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ALLISTON
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

EDITOR'S NOTE: We respect the wish of the lady who compiled this history that she be permitted to remain in the background of anonymity. However, we cannot refrain from at least making grateful acknowledgment for a very fine contribution to The Archives in The Hydro Hall of Memory from a lady who is obviously as knowledgeable as she is gracious. In addition to having been a keen student of the early history of her community, she has viewed the march of significant, historical events during her own era with a discerning eye. These facts emerge quite clearly from the style of presentation of the history which follows.

This sketch is compiled on behalf of our beloved little town of Alliston, the hardy pioneers who gave it "breath of life" and in commemoration of the Centennial of Canadian Confederation.

Having deep roots in this community and because of family ties, I am not only intensely interested in it's past history but proud to offer my humble effort, hoping that in the years to come, it may guide someone's thoughts into the preciousness of our past and give him or her a realization of the tremendous history of toil and faith that went into the development and growth of this area.

To try to explain the future, we must understand and appreciate the past. Many hearts, many heads and many hands contributed to the founding of Alliston.

"The Pioneer laboured from dawn to dusk."

Then, what of the hours of darkness -- the hours when sickness, fire, storms and loneliness invaded man's home?

Thus it was, that man craved assistance in order to help carry on.

We look far back, and lo, as in a dream, we see, blossoming forth from the then wilderness of Simcoe County, a tiny settlement.

The year was 1825. One, William Fletcher, a native of Alliston, Yorkshire, England, along with his two brothers, John and Dickson, emigrated to Canada. Between them, they had about sixpence, a meagre sum for sustenance in the long and difficult journey across the ocean.

William settled in Tecumseth township and until 1847 explored the area thoroughly, noting the advantages here and there -- the value and supply of the water resources -- climatic changes, soil and forest

STARTED WITH 400 ACRES

Finally, choosing a point which is now the corner of the four existing townships -- Tossorentio, Adjala, Tecumseth and Essa, Fletcher took up four hundred acres of land along the stream which drained through the swampy land on either side of his rude cabin. This he named "Alliston" after his beloved old home in Yorkshire. Later he increased his holdings to 1200 acres.

William Fletcher had a dream or was it a theory?

The water privileges of the stream suggested valuable water-power for a grist mill; the land though swampy, would respond to drainage and prove productive. This looked good. He visioned the "miracle of growth."

A town, city or village is not born -- it is made. Strenuous and united efforts exerted by man in order to attain a higher and better way of life, along with faith and hope make up the inheritance we pass on to future generations.

Let us remember that this pioneer came to a land entirely unknown to him -- a land covered with dense bush, uncharted trails and waterways but to William Fletcher, it was his "Promised Land."

In 1848, settlement was slow. Clearings were two or three miles apart. The saw mill was built and going strong and by 1853 a grist mill sprang up. Around that time, too, records indicate that the dam was built, likely by Fletcher. On March 17, 1942, this dam went out and was replaced by a foot-bridge. The little settlement was beginning to take shape. Tradesmen passing through carried back tales of what they had seen and heard and it wasn't very long until a store, a cabinet shop and a few other shops were being built.

In 1874, under a general Act of Parliament, Alliston was incorporated as a village and was assured municipal government in 1875.

Now that the little village had been officially born, it had to have public officials to carry out it's best interests. These were the first:

Reeve	-	George Fletcher (son of the pioneer and founder)
Councillors	-	P.D. Kelly, Jas. Aitken, Richard Chappell, John Strachan
Clerk	-	John Gilbert
Treasurer	-	James Drury

By 1875, the assessment totalled \$125,000.

Moving along, we come to the fall of 1877 and the winter of 1878 which were very trying for the villagers. Sickness, cold and three fires took their toll. Picture, if you can, the plight of these people. Their day began at sunrise and their labours lasted until darkness fell. They toiled to build -- only to see the fruits of their labor consumed by fire which they were unable to combat even though

the Boyne flowed through the heart of the village.

Nights were long and dangerous. Animals, both domestic and wild roamed freely in the darkness.

