



An historical beginning

Shirley Gibson, standing, president of the Alliston Historical Society, points out the historical significance of parts of Alliston to members of Sir Frederick Banting's family, on the way to the Banting homestead to celebrate Banting Day, last week. The group was touring the area on the double decker bus as part of the celebrations. The Town has proclaimed Nov. 14, Dr. Banting's birthday, to be Banting Day in New Tecumseth. Last week, a celebration of the life of Alliston's most famous son took place with two assemblies at Banting Memorial High School, followed by the proclamation service at the homestead. Banting family members came from across the country and from England to take part. Radio and television personality Peter McGarvey was master of ceremonies. For complete details on the event, please turn to Gordon Wright's story on Page 7.

Dr. Banting Day successful

by Gordon Wright
Special to The Weekly

Last Tuesday saw an auspicious event: the first Sir Frederick Banting Day right here in New Tecumseth, honouring the world-famous native son who gave time, effort, money and his very life in the service of humanity. His values and discoveries have benefitted literally millions. Revered world-wide, it was fitting that this Nobel Prize winner and his work should have been finally recognized right here at home.

The day was most successful on four fronts. Our overdue local recognition of this fine man and his work; the raising awareness of the diabetes disease and its causes, treatment and prevention; the encouragement for support of research to reduce the suffering caused by such diseases; and in promoting honest basic values like curiosity, perseverance, service loyalty so typified by Sir Frederick Banting and his family associates.

This was truly the very birth of an idea which is the way of so many fine projects. We in New Tecumseth owe a special vote of thanks to several people who have now inaugurated a day to recognize the man, the work, the disease and the values. One is Diann Gaston, whose farsightedness on Town council got the Banting homestead annexed into the Town proper. She then managed to gather local members to meet each Wednesday in preparation for the ceremony.

The first segment of the celebration was the pair of assemblies at BMHS where Steve Englehardt, Brett Cane and Dave Moore provided an excellent presentation long to be remembered by students, staff and many guests. The second part of the celebration was held at the Banting

Overdue tribute

Gordon Wright, left, and Pete McGarvey, right, take part in Sir Frederick Banting Day celebrations at the Banting homestead Nov. 14.

homestead in the eight-sided implement shed. Pete McGarvey of radio and television fame, and who had played with Sir Frederick Banting's son, William in the same shed, was an eloquent master of ceremonies. Bob Banting, grand nephew, on behalf of the Bantings, expressed his appreciation of the committee work.

The service could not have been held in the shed without the support of Marie Shields, Marie Haines and Tom Truckel who helped make the ceremony possible in spite of the bad weather. The local rent shop owner, Paul Morden, went the extra mile by providing heaters and lights which helped lessen the bite of Mother Nature's cold and snowy weather. The third step of the celebration was held at the Alliston Library where speakers enjoyed a fine lunch prepared by BMHS students and artifacts from Banting family were displayed.

The Nova Nordlich company, who produce insulin at the Connaught Labs for diabetics world-wide were very interested in visiting the birthplace of Dr. Banting and two senior officers participated. Local industries were well-represented and expressed their interest in the attention now being given to the home farm.

The Banting homestead could become a world centre for diabetic education, really helping millions and putting this whole Alliston-Banting area on the world stage.

Officially there will be some 32 million diabetics in the next decade, all of whom would die but for this great Allistonian.






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