

Title: Alliston Tweedsmuir History Book: Volume II. Page 1/100

Creator: Alliston Women's Institute

Subject: Alliston, Tweedsmuir History, Alliston Women's Institute

Description: A complete and thorough guide to the history of Alliston which builds on the first Tweedsmuir History. The book is divided into the following categories: Women's Institute, W.I. Officers, W.I. Branch History, Town History, Churches, Schools, Industries, Clubs, Personalities, Special Events, Homes & Buildings of Alliston.

Publisher: Alliston Women's Institute

Contributor: Maggi Anderson, May Reynolds

Date: c1987

Type: Artifact

Format: JPEG / PDF

Identifier: 0167

Source: Local history collection - New Tecumseth Public Library: Alliston Memorial Branch

Language: En

Relation:

Coverage:

Rights: All rights reserved. All archival material is the property of the New Tecumseth Public Library. Further reproduction is prohibited.

Tweedsmuir History



ALLISTON BRANCH
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

OF

ALLISTON

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The book cover is unique in its design. The base is a "doorkin" purchased from the local lumber store, cut to size and reinforced. Because the board warped, Mr. Ted Richards glued the extra fancy front on to the board. June Watson, a local artist, painted the W.I. logo.

Curators: 1985 - 87 Maggi (Mrs. F.) Anderson
Assistant: May (Mrs. L.) Reynolds

SECOND EDITION
Started in 1985

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section One -	Women's Institute
Section Two -	W.I. Officers
Section Three -	W.I. Branch History
Section Four -	Town History
Section Five -	Churches
Section Six -	Schools
Section Seven -	Industries
Section Eight -	Clubs
Section Nine -	Personalities
Section Ten -	Special Events
Section Eleven -	Homes & Buildings of Alliston

Section I

W. I.

Page

1-1 The W.I. 1897-1987

1-2 Motto of W.I.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

(1897 - 1987)

Inspired by the visionary idea of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless who spoke at a meeting in Guelph of the need for better training for girls and women of rural Ontario, Mr. Erland Lee, public-spirited Secretary of Saltfleet Farmers' Institute, persuaded his fellow members to invite her to be guest speaker at their Ladies' Night.


Thirty-five of the women in the audience that night of February 12, 1897 accepted the challenge of need for a Women's Organization and agreed to attend a meeting the next week. Mr. and Mrs. Erland Lee drove up and down the roads of the surrounding area (in a buggy!) inviting the women to come out and the result was that 101 women and 1 man, Mr. Lee, were present for the organization of the first W.I. in the world with Mrs. E.D. Smith as President on February 19, 1897.

The W.I. movement grew and in February, 1919, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was formed with Mrs. William Todd, Orillia, first President. Also the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was organized that same month and Judge Emily Murphy, Alberta, elected President.

An Ontario native, Mrs. Alfred Watt, organized the first Women's Institutes in England and was first President of the Associated Country Women of the World organized in 1930. Today there are more than eight and a half million members in the world.

Mrs. Adelaide Hunter-Hoodless





KEEP us O Lord from pettiness; let us be
large in thought, in word and deed

Let us be done with fault finding and leave
off self seeking

May we put away all pretence and meet
each other face to face, without self pity
and without prejudice


May we never be hasty in judgment and
always generous

Teach us to put into action our better impul-
ses straight forward and unafraid

Let us take time for all things: make us
grow calm, serene, gentle

Grant that we may realize that it is the
little things that create differences; that in
the big things of life we are one

And may we strive to touch and know the
great human heart common to us all, and
O Lord God let us not forget to be kind.



Section 2

Officers

Page

2-1 Officers - 1975-1978

2-2 - 1978-1984

2-3 - 1984-1987

	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
President	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. D. Somerville
1st Vice President	Mrs. M. Hand	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. H. Kennett
2nd Vice President	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. M. Hand	Mrs. M. Hand
Secretary	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball
Treasurer	Mrs. S. Knipe	Mrs. S. Knipe	Mrs. E. Cumberland
Public Relations	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. E. Stoltz
Branch Directors	Mrs. J. Small	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. G. Jackson
	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. H. Pearson	Mrs. H. Spindloe
	Mrs. H. Spindloe	Mrs. J. Small	Mrs. R. Laking
	Mrs. H. Pearson	Mrs. H. Spindloe	Mrs. H. Gray
District Director	Mrs. A. Corrigan	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. J. Crosbie
Alternate "	Mrs. J. Hancey	Mrs. J. Hancey	Mrs. J. Hancey
Card & Flowers	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. G. Jackson
Pianist	Mrs. A. Corrigan	Mrs. A. Corrigan	Mrs. E. Halbert
Trustees	Mrs. A. Merrett	Mrs. A. Merrett	Mrs. A. Merrett
	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer
	Mrs. S. Knipe	Mrs. S. Knipe	Mrs. S. Knipe
Library Board	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. J. Crosbie
Agric. Hort. Can. Inds.	Mrs. E. Cumberland	Mrs. E. Cumberland	Mrs. H. McWaters
Citizen World Affairs	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett
Educ. & Culture	Mrs. A. Merrett	Mrs. A. Merrett	Mrs. A. Merrett
Fam. Consumer Affairs	Mrs. O. McMullen	Mrs. R.D. Bellamy	Mrs. R.D. Bellamy
Resolutions	Mrs. E. Halbert	Mrs. E. Halbert	Mrs. M. Hand
Tweedsmuir Curator	Mrs. A. Corrigan	Mrs. A. Corrigan	Mrs. A. Corrigan
Meals-on-Wheels	Mrs. E. Spindloe	Mrs. E. Spindloe	Mrs. E. Spindloe
Local Events			Mrs. O. McMullen
Memorial Books			



Most of the members of the Alliston Women's Institute in April, 1982. Photo by John Heydon.

At Centre Back: Helen Lindsay, May Reynolds, Cathy Spindloe, Flora Smith, Mary Harris, Joyce Babcock, Jean Leslie, Mary Kerr.

Middle Row: Margaret Merrett, Marjorie Crosbie, Beatrice Spindloe, Isobel Jaffray, Ruth Elford, Mary Ellis, Margaret Gingras, Irene McNastar, Lois Bellamy, Mildred Hunter, Alice Sutcliffe.

Front Row: Irene Ball, Margaret Latimer, Margaret Somerville, Maggi Anderson (Secretary) Lee Kennett, (President), Beatrice Cumberland, (Treasurer), Annie Gibson, Dulcie Laking.

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
President	Mrs. F. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett
1st Vice President	Mrs. M. Hard	Mrs. M. Hard	Mrs. M. Hard
2nd Vice "	Mrs. K. Tombs	Mrs. K. Tombs	Mrs. R. Davies
Secretary	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. F. Anderson	Mrs. F. Anderson
Treasurer	Mrs. K. Cumberland	Mrs. L. Cumberland	Mrs. K. Cumberland
Public Relations	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. E. Stoltz
Branch Directors	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. H. Spindloe	Mrs. W. Ball
	Mrs. H. Spindloe	Mrs. H. Gray	Mrs. J. Crosbie
	Mrs. H. Gray	Mrs. O. McMillan	Mrs. E. Burns
	Mrs. O. McMillan	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. N. Kerr
District Director	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. H. Somerville	Mrs. D. Somerville
Alternate "	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer
Cards & Flowers	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. G. Jackson	Mrs. G. Jackson
Fiduciaries	Mrs. A. Carrigan	Miss I. McMaster	Miss I. McMaster
	Miss I. McMaster		
Trustees	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball
	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. A. Latimer
	Mrs. A. Kerrett	Mrs. A. Kerrett	Mrs. A. Kerrett
	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Library Board	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. L. Besley
Ag. Hort. Can. Inds.	Mrs. H. McWaters	Mrs. H. McWaters	Mrs. H. Sutcliffe
Citizen World Affairs	Mrs. W. Simpson	Mrs. W. Simpson	Mrs. A. Latimer
Educ. & Culture	Mrs. A. Kerrett	Mrs. L. Miller	Mrs. L. Miller
Fam. & Consumer Affs.	Mrs. A. Leslie	Mrs. A. Leslie	Mrs. A. Leslie
Resolutions	Mrs. M. Hard	Mrs. M. Hard	Mrs. J. Crosbie
Woodsmen Curator	Mrs. D. Bellamy	Mrs. D. Bellamy	Mrs. D. Bellamy
Meals on Wheels	Mrs. E. Spindloe	Mrs. E. Spindloe	Mrs. E. Spindloe
Local Events	Mrs. O. McMillan	Mrs. J. Slater	Mrs. J. Slater
Memorial Books		Mrs. W. Thompson	Mrs. W. Thompson

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
President	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Besley
First Vice President	Mrs. M. Hard		Mrs. C. Moss
Second Vice President	Mrs. L. Besley	Mrs. P. Finn	Mrs. P. Finn
Secretary	Mrs. F. Anderson	Mrs. F. Anderson	Mrs. M. McDermott
Treasurer	Mrs. K. Cumberland	Mrs. K. Cumberland	Mrs. L. Cumberland
Public Relations	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. I. Reynolds	Mrs. I. Reynolds
Branch Directors	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. W. Ball
	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. D. Bellamy	Mrs. D. Bellamy
	Mrs. S. Richard	Mrs. E. McWaters	Mrs. H. McWaters
	Mrs. N. Kerr	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. J. Crosbie
District Director	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. H. Kennett	Mrs. H. Kennett
Alternate Director	Mrs. A. Latimer	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. D. Somerville
Cards & Flowers	Mrs. A. Leslie	Mrs. A. Leslie	Mrs. A. Leslie
Minister	Miss I. McMaster	Miss I. McMaster	Miss I. McMaster
Trustees	Mrs. W. Ball	Mrs. A. Kerrett	Mrs. A. Kerrett
	Mrs. K. Cumberland	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
	Mrs. A. Kerrett	Mrs. E. Cumberland	Mrs. E. Cumberland
	Mrs. J. Sutcliffe	Mrs. N. Kerr	Mrs. N. Kerr
	Mrs. L. Besley	Mrs. L. Kennett	Mrs. L. Kennett
Library Board	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Ag. Hort. Can. Inds.	Mrs. L. Smith	Mrs. L. Smith	Mrs. L. Smith
Citizen World Affairs	Mrs. L. Miller	Mrs. D. Somerville	Mrs. D. Somerville
Educ. & Culture	Mrs. S. Richard	Mrs. C. Jaffray	Mrs. C. Jaffray
Fam. & Consumer Affs.	Mrs. J. Crosbie	Mrs. D. Bellamy	Mrs. D. Bellamy
Resolutions	Mrs. N. Kerr	Mrs. S. Ellis	Mrs. S. Ellis
Woodsmen Curator	Mrs. W. Gingham	Mrs. E. Stoltz	Mrs. E. Stoltz
Meals on Wheels	Mrs. I. Reynolds	Mrs. J. Slater	Mrs. J. Slater
Local Events	Mrs. W. Thompson	Mrs. W. Thompson	Mrs. W. Thompson
Memorial Books			

OFFICERS OF ALLISTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (Continued)

1984-85

1985-86

1986-87

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Public Relations

Branch Directors

Mrs. L. Besley
Mrs. G. Moss
Mrs. P. Fine
Mrs. H. McWaters
Mrs. E. Cumberland
Mrs. I. Reynolds
Mrs. W. Ball
Mrs. W. Gingras
Mrs. D. Somerville
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. D. Somerville
Mrs. A. Leslie
Miss I. McMaster
Mrs. A. Merrett
Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Mrs. E. Cumberland
Mrs. N. Kerr
Mrs. H. Kennell
Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Mrs. E. Smith
Mrs. D. Somerville
Mrs. G. Jaffray
Mrs. R. Stoltz
Mrs. S. Ellis
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. H. Spindloe
Mrs. W. Thompson

Mrs. G. Moss
Mrs. F.A.D. Anderson
Mrs. I. Reynolds
Mrs. H. McWaters
Mrs. W. Gingras
Mrs. H. Kennell
Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Mrs. S. Ellis
Mrs. L. Miller
Mrs. I. Reynolds
Mrs. L. Besley
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. A. Leslie
Miss I. McMaster
Mrs. A. Merrett
Mrs. E. Spindloe
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. J. Yeatman
Mrs. H. Kennell
Mrs. W. Ball
Mrs. P. Fine
Mrs. G. Jaffray
Mrs. L. Besley
Mrs. E. Stoltz
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. H. Spindloe
Mrs. W. Thompson

Mrs. G. Moss
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. I. Reynolds
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. E. Cumberland
Mrs. E. Stoltz
Mrs. R. Sutcliffe
Mrs. S. Ellis
Mrs. L. Miller
Mrs. I. Reynolds
Mrs. L. Besley
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. A. Leslie
Miss I. McMaster
Mrs. A. Merrett
Mrs. E. Spindloe
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. H. Kennett
Mrs. W. Ball
Mrs. P. Fine
Mrs. G. Jaffray
Mrs. H. Kennell
Mrs. L. Besley
Mrs. F. Anderson
Mrs. J. Crosbie
Mrs. H. Spindloe
Mrs. W. Thompson

District Director

Alternate "

Cards & Flowers

Pianist

Trustees

Library Board

Agric. Hort. Can. Inds.

Civilizen. World Affairs

Educ. & Culture

Fam. Consumer Affairs

Resolutions

Tweedsmuir Curator

Local Events

Phoning

Memorial Books

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR ALBISTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR 1987-1988

Past President:	Gloria Moss
President:	May Reynolds
First Vice President:	Jean Cucco
Second Vice President:	Lee Kennett
Secretary:	Evelyn Besley
Treasurer:	Beatrice Cumberland
District Director:	Gloria Moss
Alternate Director:	Evelyn Besley
Branch Directors:	Mary Ellis, Marie Miller, May Reynolds
Trustees:	Margaret Harvett, Cathy Spindloe, Marjorie Grosbie
Public Relations:	Margaret Stoltz
Agric. & Horticulture	Irene Ball
Citizenship & World Affs.	Catherine Fine
Education & Culture	Isobel Jaffrey
Family & Consumer Affs.	Lee Kennett
Resolutions:	Catherine Fine
Co-ordinator of committees:	Catherine Fine
Twoedsmen:	
Library Board:	Lee Keane
Memorial Books:	Cathy Spindloe
Cards & Flowers:	Jean Leslie
Phoning:	Bea Spindloe
Florist:	Irene McMaster
Reindeer:	Beatrice Cumberland

Section 3

Branch History

Page

3-1 1975 - 1980

3-1 Picture Members 1982

3-2 1980 - 1985

Branch History

1975-76 - April, Annual meeting, installation of officers, pot luck (34) May, speaker, Mrs. Stanley of Beeton (24) June, visited pottery plant (30) July Picnic at Corrigan's cottage (26) Sept. Speaker, Mrs. Campbell of Stroud (22) Oct. Mrs. B. McArthur spoke, (18). Nov. Mrs. R. (Gertrude) Williams spoke on her trip to Greece (22), Dec. Christmas party and films on Hawaii shown by Will Gingras (21) Jan. '76, Mrs. Stoltz spoke on Mary Stewart Collect (19), Feb. Mrs. Owens spoke of Library and services available (19) and in March, no speaker (17 members present)

1976-77 - April, Annual meeting, installation, lunch at Dominion Hotel (34), May, went to Museum at Midhurst, (27), June, Lori Shibish gave a talk on Canadian History, (18), July, picnic at Corrigan's cottage, (27), Sept., Mrs. Bellamy spoke on code-dating, (27), Oct. Mrs. Reynolds, Resolutions, (23), Nov. Mrs. Smith explained "Block Parents", (15), Dec., Pot Luck (Mr. & Mrs. McGee entertained) (30), Jan. '77, Mrs. Williams spoke on "Citizenship" (16), Feb., Mrs. Paul Tipping explained the quilt blocks, (21), March, Lunch at Dominion Hotel, (21).

1977-78 - April, Annual meeting, installation of officers (22), May, slides by Mr. Gingras (14), June, Erland Lee Bone (33), Aug. Picnic at Corrigan's cottage - Gertie Hancey 90 yrs. (37), Sept. Mrs. Bellamy spoke on the 3 E's, (30), Oct. Mrs. Hand, Resolutions and Mrs. Owens spoke on the Library, (32), Nov. Mrs. Corrigan, Tweedsmuir History, (25), Dec. Christmas programme, Pot luck luncheon, (29), Jan. '78, Mr. Cochrane, Lawyer, re giving hall to Town (24), Feb. Mrs. Kennett spoke re her trip to S. Africa, (29), Mar. Luncheon in hall by the Rosemont Ladies, demonstration on flowers by a florist (34).

1978-79 - April, annual meeting, reports, installation, slides by Mr. Gingras (31), May, Miss Trudy Curtiss, Australian exchange student (slides) (24), June, Pioneer Village, Tweedsmuir History talk (L. Bellamy), (33), Aug. Picnic Corrigan's cottage, (38), Sept. Sharon Temple trip, plaque demonstration by Corinne Dunn (33), Oct. Miss Vergunat, Dietician at Stevenson Memorial Hospital (24), Nov. Resolutions, Miss McMaster, (23), Dec. Pot luck luncheon, St. Paul's Uke Group, (32), Jan. '79, Mrs. Niedeema, film, "Exploding the Myth" (25), Feb. Mrs. Clarke, Children's Aid, Barrie, (17), March, Fun meeting, entertained Beaton (12)

1979-'80 - April, annual meeting, reports, nominations, dues (27), May, Mr. L. Miller spoke on credit-rating, Lois Bellamy gave a report from Officer's Conference, (29), June, Entertained Cookstown, Mr. Snell, Sup't. of Earl Rowe Park gave history of park, Lois Bellamy, Peace in the World", (32), July, Corrigan's cottage for picnic, \$100 to Contact (24), Sept. Mrs. Vanderzwaag (film, Hawaii), book to Jean Corrigan thanking her for work on Tweedsmuir History book (30), October, Jean Hand, Resolutions, Mrs. Somerville reported District meeting at Cookstown (29), Nov. Jean Leslie - Consumer Affairs, (15), Dec. Letter of support to Police in Toronto, also to Dept. of Immigration, Geo. Alderson framed picture of Dr. Hastings, Christmas carol, gifts for Beeton (11), Jan. '80 - Film, Russia, by Sally Campbell, (28), Feb. \$100 to Contact, Mrs. McGill of Mental Health spoke (32) Mar. South Simcoe Rescue Squad, film & discussion, taped by local T.V. station, (25).



Back Row: Margaret Merrett, Bea Spindloe, Marjorie Crushie, Isabel Jaffray, Helen Lindsay, May Reynolds, Ruth Spindloe, Mary Harris, Flora Smith, Lois Bellamy, Joyce Babcock, Mildred Hunter, Mary Kerr and Alice Sutcliffe.

Four in middle row: Ruth Elford, Mary Ellis, Margaret Gingras, and Irene McMaster.

Front Row: Irene Bell, Margaret Latimer, Margaret Somerville, Maggi Anderson, (Secretary), Lee Kennett, (President), Bea Cumberland, (Treasurer), Annie Gibson and Dulcie Laking.

(Photo by John Heydon)

Partial membership 1982-83. Taken April '82 in Council Chambers in Alliston. Last meeting before moving into new hall in Library.

BRANCH HISTORY

1950-1981 Mothers 5 (Life Members 7) Front: Mrs. Kennett, Sec: Mrs. Anderson Treas: Mrs. Cumberland
Sponsored North Simcoe Rescue Squad by taking Memorial cards to various Funeral Homes or area.
Put display in Barton Fair. Decided to let town pull down old library & erect new one. Took 2 1/2
own own Library but will have room of their own with rental powers. Speakers included: Ken
Bradwell (Library) rather Larrin (tape), Merle Paul Green of USA, Mrs. Mallon (WT), Louise Calcutt,
(United Nations), Jess Baker-Pearce. Books on Memorials in Library for: Mrs. E. Holbert, Mrs.
Black and Mrs. Joan Burns.

1981-1982 Mothers 49 (Life 7) Front: Mrs. Kennett Sec: Mrs. J. Anderson Treas: Mrs. L. Cumberland
Had drawing made of old hall (Corry Balconker Boston) and vest-ment made from drawing. Town of
Alliston offered us the annual chapters for our meetings while new library being built. Members
sent pins and delegates to Ploughing Match. Certificate of Merit to Mrs. A. Corrigan for her
work on Woodmen's History for so many years. Mrs. May Reynolds attended the quilting course.
Bought 12 new card tables and 48 chairs. Mrs. Kennett and Mrs. Anderson attended 1982 anniversary
in Toronto. Mrs. Raffray and Mrs. Sutcliffe made block for Harold Lee and 1. Hall rental
schedule set up. Bought slide candle to library. Shown at Barton Fair. Speakers: Mrs.
Alice Atkinson (ATRC), Mrs. Rife's (Historical Society) Mrs. E. Smith. Also visited Milton
Museum & Walter Hoodless home. No deaths this year.

1982-1983 Mothers 45 (Life Members 7) Officers same as former year.

Moved into new library building for May meeting. Mrs. T. Anderson made up book for cornerstore.
Took 2 large folding tables. Plans for each & bridge parties or alternate months. Another
sale for old furniture etc. (\$263) Transference sister group. Presented old clock to Mr. Graywell.
Mrs. Bentley attended Officers' Conference. Supported library. Gave Samaritan Block Parents,
Contact and AGM Convention in Vancouver. Went on a cruise out of Midland. Speakers: Mrs. S.
Ellis (Tas. & Present), Son Cumberland (Responsibilities to W.I.), Alice Sutcliffe (Garden of
Life), Marie Miller (Grave Ship), Maggi Anderson (Maritima Testificates), Vi McDowell (Tribute),
Mrs. Cumberland (Recognition of W.I.), Ruth Smith (People & Tradition) and Jean Bradwell, (South
America), D.J. Scullin (Culture for the Young). Memorial books for: Ruth (Mrs. E.) Rife, Mrs.
Tas, Mrs. J. (Nebel) Eastman.

1983-1984 Mothers 44 (Life 7) President: Mrs. L. Bentley Officers the same.

Certificate of Merit to Mrs. E. (Lee) Kennett in appreciation of her strong leadership during
the difficult years of building the new library. Received Library with Book Sale. Sold fabric
clothing to Barton Church for \$1 per yard (\$7.1) Hosted Area Convention. Gold books replaced old
blue Constitution. At Bentley to Officers' Conference. Citizen of year (Marjorie Stoll).
Bug Braiding course attended by: Bobe Jellison and Maggi Anderson. \$126.25 paid for spotlight
over picture in hall. Discontinued Merit on W.I. Certificate of Merit presented to Mrs.
Stoll. Speakers: Mrs. Scullin (Canadian Legends), Dianne Robinson (Attendance Officer),
Joan Somerville (Brazil), Computers of the Future (Video Tapes), Kim Ball (Money management),
Alice Sutcliffe (Planners), and Mrs. Tins (Herald). He had the St. Paul's Ukulele Band
entertain us. Donations made to: Library Board, Victoria Museum, Area Convention, Library for
Books, Good Samaritan Water for All, Archives (humans) and Children. In Memoriam books for:
Mrs. J. (Hall) Cameron, Miss Florence Wood, Mrs. C. (Mina) Stewart, Mrs. (Bertha) Shepherd,
Mrs. H. (Nidred) Gray and Mrs. D. (Lois) Ballany.

1984-1985 Mothers: 36 (Life Members 6) Treas: Mrs. Bentley, Sec: Mrs. McIntyre Treas: Mrs. Janet
Berling.

Sandy Rife's new book presented to Mrs. Anderson. Bazaar celebration with Rose Margaret
Burch as speaker. Also Alliston's 70th Anniversary. Annual photo of Corvian's collage.
Margaret Somerville left Alliston & was presented with a pin. Mr. S. Ford, President of the
Library Board, presented Mrs. W.I. with framed original reef. Slides shown by Mr. & Mrs. A.
Anderson and by Mr. & Mrs. Smith. Donations made to: Walter Hoodless Home, Library & South
Simcoe District W.I. In Memoriam books for: Mrs. G. (Verna) Jackson and Mrs. T. (Alice) Back.

These reports were prepared & typed by Maggi Anderson Carried for years 1985 - 1987

Section 4

Town History

Page

- 4-1 Map of Alliston
- 4-2 Fire Destroys (1983)
- 4-3 Arena + Pictures
- 4-10 Names of Original W.I.
- 4-11 Memorial Library
- 4-13 Original Survey
- 4-14 Grand Parade 1918
- 4-15 Good Old days
- 4-16 To 20 History of Alliston

TOWN OF ALLISTON ONTARIO



SCALE
(APPROXIMATE)

1984

ALLISTON FIRE DESTROYS FOUR BUSINESSES

(Account by Burton Ford, Alliston)

It was 3 am. May 25th, 1983, when our son, Robert, appeared in our bedroom to let us know the Police had just phoned. The store (dress shop) was on fire, we were told, and we were to get downtown as quickly as possible to rescue private papers.

By the time we arrived downtown, the Police had cordoned off the area in front of a raging inferno. It was still dark and flames shot from the rooftops along with billowing clouds of dark smoke. It looked as if the whole business block would be destroyed.

Fortunately, the Barrie Fire Department ladder truck appeared on the scene. From atop the extended ladder, a single fireman, often completely obscured by smoke, directed a 1,000 gallons-a-minute flow of water at the raging fire. The truck was equipped with a search-light which could be easily directed to where ever required.

Alliston Fire Chief, Wayne Bishop, was quoted as saying of the Barrie aid, "Without it the whole block would have gone up." All spectators who had gathered in the darkness would agree. Alliston Fire Department was assisted by other units from Cookstown, Tottenham and Bass Township, along with the Barrie ladder equipment. By the time dawn broke, the valiant efforts of the firemen had succeeded in containing the fire to four stores.