But ideas were being expressed and the people were saying:

"We must have light.....We must have water" (power?)

The coming of the North Western Railway in 1878 was a blessing. Trains ran from Clarkesville (now, Beeton) to Glencairn. Later this became the Grand Trunk line and, finally, the Canadian National Railway.

About that time, the first Woollen Mills were built and they needed a water-line. The approximate cost was \$210 and Council asked the Mills to pay \$27 a year for ten years. The flat rate for water was \$27 a year and the town asked \$35 a year for 1,500 gallons a day.

Half-inch pipe for domestic service from the street line to the building was to be charged up to the owners at 32¢ per foot installed, or 38¢ for 3/4-inch pipe.

T.P. Hodgkin contracted to dig an artesian well at the corner of Victoria (the main street) and Church (running north and south from the Fletcher farm). Because he was unsuccessful in getting a good flow Council allowed him a grant of \$135 to cover his losses.

So much for the water but what about light?

We know that means of light for the early pioneer was possible through home-made tallow candles.

Just when the first street light appeared is not known but we do know that a pole was placed in the centre of the street for general illumination. The Council supplied the coal oil and a man to service the lamp. A Mr. Johnson took on this task at the princely sum of one dollar a week.

With the growth of the village it became evident that a "man-of-the-law" was badly needed so a Mr. Squares took on the job of constable and he worked for nothing.

FIRST STREET WATERING SYSTEM

Because of the increasing number of teams and wagons, the dust became a nuisance. As a result; the first street-watering system made it's advent. It was a large tank on a wagon with a spray apparatus and drawn by a team of horses. The total cost was about \$30.

On the subject of water, the community's first water tower was built in 1892 and was dismantled and rebuilt in 1949.

Much has been written in the old Council records about the discussions which took place over the coming of "power." The Ball Electrical Company approached Council about installing a generating system to light the homes, stores, buildings and streets. Word came that Ottawa had been using "arc lights" since 1883.

On August the 13th., 1890, a vote was taken to approve electric street lighting. A meeting of ratepayers was held in the Opera Hall and this new venture was thoroughly discussed.

It was decided that five lights should be installed with 2,000-candlepower per light. They were to be turned on one hour after sundown from Sept. 15th to March 15th. Each night the lights were turned off at one o'clock except Sunday nights when they were turned off at 12 o'clock.

Lights were not considered very necessary on moonlit nights. What was a moonlit night? After much discussion, argument and some "personal investigation" the Reeve made the final decision. In short, the lights were to be on three hundred and thirteen nights a year at :

cost of 90 cents a night.

Our first street lights were the "arc" type. This light was produced by "arcing" or jumping of electric current between two pieces of pencil-like carbon, set in adjustable holders and enclosed in a glass bowl, open at the top and at the bottom to permit the free passage of air to reduce the heat of the open flame between the carbon. These carbons were short-lived and had to be replaced at short intervals. Therefore, each light was fitted with a rope and pulley so that it could be lowered to easy working distance from the ground during the hours of daylight. These arc lights continued in service until about 1910 when they were replaced by "incandescent" bulbs which, though different than the first type, were much cheaper to operate.

Bear in mind, that "JUICE" was available only between the hours of early darkness until near midnight -- for five nights a week.

Alliston's first electric light plant, built in 1888 by W.J. Fletcher, was installed in the basement of the flour mills but, owing to the dust, a brick building had to be erected, and this was done in 1890.

Besides the building of the new electric light plant, other developments were taking place. The first egg station was set up. Eggs were brought by team and wagon from Bradford, Creemore, Honeywood, Angus, Tottenham and Beeton. They were put in large vats until full and then placed in barrels and packed in straw and then shipped. The barrels too, were made on the premises. A butter factory, two tanneries and a hennery sprang up.

