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LOCAL HISTORY

Prepared for: The Alliston
Public Library

By: Louise Callaughan
Through the "Experience '77"
Programme

10/6/77-10/9/77

PRESENT SOURCES OF LOCAL HISTORY (1977)

N.B. Sources only for reference are marked (ref.)

THE TOWN OF ALLISTON

- ** 1. Alliston-A Study of an Ontario Town (ref.)
- ** 2. Alliston Centennial Celebrations, 1847-1947, edited by W.E. Cumberland (ref.)
- **** 3. The Alliston Co-op Building, by J.S. Ellis
- ** 4. The Alliston Memorial Arena (ref.)
- **** 5. The Diamond Casket Factory, by J.S. Ellis

POTATO FESTIVAL HISTORIES

- ** 1. About Potatoes (ref.)
- ** 2. The Alliston Potato Festival Souvenir Programme, 1977 (ref.)
- *** 3. Potato Peelings, by J.S. Ellis (ref.)

THE SURROUNDING AREA

- ** 1. Beeton, 1874-1974, by Bert Platt (ref.)
- ** 2. A Centennial Review of the Township of Toronto, edited by R.A. Wigby (ref.)
- ** 3. A Century of Progress, A history of Essa township, edited by J.J.E. McCague (ref.)
- *** 4. The Green Hills of Mono
- *** 5. The History of Cookstown, by Mr. and Mrs. T. Dingemans (ref.)
- * 6. The History of Shelburne, by John R. Dae
- ** 7. Mulmur, the Story of a Township (ref.)
- ** 8. A Record of 100 Years of Progress, Innisfil Township (ref.)
- * 9. Schomberg and its School, by H.H. Sawden and Jean C. Love
- ** 10. Yarns of Yesteryear, short stories of the surrounding townships, by J.S. Ellis (ref.)

CHURCHES IN THE AREA

- ** 1. South Adelaide 1825-1965, the Roman Catholic Churches (ref.)
- ** 2. St. John's United Church Centennial (ref.)
- ** 3. St. Luke's Anglican Church, Pinkerton, by Peter D. Hawker, M.D. (ref.)
- ** 4. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church Centennial, edited by Mrs. F. Morrow and Mr. J. Andrews (ref.)

5. St. John's United Church Centennial 1872-1972. (ref.)

HURONIA AND SIMCOE COUNTY

- * 1. Brebeuf and His Brethren, by E.J. Pratt
- * 2. Canada, Past, Present and Future, by W.H. Smith
- ** 3. The County of Simcoe, by Gilbert C. Paterson
- * 4. A History of Simcoe County, by Andrew F. Hunter (3 Copies)
- * 5. Huron, by Conrad Heidenreich
- * 6. Huron, Cradle of Ontario's History, by J. Herbert Cranston
- ** 7. Huron Holiday, 1977 (ref.)
- ** 8. An Illustrated Atlas of The County of Simcoe, 1881 (ref.)
- * 9. Ontario Archives on Huron, by Alexander Fraser
- * 10. Pioneer Papers, by the Simcoe County Historical Society
- * 11. Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, by Wilfred Jury
- * 12. 300 Years of Travel in Historic Huron (ref.)
- * 13. The Visible Past, by Adelaide Leitch

BIOGRAPHIES

- * 1. All for a Beaver Hat, by E.C. Drury
- * 2. Canadian Portraits of Famous Doctors (Banting and Osler), by Viola W. Pratt
- * 3. Farmer Premier, by E. C. Drury
- * 4. Governor Simcoe and his Lady, by Marcus Van Steen
- *** 5. John Graves Simcoe
- * 6. John Ramsay of Kildalton, by Freda Ramsay
- * 7. The Journals of Mary O'Brien, edited by A. Saunders Miller
- * 8. Lions in the Way (the Oslers), by Anne Wilkinson
- * 9. Mrs. Simcoe's Diary, edited by Mary Quayle Innis

BIOGRAPHIES OF SIR FREDERICK BANTING

- * 1. Banting's Miracle, by Seale Harris, M.D. (2 copies)
- * 2. The Discoverer of Insulin, by I.E. Lavine
- * 3. He Conquered Death, by Margaret Mason Shaw (2 copies)
- * 4. Insulin, by B.S. Leibel, M.D. and G.A. Wrenshall, Ph.D.
- * 5. Sir Frederick Banting, by Lloyd Stevenson (2 copies)
- * 6. Sir Frederick Banting, Doctor Against Diabetes, by Ann Margaret Meyer

MISCELLANEOUS HISTORICAL MATERIAL

- *** 1. The Barrie Examiner, Oct 10th. 1867 (2 copies) (ref.)
- **** 2. Cures and Remedies, by J.S. Ellis
- ** 3. Diabetes and Insulin, an address by Sir Frederick Banting

in 1925 (ref.)

- * 4. East Gwillimbury in the Nineteenth Century, by Gladys M. Rolling
- ** 5. 50th Anniversary of the South Simcoe Junior Farmers, edited by Robert Drybrough (ref.)
- *** 6. Historical Information from the Elmvale Chronicle (ref.)
- * 7. History in the Making, by Helen Burbidge
- ** 8. Let's Reminisce about Nottawasaga (ref.)
- **** 9. Light, Heat and Power, by J.S. Ellis
- **10. Midland's Yesteryears, by Edna Shushan (ref.)
- **11. Needs of Rural Women, a survey by Mrs. Bette Stanley (ref.)
- ****12. World War I; its effect on the local people, by J.S. Ellis

* book

** booklet

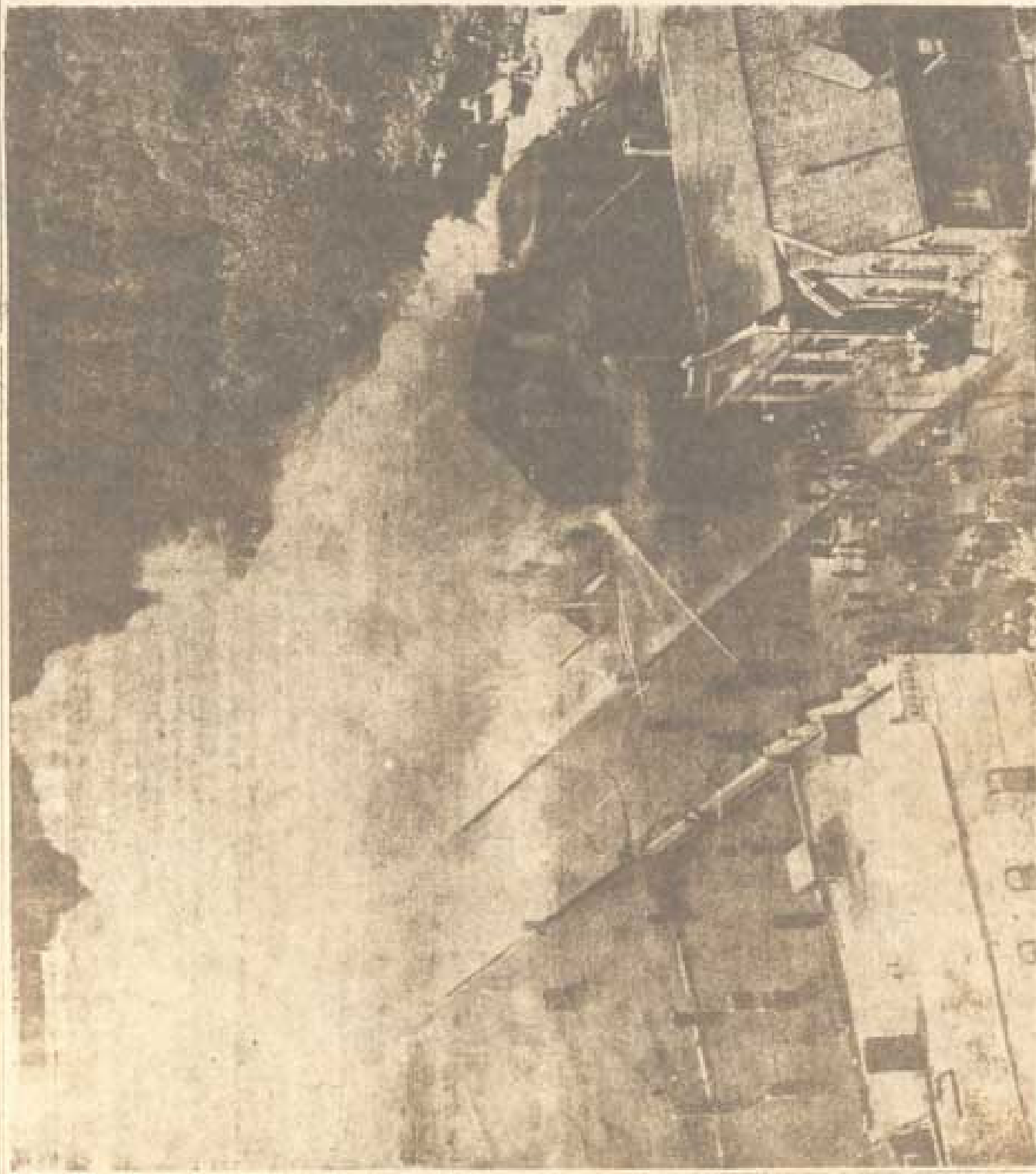
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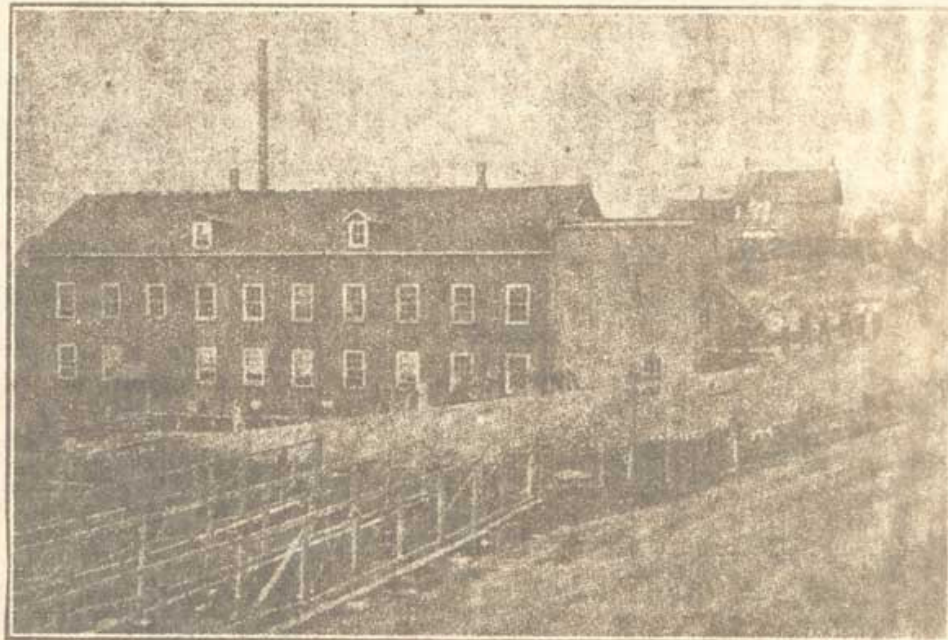
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This aerial photograph of the Co-op fire taken for the Toronto Star early Tuesday afternoon was flown by Torontin and appeared in the late edition of that paper the same day. It shows firemen at the front of the building battling the blaze.

The Old Knitting Mill



Located on the south bank of the Boyne River, north of St. John's United Church. This concern did quite an extensive business until it was consumed by fire.

ALLISTON'S LOST INDUSTRY

Woolen Mill, North of Methodist Church, Was Two Storey Building

Incidental to the history of Alliston, written by W. G. E. Cumberland, we are receiving almost daily other information that might have been included had the items been sent to us some weeks ago.

In this issue there is a picture of the Alliston Woolen Mill, one of the lost industries of this district.

Go down to the south bank of the Boyne River, behind the building that was formerly the Methodist Church shed, and scan the ground about twenty feet from the water. Signs of brick and stone will be found and a depression in the ground where the mill race was located. That was the site of the woolen mill.

It was founded by Joseph Walker, one of the early settlers of Alliston. Mr. Walker bought land from John Fletcher and erected the two storey building as seen in the picture. After erecting the mill, a large staff was employed and people brought their wool to Alliston from many miles around, receiving blankets, flannels, yarn, etc., in trade for the raw material.

In later years the mill was burned down and Mr. Walker moved to Clarksburg, returning to Alliston

after a year or two. He was a proud citizen who took an active part in the welfare of the town. He planted a great many of the trees that now adorn the streets and before he died in September, 1909, had erected the second house, the one now owned and occupied by the present editor of The Herald and Mrs. Falkner.

The first house was a rough cast building and stood on the land just east of the new house, between it and where Wm. McBride built, alongside of where the C.P.R. right of way was located. The old house was moved to the rear of the McBride lot and was recently wrecked by Earl Connell, the material to be used in a new house he is erecting at Boyne and Victoria Streets.

The land where the Falkner house stands was once used as a skating rink, signs of the old well still being visible on the property.

According to the obituary written at the time of Joseph Walker's death, a foundry was operated on the site of the woolen mill.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walker had eleven children of whom three sons, Chauncey, Homer and Edward, died in recent years; also two daughters. Two sons, Hawley and Frank, live in Toronto, and there are four daughters living, one of whom is Ella M. Walker, of Toronto, who provided us with the above information.

NEW HOSPITAL OPENS

GREAT CROWD ATTENDS OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW STEVENSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Under sunny skies and in perfect weather the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital was officially opened last Sunday afternoon by Lieutenant-Governor W. Earl Rowe, at the conclusion of a simple, dignified ceremony in the square formed by the new building, the old building and the nurses' residence.

Guests of honour and speakers were seated on the grassy terrace in front of the Residence, with the audience of a thousand or more seated and standing in the driveway. Music by the brass band from the RCAF Station, Camp Borden, through the courtesy of Group Captain W. M. Diggle, filled in the waiting time until the ceremonies began sharp at 2:30 p.m.

Under the chairmanship of John D. Bowerman, who is a member of the Hospital Board, everything went smoothly. The opening prayer was by Rev. Father C. J. Schwalm, J. J. McCarroll, chairman of the Building Committee, spoke briefly on the planning and work that had gone into the new building; how the Board had been faced five years ago with the need to expand facilities and how, by degrees, the realization had grown that the only thing to do was to erect a

complete, modern new building. Then came the problems of land, style and, of course, costs. With the introduction of government grants for building the basic problem was largely overcome and it was decided to build to the limit of permission from the Ontario Hospital Services Commission. This allowed for 71 adult beds, 7 pediatric beds and 18 bassinets. Building was started on April 1st last year and now the new building was ready to move into thanks to the wonderful co-operation of all concerned. Mr. McCarroll paid tribute to his fellow Board members, to Miss Shaw, the Administrator, to the doctors, Women's Auxiliary and others who have done so much to help. He specially thanked the County, Provincial and Federal Government for their grants which had made the building possible.

He was followed by W. B. Lewis, MPP for Etobicoke, a member of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, who represented Dr. M. B. Dymond, Minister of Health, and Dr. M. B. Nelson, Chairman of OHSC, both of whom were unavoidably prevented from attending the opening.

In his talk, Mr. Lewis pointed out that "Alliston and other smaller communities are taking the lead in providing adequate accommodation. The Ontario Hospital Services Commission does not buy or build hospitals but it does have the responsibility for the control of the number, quality and location of new ones. The initiative must come from the communities themselves and the Commission is always ready and anxious to co-operate in planning for expanded hospitalization."

He went on, "As new hospitals are built and the Commission gains experience, it is evident that integration of effort and services is needed. Previously hos-

pitals were built to meet local needs, with the results that some places had excellent service; others little or none. This is slowly changing into an integrated pattern where there will be more equitable coverage. The thought now is to work toward regional planning to provide better and more economical service by having key treatment hospitals, so that costly equipment and services can be fully used.

"As of now, an active treatment bed costs \$18,000, with an annual upkeep cost of \$8,000. In 1959 there were 39,500 hospital beds in Ontario; now there are 46,700. Shortage is now chronic because of unequal distribution. The Commission works to a ratio of 625 beds per 1,000 population but there is much to do before all people in Ontario have hospital facilities available to them.

"It is a great pleasure to attend the opening of this magnificent hospital and I congratulate Alliston on it."

Chairman of the Board Lorne Whiteside outlined the history of the hospital:

"In 1928, the original Stevenson Memorial Hospital, that stands there now, was donated to the Community through the generosity of T. P. Loblaw and F. K. Morrow. It brought a much needed service to an area that had no hospital. When it was built it was a modern hospital. It was designed to meet the needs of its time. With the passing of

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the years those needs grew and grew. Advances in medical science called for more forms of treatment and care of patients. The number of persons needing care increased. This increase was among both the civilian population and the dependents at Camp Borden.