All persons in the apartments above Moon's Department Store and all other stores east to Patton's Pharmacy were evacuated - 20 persons. All were back in their premises within 18 hours, except for S. Mr. & Mrs. Howard Moore had their 20 year old apartment home completely destroyed. Lila Hislop, immediately East of the Nicol aptment, lost everything. All her clothing was destroyed along with priceless family heirlooms. Awakened by her smoke detector, Mrs. Hislop said she could hear the fire crackling next door in the Nicol apartment.

Nicol, in whose apartment the fire started, was rescued by firemen equipped with oxygen packs and masks. Nicol was taken out in his underwear.

Fire Marshal Al Noseworthy said the fire was caused by a pot of grease left on a stove with the burner on.

Four places of business were destroyed, Pro Hardware, above which was the Nicol apartment and that of Lila Hislop, John Taylor Jeweller, and the Moore apartment above, the Victoria & Grey Trust building, formerly owned by Hills, was also destroyed along with Irene's Fashions. Total destruction was estimated at between one and two million dollars.

At the time of writing, May 10, 1984, only Pro Hardware with two new apartments above is again occupied.

UPDATE: By the Fall of 1984, all the former businesses were back in operation, with nice new premises in which to work. The apartments were back in use and the basement was built so that it could be used for storage purposes. In fact, the Victoria & Grey Trust Co. have built several offices for rent in the lower areas.



MDA



FROM MILL POND TO MEMORIAL ARENA (1880-1930)

(This material is taken from a booklet put out March 10, 1950 for the official opening of the present (1956) arena in Alliston. The booklet was loaned by John D. Soderman C.E. to Roy Patterson for entry into the Tweedsmuir Library book March 1956.)

About 1886 a roller rink was built by Bailey Lawlor. This was a source of pleasure for the young of this community and it is recorded that Jack Deane became very proficient in roller skating. That his prowess did not go unnoticed in home but by the records which tell of a few men headed by Robert Scott, Lou Mills and others, who raised a sum of money and allowed young Dale to participate in the Ontario Roller Skating Championships which he won about 1885. It is believed that he went on to win the Canadian Championship in that year or the next.

About the same time a covered rink was built by John Wilson on Church St. North on the first land just south of Bayne River. Coal oil lamps lighted this building and it was enjoyed by young and old alike until it was burned about 1887.

In 1888, and for some years after, ice skating was done on the mill pond. Some ran off, a watch and a strap were the essentials used to supply heat and the skaters could get warm, either back or front. If they ran fast enough to the fire. This was before the hockey stick and rubber puck were invented. The playing equipment consisted of a skiny and a hockey. The goal posts were two piles of stones.

An open air rink was built west of the Canadian Pacific tracks on the north side of Victoria Street. A small building, about twenty feet from the sidewalk was used by the skaters for putting on their skates and lacing out. There was no charge to get into the building from the street. The proprietor stood at the inner door and collected for the privilege of stepping on the ice. If you were on skates, if not, there was no charge. The only time there was free admission was when the manager put a stick in the stove and had his back to the door. The management changed several times as the years went by. Joseph Walker, Harry Ross and W.L. Wood had the rink. Admission was five cents at 7. was raised to ten cents on carnival nights. From 6.30 to 7.30 in the evening. Boys ringing a bell would walk the streets calling, "Kick over tonight! Ice in good condition!" For this they were given free admission.

Some fancy dress and speed skating carnivals were held, when admission would be boosted to provide prize money to attract speed skaters from distant towns. These events brought speed-skaters Shields and Booth, Orangeville, Woodner & Muldon, Collingwood, and McAllister of Barrie. A few years later, Grant & Jack McNaught, Billie Mitchell, Bob Ferguson and Charlie Jordan were some of the speedsters from Alliston.

The best lady skaters were Nellie McKinnon and Gert Bryden. The following excelled in hockey: Charlie & Willy Norton, Bob Kennedy, Jack Mullen, Bert Doyle, Frank Riley, Frederick McKinnon, Tommy Donnelly, Andy Bryden, Tony Groatian, Bill McGinn, Walter Stone, Frank & Ross Russell, Tom Morrow and Tommy Grove.

The third rink to be operated in Alliston was on land at the southeast corner of Park and Nelson Streets. This land, according to records available, was owned by John Stewart, James Dinkwood and the estate of John Irvine. It was bought by a stock company who appointed T.M. Brown, Robert Scott and James Morrison as managers. The company purchased this land in the spring of 1900 or 1901. Some of its members, who dug down into their pockets to make this possible, were T.M. Brown, W.G. Fisher, T.A.J. Bell, Robert Scott, Dr. W.J. Hill, Dr. Barker, Dr. McCluskey, Hugh Wright, Tom Morrow, John Strachan, John Norton, George Deane, W.D. Lesner, E.L. Wallace, J.M. Ripwell and many others. This rink, about 50 by 150 feet, was designed to accommodate both skating and curling. The ice surface of the rink was about 50 by 150 feet with a ten foot sheet of curling ice on either side. Working rooms, etc. were at the north end of the ice. Joe Wilson, who lived in the house now occupied by A. Yanaklos and caretaker. After a hockey match, the curling ice could not be used until the tobacco juice and cigar butts were cleaned off the ice. A hard was in attendance each Friday night and at all carnivals and hockey games. George Sims played goal and beat the team drum. When a hockey match was on he was the loudest man at the rink, playing away during the game and beating the drum during intermission.

Just previous to the turn of the century when seven-man hockey and an substitution was in vogue, seven players from Alliston were taken to Guelph to play for the Guelph Nationals. This team won the Championship of Ontario in the intermediate series. The players were Jack & Lou Carmichael, Tom Morrow, Fred Mackay, Bob Kennedy, Bill Mitchell and Bob Morrison.

At that time travelling was done on the Grand Trunk railway. On one occasion the local hockey club, when playing in Collingwood, had an extended trip of six days because of a storm. For carnivals and speed skating, the curling ice could be opened and incorporated with the hockey ice surface. An annual event for years night was a hockey game, Alliston Old Boys of Toronto versus the local team. The game was always followed by a supper. Rivalry existed between the teams; the rink would be crowded to capacity with fans. Toronto took many of the Alliston players and some of those were Jack & Lou Carmichael, Mike, McJannet, Charlie Morrow, Bob Kennedy and Bill Mitchell. About this time, Ducky Severn played goal for the "Indians" who won the Junior Championship of Ontario.

In December, 1909, the board of trustees sold this rink to Alf Baycroft for \$750. He operated it until 1915 when he demolished the old building and in its place built a semi-circular truss frame covered with corrugated iron. The cost of this structure was about \$6,000. It had an ice surface of 70 by 100 feet with standing room on either side and two catwalks raised about nine feet. This is the building which is well-remembered by many towns-people and while it had its good and bad seasons, it served this community until it was condemned in 1940. Mr. Baycroft continued to operate this rink until his death. For the next few years it was operated by his son, Harry, with a manager. It was at this time that box lacrosse began to replace field lacrosse.

For a few years previous to 1940, the rink was operated under lease by the Lions Club. About that time, Harry Baycroft was determined to sell and a public spirited citizen, Harry Solomon, bought it for \$700. This was in February, 1940, and in a few days considerable work on the street trying to raise enough money to purchase the rink for the town. In a few days the money was forthcoming and Mr. Solomon was given \$700 and the title to the rink was once again in the name of the Mayor of the town of Alliston. Apparently the subscribers were quite generous, for the following fall the entire inside front of the structure was renovated. The work was all gratis and was shared equally by the town and surrounding district. The operation of this rink was now placed under the trusteeship of R.R. Hawes, George Lawrence, Belmar Wilson and Lorne Whiteside.

During the season of 1942-43, a hockey team coached by Reg Noble, was the instigator which gave impetus to the team that almost brought O.R.E.A. honors to Alliston the following two seasons. This team, all married, was composed of the following: Ross Williams, Jack Bowman, Dr. Young, Norman Bray, Everett Hicks, Barney Gibson, Mint Storey, George Greig, William Wilson and Chuck Collins.

Two years later a hockey team directed by Ross Williams as coach, Chuck Collins, manager, and Jack Bowman, Secretary-Treasurer, went into the final round of the O.R.E.A. only to be defeated by Cayuga. Well over 1,000 Alliston fans saw their team lose the final game, 7-3. The players were: Danny Haslam, Lism Whalen, Murray Connell, Dr. R.A. Young, Windy Miller, Mint Storey, Keith Coburn, Lloyd Purchase, Carl Kinger, Ralph Houtter, George Hagaman, Bill Boyce, James Hunter, Len Guchert and Bela Marcano.

The next chance the fans had to cheer their hockey team was during the season of 1946-1947, when a team managed by R.R. Hawes and coached by Reg Noble again was eliminated in the final round.

The four trustees were still in charge when the rink was closed in 1945, after consulting with a prominent engineer. While there was great difference of opinion as to the wisdom of closing this rink, their action was justified by the fact that the roof caved in under weight of snow in January, 1946. The remains of this historic structure were sold to A. Bates for \$400.

With the closing for hockey in Alliston gone, the citizens of Thornton offered their rink as home ice for Alliston. This was accepted and our hockey fans followed the team to Thornton. But this was a temporary arrangement and a movement began at once for the erection of a new arena. The council of 1946, with W. Hunter, Mayor, J.D. Bowman, Reeve, L. Whiteside, Ross Williams, Situe, Knight, F.M. Hackett, H. Solomon and W.T. Alderson as councillors, visited a number of rinks and made many inquiries in order to acquaint themselves with the type of structure that would serve the needs of this community. They were able to plan before the election. In 1947, a by-law asking them to approve the issuing of a \$70,000 debenture. It was felt this amount was necessary to build an arena which would serve the present and future needs of this community. The by-law was carried by a very substantial majority. During 1948, council was unable to get a contract that would conform with its plans and means. While good progress was made during that year, it was the council of 1949, composed of W. Hunter, Mayor, W. Cunningham, Reeve, Lorne Whiteside, Ross Williams, F.M. Hackett, H. Bowman, Belmar Wilson and Don Bowen as councillors, who began and brought into being the Alliston Memorial Arena which we have today. The committee responsible for the opening and operation of the building were J.D. Bowman, Russell Ford, J.R. Williams, Joe McCarroll, Belmar Wilson, W. Bowrey and W.T. Alderson.

The building, of fabricated steel construction with concrete block walls and built up roof, is 106 wide and 250 feet long. The cost of this structure at the time of opening was \$83,000 with an estimated cost of the mechanical and plant to be added at \$25,000. The ice surface of 60 ft by 180 feet is of regular ice and is bordered on two sides by tiers of seats which can accommodate 700 persons. A catwalk behind these seats provides standing room for another 800 spectators. At the south end are seven rows of seats with a capacity of 500 and at the rear provision is made for tent accommodation. Underneath seats at the south west corner is the artificial refrigerator which, when operating, allows skating 12 months of the year. The entire piping is covered with a special asphalt floor.

At the north end of the ice surface is a two story building 40 by 100 feet. The ground floor provides team dressing rooms, facilities for men and women skaters, offices, snack bar, lobby, heating system and two ticket offices. On the second floor is an auditorium 40 by 50 feet, equipped with stage, dressing rooms and kitchen. The seating capacity is about 300 and is extensively used for lectures, plays and public meetings. The layout is such that the hall and the rink can both be used at the same time without conflict. Entrances are placed at either end of the front of the building while at the rear is a door large enough to permit trucks to enter the building. The ice surface is lighted by 48 lamps, each of 500 candle power.

The Arena Management Committee of 95C west:

J.D. Bowman, Chairman
 L.B. Hood, Vice Chairman
 M.T. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer
 J. Ross Williams
 D. Wilson
 Joe McIsaac
 Morris Denny

On the first page of this memorial booklet we can read:

1914		1939
1918	Inspired by the people of A. Histon & T. Strick, in honour of our fellow citizens, both living and dead, whose sacrifice and gallantry helped bring victory to our country in two world wars.	1925

There is a happy note:

"From the laying of the first sod until the opening of
 the structure, there was not one serious accident."

Many people, business and otherwise, sent congratulations and donations, among them being:

Wilson & Son (floor coverings, house furnishings), The Roafers Supply Co. Ltd. (Toronto), Bank of Montreal, (Geo. W. Thompson, Manager), Men's Club Club (Fred Pyle, Pres., G.W. Thompson, Sec. Treas.), Mrs. Bruce Knowles, Medical Director, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Cole, Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Ford, Dufferin Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ross Reid, Agent), General Trucking (Edgar Atkins), Alliston Auto Parts, E.M. McQueen, Prop., Alliston Farmers' Co-operative, Social Centre, (shoe repairs), N.E. Oliver (Index, gifts & sports equip.), Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Denny, Dr. & Mrs. S.P. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Don Graham, E. Lee Barber Shop & Mill and Barber (J. Robinson, Prop.), E.M. McQuinn (hair dressers), Peter Thompson & Sons (lumber), The Snack Shoppe, Sam Cunningham (barber), Canada Packers Ltd., The Windsor Hotel (M.L. Bulger, Prop.) Canada Press Co. Ltd., (local sales Ross Cameron), Briggs & Co. (50 to 11,000 stores) (J.E. Henry, Mgr.), Barretto Foundry Co. (Alvin Mason, Gen. Mgr., Harry Buchanan, Plant Foreman), McGarvey's Meat Market, F.D. DeLoe (Jewelry & watch repairs), Flynn Furniture (General Home) The T. Eaton Co. Ltd., E.J. Boyce (buy & sell livestock), Mr. & Mrs. Dalton Chandler (Greenland Hosiery), E.M. Armstrong (Cape) Ltd., Excellent Institute of Steel Construction Inc. (designer of steel in this arena), Dominion Bridge Co. Ltd. (Toronto), Maxine's Ladies' Wear, Duntley's Garage (6 Hill St.), Imperial Ltd. (Robert Cumberland, rep.), Munroe's Garage (G.H. Decker & dance pavilion), Mr. & Mrs. S.R. Shaw, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Hills, Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Christie, Bovey Motor Sales (Pontiac Buick GMC Trucks), McNecking Day Goods Store (Mrs. Lucie McKinnis, prop.), Carter Phillips & Sons (Service Station & Tea Room), Armstrong Glovecoat & Dyers, E.C. Graham & Son (Grain, flour, feed & seed), Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Bunting, Gibson's Elevator, Eversley's Drug Store, Maple Block & Tile Ltd., Canadian Tire Corp. (Stewart Henderson), B.J. McLaughlin (Groceries), Mr. & Mrs. J.C. MacLellan, Mr. & Mrs. F.L. MacLellan, Alan Lafleur (Seatinghouse dealer), Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Hutchinson, Woods Manufacturing (Kitchen cabinets etc.), Superior Store (Groceries, F.D. & J.R. Buckell), C.V. McLean (lumber), C.G. Collins (Great West Life Insurance Co.), the Alliston Herald, Mr. & Mrs. W. Hill, Mr. & Mrs. David Dunn & Carlton, Cecil Weidell (Blacksmith), Nico's Feed Mill, Dr. & Mrs. C.S. Snodden, Dr. & Mrs. C.B. Snodden, Mr. & Mrs. Joe McKeown & Paul, Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Inch, The Brasserie (Mrs. I. Tesson), Malcolm's Electric, Ludlow Bros. (Confectionery), Dunn's Insurance Agency, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Whitelock, Dr. & Mrs. Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Robt. McKenzie, Carload Groceries, New Hudson (General Store, Baker), Peter McLaren (Butterham), Mr. & Mrs. Joe, Drennon, Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Dunn, Alliston Creamery & Dairy (Hanna Bros.), Beeton Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. Lou Heltig, Mr. & Mrs. Lorne Whitelock & Paul, M. Tazo, Mr. & Mrs. Lorne Thomas (Jim, Joe & Harry), The Robert Simpson Co. Ltd. (candy office), 7 by Company, Maple Leaf Hotel (Butterham).

J.E. Willock (Confectionery), Mr. & Mrs. A.F. Merritt, The Tot Shop, Jordan Welding & Machine shop, Nicol's Service Station, Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Alderson & George, Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Coutis, Gwendyth & Mrs. Fiddick, Mr. & Mrs. Crisp, Misener's Gifts & Toys, Damer Bros. (Real Estate & Insurance), E. Beattie Estate (Coal, Wood, Lumber), NuGrape (product of Sun Crest), Banner & Co. (Confectioners, Barrie), J.J. Sand (Shell Garage), Marerndale Farms (Everett-Ernest Gilmore & Clarence Colburn), H.G. Solomon (Plumber), Ludlow's Service Station, W. Ross Hand (Insurance), Herb A. Murphy (Mutual Life Ass. Co. of Canada), Norman Hornsby & Sons (poultry), Bell & MacLean (Barriers) J.D. Bowerman, B.A. (Barrister), Hillholm Farm (J.E. Anderson, Glenora), Pat's Beauty Salon (Isobel Arthur, Prop.), Alliston Monument Works (W.D. Thompson), Shell Service Station (Earl Connell), Riverview Dairy (W.J. Brooks), The Thomas Co. (Funeral Chapel & Furniture), Alliston Motors (A.H. Bates), W.D. Applegate (Meat), Rutherford's Bakery, Norm Bray, (Building Contractor), Bel-Mar Farms (E.D., and G. Wilson), H. Scott (Fuel & Builders' Supplies), Bradbury's Bakery, Chester Fleming (Gas, Oil, Groceries), Jack Campbell Co. Ltd. (Contractors), Sidney Knight (Insurance), Alliston Taxi, (S. Jenkins), Stafford Industries Ltd., Toronto, Betty Jean Beauty Salon (Betty Campbell), Irvin's Coal & Wood C.P.R. Yards, The Stevenson Memorial Hospital (Nursing & Office Staff), Superbest Station (Clint McGahey), Clint's Coffee Bar, Circle Theatre, Orangeville Bottling Works, The Bank of Toronto (G.E. Liesemer, Mgr.), Finishing Hardware, (supplied by Canada Hdw. Toronto), J. Nicol Wilson, Mullin's Grocery (established 1892) F.T. Hill & Co. Ltd. (1911 - 1950) Department Store, Dunn's Restaurant.

Artificial Ice Fund Committee:

Chairman: J.E. Hood

Treasurer: L.L. Whiteside

Committee Members- W. Hunter, D. Wilson,

F. McQuigge, J.E. Hackett.



Alliston Arena (front) 1986



ALLISTON JUNIORS 1905

Ed White, Jim McGarry, Bill Rogers,
 Joe Benge, Tom Gault, Sam White, Harry Norton



ANDY ELLIS, BOB WOOD, EDIE FLYNN, JIMMY JONES, JERRY BROWN,
 GEORGE WILKINSON
 TOM WILSON
 BILL WILLIAMS, ARNOLD GIBSON, COLLIE WOOD, DON WILSON



Alliance Athletic Association-Dufferin Senior Hard Ball Championship Team, 1906

Frank Linton, Ed Brown, Al & McDonald, Doug & Kelly, Pat Kelly, Fred White, Ed Thompson, A. Jackson, Ross Brown, G. W. McLeod,
 Manager
 Dave Brown, Ray Brown, Arthur Brown, G. Thompson, Bruce Watson, Sam Taylor, G. Brown,
 Manager
 Ted Williams, Leonard Smith, George Smith



ALLISTON INTERMEDIATE BALL CLUB 1915

Top Row: Norman Oliver, Frank Hurst, Roy Dennis, Joe Bergin, Jack Paddison, Leo Edmonds
 Centre: Dennis Bergin, Stanley Brooks, Wes Dungey, Lorne McMulkin, Percy Beale, Herb Rogers, Pat McMahon
 Bottom: Ambrose Bergin, Audley Censer, Ray Wallace, Mascot.



1927 or earlier

Top Row: Ted Breedon, Eddie Smith, Morris Horsburgh, Fred Ellis, Bruce Mason, Bill Gray, Ross Whiteside, Gerry Moon, Mint Storey, Bill Upton, Mascots: Wayne & Darwin Storey.
 Bottom: Allan Dawson, Gordon Savourin, Paul McKenzie, Ross Smith, Art Storey, Howard Dunn, Rawn McBride.



BASEBALL, ALLISTON MIDGETS - (Woo the All Ontario cup for 1957)

Back: B. Shannon, W. Storey, R. Lamreau, D. McGee, R. Nelson, D. Rohson, L. Ney.
 Front: V. Graham, S. Sturgeess, H. Caesar, (assistant Coach)
 R. Pieterman (Manager), K. Chantler, (Coach), T. Elrick, R. Cox (Trainer).

The following are the names of
the members of the Women's Institute
who have been instrumental in
building this memorial library.

Mrs J. J. Boverman.	Mrs J. Hanning
Mrs J. D. Foster	Mrs W. Corbett
Mrs R. Hamilton.	Mrs M. Rose.
Mrs D. Nicol	Mrs F. N. Hurst
Mrs J. J. Graham.	Secretary Women's
Mrs. J. Evans.	Institute
Mrs A. Baycraft	
Mrs W. S. Knight	
Mrs W. F. Knight.	
Mrs J. Arnold.	
Mrs J. Bauling	
Mrs J. Hutchinson.	
Mrs J. Moore.	
Mrs W. S. Ellis.	
Mrs Boulger.	
Mrs G. Everett	
Mrs J. McGill.	

HISTORY OF THE ALLISTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

(Submitted by Jean Dunn in 1987)

The History of the Alliston Memorial Library has always been intertwined with that of the Alliston Women's Institute. The Institute founded the first library in Alliston as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the first World War. Through the hard work and persistent endeavor of this small group of ladies, the first library building was opened in 1912.

As the years passed, and Alliston grew larger, so also did Alliston's Library grow. In 1939, the Library came under the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario, becoming Alliston Public Library. However, the Institute's interest in the Library continued, and they aided the Library in many ways.

In the spring of 1973, the Women's Institute changed places with the growing library. The ladies moved their quarters to the upper floor of the building, leaving the larger basement area to be the library's premises. However, in a few years it became apparent that the library was outgrowing this place also.

In 1976, after consultation with the Town of Alliston and the Women's Institute, the Library Board decided to apply to the Province of Ontario for a Winter grant to aid in constructing an addition to the building. Nearly two years later, the Province replied that a grant would be forthcoming, but that the Library Board would have to obtain two estimates on the condition of the existing building. On the grant survey of the Library Board, it was recommended by both estimators that a new building be constructed, as it would be uneconomical to repair the present building. This was a great blow to those concerned, as costs sky rocketed, and constructing an entirely new building presented a much greater challenge.

However, after much consultation with experts, application was again made to the province of Ontario for a Winter grant, which would pay the third of the cost of the capital expenditure. During this period, too, the Potato Festival Committee of Alliston generously promised \$90,000. from their profits to aid in building a new library.

Finally, early in 1981, word was received that a Winter grant would be forthcoming, and the Library Board immediately was about planning for a new structure.

With the Town of Alliston and the W.I. behind us, we were assured of success, although some people, not fully understanding the situation, were unhappy at the prospect of having down the old library. It was made clear, however, that the new building would still be shared with the W.I. and that it would still be a Memorial Building, retaining the official title of the Alliston Memorial Library.

Architects Smith and Milne of Newmarket were then hired to draw up a plan for a new library on the same site as the old. The Town of Alliston purchased from Jean Redman, at a cost of \$5,000, a small section of land at the back of the library, allowing access from the lane running behind the building. The new building was designed to be 2 stories high at the back, with the W.I. meeting room, kitchen and hallway on the upper level. The library was made on a split level area, with a simple charge desk on the ground floor, and a ramp to accommodate the disabled. A large open area at the front would make a comfortable reading section with a large work-room and two offices behind the charge desk. The upper level would have room for a number of work tables and 3 study carrels.

On March 6, 1981, the old library closed its doors for the last time. With volunteer help from many persons, the library contents were moved to the basement of St. John's United Church, which was to be our home during the building process. The old library was quickly demolished by Richard Boyes' Construction, Alliston, and very shortly, building began under Bulker Construction, Northampton, on the erection of the new library.

After 10 months at St. John's, in early March 1982, the Library again closed its doors to prepare to move into the brand new building. Once more, many volunteers aided in moving, and setting in place, the 15,000 books and arranging the beautiful new furnishings.

On April 2nd, 1982, the new library opened its doors to the public. A campaign was under way at this time, guided by Mr. Burton Fort, finance chairman, to raise at least part of the \$150,000 still owing on the building. The generous people of Alliston and area came forward and gave toward the new building and toward new shelving and furnishings. Over half the needed sum was raised in this way and the Town of Alliston paid the remainder, thus requiring no raise in the Town's mill rate.

On June 1st, 1982, the official opening of the new library took place. A platform was set up outside at the front of the library, and the Alliston Band was in attendance. The Hon. Grace McGaffrey, Minister of Citizenship and Culture, was the main speaker. Mr. McGaffrey and Mrs. Nina Stewart, last surviving member of the original Women's Institute group who built the first library, together cut the ribbon which opened the new building. Welcoming speeches were also given by the Hon. George McGowan, Conservative member of the Ontario Government, Mayor Oak's Day of Alliston, Architect Francis Milne, Mrs. Sel Somerville, representing the W.I., Mr. Ken Bartley, representing the Canadian Legion, Mr. Ken Gradwell, Chairman of the Alliston Library Board, received an official key from the architect, and speech fittingly, as did Jean Dunn, Librarian.

History of the Alliston Memorial Library (Continued) Page Two-

After the outdoor ceremony, guests were invited inside to view the new premises, and a reception was held at the Canadian Legion building. The Legion ladies, aided by the W.I., provided lunch and a social time was enjoyed by all those attending.

Since then, the Library has continued to serve an ever-increasing public. Formerly, a part of the Georgian Bay Library System, with the passing of Bill 93 in December, 1984, Alliston Public Library became part of the much-enlarged Trent region.

Library services now include an expanded and growing Inter-library Loan service, with computerized access to Libraries across Canada and into the U.S., 16 mm. films; talking books for the poorly sighted and multilingual and French books. A twice-weekly courier service linking several regions in Southern Ontario keeps the flow of materials between libraries moving quickly.