INCORPORATED AS A TOWN IN 1891

The year 1891 was perhaps, the most important in the history of Alliston. On January 1st it became a town by the proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The first Council comprised:

Mayor	-	John Stewart
Reeve	-	Dr. James Sutherland
Councillors	-	John Moore, John McGirr, Wm. Hutchinson, Thos. O'Callaghan, W.I. Clarke, Jas. Longeway, C. Lee

While perhaps the most important year for the little town, it was also the saddest. On Friday, May 8th, at around midday, a fire started in the stables of the Queen's Hotel, on the south bank of the Boyne, and in a very few minutes spread to east and west and, fanned by the high winds, to the business section across the street. Mayor Stewart sent out a call by telegraph to Collingwood for assistance. By special train the Collingwood fire department arrived about three o'clock but by that time a score of families were left homeless. Government aid was sent and Sir John A. McDonald, though ill at the time, gave the matter his personal attention.

During 1891, the town raised \$16,750 by debentures to construct a system of water works for future fire protection. The site was purchased from Wm. Fletcher for \$300 in 1892. A contract was drawn up with E.J. McQuillan and Thos. McQuillan to lay 2,250 ft. of 8" pipe at \$1.95 per ft.; 3613 ft. of 6" pipe at 80 cents per ft.; 7916 ft. of 4" pipe at 55 cents per ft. and also, twenty hydrants at a cost of \$35 each.

There were fifteen water customers waiting for service.

By 1895 the Alliston Milling Company had added a 500-light Canadian General alternator. The new brick building housing the plant was divided into three parts; one for the boiler, one for the engine and one for the dynamo. Through the wall next to the mill ran a shaft which, when the water was high, would run both the mill and the dynamo or, when the water was low, the engine would run both the mill and the dynamo. In the mill section were two waterwheels -- one of 25-HP and the other 40-HP. In the boiler room was an 80-HP Osborne-Killey boiler supplying steam to a 75-HP Osborne-Killey engine. There was a 500-light CGE alternator with excitor; 700 lamps were installed throughout the town; there was a Reliance Arc machine of 35 lights capacity -- 22 of which were in use; 11 commercial and 11 on the streets.

In 1897 the Metropolitan Street Railway was granted permission to extend its line to Lake Simcoe. The plan was to run a parallel line to the present road touching Lake Simcoe and Jackson's Point and passing through Weston, Woodbridge, Kleinburg and Schomberg to Alliston and other points. A clause asking authority to distribute light and power was opposed on behalf of the Toronto Electric Light and Power Company. It was conceded by the Metropolitan Company that the right to sell light and power in Toronto would not be asked and, in return, the privileges for the counties of York and Simcoe were granted.

By 1899 the Alliston Electric Light Company were making changes in their lighting station and decided to increase their incandescent lighting capacity. For this purpose they placed an order with the Royal Electric Company for a 60-KW S.K.C., 2-phase machine which would serve both incandescent lights as well as power which had heretofore been served by two machines.

In the scheme of things that followed, many small items of interest add to the colour of the story of Hydro at Alliston. The little town was slowly but surely progressing toward the turn of a new century. While Alliston was developing, what else was going on around about us? All four townships were flourishing. Blacksmith shops, stores, schools and churches were serving their people.

In Essa, at the corner of what is now No. 5 sideroad and the Scotch Line a particularly progressive settlement was taking shape. Besides the log cabins, the church and store there was a cemetery, which is still there. To this little corner of Simcoe County came William and Elizabeth Stevenson in 1832.

They acquired a large acreage, cleared the land and built their cabin. About twenty years later they replaced the cabin with a fine two-storey house. Here they raised their family and one daughter, Isobe married James Loblaw, and became the mother of one of Alliston's greatest benefactors, the late T.P. Loblaw.

As a boy, the latter hunted and fished in the streams and attended the local school. When very young his passion for adventure led him to leave the farm of his grandfather for Toronto. He had heard great tales about this place -- that it was full of opportunity. He quickly established himself as a grocer's helper with Milton Cork and later entered into partnership with Cork. This was the start of his rapid and amazing climb to success for at his death, in 1933, he was president and owner of one of the largest chain stores, the Loblaw Groceries Co., Ltd.