"The original hospital was designed for 20 beds. In this last year, the average number of patients has run close to 50 many times, forcing the use of corridors, delaying admissions, causing patients to be released at the very earliest possible date. This condition began to be evident close to seven years ago. At that time the Board of this hospital started to plan for increased accommodation. The problem was, what to do. Consideration was given to extending the building; to erecting a small annex or a new, but small, hospital. Great thought was put into the whole question. There were consultations with other bodies. At every turn there was the problem of cost. Through the years, ever since the hospital first opened, the Board had tried hard to build up a reserve to meet contingency conditions. This was difficult because no outside contributions or grants were made. And I would like to emphasize this: until the Ontario Hospital Services Commission system of grants was instituted, this hospital was wholly self-supporting. It drew nothing from the municipalities it served nor from their citizens.

"With the introduction of a system of government grants for construction, the Board studied the whole problem once again, thinking in terms of a hospital more suited to the needs of the expanding community. Discussions were held with the Hospital Services Commission. As a result of a study made by it, as a result of the investigations made by the Board, the inescapable conclusion was reached that the need was for a large, modern, completely equipped hospital with about 80 beds.

"Then came the problem of costs versus design. Months were spent in exploring possibilities and, as they say, following up avenues. Preliminary cost estimates rose steadily as more and more things were found essential for a truly modern hospital. But, finally, after two years of intensified study, a plan and pattern suitable to present day conditions emerged. The cost was to be the staggering figure of \$1,714,200. With a full sense of the size of the commitment it was undertaking, and knowing that final costs would inevitably exceed this figure, the Board decided to go ahead. Construction started just over a year ago.

"Today we are here to officially open the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital which brings to this community as great advances in hospital care in today's terms as did the original hospital in terms of 1928. It is a truly magnificent building and it is one of which every citizen may well be proud. "This new building is the result of co-ordinated, co-operative effort. I want, now, to thank every member of this Board for their unselfish efforts at every stage of the work from its inception until now. It is always dangerous to single out individuals from a group when each one has done so much, but I feel that I should mention the outstanding contribution made by Joe McCarroll, Chairman of the Building Committee, who has given his time without stint and has worked so very hard. Special mention should also be made of the invaluable contribution made by our Administrator, Miss Irene Shaw, who has laboured night and day to advance the good of the hospital. She has helped this Board in so many ways that she deserves a very special tribute. The Medical Association, represented by Drs. Baxter and Pitcher, have given freely of their advice in planning and equipment and on behalf of the Board

I thank them for what they have done. I would be remiss if I did not speak of the marvellous contribution made by the Women's Auxiliary of the Hospital: it has raised money; it has helped in the choice of such things as furnishings, dishes, cutlery, colour schemes, and in many other ways. Then, too, I want to thank all those associations, groups and service clubs that have made such generous donations. As you go through the hospital you will see plaques that tell the donors of rooms. But much more has been given than that is not marked. To all these we say a most heartfelt "Thank You".

"I thank the County, Province and Federal governments for their grants which have made this new building possible. And this leads me into a less pleasant subject. We do need more money.

"The final estimated cost of the new hospital, fully equipped, will exceed \$1,829,800. I suppose that it will probably be about \$1,850,000 when complete. (The doctors told us just the other day that we need more equipment that will cost a good many thousands). Net grants, after deduction of interest charges, bring in about \$1,131,000. Public subscriptions have amounted to about \$20,000. The planning by the Board, that I mentioned at the beginning, has resulted in a reserve of \$500,000 which has been put toward cost of this hospital. That leaves about \$190,000 needed to put the hospital on a debt-free basis. This money is urgently needed. We are going to be appealing for this amount. We ask you to listen sympathetically. We ask you to give generously so that your hospital will not be ridden by debt."

The Hon. Earl Rowe spoke briefly, emphasizing the importance of human resources. "We must look at the human sign, not the dollar sign. Our resources must turn toward better health. In this, Alliston is in the lead with this new hospital. There is nothing so costly to the country as ill-health and fire. Our duty is to prepare places where the health of our people can be restored. And this is what this new Stevenson Memorial Hospital does. I now declare it officially open."

The Lieutenant-Governor then proceeded to the new building where he cut the white ribbon that spanned the entrance. He was then taken on a tour of the new building and was greatly impressed with it and its equipment.

As quickly as possible, touring groups were conducted through under the direction of guides organized by the Women's Auxiliary. At key points there were hospital personnel to explain the functions of treatment rooms and areas. The tours ended in the beautiful cafeteria where tea and cakes were served.

In the evening, the hospital was open again and it is estimated that over 4,000 people saw through the new building.



NURSERIES FOR STEVENSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Group Captain W. M. Diggle, Commanding Officer of the RCAF Station, Camp Borden, hands John Lewis, chairman of

the Building Campaign Committee a cheque to pay for the nurseries at the new Stevenson Memorial Hospital. The

money was contributed by personnel on the Station.

(RCAF Photo)



CUTTING THE RIBBON

The Hon. W. Earl Rowe, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario cuts the ribbon that marks the official opening of the new \$1,800,000 Stevenson Memorial Hospital on Sunday, June 28. Behind Mr. Rowe is John D. Bowerman, hospital board member and Chairman of the Opening Ceremonies. Beside him is Mrs. Lorne Whiteside, wife of the Chairman of the Board of Stevenson Memorial Hospital. In the background there is a glimpse of the big crowd that attended the opening and later toured the building.

(Herald Photo)

NEW HOSPITAL IN OPERATION

It was moving day at Stevenson Memorial Hospital on July 1st, Dominion Day; a busy day for the hospital staff if ever there was one.

The old building was closed down and the whole operation moved to the wonderful new hospital with all its modern facilities.

The moving of patients and settling them in their new quarters was a big job in itself but only part of the over-all operation.

There was so much to do. Think what it means to move from one apartment or house to another. Then compare that with moving a hospital, even when the new building is all furnished. There were hundreds and hundreds of details to see to. And the job was completed by noon with all 46 patients, including babies, comfortably installed in their new rooms.

The old building is being completely closed down pending decisions on what must be done with it, in accordance with Board approval of the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.

So, if you are going to Stevenson Memorial Hospital for any reason, remember that the new building is now in use. Enter by the front door facing the parking lot.

APR 26, 1972

OPEN HOUSE AT STEVENSON MEMORIAL ON HOSPITAL DAY

Stevenson Memorial Hospital will be joining more than 300 hospitals in Ontario and more than 1,400 hospitals all over Canada in observing Canada Hospital Day, May 12, by the holding of an Open House.

The date celebrates the birth of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the mother of modern nursing. Miss Nightingale pioneered concepts of hygiene and sanitation, taken for granted today, but which were revolutionary in her time. It was during the Crimean War (1854-1856) that she organized a nursing service to relieve the sufferings of British soldiers who called her "The Lady with the Lamp."

The revolution did not stop with Miss Nightingale. Her place as a person in the community, serving the needs of the community through the local hospital, is stressed in this year's Canada Hospital Day theme, "This is the House the Citizens Built . . ."

A total of 4,100 men and women serve in a voluntary capacity as trustees of Ontario's hospitals and in them is vested the legal, moral and ethical responsibility for the running of the majority of Ontario's hospitals.

More than 60,000 volunteers and more than 7,000 candy strippers serve in Ontario's hospitals. Mrs. L. Besley, President of the hospital Auxiliary at Stevenson Memorial Hospital is always looking for volunteers to help with the many jobs that need doing.

Unlike most other industries, hospitals are a round-the-clock seven-day-a-week business, dedicated to preventing illness, restoring health and saving lives. On the average, there are 2½ skilled hospital workers for each patient admitted. These include doctors, nurses, technicians, therapists, medical record librarians and a host of other

professional and skilled workers representing some 200 occupations.

The hospital is a labor-intensive industry which spends 75-78 cents out of every dollar on wages.

The modern community hospital is reaching out into the community through its preventive medicine programs in its out-patient departments and working closely with other health agencies in the community. Hospitals provide home care programs and liaison with extended care and nursing home facilities.

THE ALLISTON AMBULANCE

In 1963, the Alliston Volunteer Ambulance Association was formed to raise money to purchase and equip an ambulance to serve the town and district and to provide trained volunteer drivers. Fund-raising drives provided the necessary 4,000 dollars. On July 12th, 1963, the ambulance was first put into action. There were about 60 volunteers organized into two teams. Each team worked alternate weeks with two men on the day shift, two on the night shift, and two as spares.

In 1964 a garage was built on the hospital property.

The ambulance was taken over by Stevenson Memorial Hospital on August 6th, 1968.

* * * * *

THE ALLISTON UNION CEMETERY

The Alliston Union Cemetery was established as a twenty acre plot in 1886. Until that time there existed small cemeteries under separate church denominations. These cemeteries gradually disappeared when the new cemetery was established as most of the bodies were reburied in the new ground.

Plans were made for the new cemetery when a meeting was called between the Presbyterian and Methodist churches who were running out of land to bury their dead. Those attending the meeting were Mr. R.W. Grieg, Mr. J.S. Strachan, Mr. William Buyers, and Mr. --- Kennedy from the Presbyterians and Mr. John Fisher, Mr. John Fletcher, Mr. George Shepherd Sr., Mr. James Brett, and Mr Joseph Coburn from the Methodists. At this meeting a committee was formed to find the most suitable place. The John Foster property outside of the eastern boundary of Alliston on Lot 5, Con. 15. Tecumseth Township was chosen. Fifteen acres were purchased for fifteen hundred dollars. Some extra money allowed an additional five acres to be bought. There were ninety-three shareholders holding eight dollar shares. The shareholders formed themselves into the company of the Alliston Union Cemetery. The first directors were Mr. John Fisher, Mr. J.G. Hood, Mr. J.J. Armstrong, Mr. John Strachan, Mr. John Bruce, Mr. J.R. Coburn, Mr. T.G. Sutherland, Mr. James Allan, and Mr. John Clark. The first caretaker was paid twenty-five cents to point out plots and one dollar and fifty cents to dig and fill the graves. The price of a plot at that time, that is, 1856, was 30 dollars for three feet by eight feet.

The following years showed various changes:

1887 -the first gates and sign were erected.

1890 -the well was sunk.

1891 -some land to the east was leased for fall wheat and hay.

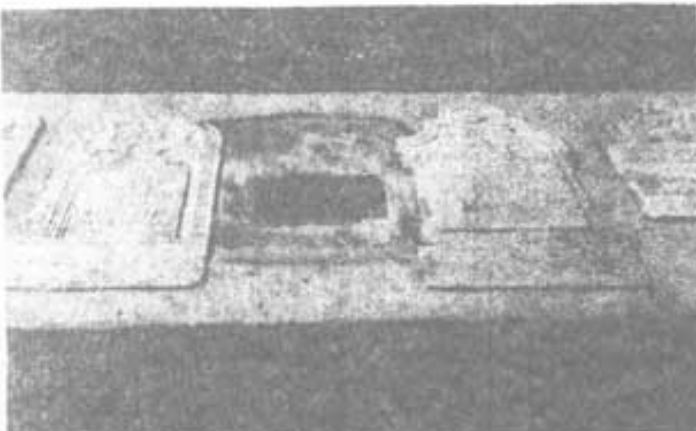
- the cost of a plot was two dollars and fifty cents.
- 1908 -a motion was made to build a chapel and vault, however it was postponed.
- perpetual care was adopted.
- 1909 -a motion was made to buy and install a gasoline engine to pump water through the grounds.
- 1919 -a building at the front entrance was moved to the centre of the grounds.
- 1928 -a Mortuary Chapel was built.
- 1934 -no funerals were allowed on Sundays.
- 1969 -the cost of an adult plot was forty-five dollars, a child's thirty dollars.

* * * * *

(Information from the Alliston Women's Institute

A PIONEER CEMETERY

(Tweedsmuir Histories.)



Many who may recall the mass of lilac bushes in a field at the north-west corner of Con. 2 and 5 Sideroad may not have been aware that the bushes hid the stones of an old cemetery.

It has now been restored by the Cemetery Committee of Essa Council, and the old stones set in concrete. A steel fence surrounds the small enclosure and the lilacs are gone but replacements are to be made.

Names on the stones include Hails, Mooney, Connell, Harvey, Gallinger, Allen, Bell, Bruce, Scanlan, Wilkinson, Reid, Cow-

an, Flynn, Thompson, Brown and Bryce.

Mrs. De Loris A. Hill, of Brigham City, Utah, a descendant of the Bryce family, one of the early pioneer families (who came to Essa in 1831), sent \$100 towards restoration of the Cemetery, which is the site of the early West Essa Methodist Church. It was torn down, early in the 1900's. The land for it was donated from the Fergus Kerr farm, East half, Lot 6, Con. 1.

The bronze plaque reads: "West Essa Cemetery, restored in 1971, in memory of our pioneer families". (Alliston Herald Photo)

THE KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

On October 14th, 1860, the Presbyterians bought one half acre of land for eighty dollars from Henry Fields of Tecumseth Township. It consisted of parts of Lots Forty-three and Forty-four. A church was built beside the cemetery. The first burial took place around 1861. This cemetery was no longer used when the Alliston Union Cemetery opened. It was closed officially June 30th, 1915.

THE NICOLSTON CEMETERY

In 1859, one half acre of land was given by John Nicol for the purpose of establishing a cemetery. This land was situated north of the Nottawasaga River on Highway 89 in Essa Township. To the west of the land was Nicol's Mill Presbyterian Church which later became Carlisle Presbyterian, Nicolston Presbyterian and in 1925, A United Church. In 1957 the church was closed. In 1964 the cemetery was cleaned up. In 1964 2000 trees were planted in the cemetery. It is now cared for by Essa Township.

THE NECROPOLIS CEMETERY

For this cemetery land was purchased from George and Margaret Fletcher. It is therefore often called Fletcher's Cemetery. The land was part of Lot 3, Con. 15 in Tecumseth Township. It was closed in 1886 when the Alliston Union Cemetery opened. Most of the bodies were moved, however William and Margaret Fletcher's were left and in 1959 the town built a cairn in honour of these two pioneers. The inscription reads:

THE TOWN OF ALLISTON
DEDICATED THIS PARK
IN 1959
TO COMMEMORATE
THE RESTING PLACE OF
THE FOUNDER OF ALLISTON
AND HIS WIFE
WILLIAM FLETCHER 1791-1878
MARGARET MCGIRRE 1796-1881

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

In 1876 when St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church was built, there was no place to bury the dead. Bodies had been buried at the church of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, North Adjala. On April 18th, 1879, three acres of land was bought from George and Margaret Fletcher. The land is bounded on the south by Albert Street and on the West by Fletcher Street.

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(Information from the Alliston Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir Histories.)

1. The Alliston Mormon Church
2. The Baxter Presbyterian Church
3. The Burns' United Church
4. Knox Presbyterian Church
5. The Pentecostal Church
6. St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Alliston
7. St. Francis' Catholic Church, Tottenham
8. St. James' Catholic Church, Colgan
9. St. John's United Church, Alliston (Wesleyan Methodist Church)
10. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Achill
11. St. Paul's Catholic Church, Alliston

BURNS' UNITED CHURCH

The history of the Burns' community begins in the early 1830's. A number of families from Scotland came to settle in Essa township in what became known as the "Scotch Settlement". They immediately missed their religious worship, so services were temporarily held in the homes and barns of various members. There were meetings in Robert Ruthven's barn, (now owned by Ross Williams) on Wm. Stevenson's farm (now owned by W.J. Wood), and in the homes of Wm. Turnbull and A. Cameron and also in the school on the Scotch line. In the summer of 1860, J.K. Hislop, a student Presbyterian minister, came to organize services and worship. When fall came, he had to return to school and was replaced by a Mr. Mitchell. The next year Mr. Hislop returned full time and conducted services every fortnight at Burns'. People now felt the need for a church of their own and plans were made. In 1864 building was begun by Alexander Ruthven, George Robert Ruthven, William Ruthven, Robert Crosbie, Thomas Crosbie, John Connell, J.G. Hood, James Jack, William Stevenson, David Henderson, William Mitchell, John Strachan, William Black, Thomas Allan, John Guthrie, Robert Ireland, A. Cameron, John Reid, John Young, I. Hall, and Robert Yool. The Burns' Church was completed and opened for public worship in January of 1865. The Rev. Dr. Robert Burns from the Toronto Presbytery led the service. Because he was so liked by the congregation, the church was named in his honour.

The Rev. Dr. Burns was born in Scotland in 1789 and was ordained as Minister of St. George's Church in Paisley in 1811. He helped to establish the Glasgow Colonial Society whose purpose was to send ministers to Canada and help support them. Through correspondence with several missionaries in Canada, his interest in the country grew, and so, when he received an invitation to Knox Church, Toronto in 1845, he happily accepted. Eleven years later he was appointed Professor of Knox College.

The land for Burns' United Church was received as a gift from Mr. Robert Crosbie. It was a corner of his farm. Later more land was bought for a cemetery for 50 dollars. So there were two parcels of land under one deed. The trustees were Robert Crosbie, John A. Buyers, William Ruthven, and John Strechan.

