

Title: A Brief History of Alliston. Page 1/2

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Alliston

In 1847, William Fletcher built a mill on the Boyne River near the junction of Essa, Tecumseth, Tossorontio and Adjala Townships. The community thus begun around the mill has grown into the prosperous Town of Alliston, population about 3200.

By 1862, a school and stores were serving the pioneer settlement. The 1870's were years of activity with the settlement incorporated as a village in 1874. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was built and other churches followed. A newspaper is reported to have started in 1862. Much of the village was destroyed by fire in 1877, but recovered quickly. In 1885, a new, larger school was built.

By 1890, electricity was being generated from the Boyne. Then, in 1891, just as the village was incorporating as a town, fire swept through it, levelling 30 acres. Again, Alliston rebuilt.

The CPR came through in 1906. In 1909, school expansion included a high school which, in 1949, became the Banting Memorial District High School, which now has 12,000 students. A cottage hospital, donated to the town in 1928, has been replaced by an 82-bed modern building.

Industry has grown, and a huge potato processing plant is located here. Serving a large farming area, and with Camp Borden only eight miles away, Alliston is virtually a county town with many county services centred in it.

—*Municipal Office, Alliston.*