In late 1985, some classical music cassettes were purchased, as well as some children's tapes. These cassettes will be added to whenever possible. Recently, a number system for patrons has been put in place, with a view to a computerized book circulation in the future.

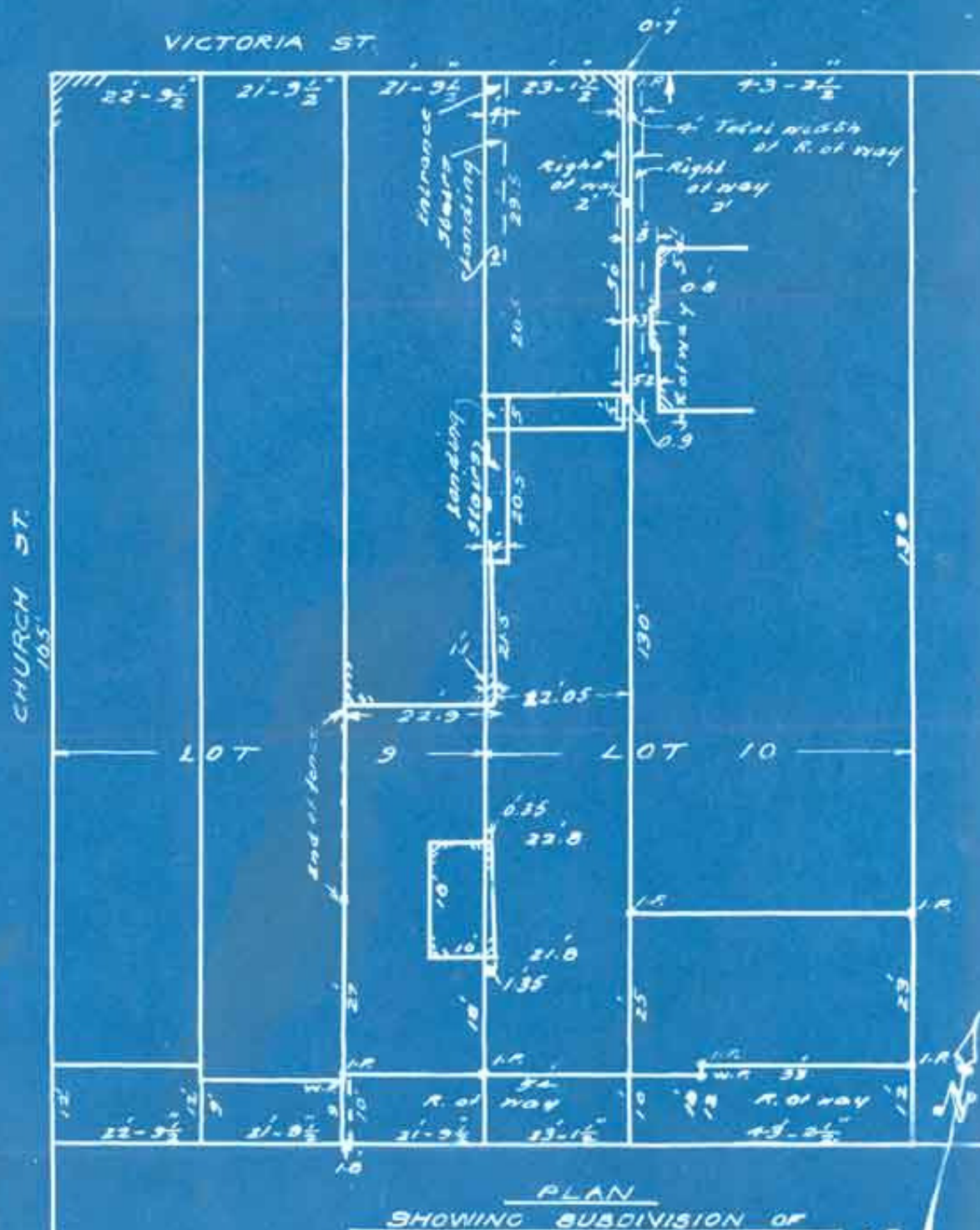
Story Hour, which has been held on Saturday mornings from 11 am-12 noon for children 4-6 years, has flourished for 12 years. This is conducted by 6 volunteer helpers who take turns throughout the year. They are aided by the Library staff, and many volunteer ladies have given faithful service over the years.

There is an Adult Book Club which meets once a month from October to May. Also, in the last two years there has been a successful Kid's Summer Fun Club of games, films, talks, etc., conducted by two students, Paula Wright and Shannon Hetherington.

As Alliston grows and prospers, so grows the Alliston Memorial Library. The financial support and continued interest over the years of the Alliston Women's Institute has been appreciated. The kind assistance and generous aid from this faithful group continues to be of tremendous benefit to the Alliston Memorial Library and to the morale of the staff.

Below are shown pictures of the first Alliston Memorial Library (1922-1981) and the new and modern present Alliston Memorial Library built and opened in 1982.





PLAN
SHOWING SUBDIVISION OF
LOTS 9 AND 10 REG. PLAN # 65
TOWN OF ALLISTON
SCALE - 30 FT. = 1 IN.

Drawn by, O.L.S.
 Genie, Rev. 19/53

GRAND PARADE IN ALLISTON NOVEMBER 11th, 1918

(Pictures given by Jean Leslie, member of W.I.)

(Originals from Aubrey McGill of Alliston)

(Entered in the Tweedsmuir History Book 1987)



LOOKING AT ALLISTON IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS



Store at 3 Victoria E. in Alliston. Built by W.B. Clifton in 1890. Purchased by J. Bowerman in 1912. Later occupied by Sears. Information from Mrs. W.G.E. Cumberland in 1987.



VICTORIA STREET

Looking along the business section of Victoria Street about 1933 or 1940.

HISTORY OF ALLISTON

(Taken from Brochure Put Out by Chamber
of Commerce in Alliston 1983)

oooooooooooooooooooooooo

The Town of Alliston is nestled in the Nottawasaga Valley on the Hayne River, in the southwest part of the County of Simcoe. The town is the commercial and industrial hub of the rich agricultural valley.

Some 4,700 persons live within the boundaries of the town with approximately 1,200 in the adjacent built-up area.

Alliston acts as the market centre for much of the population of the four surrounding townships, as well as Canadian Forces Base Borden, serving approximately 20,000 people, many of whom look to Alliston for their employment and shopping needs.

Some 140 commercial businesses operate in town. The retail area consists of a viable downtown core and a plaza.

More than 15 industries provide a solid and diversified industrial base employing approximately 1,000 Alliston and area residents. In 1984 Honda Canada Mfg., Inc. announced the construction of its first Canadian automotive plant to be located in the Alliston area. Honda expects to employ some 380 associates by 1989.

Established neighbourhoods, modern subdivisions and apartment buildings offer housing accommodation to meet the varied life styles of residents and potential residents alike. Tree-lined and well-maintained streets, homes and parks make Alliston a pleasurable place in which to live.

Schools, churches, museum, hospital and library all add to the ambience of the community.

Alliston is located in the beautiful, historic Huronia tourist area, with easy access to all seasonal recreation activities.

The Town of Alliston maintains an attitude of progress while retaining the rural charm of a small town.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION:

The Town of Alliston is governed by a council consisting of Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve and four Councillors, all elected at large for three-year terms. Municipal staff is administered by a clerk-administrator.

Public Works and Engineering is administered by a Public Works Superintendent. Engineering services are provided by a consulting firm of Professional Engineers.

Planning is carried out by the Council. Administration of zoning bylaw and official plan is carried out by staff. Planning services are provided by a consulting firm when required.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

The Town of Alliston Police Department consists of a Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, six constables and six auxiliary officers. The department provides full 24 hour protection with crew cars fully equipped with modern communication systems. A 23-man O.P.P. Detachment is located in close proximity to the town.

Alliston has a 25-man volunteer fire department. The department is housed in a modern fire station (opened in 1984) consisting of one rescue van, fully equipped with modern extrication equipment, one 840 g.p.m. pumper, one 650 g.p.m. pumper, one 425 g.p.m. pumper and one 2,000 gallon tank truck plus two 1,000 gallon porta-tanks.

Storm and sanitary sewage system services the entire town, having a modern sewage control plant with a capacity of .77 million gallons per day. This plant is owned by the Province of Ontario and operated by the Ministry of the Environment.

History of Alliston Page Two

Residential garbage collection is once a week with most commercial establishments twice a week. Disposal is by private contractor. The town has its own landfill site for disposal of nonbiodegradable materials only.

<u>INDUSTRIES:</u>	<u>No. of Employees</u>
Alliston Creamery and Dairy	10
Alliston Engineering Valves	5
Alliston Feed Mill	4
Alliston Press (1977) Limited	25
Alliston Print & Litho	6
Barton Printing Service	4
Diamond Wood Products (Gaskets)	17
Warren Gibson Limited (Trucking)	20
Hansa Industries (Farm Equipment)	4
Oerlikon Limited (Hose clamps)	120
PFC Canada Inc. (Automotive Glass)	15
Somersville Nurseries (Nursery stock)	16
Peter Thomson & Sons Ltd. (Wood products)	27
Travenol Canada Inc. (Pharmaceuticals)	620
United Co-operatives (Seed, food, hardware)	11
Westinghouse Canada (Wavy metres)	42

OTHER MAJOR EMPLOYERS:

Stevens Memorial Hospital	318
Simcoe County Board of Education	173
Simcoe County Separate School Board	21

Honda of Canada Mfg. Inc. has constructed a 483,000 sq. ft. plant on the south eastern boundary of Alliston. They expect to employ 380 associates by 1989.

There are approximately 100 acres of land designated for industrial use within the present boundaries of the town. Services are readily available.

WATER SERVICES:

In Alliston, water service is provided by the Alliston Public Utilities Commission.

Water is pumped from deep wells which have a capability of supplying one and a half million imperial gallons per day. The present average daily consumption is 670,000 imperial gallons per day. (1985) Storage capacity is: standpipe, 170,000 imperial gallons and reservoir 600,000 imperial gallons.

POWER SOURCES:

In Alliston electricity supply is provided by the Alliston Public Utilities Commission. Power is purchased wholesale from Ontario Hydro at 44000 volts. This is transformed to 4160 volts at two substations owned by the Alliston Public Utilities, rated at 5,000 KVA and 4,000 KVA respectively and voltages are subsequently reduced by line transformers from 4160 to 600, 308 or 120/240 volts at 60 Hz, THREE & PHASE OR SINGLE phase, as required.

Consumers' Gas Company supplies this area with natural gas. Exceptionally good industrial contracts are available through this company.

EDUCATION AND RELIGION:

Alliston has four schools to fill both elementary and secondary school needs. Bentley Memorial High School is the largest secondary school in the County of Simcoe. With facilities for some 2,000 students, the school offers a wide range of optional subjects in preparation for university courses as well as Arts and Science, business, Commercial, Engineering. Technology courses are also available. Adult credit courses are offered in the evenings through the Simcoe County Board of Education. In addition, non-credit courses are offered at the school for all ages through the Alliston Recreation, Parks and Community Centre Committee.

There are three elementary schools in the town: Alliston Union Public School, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School and Alliston Community Christian School (Private).

Alliston is the South Simcoe centre for services to the handicapped. The Children's Centre serves the preschoolers. The ABILC workshop provides vocational training and employment in light industrial assembly, plastic packaging and screen printing. The residential program assists handicapped adults lead independent lives within the community and the adult development program provides opportunity for personal growth and development of multi-handicapped persons. Specialized support services are available.

Alliston has two privately operated day care facilities, both providing full day service.

The nearest college facilities are provided by Georgian College in Barrie, about 25 miles (40 km) distant. Additional college and university education is available in centres within driving distance of Alliston.

The Alliston community is served by congregations of many different faiths. Century old churches as well as modern places of worship are located in the town and immediate area.

TRANSPORTATION:

Alliston is on the mainline of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This railway is one of the two major Canadian railway lines. The other major railway, the Canadian National Railway, also provides service to Alliston.

Alliston is well-served by six transport companies, two of which are locally based. These transports serve national and international needs.

Lester B. Pearson International Airport is approximately 64 km (40 miles) south of Alliston, serving the area with domestic and international flights. Several privately owned air strips are located in the vicinity.

Alliston is located on Highway 89 near Highway 50 and 18 kms west of Hwy 400. The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway are within 56 kms (35 miles) for water shipments.

Bus service makes for easy accessibility to all parts of Canada and the United States. Chartered bus facilities are also available.

Bonded warehousing and custom clearing are located in the area.

HOUSING - CLIMATE:

Alliston has much to offer in the area of housing. Established housing includes fine old homes and modern subdivisions. Two-thirds of the housing is owner-occupied and the majority is single detached. Modern apartment buildings have been erected in recent years. Within Alliston's present boundaries there are residential subdivisions approved for approximately 180 housing units.

Lying to the east of the Niagara Escarpment and several miles inland from Georgian Bay, Alliston enjoys a more equitable climate than most of its neighbours to the north or west. Alliston is spared the frequent snow squalls off Georgian Bay, therefore receiving much less snowfall than its share. Temperatures are not nearly milder than those to the north or those on the higher elevations west of the town. As a result, black walnut, English ivy and mulberry, tulip trees, catalpa, even magnolia can be found thriving in town.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

The Community Centre provides a 1,200 seat spectator arena with artificial ice and roller skating surface as well as a community hall with banquet facilities for over 200.

Tennis courts, parks, conservation area, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, swimming pool, (indoor), cinema, bowling alley and curling club are located throughout the town.

Skiing (cross-country and downhill), boating, flying, golfing, snowmobiling, camping and swimming are also available in the area.

Alliston is served by one of Simcoe County's finest libraries. Pioneer life and history of the area is well-preserved in the South Simcoe Pioneer Museum, located in Alliston's Riverdale Park.

Many clubs, associations, sports-oriented organizations, cultural and social groups flourish in the town.

Laird Rowe Provincial Park, located one kilometre west of Alliston, consists of 900 acres of recreational playground including an outdoor pool and man-made lake.

Metropolitan Toronto, with its cosmopolitan facilities, is within one hour of the town. Lake Simcoe, with its beaches and sailing facilities is 20 minutes and Georgian Bay, which has the longest fresh-water beach in the world, is within 40 minutes' automobile travelling time of Alliston.

Alliston is noted for its Potato Festival held each year in August. The town is known as the Potato Capital of Ontario. Service clubs, organizations and individuals work together to host the three day event.

MEDICAL SERVICES:

Stevenson Memorial Hospital is a fully-accredited 85-bed acute treatment hospital. It has Medical, Surgical, Obstetrical, Operating rooms and Paediatric units as well as all facilities for X-ray, ultrasound, laboratory, physiotherapy, emergency and surgical procedures serving both inpatients and outpatients. Special equipment available includes cardiac monitors, electrocardiogram, infant isolettes, ultrasound equipment, mammography.

There are 22 members of the medical staff, all qualified consultants and general practitioners. There are 51 full-time staff and 71 part-time. Registered Nurses, Registered Nursing Assistants, Technical Aides and Aides. A full-time discharge planner, a volunteer services co-ordinator, a pharmacist work along with the general staff of 73 full-time and 66 part-time staff.

There is dental staff, physiotherapy and mental health clinics.

There is a very active hospital auxiliary, Meals-on-Wheels services, Victorian Order of Nurses and a group of Candy-stripers.

A 24-hour ambulance service with three back-up units is available and a helipad is located on the grounds for the air ambulance service.

There is a branch of the Simcoe County District Health Unit in Alliston. This unit provides health inspection, nursing services, home care services and dental services. Most services are provided free of charge.

Other clinics include medical doctors, dentists, optometrists and chiropractic care. Nursing home and retirement homes are located in the town and close proximity.

LABOUR FORCE:

The work force in Alliston consists of a large labour pool available from within Alliston as well as the surrounding area including CFB Borden. A large proportion of the work force is presently employed in a variety of occupations in Metropolitan Toronto and other major centres. Many of these residents would prefer to work in Alliston, eliminating the problems associated with commuting.

The unemployed rate for this area (1985) is five per cent. Wage rates or salaries are reasonable and acceptable for both the industries and the people within the community. The Ontario Employment Standards Act requires minimum hiring rates.

Sample wages for the town are as follows:

Maintenance Electricians & Mechanics	\$11 - \$14 per hour
Machine Operators	7.50 - \$9 per hour
Assembly Workers	6.50 - \$8. per hour
Unskilled Labourers	\$3 per hour
Engineer 2nd Class	\$8 per hour

Alliston is well served by professional, commercial, technical and industrial services. The commercial core consisting of some 140 businesses is a major employer as are the Stevenson Memorial Hospital, Simcoe Co. Board of Education and the Simcoe Co. Separate School Board.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Banking Services - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto Dominion Bank, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, National Trust, Alliston Community Credit Union.

Hotels, Motels and Restaurants- Approximately 200 hotel and motel units are available within close proximity of Alliston with dining and swimming pool facilities. A number of restaurants with licensed dining rooms as well as a good number of banquet, conference and fast food outlets are located in the town.

Public Library - Alliston has one of Simcoe County's finest small libraries. It contains 20,000 books and has access to a film library. The Trent Library System and the Simcoe County Library provide extended facilities. 16 mm films are available as well as talking books for handicapped. Children's story hour and an adult book club add to the services.

Service Clubs - Most service clubs are represented in Alliston and are very active in the welfare of the community. Lions, Rotary, Kinsmen, Kinettes, Optimists, Beta Sigma Phi, Royal Canadian Legion are among the groups.

Community Information Service - The South Simcoe Community Information Centre, called CONTACT, provides information and a referral service as well as a listening ear for those in need.

Chamber of Commerce - The Alliston and District Chamber of Commerce works to further the area's industrial and commercial development and actively promotes community involvement.

Newspapers, Radio and TV - The Herald is the local community newspaper with a circulation of 5,400. It also publishes four summer editions of Nottawasaga Summer, a promotional tourist publication and a monthly farm newspaper, Farming Today Simcoe County. Toronto daily and financial newspapers are also available. Cable TV is available providing a number of channels including a "community" TV channel operated by Trillium Cable TV Ltd.

This is an aerial photograph taken of Alliston in the year 1984.



Section 5

Churches

Page

5-1 Knox Presbyterian

5-7 St. John's United

5-9 Pentecostal

5-11 St. Andrew's Anglican

5-13 Adjala United

5-15 Alliance

5-16 St. Paul's Roman Catholic

5-17 Christian Reformed

5-20 Grace Baptist

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 From 1962 to 1985
 (Submitted by Ted & Mary Richards)

In 1962 the Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated their Centennial. At that time, a book, especially made for the Centennial, was published. At that time, Rev. Charles Tansley was the minister. He was in charge until January 1973, at which time he accepted a call to Scarborough. Among events during of note during Mr. Tansley's ministry, was the purchase of a new pipe organ, which was dedicated on Sunday, June 7th, 1964 by Rev. Tansley, assisted by Mrs. Farrier Eady, representing the Ladies' Aid, and Mr. Geo. Perchase, representing the Kirk Session.

The new organ was a Casavant Freres, 2 manual, pipe organ, with 16 ranks. It had an oak case, with oak and brass pipes. The organist at this time was Mrs. Miller, who kindly loaned her own organ for use while the new organ was being installed. A steel beam had to be put in to give added support, and the time of installation was approximately one year.

It is interesting to note that the old organ was bought by Mr. Geo. Wicker of Colborne, who had it in a barn for about 2 years, where it was rebuilt, installed and played, after which it was sold to the Christian Reformed Church in Acton, where it is still being used. The new organ was paid for completely by contributions from members and friends of the congregation, often in memory of someone. The Schola Cantorum chorale were conducted by Mr. Jim Irwin, with the P.A. system making it possible to play the hymns from the organ, or by using records, and could be heard either inside the church, and/or from the tower. They were usually played before church on Sunday mornings, and on the noon hour during the week, and were enjoyed by many, as they could be heard throughout a good part of the town.

During the spring of 1969, the house on Welington Street was sold and a 2 year old house at 14 Pauling Drive was purchased as a new manse. The Interim Moderator following Rev. Tansley's departure in January, 1970, was Rev. James McKay, who assisted the congregation in choosing a new minister. In July, 1970, Rev. Donald S. Moore was inducted to the pastoral charge of Alliston and Newcastle.

There were many events during Rev. Moore's ministry that were worthy of note and among these was a series of special Sunday evening services. The aim of these services, as set out by the founding body, the Outreach Committee, was as follows: 1) To bring to the church and town some of the leading Christians of our time. 2) To stimulate new interest in the Christian church in the town, as well as amongst our own people. 3) To give Knox Alliston, a new "look-alike and doing things" image. Therefore, Sunday evening, Sept. 26, 1971, was a historic evening, when the first of this series was conducted with the Very Rev. Edw. Johnston, Secretary for the World Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, as the first special speaker.

Other special speakers and events followed:

- Oct. 1, 1971 - Rev. Dr. David Nicholson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Minister of Grace Church, Calgary.
- June 9, 1972 - Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Long, Secretary of the General Council (United Church)
- March 19, 1972 - Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Hogg, Metropolitan United Church, Toronto
- April, 1972 - The Ministers, Brockville
- April, 1972 - The Borden Folk Group, Borden
- May, 1972 - The Dakota, Aurora
- Jan 25, 1972 - Rev. Tom Hargreaves, Religion Editor, The Toronto Star.
- Oct. 6-9-1972 - The Presbyterian Young People's Convention
- Oct. 15, 1972 - Rt. Rev. Dr. Max Paterson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston.
- May 7, 1972 - Very Rev. Dr. Finlay Stewart, St. Andrew's Church, Kitchener.
- Feb. 1, 1973 - Mr. Henry Bonebrake, Organist, Ontario Presbyterian Church, Toronto.
- March 11, 1973 - Very Rev. A.E.B. Moore, B.A., B.D., D.D., D.L., former Moderator of the United Church in Canada and the King Edward Choir, Seattle.

Each of the special services was followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment, shared by the members of Knox Church, and those from other congregations in the community, who attended.

Thanksgiving weekend, 1972, saw the young people of Knox as hosts of the 23rd annual convention of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston Young People's Societies. Some 220 young people arrived on the Friday evening and were billeted in private homes in Alliston and the surrounding district.

Saturday morning started with a prayer breakfast, followed by an address by the theme speaker, Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Galt, who spoke on "Developing God's Will." The afternoon was one of fun and games at the Dunton Farm, ending with a hay-ride and snack and supper. Inclement weather forced the cancelation of the evening's bonfire, and all were grateful for the shelter provided by the marguerite hoods available by Rose Davies. Sunday began with Bible Study groups and a sing-song. At the 11 a.m. regular service of worship, Mr. Campbell spoke on "The Day of First Commitment". The Church was packed to overflowing and the fathers were with songs of worship and praise. After lunch the young people went on a tour of Lake Simcoe, followed by a banquet in the L.F.M.S. cafeteria. Those at the head table were Mr. & Mrs. Lorne Duncan, 1st Sec. Synod President of the P.E.S., Karin Deane, Synod Chairman, Rev. Campbell, Rev. and Mrs. Don Moore of Knox Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lindsay, representing St. John's United Church. The theme message the third day was "Our Ultimate Choice". The 1972-73 executive were installed and a communion service brought the convention to a close. Mr. Moore rightfully praised the young people of Knox for all their hard work and expressed deep appreciation to St. John's congregation, without whom the convention would not have been possible. Those involved as hosts from Knox were Linn Cameron, Susan

The Presbyterian Church in Canada had worked for quite some time on the preparation and publication of a new "Book of Prayers." This was completed and the new hymn books were available by the latter part of 1972. Emox Church purchased enough of these new hymn books for the congregational use, with many of them being memorial gifts from individual members. These were all dedicated by Rev. Moore on Sunday, Feb. 4, 1973.

Early in 1973 it was decided to publish a new magazine by our own congregation. Members were invited to participate in this, by contributing articles for it. And all organizations were asked to include regular reports of their groups so that all members of the congregation could be better informed on all aspects of the life of the congregation. It was also to provide closer contact with the shut-ins and inactive members, to help them feel a part of the congregation. The first edition of this magazine, entitled "The Open Door" was available on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973, and was dedicated at that time. It was edited by Mary Richards.

On Sunday, September 30, 1973, which was the 100th anniversary of the congregation, a "History Corner" was dedicated by Rev. Moore, assisted by Rev. Charles Carter, of Victoria Harbour, the guest anniversary speaker. This "History Corner" was a display of pictures, etc., depicting the history of the church. This display was set up in one corner of the sanctuary of the Church, and was gathered together by Mr. Ted Richards. The congregation were asked to contribute anything suitable that they might have. Besides a photograph of every minister who had served the congregation, a few of the things donated were a complete seating plan of the very first church, when each family had their own designated pew. Also a communion token, a very detailed description from the local newspaper, of the building and opening of the second church on the Victoria St. W. property, and orders of service for many special services and events which took place at various times.

A silver wine pitcher and a chalice that belonged originally to the basement Presbyterian Church, and had been in the care of Mr. Dalton McCracken, was placed in a specially-built cabinet in the sanctuary. It was unveiled and re-dedicated on Sunday, October 7, 1973, by Rev. Moore assisted by Dalton McCracken.

In November, 1973, Rev. Moore received and accepted a pastoral call from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Smith's Falls, and conducted his final service the end of Jan. 1974.

Presbytery appointed Rev. Sami Das, of the Reformed, Tottenham, Schenberg charge as Interim Moderator. On September 6, 1974, Rev. Alexander Clements was inducted as minister.

In 1975, the Presbyterian church in Canada celebrated the 100th birthday. The theme and nationwide was "1845 - Remembrance - 1975 - Renewal - 2075 - Response." Special events were held by the different organizations throughout the year.