Not far away, in Essa township, another family was taking root. In 1891 on the third line of Essa, William Thompson Banting took over a considerable acreage and moved into a two-storey home.

While labouring in his fields he used to make plans for his youngest son, Fred. Mr. Banting's deep and abiding devotion to his church went into a determination to have his youngest son serve God as a minister of the Gospel. Fred attended school in Alliston which was built in 1885 just a mile and a half from his home. In 1910 he entered the Arts Department of Victoria College which is a Methodist institution. All through the years he carried an inner desire in his heart -- that of becoming a doctor. With the permission of his understanding father Fred entered Medical College in 1912. As a private in the Medical Corps, he served overseas in 1915 but the powers that be saw fit to return him to his studies. When the Second World War came, he enlisted and in February, 1941, was killed in a plane crash over Newfoundland. Thus this great man, farmer, scholar, discoverer of the miracle drug, Insulin and Nobel Peace Prize winner, seized upon an idea and went on to help shape a world. Alliston will always hold in love, respect and pride the name of Dr. Frederick Banting.

One more note of interest is that on Feb. 27th., 1873, the townline between Adjala and Tecumseth was opened and "at last, Alliston was let out in the front."

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVED BY WINDMILL

Now, let us go back to the turn of the century.

Early in 1900 the water system was improved by the erection of a windmill. This was the most readily available power that could be supplied. A census taken in 1902 showed that one thousand people were living in the town. The total capital invested in Alliston was \$19,000. The average income from the investment was about \$176. They were not charging much for their water. The question of ownership was

debated and argued again and again and in 1903 Alliston reported that she had owned her water works since 1873. Just about that time, William Parker purchased the mill from Fletcher.

For some time, it was evident and generally agreed at Council that a reservoir was badly needed. So, in 1910 sufficient land was purchased from William Fletcher. The site chosen was north and west of the mill. The construction was brick, designed and built by Dad Jerrett and his father. This tower was dismantled in 1949 and rebuilt by Horton Steel.

In 1906 Alliston boasted a population of about 1,300. The total power used was about 350 HP. About 50% was water-generated. Although the supply was limited, the town made the best of it. The next year another major fire levelled the mill built around 1853 by William Fletcher and owned by the Parkers.

In April of the same year a flood played havoc with the bridge. When the waters were down, the pond was cleaned out and water mains were laid across the pond and an addition was built to the pump house. Repairs were made to the reservoir and a few hydrants were added.

In 1912, with a population of about 1,800, Council asked The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to give Alliston an estimate on the price of 150 HP of electric energy from Newmarket. That same year the electric light plant changed hands. W.J. Cunningham was the new owner. The purchase price was 320,000 and receipts for lighting were about 36,000 a year.

(Notes from the minutes) "It appears that the purchase price was far too high and that the rates are far too high." Mr. Cunningham operated this plant until sold to The Hydro-Electric Power Commission

in 1918. It was dismantled in 1920.

Late in 1915 an agreement was drawn up whereby the streets would be lighted with 75-watt bulbs at a cost of \$16.07 a month per bulb.

In May, 1916, activities stirred in the town, when the area to the north, known as "the Pine Plains" was turned into an army camp and named "Camp Borden" after Sir Robt. Borden. Our troops were on the march and deep were the aches in the hearts of the people of Alliston as they watched and heard the rumble of army trucks and the marching of men. During this trying time, Hydro played a major part in defence.

In June of that same year, Council made the decision to change from Alliston Electric Company to Ontario Hydro. Our local Public Utilities bought the Alliston Electric Light Company from W.J. Cunningham for \$12,000, the deal having been completed on Oct. 1st., 1918.

Just about that time, because the water was very low, a few cases of typhoid broke out -- caused by a leak in the pipe crossing the river. Ordinarily, the water would leak from the pipe into the river but due to the shortage, the pumps had to be used and, in that way, contaminated the water which was drawn into the pipe from the river.

So serious was this outbreak that it became evident that a chlorination plant was needed. Council agreed to build a pump-house against the west wall of the collecting basin -- the floor to be on level with Victoria Street. It was here that the chlorination plant was installed.