The settlers provided most of the material for the frame structure which was built by John and William Buyers. William Mitchell did the plastering and T. Beal did the painting. In 1880, the building was moved back and the basement was added. Members of the church drew the stone and moved the church. Mr. Ben Millar did the stonework. In 1889 the basement was made higher by raising the church two feet above the foundation. At this time it was completely renovated- the siding was replaced by brick, and a new roof and windows were set in. Inside, the gallery was removed and a new ceiling added. This work was done by James Greenless. In 1912 the basement was finished by R. Knight. Mr. Wanless put in a new floor as a gift to the church. In 1914 the interior and outside woodwork was painted and a porch was built over the outside entrance to the basement. Hydro was installed in 1937 and an oil furnace was used. In 1873 a shed was built to the north and later one in the west. They were replaced by a new shed in 1915 which eventually was torn down when there was no longer any need to tether the horses.

Burns' Church originally belonged to the Circuit of Alliston, Nicol's Mills, Esse Townline, Dunn's Corners' Cedar Grove Flats and Turnbull's Corners. This was in 1865. In 1869 a new circuit of Alliston, Angus and Burns' was formed. In 1875 Burns' and Dunn's Corners were together in a circuit. In 1879 First Esse joined these two. In 1904 Alliston and Burns' were under one Pastor: this lasted for 35 years. In 1939 Knox and Wesley Churches in Alliston united and so Burns' became part

of St. John's, Alliston and Burns' pastoral charge. The 50th and 75th anniversaries of Burns' United Church were celebrated in 1915 and 1939 respectively. In 1969, the church was closed after 103 years as times changed and the membership dwindled. The congregation merged with St. John's United Church, Alliston.

Ministers who have served Burns' United Church:

J.K. Hislop, Student, Summer of 1860
 Mr. Mitchell, Student, Summer of 1861
 Rev. J.K. Hislop 1862-1870
 Rev. R.E. Knowles 1872-1875
 Messrs. Currie and Smith, Students, 1876-1878
 Rev. S. Acheson 1879-1889
 Rev. J.C. Smith 1897-1904
 Rev. J.A. Dodds 1905 (supply)
 Rev. S.F. Sharp 1906-1909
 Rev. W.T. Ellison 1909-1913
 Rev. M.F. Cree 1914-1920
 Rev. E.F. McL. Smith 1920-1925
 Rev. A.B. Irwin 1925-1932
 Rev. W.M. Lee 1932-1937
 Rev. J. McKillop 1937-1938
 Rev. J. Dorrian 1939-1947
 Rev. H.D. McCormack 1948-1950
 Rev. F.E. Craik 1951-1952
 Rev. A.J. Lewis 1952-1953 (supply)
 Rev. J.F. Shilton 1953-1969

* * * * *

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

Before 1854, Methodist worship in the Alliston area had taken place in the Methodist church at Turnbull's Corner (West Essa). William Fletcher and his family belonged to this congregation. His son John became a class leader and another son George became a licenced Local Preacher. In 1854 a Methodist Hall was built on the north side of Victoria Street where the present church now stands. The congregation was part of the Cookstown Circuit; a minister came from there every second Sunday to preach. On alternate Sundays George Fletcher was the preacher. The fact that Cookstown had been in with the Albion, Newmarket and Bradford Circuits shows the size of a circuit in those days. At that time there were two ordained ministers and seven local preachers in one circuit. In 1865, the two ministers at Cookstown were Matthew Swann and Peter Addison. In 1866 Peter Addison married Mary Ann Campbell and they came to live in Alliston. In 1869 Alliston became the head of a new circuit. Shortly after that it was decided that a church should be built as the centre of this Circuit and in 1872 the property where St. John's United Church is now situated was deeded to the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The trustees were John and George Fletcher, Edward Meredith, George Shephard, and William John Drennan. The church was built while Rev. Daniel F. Gee was residing. In 1872 the church was considered to be the largest in Simcoe County. It was sixty-six feet long and forty-four feet wide, built in the Gothic style with a tower and spire one hundred and thirty feet high. There was a gallery on the front end with gilt mouldings. The total cost of building was 6,512 dollars. Dedication by Rev. Dr. Lachlin Taylor took place at the morning services on March 9th, 1873. On Monday March 10th of the same year a fowl supper was held to celebrate the new building. The next Sunday further dedicatory services were held.

St. John's United Church was miraculously spared in the Great Fire which swept through Alliston in 1891. A change of wind blew the flames away from the church. Shortly after this a number of changes were made in the construction: :

- 1891 -incandescent light was installed in the church.
- 1897 -the basement was enlarged.
- 1902 -the church was painted and decorated.
- 1909 -earth was removed from the CPR Wellington Street subway and replaced on the church lawn.
- 1911 -the church floor was painted.
- 1913 -a drain was constructed from the church to the river bank in order to thoroughly drain the church property.
- 1918 -an acre of wood was purchased.
- 1919 -the drain was revised and also a closet and washbowl were installed in the basement.
- the oak seating and present fixtures were put in.
- the Sunday School room was renovated and redecorated.
- the gallery was removed from the south end.
- 1921-reopening services were held January 4th and 5th.
- 1922-the Golden Jubilee.
- 1925-Wesleyan Methodist Church became St. John's United Church.
- 1956-a new pipe organ was installed.

Students and Ministers who have served the Church:

Luther O. Rice 1851-53	Peter Addison 1865
Joel Briggs 1854	Alex R. Campbell 1866-67
John A. Williams 1855	Peter Addison 1866-67
Charles Turver 1856-58	John H. Keppel 1868
Nicholas R. Willoughby 1857	James Matheson 1869-70
Isaac Baker 1857	Daniel F. Gee 1871-73
John S. Clarke 1859-61	Donald Carter 1873
Benjamin Sherlock 1859	John R. German, M.A. 1874-75
Thomas Bell 1860-61	Alfred Brown 1874
Joseph Shepley 1862	Fred Dracas 1875
Isaac Gold 1862	Robert H. Smith 1876-77
Matthew Swann 1863-65	Lewis W. Hill 1876
Joseph Colling 1863	Thomas Manning, B.A. 1877
Nelson Burns, M.A. 1864	Amos E. Russ, M.A. 1878

Edward Eves 1878
 John Breedin 1879-82
 Jeremiah Annis 1882-84
 George Webber 1884-86
 Alfred Brown 1886-89
 W.G. Howson 1889-91
 T. Dunlop 1891-94
 H.S. Matthews 1894-96

Alfred A. Well 1921-25
 E.J. Adams 1925-29
 R.E. Morton 1929-33
 D.A. MacKeracher, B.A. 1933-37

Wm. Buchanan 1896-99
 S Samuel Edwards 1899-1901
 Dr. C.S. Eby 1901-03
 J.J.J. Ferguson 1903-07
 Asher P. Latter 1907-10
 A.P. Addison 1910-13
 George N. Gray 1913-17
 Dr. H. Harper 1917-21

James Dorrian 1937-48
 H.D. McCormack 1948-51
 F.E. Craik 1951-53
 James F. Shilton, B.A. 1953-

* * * * *

(Information from St. John's Centennial Booklet
 and the Alliston Women's Institute
 Tweedsmuir Histories.)

Peter Moffat
 Lorne O'Neill
 Margaret Quigley
 Alfred Dumont
 Carol Czerak

St. John's Church continues its 100-year events

The congregation of St. John's United Church, as advertised elsewhere in this issue of The Herald, has great plans afoot for a very busy day this Sunday.

There are to be both morning and evening services to commemorate the centenary of St. John's, and a "homecoming tea."

The Historical Committee, which has been digging into old records for months past for the centennial booklet (now printed, with lots of interesting old pictures), reports that the property on which the present building stands was deeded to the trustees of Wesleyan Methodist Church by John Fletcher.

The title deed, still preserved in St. John's archives, includes the names of George and John Fletcher (sons of William Fletcher, the founder of Alliston), Edward Joseph Ritchey, Joseph Rayson, Edward Meredith, George Shephard and William John Drennan.

The Committee which compiled the centennial book succeeded in unearthing more pictures and information than could be used but, it is understood, much of this material and other memorabilia will be on display on Sunday.

With the hundreds of guests and members and former members which doubtless can be expected at some or all of Sunday's goings-on, it looks as though St. John's has a red-letter day coming up which will provide an interesting episode for a future historical committee, charged perhaps with writing another hundred-year chapter, in 2072.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Roman Catholics in the Alliston area settled in North Adjala. They were encouraged by the church authorities to settle in this township: as a result, Adjala had more Catholic settlers than any other township in the area in the 1800's.

The village of Arlington was the centre of the community. It was situated on the fourth concession of Adjala between Highway 89 and Sideroad 30. In the 1850's it was a bigger town than Alliston. Arlington was named after Portarlinton in the County Laois, Ireland. Previous to the 1850's, priests from Colgan had stopped at Arlington to say Mass at the home of Mr. Hugh Ferguson. Now that the community was growing, the members wanted a church of their own to celebrate Mass. Plans were made on March 16th, 1854. The priest in charge at that time was Father Rattigan. The first Mass was conducted by Father Francois Xavier Pourret in the new church on November 25th, 1855. On January 1st, 1865, North Adjala became a separate parish from Colgan. The first rectory was built in 1865-66. On February 16th, 1885, the church and rectory were burned completely. In the same year a new church was built, but without a rectory.

When the railway came to Alliston, the population of Arlington seriously decreased. Now only the church remains. The Immaculate Conception Church is still used today and in 1976, Father Joseph Majka celebrated his 21st. year at the church.

The third pastor at Arlington decided that another church was necessary to meet the needs of the rapidly growing community. On March 19th, 1875, plans were made for a church to be built in Alliston the following year. There were about sixty Catholic families in Alliston at this time and they raised sufficient funds with little outside help. Construction began in the spring of 1876, and the corner stone was laid on May 28th, 1876 by the

Archbishop of Toronto, His Grace, Most Rev. John Joseph Lynch. The church was opened for public worship on New Year's Day, 1877 by the Right Rev. Doctor Crinnon, Bishop of Hamilton. The first confirmation was held on July 23rd, 1878. The Archbishop Lynch assisted Father Gibney. A rectory was built in 1882. On January 11th, 1883, the principality of the parish of Arlington was transferred to Alliston, therefore the name was changed from the Parish of North Adjala to the Parish of Alliston. There were still two churches under the same Pastor, but with his official residence in Alliston.

The design of the church has changed very little since its construction. In 1898, the church was entirely renovated and it remains the same today. There were several repaintings and redecorations, but the basic Gothic style remains unaltered. The exterior is ninety feet by forty feet with a spire one hundred and thirty feet from the ground to the top of the cross. When built, the church was situated in the east end of the town, now it is almost central.

There were about five Catholic families in Alliston in 1860, about sixty in 1880, and about eighty in 1900.

The following is a list of pastors who have served St. Paul's:

1873-1920	Rev. Henry Joseph Gibney
1918-1920	Rev. John Francis Kehoe
1920-1921	Rev. William Patrick Heydon
1921-1928	Rev. John Patrick O'Brien
1928-1936	Rev. Francis J. Sneath
1936	Rev. Frederick J. McGinn
1936-1938	Rev. Francis Michael Caulfield
1938-1943	Rev. Felix Coffey
1943	Rev. W. Vincent Egan
1943-1944	Rev. Patrick Joseph Kirby
1944-1948	Rev. Thomas Louis Healy
1948-1956	Rev. James E. Keelor
1956-1962	Rev. Vincent L. McGivney
1962-1964	Rev. Clement J. Schwalm
1964-1968	Rev. John T. Bolger
1968-	Rev. Francis Roy McGinn

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(Information from St. Paul's Centennial Book)

ST. JAMES CHURCH, COLGAN

A Crown Grant was given in 1830 and repeated in 1834 for 150 acres of land for the use of a Catholic church. Father Edward Gordon was the missionary for the area at that time. He is responsible for the first building erected in 1832. It was a simple log structure without a bell, organ or spire. Later a pew was built and the church was lined inside and out. A "Catharine wheel hole" was cut in the ceiling. The church was dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria. In 1851 a bigger church, forty feet by one hundred feet, was erected. There were about 3200 worshippers at that time. Around 1855-1865, when the area became a parish, the Bishop of Toronto changed the name to St. James the Greater. In 1888 a new church was erected; one hundred six feet by sixty feet. The total cost was about 15,000 dollars. Dedication took place in February of 1889.

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, TOTTENHAM

This church was built in 1885 and was dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. In early 1920's a bell purchased and in 1910 electricity for lighting was installed.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ACHILL

Achill was a hamlet in the south-central portion of Adjala. It was named after an island on the west coast of Ireland. The church burned down in the early 1890's. The cause was not determined. A new church was built in its place.

* * * * *

THE ALLISTON MORMON CHURCH

The Mormon movement in the 1840's spread as far as the Alliston area. When the congregation first began, Mr. Lake, a Mormon Missionary, held services in homes in West Esna. Later a church was built opposite the C.N.R. station on Albert Street. Some of the townspeople left Alliston to join the Mormon settlement in Illinois. In any case, the movement eventually died down and about 1895 the church was closed and the building was moved to Victoria Street West.

ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

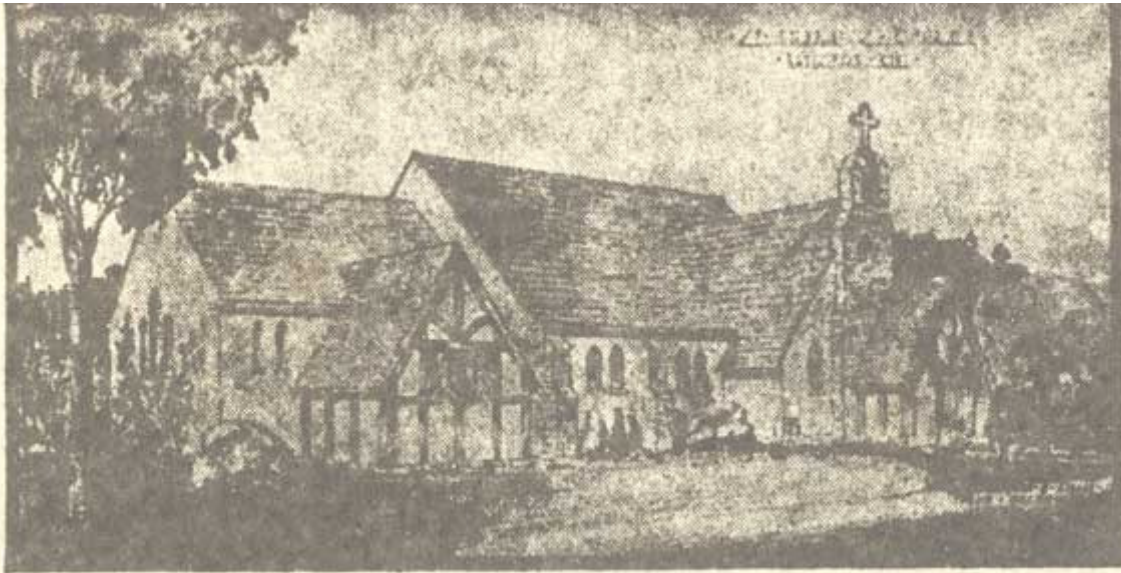
Before 1860, the Anglicans of Alliston met in houses of members of the congregation. The Rev. A.J. Fiddler rode horseback from Cookstown to Alliston to conduct the services. As the congregation grew, it was decided that a church should be built and on November 5, 1875, the cornerstone was laid. This church was used until March 6, 1927. After this a new church was built on the same site as the old one and the corner stone for it was laid on May 5, 1927.

THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Services were held in homes and later in Knox Presbyterian Church until a place to build a church could be found. In 1950, number 7 Nelson Street was sold for the parsonage and in 1951, the Presbyterians sold their Wellington Street church which was no longer used to the Pentecostals.

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(Information from the Alliston Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir Histories.)



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

This year marks the 100th anniversary of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Alliston.

The original church was built (on the present site on Wellington Street) in 1876 and it was found necessary to enlarge it to its present size in 1926. It is interesting to note that the first church was built at a cost of \$1,500. A history of the parish is being compiled and will be available shortly.

To mark the Centennial a parish supper was held in the Community Arena on Sept. 29 with about 140 parishioners, young and not so young, attending. Afterwards, entertainment was provided by members of the choir with both vocal and piano solos, and those present also enjoyed some light-hearted movies to complete a happy and memorable evening.

This past Sunday the congregation welcomed back a former rector, Dr. Versey Wigmore,

who is now Rector of St. Olave's in Toronto. The church was full as many came back to worship again in their old church. Some had been baptized by Mr. Wigmore, others had been married by him. He mentioned many of the parishioners who were there in his time, and have now passed on, but it was good to see so many of their sons and daughters present on Sunday, continuing to worship in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Peter's, West Essa.

In the coming weeks other former rectors are returning to preach and renew acquaintance and on Nov. 14 celebrations will conclude when the Rt. Rev. Lewis S. Garnsworthy, Lord Bishop of Toronto, will preach at the morning service.

Rev. W.R. Symons is the present Rector of St. Andrew's and St. Peter's, West Essa.