The Explorers and M.O.B. groups made large displays depicting church history, and church life and mission work. On June 6 they presented their Centennial Pageant. All members of the groups took part and put a great deal of time and effort into it. The busin story presented by the pageant began with Creation, not with God's creation. Adam and Eve were disgraced, including their sin, and how sin grew and spread. The pageant continued with the story of Noah and the rainbows we still see as a reminder of God's promise to never again punish another flood that would destroy the whole world. We were reminded of the commandments God gave us, as a guide for each of us to live by. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as a Saviour for the world. The pageant had many choruses interspersed throughout telling the message. Refreshments were served by the W.M.B. including a huge birthday cake, complete with 100 candles. Ted Senior Explorers, Susan Francis and Vicki Jo Edgar assisted Mrs. Clements in lighting the candles.

On June 24th a congregational picnic was held at Riverdale Park but inclement weather caused the pot luck supper to be held in the church basement. However, everyone enjoyed the good food and the sing songs and the time of fellowship. Pictures taken included Rev. Clements holding the youngest member at the picnic, Ange & Brenda, baby daughter of Ralph and Marie Braden, and Mrs. Annie Bates, the eldest member there, who between them managed a harmonical cut in the big birthday cake. Also present was another of the most senior church members, Mrs. Grace Cave.

The young people of Emox participated in the All-Ireland Potato Festival parade, by building a float using the Centennial theme.

The Ladies Aid Centennial project was the gathering together of recipes from members of the congregation and publishing a recipe book, which was sold.

On Sept. 6, 1975, the M.E.S. celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the organization with a special thank offering service. Special guests were Rev. and Mrs. Andrews, a former minister of the church, with Mrs. Andrews guest speaker for the service. Two members of the founding organization, Mrs. Grace Cave and Mrs. Alma Hawkins were present and did the honors of cutting the anniversary cake during the time of refreshments and fellowship which followed the service.

On Saturday evening, January 10th, 1976, Bruce Tel. (Stuck at Session), went to the Church to set up arrangements for communion which was to be celebrated the following day. When he opened the side door at the rear of the Church, he was met by heavy billowing smoke. He fought his way downstairs, and found flames among tables in the nursery and kindergarten area, situated in the basement at the front end of the Church. He dashed free of the building and ran across Victoria Street to the home of Ray Connell to phone the fire department, which responded promptly and did everything possible to contain the fire, fighting it to the basement in another fire escape. The firemen thought it, they had contained the fire there, only to find in their climb that it had worked its way up inside the walls and got a grip on the balcony, where flames were creeping out. Then it became a battle to contain the fire within the building, pouring in streams of water. The flames were held down but huge amounts of smoke and steam poured from the shattered windows as the fire fed on the double thickness hardwood floor, the pews, the organ and the loan and plastered walls. Everything beneath it was gone. Firemen also came from Tottenham, Cookstown and Keenest to help in the job. It was well below zero (1) temperatures, that froze the water on the walls in spite of the heat, making the firemen's work extremely difficult. The firemen tried repeatedly to get into the building, taking great risks, but were held back by smoke and heat. The beautiful stained-glass windows were shattered and destroyed. Some firemen received minor injuries, but the most serious was to Bill Sandell whose wrist was broken when he slipped on ice. But he kept right on, in spite of it. It was a still night, fortunately. Mayor Oak Gray opened his store to provide the meetings for food, drinks, and hot Ray Connell and Sam Carman opened their homes and made coffee and sandwiches for all the firemen and people who came. Even when the fire was subdued, there was still a bit of smoke and the firemen had to cope with another outbreak on Sunday morning, this time in the kitchen at the rear of the basement. Again on Monday it was necessary to quench another small outbreak.

Some of the things in the history corner to the east side of the entrance lobby, pictures and records were saved, although some were damaged. One filing cabinet was salvaged.

The service of worship on Sunday morning was held in the Arena hall, by a very dedicated congregation. Many a man was there on Saturday night, as members and citizens of the town watched the beautiful show in flames, and on Sunday morning, as the congregation considered the loss.

A congregational meeting was held on Monday evening, January 19th, in the Grange Hall, where plans for the future were discussed. The meeting was well-attended, and the work was unanimous to rebuild. Two committees were set up, a Building Committee, with Ron Westlie as Chairman, Mrs. Brian Dick, Secretary, and with Ted Richards, Ray Connell, Jim Valen and Rev. Clements to assist; and a Finance Committee with Gordon McCracken as Chairman, Mrs. Mary Maclellan as Secretary, and also Ray Connell, Margaret Conrad, Bruce Hall and Rev. Clements.

The first committee to advise after the fire was a concern to get a lot, as the altar and pews had been destroyed. Rev. Shilton of St. John's United Church came forward with the news that the communion table used by Knox Presbyterian Church prior to 1976 was still held by St. John's Church. So this was returned to Knox congregation, or the first communion service and is still being used.

And so began the arduous task of investigating the rebuilding program. Of prime importance and the first decision to be made was whether to rebuild on the present site or to re-locate. It was felt that a larger building was needed, and parking had been a problem for some time, with the Church being on a main highway and so close to the downtown core. As many of the senior members of the congregation were presently able to walk in church at the downtown location, a move would cause a serious problem for them. While this was a major consideration, discussion brought a response of a number of offers to provide transportation for those who needed it. Upon three inquiries of other possible sites, the Building Committee were offered a suitable site on King St. E., immediately South of Fall Lake subdivision. The developer who owned the property wanted to develop this land for residential and would have liked Alliston and Aurora Township to agree to an annexation by Alliston, and this would open the way for rezoning by Alliston. Both committees were anxious to cooperate with Knox Church, should the congregation decide that it does want to acquire the suggested property. The following resolution was passed by Alliston Council:

"That whereas the Registered Owners of Part Lot 31, Concession 8, in the Township of Aurora and Part in the Town of Alliston, have indicated their willingness to sell a certain parcel of area of land, to Knox Presbyterian Church for the purpose of creating thereon a new Church Building, the sale of these lands being subject to the Town of Alliston and the Township of Aurora agreeing to an annexation of those lands herein before described, containing 28182 acres more or less; and Whereas the Council met on Wednesday evening, March 10th, 1976, to discuss the subject annexation, it is therefore resolved that the Corporation of the Town of Alliston recognizes the subject lands as a potential development area for residential and are agreeable to annexation of those lands herein described, provided that the said lands are compatible with any overall plan for the Town of Alliston."

On April 14th, 1976, Knox Church held a congregational meeting to make the big decision, the location of their new church. The Building Committee gave a detailed report and the congregation authorized the Finance Committee to sign an offer to purchase the slightly over 2 acres of land on King Street South for \$22,709.57, subject to Presbyterian approval and

subject to the County Land Division Committee granting a covenant. The property is a frontage of 250 feet and a depth of 251 feet, with an area 10 feet deep for parking. The next day Presbytery representatives came to Alliston, inspected the site and approved the congregation's decision.

It was decided the Victoria Street property would be put up for sale, when the deal for the new property had been closed. That was the task of choosing an architect and design for the new church. Saiter and Alliston Architects, Barrie, were chosen and tenders were later received for the new church building, at an estimated cost of \$350,000.00. The Finance Committee received \$128,000.00 insurance money for the building, organ, fixtures and equipment.

The Alliston Council passed a motion that the town is willing to provide water and sewer services for the new church, subject to any costs involved being paid by the Trustee of Knox Church. The contract for the new church was let to Les Burton and Sons Inc., at \$283,446.00. This does not include furnishings or the organ, which were left for separate tenders.

Anticipating the start of construction of their new church, a large number turned out on July 22nd, 1976 to witness the turning of the first sod by their minister, Rev. Alexander Green, and on July 26th the contractor moved into the site to start building.

The Victoria Street property was sold for the sum of \$400,000.00 and demolition of the remains of the building took place in April, under the direction of Rev. Beattie, assisted by the P.M.C. Bulldozers cleared away the charred remains of the old building.

Immediately following the fire, many offers were extended to the congregation by other churches for use of their facilities. Regular services of worship continued in several locations, including the Arena Hall, and Alliston Union Public School.

On Wednesday, January 21st, just a few days after the fire, an open meeting at "Knox Building Fund Committee Assistance" was held in the town hall. This was the beginning of a great deal of assistance by Alliston congregations and service clubs and individuals, for which Knox congregation will always be grateful. A Trust Fund was established with contributions received at the Marriage Office.

At the Community Assistance meeting, 50 or more people were in attendance on a cold and stormy night. Those represented were the Christian Reformed Church, St. John's United Church, the Pentecostal Church, the Catholic Women's League of St. Paul's, the Women's Institute, the Lions, Scouts, Legion, Women and the Seniors, the Firemen and other individuals. Mr. Larry Keogh, of St. Paul's Senior Catholic Church had emceed the meeting and welcomed an chairman. He had put a great deal of effort and thought into preliminary organization, with the assistance of a Women's Union of the Fire Department. Mayor Oak Gray said at the meeting, "I am very impressed with the feeling of Alliston and the whole community in saying how sad we are to hear Knox Church burned down. This gathering tonight is an example of community spirit, and it is good to see people come out for something like this. I would like to thank Larry Keogh, who does not live in town, but was on the telephone early Sunday morning (after the fire) asking what could be done to get this started. It shows a real charitable spirit. Thank you all. The town, the Council want to help, you are welcome to use our facilities, and we will give you all the help we can."

John Hall, Clerk of Session of Knox Church, spoke briefly to say a congregational meeting had been held, and a decision made to rebuild. He also reported that nothing had been decided as to the name of the new church, by the Knox Victoria's office. Rev. Clements remarked that "Steve Saiter's right Bruce and I have been thinking and emotion, and I have not felt as free in a long time. But after that, I expect, comes the courage which builds us up and we are going again. Your presence here tonight means a great deal to the congregation of Knox Church. Many congregations are here to join with us, and we have a feeling now that we are not alone. We are here on behalf of our people to say 'thank you very, very much for what you have done for us already'."

Out of the long discussion by those at the meeting, came the decision that the Community Assistance Committee would sponsor the fund-raising event and there would be a sub-committee for projects undertaken by various organizations, to avoid duplications, conflict of dates, etc.

When it was decided that the fund-raising would sponsor a dinner as the first fund-raising event, Jack Tierney said, "Fortunately or a fortuitously" his grocery list just had a cancellation of a Feb. 7 date and they would donate their time for a dance. This being the good offer to make, the date for the dinner became Feb. 7, at the High School, which can accommodate more than the arena, and the charge was to be \$20.00 a plate, or \$10.00 a plate as a box donation to the Knox Church Building Fund. Dinner covers were kept low, with much of it being donated. Officers elected for the committee were Larry Keogh, President, Alice Whelan & Paul McKeown, vice-presidents, Audrey Lindsay as secretary, and Mrs. Jack Hanna as Treasurer. The executive decided to see to dinner preparations themselves. Mr. & Mrs. Oak Gray cooked all the beef, Rev. Beattie supplied the potatoes, the Cranston donated cream and butter and sour cream, the Sigma Pi's dish brought and battered the rolls, Rick Bailey provided the tomato juice, McLaughlin Foods provided the makings of the chili punch which was served when the people arrived, plus the vegetables. Audrey Whelan cooked the potatoes in the hospital kitchen, plus the vegetables. Plates were loaned by St. Paul's and St. John's churches. Mrs. Neeson and her school children staff worked hard assisting the other volunteers. Plates were donated by Foster Ladies. Miss Suzanne Van Rensselaer, Cookstown and Alliston, between 60 and 80 of them. Mrs. Jack Hanna and Mrs. Larry Keogh had the responsibility of co-ordinating the whole dinner. Twelve to 15 H.B.S. girls took care of serving the meal. The optimistic people who thought they could sell more than 200 \$25. tickets were proved gloriously right, and they sold 320. The Committee worked hard and got tremendous support, and in just over two

weeks after the committee was formed, pulled off a dinner and dance that was a smash hit. All things worked together for good except the weather. It was a cold, windy, wintry night with treacherous roads and visibility nil in spots. In spite of that, over 500 diners enjoyed the evening. Aiden Wheeler had cooked the meat in the hospital kitchen and then spent two solid hours slicing all 250 pounds of it.

The grand total cleared from the dinner was \$8,200. Don Beattie, on behalf of Knox congregation, expressed thanks to everyone responsible for pulling up the load. He thanked the committee for arranging the dinner, to those who had bought tickets, and to those who would be involved in other fund-raising efforts still to come. "I am rather overwhelmed," Rev. Clementis admitted. "You really do believe in Santa Claus. Someone said to me tonight that nothing like this has ever happened before. It certainly hasn't to me, or to anyone else I know. I simply want to join in thanks to all the people who have been mentioned here tonight and to the many others who have worked so hard, too."

It was announced at the dinner that the Kiwanis Club were donating the proceeds of their Heritage Jay Raffle, the Lions Club announced they were turning over the proceeds of their Annual Frolic in June, the All Saints agreed to take on a tag day, and to sell chocolates.

All church organizations joined in fund-raising activities also. The SM group raised over \$639 during a rummage, bazaar and bake sale at Allerton Library, during the weekends of Feb. 27 and 28 and March 2 and 3.

Knox school children collected over \$900, through the door-to-door sale of symbolic cards, each of which paid for 50 cents and represented the purchase of a new brick for the new church.

On Saturday, April 3, the "Food for Thought" group (young people) sponsored a chocolate drive in the town. On Saturday, April 10, the Ladies Aid had an Easter tea and bake sale in the library hall. The Explorers and G.O.C. groups also had a table at the bake sale and sold Easter novelties and some crafts.

On April 17 a concert sponsored by Knox Church choir was performed at B.M.F.S. Taking part were the Allerton Concert Band, Allerton Public School choir, combined choirs of St. John's United Church and Knox Church, Mr. Jim Johnstone, the Queen's Park Rangers Piano Band, the Park Choralliers, the Senior Citizens' Choir and Mr. Louis Hagen.

St. John's United Church presented the film "The Cross and the Switchblade" on March 20 and gave the proceeds to the Knox Building Fund.

On Sunday evening, April 7, St. Andrew's Church, Barrie, held a joint service of worship with the Pastoral charges of East Road (Strand) Westmountain (Anglican) Trinity - Knox-Lions. The offerings from this special service was also sent to the Building Fund.

The B.M. (Mr., Mrs., Miss) group built a model of the church which was to be built and took it to enter in the parade at the Annual Jubilee Festival in August.

A number of congregational meetings were held from time to time, to get final decisions regarding furnishings, and to choose from samples and research done by the Building Committee, in regards to light fixtures, pews, floor coverings and many other details. A great many memorial gifts were made, covering the costs of pews and many other furnishings. Many gifts of money were also received and Building Fund envelopes were available and used by those who wished to contribute on a weekly basis.

The Communion Table, Baptismal Font, Pulpit and 2 flower stands were built by Mr. E. Watson, a woodworking teacher in a Barrie High School with the materials supplied by Maurice Miller, also of Barrie. This oak furniture was hand-made and intricately carved and was lovingly donated by Mr. & Mrs. Watson and the Miller family.

By April 1, 1977, just over 14 months from the date of the fire, the new church was finished and ready.

It is simple in design, with the sanctuary ceiling an open plane construction, supported by natural finished laminated beams. The roofers and pews are all natural finished oak, with the walls a creamy white, making a most attractive interior. The west end wall has a central white panel which supports an illuminated cross, and is flanked on each side by a brown panel of architectural detail. There is a row of windows at eye level height, down each side of the sanctuary, of amber tinted glass. Across the east end of the sanctuary is a gallery. The floor is carpeted in blue, with Presbyterian floor cushions on the pews. A center aisle with the three front pews on each side starter makes it very convenient for brief parties, etc.

The main entrance is on the South side of the building, with double glass doors, and side carpeted stairs and wheel-chair ramp, leading to a large vestibule partially lighted by a floor to ceiling window.

KNOX Presbyterian Church Continued--(Sixth Page)

The basement contains a nursery, storage room, washrooms, a large kitchen and a Sunday School hall, which can double as a banquet hall, seating over 200 people. The kitchen is large and roomy, with lots of cupboards and working space, including a long center-island work area. There are two stoves, 2 dishwashers, a freezer, a restaurant-style refrigerator and a serving counter. There is also a "rest and eating" area to one side of the room, making it a very convenient and pleasant place to work.

To the West end of the sanctuary, and accessible from either the sanctuary or a rear stairway and rear outside door, is an office, a library, a combined choir and lounge or meeting room, as well as the Minister's vestry. The building is heated with a gas hot-water heating system.

On Sunday, April 3, 1977, the official opening and dedication of the beautiful new church took place by the Presbytery of Barrie. The church was filled to overflowing, with the sanctuary and basement filled and many unable to get in at all. Well over 500 were in attendance.

When all had assembled, Mr. Gordon McCracken, chairman of the Finance Committee, closed the church doors. Rev. S.J. Stewart, Moderator of Barrie Presbytery, then knocked upon the doors and at the third knocking of the doors, they were opened from within by Ron Heattie, chairman of the Building Committee. The Moderator accepted the keys from him and led the processional of the members of Barrie Presbytery, the Alliston Ministerial, special guests and the choir, to the front of the church, where he gave them to the Clerk of Presbytery, Rev. B.P. Dan, who laid them on the Communion table at the front of the church. Following the responsive reading of the words of dedication of the church by the Moderator and the congregation, and the dedication of the pulpit and other furnishings by invited clergy, the keys were handed to the Minister of Knox, Rev. Clements, who pronounced the benediction. Dr. H.F. Davidson of Toronto, and former Moderator of the General Assembly, preached the sermon, and also present was Rev. D.A. Wilson, Collingwood, Moderator of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston. Following the official service of dedication, the women put their new kitchen to good use and served an excellent tea to the members and guests.

Bruce and Verna Hall made a good beginning for a new History Corner by salvaging as much as possible from pictures and scrap books removed from the burned-out church. The photographs of all the ministers were cleaned and installed in new hand-made oak frames and new glass. This labour of love was done by Ted Richards. Three memorial brass plaques were also salvaged and are in the History Corner as well. Photographs of all the organizations, the Sunday School choir, etc. were taken at the time of the opening of the church and are also in the history corner, as well as pictures of the fire. Also there is the spade used for the turning of the first sod of the new church.

In April, 1981, a memorial sign was built in front of the church and paid for from the Knox Church Memorial Fund. It is made of angelstone, and contains an illuminated sign. Worked into the design is a replica of the cornerstone and a face-stone with the word "KNOX" which was right above the main entrance, both from the former church. This face-stone was originally made of the same clay and manner as Alliston Brick. The top of the illuminated portion of the sign contains the leaded glass part of the sign from the front of the former church, with the words "Knox Church" and the Burning Bush emblem.

At the end of August, 1981, Rev. Clements retired from the active ministry. Rev. Harvey Osborne was inducted on Oct. 8th, 1981, as the new minister of Alliston and Mansfield charges. The Interim Moderator, during the vacancy, was Rev. Malcolm Summers of Barrie.

On Saturday, September 25th, 1982, on the 120th anniversary of Knox Church congregation, a congregational dinner was held, to celebrate the burning of the mortgage. A former minister, Rev. Chas. Townsley and Mrs. Townsley were in attendance, also Mrs. Win Thompson, a former organist, and Rev. David Thomson, as well as the Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm Summers, representing the Presbytery of Barrie.



Here we see the old Presbyterian Church, which burned down Jan. 1976 and the new one which was ready for services in April, 1977.



Presbyterian Church, Alliston, Ont.

MOB

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH 1965-1981

1965 was an eventful year in the life of the United Church in Alliston. On May 9th, the sod was turned at the site of the new Christian Education Wing. The building rose under the constant supervision of the Building Committee and was dedicated on December 5th of the same year. The U.C.W. supplied new dishes, curtains and furnishings for the East Parlour. Repairs were made to the bell tower, the brickwork at the corners and the Kitchen roof. A new heating system was installed in the old hall. Six groups of C.G.I.T. (60 girls) joined a 50th anniversary rally in the Maple Leaf Gardens.

In 1966 the caretaker was pleased to have a new vacuum cleaner and a new floor polisher. The Sunday School procured a spirit duplicator and the choir room a new piano.

1967 was Centennial year and it proved both profitable and interesting. Mr. M.E. Taylor was sponsored as a candidate for the Ministry. Old time costumes and customs were observed at our annual picnic. The U.C.W. initiated a Senior Citizens Organization which grew to 80 members for a party in December. The U.C.W. catered to approximately 1000 guests at McCague's Dairy Sale on May 8th. There was a Centennial Year display of a typical old-time parlour and dining room complete with beautiful antiques at the bazaar.

In 1968 the Alliston Union Public School Board rented three rooms in the Christian Education wing for Kindergarten classes while the Public School was being built.

In 1969 the U.C.W. Sponsored the Sunshine Club to visit the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. The next fall rooms were leased to the Alliston and District Association for the Mentally Retarded for the Victoria Nursery School. The C.G.I.T. staged a "Starvation" and raised \$1000 for the Association.

The Sunshine Club formed a committee to set up Meals On Wheels which began operating November 1st, 1971.

In 1972 the 100th Anniversary of the church building was celebrated with visitors from Australia, South Africa, Europe, Japan, as well as from places across U.S. and Canada.

In 1973 the Rev. and Mrs. Shilton and family moved out of the Manse to the Foster house at 21 Queen Street and the old Manse was demolished in October. Mrs. Shilton saved the brick autographed by Sir Frederick Bunting in his young days.

In 1974 a parking lot was designed and landscaped by Terry Kowalski for the South side of the Church entrance.

The 50th Anniversary of Church Union was celebrated at Earl Rowe Park with a special service held in the outdoor amphitheatre followed by a picnic, June 8th, 1975. Much to the satisfaction of the organist, Mr. Ken Inkster, a mixture stop was added to the Casavant organ. A public address system, donated by the family of Rev. Walter Lee, was dedicated April 27th.

The old Christian Education West Wing was demolished in 1976 and a new hall, kitchen, lobby, washrooms and electrical store room erected at a cost of \$124,750. The Rev. George James, Chairman of Simcoe Presbytery dedicated the new wing November 21st.

In 1977, Mr. Sidney Owens, who had served many years as Sunday School Superintendent, passed away January 30th. As a Memorial to him, a Library was set up to serve the members of the congregation. The Christian Education Committee suffered a very real loss when Mrs. Jean Shilton, Mrs. Helen Laver and Mr. Ed Laver resigned.

Continued.....

ALLISTON'S ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH Continued.....

In 1978 Rev. J.E. Shilton resigned, due to ill health, after serving the congregation superbly for twenty-five years. Rev. Peter Moffat became the minister, and his induction service was held October 1st. The new West wing was named SHILTON HALL, with decorative panels on the South wall and works of local artists hung on the East wall.

A vocal group called the Merry Minstrels, led by Mrs. Marjorie McKelvey, participated in the Welsh Music Festival at Langgilden in July 1979. Two of the Minstrels who contributed solos, Mary McKuer-Wallace and Mary Owens, were among the winners in the International Open Solo and Folk Classes. A vietnamese family of four sponsored by the congregation arrived in September. The Russian Relations course was examined by an Inter-Church Committee which presented a brief to the Simcoe County Board of Education, resulting in a revised course. The annual Simcoe Presbyterian was hosted by St. John's with about 400 in attendance.

At the 1980 Toronto Conference the theme song "We Are Family", written by Rev. Elizabeth Eberhart Moffat, Steve Bernby and John Howard, was introduced and sung. This song is still used in St. John's worship services. Sponsorship of the Vietnamese family was completed in September. Leann McKelvey, one of the Jr. Sunday School teachers, was the Ambassador Abroad while spending a year in the Philippines as a Rotary Exchange student.

In 1981 St. John's joined the Presbytery in presenting an interesting display at the International Ploughing Match held at Crown Hill. The ladies served refreshments and various groups, including the Golden Bells provided entertainment. November 29th marked the 20th Anniversary of Mr. Kenneth Inkster as Organist and Choir Master in St. John's.



The family after the naming of "Shilton Hall"
St. John's United Church, Alliston, Ontario,
June 25, 1978.



L. to R. standing, Cleve Sheffield, (Carolyn's
fiance), Jean, Jim, David, Donald.
Kneeling, Alan Lennon, Paul.
Sitting, Carolyn, Elizabeth Shilton Lennon,
Pamela (Paul's wife), Kathleen.

Photo by: Yvonne Madill

ALLISON PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

(1930's until present 1987)

(Contributed by Ernest Cumberland)

In the 1930's many attempts were made to establish some kind of Pentecostal work in the community of Allison, 25 miles south-west of Barrie, and nothing permanent was established. In 1937 Les Milley was asked to speak at some cottage meetings in the house next door to the building which was soon to be the "first" church building. The invitation came from a Mrs. May and Miss J. Rogers under the auspices of the Pentecostal Holiness movement. A Brother Walter Crawford travelled from Toronto each weekend to minister to the small group of believers until the Spring of 1941.

It was at this point that Les Milley was asked to consider taking over the pastoral responsibilities, which he did voluntarily for 15 months. The church had increased in number enough to move the services to the basement of the Presbyterian Church which was rented for \$5.00 per month. Though there was much difficulty developing the work within the community, souls were saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit as a result of street meetings conducted on Saturday evening. In 1943, this growing Church was affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. In 1949, the Church moved from the lower to the upper auditorium of the Presbyterian Church.

In June, 1950, Rev. Jack Pearson assumed the pastoral responsibilities and on October 1st of that year, a parsonage was purchased for \$5,000. On August 4th, 1951, the assembly was offered to purchase the smaller Coopers Presbyterian Church at the incredible price of \$9,000. The offer was accepted three days later, solidifying the permanence of a P.A.O.C. Church in the community. Only 27 months later, on November 9th, 1953, the mortgage was burned. The Church prospered under the ministry of Rev. Pearson. He had Evangelist Louisa Wain in several times and she proved to be a real blessing to both Church and community.

Rev. Frank Dawe assumed responsibility in June, 1956, as the Church continued to prosper. In 1959, the old coal furnace, and the days of the Sunday 6.00 a.m. ritual of getting the Church furnace going, came to an end when a forced air oil system was installed. Sister Dawe contributed to the music program and the first electric organ was purchased.