The question of electric pumps came up. Up to then, steam pumps had been used. So, towards the end of 1917, a request from Council was made for a Commission to be set up to look into the question of electric pumps for the water works plant.

Alliston's first Utilities Commission comprised Messrs. Paddison, Mitchell and Whiteside with J.E. Addis as Secretary. George Stewart was appointed Superintendent and meetings were held in the town hall.

Discussions were long and heated at times; opinions as to what steps to take next with regard to newwells and, above all, the ever-present worry of financial assistance for the purchasing of new and larger equipment consumed much time.

An interesting note from the minutes for the month of November, 1921 reads: "That a letter of appreciation be sent to Sir Adam Beck and his staff of engineers for splendid work accomplished through The Hydro Commission in the province and a copy of the resolution as drafted by Mayor Cunningham be enclosed."

Hydro accounts were distributed from door to door and about that time a small pamphlet about "The Hydro Lamp" came from head office and a copy was included with each customer's account.

In order to economize, Joseph Stoneham was ordered to shut off the multiple lights on south Victoria street at 11 o'clock each night except Wednesday and Saturday nights -- the town's "open nights" until the people left town.

By then, a noticeable increase was recorded in household appliances and applications for Hydro and water services were also on the increase.

On November 3rd, 1925, a delegation approached Council with the request that Hydro be brought east of the town. The old steam pump was refitted and attached to the dynamo at the Flour Mills. A few years later, the old Power Plant building and the land on which it was erected was sold to W.J. Cunningham.

NEW HOSPITAL OPENED

A promise of better things for the sick and the hurt came when, through the generosity of T.P. Loblaw and F.K. Morrow, both old Alliston boys, the town saw the opening of the fine new Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

On May 7th., 1931, the Legislature designated the road through Alliston -- her main street -- as a link in the Queen's Highway, a furthering of #89.

In 1942 a terrific blow struck the town when it's dam, built in 1853 by Fletcher, was washed out. It was St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. High winds, high water and devastating chunks of ice move in, destroying the thoroughfare across the Boyne river at Paris Street. This was later replaced by a foot bridge.

And now in our own times.

The first five-member Commission was formed in 1963 and, in 1960, a new office for the local P.U.C. was built.

Many wonderful things were taking place to make Alliston a little gem of a town for the boys and girls who are in our schools today.

The town boasts three new sub-divisions. Industry is coming and Banting Memorial High School is second to none in Canada.

An article in our local newspaper in February, 1954, reveals that there were 1,100 miles of line and 6,200 customers being served by Alliston area Hydro at that time.

Rural customers served by this area office required over 18,000 horsepower of electrical energy. The nine municipalities in the Area were using an additional 15,000 H.P.

The municipalities in this area are: Alliston, Arthur, Beeton, Cookstown, Dundalk, Grand Valley, Shelburne, Tottenham and Bradford.

In addition to the 1,100 miles of rural distribution circuits, there were also the high voltage transmission lines which cross the area. Highly-skilled linemen and foresters, aided by time-saving equipment, assure a continuous supply of electricity over the system.

Of the 6,200 rural contracts, served from the Ontario/office in Alliston, 4,000 were farms; 1,600 residential; 400 commercial; about 175 summer and 25 industrial. The nine municipalities in the area supplied an additional 4,700 contracts and there were an estimated 30,000 people living within the boundary.

Rural electric power lines cost over \$4 million and are maintained from Hydro's Alliston area office. Another million is invested in high voltage transmission and substation facilities. The nine municipally-owned systems within the area cost over a million dollars to build.

Each month more than 7,000 items of information on Hydro customers are transmitted by the Alliston Area office to Hydro's centralized electronic data processing centre. These include meter readings, payment of accounts, address changes, new contracts and water heater data. The information is recorded on tape and forwarded by teletype circuits to Hydro's "electronic brain."