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ADJALA WAS HOME OF FIRST CANADIAN ORDAINED PRIEST IN THE BASILIAN FATHERS

Adjala has good reason to be proud of its early son Michael Joseph Ferguson who was the first Canadian ordained a priest in the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil, more usually known as the Basilian Fathers.

He was born in Adjala Township on March 23, 1839 and the simple entry in his diary in 1861, tells a story, "1861 — Oct. 28. Went on retreat to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, went to Adjala with Father Vincent. Ordained on Wednesday 23rd. Said my first Mass at 11 o'clock on Thursday in the principal church and had the gratification of giving Holy Communion to some 237 persons".

He died on April 30th, 1913, at Assumption College and is buried with Archbishop Denis O'Connor in the Basilian plot, Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto.



REV. M. J. FERGUSON, C.S.B.

He came from Adjala and was the first Canadian priest to be a member of the Basilian Fathers.

The years between were filled with quiet accomplishment which is told by J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B., in his introduction to a bibliography of Father Ferguson's diaries and other papers. A part of it is quoted here:

"The first Canadian ordained a priest in the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil received that honour in 1861 at the age of twenty-two; nine years to the day that he had first come to St. Michael's College, Toronto, from Adjala Township, Ontario. Three of those nine years were interrupted by teaching in a rural school and clerking in a country store.

"The circumstances of that pioneer era left a minimum of opportunity and stimulus for any graduate study or research; however, nothing was ever able to quench the unquenchable appetite of Michael Joseph Ferguson for reading in depth all the best books available. His brilliant mind and talents escaped any danger of stifling.

"The eleven years following ordination of St. Michael's saw this tall, attractive, multi-talented young priest active in teaching, in preaching, in special administration in two Basilian parishes. Without seeking it, he became known as the outstanding young cleric in Central Ontario, with a host of admiring friends, among whom was Sir John A. Macdonald.

"The next sudden and dramatic shift in Father Ferguson's life recalls the old Portuguese proverb: "God knows how to write straight with crooked lines". Sir John A. asked him to do what

he could to mitigate the understandable but bitter anti-English, pro-Fenian zeal on the part of the Irish-born priests in Toronto during the alarming Fenian raids hysteria. One priest had already been jailed. Irish-born Archbishop Lynch was greatly chagrined at Irish-Canadian Ferguson's moderate views and his attempts to dialogue with the pro-Fenian priests. The idea of anything like "due process" was naturally unmentionable in 1872. To avoid friction with the local Ordinary, the Basilian authorities deemed it best to transfer Father Ferguson to Assumption College, Sandwich.

"During his close to forty-one years at Assumption, his life was that of a recluse compared to his priestly years at St. Michael's. With a quiet persistence, he managed to shun opportunities to speak away from Assumption or on special occasions. Yet he kept his finger on the pulse of contemporary practical affairs and was always generous in sharing wise advice privately to those who consulted him. When he wrote for papers and periodicals he chose that it would be under the obscurity of a pseudonym.

"Yet few Basilians ever lived a more fruitful and fulfilled life. One fact that he proudly acknowledged was that he was the first to introduce the works of Cardinal Newman to Canada. These words from Newman's "Prayers and Meditations" might almost characterize Father Ferguson's own profound spirit: "It will be Thou who shinnest through me upon others . . . Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me, through me. Make me preach Thee without preaching . . ."

Father F. R. McGinn tells the Herald that the Basilian Fathers are a teaching order which came to Upper Canada about 1850 at the invitation of Most Rev. Bishop De Charbonell of Upper Canada. He had been taught by Basilian Fathers in France and upon his appointment as bishop

in Upper Canada he asked the C.S.B. to send a mission to promote teaching. It was the CSB who founded St. Michael's College in Toronto, where Father Ferguson went from Adjala to study.

Father McGinn also comments that it was Father Ferguson's father who initiated, and gave the land for, the church in North Adjala now served by Father Majka.



BAXTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church at Baxter celebrated its centennial last Sunday with special services both morning and evening.

(Herald photo)

BAXTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

One hundred years of worship in the Presbyterian Church at Baxter was celebrated last Sunday, with a special service both in the morning and in the evening. Many attended, and in the morning there were about 400 present, filling the church, the marquee outside and sitting in the old driving shed.

The Rev. D. G. Seaton, B.D., conducted both services and, in the morning, spoke on the text "What is man?". He pointed out the contradictions of man's nature, how on the one hand he can be intellectual, kind, generous, highly co-ordinated; on the other he can be stupid, cruel, miserly, dis-organized. "Man is a disconcerting mixture of good and bad. What is man? The drug-store definition is a few dollars' worth of chemicals but we cannot take them and make a man. There is more to man than that. In some places man is but a cog to the wheels of the state. In others people say that he is made for pleasure, although this does not mean assured happiness. There are those who say that man is just a superior animal.

But when we turn to God's word we find that we are children of God, made in His image by Him. We are created not only by God but for God. We are able to commune with God and we should so live as to glorify God in our lives.

"Although we are made in the image of God, we are still free to deny Him and so become less than children. The only true and complete son is Jesus Christ. The tragedy of our lives comes in refusing Him. We are given the chance to say "Yes" but many have said "No" to accepting Him. God does not wait for us to become good enough to approach Him. He takes us as we are through His son.

"Christianity is not a life of restrictions. Indeed, you have not begun to live until you have found Christ, for it is only through Him that you can acquire true freedom. Many are held prisoner by themselves and it is only through belief in Christ that there can be real freedom and a full life."

Continued on Page 12

BAXTER CHURCH

(Continued from Page 1)

In the evening the text was "Behold the Man" and was a sequel to the morning talk.

The morning service featured the male quartette in "Lord I adore Thee" and a solo by Mrs. J. Langford, "O Be Joyful". The choir rendered the anthem, "This is My Prayer". In the evening the Ladies' Quartette sang, "Wait for the Answer"; Rev. Chas. Townsley, of Knox Church, Alliston, sang a solo and the anthem, "Honour and Glory" was sung by the choir.

Lunch was served in the L.O.L. Hall after the morning service.

All the arrangements for the centennial celebration were extremely well organized, with well-planned parking; an excellent loudspeaker system; adequate seating. Visitors registered and signed a guest book, each one receiving a card to pin on their coat with their name and address. Many old friendships were renewed and there was much good fellowship.

HISTORY OF BAXTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 1967 the Dominion of Canada will celebrate its One Hundredth Anniversary. It was five years before that first Dominion Day, about 1862, that settlers began to settle in the area of what is now called Essa Township. In the year 1864, conscious of the need for regular gospel ordinances, the people organized the first church, known as Dunn's Church. For many years this congregation was classified as a mission charge in connection with what then known as the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

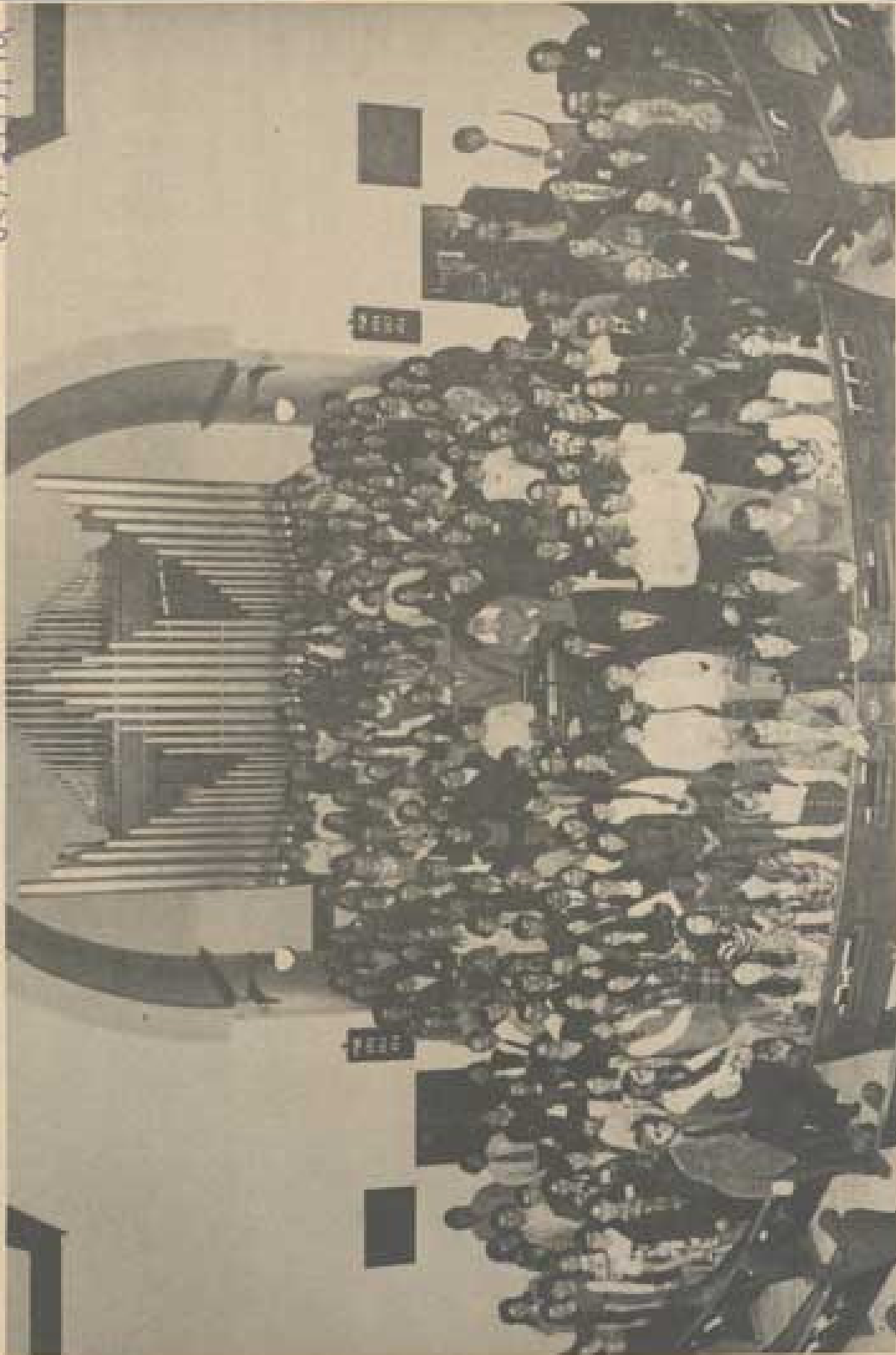
As no church was erected it was necessary to hold Public Worship in the school house. The first minister, the Rev. J. K. Hislop, 1864-1871, was followed by the Rev. Thomas McKee, 1871-1878.

On July 9th, 1879, Dunn's Church and First Essa Church were joined as a permanent charge, and the Rev. Stuart Acheson became the first inducted minister, and served till 1884. After some five years he was succeeded by Rev. W. J. Hewitt, 1889-1897.

In 1897 Rev. J. E. Smith was called to this charge, and it was during his ministry of seven years that the present church was built in 1900.

The following are the ministers of this church since 1904: Rev. George Craw - 1904-1914; Rev. R. H. Summerville - 1914-1923; Rev. A. G. Rintoul - 1924-1928; Rev. E. S. Clifton - 1929-1931; Rev. T. Purnell - 1932-1934; Rev. E. S. Robertson - 1935-1940; Rev. J. C. Hood - 1946-1947; Rev. K. Georgis - 1948-1955; Rev. H. Colvin - 1957-1959; Rev. C. A. McCarroll -

OCT. 25, 1972



PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG PEOPLE AT KNOX CHURCH

Over two hundred members of the Spread of Toronto-Kingston Presbyterian Young People's Society met in Alliston over last weekend for their 22nd annual convention as guests of Knox Church. Here they pose for the convention '72 photograph in the church. In the foreground at the pulpit is Rev. Wm. Campbell, of Oak. The convention theme speaker, (Photo by Seitzgard, Alliston)

EVERETT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Hear Interesting History Of Former Village At Burns

The November meeting of Everett WI was held at the home of Mrs. Fergus Kerr with an attendance of 25 ladies. As it was Remembrance Day the President Mrs. Kerr opened the meeting by reciting "In Flanders Fields".

Roll call, "Wear your oldest hat and tell about it," was responded to by the wearing of quaint and curious headgear. During the business period an invitation was extended to us to attend the 15th Anniversary of Rosemont WI on the evening of Nov. 26. Plans were made to go to Simcoe Manor the evening of Nov. 12 to provide refreshments and entertainment for the occupants. For the December meeting each of our members is to respond to the roll call by giving a 50c donation to the Scott Mission.

Mrs. Kidnie chose to explain our motto "Live for today - remember yesterday", by reading several poems written by Edna Jacques. Mrs. Middlebrook who accompanied by her husband, has just returned from a trip to California, told us briefly of this pleasant experience. Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Kerr told of their visit to Gifford. Miss Ethel Chapman spoke of her ACWW trip to Europe.

Mrs. Pearson, Historical Research convener, had charge of the program. It was entitled, "Items old and new for our Tweedsmuir History." Through the kindly co-operation of leaders of our Boy Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies and also Mr. W. J. Wood, this information was provided.

Mrs. Burns gave us the following brief account of Scouts and Cubs. "Mr. Eldon Exelby was responsible for calling the first Boy Scout meeting and their charter was granted in November, 1968. A Wolf Cub pack under the leadership of Mrs. Glasford was formed soon after. These groups are sponsored by Everett WI and the Orange Lodge.

An article on Guiding and organization of the 1st Everett Guide Company was presented and read by Miss Alda McKinnon. It told of the interest of Lord and Lady Baden Powell in the welfare of our boys and girls. Their aims and service to others, health beginning with themselves, handicraft and to better enjoy the things of nature. This article was prepared by Mrs. R. S. M. Wilson and Mrs. Thelbert.

Mrs. Frank Patterson was present and read a thoughtfully prepared article on Brownies which she and Mrs. Roger Dubois had prepared. Brownies' imagination should be stimulated, their curiosity encouraged, and their powers of observation developed. They should learn self-reliance, self-discipline, obedience, to think of other not themselves. This group was organized in February, 1959, and now has 29 members.

Leaders were justly proud of their uniformed groups when many of them journeyed to Orillia to see our beloved Queen Elizabeth last July.

Mr. W. J. Wood wrote of a Bible in his possession which he

loaned for our inspection. It was owned by Granddaddy Turnbull, who was a local preacher and also a medical doctor. The following which is a quotation from the Stevenson Family book written in 1932 by the late T. P. Loblaw was read by Isabel Jaffray.

"In 1836 Granddaddy and Grandmother Turnbull with their family of six children (Uncle Robert then being the youngest and only six months old) made the journey from Kingston with one horse and a wagon and settled on the north east corner which was later known as West Esna corners or Turnbull's corners which I was able to purchase. We have the three volumes here of Granddaddy Turnbull's old Bible which he brought from Scotland and which is now cowed with the hide of old Fan, the horse that brought them up from Kingston. These volumes were given to me by his grandson, William Turnbull, to whom I am greatly indebted.

Granddaddy Turnbull until the town of Alliston became established, was really the only Doctor at West Esna Corners. He as we remember, came as a young man to New York from Scotland and studied medicine, returning to the Old Country at a time of great depression in Scotland, to help in the winding up of his father's affairs. He married and returned to Canada settling about 15 miles from Kingston in Lanark County before moving to Alliston district.

One of the first things Grandfather Turnbull did when settling on the land was to give a plot of ground for the building of a Methodist Church which was erected on the north side of the road, east of the four corners. Although he was not apparently a Methodist and we are not quite clear as to what church he belonged, we know he was a good Christian man and that he often occupied the pulpit of the church.

Quite a village sprang up where the church was erected at one time consisting of four stores, as well as a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a tailor's shop, a shoemaker shop and it was we know quite a village before Alliston became a business centre.

I can remember the sidewalk running down from the corner and the old stores with houses standing back from the sidewalk. That would be about the years 1876-1878. Mr. David Henderson's store was west of the four corners on the south side and the old building is still there. The only other house of the village left standing is one on the west side, south of the four corners, which was the house my mother moved into with her family of four children. My brother, Will, being the oldest my sister, Maizie, about six years, my older brother, Jack, about four and a half and myself three years. These are the only buildings left standing today."

A social hour was spent with Mrs. Middlebrook and Mrs. Jack Patton serving refreshments.

Should Boyne be dammed for people or open for fish

Should the Boyne River be dammed? With tumbling dams or weirs, that is. The question was long and somewhat heatedly argued last Thursday morning by representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Ainley and Associates and Alliston.

It all centred around the biology of the river and aesthetic values in the development of the Boyne River Green Belt between Church and King Streets.

Herman Van Wesenbeeck, resource manager for NVCA, ex-

plained that the original 1968 plan for the green belt called for tumbling dams and that the plan had been approved. "Now," he said, "the biology people of fish and wildlife have lodged a protest against the dams. That is why we are here: to see what should be done."

"Procedures on handling plans have been straightened out in the last four years," said Mr.

Whitney, biologist with the Conservation Branch, "and we have learned more about fish and rivers. That is why there is criticism of the dams now, although there was not before." He went on, "one objection is aesthetic, another is that the claim that the weirs will aerate the water is invalid in our opinion and, lastly, such dams

are an obstacle to Rainbow going up river to their spawning grounds."

