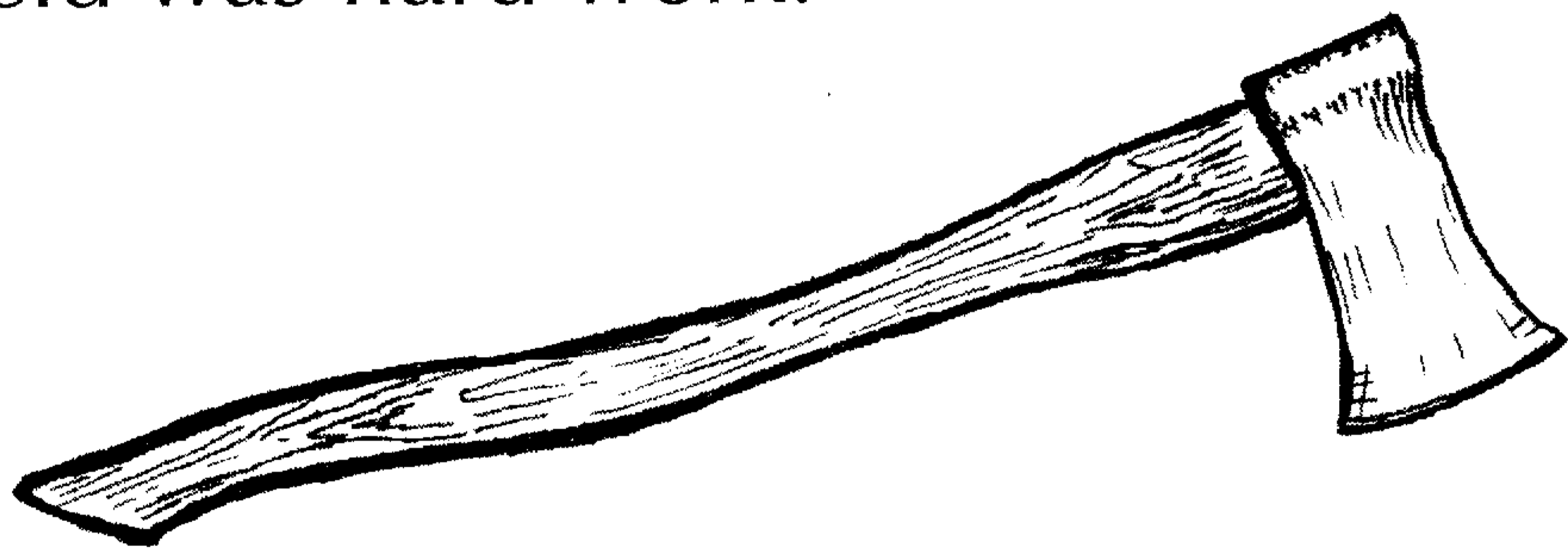


# SETTLEMENT ON THE PRESQU'ILE POINT

## 1870

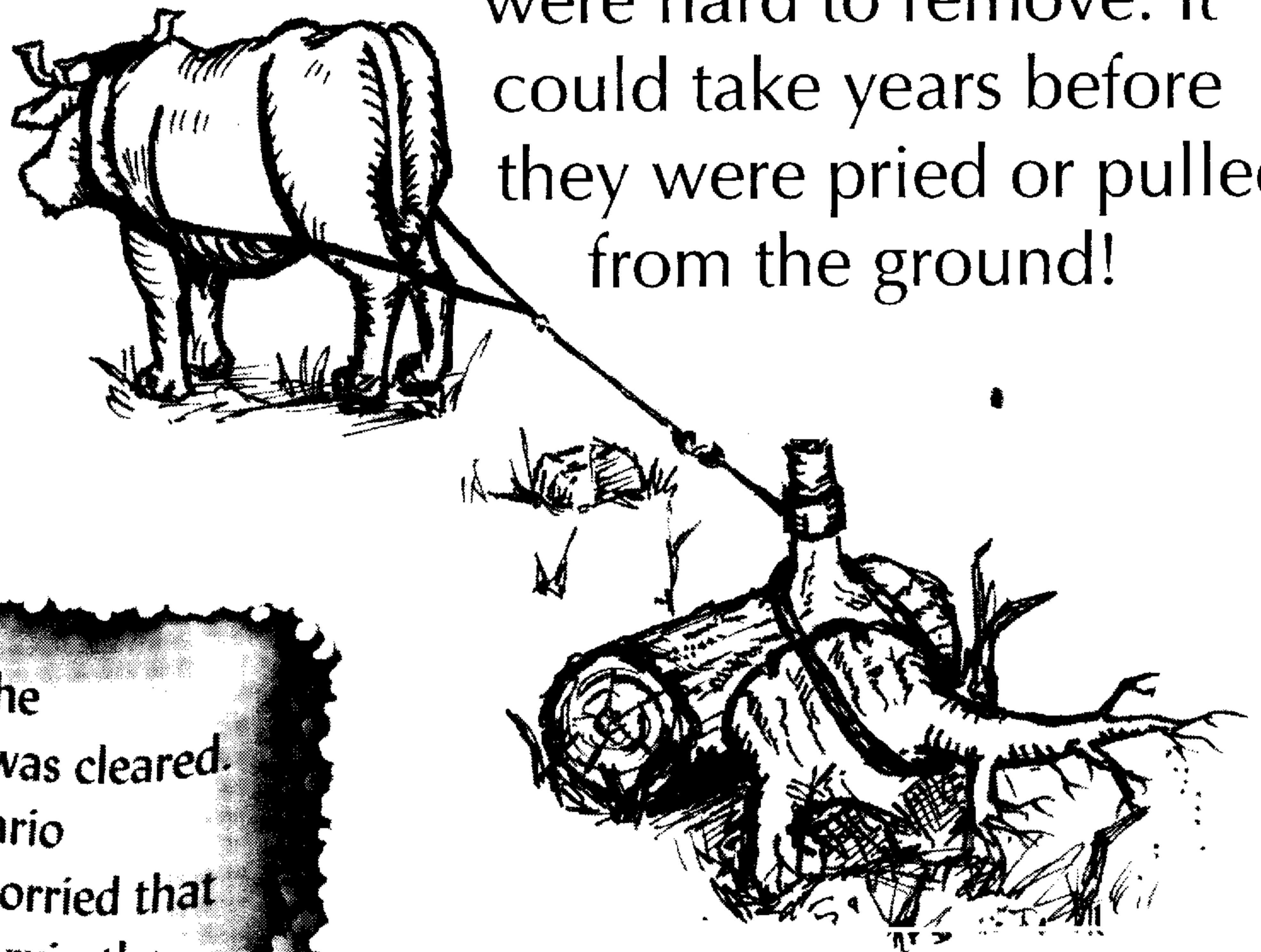
Plans to build the town of Newcastle were abandoned after the Speedy sank. That did not stop people from settling here, though. As people moved in, they logged the forests, cleared the land for farms, and built homes for themselves. Presqu'ile looked very different from the way it does today.

People cleared large areas of the peninsula before it was protected and eventually became a provincial park. Changing the land from a forest to a field was hard work.



Fallen trees needed to be cut into smaller pieces so that they could be dragged away. The logs could be used for building homes, making fences, or for firewood.

Once all of the trees were cleared, the field would still be covered in roots and stumps. Roots were dug out, but stumps were hard to remove. It could take years before they were pried or pulled from the ground!



The first step was to remove all of the shrubs and small trees. Now with more room to move, axes could be swung at the larger trees.

### Ship's Log: 1870

You can find physical evidence of the past in Presqu'ile Provincial Park, as well as areas named after early settlers. The Jobes Brothers, Thomas and Ezekial, settled around Jobes' Woods in the 1800s. Although we do not know when they came, the Jobes' cabin might have been built as early as 1813.

Jobes' Woods is special because much of it was not cleared for farming. The forest there is an old-growth forest.