HAPPENINGS PRIOR TO 1918

Domestic and commercial consumers were supplied from a water power plant with a steam plant reserve. The cost of the service was 1

cents per kilowatt-hour for both classes. Instead of a 24-hour day service, as at present, power for consumers was available only from darkness in the evening until midnight and from 6:15 a.m. until daylight in the morning during the late fall and winter months.

It would be difficult to imagine going back to such condition with the many uses which now require power to be available at all hours of the day and night.

Hydro was first talked of for Alliston and several other municipalities south of Barrie as early as 1912 at which time estimates were received from The Hydro Commission figuring on 150 HP for Alliston by way of Aurora and Newmarket from the Niagara system. Aurora and Newmarket finally took power from the Metropolitan Railway Co. which was at that time a private company.

During 1916 estimates were obtained covering the delivery of power from The Eugenia system by way of Shelburne but no action was taken by the town in that connection.

Finally, during 1917, negotiations were carried out with the Provincial Commission to construct lines south of Barrie to serve Alliston, Beeton, Bradford, Cookstown, Thornton, Tottenham.

By-laws were passed and contracts signed in the spring and early summer of 1917. It will be remembered that this was war time and great difficulties were experienced in obtaining materials for lines and transformer stations. Suitable labour for construction was also a serious problem. Many indeed were the delays and disappointments experienced by those concerned until the power was made available in June, 1918.

Of a total debenture issue of \$40,000, \$28,137.31 was paid off leaving \$11,862.69 outstanding. Of the total plant cost of \$57,

992.12, the amount of \$17,992.12 had been financed without the need of issuing debentures.

Thus, in 1941, the Alliston system was in a good financial position. Several reductions in rates to consumers were made and a rebate in 1931 amounting to \$2,700 helped.

The actual ownership of the local system, including distribution lines, transformers, consumers' meters, etc. is vested in the municipality and by reason of this ownership the local Council is the authority through which the original money required for the system was provided. The local Commission, independent of the Council has sole control of the operation of the local system.

COMPARISONS - 1919 AND 1941

The following tabulation shows the number of consumers served, horsepower used and other data for the first full year of operation and then for the year 1941:

	<u>1919</u>	<u>1941</u>
No. of consumers	309	497
Average H.P. taken from Prov. Comm.	96.5	360.9
Cost per H.P. from Prov. Com.	\$ 76.02	\$ 42.35
Kilowatt hours sold for lighting	87,210	855,635
Total revenue from consumers	\$8,780.55	\$ 25,798.31
Average cost per kilowatt-hour for domestic consumers	6.3¢	2.2¢
Average cost per kilowatt-hour for commercial users	4.9¢	2.7¢
Total amount invested in local system	\$ 40,023.65	\$ 57,992.12

For the year 1941, the Alliston system had a total net surplus of \$2,245.04 after setting aside for depreciation the sum of \$1,740.

In 1941, the Alliston P.U.C. had total reserves of \$44,584.97. Of that amount, the sum of \$23,557.73 represented the utility's equity in Ontario Hydro with the balance of \$21,027.24 having been set aside for depreciation in local plant.

COMPARISONS 1930 AND 1937

According to the P.U.C. records, power users in Alliston in 1937 totalled 463 as compared with 445 in 1930. Records for these respective years also include statistics in relation to electrical appliances and equipment in use in the community. The tabulation is as follows:

<u>APPLIANCE</u>	<u>NO. IN 1930</u>	<u>NO. IN 1937</u>
Electric Hot Plates.....	30	47
Electric Washers.....	110	130
Vacuum Cleaners.....	40	143
Water Heaters.....	12	4
Electric Grates.....	0	4
Electric Heaters.....	30	40
Electric Irons.....	320	411
Electric Refrigerators....	6	20
Electric Toasters.....	250	312
Electric Grills.....	65	65

(No radios are recorded for 1930, while possibly six were being used in Alliston in 1937)

In 1930, the revenue of the P.U.C. is reported to have totalled \$16,081 and by 1937, it had increased to \$21,711.