During Brother George Croft's ministry, which started in 1962, both the sanctuary and the lower auditorium received extensive renovations. Considering the building was close to 100 years' old, had been moved into town from the country, placed on a foundation and bricked, it needed such an interior face-lift. Brother Croft's ability with wood was an added blessing, apart from his ministry. The baptistry was added and the pulpit and communion table, which Brother Croft made, are still being used today.

Rev. Ernest Hanson moved in, in May, 1969. Brother Hanson's educational capabilities caused the children's and youth programs to get off the ground, broadening the Church's impact on the community.

Rev. Ian Presley, arriving in August, 1975, was a man who gained much respect in the community. The Crusader Program got into high gear during his years. The illness of Sister Presley put added pressure on their ministry, but there was rejoicing when the cancer was healed by our Lord Jesus, leaving behind a testimony that is mentioned around the Church today.

Rev. Dennis Hillis answered the call in February, 1978. Under his ministry the bus ministry was developed and the Church slowly began to change as newer, younger couples began to come in. During Brother Hillis' time, the Church was carpeted, dried and repainted. As well, a large fluorescent sign was placed on the front of the Church.

Several major changes were made during the ministry of Pastor Paul Roy. A T.V. ministry on the local cable station was started, the parsonage was sold and a building fund established. New hymn books, organ and chairs were purchased, and an addition was erected on the front of the Church with no debt upon completion.

ALLISTON PENTECOSTAL CHURCH (Page Two)

Rev. Murray and Heather Comber accepted the call in May, 1982. Under their ministry the following are most mentionable.

1. A considerable increase in the missions' contribution to the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
2. A new thrust in youth ministry bringing in qualified and able youth workers including Mark and Serl Schinkel, Richard Mitic and John and Kathy-Ellen Arancibia.
3. The purchase of five acres of land on Highway 89, two miles west of town in December, 1983, for \$52,500. This closed six weeks' prior to the announcement that Honda would be opening a huge auto assembly plant in Alliston. This would literally change the face of the community.
4. The involvement of the Queensway Cathedral College and Carcare from Toronto in ministering both to the congregation and the community with door to door outreach, followed by a week of meetings with Evangelist, Rev. Paul Ripley. Queensway Cathedral's two visits and this week of meetings had a lot to do with changing the heart and soul of the congregation which led to growth.
5. The rapid growth of the church in 1985 with a 50% increase in both numbers and finances.
6. The beginning of an intercessory prayer meeting on Thursday morning of each week, as a result of many all-night prayer meetings prior to our meetings with Queensway and Rev. Ripley.
7. The sale of the old church building on Wellington Street in January, 1986, for \$120,000.
8. The construction of the new facility on Highway 89 with the completion of the first phase in late September, 1986.
9. During the nine months of planning and construction, the services were held at the Alliston and Community Christian School.

It is anticipated that the second phase of the building program, (the first floor sanctuary area) will be completed some time in 1987 or 1988, pending the continuing growth of the assembly.

New emphasis will be placed on church leadership for youth and Sunday School, the development of a family night and men's fellowship program.

Great things are expected as we continue to seek God's will for our body in our community.

ST. ANDREWS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

1927 - 1986

(This information was written up by Elizabeth Hanna and given to Ernest Cumberland for the Tweedsmuir History in 1986.)

Early in 1927, the new rector, Rev. P.K. Knight, the wardens and the building committee were busy preparing for and erecting a beautiful new church. On March 6, 1927, the last service was held in the old church. The corner-stone was laid May 3, 1927 by the Hon. J.S. Martin, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture. The opening service was held October 9, 1927, by Bishop Sweeney. Canon Fiddler, son of the first missionary circuit rider in the locality, preached at the evening service.

Over the war years, 1941-43, services were conducted by three clergymen, Rev. W.R. Smyth, Rev. H.R. Doering and Rev. B.S. Greene. In 1943 Rev. Wigmore came and served the congregation until 1949, when Rev. A.C. Forbert, Arctic missionary came for a period of six years. During this time better lighting was installed by Mr. Leon Malcolm and a Hallén organ purchased, as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars. It has been known as the Hall Memorial Organ. An oil heating system was installed in the Parish Hall in 1955.

Rev. I.H. Bridle served from 1955-1962. Oil furnaces were installed in the basement of the church and washrooms were added. The basement of the parish hall was partitioned and new hardwood floors installed. Renovations were also made to the Rectory. Two washrooms and church office were added to the existing hall, with new choir and Sunday School rooms in the basement.

The cost was \$82,000, which included two new gas furnaces and the coiling of the hall lowered. One of the great helpers in this project was Charles Miller, a member of the parish. His untimely death soon after the completion of the addition was a shock to all the parish. It was voted in January of 1984 that the hall be named "Miller Hall" in his memory.

On March 25, 1984, Bishop Brown conducted the service of Dedication of the hall, and the same day the new Sacristy was dedicated to the memory of Canon Frank Fry, associate Priest at St. Andrew's. This room was given by his children.

The Church at St. Peter's, West Fesa, had been declining in membership for some time; therefore, it was a mutual decision to close this church, deconsecrate the building and demolish same. The service of deconsecration took place on June 20, 1982, conducted by Bishop A.E. Brown, Suffragan Bishop of York Simcoe, assisted by the present Rector, Canon J. Alban-Dobson. The church had opened June 29, 1862 and had celebrated their centennial in June of 1962 with Bishop E.R. Hun, officiating. The altar, prayer desk, altar missal, and altar basin were brought to St. Andrews' Church and were put in the alcove now known as St. Peter's Chapel. The bell from the church is mounted in a stone structure at the Essex Township Municipal building in Buxton. Some of the former parishioners have pews and stained-glass windows as personal mementos. The church was demolished and a plaque erected on the site commemorating the establishment of the original St. Peter's church and cemetery. The service of unveiling and dedication of the plaque took place Sunday, June 2, 1985. The plaque was dedicated by the present Rector of St. Andrews', Canon T.G. Whittfield, with the address given by a former Rector (1955-1962) the Rev. Harry Bridle. The members of St. Peter's amalgamated with the Parish of St. Andrews', Alliston.

St. Andrews' Day dinners were started on November 30th of each year for members of the congregation. The Dobson's retired and moved to Toronto, their last service being July 22, 1984. The new Rector, the Rev. Canon Garrett Whitfield and his wife, Ruby, came from the Parish of Bradford and conducted his first service August 5, 1984.

The present organist is Gerry Buss of Barrie who came to us in 1985.

ST. ANDREWS' ANGLICAN CHURCH (Page Two)

The parish is growing with new families moving into the area, an excellent Sunday School with Marion O'Brien as Superintendent and the large spruce trees at the front of the church have been removed and new memorial gardens planted in the early fall of 1986 in memory of loved ones, total cost being paid for by the parishioners.

Memorials during this period:

Processional cross	given by	Canon Frank Fry & children
Altar vases	" "	Bea Corbett
Altar candlesticks	" "	Kim Ball
Ciborium	" "	Canon & Mrs. G. Whitfield
Organ	" "	Various members of the congregation
Sacristy	" "	Children of Canon F. Fry
Nativity Creche	" "	Canon & Mrs. J. Alban-Dobson.

Two different views of St. Andrew's Church in Alliston



ST. ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ALLISTON, ONT.



ST. ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ALLISTON, ONT.

ADJALA (REANY'S) UNITED CHURCH

(1856 - 1986)

(Submitted by Ernest Cumberland)

This history is taken from the Anniversary and Dedication Service pamphlet put out for the Sunday, May 4, 1986 celebration.

THEN AND NOW: An historical note on Adjala United Church

They came from the British Isles in the mid 19th century, the Chapmans and Baldwells, the Scoots and the McCullochs, the Sirrs and the Watsons. They were Methodists, and so even as they struggled to get established on their farms they found time and energy to build the first Meeting House, a tiny log chapel about a mile south of the present church. Ten years later the Meeting House could no longer hold the increasing number of young families.

By 1866 a new church of frame and clapboard with an adjoining four-bay driveway was complete. All had been built by the men of the congregation from wood donated by members and friends, or properly sold to the congregation by one James Reany for one dollar and the promise that the church would be named for him. Was it to be Reany's or Runcy's? The family never did agree.

Meanwhile, just one congregation to the east "the Adjala Church, Presbyterian, in conjunction with the Canada Presbyterian Church" led by Wm. Sloan, John Walkam, Miller Hamilton, John Drummond, John Walker and Robert Toms, flourished. Its church hall, built over the driveway, soon became a community centre.

As the new century began Reany's church required restoration and more heat. To provide for both the building was raised onto a stone foundation and faced with brick hauled by wagon from Scotland. The structure was now safe and the new basement made a furnace possible.

By 1924, the Presbyterian Adjala Church, now known locally as Sloane's, joined with the Methodist Reany's in a sort of union that was probably more pragmatic than spiritual. Sloane's church was cold and drafty. Reany's had a furnace, so for six months in the summer, services were held in Sloane's and in the winter in Reany's. Perhaps formal union took place, but just when is unclear. One 1936 document lists elders for Sloane's church and one backbook held by its treasurer has entries up to 1948, for a fund which, augmented by a centennial year grant, provided for continuous care of Sloane's cemetery. Certainly in 1923 Reany's became part of the United Church of Canada.

As with all churches there is a regular cyclic waning and resurgence of membership as families grow and move away and are replaced by new young families. Adjala United was no exception. By 1985 the influx of families from the city produced such a resurgence. Recognizing the need for a Sunday School and space to accommodate it, the Hofmans provided the momentum for the present extension. A special concession by the Adjala Municipal Council made space available.

All this is the THEN, Adjala United's past. The NOW has arrived. Many descendants of the original founders are still here; many have left but the foundations they built are strong.

DIARY OF THE PROJECT: CALENDAR OF CHANGE

January 1984

The Congregation appointed a Building Committee of Harold McCulloch, Don Riden and Helen Chute to explore the possibility of building an extension to the front of the church. Two architects were consulted.

January 1985

Mrs. Jim Symmes plans incorporating an enclosed staircase, washroom, kitchen and conference room were accepted by the congregation. Harold McCulloch was appointed project co-ordinator and general contractor. Larry and Diane Foman offered a water supply, an essential to the plans.

ADJALA (REANY'S) UNITED CHURCH (Page Two)

DIARY OF THE PROJECT: CALENDAR OF CHANGE (Continued from Page One)

April 21, 1985

The congregation voted to proceed with the extension contingent on financial arrangements. John Swinden prepared an informative letter appealing for funds and volunteer labour. The response was enthusiastic.

August 25, 1985

Building commenced.

April 19, 1986

The extension was completed. Our heartfelt thanks to Harold McCulloch and Grant Williams his partner, for their leadership and guidance in the whole project; to Jin Symmes for the many hours he gave to building the staircase and for his gift of the lovely East Window, the church sign, the cross at the front of the sanctuary and much structural advice on the building; to Dave Corbett and his boys for the many hours borrowed from the busiest time of their year to do the electrical work; to the 'work gang', Jack Fraser, Ira Sirr, Laurie Chute, Robin Scandlen and John Boni; to the UCW and their friends for painting, sanding and the daily supply of snacks for the other workers.

May 4, 1986

Welcome to Dedication Day.

The flowers at the front of the Sanctuary today are placed in loving memory of the Founders of both Reany's Methodist and Adjala Presbyterian Churches and their descendants.

Minister: Rev. Nancy J. Knox B.A. M.Div.

Organist: Mrs. Helen Swinden

Elders: Harold McCulloch, Life Elder
Clare Watson
Eileen Fraser
Wm. Paterson
Alan Wardle
John Swinden

Stewards: Hans Hofman
Jack Fraser
Laurie Chute
Bev Brenton
Gary West
Richard Canning
Harold McCulloch, Treasurer

Sunday School Superintendent: Diane Hofman

Words & music of the Anniversary Hymn sung at this Dedication Service were composed by Alan Wardle.



ALLIANCE CHURCH OF ALLISTON (1976-1987)

This account was obtained by Ernest Cumberland in 1987.

The Alliston Alliance Church began meeting for services in May of 1976. It officially joined the Christian and Missionary Alliance in November of that same year. Early in 1977 Rev. Don Smith was called as the first pastor of the church. The church saw good growth in those early years and in 1978 the church received its charter membership with 20 members.

The Orange Hall on Wellington Street in Alliston was the meeting place for the church in the early years. However, it soon became apparent that the hall was not adequate to meet the Christian Education needs of a growing family-centered congregation. A property search committee was formed and a 5 acre lot was purchased just east of Alliston in Essex Township on the north side of the Highway 89. The property debt was retired in a short two years and the church began to look forward to building.

In June of 1981 Rev. David Dent was called as the second pastor of the church. Shortly thereafter the church formed a building committee and the congregation approved our building program in December of 1982.

Construction under the leadership of Don Huekey of Wasaga Beach got underway in May of 1983 and the congregation was worshipping in its new facilities in August of the same year. The church has enjoyed not just the facilities but also the opportunities that the building has provided. The church membership has continued to grow, programs have been expanded and initiated and missionary support has tripled. The church looks forward to future opportunities to share the gospel and love of Christ both here in Alliston and to the far end of the world.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN ALLISTON

(Submitted by Ernest Cumberland)

1987

Pastors of St. Paul's:

July 1873 - Sept. 1920	- Rev. H.J. Gibney (died Mar. 22, 1922)
Sept. 1920 - Sept. 1921	Rev. W.P. Heydon (died Oct. 15, 1956)
Sept. 1921 - Sept. 1928	- Rev. J. O'Brien (died June 29, 1931)
Sept. 1928 - June 1936	Rev. F.J. Sneath (died April 27, 1942)
June 1936 - Sept. 1938	Rev. F.M. Caulfield (died April 10, 1961)
Sept. 1938 - June 1943	Rev. F. Coffey (died Jan. 28, 1943)
June 1943 - Sept. 1944	Rev. P.J. Kirby (died July 27, 1961)
Sept. 1944 - Oct. 1948	Rev. L.T. Healey
Sept. 1956 - Sept. 1962	Rev. V. McGivney
Oct. 1962 - Sept. 1964	Rev. C.J. Schwalm
Sept. 1964 - June 1968	Rev. J. Bolger
June 1968 - Aug. 1976	Rev. F.R. McGinn
Oct. 1976 - June 1980	Rev. E. Lawlor
June 1980 - Sept. 1981	Rev. Maloney
Sept. 1981 -	Rev. C. Bennett

picture

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

The Christian Reformed Church of Alliston marked its twenty-fifth anniversary on November 3rd, 1946.

The early beginnings and later development of the Christian Reformed Church in Canada, as well as in Alliston, is very closely connected with the immigration of men and women of the Reformed faith from the Netherlands to Canada. The first three families from Holland to settle in the Alliston area arrived in 1849 with an additional few the next year. The spring of 1851, the year in which many new immigrants came to Canada, brought several new-comers into this area as well, scattered from East of Alliston to Everett, Monmouth and West of Marsfield.

But such an "immigrants Sunday" was not a Sunday if they were not able to attend a worship service. There was a strong desire among the new immigrants to worship with their own people, in their native language and in the traditional manner to which they were accustomed. During the week the newcomers were eager to adapt to new ways; to become acquainted with their new country and although they were much welcome in the local churches, many of them wanted to maintain their heritage. They were willing to live in a new country and adapt to a new way of living, except church life.

Saturday evenings were the times that the neighbours met each other, in the town of Alliston, doing their weekly shopping. It was here that the idea was first discussed to start worship services on Sundays. This met with general approval and it was decided to rent the former Grangehall in Everett and begin worship services there. Rent for the hall was \$4.00 per Sunday. (The hall is now an upholstery shop in Everett).

On Sunday afternoon, October 14, 1911, the first service was held with no Minister and the men taking turns reading a sermon and conducting the service. Transportation posed a problem as there were only 3 or 4 cars available. On cold winter days the little woodstove in the centre of the hall stood red hot and the little group was sorted all around it.

In January of 1912 the people of the Anglican Church in Everett allowed the use of their Church building. The offer was accepted and very much appreciated and they now came together in a real church building.

In 1912 (January) the Rev. Bos, a Home Missionary, conducted a funeral service. But in March, 1912, the first wedding of Kees Dekker and Minnie Pater proved to be a joyful occasion. The Rev. Andre officiated. And in May of that same year and in the same church, the baby of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hartman was baptized. Sorrow and happiness was experienced within a relatively short time and it all worked towards a better understanding and a closer unity among the members.

New immigrants arrived again in the spring of 1912 and a couple of families from other areas also bought farms in this area. Sunday afternoon services were still held in the Everett Anglican Church with a visiting minister conducting the service on alternating Sundays.

It was at this time that a vacant church building on Highway 89, 3 miles West of Alliston, which had not been used for 7 years, was rented for 10 years at \$1.00 per year plus maintenance. The church was ideally located in the spring, summer and fall, but in winter time there was snow, cold building, expense of a new roof, etc.

At this time, fall of 1912, the Rev. Brounsma was appointed by the Home Mission Board to take care of the group in Alliston. He was preceded by the Rev. Bos who worked among the people for a short time. Rev. Brounsma and Rev. Bos were Home Missionaries sent out by the Home Mission Board of the Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan to work among the new immigrants in Canada. The several Home Missionaries did an excellent job in providing spiritual care to the new comers and guiding them through the first difficult years. The Rev. Brounsma was an older man and initially served the congregations of Barrie and the groups in Collingwood, Orillia and Alliston. Every other Sunday morning he preached for the group in Alliston and for the remaining Sundays they had either a classical appointment or a reading service.

The membership papers were still in various churches; mainly in Holland Marsh, Barrie and Oranville. These were then transferred to the existing church in Barrie. During the fall of '12, 2 members were elected as elders in the Barrie church with the specific task of working among the Alliston group. This prevented difficulties with baptism and communion. Family visitation also commenced in the fall. During the summer, a Sunday school got underway after the conclusion of the morning service. The first Sunday school teacher was Mr. Gerrit Dekker. In the fall, Rev. Brounsma started to teach catechism to the young people first for some time in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Span Sr. and later in the church.

The following year, under the guidance of Rev. Bronsema, steps were taken to become an organized church and on November 8, 1953 the Christian Reformed Church of Alliston was instituted with a membership of 17 families. This was done under the auspices of the church in Barrie. P. Schep and A. VanderZaag were elected as elders and Y. Raan and Johan Dekker as deacons. 19 voting members were present. The first consistory meeting of the new church was held on November 12, 1953, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johan Dekker in Everett. The following year Evert Ruiters was elected president of a newly formed Young People Society. In February, 1955, Rev. Bronsema suggested that a building fund be started. It was also decided that an English service be held every other Sunday morning. During 1956, Rev. Bronsema became emeritus, after having led the congregation through its formative years. He preached his farewell sermon on May 20th of that year.

The group felt fortunate in having the services of student Quartel for the following summer months. The churches of Orangeville and Alliston then decided to call a minister jointly. Both churches were small and unable to support a minister on their own. After some consideration and discussion, the Rev. Harold Hollander, who served a congregation in Iowa, U.S.A., was called and he accepted.

In January 1957, Rev. and Mrs. Hollander with their family came to Canada. They resided in Orangeville, but for a number of years he preached 3 times every Sunday, twice in one place and once in the other, and then reversed the order of the second week. Rev. Hollander will be long remembered by many for his pastoral care and concern for those with difficulties. Through Mrs. Hollander's initiative a ladies' society began and she became its first president. This society flourished right from the beginning and after some time Mr. H. Valk encouraged the men to form a group also, which proved equally successful. Both societies are still going.

The Lord blessed the young congregation; they grew in number and the fellowship and unity increased. During a visit to the church in Orangeville caused no problems. There was a good relationship between the two churches and Rev. Hollander worked conscientiously, never showing any favoritism.

By 1960 the congregation had grown so much that more facilities were needed. Efforts were made to strengthen the Building Fund by holding a drive through the congregation, and this proved very successful. At a congregational meeting on July 18, 1960, it was decided to buy the lots 3, 6 and 7 in the new Denney subdivision, East of Alliston. Each lot was 62 by 248 feet and the price for each was \$1200. However, because 3 lots were purchased and because it was for a church, they got the three lots for \$2600.

In the summer of 1960 the congregation held their first church picnic in Earl Rowe Park. These picnics have become an annual event on Dominion Day.

Another congregational meeting was held on May 26, 1962. By this time the church building in use was inadequate for the growing congregation. A building plan was drawn up by Henry Dekker, after looking at churches in Listowel and Forest, Ontario. The plan presented to the congregation was that the Dekker Bros. were willing to build a church for \$28,597. This was approved at a meeting on Nov. 29th, 1962, with 27 votes in favor and 1 against. Besides the money in the Building Fund, an interest-free loan of \$12,300. was obtained from the Denominational Church Help Fund and also a Bank loan of \$3,000.

Rev. Hollander, after guiding the two small congregations through a period of growth, accepted a call from the Christian Reformed Church in Neerlandia, Alberta. He preached his farewell sermon on July 1, 1962 and candidate Bieze, who at that time had just finished his theological studies at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, came to take care of both congregations for the summer months. It was under his leadership that the first Vacation Bible School was held.

The churches in Orangeville and Alliston had become large enough that each could call a minister. The Alliston church called Candidate Bieze and he accepted.

On Sunday, December 23, 1962, the small congregation of 20 families, were able to worship in their new church, and a dedication service was held on Feb. 1, 1963, to praise and thank the Lord for His Blessings.

Rev. Bieze worked faithfully in the congregation from the summer of 1962 until 1967 when he left to serve the church in Taber, Alberta. During this time the congregation grew steadily. The Cadet and Calviante clubs got underway, as well as the Sunflower Club and a Boys Alive Club. The latter clubs were for young teenagers from outside the congregation, this being an evangelizing project. Some of the young married members formed a couples club.

After Rev. Bieze left, Tom Oosterhuis worked among the congregation for the summer. During this time Rev. Terpstra from Listowel accepted a call and in August of 1967 he and his family moved into the newly-built parsonage beside the church. It was Rev. Terpstra who began conducting a Sunday morning service during the summer months in Earl Rowe Park, assisted by church members.

At this time, transition from Dutch services to English services became complete. They began in 1955 with one English service on alternating Sundays and slowly the English replaced the Dutch until by January 1970 Dutch services were completely withdrawn. Rev. Terpstra left the congregation in April, 1975.

Student Warren Lammers was assigned to work with the Alliston church during the summer months. In August 14 1975 the Hielkema family arrived in Alliston and took up residence in the parsonage.

One of the new activities in the church, started by Rev. Hielkema, was a Thursday night Bible study group.

During 1977 a building committee was appointed to work out a plan for more space for Sunday School rooms. The tender of Mr. Ben VanderMeer to build an extension for \$67,241.50 was accepted.

In 1978 the congregation celebrated their 25th anniversary. Rev. Hielkema accepted a call the the "Lighthouse" in Toronto

Mr. A. Vanerzaag, to whom we owe the above information, supplied this additional information, bringing the Church news up-to-date in 1987.

"In 1978 - 25th anniversary

Rev. John Hielkema pastor 1975 - 1978

Rev. George Van Arragon pastor 1979 - 1983

Rev. Jack De Vries pastor 1983 - 1987

(moved to Pickering to start a new church in a large new subdivision)

Vacant at present.

Rev. John Van Dyk pastor of Covenant Christian Reformed Church Barrie serves now as counselor.

Membership: per Jan. 1, 1987

85 families

334 total membership"



The Christian Reformed Church of Alliston in all its Splendor.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

(The following information was supplied
by W.G.L. Cumberland)

Thirteen people met at the home of William Duckley on the 7th line at Lssa
to discuss forming a Church.

Present were:

Bert & Ed Kriesen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Haier
Hers and Orla Yagoe
Miss Norma L. Moore

A further meeting was held at the same address with Rev. Timothy Starr from
the Fellowship office and he brought John Kenyon who was looking for a church.

Historical Sketch of Grace Baptist Church

Original discussion - January 1973

First services - Orange Hall - 1/ charter members - 34 present

First baptismal service - Easter 1974 - Emmanuel Baptist Church, Barrie

Our first missionaries - Terry & Elaine Regnault - Fall of 1973

Our present property officially purchased - Spring 1974

Pastor John & Fern moved into house - May 1974

Swift team - summer of 1975

Our first Missionary Conference - Fall 1975

Moved into Honey Building in October 1975

June 1976 - Used the house for Christian Education

Summer 1976 - Poyer added on Honey Building

Fall 1976 - Life-Light Singers inaugurated

February 1977 - Pastor John ordained

February 1978 - Special 5th Anniversary supper & evening

May 16, 1979 - Church voted to proceed with new building

First Sunday in new building - Thanksgiving Sunday - 1979

Dedication Sunday - November 11, 1979

Pastor John Kenyon's last service as Pastor - Candlelight service 1981

Interim Pastors:

Pastor Fred E. Halse, Pastor C. Wilhelm

Pastor Baughman's first sermon as Pastor - October 17, 1982

January 7, 1985 - Pastor Graham Clark - Pastor in Training

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

(submitted by W.G.R. Cumberland)

1960 - 1985

St. Paul's School in Alliston opened in September, 1960 with four classrooms, four teachers and 113 students. Since that time, there have been four additions to the original building, as well as three portable classrooms added to the school. At the time of printing, there are 18 full-time and 1 half-time teacher for almost 400 students.

Principals over the years were:

1960-1961	Mrs. C. Guthrie
1961-1965	Mr. T. Campbell
1965-1977	Mr. D. Carroll
1977-1985	Mr. L. Godin (Still Principal in '87)

Quoting from a message given at the School's 25th Anniversary by Mr. Godin, in 1985:

"The hard work and dedication required to establish our school in 1960 has continued over the years. It has enabled us to grow from a three-room building with four teachers and 113 children to our present school - 11 classrooms, resource centre, gymnasium and 3 portable classrooms with 18 full time, 2 half-time teachers and 1 half-time teacher aide for 404 children."