His argument was supported by Mr. Wainio of Fish and Wildlife who said that he did not remember the original report. When it came to his attention it was discussed and the Fish and Wildlife division of Natural Resources became concerned about the great number of

(Continued on page 6)

SHOULD BOYNE BE DAMMED

(Continued from Page 1)

dams being built in rivers and streams which do harm to the natural fish habitat. "I don't think that the reasons given are enough to justify weirs. They are rather petty. True, these low weirs would not stop Rainbows but they do tire them. I would rather see an unobstructed river than one with weirs which can trap silt, create algae and be a place for suckers and other coarse fish to breed. There are already a lot of problems at the dam at Earl Rowe Park where silt collects and suckers breed."

"The real reason for the tumbling dams is public use, to form footbridges and provide the sound of water," commented Bill Ainley, the town's consulting engineer. "This plan was developed by a landscape architect and these weirs will help

prevent scour. This makes a good aesthetic set-up."

"Aesthetics is a matter of opinion, but there is no need for aeration. I like the river the way it is," replied Mr. Wainio.

"Naturalness is the main factor. It is pretty because it is natural, pastoral and peaceful," put in Mr. Whitney.

Then came a long argument about aesthetics and what is best. Mr. Ainley and the Natural Resources people had opposing opinions. The former preferred the dams, backed by Clerk Lorne Whiteside, and was persistent and insistent in his view that because the dams were in the original plan they should be retained.

Wainio and Whitney, supported by Ministry Engineer Chang, opposed the dams on the grounds already given.

Lloyd Armstrong, on the NVCA executive, remarked, "we have discussed many angles but, personally, I like the weirs."

"I feel that we would have to go along with the experts," said Mayor McCague who acted as chairman. "They say we should not have weirs. My interest is

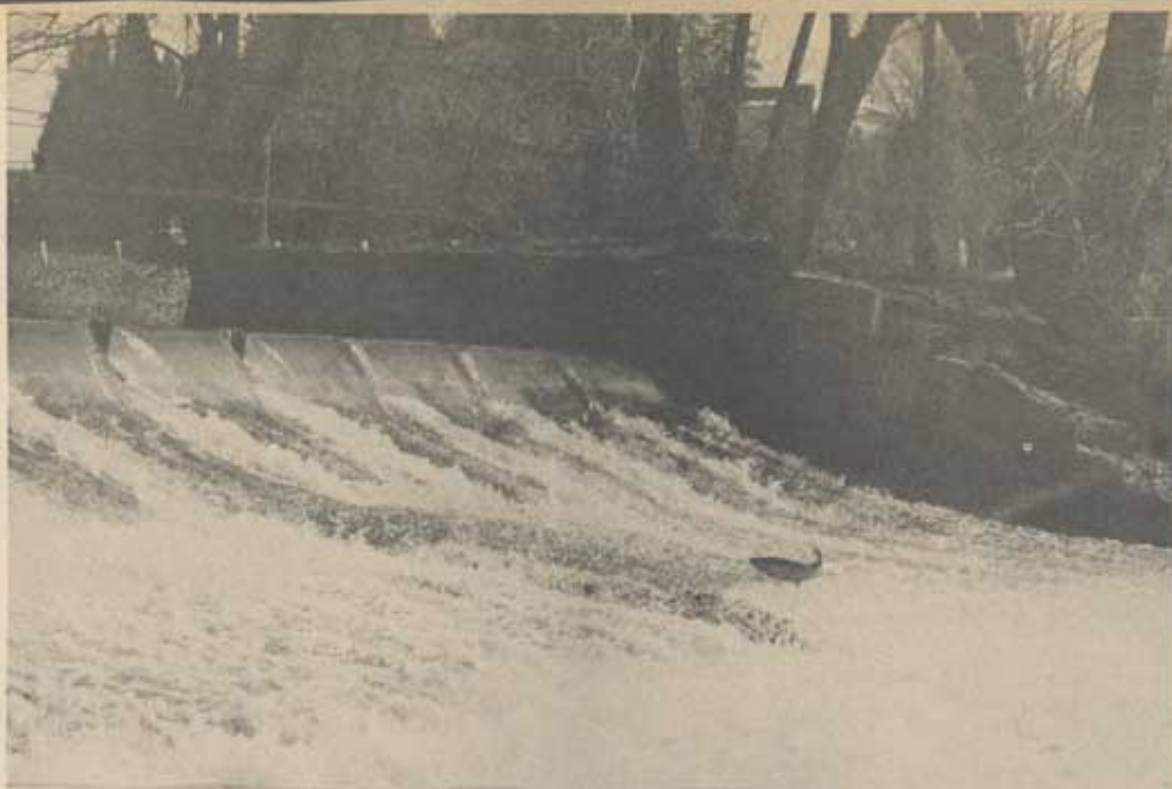
to get the job of cleaning up the river started as soon as possible and to get the best possible job. Surely we could clean up the river and the banks and put in the weirs later, if needed."

"I think there is nothing better than running water; so we need weirs," said Mr. Ainley. That sparked another argument about aesthetics at the end of which both sides agreed to disagree.

The outcome of the couple of hours of debate was that the biologists should come up with an alternative to the weirs which will break up the placid flow of the river. The report should be ready by the middle of next month.

Meantime, subject to land acquisition, work will be done on the river and its banks. And as titles to the land involved have not been accepted by the government, there is nothing much that can be done; probably not until next spring.

"I think that the next immediate step is for Alliston council to meet with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and members of the NVCA executive committee," said Mr. Armstrong. "This could clear things up. We have agreed about work on the river banks but need to come to definite conclusions."



Trout run at Nicolston dam drew big crowd

The annual spawning run of rainbow trout at Nicolston Fish Sanctuary, on Highway 89 at Alliston, drew scores of spectators last weekend. Times photographer Paul Denbeigh was on hand and his patience was rewarded by a photo of one of the big trout working its way up the fish ladder at the dam.

THE ALLISTON TIMES
MAY 3, 1972



DONNYBROOK WAS QUIET
AND THE SHADE OF OLD ST. PATRICK SMILED

Home and School Association Gets Gratifying Patronage at a Fair in the Town Hall St. Patrick's Day --- Big Audience Enjoys Splendid Entertainment in the Evening

Not in a long time has there been anything in the line of diversion in town that appealed to the people like the Donnybrook Fair. This event was given by the women of the Home and School Association in the town hall Thursday afternoon and evening last for the threefold purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the natal day of Ireland's patron saint, to give all and sundry of the people of town and district who cared to come to the hall a good time and to line the treasury of the Home and School Association with the one of two great factors in accomplishing things. In all three particulars the Donnybrook fair was a complete success. St. Patrick himself must have smiled and bowed his gratitude had he been permitted to look upon the flaring green in a multitude of quaint and pretty patterns on the decorations of the various booths at the fair. Soon after noon the patrons of the bazaar began to come into the hall and they continued to come till evening and again between seven and eight when they filled the opera hall so full that there was not even standing room left.

All afternoon the scene in the market hall and council chamber was an animated one, the crowd moving in and out continually and business as brisk at the booths as it is in a town store on Christmas eve. The old council chamber was transformed into a scene of beauty, some seven or eight booths having been built along the sides and across the end. It looked like an oriental trading mart with the emblems of Erin conspicuously to the fore. These booths were substantially constructed for which the women have to thank Mr. M.M. Cowan who put up the lumber and wouldn't take a bouquet in return. It was the stocks displayed in the booths that revealed the time and labour the women had spent in preparation. There was the sewing booth which occupied two stalls in which were displayed a vast array of wearing apparel and ornamental articles. In these booths were Mrs. J.D. Cunningham, Mrs. Martindale, Mrs. Caesar, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Manuel, Mrs. Elliott and Miss Wilkinson. The baking booth commenced business with a big stock of home made bread, buns and cakes, but soon sold out. In it were Mrs. George Hutchinson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. W.F. Knight, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Coulter. The candy booth had a large stock of the purest of good confections. Mrs. Schell, Mrs. Gleury, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Ross Hurst were busy while their stock lasted. A doll booth in which Miss Latimer and Miss Evans arranged a nice display of dolls and dolls' wears was liberally patronized and long before evening sold out. The fish pond was in charge of Mrs. L.M. Edmonds, Miss Dunn and Miss Heydon and attracted a crowd continually. An express office with Mrs. L.R. Munshaw as chief executive did a large volume of business, while in the fortune tellers' booth, Miss Whiteside, Miss Craig and Miss Collier were kept busy unveiling the mysteries of various signs and conditions. In the market hall refreshments were served and for two or three hours a dozen and more ladies and girls were kept busy. Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. F.N. Hurst, Mrs. J.J. Graham and Mrs. Hartley Graham were getting things in shape when The Herald was looking the Fair over. There were a number of other ladies engaged in these booths, but it was not possible to locate them all at once and everybody was too much preoccupied to recollect the ones out of sight. The decorating was accomplished under the guidance of Mrs. DeLacey Smith.

For the entertainment in the evening enough people came to the hall to fill it twice. Long before eight o'clock it was filled front and back and the boys had taken possession of the window seats and edge of the stage. Church street from the Victoria street was completely lined with people who had failed to gain admission retreating their steps with a smile. The

congestion in the rear of the hall was relieved before the program commenced by putting about a hundred young laddies on the stage. The program had been arranged by Mrs. R. Beattie. The largest contributor was an orchestra under Mrs. Beattie's leadership which provided several excellent numbers. An Irish flag drill with songs by twenty-four girls was a very pretty movement executed without error. The girls in this drill were Erville Brett, Rose Cassin, Mary Drennan, Bessie Graham, Alberta Graham, Mossie Gunn, Evelyn Hay, Muriel Hancey, Zella Heydon, Phyllis Hipwell, Mary Hill, Winnifred Jennings, Edith Kerr, Core Lawrence, Ida Moore, Margaret Murphy, Elva Murphy, Margaret Newell, Blanche Paterson, Sterling Perrott, Margaret Schell, Margaret Scott, Dorothy Snowden, Emily Wilson. A novel feature and one which won great applause was the dancing of Babe Brown of Toronto, a niece of Mrs. Caesar. She danced an Irish jig, the Highland Fling, the Sailor's Hornpipe and a Shamrock dance, being encored each time and responding to three of them. Mrs. Wm. Stone gave a graceful exhibition of club swinging, Miss Myrtle McCaw and Mr. C.R. Wren sang solos which were encored by the audience and a Knight of the road sang such popular songs as "Feather Your Nest" and got the audience singing the choruses lustily. Mayor Mitchell was chairman and was kept busy under a multitude of duties which he cheerfully assumed. The greatest fun of many an evening was the auction sale at the close of the entertainment of the odds and ends that did not sell in the bazaar. When the young men commenced bidding for each other on such things as little babies' shirts and stockings, ladies' aprons and the like the laughter was continuous and unrestrained. The proceeds of the Donnybrook Fair were 433 dollars which will give the women 385 dollars for their treasury.

(Article, The Alliston Herald, Thurs. March 24,
1921)

1. A Barn-raising
2. Butter-making
3. A Day on the Farm
4. Harvest Time
5. Life in Mulmur in the 1900's
6. Potatoes

A BARN-RAISING

A century ago, when pioneers were homesteading in this area, barn-raising was one of the most practical social gatherings. As many as fifty men with their wives and children participated in this laborious and somewhat hazardous task.

The work was not all done in one day. First, it was necessary to hire a stone mason who built the foundation for the barn. This consisted of a stone wall about eighteen inches wide and two feet high. The stone and lime were drawn in sleighs from local centres. In Toscorontio, the centre was Whitfield. The earliest barns didn't have any foundation, but were built directly on the dirt floor. These barns were generally remodelled about 1885 by jacking up the barn and building a stone wall underneath - a most dangerous job for the stone mason. Nevertheless, the livestock benefitted greatly from the added warmth in their stables. When concrete and cement blocks were employed, the stone mason's job became obsolete.

The next step was to lay the floor. Sills of squared logs called sleepers were placed first. These logs were of hemlock, white ash, or cedar. Most barn floors had three sections; the thrashing floor in the centre which was strong enough to hold the machinery, and a mow on each side which held the hay. The thrashing floor was made of pine planks and the hay mows were of double inch flooring, each about thirty feet wide. The total area was approximately twenty-four hundred square feet. Incidentally, most of the wood for the barn was pine, and usually came from the farmer's own wood lot. A makeshift wooden road called a tramway was built for the horses who hauled the timber home. If the farmer didn't have a wood lot, he would have to pay the expense of having lumber drawn from someone else's lot. One Alliston man obtained wood from as great a distance

as Terre Nova.

After the floor was laid, the framer was called in. He was a carpenter who squared the logs to form beams and posts. The framer always constructed the frame in a pattern beginning at the south-west corner. The beams were fitted and morticed to hold the framing together. The frame was thus complete, but was still lying on the ground.

At this point the actual raising took place. The frame of one now, called a bent, was positioned and bound at the corners. The neighbours pushed up the frame with pipe poles. These poles were long and had sharp spikes on the end. About six men manoeuvred one pole and a number of poles were necessary for one bent. Around 1926 a gin pole replaced the pipe pole. It was attached to a pulley driven by a team of horses thus saving a great deal of manpower. After each bent was pushed up, the forty to fifty foot long rafters were raised. Securing the rafters was the most hazardous job, as it required about twelve men to climb on top of the barn and nail them down. Few men enjoyed this job and the lack of these types undoubtedly contributed to the gradual extinction of barn-raising. When the frame-work had been erected, the framer went ahead and sheeted it in.

While the men were labouring outdoors the women were busy in the house preparing a great dinner. Although much of the food was prepared before-hand, extra was needed as no one could predict how many spectators would show up. Dinner was about six o'clock or whenever the outside work was done. Compared with today's standards, one would think the meal would mark the end of a long, exhausting day, but no, there was more excitement to come. It was time to celebrate with a barn dance! The local fiddler's merry tunes and the homemade cider sent the neighbours home in rollicking contentment.

BUTTER-MAKING

Making butter was a major practice for the farm women of the early 1900's. As well as being a necessary home product, it was often traded for other goods at the local market, creamery or general store.

After the cows were hand-milked, the milk was placed in a crock called a cream-separator. The crock contained discs which were turned by a crank. These discs produced a centrifugal force which drove the cream away from the milk. As the cream was lighter than the milk, it rose to the top, leaving the milk to be filtered out through a tap in the bottom of the crock. The cream was collected daily and stored until it turned sour. Then it was placed in a dash churn, or a barrel churn. The handle of the dash churn was pushed up and down like a plunger, whereas the handle of the barrel churn was cranked. The cream had to be kept at constant room temperature for churning. Properly prepared cream would make butter after fifteen minutes of churning. The butter-milk was drained off or scooped out with a ladle; no ingredient of the process was wasted. The butter was then washed about three times, salted, and packed in pound prints. (that is, each pound of butter was wrapped in paper) or in crocks. The prints in turn were packed in thirteen pound boxes and taken by horse and cart to the local general store. In Alliston, one of the stores to which the butter was delivered was Callaughan and McCarroll's. When the Alliston Creamery Dairy was established, it received most of the business from the local farmers, partly because the employees came directly to the farms to obtain their goods. The farm-wife who made only enough butter for her family's needs washed and salted the butter to keep it sweet, covered it with cheese-cloth and stored it in the cool cellar.

HARVEST TIME

THE BINDER

Before the days of combines, the binder was the machine used for the first step in harvesting grain. The sickle cut stocks of grain, reels brought the stocks onto the ground, and the knotter tied the stocks into bundles or sheaves. Before the binder twine was invented, thin wire was used for tying. The binder also stacked the sheaves in groups of five or six called shocking or stooking. This machine was horse-drawn.

THE REAPER

This machine was a more primitive form of the binder and was used around the 1860's. It had a sickle and reels which turned across a big platform. As each turned, it swept enough stocks across the platform to make one sheaf. Then the sheaves were tied by hand with two wisps of wheat stocks which were twisted together, wrapped around the sheaf and the loose ends tucked under. The sheaves were stooked in groups of six to ten, by hand or with a fork.

THRASHING

The thrashing machine took care of the second step in the grain harvest before the combine was invented in about 1930. The purpose of the thrashing machine was to separate the grain from the straw. It was operated by steam power. Unlike the binder, not everyone owned a thrashing machine and so the man who did own one (the engineer), did custom work for his neighbouring farmers. At thrashing time, the neighbours all worked together as they did for a barn-raising. About eighteen men were needed for the various jobs. The grain, by this time, had dried in the fields and been taken to the mows in the barn. Four

men were required at the back of the mow to fork the sheaves up to the front. Two men at the front of the mow carried the sheaves to bins, where two more men dropped the sheaves onto the thrashing platform. They had to be sure the grain-heads were facing the machine. On the platform two men cut the bands or twine which bound the sheaves together. Three men hand-fed the grain into the machine, working in half-hour shifts, because this was a demanding job. One man stood at the back of the thrasher to direct the straw-blower. Another man built the straw-stack. This was the messiest, dustiest job, and it was an unwritten rule that the last man to arrive for the thrashing would stack the straw. In addition to these men, two were required to supply wood and water for the steam engine. All of these men worked under the authority of the engineer who ran the thrashing machine. There was a whistle on the machine and by means of a coding system, the men took their orders. One toot meant "beware- the engine's starting"; two meant the machine was going to be shut down; continuous toots meant the engine was low on water; one long blast meant mealtime; and three long blasts meant the thrashing was done and let the neighbours know that the machine would be moving.