POWER CONSUMPTION AND COSTS - 1919-1941

The following tabulation shows that the average domestic consumer used 19 kilowatt-hours per month in 1919 at a total cost of \$1.20, while in 1941 the same consumer used 91 kilowatt-hours per month for the same amount of money. Thus, what the consumer had been paying in 1919 was buying three times more energy in 1941. The tabulation follows:

YEAR	Average monthly kilowatt-hrs used by domestic consumers	Average net cost per kilowatt-hr for domestic users (cents)	Average monthly kilowatt-hrs used by commercial consumers	Average net cost per kilowatt-hr for commercial consumers (cents)
1919	19	6.3	36	4.9
1920	21	6.8	49	6.0
1921	24	7.0	43	7.4
1922	25	6.7	43	7.4
1923	27	6.4	44	7.5
1924	31	5.5	44	7.1
1925	32	5.1	45	6.7
1926	39	5.2	52	6.6
1927	41	5.5	55	6.8
1928	42	5.7	66	6.6
1929	50	4.4	81	4.7
1930	42	5.3	74	5.8
1931	44	4.9	81	4.2
1932	56	3.7	76	4.8
1933	56	3.6	98	3.8
1934	57	3.7	79	4.4
1935	59	3.4	102	3.8
1936	60	3.8	119	3.7
1937	78	3.11	137	3.4
1938	79	2.7	171	3.0
1939	91	2.5	174	3.0

YEAR	Average monthly kilowatt-hrs used by domestic consumers	Average net cost per kilowatt-hr for domestic users (cents)	Average monthly kilowatt-hrs used by commercial consumers	Average net cost per kilowatt-hr for commercial consumers (cents)
1940	90	2.4	210	2.8
1941	122	2.2	237	2.7

SERVING SOME 1,200 CUSTOMERS BY 1966

By 1966, Alliston was serving some 1,200 Hydro customers of all classes. The 1,000 Residentials users included 31 with all-electric homes, while the Commercial, totalling 154, included five churches, a public, separate and high school, the Ball Park and, of course, local businesses. Among the 28 Industrial customers were Baxter's, Salada Foods, Thompson's Mill, Diamond Woods Products and the Creamery.

With a growing population, Council felt the need for more park-lands and so in 1966 they purchased a fine piece of property just west of the Camp Borden road from County Council for the sume of \$2,000 -- indeed, a small price as land values are today. This property follows the design of our present Riverdale Park -- irregular shore-line, well-treed and within pleasant walking distance of the town. But the greatest individual factor pointing to sound thinking in terms of development is that this tract of land will eventually join Riverdale Park with the new and wonderful conservation development -- the Earl Rowe Park and dam.

In the years ahead, with men of vision and action putting their resources to use, we shall see the truly beautiful park development.

The new century will see the beautifying of the shore-line from

Church street west and I would like to think that it will not stop there but progress eastward, following the old Boyne that played such an important role in the founding of Alliston.

As the lights of our Centennial Year of Confederation fade away, it is good to know that one of the Centennial projects adopted by the town was the installation of lights in the park.

What a magnificent role Hydro -- this great servant of mankind -- has played in the growth and development of Alliston.

ALLISTON

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

HISTORICAL PHOTOS

NEGATIVE NUMBER

HP-1342	Alliston's first five-member P.U.C. formed in 1963
HP-1343	Members of Alliston P.U.C. in 1967 -- Canada's Centennial Year
HP-1344	Early Twentieth Century photo featuring old dam and home of Dr. Fred Banting's mother
HP-1345	Mill pond and old dam at Alliston in 1900
HP-1346	Alliston's main street in 1906
HP- 1347	Grist and flour mill at Alliston in 1910
HP-1348	Camp Borden Road at Alliston in 1900
HP-1349	Church and Main Streets, Alliston, in the early 1900's

NOTE

These illustrations are included in Ontario Hydro's Collection of Historical Photographs and may be seen in the Photo Library, Public Relations Division, Ontario Hydro, 620 University Avenue, Toronto, 2, Ontario. Telephone 368-6767: Local 22597. Prints may be purchased through this library.