"We have been blessed over the years with a very supportive and concerned parent community who has always been ready and willing to assist the school and work together with the teachers. Although the present community has been very diverse geographically - we now have children from parts of Dufferin County, Toronto Township (including Everett and Leslie), Adjala Township, Easa Township, Tecumseth Township, Rosemont, Cookstown and Alliston - it has always been united in its support of the school."

"It has also been a tremendous advantage to have our school located adjacent to St. Paul's Church. This has provided us with unlimited opportunities for the children to be involved in the reception of the Sacraments and to reinforce the teachings that form the basis of our existence. We have been encouraged and assisted by our Pastors so that the School, parents and the pastor have been able to work together in the development of our children."

"As we look towards the next twenty-five years, we are immediately challenged by the need to not only continue the tradition of the past but to also respond to an ever-expanding area and school system. Our children now have the opportunity to complete their education through to the end of Secondary School. With Alliston's recent industrial growth it is possible that we may need to expand to a second Separate School in this area in the near future....."

BANTING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL (1949 - 1957)

(History submitted by Ernest Cumberland in '87)

The Banting Memorial High School is named after the world famous former student, Sir Frederick Banting, who, with the assistance of Charles Best, discovered insulin. His lively curiosity and strength of character overcame his apparent lack of brilliance as a high school student. He was born on the farm homestead near Alliston in 1891, finished High School in 1910, graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1916, served in both World War I and 2, and spent some years in research on diabetes. His research culminated in the discovery of insulin, a boon to all sufferers of diabetes. This earned him a Nobel prize in 1923 and he was knighted by King George V in 1934. He died in an airplane crash while on government service in 1941. His portrait hangs in the front hall of the school.

The original Alliston High School (established in the late 1800's) became the district high school for the surrounding area, (Beeton, Cookstown, Tottenham) in 1949, when it acquired its present name. Frequent additions to the original building of 15 rooms and a gymnasium of 1948 came in 1953, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1961, 1966 and 1969, at a total cost of over \$5,000,000. This allowed the school to grow from an enrolment of 400 students with less than 20 teachers to the present enrolment of over 2,000 students and 111.5 teachers.

Students attend Banting from as far north as Glencairn, Base Borden, Baxter and Thoraton, as far West as Mansfield and Rosemont, as far South as Tottenham and Schomberg, as far East as Gilford and Bradford.

The school motto is "QUAE CUMQUE OPTIMA" - Whatsoever Things are Best. The school colours are maroon and blue. This school song was written by Mr. E. Vowden.

We belong to Banting Memorial, Banting Memorial High.
Hold that line for Banting Memorial, Banting Memorial High.
Shout and fight for Banting Memorial,
Lift your voices clear to the sky!
Hail! Hail! The gang's all her for Banting Memorial High.

BANTING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL - Built in 1949, (showing original & additions)



Note old house in background - known as "The Castle"
demolished in 1969 to provide a parking lot for the
students' vehicles, mostly cars.



Banting Memorial as it looked in 1967

ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL (1885-1987)
(Information contributed by WGR Cumberland)

Until 1950, the school building was occupied by both elementary and secondary students. That year, a new school, Banting Memorial High School, was opened, with B. McCausland as Principal.

During the 1951-52 school year, the elementary school had three principals: B. Mains from September to November, B. Edgar from December until April, Mrs. M. Duttin until the end of the year. In September, 1952, H.W. Stuart became the principal and F.W. Gilroy vice-principal. There was a staff at that time of eleven, with pupil enrolment of 357. In 1953, the inspector, W.A. Long, transferred to Orillia and was succeeded by L.W. Clarke, formerly of Owen Sound.

During the next few years, increasing enrolment made a number of additions to the school necessary. In 1955, a 4-room addition was built, with another 4 rooms and washrooms added in 1957. In 1964, 3 permanent "portable" classrooms were constructed, bringing the total number of rooms to 22. There was a pupil enrolment of 627 and a staff of 25. This increase in enrolment occurred in spite of the fact that a Roman Catholic Separate School was opened in Alliston in September, 1960.

In 1956, Miss Oliver Evans retired after 25 years with the Alliston Board. F.H. Malcolm, a member of the Board for more than 40 years, and chairman for many of those years, retired in 1958. In recognition of his long service to the community, the Board has presented annually since that time the F.H. Malcolm Award to the Grade 8 student displaying the greatest degree of general proficiency.

In 1965, H.A. Murphy retired after serving for many years as secretary-treasurer of the Board. He was succeeded by D.G. Perry, who continued in this position until the dissolution of the Board in 1969.

During the mid-1960's, plans were made to build a new school on a parcel of land in the north east corner of Alliston. The land was purchased and tentative plans for a 6-8 roomed school were drawn. However, the Board decided that it would be more practical to demolish the existing school and build a larger school on the same site. The 8-room additions built in the 50's and the 3 "portables" were retained, and a large open-area school containing 15 teaching areas, resource centre, double gymnasium and administrative offices was built in 1968-69.

During that year, classes for Grades 1-8 were conducted by utilizing the 8-roomed addition and portables on a "double-shift" programme. Class sessions were from 8.00 a.m. to 12.20 p.m., and from 12.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. The kindergarten was accommodated in the education wing of St. John's United Church during normal school hours. The 3 original portables were used as library, storage and administrative areas. The new school was ready for occupancy in September, 1969.

This school was built on the open-area concept.

The planning and construction of the new addition was the last major undertaking of the Alliston Union Public School Board of Trustees, as all schools, elementary and secondary were placed under the newly formed Simcoe County Board of Education, effective January 1st, 1969. Members of the local Board at this time were Chairman, G. Burgess; Secretary, D. Perry; Board members, G. McCague, B. Ford, C. Fitzgerald, Mrs. J. Somerville & C. Raine.

There was an enrolment at this time of 622 pupils. The 27 members of the teaching staff were H.W. Stuart, Principal; E.W. Gilroy, Vice-principal; Primary Division Teachers- Mrs. S. Sterritt, Mrs. D. Birch, Mrs. F. Blanchard, Mrs. M. Bowen, Mrs. D. Brown, (library), Mrs. D. Hetherington, Mrs. D. Hussey, Mrs. J. Leonard, Mrs. M.A. Terpstra (music) Junior Division Teachers- Mrs. N. Siegner, B. Siegner, Mrs. J. Nicol, Mrs. E. Harper, D. Dearham, Mrs. G. Campbell, W. Nelson, Intermediate Division Teachers- J. Dowling, L. Lavoie, T. Shephard, A. Storey, P. Wodchis, French- Mrs. A. MacRae, Physical Education Mrs. N. McPherson; Opportunity Class, Mrs. C. Hall; Kindergarten, R. Gilroy. The non-teaching staff consisted of the Secretary, Mrs. L. Scott, Head Custodian, B. Sutcliffe, custodians R. Elphick and O. Phillips. In June, 1970, E.W. Gilroy, after 18 years as vice-principal, left the staff to become the principal of Collingwood Elementary School. R.C. Sproule, from the York County school system came on staff as vice-principal in September, 1972. During the intervening years, L.F. Lavoie acted as principal's assistant. R.W. Stuart retired in 1974, after 22 years as principal of the Alliston Union Public School. His successor, N.E. Sheffield assumed duties as principal in September, 1974.

Three of the 6 portables were removed in 1981. Enrolment had been as high as 842, reduced to 662 in February, 1986, with a staff of 33.

The open-area concept, established in 1969, has gradually changed in the last 4 years (1982-86) by installing partial walls.

Principals over the years: J.S. HOATH, 1885-1892; J.F. POWER, 1892-1909; HUGH DAVIDSEN, 1909-1924, (combined High & Public School); EDNA MARTINDALE, 1924-1925; JOHN WATTS, 1925-1929; WILLIAM EDGAR, 1929-1931; ERNEST CUMBERLAND, 1931-1946; JOHN Cronar, 1946-1951; MATHEW MAINS, Sept. 1951-Nov. 1951; BRUCE EDGAR, Dec. 1951-April 1952; NORINE DUFFIN, April, 1952- June, 1952; HARVIE STUART, 1952-1974; NEIL SHEFFIELD, 1974-1977; ALLEN STEWART, 1977-1981; ANDREW MAYEM, 1981-1984; NURIEL WILDE, 1984 -



Then (1885-1968)



Now (1987)

MNA

Section

7

Industries

Page

- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 7-1 | Hospital |
| 7-2 | Agriculture Office |
| 7-3 | Kellogg Salada |
| 7-4 | Mercer Bros. Foundry |
| 7-5 | Co-op Store |
| 7-6 | Mary's Bridal Boutique |

STEVENSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 1928 - 1986

On July 1, 1928, the official opening ceremonies were held for Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston. The idea of building a hospital in the town first came to Theodore Pringle Loblaw in 1926. (Mr. Loblaw is also noted for bringing the Self-serve groceries to Canada.) He decided to build a hospital in memory of his grandparents, William and Elisabeth Pringle Stephenson.

Once a board of trustees was appointed, a site for the new hospital was decided upon. It was to be built on the north side of the Boyne River between the gates of Riverdale Park and William Martindale's residence. The site of the new hospital close to the Boyne River may have had an influence on the style of building. Earlier pictures of the hospital with the river running close in front reveal the hospital looking somewhat like a steamboat.

Through donations from Loblaw of \$100,000 and \$20,000 from Fred K. Morrow, construction soon began. It was to be a 30 bed hospital. Although the official opening was in July, patients were admitted before that. Loblaw, who had an accident while riding his horse, just happened to be the first patient admitted.

An American medical journal in 1928 described Stevenson Memorial Hospital as the most modern hospital for its size in North America, and that standard is still evident today. Much of the very modern equipment in the hospital has been donated by the Hospital Auxiliary which is a very fine and hard-working organization. Over the years, many changes took place in that first hospital, including a clinic room for babies in the basement. Dr. R.J. McCullough was the first consultant to be hired, in 1932. One year later, Mr. Loblaw, the founder, died. At that time, the prices for public wards were \$1.75, semi-private, \$3.50 and private, \$5. per day. It was during the latter part of the depression, before war broke out, that it was thought the hospital would have to close because of insufficient funds and lack of patients, but it didn't.

Times got better in 1935, and it was possible for the hospital to have portraits of Theodore and Isabella Loblaw painted by F.J. Huxby. They were mounted in carved frames, but it wasn't until 1974 that the Hospital Auxiliary persuaded the Board to hang the portraits in the foyer of the Hospital.

In 1936, a doctor's waiting room was added and an elevator installed. A nurses' residence was constructed and opened three years' later.

The ever-increasing population in the Alliston area over the years eventually became too much for the small hospital to handle, and in 1957, an architect was hired to build a new 80 bed facility. It was estimated to cost about \$1,509,800. Construction did not begin until April 24th, 1963, and it opened in June, 1964. The old hospital was left vacant until rented by Mr. Bruce Baker for a nursing home. In 1973, when the Baker's built a new nursing home east of Alliston, (the present Good Samaritan) the old building was slated for demolition, and one year later it was torn down, to the regret of a lot of Alliston inhabitants, who knew and loved the old building.

1963 was the year a volunteer ambulance association was formed in Alliston. The hospital received provincial accreditation in 1968.

Since the 1960's few major changes have taken place at SMH. Government funding cuts have made expansion impossible. An air ambulance service can now land in the parking lot, where a helicopter landing pad has been established, providing fast efficient emergency service for patients needing treatment specialized in Toronto.

A new wing is badly needed, as this hospital is now becoming very short of space, especially for administration and therapy. If the money becomes available, it will not be too long before additional space will be added to this facility.



First Hospital 1928-1974.



New Hospital 1964-

ALLISTON'S AGRICULTURE OFFICE 1921 - 1986

In 1982 the 75th Anniversary of the Agricultural Representative Service in Ontario was celebrated, with Simcoe County being one of the first six Counties where Agricultural Representatives were recognized. The first office in the County was in Collingwood with Mr. R.E. Mortimer as "The Rep" followed by James Laughland, Mr. Wiggin and then Mr. Allan Hutchinson, who was in charge when the office was moved to Barrie. Mr. J.J.E. McCague was appointed assistant to Mr. Hutchinson in May of 1921 and in June of that year, Simcoe County Council approved the necessary grant to establish an additional office and to divide the County for Agricultural Representative purposes.

Mr. McCague was appointed the first Agricultural Representative for South Simcoe and in October, 1921 the South Simcoe office was opened at Alliston in the "Pearson Block" on the corner of Paris and Victoria Streets.

A year later it was moved to the property of Hutchinson and Foster, (now occupied by Nan's Restaurant, immediately West of the library. Mr. McCague was followed by F.J. Webster in 1924 and by F.K.B. Stewart in 1928. F.A. Lashley was appointed Agricultural Representative in August, 1929 and remained until January 1, 1949 when he was transferred to Toronto as Associate Director of the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch. J. Keith McRuer was appointed as Mr. Lashley's successor and was Ag Rep until his retirement in 1983. He was succeeded by Doug Lamby.

In 1953 the office was moved across to the North side of the street to property of the Masonic Lodge and currently occupied by R'Allien Ladies Wear. In June of 1967, the staff had expanded considerably and the office was moved to its present location on 89 Highway (Victoria East) where more adequate space and parking facilities were available.

Early work of these representatives included conducting month-long short courses and it appears that W.H.C. Ruthven of Alliston was a member of a Collingwood Course in 1911. One of these courses was held in the "Opera Hall", Alliston in 1915. Out of many of these courses Junior Farmer Clubs were formed and in later years they became leader groups in other service work jto rural Simcoe County. School Fairs were the early contact with the young people on the farms, followed by boys and girls' Club Projects, which is recognized today in the 4-H Program. In 1948 the first night school program was conducted in Alliston, using several buildings for classrooms, and it was the beginning of the Night School Program now offered through Banting Memorial High School.

Through the years many leaders in livestock production, crop production, agricultural marketing and business management have worked with the staff for the betterment of agriculture in the Alliston area and the rest of Ontario. Look at the development of the potato industry, where early growers initiated the 500 Bushel Club in 1943. It stimulated production and cultural practices and established records and data of value in later years. The same could be said for the Crop Improvement Association, Breeders' Clubs, Plowmen's Organizations, etc., that have had close ties with the Agriculture Office in Alliston.



THE PRESENT AGRICULTURE & FOOD OFFICE IN ALLISTON

KELLOGG-SALADA PLANT IN ALLISTON

(This article is taken from the Alliston Herald sometime after 1980)
(Kellogg-Salada closed its doors and sold out in 1984)

Hanging in a place of honor in the vestibule at the Kellogg-Salada plant in Alliston is a silver key. The inscription on the blue velvet backing in the frame reads: "Presented to Grant Horsey of Salada-Shirriff-Horsey Ltd., to commemorate the opening of Canada's first instant-mashed potato flakes plant, Feb. 5, 1960".

And it was a big day for Alliston and district when in 1959 Shirriff-Horsey first came to town. The potato flakes were the one and only product at that time. Over the years, other lines were added, including potato chips, frozen french-fries and dehydrated scalloped potatoes. The plant stopped making chips in 1973. All potatoes for this production were supplied by local producers.

There are now between 100 and 150 employees at the plant, depending upon the season. This number is down from about 10 years' ago because of the chip line being discontinued and other equipment being modernized.

Salada had acquired farms in the area during the first year of its operation, but in 1977 the farms were sold. Kellogg-Salada Canada Inc. was formed in the mid '70's.

A new product of the plant, added in 1980, is apple slices to be used in Mrs. Smith's pies, a company which is also owned by Kellogg. The apples for this production come from Collingwood, Simcoe and Bowmanville orchards.

Al Lloyd has been plant manager in Alliston since 1968. Dave Crowden had been general manager with main responsibility for the farming operation and when that was phased out, Al Lloyd remained in charge. Lloyd was previously in the dairy business for 25 years, living in Maple and working in Toronto. He and his wife and the youngest of their four sons live on Highway 50 south of town.

The plant engineer is Frank Hunter who has been an industrial engineer with Salada and then Kellogg for 35 years.

Kellogg Salada has been the backbone of the market for local potato growers for over 20 years and one of the larger employers in the district. Their contribution to the economy of the area has more than justified the silver key and what it stands for.



Kellogg-Salada Plant (1959-1984)

THE MERCER BROTHERS' FOUNDRY

The land where the present Co-op buildings and Gibson warehouses stand has an old and varied history. It was originally crown land and in 1835 it was granted to Rosalie M. Stronick, a widow of Toronto. Over the years it changed hands many times, changing in value from 50 pounds sterling to more than \$35,000. in 1974.

No one seemed to hold the property for very long until the Mercer Brothers bought it in 1889 and built a factory for the making of farm machinery. They invented the first successful knottor to tie sheaves on the reaper and used in the harvesting of grain in that era. They molded their own parts, assembled them and had a staff of around 100 skilled workmen. To transport their machines, they had the CNR run a spur line from the Beeton line to their premises. However, they suffered a financial disaster when a large consignment shipped to Australia suffered salt-water damage and was rejected. They never recovered from the loss, and so the foundry was shut down.

In 1907 the building was bought by Senator Merner of Berlin, Ontario, and continued to be a manufacturing place for machinery. It was operated by sons Herbert and Harry. To accommodate their employees, they built a row of houses on Albert St. West, and these houses are still known as "Merner's Row". Competition from Massey Harris and other manufacturers of farm machinery reduced their volume of sales so radically that in order to meet their financial obligations, Merner, who was a major shareholder in the Waterloo Threshing Machine Company, decided to move that plant to Alliston. He needed more space so built a long one-storey brick building to the east of the original plant. But before the factory could become operative, the steam engine had lost out to the newer gasoline-powered engines and tractors of the day, and so the doors were closed again.

A series of firms took over the premises and all ended in failure. Some of these were: McIntyre Iceless Refrigerator Company (1913), Brunswick Gramophone Company, a wood-working plant and Campbell Construction. Twice, enterprising individuals filled it full of hens and sold eggs.

Then the building was sold to J.P. Knight, who had operated a general store in town. He bought out Hecla Furnace Company, which turned out to be a fairly successful business. After a few years, Knight sold out to Alice Chalmers Tractor Company under the management of Alex Sinclair. When that company closed down the buildings lay vacant for some years, its windows smashed by school children and flocks of pigeons made it their home, and, eventually, the roof blew off.

However, in 1950 the mill set up by the Alliston Co-operatives on Church St. W. was burned out, and so they bought the foundry buildings on Tupper Street and which in, in 1986, still the Alliston Farmers Co-operative store. The long shed to the east is a warehouse for Gibson's Transport Trucking Company.

The pictures show an aerial view of the area and the Co-op stores as they are today, 1986.



ALLISTON DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE (1942 - 1986)

During the 1930's a farm radio forum became popular among rural farm listeners as they met in neighbours' homes to discuss their business and social problems. Out of these forum meetings came a movement to organize the Co-operative stores to serve the rural business communities. Alliston Farmers' Co-operative came into being on August 19th, 1942 as an egg grading station. Eggs were stored in the building now occupied by the beer outlet. (Since demolished and rebuilt.)

Early in 1944 Kavor D. Cunningham offered his flour-milling establishment for sale to the Co-op. On May 25th of that year the shareholders decided to purchase the building. Many of the local farmers helped in removing the milling machinery and began the installation of equipment to process feed and concentrates for farm animals.

In December of 1944 the Co-op marketed potatoes for the local growers under the trade name 'Big Chief' in new bags for domestic and export sale, helping to improve the grade of spuds on the market. Growth of the business continued for the next few years. There was a recorded profit of \$3,000 shown for 1948.

In September, 1950, the mill and all contents, including the personal belongings of the manager and his family, was a total loss by fire. The insurance from this pile of rubble, plus a loan from the Ontario Government, made it possible for the Co-op to move their operation into a large vacant building, formerly used to house machinery for manufacturing farm implements, on Tupper St.

Feed-making equipment was in place and operating by March of 1951. With the increased space, more farm supplies were put into inventory. In 1955, petroleum products became available in the Co-operative. With inclusion of fertilizer for cash crop farming, the Co-op sales were boosted to \$750,000 by the early '60's.

During the '70's the sale of Case Farm Machinery was dropped but a wider line of farm needs, such as clothing, hardware and chemicals used in different branches of farming were included, and the business continued to increase in size.

In a brief review of the Co-operative business in the Alliston area, the names of a number of prominent persons in support of the development of the Company should be mentioned. Mr. W.J. Wood was connected with the Loblaw Grocceteria in the early days and was president of the Alliston Co-op for the first seven years of its operation. Mr. Herb Harris was the first Secretary. Later, members of the board such as John Debgis and Ernest Irvine, served as chairman and secretary respectively.

Miss Davis Alderson was clerk and book-keeper for many years when the business moved into the Cunningham mill and later in the Tupper Street mill. Mr. Frank Tunmon was manager for eight of the Co-op's most progressive years. Other very active board members would include names of Bill Gaultier, Herb Dunn, Elmer Halbert, Russell Halbert, Jos. Hancey, W.L. Hawkins, Willard Cole, Wm. Ball, Bert Kidnie, Russell Lightfoot, Franklin Little, Lloyd Murphy, Gordon and Ross Brett, Harvey Whiteside, Nicol Wilson, Calvin Ireland. Many people are still active in directing this important business in the town of Alliston.

MARY'S BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

33 Paris St. S.

On April 16th, 1986, a new store opened in Alliston. The store was named Mary's Bridal Boutique. Mary Richards had been making wedding and other cakes in Alliston for years and had always wanted to start a store of her own. Mr. Larry Skinner had smartened up Paris Street, with the help of Ted Richards, Mary's husband, who was a carpenter, and when a nice little store became vacant on Paris Street, Mary felt it was their chance to make a dream come true.

Everything connected with weddings, dresses, accessories, silk flowers, Church decorations, even counselling, is handled in this beautiful little store.

It is actually a family affair, with Mary doing the cakes and flowers, her daughter, Lori Dunn helping with the ordering and general management, and her husband, Ted, doing structural changing, deliveries, and all the odd jobs needed to keep such a business running smoothly. Another daughter, Linda Price, is presently living in London but hopes, eventually, to come into the partnership with the rest of her family. Linda is a talented seamstress.



Opening of the Boutique.
From the Left: Lori Dunn,
Mary Richards, Rick Milne,
(Mayor) Linda Price, Ted
Richards and Larry Skinner

Inside



Section 8

Clubs

Page

- 8-1 Golden Age Choir
- 8-2 Golden Bells
- 8-3 Volunteer Ambulance
- 8-4 Golden Age Club

ALLISTON'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB CHOIR (1968 - 1986) HELLO-AIRES

Alliston's Golden Age Club Choir came into being the year the Golden Age Club was organized, with Eva Park as President, in 1968. Under the leadership of Marguerite Knipe with Izena Lung as Pianist, a group who enjoyed singing met regularly for rehearsals and were invited to sing at special services in churches in the surrounding area as well as being available for entertainment at meetings of the Club and at Nursing Homes. Later, Earle Magee led the Choir and Marjorie Jamieson was accompanist. Upon her retirement, Ruth Currie continued, with Ida McKelvey as Director. Mrs. McKelvey retired in 1985.

Through a New Horizon's Grant to the Club in 1974, the Choir benefitted with funds to purchase material for jumpers for the ladies and bow-ties for the men. The blue jumpers and white blouses served well through the years, being passed on to new members as original singers retired or passed away. In June of 1985 they were retired for burgundy with dusty rose dresses and men donning jackets.

The Choir, under Mrs. McKelvey's direction, learned to sing in four-part harmony and became known as the "Hello-Aires". They have given concerts, competed in Festivals in Grillia and Kitchener and during 1985 participated in a program at the C.N.E. and on 'New Faces' over Hamilton TV station.

After six years excellent tutoring, Mrs. McKelvey, at age 89, reluctantly retired, leaving the Choir, of which she can be justly proud, to the leadership of Dirk Dearham.



Men: Sam Johnson, Len Hewitt, Bill Watson, Fred Jackson, Earle Magee, Ed Smith, Vern Ireland, Joe McCarroll, Paul McKelvey.
Second row: Alice Sutcliffe, Marg. Best, Bea Gray, Emily McKillican, Mary Saunders, Sadie Furlong, Vi Caves, Berta Bridle, Vi Adams, June Watson, May Reynolds.
Front: Marg Stoltz, Marjorie Johnson, Wilma Ireland, Marj. McLean, Ida McKelvey (Director), Madge Hewitt, Jonie Doner, Irene Holland, Frances Morrow. Absent: Accompanist, Ruth Currie.

HELLO-AIRES
June 5, '85

ALLISTON GOLDEN BELLS

The Bells is a group of seniors interested in the art of handbell ringing. During the term that Margaret Stoltz was President in 1979, funds were raised through the sale of a Cookbook, private donations and a New Horizon Grant to purchase three octaves of Verdin Handbells and hire the services of Vera Diamond of Sandy Cove Acres, an experienced Director.

The bells were dedicated by Rev. James Shilton in June, 1981 and within the year there were 25 performances.

Rehearsals were in St. John's United Church basement until it was needed as a temporary location for the library, when June Watson offered them their recreation room on George Street.

The Bell Ringers have been self-supporting since 1982, charging a nominal fee and travelling expenses for their performances, which have been many. They have been in demand for special church services, Club and Town activities, family gatherings, Fall Fairs and entertained at many Nursing Homes throughout the area. Members attended Festivals in Toronto and Calgary and during '85 participated in a Festival in London, Ont., played at C.N.E. and appeared on "New Faces" on Hamilton T.V.

Director of the group, which requires a minimum of 10 ringers, is now Marjorie McLean and with the help of Madge Hewitt, a second choir is the aim for 1986.

(This information was provided by Margaret Stoltz, 1986)



Back: Marjorie Jamieson, Ruth Smith,
Sally Campbell, Ethel Law, June Watson

Front: Mary Stoltz, Helen Jackson,
Vera Diamond (Director), Norma Younger,
Jean Rand,

Kidney Foundation Annual Meeting Feb.7, 1981

(Our first engagement !)

ALLISTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

(Written up by Mr. C.C. Collins, Alliston)

(Submitted by Lee Kennett, W.I.)