One farmer's thrashing could be done in a good twelve hour day. Of course, two trips to each farm were necessary- one for the summer crops and one for the fall crops. The summer crops or harvest thrashing was done first, in the fields, around late July. Then the fall crops, which were cut around late August, were stored in the barn to be threshed in the barn at a later date.

LIFE IN MULMUR ABOUT 1900

(The second of two parts, taken from an article in The Alliston Herald written about 1950, by Mrs. D.M. Gallagher)

Another food, advertised now as an energy food, but sixty years ago just a sweet to eat with your homemade bread and butter, was corn syrup. This was bought in wooden buckets, large at the bottom and sloping to the top with a cork in the lid, with a capacity of ten quarts at least.

Very little fresh fruit was available except apples. Practically every home had a bowl of apples on the kitchen table every evening and very little was left at bedtime but cores.

Every home had a root house. This was a large, partially underground room, roofed with cedar logs, covered with earth and with a vent in the top. It kept mangels, cabbage, turnips and carrots crisp nearly all winter.

Potatoes and apples were always stored in a cellar where they were more available.

During haying and harvest, in order to conserve time, dinner was at eleven a.m., supper at four p.m., and a fourth meal after the day's work was done. Second supper, as it was called, usually consisted of bread, butter, honey or jam and milk as the beverage. Everyone was relaxed and so it was the happiest meal of the day.

One of the tasks that I feel was really enjoyed by the mothers on the farm was soap making. All the scraps of fat were carefully saved during the winter. They were rendered out, cooled in pans and these cakes of tallow were put away until spring.

The men always prepared the leech for this operation. It was a piece of hollow log, a wooden box or barrel. This was set on a little sloping platform and holes were bored near the bottom. All the hardwood ashes were saved during the winter. These were used to fill the leech. Soft water was poured over the ashes.

It soaked down through the ashes and came out the little holes - very strong lye. In turn this was put into large sugar kettles, hung over an outside fire. The fat was added and by some acquired instinct the soap maker knew just when more lye or more fat was needed. Too much lye meant soap that was hard on colours, fabrics and hands.

Anyway, the farm wife ladled in the lye, added the fat and boiled the brew until she had the most beautiful liquid soap. It took hours to complete but was always made on a lovely early summer day, out in the orchard with the fragrance of apple blossoms and lilac and the hum of bees.

One of the greatest blessings of the period was the fact that parents knew at night just where their children were. When it was a matter of walking, you didn't go either far or fast.

The present mechanized age had been the means of making those neighbourly, help-giving get-togethers called "wood-bees" almost a thing of the past.

In those days all the wood for cooking and heating for a year had to be prepared by hand.

Every or most of the farms had a woodlot but this was carefully cared for and many hauled logs for a distance of several miles. The men would leave home, some before daylight, with a team and sleigh, a huge lunch and a pail of tea fitted with a tight lid. This would be cold by noon but a fire was built and the pail of tea given a good boil. It was usually after dark when the men and teams returned, hungry and tired. But, health and weather permitting, next morning they were off again.

The logs were hauled home, cut into suitable lengths by a cross-cut saw, split and piled. This was hard work and the wood-bee did, with all the neighbours trading work, take on something

akin to a celebration.

The greatest change that had taken place in this district in the last three-quarters of a century is the observance of the Sabbath. Sunday was a day of rest and the worship. The churches were full. True, there were large families to fill the pews but all families were represented and the greater number of the people walked.

No work was done except that of necessity and mercy. Music in the homes on Sunday was always sacred. That was rule laid down and a trip to the woodshed was in store for anyone daring enough to question it.

Looking back, living seems in the days we speak of, so uncluttered and simple but it is all past and changes are inevitable.

So may we all face a seemingly uncertain future, face it with the steadfast faith and undaunted courage of our forbearers.

By Mrs. D.M. Callaughar

POTATOES

In the 1910's, every farmer had an acre of potatoes which usually satisfied his family's needs and left him some to sell in the spring. The field was worked with a horse-drawn plough and the seeds were cut and planted by hand. One row, called a score was planted, two scores were left empty and then the next score was planted. About 1920, the one row potato planter was invented. It was a horse-drawn machine which dropped the seeds in one row at a time. The rows were about thirty-six inches apart. When they were ready to be harvested, the rows were ploughed with a potato plough and potatoes were picked up by hand. In the late 1920's, the potato digger was invented which dug one row at a time, but left the potatoes in a neat row on top of the ground. This was considered to be a great improvement over the previous method. The potato picker, however, was even more efficient. It dug the potatoes and deposited them on a platform where two men inspected them and threw away the poor ones. From the platform the potatoes rolled into bags through which the dirt sifted out. Now of course, this method had been replaced by the most efficient four row potato harvester.

A DAY ON THE FARM

So much of the work was seasonal that one could not describe a "typical" day on the farm, however, there were certain daily chores and habits. The day began at six o'clock in the morning when the stables were cleaned, the cows were milked and the animals were fed. Some time was saved by preparing the feed the night before. The man returned at seven a.m. for a hearty breakfast and then prepared to go out to the fields. He couldn't begin to work much before this because the horses needed a full hour to feed before they started their work. Work lasted until dinner at twelve o'clock noon. If it was thrashing time, the women would sometimes take dinner out to the men so they didn't have to stop working. Thrashing was the most exhausting of all the jobs on the farm and so, at four o'clock, the men stopped to have supper, worked until dark, did the night chores, and then had another light supper. If the thrashing wasn't finished in one day, the workmen stayed over night.

When the thrashing was done, the farmer waited for the first frost to harvest the potatoes. Every farm had at least an acre of potatoes if only for his family's needs.

When the winter came, the work slowed down a little, but the wood shed and ice-house had to be stocked and the daily chores had to be performed. Sometimes trees were tapped for maple syrup. But all this while, the farmer was waiting for the land to dry enough to plant the next crop.

In summer, manure was spread on the fields left fallow. The hay was cut, then the summer crops- barley and oats were harvested. After the second cut of hay, it was time to sow the fall wheat which would be harvested the next summer.

In wet weather there were always repairs to make on machinery.



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

James Latimer and his family with their oxen ready for a trip to Alliston. Oxen, as well as horses, were used on farms and for transportation after the bush foot trails had been widened to allow wheeled traffic to navigate what went for roads in those early days of the 1840's.

1. Early Fences
2. The New Footbridge in Alliston
3. Ontario's Heritage Highways
4. *THE MONCK ROAD*

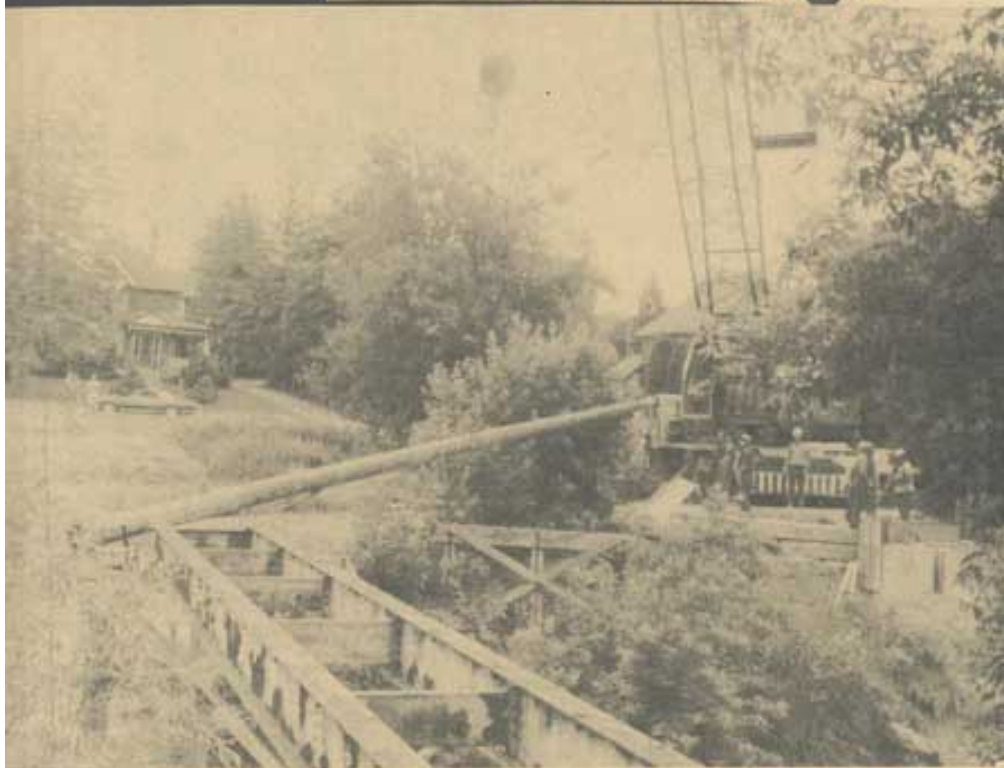
FENCES

As with so many tasks of the early days, building was fences was an art in which the workers took great pride. There were many different kinds, the first being the "slash fence". This was built from the brush trees which had been cut when the early pioneers were clearing their land. The trees were simply stacked on top of one another. This method was very primitive and ineffective and was soon replaced by rail fences. The split rail fence was built at the time when team work among neighbours was popular. All of the neighbours would get together at a time when the more important work on the farm had been accomplished and build the fence. Split rail fences were usually of cedar, but sometimes rock elm or ash was used. The most common type of split rail fence was the "snake fence" and its variations. The rails were built in zig-zag fashion, five or six rails high. A rail was placed cross-ways at the corners to lock the zig-zagged rails so they wouldn't blow down. The "stake and rider" was one variation. The zig-zagged rails were the stakes and the rider was a very heavy rail placed at the junction of the other rails to hold them in place. The "crab fence" was a patented variation. Stakes perpendicular to the ground were placed at the junctions of the rails and fastened with wire. Another type of fence was the stump fence which was only used in sandy soil. It was built of old pine stumps which had to be moved by a stump puller. The puller consisted of a winch driven by a team of horses. The resin and turpentine in the pine preserved the fences for a long time, but even so, this type of fence is almost extinct today. Although it attracted much wildlife, the stump fence became unpopular since it was a great harbour for weeds. The fourth type of fence was the "pine-board fence".

Cedar posts about ten feet apart were driven into the ground and the tops were cut off at a 45 degree angle. Pine boards were placed across this angle like caps. This fence was commonly built when the white pines were plentiful and cheap.

Since woven wire became available less and less wooden fences have been built and today are almost a thing of the past.

Span is placed for the new footbridge



OUT COMES THE OLD . . .

The hazardous old foot-bridge was finally torn down on July 17 as hundreds of spectators gathered around the banks of the Boyne River in Alliston, to watch the old bridge beams removed and the new span swung into place.

(Alliston Herald photo)

The span for the Eleanor Valentine Beattie Bridge has finally been put in place and the steel girders and wooden beam of the old foot-bridge have been removed.

Two twenty-ton cranes pulled onto the site, one on each side of the river and began lifting out the spans of the hazardous old bridge that was built just after Hurricane Hazel.

Demolition was due to begin around 9.00 on the Wednesday morning (July 17) but due to complications with the machinery, the gigantic cranes did not move until mid-afternoon.

Approximately 100 spectators lined both sides of the river bank to witness history in progress. Although it drizzled on and off that day, several people

brought a lunch and made a picnic of the affair.

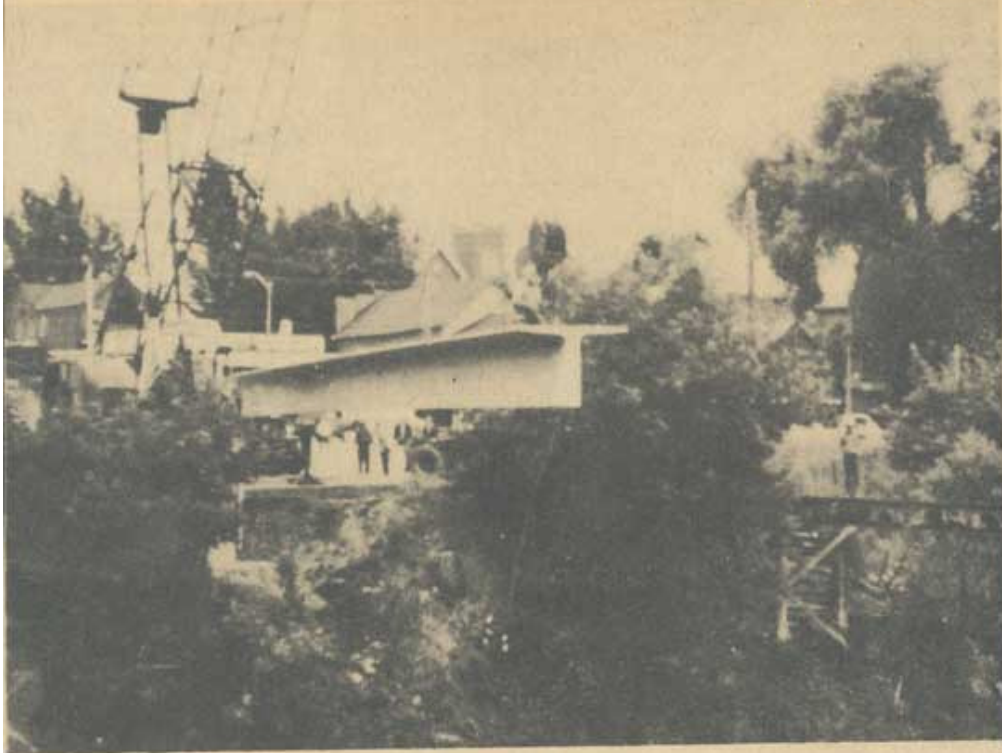
When all was ready the cranes slowly moved into position and began tearing the rotten log extension beams out one by one. After that was completed, the task of removing the steel beam was still at hand. Two large hooks were secured around the 6,000 pound girder and the day's work was half-way to completion.

All of a sudden the earth at either end of the beam began to crumble and with a mighty pull the beam was hoisted into the air like a huge fish on a line.

At this point spectators were on their feet and watching in amazement as a fifteen-ton pre-stressed concrete was rolled onto the scene on a hundred foot long flat bed truck. With cranes on both sides of the river, securing the span looked simple and within twenty minutes the concrete span was in mid-air and ready to be placed on the bridge abutments. A few minutes after the span had been placed into position and workmen were hard at work checking to make sure that the bases were secure. With the Eleanor Beattie Bridge span in place, all that is left is for the bridge railings to be put in. The railing will cost Alliston \$425 more than expected and delivery will be around mid August, when the bridge will be complete. Lights will be placed by the P.U.C.

The old steel girder is now at the side of the riverbank but it will soon be moved to the A.T.M.S. Community Playing Field to span Spring Creek.

July 31, 1974



IN GOES THE NEW

The pre-stressed concrete span for the new footbridge is swung into place across the Boyne. The top of the span is the walk-way and will have railings along each side. The remains of the old bridge can be seen at the right.

(Photo courtesy Ainley & Associates)



Ontario's heritage — our highways

By J. G. Murphy

It may be symptomatic of a desire to get away from it all, but there is increasing evidence that more and more people are seeking to recover something of the nostalgic past. Motion pictures are delving into the more romantic era when entertainment, not the message, was the thing, popular songs involving such transmuting connotations as "moon" and "June," to the exclusion of "rain" and "doom" are challenging the charts, the tainment of the chauvinistic male has reverted to the wide lapel, the vest and the moustache, while that of the female continues simply to generate vibrations — an intoxicating output which anthropologists of the future will doubtless regard as one of the more saving graces of our age.

All of which is a diversionary means of calling attention to the fact that this increasing tendency to reflect on the past includes a growing

curiosity about the location, origin, and what there is of the history of the highways and byways now sometimes reverently referred to as Ontario's "Heritage Roads."

Heritage Roads

Heritage Roads, which in current technological jargon could be described as the original "infrastructure" of the province's highway system, were successors to Indian trails and river-portage routes of the voyageurs. They ran roughly parallel to these arteries, having been cleared through the wilderness by early settlers, who, as a condition for obtaining land grants, were obliged to clear and level road passages across the front of their properties.

During the last decade of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th, any roads worthy of the name, or the exaggeration, were built for the defence of Upper Canada — a construction

program apparently justified by the War of 1812-1814, a fact noted principally for immortalizing a lady and an unnamed cow. The name of the heroine survives because of an association with confectionery. As to the cow, its lineage has been lost in the mists of unrecorded history.

