

**Title:** Exploring Beeton now with its Historic Folk. Page 1/2

**Creator:** Brian Baker

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**Description:** A news article profiling Beeton through the eyes of a visitor. Discusses in detail key features of the town including churches, buildings, people, parks, and events.

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# Exploring Beeton now with its historic folk

By BRIAN BAKER  
for the examiner

BEETON — Simcoe County has had more than its share of famous people, and two of these people, of national and international fame, lived at Beeton, the object of our one-day visit.

On this sunny weekend morning we took our favorite approach to 'Beeton', as a few die-hard old-timers still call it, by way of County Road No. 1 west from Highway 27, past the well-kept farms of people we know and think of almost as neighbors, the Wilcox family, Allan Glassford, the Williams, and the Lisks. We like the rolling hills and the sunny valleys that surround Beeton.

Main Street, Beeton, is a delight to explore. It has a rich heritage of history and architecture dating back to the 1800s where the main business block with impressive brick facades and frontal parapets runs west from Centre Street. From a by-gone era at the Centre Street corner the painted sign of the J.A. Camplin store may still be discerned advertising groceries, dry goods, wallpaper, and millinery.

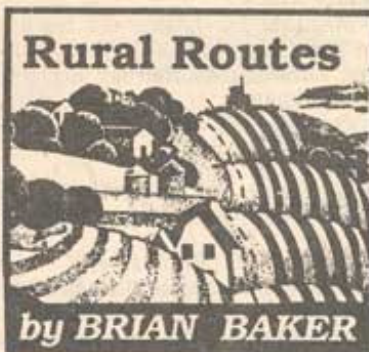
At 46 Main Street may be found the gem that is Beeton Firehall with its one-storey brick walls and wooden gable ends and a darling hose tower. Dating back to 1894, the old community centre and hall has the most unusual architecture with soaring brick arches. Nearby is the library. Second Street leads back to the Arena on the north side, and on to Prospect Street and the entrance to Beeton Agricultural Fairgrounds.

Gleaning history from the inscriptions on the six stone gate posts that create an unusual entrance way to the Fairgrounds, Beeton held its first agricultural fair in 1856, and celebrated its centennial fair in 1956. At this entrance the fallen sons of Beeton and Tecumseth memorialized name for name are those who gave the supreme sacrifice for their country in both World Wars, I and II.

In the pine-surrounded fairgrounds stands the brick exhibits building with its skirting extension. These grounds are now the home of Georgian Bay Steam and Antique Show, which, according to member Frank Stephens (of Barrie) will be held this year August 5, 6 and 7.

Here in the shade of the maples are erected historic plaques to Kate Scott Aitken and David Allanson Jones.

Kate Aitken helped to put Beeton on the map with her nationally broadcast radio programs and newspaper stories, and her abilities as a cook. She was author of the book, 'Never A



Day So Bright', based on life in the Beeton area. She helped organize the first Women's Institute in Beeton, becoming its president in 1920. At age 16 she went to teach school in Saskatchewan, later returning to teach in Adjala.

A simple statement on granite in Beeton Cemetery records the resting site of the beloved 'Mrs. A.' with the simple inscription: "Kate Scott Aitken, 1891-1971, wife of Henry Munnell."

In the other cemetery opposite St. Paul's Anglican Church with its unusually tall bell tower, is located the stone cairn to D.A. Jones. The plaque reads: "Here is the land he gave for a church site and in the community he brought lasting beauty and fame to, lies David Allanson Jones, 1836-1910, world renowned apiarist and editor. Born in Ringwood, Ont., he came here in 1867 to found his famous honey industry and Bee Journal. The basswood, elm and maple which line our streets, and the flowers that abound in our countryside are his living memorial."

With our impartiality, we visited all three churches, Trinity United with its heavy buttressing, St. Andrew's Presbyterian with its lovely mural-size painting 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness', and St. Paul's Anglican, then returned home via Dayfoot Street past the seed and feed mills, and then east past Beeton Home for Seniors, leaving by the way we entered, the way we like best!



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS... ATTEND YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

### ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Barrie Community Credit Union Limited will be held at the Continental Inn at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 1989. The Meeting is for the purpose of receiving reports from the Board of Directors and various committees and considering such other business as may be properly brought before the membership of the Credit Union at an Annual Meeting.

And Furthermore;

To consider and if thought fit to approve a By-law to amend the By-laws of Barrie Community Credit Union Limited as follows;

Paragraph 3.01 Amendment to annual meeting location  
Paragraph 10.04 Addition of securities for loans

Copies of the Financial Statements, Auditors' Reports and Bylaw amendments will be available at the Annual Meeting and can be examined by any member at the office of the Credit Union during normal business hours.

Mrs. Alma Jobbitt  
Secretary

