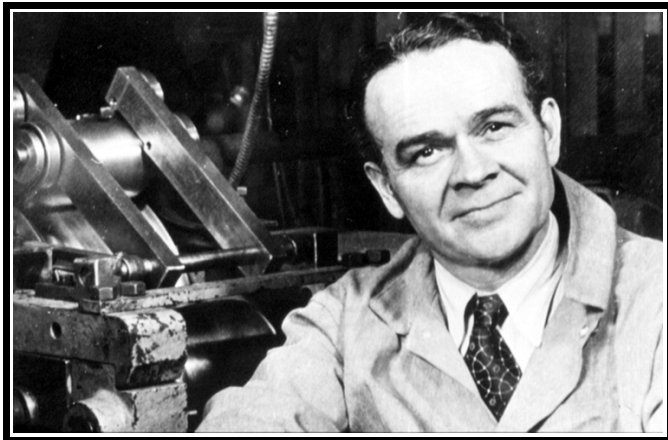
Besides dancing and music, people could swim, play ball games, enjoy table tennis, or rent row boats and bicycles. Bayside also included a sandwich shop for food and soft drinks.

Today, the park features free parking, a public beach and bathhouse, skateboard area, playground, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball and volleyball courts, public restrooms, a picnic shelter, and ball fields. The park conveniently connects to a paved recreational path for walking and bicycling.

Source:

- Photos courtesy of Ruth Morgan and information from *Images of America – Colchester* by Inge Schaefer (Arcadia Publishing, 2003).

Hazelett Strip-Casting Corporation
Location: 135 West Lakeshore Drive



Hazelett Corporation celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. The company, founded by Clarence W. Hazelett (pictured), designs, manufactures, installs, and services continuous casting equipment. Hazelett is the pioneer and world leader in twin-belt casting for flat and long nonferrous products. It is a fourth-generation, family-owned company and the exclusive supplier of the Hazelett® twin-belt continuous casting machine worldwide.

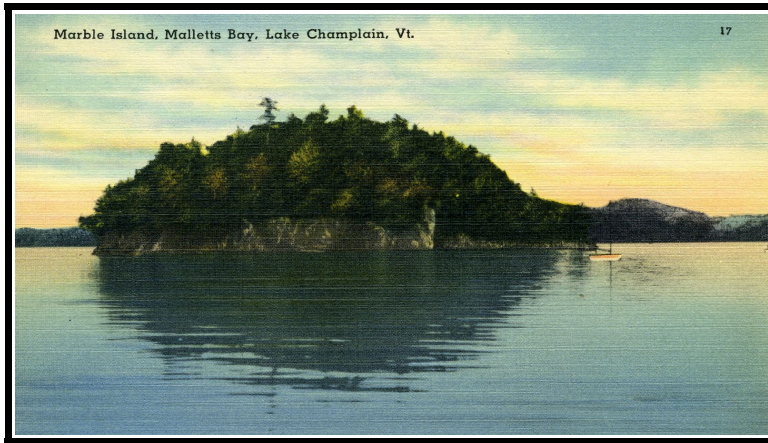
Employing 150 people, the company is fully integrated with complete in-house engineering, manufacturing, research and development, and technical services.

Sources:

- <https://www.hazelett.com>
- https://www.colchestersun.com/news/hazelett-celebrates-100-years/article_dba17364-921f-57b8-88a6-0baed2c5e933.html

Marble Island

Location: Marble Island Road



Marble Island has a history of quarrying that goes back to the early 1800s. The Winooski Marble Company owned four marble quarries in the area. In addition to being high quality, these deposits had the advantage of being near the lake, which was how stone was transported to markets before the arrival of the railroad. Because of its distinctive color, the dolomite stone (pictured) was known as “Winooski Red.” It also had the advantage of being easily split for harvesting.

Eventually the company's nearby marble processing mill ceased operations and was sold at auction in the early 1900s. It was renovated into a clubhouse for the new Lake Champlain Club that opened in 1919 and included a nine-hole golf course. The club was sold in 1964 and renamed the Marble Island Golf and Yacht Club, and later the Marble Island Resort and Conference Center. In its heyday, the resort featured a marina, swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, watersports, and lodging. The restaurant had beautiful views of Lake Champlain and the mountains, and its floors were made of local marble. Guests could unwind in Captain Mallett's Lounge and the resort's supper club hosted acts from Las Vegas. Marble Island Resort was a popular site for weddings, social events, and business gatherings.

