

NARRATOR'S NOTES: Chautauqua...Canada, Eh.

The year 1917, is generally considered to mark the advent of "Chautauqua" to Canada. In that year the Ellison-White Chautauqua Bureau established a branch called "Dominion Chautauquas" and booked tours in all four western provinces. That first year their "teams" visited 148 communities through Summer and Autumn. By the following year this number had grown to 294.

while these so-called Tent-Chautauquas" with their brown tents were circulating through the West there were a handful of Institutional Chautauquas already attracting crowds in the East, especially in the Niagara Peninsula. Much like the original Chautauqua at Fair Point in New York State, Grimsby Park began as a Methodist Camp-Meeting while down the road near St. Catherines, Ontario, a group of investors from Toronto developed a site to accommodate tourists as well as Summer-residents. Their programming combined Entertainment and Education in Chautauqua-style.

Scene 1:

NOAH PHELPS was a longtime supporter and eventually President of Grimsby Park which began as a week-long Temperance Camp in 1846. By 1874, a group known as the Ontario Methodist Church