Military Roads

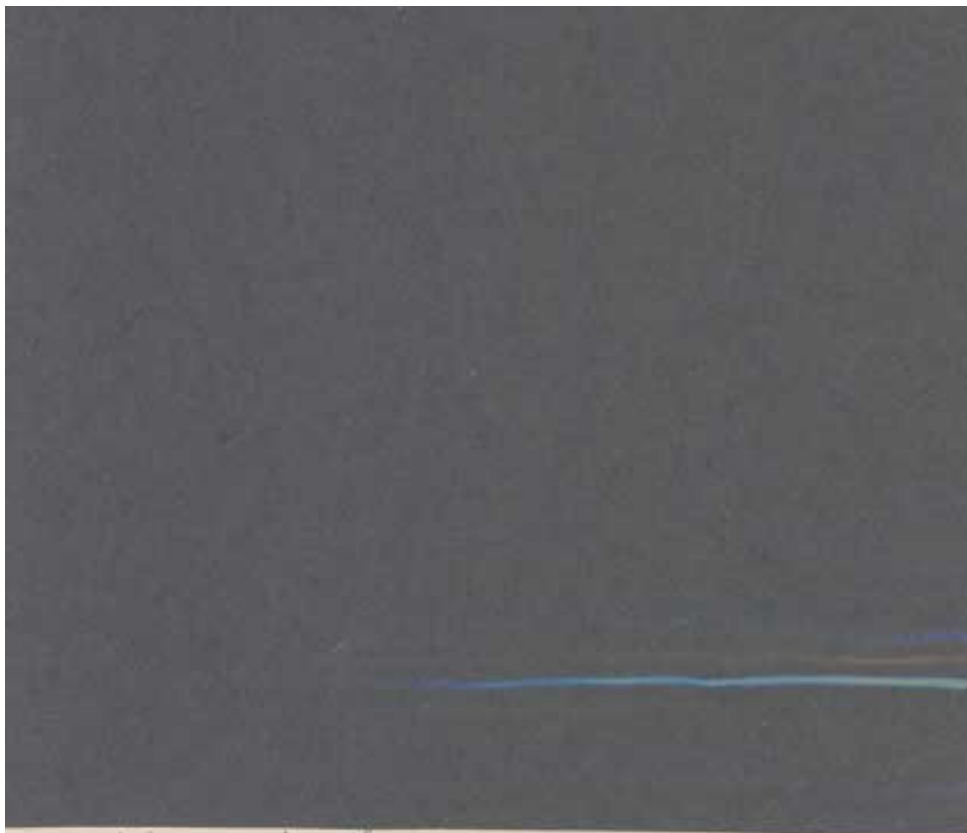
With water being the most significant and most efficient means of transportation at the time of the War of 1812, a prior gentleman's agreement with the Indians to the south to settle any disputes on the broad surfaces of the Great Lakes would have eliminated the necessity for military roads and saved the taxpayers of the day considerable sums in pounds and pence.

Wars, however, and the energy expended preparing for, and fighting them, always influence and frequently advance the

course of history. That is one of those supreme ironies often alluded to as blessings in disguise, the blessing in this case being the establishment of the beginnings of a road system across Ontario, many examples of which still exist — Yonge Street, Kingston Road, Danforth Road, Dundas Road and the Talbot Road, to name but a few.

Many of the early routes blazed through the wilds of Upper Canada were for the purpose of establishing lines of communication between the larger population centres of the time — westerly from Toronto to Windsor, and easterly from Toronto to Kingston — communities which progressively qualified as terminal points for cheap transportation by water as the original footpaths were widened and levelled to accommodate the introduction of wheeled vehicles.

Introduction in this case is not to be confused (as is often the case) with "invention," since it's



fairly well established that the wheel antedates by at least a few aeons the arrival of the Indians and their aboriginal contemporaries on this continent.

(The foregoing distinction re the usage of "introduced" vis-a-vis "invented" is a precaution against a lawsuit, with charges chiseled on stone, being thrown at the editor of this publication by some royalties-deprived descendent or descendants of the inventor of the wheel, who is presumed to have come up with the revolutionary discovery circa 3000 B.C.). That legal improbability having been disposed of, back to the roads...

Prior to the advent of the wheeled vehicle, transport was largely seasonal, limited to winter when lakes and rivers were frozen over and a benevolent Nature provided sufficient hard-packed snow to make overland travel possible by means of sleds of various types and sizes, pulled by dogs and oxen, also of various

types and sizes — urged on, of course, by the imprecations of their masters, also of various types.

The arrival of these wheeled vehicles, and the necessity for passable roads to accommodate them, introduced a form of highway robbery to the situation. Dozens of companies were incorporated to construct stretches of road and authorized to set up toll gates to exact tribute from travelers for the dubious privilege of using them. The government got into the act by requiring the road companies to pay all profit exceeding 10 per cent on the invested capital to establish a sinking fund for the eventual purchase and freeing of the roads. Hence, through linguistic manipulation, the emergence of the term "freeways."

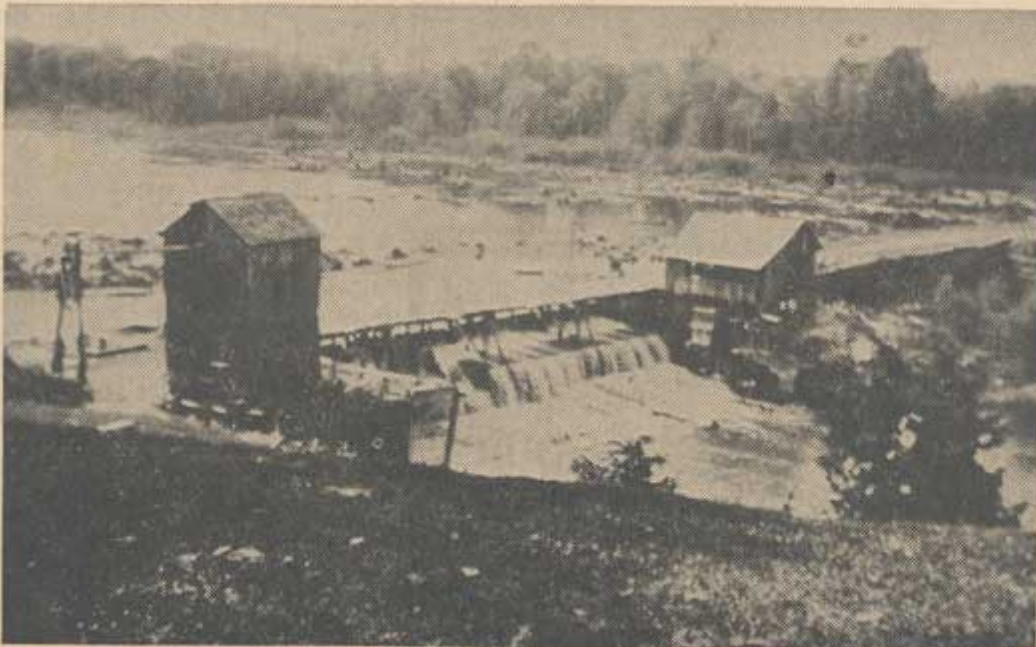
To be continued



A highway service centre in the early days. Watering troughs were placed wherever springs occurred near the roadside.

SEPT. 17, 1970

Grist and Shingle Mills



Everyone is familiar with the "White Mills" east of town, which burned down late in May, but it will take longer memories to recall that originally the grist mill was one of a pair, the second being the shingle mill shown in the lower picture. They operated as one business until the growing popularity of asphalt shingles lessened the demand for cedar and the mill closed. Gradually it fell apart.

The mill pond, where so many children learned to swim, was to the west and the great cedar logs, cut in the swamp, were floated down the river. The dam was taken out by a flood in 1911 and when it was rebuilt, the

Tuers, who had owned it since 1899, did considerable modernizing. (The great water wheel had its own wheel-house.)

Both mills were built by John Fletcher, in 1853, then later sold to Henry Norris. J. M. Brown was the next owner, then Joseph Tuer bought the business in 1899, being succeeded by his son Edgar in 1911. D. Ukraine became the owner in 1959. By this time only the White Mill remained, still displaying the name of Tuer Milling Co.

The Herald is indebted to Mrs. Ed. Tuer for the picture, (taken in the Spring of 1921) and for her recollections of the long-time family business.

SCHOOLS

The first school in Alliston was built by the Buyers Brothers in 1862 or 63. It was situated on the west side of the Scotch Line, fifty yards north of Victoria Street. The Methodist Hall, built in 1854, had been used for classes previous to the opening of the school and Mr. William Henderson had been the teacher. The first teacher in the new school was Mr. Hugh Knight, followed by Thomas Eagon, W. Leslie Hill, Charles S. McMair, Thomas Henderson.

An addition was made to the school in 1870, but apparently the Methodist Hall was still used. There were also classes held in Fletcher block, opposite the present United Church. In 1885, the decision was made to build a new school. The site was the south side of Albert Street between Church and Paris. The land was bought from George Fletcher at about one hundred fifty dollars an acre. The building was built of brick, with three classrooms upstairs. Attendance at that time was 304. Subjects taught were English, Mathematics, and in the higher grades, Latin, French, and some continuation subjects. The first principal was Mr. James S. Hoath, who received a 500 dollar salary. In 1892, there were five teachers at the Alliston school. On July 20th, 1905, a bylaw was passed granting 5000 dollars for an addition of two more rooms. In 1921, another addition of two classrooms, and two cloak rooms at each side was made. There was now a total of twelve classrooms, half used by the Public School and half used by the High School. Also, a heating system using steam, inside toilets and a septic tank were installed. In the same year, a memorial was erected to the pupils who had served in the first World War.

THE ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL 1947-1967

In 1947, plans were made to build a high school as the present school was becoming too crowded. For the intervening time two rooms in Knox Presbyterian Church were rented for the overflow. High school was conducted there with teachers Miss Isobel Hayes and Miss Sklencar. By 1954, the public school was again crowded with 390 students. One class was moved to the arena hall. In April of 1955 four more rooms were added. The next year it was full again and so two Grade five classes went to the Pentecostal Church with teachers Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Calquhoun. These rooms were needed for two years. In 1957 four more rooms were added. In 1963, the enrollment was 601 and there was an urgent need for space. Two rooms in the agricultural building of BMHS were employed for the Grade six classed of Mr. P. Wodchis and Mrs. A. Haddock. At this time a decision was made to build a new school. The Alliston Union Public School in 1967 had 22 classrooms.

* The bell tower from the old school is now in the South Simcoe Museum.

* * * * *

BANTING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

In 1947, the Alliston District High School Board was formed including Beeton, Tottenham, and Alliston High Schools. It encompassed an area from Highway 9 to Lisle, including two-thirds of Essa Township, all of Tecumseth and Adjala Townships, and sections of Albion, West Gwillimbury, Mulmur and Mono Townships. There were about 300 pupils in this area at that time.

The Board advertised for a secretary and Mr. W.E. Cumberland accepted on invitation to become the Alliston District High School Board Secretary-Treasurer in 1948.

On the Board there were representatives from Alliston, Beeton, Cookstown, Tottenham, Adjala, Tecumseth, West Gwillimbury, Essa-Toronto, Mono and Mulmur Townships. There were also members to represent the Public School Board with the largest pupil enrollment which, in this case was Tecumseth, and a member to represent the Separate School Board with the largest pupil enrollment which was St. James' at Colgan. Meetings were held in the old Town Hall.

Under the guidance of Mr. William Stewart, the Board proceeded to seek out land. Prospective sites were where Knox Presbyterian Church is now, near the area of the Hillcrest subdivision, and the location of Salada Ponds, but finally the ten acres on which Banting Memorial now stands was found the most suitable. The land and the large house on it was bought for about 10,000 dollars. Later the house was sold, but the land on which it stood was bought back when more area for the school was needed. Arrangements for an architect were made and Gordon Adamson was chosen.

The original building consisted of the northwest corner of the present building, that is, the first corridor which stems from the main office. A classroom right at the south end of this corridor was a workshop for carpentry, auto body, welding, etc. (This area of the wing is still used

is still used for these purposes.) The cafeteria was where the present audio-visual centre and part of the library are now. Along the east side of the corridor were the science rooms. The office was part of today's main office.

Classes began in September 1951. Mrs. Rose, the secretary at that time, was in charge of bringing teachers from the public school over to the high school and back as some classes were still being taught in the public school. Space heaters were employed for the first winter until proper heating was installed.

Over the years, Banting Memorial High School has made the following additions:

1953 -11 feet were added on the cafeteria

-4 more classrooms east of the office were added

1955 -4 more rooms were added

1961 -addition of the Science wing, Commercial Department, Art room, and a big addition to the cafeteria

-1 downstairs classroom and 1 upstairs one

-there was a barn about where the stage of the present gym 116 is today, which held a greenhouse and various farm animals; Mr. Phipps classes were conducted there. The barn was torn down when a new wing was required. In 1961, Mr. Phipps acquired a new room and greenhouse.

-after 1961, new science rooms, a new cafeteria, bookroom, another greenhouse, more offices for the administration, and a boardroom have all been added.

1975 -2 portables were added to accomodate the enrollment of about 2000

SCHOOL DAYS BEGIN AGAIN SENIORS START "REGARDLESS"

On Tuesday the schools of Alliston opened to more than 500 students. Public school pupils were able to settle down in their regular class rooms but for the high school students temporary quarters at the public school had to be provided.

Grades 11, 12, 13, and the Special Commercial class begin their year's work immediately. The 135 students in these classes who registered Tuesday will carry on their studies in four or five rooms at the public school until their new quarters at the Benning Memorial High School are ready for at least some of them, this may be next week.

Grade 10 students, 115 strong, met in the Sunday School rooms of St. John's Church. There they were registered and given particulars about their work during the coming year. Classes for these students will not begin at present. They will be notified when accomodation is available for them, possibly next week.

Grades 9 students are continuing, for the time being, their summer holidays. It is not expected that they will have class rooms until a week after the Grade 10 students start their classes. There are an estimated 175 students in Grade 9.

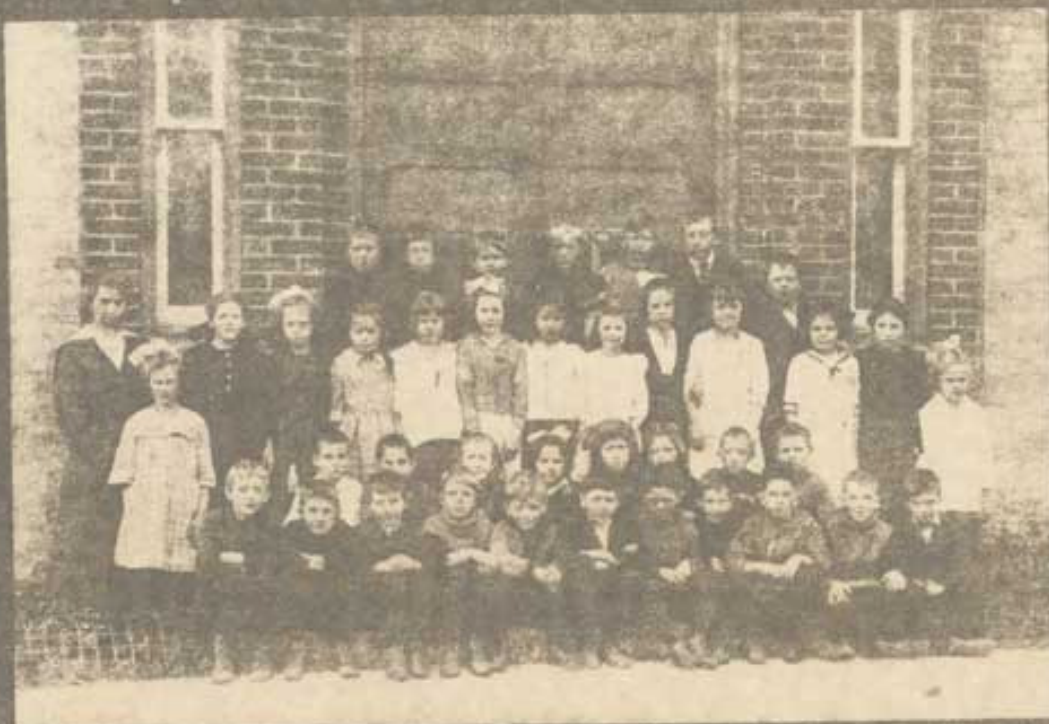
In addition to registering and learning details of their courses high school students were introduced to the newly oregonized Book Exchange. Supervised by the principal, B.J. McCausland, the secretary, Mrs. Jean Rose, and other members of the staff the exchange buys text books no longer needed by the students and sells those required. New books are also sold by the exchange. Price of the books depends on their condition. In the case of new books, the 20 percent discount received by the school through bulk purchasing is passed on to the students. A five cent differential is made between the buying and selling price to cover postage, express and money order charges and to absorb any loss due to the holdover of books.

The new exchange was in full operation on Tuesday and the response of the students clearly indicated their satisfaction of the new service offered them.