In 1996, the resort was destroyed by fire. The property was sold and converted to an extensive neighborhood of houses and condominiums.

Sources:

- Marble Island Resort promotional brochure, courtesy of Greg Dirmaier
- Bob Blanchard, Burlington Area History, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502280600349047/>

Niquette Bay State Park**Location: 274 Raymond Road****(Note: Day use fees may apply. Call 802-893-5210 before you go.)**

Vernal pool at Niquette Bay State Park

This 584-acre property was purchased by the State of Vermont in 1975 and was aptly named for the bay on the northeastern end of Lake Champlain's larger Malletts Bay. Originally, most of the property was farmed and pastured through the 1800s; today, it is mostly forested.

The park's trail system leads to high points with views overlooking Malletts Bay to the south, the Green Mountains to the east, and the Lake Champlain Islands to the west. There are several trail loops that accommodate various hiking abilities. The shortest distance to the lake is 0.5 miles via the Allen Trail. There is no public boat launch or motorized vehicle access directly to the lakeshore.

Management strategies at Niquette Bay State Park support the park as a place for nature appreciation. Day use hours are from 10 a.m. to sunset, and no camping is permitted.

This park is pet-friendly, but some restrictions apply. Please check the website or call before your visit.

Source:

- <https://vtstateparks.com/niquette.html>

Nourse's Corner

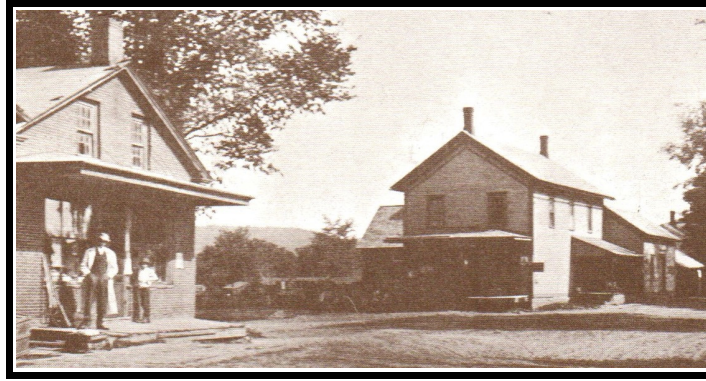
Location: the sharp bend where Bay Road meets East Lakeshore Drive



Many local folks and visitors still remember Nourse's Restaurant with great fondness. Where else could you get a hotdog for only 15 cents? The postcard for Nourse's Place refers to it as "The Alrite Nite Spot." The snack bar/restaurant once stood here and featured a sandy beach area for patrons to enjoy. The building is long gone, but this bend in the road often is still referred to as "Nourse's Corner."

Colchester Post Office (U.S. Postal Service)

Locations: Intersection of Main Street and East Road; 428 Main Street; and 218 Malletts Bay Avenue



By 1791, post offices began to appear in Vermont. The earliest were located in Brattleboro, Rutland, and West Bennington. In 1813, a post office was established in Colchester Village in a local store on the corner of Main Street and East Road. A stagecoach operated from Rutland to Highgate, passing through Colchester at least twice per week to drop off mail and passengers.

The post office moved from this old red brick store to a frame building with store and upstairs living quarters on the corner of East Road and briefly to John Lyon's house on Main Street, just east of East Road. It later moved back to the brick store where it remained for three decades. Mail was inserted into pigeon-hole shelves on top of the counter next to the candy case. When mail didn't come on the morning train, it was brought to the post office via the Highway Post Office bus. Over the years, the store business and post office bounced from owner to owner, with each successive store owner serving as mail handler and/or postmaster.

Electricity reached Colchester Village in 1921, and by 1939, the building was shared by the town clerk and the post office. Then the population boom of 1940-1959 changed the town forever. The arrival of electricity and automobiles, in addition to industrial jobs and service businesses, resulted in an increase of 1,700 new residents during that time period. In 1961, the post office was relocated to a building at 428 Main Street. In 1976, the post office moved once again, this time to its current location on Malletts Bay Avenue.

Additional note: A second post office was located at Fort Ethan Allen in 1902. It became a military post office for the Fort in 1917 and was discontinued in 1959.

Sources:

- *Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate* by Ruth Wright (Queen City Printers, Inc., 1963)
- *Images of America – Colchester* by Inge Schaefer (Arcadia Publishing, 2003)
- *Colchester Center – The Evolution of a Village* by Kenneth A. Degree (Queen City Printers, Inc., 2000)