March, 1983

In January 1962 a questionnaire was sent to the local Chamber of Commerce regarding Ambulance service in the Alliston area. During a discussion regarding the lack of Ambulance Service, Chuck Collins mentioned there was a volunteer organization in Georgetown and it may be a good idea to investigate.

The late Dr. T.C. Irwin, Edward Kelso of the O.P.P. and Collins attended a meeting with the Georgetown Association to obtain guidance in forming a Volunteer Ambulance Association for Alliston.

Within a few weeks the Alliston and District Ambulance Association was formed with about 65 members volunteering to work as drivers and attendants. A drive for funds to purchase a vehicle was set in motion. Jack Bowerman kindly gave of his time and expertise to have the Association granted non-profit status so the donations by individuals were tax deductible. The local O.P.P. held a benefit dance and raised several hundred dollars and donations came in from other local groups.

A week-long course in first aid was given by the Canadian Red Cross to the members and after, refresher courses were given by St. John's Ambulance with some help from the local medical staff.

A schedule was set up for the men, and two men, a driver and attendant were on call at all times. The men would serve a twelve hour shift, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. once every two weeks. If a man was unable to take his shift, he would notify Chuck Collins and a substitute would be arranged for.

Jerry's Clark volunteered for the job of Secretary-Treasurer and took care of all billing. To help the service pay its way, a \$5 charge was made for local calls with a small mileage cost for out-of-town. A maximum charge of \$25. was made for calls to Toronto, etc.

Several employers in town allowed these employees to leave for an Ambulance call; without this co-operation, it would have been difficult to carry on.

The Volunteer Ambulance Service was disbanded in the fall of 1968, when it was turned over to the Hospital under the Provincial Ambulance Service.

The funds that were left were spent later by donating \$1,500. to the tennis courts for the town, then the purchase of an Emergency Medical Supply Cart for the Stevenson Memorial Hospital in Alliston.

HDA

OPENING OF THE GOLDEN AGE CENTRE IN ALLISTON
(October 20th, 1986)
(Information & pictures from M. Stoltz)

0000000000

As a result of the work of a committee of St. John's U.C.W. in 1967, initial steps were taken towards having a Club for Senior Citizens. There was a clear understanding that such a Club would be interdenominational and all the clergy gave their approval. The name "Golden Age Club" was chosen and officers were elected at an organizational meeting in May, 1968.

Records indicate that the Club began raising money for a Building Fund as early as 1970. Meantime, space was made available at St. John's Church, and until October, 1986, when the Sr. Citizens opened the doors of the Golden Age Centre, Church St. South, all meetings and other events were held there.

Costs of the renovations to the old Fire Hall were met through the financial co-operation of the town, many merchants and organizations, and a New Horizons' Grant from the Federal Government took care of furnishings. Along with these contributions, a sizeable amount was given from Club funds on hand for this purpose. Also, there was considerable support from special gifts given by individuals who appreciated the need for such a centre.

Order of procedure for Official Opening of Golden Age Centre:
(U.S.C.O. - United Senior Citizens of Ontario)

Chairman - President Howard Aldous

Cod Save the Queen - President's remarks - Introduces Building Chairman

Building Chairman - Marcus Younger

Joyce King, President of U.S.C.O.

Bob Span, President of Zone 11

Rick Milne, Mayor of Alliston

Ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Lorne O'Neill - Minister of St. John's United Church

Special Music by the Golden Bells and the Mello-airens.

Refreshments



Opening of Golden Age Centre
in Alliston, Oct. 20, 1986

1 to 8 in picture: Howard Aldous (President) Joyce King Mayor, Rick Milne, Rob't Fyles (Town Bldg. Officer) Bob Span Jr. In background are some of the Bell Ringers, who, with Mello-airens Choir provided special music.

Section 9

Personalities

- 9-1 Fletcher Family Tree
- 9-2 Ken Inkster
- 9-3 Sidney Owens
- 9-4 Moss Family
- 9-5 Lee Kennett
- 9-6 Aikins Family
- 9-7 Stoltz Family
- 9-8 J.J.E. McCague
- 9-9 Mina Stuart
- 9-11 WGE Cumberland Family
- 9-14 I. Reynolds Family

FLETCHER FAMILY
Founders of Alliston, Ont.

Francis H. Evelyn
1936 -

KENNETH INKSTER

Altho' not a native son, Kenneth Inkster has earned a permanent place for himself in the hearts of Allistonians during his more than 25 years of residence here.

Born on a farm near Dundalk, Ontario in 1935, he attended primary school in Wareham and then Flesherton District High School. From there he went on to Victoria College at the University of Toronto, graduating 4 years' later with an honours degree in Latin and French.

In addition to his regular school, Ken pursued a musical education. He displayed a love of the piano at a very early age - taking time to run his fingers over the keyboard even before sitting down to breakfast. This is an aberration still present, as many a member of St. John's congregation, who has found him practicing long and late with never a thought for food, will attest.

His Mother was his first piano teacher but it soon became apparent that his talent required a professional. He was also blessed with a minister who encouraged his interest in Church music and organ and provided opportunity for him to practice.

Since Ken had always wanted to be a teacher, a natural progression to the Ontario College of Education followed his graduation from University. From there he went to



teach for 2 years at Tamworth and then in 1959 he came to Banting Memorial High School in Alliston and has been chairman of the language department ever since. During his university years Ken spent one summer as a student minister in Southern Saskatchewan. No description of him could neglect to observe that his life and actions reflect his personal commitment to the teachings of Christ and active participation in His ministry. During the past 22 years he has served as organist and choir leader at St. John's United Church in Alliston.

Ken has been Chairman of Musical Resources and is the Recording Secretary for the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Also very dear to his heart is the Institute of Church Music founded by Dr. Stanley Osborn as a workshop for church organists and choir leaders. Since 1975 Ken has been Director and in the summer of 1985 he was honoured by the Institute for his great contribution. Both of these activities may help to explain why the quality of music at St. John's is so high.

Apart from Church and school activities Ken has become an indispensable part of many town musical functions. He has accompanied with great sensitivity young vocal students and has supported many budding community musical groups with his skill and in so many other ways been very generous with his time and talent. Since he played his own composition at a wedding at the age of 12, he has been part of that most important of days for literally hundreds of couples.

Ken Inkster is undoubtedly one of the most favourite and respected teachers at Banting Memorial High School, having developed true and lasting friendships with many former students. There are many who would never miss dropping in to see him on their occasional visits home. One of his treasured gifts to graduating students at the annual commencement exercises has been his explanation and inspirational assessment of the school motto "Quaecumque Optima", whatsoever things are best. There is no doubt that one of the best things for Alliston is that he chose to make it home.

(Submitted by Jean Gradwell, March 1986)

SIDNEY OWENS (1918 - 1977)

When the death of Sidney Owens was announced at the end of the morning service at St. John's United Church on January 30, 1977, men and women wept. Not only was he respected as a faithful and efficient school administrator, church Elder and Sunday School Superintendent, but he was also loved and admired as a Christian gentleman.

Sidney Owens was born on February 20, 1918 in Noriposs Township, Victoria County, near Lindsay. He attended a small country school where pupils were allowed to proceed at their own rates. Sid was ready for high school at the age of eleven, and enrolled in Lindsay Collegiate. He and his brother, Jack, had to live in Lindsay during the week. Their mother sent food in for a week and their landlady cooked it for them. Sid finished high school at 17, too young to enrol in Normal School, so he worked with his older brother, George, who had just started to farm on his own.

In 1936 he attended Normal School and then taught in the Continuation School at Cambray. At the same time, he completed two years of University degree work by taking correspondence courses from Queen's and by attending summer school. In 1941 he enrolled as a full-time student at Queen's in an Honours Math & Physics program. In 1942 he entered a sub-Lieutenants' Course in the R.C.N.V.R. in Halifax; on the basis of his academic record the University granted him his degree at Spring Convocation. He was at sea for a time in 1942 and early '43 and was then sent to Cornwallis Naval Base to teach anti-submarine warfare. In the summer of 1945 he returned to civilian life and entered the University of Toronto to work on his M.A. At Christmastime he was offered the job of assistant principal in Brockville, Ontario at a Rehabilitation School for Veterans. He accepted the position but kept on with his M.A. work by correspondence, often working far into the night.

He moved to Picton, in the fall of 1947, to teach mathematics and physics for an annual salary of \$2400. He taught in Picton for six years and for the last two he was the assistant principal. During these years he continued to take summer courses and also marked departmental examinations.

In the fall of 1953 he became principal of the Harrow High School, a position he retained until he came to Banting Memorial High School as principal in 1957. In 1969 he accepted a position with the newly-formed Simcoe County Board of Education as Area Superintendent for the Stayner-Collingwood-Creemore area. A year and a half later he was named Superintendent of Planning for the same Board and he held this position until his death.

In 1946 he married Jeannie Telford and their first home was at Clementsport, N.S. near the Naval Base. Their oldest son, John, was born in Oshawa, David and Andy were born in Picton, Rob was born in Harrow and Rick and Mary were born in Alliston.

During the twenty years in which he lived in Alliston, Sid was best known as principal of Banting Memorial High School, a respected leader in the life of St. John's Church and a member of the Alliston Rotary Club. In St. John's Church, Sid was cherished for his faithfulness, for his sound judgment and for his good humour. Early every Sunday morning he was in the Christian Education building preparing for the Sunday School of which he was superintendent for 15 years. Later on Sunday morning, he was in his pew, eyes closed during the service, but listening intently. In meetings of the Session, of the Official Board and of the congregation, he could be counted on for a perceptive and influential contribution to the discussion. Many of these meetings were enlivened by his quick sense of humour and his hearty laugh.

To honour his memory, the congregation of St. John's established the Sidney Owens' Memorial Library. A committee of Church members administers the library which, in 1982, contained more than 500 books available for loan. Church organizations and individuals continue to make gifts to the library, so it is truly a living memorial to him.

Teachers who taught under him at Banting remember him for many unique character traits, and for superior teaching ability. During his tenure, two building projects were completed and the school grew from an enrolment of approximately 600 in 1957 to 1,655 in 1969. Sid enjoyed teaching and the larger the class the better he liked it. Math was his subject and when he first came to Banting he was able to teach a class or two in addition to his administrative duties. When he gave a test, the results were back the next day. He was a strict disciplinarian with a strong voice that made students quiver, but more than one student remembers Mr. Owens as a man whom he admired.

He had a remarkable mind - "like a computer" - which was evident when timetables were being drawn-up. He was a principal who encouraged and supported his teachers. He was a man of integrity; it was possible to talk with him and get a fair deal. An English teacher remembers him as a sensitive classroom visitor who understood the poem that was being taught. He discussed school policy with staff members, but made his own decisions.

Sidney Owens enriched the life of Alliston and beyond, in more ways than a short biography can document. Although he was beloved for his humanity and his ability to enjoy the company of all kinds of people, he was an extraordinary human being.



W.I. President - GLORIA ALLYCE ELIZABETH WASHINGTON (Moss)

I am the first daughter of a family of three children, born June 22, 1927, to Arthur Washington, an immigrant from England, and his wife, Olive, in Windsor, Ont. To obtain employment they travelled to St. Mary's, Ont. where my father got a job at a local foundry. He later started a successful chicken farm.

I attended Central Public School and St. Mary's Collegiate Institute and quit school after Grade 10 to go to Hamilton, Ontario to help care for my Mother's sister who had suffered a stroke. I moved to Kitchener, Ontario, in 1945 where I started work at the Mutual Life Assurance Company.

In 1947 I met my husband-to-be, Gerald Arthur Moss. Before marriage I was accepted into the membership of Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church and was married September 24, 1949. We have a family of three children; a son, Ronald, born Jan. 21, 1951; a son, Robert, born Nov. 3, 1952; and a daughter, Linda, born Oct. 11, 1957.

In 1957 we moved to Montreal to start a career in the glass industry. We resided in different parts of the country, returning to Kitchener in 1962. We moved to Vancouver, B.C. in 1965, to Toronto in 1971, to Wasaga Beach in 1981 and to Alliston in 1982.

With my family and husband's career I have been content to enjoy my Grand-children and look forward to retirement in Alliston.

We transferred our membership to Alliston United Church in 1985. Also in that year, I became President of the Alliston Women's Institute.



Robert, Linda (holding Melody), Gloria, Gerry holding Emily)
Ron & Sharon (holding Mitchell.) 1986

LEE KENNETT - Alliston W.I. President 1978-1982
(Autobiography)

I was born Lena Thorburn in Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Dec. 16, 1908. I left home in September, 1928 and headed for Toronto. There I met Horace Kennett and we were married August 5th, 1930.

We had two children, a son, William Alexander Kennett, born September 4th, 1932 and a daughter, Patricia Jean born Feb. 20th, 1935.

My husband died January 9th, 1943. I went to work for Lever Bros. from March, 1943 until December 16, 1968, when I retired, moving to Alliston May 1, 1969.

I felt that I had educated my children and watched them grow into good citizens. My son won the Canadian Citizen Scholarship award at Queens' University and spent two years at Oxford University in England, coming back to Canada and becoming the Inspector General of Banks. He retired from that position in 1986. He is married to Valerie Spence and they have two children, Brenda and Stephen, both presently in University. Jean married David Perry and they have two children, Linda and Jamie. Jean was divorced from David Perry and married Jack Marshall, who is one of Alliston's largest potato growers in the area.

When I moved to Alliston, one of the first people I met was Margaret Herrett who took me to the Women's Institute. This Association and the many friends I have met through the years has made my retirement in Alliston the very best move I could ever have made. I was President of the Institute from 1978 to 1982 and have been the library representative for the past four years and hope to continue to finish my term in 1989. The Women's Institute and Alliston has fulfilled a very important need in my later life. Submitted in 1986.

Horace Kennett
(1911 - 1943)

(m. 1930)

Lena Thorburn
(1908 -)



Patricia Jean
(1935)

David Perry
(1934)

William Alexander
(1932)

Valerie Spence
(1931)

Linda
(1969)

Jamie
(1971)

Stephen
(1967)

Brenda
(1965)

WILLIAM MAURICE AIKINS (and Family) (1920 -

Edward Aikins, newly arrived from Ireland, bought Lot 31, Concession 2, Adjala Township, in 1871. It was on this family farm that his Grandson, William Maurice Aikins was born to William James Aikins and Letitia Evelyn Anderson. There were 8 children, Olive (Mrs. Andrew Drury), James, Lawrence, Russell, Edgar, Mildred (Mrs. Lorne Stephens), Maurice and Mossie (Mrs. Charles Miller.)

Maurice attended S.S.#6 Public School and Alliston High School. The family worshipped at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Rosmont. His father belonged to the Orange Lodge and died when he was seven, leaving his wife to run the farm. In 1950 she sold it to Sinclair Adams, a nephew.

Maurice moved to Alliston in 1945, bought his first truck and went to work at Camp Borden, and then to do construction work on the Ontario Highways. He met his future wife, Hilda Maud Fredenburg, in 1948 while she was visiting her Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. J. Friend at Everett. They were married in May, 1950 and made their home at 149 Victoria St.W. in Alliston. It was from here that he ran a successful Excavating and Trucking business for 32 years, selling it in 1982. Maurice had the first excavating machine in Alliston and dug many basements around the community. His tractor-trailers hauled Christmas trees and honey to U.S.A. and tobacco and potatoes to places in Ontario.

Maurice and Hilda raised 4 children: Pamela Maud born May 8th, 1953, a nurse, married to Peter McDermott on September 15th, 1975. They have two children, Adam, born 1977 and Angela, born 1978. Michelle Hilda was born October 4th, 1955. She is a book-keeper, married to Gerald Coyles on May 18th, 1985. They live in Rexdale. Jeffrey William was born June 27th, 1967 on his Dad's birthday, attends Banting Memorial High School & lives at home (1986). Philip Maurice was born July 3rd, 1957, is a Computer Programmer Supervisor and lives in Toronto.

Maurice enjoyed curling and was one of the original members of the Alliston Curling Club. He loves to travel and enjoys meeting and talking with people.

Maurice ran for the Alliston Public Utilities Commission in 1982 and was elected to a three-year term. He was re-elected in 1985 for a second term. He enjoys the people from different P.U.C. areas that he meets and the ideas they exchange.

Maurice and Hilda belong to St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Alliston. He is a member of the Seven Star Masonic Lodge and Five Star Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. They enjoy entertaining their friends in their home and many have enjoyed a barbecue and swim in their back yard in the summertime.

Maurice has seen Alliston grow and change over the years and hopes to be a part of Alliston's future. Alliston has been Maurice and Hilda's home for over thirty-five years and they would not have wanted to live or raise their family anywhere else.



Jeffrey Aikins Michelle Aikins Coyles Maurice Aikins
Hilda Aikins Philip Aikins Pamela Aikins McDermott

MARGARET STOLTZ AND FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stoltz came from Roseville, Ontario, Kitchener District, in January, 1948. They bought 499 acres of land from W.H.C. Ruthven in 1950 in the Burns' Community. Margaret was a member of the choir, an active member of the U.C.C. and Sunday School of that community. In 1958 they moved into Alliston. Margaret was among the first to organize and help with the first "Golden Age Club" and was President of that group for some time. As a member of the Club she arranged many excellent bus tours for seniors. She was the first to procure information so that a Sr. Citizens' Bell-ringing group might be formed. She and Elmer presented a beautiful Memorial Book "To The Glory of God and in Honor of Deceased Alliston Golden Age Club Members".

Margaret never fails to enquire if the handicapped or seniors need a ride to musical entertainment, teas or meetings. During the depression, no child that she was aware of had to stay home from school because of the lack of shoes to wear. Mrs. Stoltz keeps in touch with the sick, lonely, aged or bereaved, attends Contact meetings, takes an interest in the Alliston District Association for the Mentally Retarded, often represents the Golden Age Club for the Potato Festival and attends Cultur-all meetings. Since she also belongs to St. John's United Church Choir, the U.C.W., the Golden Age Club, Golden Age Rhythm Band, Golden Age Choir, Golden Age Bell Ringers, the demands on her time for practice and providing entertainment in Alliston and surrounding community keeps her busy, but Margaret will be there. If a member of any organization fails to carry her load at a meeting or program, just ask Margaret and she will capably and cheerfully fill the bill. She is an active member of the Kidney Foundation, helps with Meals-on-wheels, Sunshine Club who visits the Good Samaritan Nursing Home one day a month to entertain the shut-ins and serve lunch to them, and the Hospital Auxiliary. She is also an active member of the Alliston Women's Institute. Over a period of years she has held most of the offices and is still going strong.

Besides all this, Margaret finds time to write a news column for the Alliston Herald. It is a part of the local paper which is very important to most of the community, and many folk from Alliston, around the world, appreciate receiving Margaret Stoltz' column. When needed, she will canvass for any needy organization - heart, kidney, blind, Bible society, etc. She is also a dedicated homemaker to her husband, Elmer and still has time to love and cherish her children and grandchildren.

(Beatrice Cumberlund submitted the above information. She included a little poem, which she probably made up. At any rate, it suits Margaret.)

MADAME PRESIDENT

Who would imagine to see her there,
So poised and calm in the President's chair,
That an hour ago she'd been mopping the floor,
Being the dishes, answering the door,
Listening to Ron, who was practising reading,
Bandaging Allan who was suddenly bleeding,
Greeting Elmer, who came home late,
Helping Anne dress for her very first date -
No wonder she's sitting so quietly there,
It's her first chance all day to sit down on a chair.

In 1983 Margaret Stoltz won the prestigious "Citizen of the Year" award, presented by the Rotary Club of Alliston. Mrs. Blakely presents Margaret with the award here.



Left to Right: Evert & Josephine Rutters, (close family friends), Joe & Anne (Stoltz) Haddock, Ron & Lucille Stoltz, Allan & Linda Stoltz with Elmer and Margaret Stoltz in front. Taken 1984



J.J.E. McCAGUE (1899 - 1959)

John Joseph Edward McCague was born February 15th, 1899 at Victoria Square and died on February 13, 1959. Jack, as he was known to his friends, lived a full life with many interests, much happiness in achievement and multitude of friends, both in his own community and abroad, who benefitted in many ways through the privilege of knowing him.

He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1922 and that same year opened the first agricultural representative's office in Alliston. He introduced pure-bred livestock and certified seed potatoes to the district, thus making a great and lasting improvement in the agricultural economy. Transferred to the Carleton County agricultural office, he was soon brought back to Alliston by the late T.P. Loblaw to manage his Stevenson Farms, where McCague established and developed successful breeding herds of Holsteins, Shorthorns, Yorkshires and silver foxes.

Following Mr. Loblaw's death in the early 30's, Glenafton Farm was established through the purchase of part of the Stevenson Farms' land, the fox ranch and a selection of the Holstein herd. It is notable that, although this was in the depths of the depression, Jack McCague chose a part of the farm without buildings so he could erect new ones that would better serve his plans. There followed several difficult years during which, Jack used to say, he earned his directorship of the Bank of Toronto because he owed them so much money.

The story of the development of the Glenafton Holstein herd need not be retold here, for it is known by results throughout the world. Suffice it to say that there was no closer student of the Mount Victoria herd as witness his selection as a heifer of the 1162 lb. All-Canadian Montvic Hienke Rag Apple Paray (Excellent) to become one of the herd's greatest mothers and his purchase in partnership with C.J. Ceraswell of Montvic Rag Apple Markman (Excellent-Extra) in the 1940 National Sale at the then almost fabulous price of \$1325. At the Mount Victoria Dispersal he made only one purchase; a heifer well down the sale order, named Montvic Colleen Abbecker - now Canadian champion lifetime butterfat producer. But Glenafton's greatest acquisition from Mount Victoria was their herd manager, Mort Butchers. Jack and Mort, each with highest respect for the abilities of the other, made an unshakable team, that brought Glenafton to the heights of Holsteindom in the show ring, the sale ring and in the making of production records.

Several herd sires followed Markman with varying success and then, following several visits of Jack and Mort to see Glenvux Nettie Jenius at Rosale Farms, they purchased her son, Rosale Centurion, at \$1650 in the 1952 National Sale. By the time they came to buy her next son, Rosale Signet, others had profited by the McCague judgement and the price was \$20,100 - and last fall (1959) his baby full brother brought 30,000. Centurion and Signet have continued the Markman pattern of siring offspring that have been at or near the top of all leading consignment sales in the United States and Canada in which they have been entered.

A "Master Breeder", Jack McCague was president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada in 1944 and a valued executive and adviser for many years. He was largely responsible for the development of several important Association projects not the least of which was the founding of the Journal as the official organ. As is evident from his success as a breeder, he was an excellent judge, but turned down most invitations to act in this capacity except for some leading South American shows. It was a liberal education to sit with him at ringside and listen to his analysis of a class.

Among the many other national organizations which he headed were Dairy Farmers of Canada, Canadian National Live Stock Records, Canadian Swine Breeders' Association and the Canadian Silver Fox Breeders' Association.

He was chairman of the Board of Stevenson Memorial Hospital, first Chairman of Bentley Memorial High School Board during its building, past Master of his Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Ontario Agricultural College.

For 21 years he was superintendent of the Sunday School of Burns United Church, of which he was also an elder. He was a director of the Canadian National Exhibition, Director of Toronto Dominion Bank and in 1967 was inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. On Oct. 25th, 1980, the Township of Kesa officially opened the J.J.E. McCague bridge, named in his honor.

Jack McCague and his wife, Mae, raised a family of two boys and three girls, who have followed in their parents' footsteps and become fine, upstanding members of the community.



MINA STUART 1894-1983

(Taken from Alliston Herald death notice and submitted by Dulcie Laking, a long-time and dear friend of Mina's)

Edna Mina (Paddison) Stuart died Nov. 19th at York Co. Hospital, Newmarket. She was the eldest daughter of John and Emma Paddison and was born in Mansfield on May 30th, 1894.

The family moved to Magnetawan and Stayner before settling in Alliston when John Paddison built a bakery (now an apartment building at 11 Wellington St.W.) Mina attended Alliston High school and worked in the bake shop. On June 22, 1921, she married George Stuart and became well-known throughout the area for her catering abilities. Many couples will remember her assistance at their weddings.

She also worked as a clerk in the "dry goods" department of F.T. Hill. Shortly after the death of her husband in 1945, she and Mrs. Allie Hook purchased the Snack Shop where they had a busy restaurant business. This was later sold. When Banting Memorial High School first opened, Mrs. Stuart was there in the cafeteria and remained at that job until she retired.

She attended St. John's United Church and was for many years the superintendent of the primary Sunday School department. She had a keen interest in the Women's Institute and was involved in many of its projects.