Fifteen buses are to be used to bring students to the new high school from every corner of the school area. It is expected that when it is in full operation there will be approximately 450 students attending. Meanwhile both staff and students are carrying on under awkward circumstances. In addition to temporary quarters and incomplete enrolment, the problem of storage of new equipment, now arriving in quantity at the public school and the new high school presents difficulties for both teachers and students.

* * * * *

(Article, The Alliston Herald, Thurs.
Sept. 7, 1950)



THE ALLISTON PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASS OF 1917

BACK ROW: Ira Wilson, Herman Barber, _____, Earl Reid, Elmer Robbins, Benny Dundas, Harry Buchanan.

SECOND ROW: Miss Olive Evans (teacher), Velma Downey, Margaret Welch, _____ Barber, Lila Whiteside, Mary Hutchinson, Helen Banting, Helen Rose, Winnie Knight, Lottie Carson, Irene Laking, Verna Reid, Lily King, May Galbraith.

THIRD ROW: Murrey Mills, Howard Smith, Frances Lynch, _____, Earle Manuel, _____, Hughie Hunter, Albert Reid.

FOURTH ROW: Tecker Fleming, Windsor Flear, Albert Dunn, David Merner, Cecil Booth, Bill Manuel, Harold Booth, Gordon McLean, Ross Williams, Ray Lawrence, Reaford Wilson.

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

IN the summer of 1960, a decision was made to build a school for the children of St. Paul's parish. The site already belonged to the parish- west of the church on Wellington Street. The school opened on September 30th, 1960, with an enrollment of 113. There were three classrooms and a small kindergarten class taught in the staff room. The principal was Mrs. C. Guthrie who also taught Grades 6,7, and 8. Two more rooms were added in the summer of 1961. In the fall of the same year Mr. T. Campbell became principal and Mr. D. Carroll became vice-principal. In June of 1965 Mr. Carroll became principal until June of 1977. In 1965, Mr. Filion was vice-principal and was succeeded by Mrs. Teresa Keogh. In 1963 two more rooms were added. In 1964 two more classrooms and a gymnasium were built. The gym was officially opened by Bishop Morocco on January 31st, 1965. In 1966 three more rooms were added. In 1976, there were 13 full-time teachers. The enrollment fluctuated from 113 in 1960 to 354 in 1967-68 and 300 in 1976. The school inspectors have been Mr. McDonald, Mr. Hodge, and Mr. Bolger. In January of 1970, the school came under the jurisdiction of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board with offices in Barrie.

* * * * *

1. Athlone
2. Ballyeroy
3. Bond Head
4. Colgan
5. Cockstown
6. Egbert
7. Keenansville
8. Mansfield
9. Thornton
10. *BAXTER*

KEENANSVILLE

Keenansville was founded in Adjala Township at the junction of the Adjala-Tecumseth townline and the Bailey River. It boasted the first postal service in the area. Mail was brought from Bolton to Keenansville via stagecoach before the railway came in 1877. The reason for the growth of the town is attributed to a small waterpower industry. A small dam enclosed a lake which was the source of waterpower as well as providing a skating rink and ice in winter. Two flat-bottomed boats were used on the lake. The waterpower operated a saw mill and a three storey woolen mill which were owned by Mr. Thomas Brown. Almost every farmer at that time had sheep to provide for his own needs, but Brown's mill produced "superfine" products which surpassed the products of a home spinning wheel. When new synthetic materials were invented, the wool business gradually deteriorated.

There were two streets in Keenansville- Victoria which ran east and west and ended at Marie Street which ran north and south. The southern end of the second street curved westward to become Keenan's Lane on the border of the Keenan farm. Most of the town was built at this end. The rest of the village was situated on the Morrow farm. There was a saw mill and a boat house at the foot of the hill on the south side; on the north side was the woolen mill. On top of the hill was Mr. Brown's residence. The businesses were found along the west side of Marie Street and also the residence of Mr. George P. Hughes who operated the general store, post office, private bank, telegraph office, conveyancing business and printing press. The local newspaper was the Simcoe Observer which became the Cardwell Sentinel around 1868 and even later became the Tottenham Sentinel. At one point the Morrow family took over the general store, post office and telegraph office. A school on Marie Street looked after thirty pupils. East of the school was the fair

grounds. Huge buildings were needed to accomodate the crowds who attended the only fair for miles around in 1896. The buildings have long since been torn down.

At its most productive time, Keenansville had about twenty houses, a blacksmith shop and a cobbler's shop. Since there was no railroad and only one industry, the village population quickly dwindled.

ATHLONE

In the early 1800's, most business centres grew up around rivers which provided power for mills. Athlone was one of these centres. It had two mills,--a saw mill and a grist mill. There was a general store owned by Kidd and Co. which included a post office, millinery show room, dressmaking and men's tailoring, and farm supplies. In the village there was blacksmith's shop, a shoemaker's shop and a hotel. The settlers achieved their goods mainly by produce trading, for example, a woman might walk to a neighbour's for tea in exchange for some straw hats she had braided. When the railway came to Alliston, Athlone was one of the many hamlets to lose its business.

BALLYCROY

This village was located on the Humber River. It had a general store, shingle and grist mills, a blacksmith shop and a machine shop. On April 29th, 1875, fire completely destroyed the village and took the lives of three young ladies who lived there.

COLGAN

The village was named after John Colgan, an early settler from the County Tyrone, Ireland. It is situated on the town line between Adjala and Tecumseth Townships. At one time it had a tannery, a cooperage shop, a blacksmith's shop, a butcher's store and a funeral home.

LORETTO

The name was taken from the house of Our Lady of Loretto in France. There was a blacksmith shop, two hotels, a school and P.D. Kelly's store. Today's general store is on the site of the old Gamble Hotel.

TOTTENHAM

The first settlers in Tottenham came in 1825, but didn't decide upon a name for the town until 1858. It was named after Alex Totten who apparently was a very helpful citizen in the town. The Tottenham Pond was originally formed from the dam of the first grist mill. This mill was owned and operated by George Nolan for 75 years. About a mile upstream was Egan's Mill which supplied the town with the first electric power. Some settlers in Tottenham before 1837 were Louis Foucar, John Childs, Tom McGoey, James Feehely, John Greenway, Nicholas Egan, a Mr. Wilson and a Mr. Potter.

Active At BMHS Theatre Arts Very

There is a great deal of student interest in drama. Theatre Arts, a credit course in all five grades, provides one channel for creative energy. The other is the Theatre Club. Students involved in drama, in class and after school, are taught the rudiments of stagecraft, from make-up to acting. The results you see are found in the plays presented from time to time. This local theatre may not be professional but it is theatre in a very direct form; whether the players are from the South Simcoe Choir and Drama Society, or whether they are ordinary students, under the proscenium they become equal with the Buttons and Herburns — it seems that man loves to perform.

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

The last of three Christmas workshops sponsored by the Simcoe County Arts and Crafts Association during November was held on Saturday, November 10, in Barrie. Workshops had been previously held at Stayner and Midland.

All of the workshops were open to the public who were invited to enjoy a day working with others interested in crafts as they learned how to make some new and different Christmas decorations. Over 160 women from all parts of the County attended at least one of these three workshops, some even managing to get to two or three.

Workshop expenses were financed by Arts and Crafts Association.

Sir Frederick Banting's Parents



Sir Frederick's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson Banting. Both were Ontario-born, he of Irish stock, she of Scottish.

THE ALLISTON HERALD

Personal Tribute from Best to Banting

CO-WORKER TELLS OF INSULIN DISCOVERY

Gives Full Credit to World Famous Alliston Scientist

In a personal tribute to the late Major Frederick Banting in the current Canadian Medical Association Journal, Dr. C. H. Best, of Toronto, co-discoverer of insulin, with Sir Frederick, states that as early as 1938 "Banting's intuitions stimulated him to approach the military authorities in Ottawa with plans for the formation of a research organization to study the peculiar problems of aviation medicine."

Dr. Best's article further states: "At the outbreak of the present war this work was under way."

Reviewing his colleague's distinguished career, Dr. Best describes their exciting experiments together which resulted in the discovery of insulin.

"The memory of the intimate association with Banting during that spring, summer and autumn (1921), when it became clear that an active diabetic principle could be prepared from degenerated or from normal pancreas, will always be cherished. The intense excitement and pleasure with which he watched the depth of color in the sugar reagent fade as the blood sugars of the diabetic animals became reduced under the action of

insulin is difficult to describe.

"At the beginning of the investigations the surgical aspects of the problem were entirely in Banting's hands while more chemical procedures fell to my lot. Later he taught me the essentials of surgical technique, and he acquired considerable skill in the estimations of sugar and of the other constituents in which we were interested. The animals were nursed as carefully as the somewhat limited facilities permitted, and each one was indelibly printed in our memories by virtue of some specific point which the observations on it established.

"We were soon completely convinced that success had been achieved and looked forward with eager anticipation to the application of our findings to the human diabetic. In those days most of our time was spent in the laboratory where we frequently slept and prepared our meals."

Dr. Best writes that Sir Frederick's "exceptional mental equipment" enabled him to overcome many obstacles.

"His scientific curiosity was never satisfied and his energy when he was interested in a problem knew no bounds."

Dr. Best's tribute concluded with an expression of deepest sympathy for Lady Banting in her husband's death, and: "Few Canadians have played a role so important in Canada's war effort; none with the same self-effacing modesty Sir Frederick did."

Three men are under arrest as the result of an attack on a Georgetown Chinese restaurant proprietor at Georgetown, with the latter having his throat slashed with a razor during the scuffle.

RECEPTION FOR DES CARROLL ON HIS LEAVING ST. PAUL'S 1977

Desmond Carroll, principal of St. Paul's Separate School, Alliston since 1964 described the 16 years he spent at St. Paul's as "sixteen of the happiest years of my life", at a reception given in his honour on Sunday.

St. Paul's school auditorium was filled to capacity with invited dignitaries, teachers, former teachers, present and past pupils and acquaintances present for the reception at which Mr. Carroll and his family were presented with a wall clock and several small mementos. The reception followed a special mass in St. Paul's Church.

Mr. Carroll told the crowd that his roots have gone deep here and he will never forget St. Paul's. "I experienced a tremendous growth in my own life, in academic life, social areas, cultural areas and spiritual areas," he said. "My education doesn't end here, but a vast amount of it has taken place here."

Mr. Carroll will take up his new post as Superintendent of Schools for the Simcoe County Separate School Board on August 1st. He succeeds W.P. Bolger who has been appointed Director of Education. Mr. Carroll will be succeeded at St. Paul's by Len Godin, at present Principal of Our Lady of Grace School at Angus. Both Mr. Bolger and Mr. Godin attended the reception.

Mr. Bolger apologized "for stealing your principal from you" but said he was glad to have him as Superintendent of Schools. He described Mr. Carroll's new job, "as doing things I should have done all along". In his new position Mr. Carroll will be helping teachers and principals throughout the county.

Mr. Carroll, who was born in Ireland, came to Canada in 1961 started teaching at St. Paul's. During his stay here he has been active in the Credit Union, Knights of Columbus, the school board and various social functions.

He has also been active with the St. Paul's Ukelele Group and they played at the reception, under his direction.



Desmond Carroll, Principal at St. Paul's School, Alliston since 1964, has been appointed Superintendent of Schools by the Simcoe County Separate School Board.

He succeeds W.P. Bolger who has been appointed Director.

Congratulations to both on their appointment and promotion.

Mr. Carroll, who takes up his new post on August 1st, will be succeeded at St. Paul's by Len Godin, at present the Principal of Our Lady of Grace School at Angus.

JOHN COLGAN

John Colgan came to Canada from the County Tyrone, Ireland in 1820. He had a wife, Rose Sterr, and three boys and three girls. They lived in Quebec for about two years before coming to Adjela Township. He wrote, as a hobby, both prose and poetry. His work show he had an understanding of human nature and concern for his fellow man. Much of his poetry was published under his pen name, "Fagen". In 1873 a collection of his poems were published but this collection, if in existence at all, is very rare.

* * * * *

THE FIRST WOMAN JUDGE

The lady's name was Emily Murphy who had married a clergyman, Arthur Murphy. She was born in Cookstown, but after her marriage lived out west where she gained recognition as a writer under the pen name "Janey Canuck". Mrs. Murphy was appointed Magistrate of the Women's Court of Edmonton. She was the first woman magistrate in the Commonwealth. In 1919, she met with thirteen women and one man to form the National Women's Institute. Judge Murphy was elected the first president and assisted in bringing the Federation into prominence. With four other women she waged a successful campaign to have women eligible to sit in the Senate. A bronze plaque at the entrance to the Senate Chamber at Ottawa recognizes these women's efforts. Shortly before her death, Judge Murphy was presented with life membership in the FWIC (Federated Women's Institute of Canada). She was decorated by His Majesty, King George V as a "Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem", and for Imperial Service, was decorated by the Most Noble Order of Crusaders in 1927. She died in 1933.

* * * * *

Carried Dufferin-Simcoe Again

1940



HON. W. EARL ROWE
who retains his seat in the House of Commons with a majority
in excess of 2,000 in the district Tuesday

Liberal Government Sweeps Canada With Majority in Every Province

**Conservative Leader
R. I. Manion Defeated**

Following his defeat, Hon. R. I. Manion will retire from the leadership of the conservative party. A National convention will be called.

Nov 12, 1950

Young Allistonian Returns To Establish New Business Here

A young Allistonian from away back returned home this month to establish his own jewellery store and watch repair business here. He is John W. Taylor who lived in Alliston from the time he was 10 until he joined the army in 1939.

His new shop is located in part of the premises formerly occupied by Wood's Manufacturing Company. John wasted no time once he started the move from his former location at Southampton. In two weeks after closing in Southampton before he opened here on Sept. 30, Mr. Taylor had completely redecorated his new shop, refinished all his fixtures and completed preparations for the opening of one of the most modern and well equipped shops in town.

Modern display counters filled with glittering jewellery, watches and dresser sets line the right side of the shop. On the left are shelves of china, silverware, glassware cutlery and table decorations.

Mr. Taylor's watch repair work bench, located at the back of the shop is rebuilt and modernized bench originally used by Allan Hill when he operated a jewellery business in Alliston.

Fixtures in the shop are finished in lime oak with walls in a contrasting color scheme of two shades of green.

During the war years John became a sergeant crew commander of a tank. He served overseas and was wounded in France.



A PORTION OF ALLISTON, ONT. AS SEEN FROM AN AERIAL.



A PORTION OF ALLISTON, ONT. AS SEEN FROM AN AERIAL.

HISTORY OF ALLISTON

- 1826 Alliston first settled by Irishmen who came from York.
- 1847 Alliston founded by William Fletcher, an energetic businessman who established the first industry, a saw mill in 1848 and a grist mill in 1853.
- 1854 The first white child, Margaret Grant was born. She married William Banting and became the mother of Sir Frederick Banting. The Methodist Hall was built.
- 1856 Town Named Alliston, after Mr. Fletcher's home town in Yorkshire, England.
- 1857 A post office was established in the Fletcher home and a son made Postmaster.
- 1862 Mr. Malcolm McCarthy first published the Alliston Star. The first Presbyterian Church was opened. The Buyers brothers built a school. Prior to this classes had been held in the Methodist Hall.
- 1868 Aitken, Knight and Crossley established a foundry and agricultural works.
- 1871 The Alliston Star became The Alliston Herald.
- 1872 Wesley Methodist Church erected. This church, now called St. John's United Church, is still being used today.
- 1873 Masonic Seven Star Lodge established.
- 1874 Alliston incorporated as a village.
- 1875 First Council held. Reeve George Fletcher Presided.
- 1876 St. Andrew's Anglican Church completed.
- 1877 The Hamilton and North Western Railroad was built through the town from Deeton.
- 1881 A second school was built on land purchased from Fletcher.
- 1891 Alliston was incorporated as a town. The first Mayor, who also served as Reeve was John Stewart. On May 8, fire began in the stables of the Windsor House (then the Queens Hotel) destroying a large portion of the business section and leaving many homeless.
- 1892 Water Works were installed. At that time there were only 15 customers.
- 1902 Population at this time was 1,475.
- 1903 First cement sidewalks were laid.
- 1906 Fletcher builds reservoir.
- 1911 Riverdale Park turned over to town council. Defries Woodman and Co. brought their silver plating factory to town. Town was flooded which caused several improvements to be made to the bridge and reservoir.

- 1914 Streets were lighted by 125 watt light bulbs. These lights were not used on moonlit nights. The Mayor had the final say as to what constituted a moonlit night.
- 1918 Alliston Electric Company sold to the P.U.C. for \$12,000.
- 1924 Memorial Library opened by Sir Frederick Banting.
- 1928 Stevenson Memorial Hospital erected and equipped by T. P. Loblaw. Theatre opened in the town hall showing, " Uncle Tom's Cabin ". Chapel erected in the Alliston Union Cemetery.
- 1929 Sewer system installed and a disposal plant established. Alliston Creamery made artificial ice for the first time. Paving program started. Largely financed by Loblaw.
- 1931 Legislature designated the road through town as a Highway.
- 1938 Circle Theatre opened. Diamond Wood Products started production.
- 1945 Dorothea Knitting Mills opened.