As people settled on the peninsula, more land was cleared. In the 1870s, the Ontario government became worried that the loss of trees would ruin the shelter of the harbour. The forest helped to protect ships from winds and waves. Something needed to be done. The government allowed people already living there to use the land, but only if they promised not to cut down any more trees. The forest was safe. This helped Presqu'ile become the beautiful park that it is today.

Only after the field was cleared, could it finally be used to build a home, plant crops, or raise animals.

Large areas of the peninsula were cleared this way. Much of the forest that you see here today has been growing for less than 150 years.

# Early Settler Word Search

## Activity

Many of the original homes at Presqu'île are now gone. People moved away from the peninsula or chose to build their homes inland.

Search for items that you might have found in an 1870s home. The

words may be forwards, backwards, or on a diagonal. Find them all.

If you find all of the words in the list, the left over letters will reveal to you what this area is called today.



Barrel  
Basket  
Broom  
Candle  
Chisel  
Eggs  
Hammer  
Hatchet  
Knife  
Plane  
Pots  
Rope  
Saw  
Stove  
Wagon  
Wire



## Did You Know?

Even though the forests of Presqu'île Provincial Park have grown over areas where people once lived, you can find signs of the past. Use your powers of observation to find things in the forest that might not belong.

## Visit It Today

There are many signs of past settlement at Presqu'île. You can see old fields and fence lines on the Jobes' Woods hiking trail. The trail also visits old-growth forests that were never cleared.