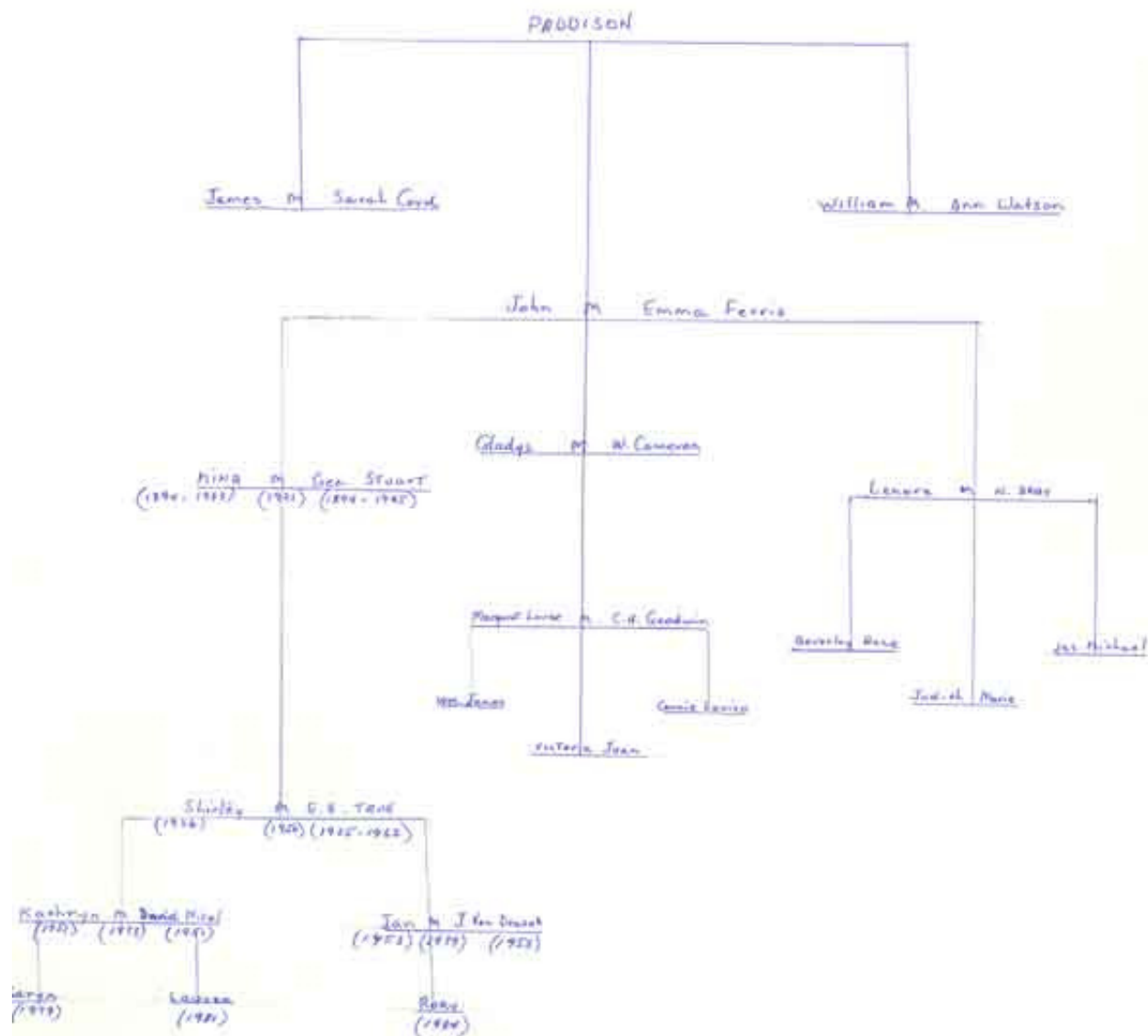
She was a charter member of the Five-Star Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and during the war was a tireless worker for the local chapter of the Red Cross.

Her hobbies included knitting, sewing, cooking and playing bridge. Travelling was always a great pleasure to her and she loved to tell about her trips to Israel, Ireland and Japan.

Nov. 21st, 1983, Rev. Fred Jackson conducted the funeral services at the W. John Thomas Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Oak Gray, Gilbert Lauzon, Roy Heipel, James Bray, Clayton Goodwin and William Goodwin.

She is survived by her only daughter, Shirley True and loving grand and great-grandchildren.





Mr. & Mrs. William George Ernest Cumner and

William George ERNEST Cumberland was born March 3rd, 1906 in Rossmore, Ontario. He lived on the West half of Lot 28 Con. 3 Adjala until age four when his mother died. Moved to Ross Hall on Lot 27, Con. 1 Adjala to live with his Aunt Maude, his Grandmother, Grandfather and Father, Alfred Cumberland. He attended public school at SS#6 Adjala from 1912 to 1919. Attended High School at Alliston from 1919 to 1924. Attended Toronto Normal School from 1924 to 1925. Taught school at Cedar Grove (1925-26) Sand Hook (1926-28) Mansfield (1928-29) and Alliston Union Public School (1929-46) for a total of 21 years.

He became Imperial Life Assurance Representative in 1946 for a period of 16 years. In 1948 he became the Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed Alliston District High School Board, a position held until the Finance Co. Board of Education took over in 1968. Transferred to the Education Centre to assist in the operation of the school bus transportation system.

This was followed in 1971 by about four years with Kentucky Bus Co. as payroll officer and carrier. In 1975 ACTEC required a book keeper. This position lasted for one year when health problems made it too difficult to cope.

They say variety is the spice of life. Volunteer efforts included Murray School Superintendent at Knox Union Church for one or two years and later at St. John's U.C. for about 25 years. Counselor and Friend for Home Secura for two or three years before becoming Scout Master of the Re-formed Alliston Scout Troop in 1933 and served in that capacity for about 15 years. A member of the Simcoe County Children's Aid Board for several years. Chairman for one year. Spent time in 1946 and early 1947 was spent on research and compiling the history of Alliston.

Have been a member of the Alliston and District Association for Mentally Retarded since the 1930's. Assisted Mr. Edward Deval in setting up the AD RC (Mills on and District Training and Educational Centre) in the old Burns' Community School in Essex Township, which was a project of the Association. Other projects were the Nursery School for Retarded Children, Residence for Retarded Adults and later, Relief Services.

Served on the Session and the Committee of Stewards for several years as well as the Christian Educational Committee since its inception during Rev. James Shilton's ministry until January 1967.

Married Beatrice Elizabeth Hawkins in the Scotch United Church Parsonage by Rev. Levi Atkinson on December 19th, 1931.

Beatrice, now a life member of Alliston Women's Institute (1987), tell her story. I was born in a farmhouse weighing less than two lbs. on July 15th, 1911, in Tecumseh Township, carried on a pillow and my incubator was the oven door. I was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Hawkins and had two sisters, Irene & Eleanor. My home was on the opposite corner of the then called "Pog's Yard"; the Holts' family survived there and they were the bootleggers of the day. Eventually, the locality became Sand Hook, which was a more appropriate name, especially during numerous wind and sand storms, when the light sandy soil blew everywhere.

We attended Thompsonville United Church and Sand Hook School, during the 1940's, when planes roared overhead from nearby Camp Borden, now called Baden Borden.

The land for the Thompsonville Church, now torn down, on the South West corner of Lot 9, was purchased for \$1.00, in 1880, with \$1,930.00 on hand. The church families had had their church opening in 1910 and closing in 1956 due to poor attendance and lack going elsewhere. This new Methodist church was dedicated to the Worship of God and the Alliston choir did an excellent job at the opening service. Only two weddings were held in it in nearly 50 years. The first bride was Margaret Agnew married to Elwood Dunn. After his death, Margaret, a dedicated life member of Alliston W.I. became Mrs. Arthur Merritt.

Members of Alliston W.I. who lived previously in the Thompsonville Alliston, Barton district were Ann Spindloe (Brett), Irene Bell (Fowlers), Mildred Makarek (Card), Margaret Merritt (Agnew) and May Reynolds.

Saturday night was the high-light of the week for the young people, youngsters and grown-ups. Coming to Alliston to shop and visit with your neighbors, on children's feet we were well shod with a nickel or a dime to spend. It would buy an ice cream cone or several candies.

We had many chimney fires. My father would get up on the roof and throw water all around the roof, while we would pump pails of water for him.

(Continued...)

Mr. & Mrs. Cumberland (Continued)

I first met my husband-to-be when he came to teach at Sandhook School. He was looking for a boarding place. He had a 1918 Touring Ford car with sliding curtains on hooks. Mother & I were doing the washing on the old scrub board, and as Mother talked to him I thought, "I just have to meet him." So I rushed out with a few clothes and a basket of clothes pins to the wire fence to hang the clothes. In my excitement, I dropped the whole basket of pins over the fence. Guess who got to pick them up?

I married W.G. Ernest Cumberland in 1931. He was then the principal of Alliston Public School on Albert Street. Three years' later we had a daughter, Margaret Anne. We later had a son, William and our last child was Gail.

Our home, on the corner of Nelson & Paris was built in 1912 by W.D. Latimer, father of Alan, who was the husband of Margaret Latimer, a dedicated W.I. member. There were no storm windows, storm doors, no insulation and a very smokey wood furnace; in fact, in the winter, frost hung from the bedroom ceiling. Hurricane Hazel in the 50's flooded the basement, ruining everything there. Two weeks' later, another rain storm flooded it again and brought the water right up to the furnace.

Teachers' salaries were then approximately \$100. a month, less Federation and Superannuation fees. However, milk was only 10¢ a quart and bread 17¢. This was the "Great Depression."

Shortly after coming to Alliston as a bride, I became a member of the Alliston Women's Institute, and eventually a Life Member; also a member of Knox United and later Wesley United which became St. John's United Church.

I was assistant to Business Administrator at Banting Memorial High School for the Alliston District High School Board. As well, I was book keeper for the school cafeteria. For the past ten years I have been Treasurer for the Alliston Women's Institute and held several offices as a member of the W.I. over the fifty years plus.

My sincere message to all is to place your hand in the hand of God each morning & evening, then there is nothing to fear, not even death.

Feb. '87



Above: Beatrice & Ernest Cumberland cut their 50th Anniversary cake, Dec.18,1982.

On the Left: Ernest receives one of many awards, an award for volunteer services given by the Town of Alliston. He and Beatrice are sitting in the front, with their children behind: Gail, Bill and Margaret-Anne (Plaxton). The setting is the Town Hall Auditorium.

IRWIN & MAY (Morgan) REYNOLDS (1987)

(As told by May Reynolds)

My home was in Eastern Ontario, in Wales, Osnabruck Twp. Stormont Co., which was one of the villages inundated by the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1958. I was born Emma May Morgan, eldest daughter of Lois and Fred Morgan. My only sister is Winnifred who is two years younger. I attended Wales Public School, Wales Continuation School and later, Cornwall Collegiate Institute. In 1933 I graduated from MacDonald Institute, Guelph, and worked for two summers in charge of food at the Cornwall Golf Club. Following this I did Short Course work for the Government. During this time I met Irwin Reynolds who was working in Cornwall and we were married in 1938. We settled on the Reynolds' family farm on Conc. 12, lot 13, Tecumseth Twp. where we lived for 40 years. Ours was a mixed farming operation and we shipped milk to Toronto for many years.

Irwin was born on the farm in 1912, son of Milton and Libbie (Robb) Reynolds. He attended Beeton Junction School and Alliston High School and O.A.C. He has an older brother, Harold and a younger sister, Marjorie Dean. We attended Thompsonville United Church until it closed in 1956, after which we joined Beeton Trinity United Church.

We raised 5 children. Morgan was born in 1943 and he and his wife, Judy, live in London, Ontario with their children Allison, 14 and Kristen, 10 years. Ross was born in 1945 and he and his wife Linda live on the family farm. They have two boys, Steven, 7 and Joshua, 5 years of age. Nancy, born in 1950, works and lives in Toronto. Jane, born in 1952 is married to Douglas Langman and they live on a farm near Orillia. Margaret, born in 1954, is married to Bill Barber and lives in Alliston.

In 1978 we retired and moved to Alliston, a very happy move. We joined St. John's United Church and I became a member of the Friendly Circle Unit of the U.C.W. After years of being a Beeton W.I. member, I immediately joined Alliston W.I. and am presently the 2nd Vice-President. It is a wonderful way to meet people and make new friends. We enjoy the Alliston Sr. Citizens' Club. My most enjoyable hobby is playing handbells with the Alliston Golden Bells. My other interests are my home and family, sewing & quilting as well as the Sr. Citizens' Choir. 1987-88 W.I. PRESIDENT



L to R: BACK ROW - MARGAN REYNOLDS
MARGARET BARBER
JANE LANGMAN
ROSS REYNOLDS
NANCY REYNOLDS
FRONT ROW - MAY REYNOLDS, IRWIN REYNOLDS

Section 10

Special Events

Page

10-1 Letter from Premier

10-2 Ontario Tornado

10-3 F.W.I.O. Anniversary

10-4 Centennial Parade

10-5 Events W.I.

10-6 Banting Cairn

The Alliston Women's Institute sent a petition to the Government at the time the service of the Penetang-Midland Bus Lines was being threatened. This letter came back from the Premier of the Province of Ontario.

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

965-9353

October 14, 1986

Dear Ms Moss:

Thank you for your June 17th petition regarding the 1986 public vehicle operating licence issued to Penetang -Midland Coach Lines Limited which restricted the Company from picking-up and discharging passengers and express freight other than at Pearson International Airport or points in Simcoe County.

I must apologize for taking so long to acknowledge your submission.

You will be aware that the decision of the Ontario Highway Transport Board was appealed to Cabinet by Penetang -Midland Coach Lines Limited. Cabinet's decision on this matter was made public on August 8th. I attach a note of explanation for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Peterson

Ms Gloria Moss
P.O. Box 113
Alliston, Ontario
L0M 1A0

ONTARIO TORNADO May 31st, 1985

On the afternoon of May 31st, 1985, a disaster struck Central Ontario. The following information was taken from a booklet put out by the Barrie Banner and simply called, "Ontario Tornado" and dated May 31st, 1985. Gail Sedinson wrote an article in this publication called "What Happened? Nine separate Tornadoes". I have used her story.

It was a devil's brew of volatile weather systems which percolated through the warm summer air surrounding the small communities of Central Ontario on that Friday afternoon.

Nine separate tornadoes would spring from this untidy alliance and sweep through the communities of Rush Cove, Arthur, Grand Valley, Orangeville, Corbett, Holland Landing, Hopeville, Lisle, Grand Valley, Tottenham, Ammerveildt, Alma, Hillsburgh, Wagner Lake, Kinsboro, Ida, Rice Lake, Birdsall Beach, Kinto, Kuskview, Sandwich, Dunkerron and Barrie.

Churches, barns, homes and lives were destroyed by the raging winds, estimated to exceed 400 km per hour in many cases. Giant trees which had stood up to the elements for centuries were ripped from the soil, and debris scattered for miles from the storm centre.

Rush Cove, on the Bruce Peninsula, was the first target and the site of one of the shortest tornado strikes. The Lister touched down on the hamlet at about 3 pm destroying a barn and three outbuildings and blowing out windows in homes. A nine metre sailboat was lifted from its cradle and deposited 1,200 feet away. No injuries were reported.

In Hopeville it ran on the ground for about 17 km, destroying numerous barns and outbuildings and causing some minor damage to homes.

At Tomahawk, at least 15 barns and outbuildings were destroyed and 10 houses severely damaged. Cars and trucks were tossed up to 60 metres away.

In Lisle, the tornado destroyed two barns. Four towers on the 500 kilovolt line linking the Bruce Power Development and the Milton transformer station were toppled at 4:28 pm.

Power to Alliston, Orangeville and Barrie was cut. This fact was credited with saving many lives and less damage in Barrie - both because workers had been sent home from factories that machines later were demolished and because there was no danger of sparks starting fires in areas where gas was leaking.

It was about 4:50 pm when the cloud of destruction was approaching Barrie. It ranched down north of Holly and then crossed Ardagh Road about 1 km west of Crawford Road. The damage path was about 600 metres wide. With winds in excess of 500 km per hour, it crossed Crawford Road, wrecked about a dozen homes on Villarsen Road and roared and sprang its way along the factory on an Essex Road. Cars were tossed hundreds of metres and 12 factories were seriously destroyed, with numerous others sustaining damage. On highway 400, the cars of those travelling to cottage country or coming home from work, were hurled off the road. The roof of the Barrie Railway was lifted, the townhouse complex on Adelaide Street was destroyed and heavy damage occurred on Belra Crescent.

A 500 metre-wide swathe was cut from Huronville Street to Jeanne Cres. The Tornado then moved on through Allendale Heights along to a small industrial park on Highway 11 and over to Brookwood Marine. In Barrie alone, over 264 homes were completely destroyed, 115 heavily damaged and 230 sustained minor damage.

It was about 5 pm and for Barrie, it was all over. The deadly storm had blown itself out. Eight dead were found in the wreckage and the city, numb with shock, prepared to rebuild.

At 4:15 pm another twister had just touched down north of Arthur. It streaked east-north-east at 85 km/h to the east end of the Holland Marsh, lifting off near Mr. Albert. It ran a trail of havoc between 150 and 300 metres wide and nearly everything in its path was completely destroyed. Over 300 homes, barns and outbuildings were seriously damaged or razed. In Grand Valley around 100 homes were left in ruins, 200 damaged & two people killed.

Proceeding east towards the city of Orangeville, the tornado touched down at the Nora Plaza on the outskirts of Orangeville, leveling the shopping centre. It then rampaged on to Holland Landing, crushing everything in its way, hitting the Tottenham area with an alarming severity, where two more deaths were reported.

Dunkerron and Ammerveildt next felt its fury, but at this point the tornado weakened and skipped over to Mount Albert. Other shorter, but no less-damaging twisters, were reported. The Alma tornado touched down between 6:15 and 6:30 pm and travelled a path 33 km long. Five houses and 10 barns and outbuildings were destroyed, along with two boats.

At 5:30 a five km twister annihilated a barn at Wagner Lake, and the Kinsboro tornado ran for 8 km, touching down at 6:05 and damaging two barns. At 6:20 the Ida tornado damaged a church and destroyed a stone home in one 9 km run.

Rice Lake was visited by two twisters, 7 and 11 km in length. They destroyed two barns and sank several boats. The Kinto tornado destroyed two barns.

Summing up, there were 8 left dead in Barrie, 50 injured and 600 homeless, as well as four more elsewhere. Not since "Hurricane Hazel" which struck in 1954, had the people of Ontario experienced such a disaster. The Central Ontario Disaster Relief Fund Committee was organized less than a week later, and donations from the public began to pour in. The Ontario Government promised \$3 for every dollar raised.

F.W.I.O.
85th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

(Held in Toronto, Ontario)

Aug. 12, 1982

There were delegates from all over Ontario to attend this celebration.
Two delegates from Beeton (Maida Ritchie and Mary Watson)
and Maggi Anderson from Alliston attended and Maggi wrote this amusing
poem about the affair.

EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF FWIO

The best-laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley for sure!
And the luncheon at Continental will in my mind endure.
I didn't really think that I would ever be
A guest of F.W.I. of O. at their 85th 'versary.
But I was not only present (and there's many a proof of that),
But among 1800 women, I was the only one with a hat!

The day was bright and shiny, Maida and Mary were right on time,
The car spun along the highway, and all of our turns were fine.
In spite of the crowds of women s-marching down the hall,
We found President Lee, looking sharp as could be,
Just no real problem at all,
But as we filed into that great big room, and found a place, and sat,
I couldn't help but notice, I was the only one with a hat!

We didn't like the meal much, we're hard to please, you'll say,
But such things didn't bother us, this was a festive day.
The great hall was alive with fun and every kind of chatter,
So what was served, we ate, and felt it didn't really matter.
The speeches were all interesting, as speeches tend to be,
Then the age-old story of W.I. was played dramatically,
We even had a sing-song, and no one sounded flat,
But all the time I was aware, I was the only one with a hat!

85th Anniversary Luncheon
in honour of
The Founding of the Women's Institute in Ontario
August 12, 1982 - 12 noon
Galaxy Ballroom - Constellation Hotel
900 Dixon Road, Rexdale, Toronto, Ontario
Guest Speaker - Mrs. L. Westebring-Muller
President of A.C.W.O.
Luncheon ticket - \$12.75



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS OF ALLISTON W.I.



First meeting in new library hall - known as the "Woman's Institute hall". The picture shows President, Lee Kennett, standing, Maggi Anderson, Secretary, and Bea Cusberland, Treasurer, seated at the table. Margaret Somerville is sitting in the corner and Harg Gingras has her back to the camera. Notice drawing of the old library on the wall, done by Gerry Balcombe of Beeton. We had 1,000 hunti-notes made for sale in the community, and did very well, financially on this venture. May, 1982.

Riverwood Retirement Home was always very generous in opening their doors for meetings, etc. This was a picture taken in 1985 during one such event. From the L. Jo O'Henley, M. Stoltz, J. Wardle, M. Ellis, M. Merrett, E. Thompson, M. Hunter, I. McMaster, A. Gibson talking to V. Adams. Other faces you can see-B. & C. Spindloe, M. Latimer, J. Leslie, H. Askins, J. Hanf with I. Jaffrey standing at back.



Christmas party (1985) catered to by the Rosemont Ladies - held in the W.I. hall. Some people, from the L. M. Ellis, A. Satchliffe, M. Kerr, E. Bosley, I. Jaffray, C. Spindloe, E. Thompson (far corner) M. McWaters, I. Ball and M. Merrett and M. Hunter in the foreground. A turkey dinner was served by these girls for \$6.00 at that time. Details cannot be seen but a large painting of a small house in the woods can be seen. It was given to the W.I. by Sir Frederick Banting.

FREDERICK BANTING CAIRN
(Sept. 14, 1975)

Main speaker was Dr. Urquart of Toronto. Lady Banting, widow of Sir Frederick, also spoke. She is shown below in the unveiling.



Section 11

Alliston Homes

Page

- | | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 11-1 | 118 Victoria St. E. |
| 11-2 | 40 Dominion St. |
| 11-3 | 44 Dufferin St. S. |
| 11-4 | 53 Dufferin St. S. |
| 11-5 | Railroad Station |
| 11-5 | 139 Victoria E. and Demolished |

ALLISTON'S OLD HOMES

(Most of this material has been provided by Sandy and Mary Ellis)

House at 118 Victoria Street, East, in Alliston:

This large original 3-storey prestigious house was situated on a double lot, amidst lush towering trees, and was originally the home of Dr. James Hart, built in the 1870's. It was one of Alliston's show-places. The spacious tree-shaded lawn was the site of many a garden party and strawberry festival, attended by Alliston's elite.

Dr. Hart's daughter, Minnie, married George Hutchinson, who, together fell heir to the stately home and lived in it for many years, raising six sons and three daughters, all of whom made a creditable contribution to the life of the community, and especially to Wesley Methodist Church.

About 1935 a fire partially damaged the yellow brick house and it was restructured into a two-storey building; otherwise the contour remained the same. The well-kept grounds continued to be the setting for many more social gatherings of the Ladies' Aid of the Wesley Church.

In the 1940's when Mr. Hutchinson, who managed the F.T. Hill store in town, moved to Meaford, he sold their house to Watson Rowe, who rented a part of it to Peter Thompson and family. A few years' later, Mrs. Jean Pitcher bought the house and converted it into apartments and single units, which she rented out. This distinguished old home soon lost its appeal and gradually fell into disrepair. In 1980 (approximate date) Joan Yeatman and her husband bought the house and attempted some restoration, but in 1987 the property was purchased by Costy Construction Ltd. They plan to demolish the house and erect a 14 unit apartment building. An appeal against the rezoning of the area from R2 to R4 was rejected by the Ontario Municipal Board, to the consternation of many concerned citizens.

The picture below shows the house as it was in 1987.



House at 40 Dominion Street, Alliston, Margaret & Allan Latimer.

This was the home of Margaret and Allan Latimer. Margaret came to it as a bride in 1933 and sold it in 1987. It is very well-kept and one of the most beautiful home in Alliston. Unfortunately, it stands in an area which has become a laneway, and will no doubt, give way to an apartment building or a store in the future. But right now, in 1987, it stands proud and tall in the shade of beautiful old maple trees.

This picture was donated by Margaret Latimer, a member of the W.I. of Alliston. Her husband, Allan, died in 1979 on November 1st. She has been a member of W.I. for over 40 years.

The Latimers had two surviving sons, Don, married with 3 girls and one boy, and Bill, with 3 boys and 1 girl.

Mrs. Latimer thinks the house was built in or about 1915. She and her husband bought it from Mrs. Alfred Smith in 1933.



GEORGE AND JEAN CUCO

44 Dufferin Street S.

George, born in Montreal, Quebec of Romanian decent. Jean (Campbell) born in Amherst, Nova Scotia. They met and married in Montreal, Que.

George and Jean raised four children. Bruce, in Armed forces stationed at Kingston, is married to Dorothy Johnston, of Acton, Ont. They have two children, Tim & Debbie, and one grandchild, Whalen. Brian is with Air Canada in Toronto and is married to Shirley Brom. They have two children, Jason & Wendy. Beverly is married to Todd O'Brien of Kingston and lives in Calgary, Alberta. They have two children, Derek and Andrea. Borden married Lydia Santa Maria and is living in Pierrefonds, Quebec, with two children, Johathan and Jessica.

Jean says: We drove through Alliston visiting our son, then stationed in Camp Borden and decided this was an ideal town to retire in. Bought our house in 1983 from Const. Pinkney, OPP. We understand the house was built in 1949 by Mr. Walter Hall.

Unfortunately, George died in February, 1987.



House at 53 Dufferin South - Evelyn & Bill Thompson

This home was built in 1872 and is one of the oldest houses in town. It belonged to Evelyn and William A. Thompson until May, 1987, when it was sold and made into apartments. There had been many additions and renovations over the years. It does not have a garage, but a carport was fashioned with four posts and bittersweet growing over and around it. Winter and summer it provided shelter for cars, birds and squirrels, as well as providing many families in Alliston with big pots of the beautiful berries and branches of the astonishingly healthy and virile plant, the bittersweet.

The Thompsons bought the house in March, 1949. Evelyn bought one little piece of bittersweet from Michigan Bulb Company, then divided it, and this subsequently grew into the tremendous tree that provides so much shelter.

Bill had some grape vines at the back of the house and many neighbours and friends have reason to remember what delicious grapes they were and what good jelly they made.

In May, 1987, Ev and Bill moved to a retirement complex in Owen Sound where their son and family live. They also have a daughter, Jean Skippen living in Stayner.



GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD STATION, Circa 1920

This railroad was originally the Hamilton and Northwestern Railroad. Was sometimes known as the Virginia Creeper or Hog Special. First train ran in 1878 - last train in 1955 as C.N.R.

Mrs. Cumberland relates that she and her daughter and son could go to her Hawkins' family home from Alliston to Thompsonville for .10¢.



Two beautiful old houses. One was in the way when the Santing Memorial High School had to be expanded. The other still stands on Victoria Street East in Alliston and is owned by Hart and Marion Holmstrom. They rent the lower rooms and live in the upper area. (Entered in 1987)



139 Victoria St. E.



Demolished